

# TEHRAN TIMES

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How insults and attacks on Iranian voters overseas revealed the total breakdown of exile opposition

# Poor Things

Diaspora opponents in front of the presidential election polling place at the Iranian embassy in Canberra, June 28, 2024

## Campaign rhetoric heats up ahead of presidential runoff

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - With a significant portion of Iranian voters remaining undecided ahead of the July 5th presidential runoff, supporters of the two candidates have escalated their campaigns, highlighting their rival's perceived weaknesses to rally support.

### Gas price hike focal point of attack against Pezeshkian

Supporters of conservative candidate Saeed Jalili have been highlighting previous comments made by reformist Masoud Pezeshkian, in which he expressed support for increasing gas prices. He said he thinks gas prices should increase at least fivefold, though he later denied being in favour of such move.

Iran's gas prices, currently ranging from 2 to 5 cents per liter, are heavily subsidised and among the lowest in the world, even cheaper than bottled water.

Before November 14, 2019, gas prices were even lower. However, when the government announced a threefold increase in gas costs, it led to a brief period of violent protests and riots. ▶ Page 2

## Iran ranks first in neural network technology among Islamic nations

TEHRAN -According to a report released by the Web of Science database, Iran (with 17,458 documents) ranks first in neural network technology as well as multi-agent systems (with 351 documents) among Islamic countries.

The report has included data in a twenty-year period from 2004 to 2023.

The country secures a ranking of 6th in neural network technology and 12th in multi-agent systems globally.

Turkey with 9,078 and Saudi Arabia with 7,971 documents in neural network technology rank second and third respectively.

In multi-agent systems, Tunisia with 233 documents, and Morocco with 231 documents are placed second and third.

Iran ranks second in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and robotics among Islamic nations.

The country ranks also 16th in the world in AI technologies; 25th in visual computing and natural language processing; 17th in machine learning; and 27th in robotics.

The trend of scientific production in neural networks, machine learning, and AI technologies in Iran has been upward in the last decade compared to other AI-related technologies. ▶ Page 7

## Ben-Gvir calls for executing Palestinian prisoners

Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has called for shooting Palestinian prisoners in the head, Middle East Monitor reported.

Stirring controversy with his recent statements regarding Palestinian prisoners, Ben-Gvir said: "Prisoners should be shot in the head instead of being given more food."

The minister addressed the issue of prison conditions by stating: "It is unfortunate that I have had to deal in recent days with whether Palestinian prisoners should receive fruit baskets."

He emphasized his support for a bill proposed by his right-wing Otzma Yehudit Party, which calls for executing Palestinian prisoners, stating: "They should be killed with a shot to the head, and the bill to execute Palestinian prisoners must be passed in the third reading in the Knesset."

In January, Israel's far-right Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu also renewed his call for striking the Gaza Strip with a "nuclear bomb." In November last year, Eliyahu said dropping a "nuclear bomb" on the Gaza Strip is "an option."

The hardline minister, who uses extremist rhetoric against Palestinians, also said, "Anyone waving a Palestinian or Hamas flag shouldn't continue living on the face of the earth."

## Inside the horrors of Israeli prisons

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Fresh revelations about the dire situation of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have brought the regime's heinous crimes back to the fore.

The director of al-Shifa Hospital has detailed the harrowing treatment of Palestinian detainees following his release from an Israeli jail.

Muhammad Abu Salmiya said in a news conference on Monday upon his return to Gaza that Israeli doctors and nurses beat and torture Palestinian prisoners and treat the bodies of detainees as if they are inanimate objects.

He noted that Israeli forces have killed many prisoners in the interrogation cells.

"The Israeli occupation arrests everyone, and medical staff have died in Israeli prisons due to torture and a lack of medical care," Abu Salmiya, who was in Israeli custody for more than seven months, told Anadolu.

Abu Salmiya described the prisoners' conditions as "tragic, unprecedented in Palestinian history, with severe food shortages and physical humiliation", noting that the hardships faced by the detainees are unparalleled since the Nakba.

## Hezbollah responds to Israeli attacks

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Lebanon's Hezbollah has responded strongly to Tel Aviv's latest attacks with a squadron of drones and heavy rockets, shelling Israeli command centers and barracks.

Hezbollah launched a drone attack on the Rawiya barracks in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, targeting buildings used by Israeli soldiers and the headquarters of the occupation army at Biranit.

The Lebanese resistance attacked the nearby Beit Hillel barracks.

Hezbollah said the aerial attack was staged with a squadron of combat drones on the armored battalion headquarters of Brigade 188 at the Rawiya barracks in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

The resistance confirmed that the attack targeted the command building at the barracks, hitting officers' positions directly, resulting in direct casualties.

This is the first time Hezbollah has targeted the Rawiya barracks headquarters, located about 15 kilometers from the Lebanese border.

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## Award-winning novel "Minor Detail" by Palestinian author published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "Minor Detail" written by the Palestinian author Adania Shibli has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Qoqnoos Publishing House has published the book in 111 pages with a translation by Sara Mostafapur, Mehr reported.

A 2017 novel, "Minor Detail" begins during the summer of 1949, one year after the war that the Palestinians mourn as the Nakba - the catastrophe that led to the displacement and expulsion of more than 700,000 people - and the Israelis celebrate as the War of Independence.

The book has two parts, first recalling a true story of a 1949 gang rape and ▶ Page 8



## Western states enabled Saddam's chemical attacks, now block aid to victims: acting FM

TEHRAN - Iran's acting foreign minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, delivered a scathing condemnation of Western countries' role in supporting Saddam Hussein's chemical attacks during a commemoration ceremony marking the 37th anniversary of the Sardasht chemical attack.

The ceremony honoured the victims of the attack, which took place on June 28, 1987, and left hundreds dead and thousands suffering from long-term health consequences.

"In diplomacy, they [Western countries] did everything in their power ▶ Page 2

## Turkiye importing Iranian oil after 4 years

TEHRAN - A report by the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat) suggests that Turkey has imported oil from Iran for the first time in four years.

The report also shows that two official members of the European Union also imported Iranian oil in 2024 despite the U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Bulgaria, an EU member imported 314 metric tons of oil or oil products from Iran in the first three months of 2024, marking a 113 percent increase compared to 147 metric tons of imports in last year's corresponding period, according to the report.

Poland, another EU member, received a 19-ton cargo of Iranian oil or oil product in March 2024.

Although the oil imports by the EU members are not significant, they indicate that the sanctions ▶ Page 4

## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Interaction and constructive action

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

Donya-e-Eqtasad devoted its editorial to the main axis of the foreign policy of the 14th government and wrote: Iran's foreign policy in the Raisi government has been based on signs of resistance in strategic action towards the great powers and the United States, but the fact is that in this era, more than any other government in the past years, mechanisms related to secret diplomacy based on public diplomacy mechanisms have been used. In Iran's strategic atmosphere, any interaction with the United States will be based on the prerequisite of power. In the current situation, the support of the military, security, and strategic institutions of the established governments has been one of the main factors in finding their role in cooperation and secret diplomacy in regional environments. In a situation where Iran and many other countries in the region are facing signs of crisis and threats, it is natural that agents of the country's foreign policy and national security use the main axis of their behavior based on cooperative role-finding and flexible action to maximize national interests.

#### Iran: Canada is against Iran's national security

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper discussed Canada's anti-Iranian policies and said: The Canadian government, in its latest action against Iran, prevented our country from holding presidential elections in this country. In recent years, by accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of violating human rights, the Canadian government has claimed the right to directly interfere in Iran's internal affairs. Canada's wide-ranging efforts against Iran started a few years ago and Justin Trudeau has especially taken over its leadership. Therefore, it shows that on behalf of the Zionist regime and Western circles, Canada has taken on the task of advancing part of the anti-Iranian project. Applying chain sanctions, supporting opposition groups, and sheltering economic corruptors who escaped from Iran, which are clear examples of interference in Iran's internal issues, are the tasks that have been assigned to Canada in this direction to overthrow the Islamic regime of Iran.

#### Ham Mihan: Iran's elections and relations between Tehran and Russia

In a note, Ham Mihan discussed Iran-Russia relations after the Iranian elections and wrote: Currently, it seems that the relations between

Iran and Russia have not changed. The main presidential candidates sent the message that their foreign policy priority is to reduce sanctions and improve the economic situation and a special relationship with Moscow. Slowing down the momentum of improving relations with Russia is not so difficult. But if the Leader of Iran sees a need at any time based on the interests of the system, he will change the course of Iran's relations with Russia.

Two factors can influence his decision: sanctions and the deteriorating economic situation. Considering the atmosphere of Iran's foreign policy and the fact that there is no positive bias towards Iran's reconciliation with its enemies, the transformation in the relations between Tehran and Moscow will probably happen gradually. Experience has shown that Iran quickly learns about the unfortunate realities of its relationship with the West and turns to Moscow once again.

Finally, there is no possibility of an immediate and profound change in the relations between Russia and Iran, but if the new president can start the process of lifting the sanctions, the current form of the relationship will disappear in the medium term.

#### Hamshahri: The failure of the Western saboteurs' movement against Iran's elections

In an article, Hamshahri dealt with the enemy's attempt to destroy the integrity of Iran's elections. It wrote: Although the final result of the 14th president of Iran has been postponed to the second round of elections, the results of the first round of these elections discredited some fake controversies about the integrity of Iran's election mechanism. Predictions have been raised mainly by the Western and saboteur media against Iran's election mechanism and to question the election results. One of the projects emphasized the victory of a particular candidate by the Western media.

Targeting lines against Iran's elections among Western media and saboteurs were associated with specific goals such as questioning the mechanism of competitive elections in Iran, denying the integrity of voting in branches, and discouraging citizens from participating in elections. However, the results in the first round proved the nullification of all the Western and sabotage atmosphere against Iran's electoral mechanism.

## Iran, Turkey condemn Israeli crimes in Gaza, emphasize regional cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan discussed bilateral relations and the ongoing conflict in Gaza during a phone call on Sunday. Both officials condemned the Israeli regime's actions against the Palestinian people, highlighting the need for regional cooperation and emphasizing the strength of resistance movements.

Baqeri expressed appreciation for Turkey's participation in the recent Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Tehran. He emphasized the importance of regional organizations like the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Developing 8 (D-8), and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in advancing the interests of independent nations.

Regarding the escalating violence in Gaza, Baqeri condemned the Israeli regime's "brutal crimes" against the Palestinian people. He characterized the threats against Lebanon and the ongoing attacks on Gaza as evidence of the regime's "savage nature."

"Just as after nine months, the Zionists are unable to return conditions to the pre-October 7th situation, they must know that any new mistake they make in Lebanon will create new conditions at the regional level to the detriment of the Zionists, which they will not be able to compensate for through massacre and crime," Baqeri warned.

He also emphasized the strength of Lebanon's resistance, stating that it is "fully prepared to confront the threats of the Zionist regime," and that the "unparalleled power of resistance in Lebanon will impose costs on any disobedience



by the invading aggressors."

Baqeri highlighted the importance of strengthening economic ties between Iran and Turkey, stressing that "activating commercial and economic capacities between the two countries will create conditions for sustainable security." He also emphasized the importance of cooperation within the "3+3" regional framework, encompassing Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, and Russia.

Fidan echoed Baqeri's condemnation of Israel's actions, criticizing the regime's genocide in Gaza and the international community's inability to prevent the violence. He described the Israeli regime's approach as a policy of escalating tensions across the region, which would inevitably impact other nations.

Fidan expressed support for utilizing regional organizations like D-8 in addressing the Palestinian issue. He stressed the importance of collaboration between Iran and Turkey on both Palestine and regional security and stability.

Both foreign ministers underscored the importance of expanding bilateral relations, particularly in rail transport and within regional frameworks.

# Campaign rhetoric heats up ahead of presidential runoff

From page 1 ▶ Since then, subsequent administrations have been hesitant to raise gas prices. Nonetheless, some economists argue that Iran's energy prices need to be increased, regardless of who becomes president.

Experts believe that Iran's current practice of selling gasoline at a significantly lower price than its production cost has led to wastage of natural resources and rampant smuggling of fuel out of the country. They say the situation not only depletes Iran's wealth but also undermines its self-sufficiency in gasoline production. However, such a move must be accompanied by targeted measures to mitigate the impact on vulnerable segments of society, ensuring that those with lower incomes are not disproportionately burdened by the price adjustment, economists say.

#### Reformists draw on foreign policy and cultural matters to attack Jalili

Pezeshkian's campaign is focusing on two key areas to attack his



conservative rival: foreign policy and cultural issues.

Reformists have long painted conservatives as isolationist and averse to diplomacy, but recent events have complicated this narrative. The JCPOA, once a cornerstone of reformist pride, is now in a precarious state, while significant international achievements like membership in BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Agreement were secured under the administration of the late President



Ebrahim Raisi, a figure closely aligned with conservative factions.

Further complicating matters for Pezeshkian, resurfaced audio recordings from Ali Tayebnia, a current member of his election office and former finance minister under President Hassan Rouhani, cast a shadow on the reformists' foreign policy record.

Tayebnia, in a recorded lecture, disparaged former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is closely associated with Pezeshkian and is

seen as a potential foreign minister in a Pezeshkian administration, calling him "one of the worst foreign ministers in Iran's history." While the reformists' critique of Jalili's foreign policy seems to be losing steam, their accusations regarding cultural issues appear to have more traction.

Pezeshkian's backers have highlighted recent statements from members of Jalili's campaign team, who have sparked controversy with their shockingly aggressive comments on cultural issues in recent days.

Despite Jalili's consistent stance against heavy-handed cultural intervention, his associates appear to be undoing his efforts. Analysts have advised Jalili to choose his TV representatives more carefully, if he doesn't want his rival to use their hasty and unwise positions against him. It remains to be seen whether either of the candidate's supporters would be able to successfully dissuade undecided voters from considering their opponent.

## Western states enabled Saddam's chemical attacks, now block aid to victims: acting FM

From page 1 ▶ to defend and support Baghdad's dictator to an extent that they did not even allow the United Nations Security Council to issue a resolution against the Ba'ath regime due to its repeated use of chemical weapons," Baqeri Kani stated. He highlighted how the Security Council, despite reports from UN inspection teams confirming Iraq's use of chemical weapons, remained inactive due to Western interests.

The acting foreign minister stressed the ongoing struggle faced by chemical victims due to Western sanctions. "What exacerbates the hardship of long-term consequences and pains suffered by Iranian chemical victims is the unilateral and inhumane sanctions imposed by Western countries, especially the United States, against the people of Iran, which include preventing chemical victims from accessing necessary medications and medical equipment," he declared adding that Western states are essentially helping "Saddam's inhumane project" to get completed.

Baqeri Kani reiterated Iran's firm stance against weapons of mass destruction, highlighting the country's active role in negotiating and ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention. He emphasized Iran's commitment to eliminating such weapons and creating a world free of chemical threats.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the acting top diplomat affirmed Tehran's dedication to holding accountable those responsible for chemical weapons use and ensuring compensation for victims. "The Islamic Republic of Iran will not relinquish any effort to fulfil its legal responsibility to compensate the victims of chemical weapons used by the former regime of Iraq and to fulfil its ethical and humanitarian mission to demonstrate the intensity of abhorrence and ugliness of using weapons of mass slaughter," Baqeri Kani declared.

He further requested the establishment of a truth-finding mechanism to gather information and documents about German involvement in Iraq's chemical weapons program.

"We have repeatedly requested the German government to provide documents and records of such legal proceedings to the Islamic Republic of Iran," Baqeri Kani stated. "We are still waiting for the German government's response to this logical proposal in the direction of uncovering the truth and enforcing justice."

The diplomat praised efforts in countries like the Netherlands where lawsuits have been filed against individuals who supplied chemicals and equipment to Iraq. "We welcome these actions - albeit insignificant - towards implementing justice." Lastly, Baqeri Kani drew parallels between the 1987 chemical attack on Sardasht and the ongoing Israeli war in Gaza. "Today, the oppressed people of Palestine and Gaza are victims of the genocide by the occupying regime, and the procrastination and complacency of the international community, especially the Western countries, with the Zionist regime have exacerbated the killing of women and children," he stated.

## Interim president commends late Amir Abdollahian's support for Resistance

TEHRAN - Iran's interim president has extolled the late Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian for his significant influence and steadfast commitment to the Axis of Resistance.

"Amir Abdollahian wasn't just Iran's Foreign Minister; he was a key figure in the Resistance Axis," Mohammad Mokhber remarked on Monday.

He underscored late Amir Abdollahian's extensive training under the guidance of the Leader of Islamic Revolution and Imam Khomeini, which equipped him with unparalleled strength, exceptional diplomatic acumen, and an unyielding dedication to safeguarding national interests.

Mokhber recalled a conversation with a prominent official from within the Axis of

Resistance following a recent tragic event, where the official emphasized that "Amir Abdollahian didn't just represent Iran as Foreign Minister but was a pivotal figure for the entire Resistance Axis."

Addressing concerns among regional leaders, Mokhber highlighted, "There is apprehension among leaders within the Resistance Axis about whether the robust support that President Raisi provided to the Resistance can be sustained in the future."

These remarks underscore the profound impact and enduring legacy of late Amir Abdollahian, not only within Iran's political landscape but also across the broader regional sphere.

On May 19, a helicopter carrying the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Amir



Abdollahian crashed into the mountains in the East Azarbaijan province of Iran, causing the death of all those on board.

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

## Iran to expand air defense positions to ensure security: commander

TEHRAN - The commander of Iranian Army's Air Defense Force has emphasized the strategic importance of expanding and establishing defense positions and radar sites across Iran to ensure the security of the nation.

Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard made these remarks during his recent visit to the central air defense region of Shahid Nasr Esfahani. This visit included an inspection of the expanded defense positions and radar sites in Yazd province, where he evaluated the combat readiness and operational capabilities of the deployed units.

During the inspection, Brigadier General Sabahifard highlighted the continuous efforts of the Air Defense Force to enhance its operational efficiency by developing modern and indigenous defense equipment. "As a pioneering and operational force, the Air Defense Force always strives to accomplish its missions in the best possible way," he stated, underscoring the importance of

staying technologically advanced.

Addressing the force's focus on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), Sabahifard noted that in recent years, the Air Defense Force has placed special emphasis on this domain. He pointed out that despite facing comprehensive and unjust sanctions from adversaries, the force has not experienced any disruptions in its mission. "Our powerful Air Defense Force continues to ensure the security of Iran's skies with unwavering strength," he asserted.

Reiterating the strategic goals of the Air Defense Force, General Sabahifard said, "Expanding and establishing defense positions and radar sites throughout Iran to provide a safe and calm sky is one of our key programs." He further explained that the ongoing efforts for growth and development are crucial, as a nation's military and operational power hinges on strengthening its defense and deterrence capabilities.

In recent years, Iranian military

specialists and engineers have achieved notable advancements in producing a diverse array of domestically developed equipment, fostering self-reliance within the armed forces.

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

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

#### Commander urges nation to make informed, insightful choice in runoff election

In a broader political context, the commander commented on the significance of the recent presidential election, describing the informed and insightful choice of the people in the runoff as a continuation

of the prideful victory of June 28.

He expressed his hope that the final elected representative of the republic would follow the path and principles of the late president and his martyred companions, thereby ensuring that the country's progress and prosperity reach their intended goals with divine support.

The results of Iran's 14th presidential election indicate that the race will go to a runoff between Massoud Pezeshkian and Saeed Jalili, scheduled for July 5.

This election was conducted a year earlier than planned. The snap election was called after a helicopter crash in Iran's northwestern mountains on May 19 resulted in the deaths of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, and six others. According to Iran's Constitution, a new president must be elected by public vote within 50 days of a president's death or incapacitation.

# Poor Things

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Verbal abuse, threats of sexual assault, and physical violence were what Iranians trying to vote on June 28 in Western nations were met with as they made their ways towards polling stations.

Individuals affiliated with anti-Iran groups, including terrorists, separatists, and monarchists, ensured that any Iranian who chose not to comply with their media campaigns advocating for the boycott of the presidential election left with a traumatizing experience of brutal retaliation following their vote.

Then they took to social media to brazenly share evidence of their savage and brutal actions. A woman boasted that she had forcefully snatched an elderly lady's hijab, a guy in his 20s bragged that he had prevented a man from casting his vote by threatening to "crush his brains"; and a group of young men said they had harassed a young girl by implying that they would find her and rape her.

**Attackers won't manage to dissuade voters**

Dr. Hamid Reza Moghadamfar, an analyst and political activist, argued in an interview with the Tehran Times that while the harassment of Iranian voters by anti-Iran groups and opposition is deeply sad and concerning, it will ultimately benefit Iran.

"The events of June 28 sent a



clear message to both Iranians and foreign governments," he explained. "Firstly, the opposition's actions, characterized by their savage conduct on Friday, demonstrate their limited capacity. They resort to intimidation tactics to scare voters because they lack any genuine means to attract support or attention."

Moghadamfar further asserted that this harassment will not deter Iranian voters, but rather inspire them to participate and support the Islamic Republic. That's because the opposition's tactics have inadvertently revealed the true nature of the "alternative government" they are advocating for. "This also serves as a warning to Western nations," he stated, "that their decades of investment in the opposition have been misguided. They have mistakenly believed that this group could gain legitimacy

among Iranians. What legitimate force resorts to harassing people for exercising their right to vote?"

**Runoff vote to proceed under tighter security**

Alireza Mahmoudi, the director general of consular affairs at Iran's foreign ministry, who oversees elections held abroad, has announced Iran is determined to ensure the safety of Iranian voters in the upcoming second round of the presidential election.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Mahmoudi said Iranian embassies across Western states are assessing the situation and will be working with local authorities to further ensure security for Iranian citizens particularly in the United Kingdom, where the most incidents of harassment occurred during the first round.

"Under international law, it is the responsibility of foreign governments to ensure the safety of voters when we hold elections abroad," Mahmoudi stated. He explained that the Foreign Ministry had proactively engaged with ambassadors, sending letters and making calls prior to the first round, urging them to guarantee voter safety. "While we did not experience significant disturbances in most countries, the situation in Britain was more intense," he acknowledged.

Mahmoudi detailed his meeting with the British ambassador to Iran on Monday, during which he demanded stricter security measures. "Despite the efforts of British police to cordon off attackers, Iranian voters were still subjected to verbal abuse. We need to ensure that Iranian citizens are completely safe and free from any form of harassment when voting," he emphasized.

Mahmoudi also talked about the fate of individuals arrested by British police on June 28 for disrupting the election. He emphasized the importance of the UK government holding these individuals accountable for their disorderly conduct. "This is not just about the harassment of Iranian citizens," he argued. "When these attackers openly declare their intent to prevent people from voting, they are fundamentally challenging the sovereignty of the British government, which has authorized us to hold elections within its borders."

## Tehran condemns insults to Iranian voters abroad

TEHRAN – The spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry has denounced the insults directed at expatriates participating in the country's 14th presidential election, stating that these actions reveal the profound depravity and misery of those attempting to disrupt the electoral process.

In a message posted on his X account on Monday, Nasser Kanaani criticized certain Western countries that claim to uphold democratic values for permitting individuals to engage in such an "ugly behavior."

He condemned these nations for failing to adopt lawful and deterrent measures against those who insult and infringe upon the legal rights of Iranian citizens abroad.

"These self-proclaimed defenders of citizenship rights, human rights, and democracy will be judged by the Iranian nation," Kanaani asserted.

He emphasized that Iranians, both domestically and internationally, demand explanations and actions from responsible institutions in Western countries regarding such barbaric, uncivilized, and illegal conduct.

Kanaani expressed dismay at the behavior of certain individuals who identify as "opponents" of the Islamic establishment, accusing them of attempting to intimidate and insult Iranian voters abroad to prevent their participation in the election.

Despite these challenges, more than 24 million people cast their votes in the snap election held on June 28. The early polls were necessitated by the tragic passing of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash on May 19. The helicopter carrying Raisi and his entourage was on its way to Tabriz, the capital of East Azerbaijan, from a location on

the border with the Republic of Azerbaijan where the Iranian president had opened a major dam project.

The results of the election indicated that none of the candidates secured the necessary votes to win outright, leading to a runoff between Massoud Pezeshkian and Saeed Jalili scheduled for July 5.

Kanaani highlighted that the turnout of expatriate voters, despite the difficulties, demonstrated national solidarity among Iranians both inside and outside the country. He reiterated that these attacks on voters only strengthen the resolve and unity of the Iranian nation.

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

## Israel's crimes in Gaza are unprecedented in history: Iran's judiciary chief

TEHRAN – Iran's judiciary chief says the crimes committed in Gaza over the past nine months, with comprehensive American support, are unprecedented in history.

Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei made the remarks in an address to the Supreme Judicial Council on Monday.

Ejei emphasized that "Americans and Zionists have demonstrated that in their pursuit of illegitimate and anti-human interests, they respect no boundaries and commit all kinds of atrocities against humanity."

He reiterated that more coordination is needed among Muslim countries to tackle the plight of people in Gaza and to hold to account those behind crimes committed against the Palestinians in the territory.

The conflict in Gaza has inflicted devastating losses, with Israeli actions since October 7 leading to the deaths of at least 37,900 Palestinians, primarily women and children, and injuring 87,060 others.

Despite a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire, Israel's ongoing crimes in

the beleaguered enclave have drawn widespread global condemnation.

Over nine months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has highlighted the dire and chaotic conditions in Gaza, describing the situation as "total lawlessness."

**'American blatant human rights'**

Ejei also focused on the significance of the upcoming July 2, known nationally as the Day of American Human Rights Exposure. This day commemorates the anniversary of the tragic attack by the American naval forces on an Iranian commercial plane in 1988.

"On July 2, 1988, despite the aircraft's clear civilian status, the criminal American forces attacked it, resulting in the brutal martyrdom of 290 passengers, including 66 children," Chief Justice Ejei stated. "Therefore, we designated this day as the Day of American Human Rights Exposure."

He further remarked, "It should be

noted that American crimes are now so blatant that they no longer need exposure. These atrocities are 'self-exposed' to the world. For the past nine months, in Gaza, the Zionists, with full American support, have committed the most savage crimes, showing no mercy even to children and the sick."

**'Integrity in the electoral process; crucial for nation'**

Turning his attention to the domestic scene, Chief Justice Ejei spoke about the upcoming second round of the 14th presidential election.

Ejei stressed the importance of integrity in the electoral process. "All our people expect the candidates, their campaign teams, and supporters to adhere to the law and ethics and respect the rights of the people. If a candidate or campaign team does not respect the law and ethics, people will question how such individuals can be expected to adhere to the law after assuming executive responsibility for the country."

He extended his gratitude to

border patrols to combat smuggling effectively. He stressed the need for a strong commitment to tackling smuggling, particularly of arms and alcoholic beverages.

General Goudarzi also highlighted the necessity of expanding bilateral cooperation in exchanging information between the border guards of both countries to prevent terrorist attacks.

General Abdul Wahab, in his remarks, emphasized the high level of cooperation and

interaction with the Iranian border guards. He stated that this brotherhood will enhance collaboration and strengthen border security.

Both commanders agreed on the importance of promoting bilateral interactions and cooperation to ensure the safety and security of the pilgrims and to address the challenges of smuggling and terrorism.

The annual Arbaeen pilgrimage is originally destined for Karbala, Iraq, where the Imam Hussein (AS) is laid to rest.

### Taremi determined to power Iran to 2026 Finals

TEHRAN – Iran's semi-final exit at the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 still stings for Mehdi Taremi but he is choosing to look towards the future and he hopes will be another FIFA World Cup Finals appearance.

No nation knows semi-final heartbreak at the AFC Asian Cup quite like Iran; on seven occasions since 1976 – the most recent of the country's three consecutive continental titles – Team Melli has fallen one hurdle before the tournament's deciding match.

The latest loss remains fresh in the mind of Taremi, the talismanic striker whose goals in recent years have been one of the drivers of his country's qualification for the last two FIFA World Cup Finals, but who continue to fall short of a fourth AFC Asian Cup.

"After the Qatar game, I never saw the game and I haven't talked until now about that game," he tells the-AFC.com. "I don't want to look back and think about the past."

"We're always thinking about what is in front of us. We're looking forward to the next step and who we are going to play against. It's still painful. I think we deserved to win the Asian Cup. We created a lot of chances there, we missed a lot of chances but that's football," he added.

Missing scoring opportunities is not a characteristic often associated with Taremi. The 31-year-old hit a hat-trick against Hong Kong, China earlier this month to record his 48th goal in 804 matches as he continued his long-standing run of form for Iran.

"The main goal is, first of all we have to go to the World Cup, and then my main goal is I have to try my best to score more than two goals at the next World Cup. So, let's see," Taremi concluded.

It is his ability in front of goal that has seen Taremi establish himself among the leading scorers in European club football since his move to Portugal to join Rio Ave from Al Gharafa in Qatar before a subsequent move to Porto, where he has spent the last four seasons.

Taremi's time on the Iberian peninsula, however, has come to an end with the expiration of his contract with the Estadio de Dragao-based club, and a new adventure in Italy with Inter Milan awaits.

"That five years, it has created this Mehdi," he says of his time in Portugal, where he scored 112 times in 217 games in all competitions.

"I have become a more experienced guy, I have become a more professional guy and all of those people who have helped me there I appreciate all of those guys, the staff the players at Rio Ave club and at Porto as well. They have created this Mehdi."

### Hadadi elected Iran Athletic Federation president

TEHRAN – 2012 Olympic Games medal winner Ehsan Hadadi was elected as president of Iran Athletic Federation on Monday.

He was elected for a four-year term till 2028.

In the elections held at Iran's Academy Olympic in Tehran, Hadadi secured 40 of 59 votes cast.

Abbasali Madih came second with 17 votes and Mehran Tishegaran and Rouhollah Askari collected just one both.

Hadadi made history by becoming the first Iranian athlete to win a medal in the Olympic Games.

The discus thrower claimed a silver in 2012 London with a 68.18 meters throw.

### Three Segunda Division teams interested in Abedzadeh

TEHRAN – Spain's national daily tabloid sport newspaper has reported that three Segunda Division teams have shown interest in signing Iranian goalkeeper Amir Abedzadeh. Abedzadeh has previously played for

Spanish team Ponferradina from 2021 to 2023.

Marca has reported that Eldense, Mirandes and Albacete are going to sign the custodian.

The 31-year-old goalie has most recently played for Portuguese club Maritimo.

Abedzadeh has been also linked with a move to Persepolis.

Amir is the son of Iranian legendary goalkeeper Ahmad Reza Abedzadeh.

### Iran crowned champions of World Taekwondo World Cup Team

TEHRAN – The Iranian men's team have been crowned champions at the World Taekwondo World Cup Team Championships Series in Chuncheon, South Korea.

In their first competition, the Iranian national team defeated the Ivory Coast 175-30 and 180-40 in two consecutive rounds on Monday, the first day of the 2024 championships.

The victory made the Iranian men advance to the final where they secured another win by defeating the host team 175-115 and 140-70.

Iranian women are also set to play their first match in the championships on Tuesday when they will face off against their South Korean rivals.

The World Taekwondo World Cup Team Championships Series is held in Chuncheon on July 1-3. It is followed by two more World Taekwondo events scheduled for July 4 and 5, taking place in the same city.

Around 200 athletes from 40 countries are taking part in the three events.

### Abolfazl Jalali extends deal with Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team left back Abolfazl Jalali extended his deal with the team.

He has penned two-year extension with the Iranian giant.

Jalali, 26, joined Esteghlal in 2021 from Saipa and has played a key role in the team, helping Esteghlal win Iran Professional League in 2021-22 season as well as Super Cup.

Esteghlal has also reached an agreement with its captain Rouzbeh Cheshmi to extend his deal.

### Jahanbakhsh linked with Besiktas

TEHRAN – Feyenoord football club will say goodbye to Alireza Jahanbakhsh on a free transfer after three seasons.

The thirty-year-old attacker was previously in discussions with the Rotterdam club management about a possible longer stay and according to Sabah he has now appeared on the radar at Besiktas.

Jahanbakhsh's management recently announced that no agreement had been reached with Feyenoord on a new contract.

Jahanbakhsh has played his last matches for Feyenoord. The Iranian international had an expiring contract and said he was in discussions last month about a longer stay in De Kuip. "Feyenoord is in discussions with my agent," said the attacker.

"I would like to stay in Europe, because I see myself playing at the highest level in terms of mentality and physically," Jahanbakhsh said.

According to the latest reports from Turkey, Jahanbakhsh's wish can now be fulfilled by the interest of Besiktas.

The experienced winger can expect an offer in the short term from the Turkish top club, where Giovanni van Bronckhorst will be at the helm next season.

## Turkiye importing Iranian oil after 4 years



From page 1 ► on Iran have imposed pressure on the energy sector of the European Union so that they are ignoring the sanctions.

Ever since the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi took power in August 2021, the country's oil exports have been on an upward trajectory.

The rise in Iran's oil exports has taken place despite tough U.S. sanctions which aimed to choke off Iran's oil industry as a main source of revenue for the Islamic Republic.

Financial Times cited figures by data company Vortexa last month noting that Iran was exporting more oil than at any time for the past six years, giving its economy a \$35bn-a-year boost.

The report said that Tehran sold an average of 1.56mn barrels a day during the first three months of 2024, almost all of it to China and its highest level since the third quarter of 2018.

"The Iranians have mastered the art of sanctions circumvention," said Fernando Ferreira, head of a geopolitical risk service at the Rapidan Energy Group in the U.S.

Iran's oil minister Javad Oji said in March that oil exports had "generated more than \$35bn" in the preceding year. On another occasion, he said that while Iran's enemies wanted to stop its exports, "today, we can export oil anywhere we want, and with minimal discounts".

## 7 flare gas recovery projects to come online soon

TEHRAN - Managing Director of the Persian Gulf Bidboland Gas Refinery Mahmoud Aminnejad said seven projects for gathering associated gases, worth \$400 million, will be completed over the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, which ends on March 20, 2025.

Speaking with Shana, Aminnejad said by launching the projects 16 gas flares will be turned off in the East Karoon region and as much as 250 million cubic feet of gas will be collected for use as feedstock.

The mentioned projects are part of a general plan named "Renovation and Construction of Gas Collection Facilities" which the Petroleum Ministry is pursuing its implementation seriously.

The contract for the renovation and construction of gas collection facilities in the East Karoon region, worth 1.109 billion dollars, was signed in 2018 between Persian Gulf Holding and the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC).

The Persian Gulf Bidboland Gas Refinery, which is in charge of implementing the contract, plans to collect the associated gases, preventing the burning of national wealth, preserving the environment, and providing the collected gases as feedstock.

Aminnejad told Shana that Bidboland Gas Refinery had become operational in February 2021 as the largest processing associated gas installation but its sustainable operation depends on the implementation of the renovation and construction of gathering associated gas installation projects.

Over the first half of this year, seven out of 27 projects of this plan worth about 400 million dollars will be completed and ready for operation, he said.

By launching these projects, 16 gas flares will be turned off and 250 million cubic of gas will be added to the available feedstock capacity of Bidboland gas refinery in the second half of this year, he said, adding an increase in feed, will result in producing more products and as a result, more methane will be injected to the national gas network and at the same time higher ethane will be available for feeding the petrochemical complexes.

Back in May, Managing Director of the South Pars Gas Complex (SPGC) Ahmad Bahoush said a project is underway at the complex which upon its completion, the volume of gases being burnt by gas stacks will be reduced by 1.2 thousand million cubic meters annually.

Bahoush added that the project will be completed in August 2024, noting the complex has been able to achieve considerable success in view of halting gas flares last year.

By the completion of the project, the daily volume of gases being burnt will fall to 5.3 million cubic meters per day from 8.7 million cubic meters per day two years ago, he said, noting "right now, gas stacks are burning 7.4 million cubic meters of associated gases per day."

The official said elsewhere in his remarks that the complex has started a 3-phase process for buying, implementation and holding auctions, expressing hope that the process to bear fruit in the shadow of Jihadi efforts are made at South Pars Gas Complex.

When the remaining gas flares sale project is completed, the volume of the burning associated gases of the complex will shrink by another one billion cubic meters annually, he said.

# Production of iron ore concentrate rises 17.6% in 2 months on year

TEHRAN- The production of iron ore concentrate in Iran increased by 17.6 percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 -May 20), as compared to the same period in the past year, according to the data released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

As ISPA reported, 13,798 tons of iron ore concentrate was produced in the first two months of this year, while the figure was 11.36 tons in the same period of the previous year.

As reported, Iranian steel mills managed to produce 10 million tons of iron ore concentrate in the second month of the current year (April 21-May 20).

During this period, more than 7.664 million tons of sponge iron



pellets were produced, which was 14 percent more than the 6.723 million tons produced in the same period last year.

meanwhile, 12.513 million tons of iron ore pellets were also produced, registering a 6.8 percent

rise compared to the 11.719 million tons produced in April and May of last year.

In the first two months of the year, 2,232,000 tons of long steel sections and 1,813,000 tons of steel sheet sections were pro-

duced respectively, of which 1,233,000 tons of long sections and 946,000 tons of flat sections were produced in the second month of the year.

The production of steel products increased from 3.943 million tons in the first two months of last year to 4.045 million tons in the current year, registering a 2.6 percent increase.

Iron ore concentrate is an output product from processed iron ores that have been milled (crush, grind, magnetic separation, flotation) to separate deleterious elements and produce a high-quality product.

Iron ore concentrates are deep beneficiated iron ore products, used for sintering and blast furnace production, as well as pellet production.

## '80% of Iran's tire needs met by domestic producers'

TEHRAN - Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association of Iran's Rubber and Tire Producers said 80 percent of the country's needs for tires is met by domestic producers, IRIB reported.

Mohammadreza Taghi Ganji said there are currently 12 tire factories are active across the country which account for 80 percent of the local market demand.

"Every year, about 30 million tires of all kinds are consumed in the country," he said.

According to the official, over the last three years, Iranian tire producers have been able to increase production by five percent annually, and supply and demand have reached a balance.

The official noted that the main imported items in this sector are related to the tires of agricultural and mining machines which account for 20 percent of the country's tire demand.

"25 percent of the raw materials needed in the tire industry are imported. We have a problem with foreign currency allocation to supply raw materials, and since the begin-

ning of the year, no foreign currency allocation has been made by the Central Bank for tire raw materials, but tire importers have received 90 million dollars in foreign currency since the beginning of the year," he said.

Iran imported \$92 million of car tires in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March to May 2024), showing a 76 percent growth compared to the same period last year, a report said.

The report put the total value of the car tires imported into the country in the first two months of the previous Iranian calendar year (March to May 22, 2023) at over \$52 million.

The import of tires in the first two months of the current Persian calendar year (started March 21, 2024) indicated an 89 percent growth in terms of weight compared to last year's corresponding period, the report added.

The tire industry has a 60-year history in Iran. Currently, 11 tire manufacturing companies are active across the country that produce tires for passenger cars, trucks, buses,

vans, road construction, and agriculture machinery, as well as bicycles and motorcycles in addition to other types of tubes.

Some 15,000 people are directly employed in this industry and more than 250,000 people are indirectly involved in the value chain of this industry.

The Iranian tire industry, despite the continuation of sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic conditions, as well as some domestic restrictions, has been following a thriving and successful path over the past few years.

In addition to the successes achieved in terms of the output amount, Iranian tire manufacturers have entered new areas including production of the wide-base tires and the tires of SUVs.

Wide base tires, which are a new generation of heavy vehicle tires, have been produced for the first time in West Asia by Iranian producers.

## Bank loans paid to knowledge-based firms double in 2 months on year

TEHRAN - Iranian banking system paid 380.893 trillion rials (about \$780 million) of facilities to knowledge-based companies in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 21), to register an over 100 percent rise compared to the same period in the preceding year.

According to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), 83 percent of these facilities were granted by non-government banks, and the share of government banks was 17 percent, specialized banks 4.8 percent, and commercial banks 12.2 percent.

As reported, during the mentioned two months 2,632 loans were paid to 928 companies.

The Iranian banking system has paid 7.2 quadrillion rials (about \$14.4 billion) of facilities in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 -May 20, 2024), registering a 36.2 percent rise from the figure in the same period of the previous year, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced.

As Mehr News Agency reported, of the total facilities, 5.7 quadrillion rials (about \$11.4 billion) equivalent to 79.3 percent, was paid to the business owners (real

and legal), and 1.4 quadrillion rials (about \$2.9 billion) equivalent to 20.7 percent, to the final consumers (households).

The Islamic Republic has developed plans to support and empower knowledge-based companies as a step forward to materialize the goal of the year which is "Knowledge-based Production and job creation" as the economy is fighting the U.S. sanctions.

The law for promoting and supporting knowledge-based companies was approved by the Majlis (Iranian parliament) in 2010, paving the way for a jump-

start in the march toward scientific progress.

Over the past couple of years, the concept of 'knowledge-based company' has changed to 'knowledge-based society', meaning that supporting knowledge-based companies will lead to many social and economic advantages for the public.

The number of knowledge-based companies has increased from around 50 in 2013 to more than 5,700 in the previous Iranian calendar year.

### Invitation to creditors (private joint stock)

**The Iranian and French Automobile Company in liquidation (private joint stock) registration No: 95179 and national ID.No: 10101392440 (3 times)**

For the implementation of Article 225 of the amendment to the Commercial Law, all the creditors of Iran and France Automobile Company (SIFA) in liquidation process with registration No: 95179 and national ID. No: 10101392440, whose liquidation notice was placed in the official Gazette of the country of Iran No: 22930 dated 1/Oct/2023, are invited to submit their supporting documents regarding their claims within a maximum period of 6 months from the date of publication of the first advertisement, to the liquidator, Mr. Mohammad Javad Piran with phone No: 09122651348 and at Domicile: legal deputy of Iran Khodro, Sarir Building, Tehran - Karaj high way kilometer 14, and postal code : 1495613311. It is obvious that the company and the liquidator are not responsible for any probable claims that is reflected to the company outside of the above period.

**Mohammad Javad Piran**

*Liquidation manager of Iran and France Automobile Company (private joint stock) in liquidation*



### Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Purchase of Integral Block & bleed Valves for Belal Project, Tender No. 966444

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to Purchase of Integral Block & bleed Valves for Belal Project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 15 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

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

# Inside the horrors of Israeli prisons

From page 1 ▶ He said every prisoner has lost about 30 kilograms of weight.

Abu Salmiya is one of the 55 Palestinian detainees who was released on Monday because, according to the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation, the regime's prisons are full.

## Israel's al-Shifa raid

Israeli forces arrested Abu Salmiya on November 23 after they raided the al-Shifa medical complex, which is the largest medical facility in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army accused him of allowing Hamas to use the hospital as an operation center.

The regime, however, fell short of providing any evidence to back up its claim that Hamas used the facility as a command hub.

Israel claimed that five hospital buildings were directly involved in Hamas activities. It said the buildings sat atop underground tunnels used by the resistance movement and they could be accessed from inside hospital wards.

A post-analysis of open-source visuals, satellite imagery and publicly released materials by the Israeli army found that none of the five hospital buildings appeared to be connected to the tunnel network, and there was no evidence that the tunnels could be accessed from inside hospital wards, that's according to the Washington Post.

Israel's storming of al-Shifa Hospital which housed hundreds of sick and dying patients and thousands of displaced people has had no precedent in recent decades. The regime raided the hospital several times and committed massacres there which sparked a global outcry.

Israel has also perpetrated



massacres in other hospitals in Gaza after storming them.

**Director of al-Shifa Hospital says Israeli doctors and nurses beat and torture Palestinian prisoners while the regime forces kill inmates in interrogation cells.**

Hundreds of bodies have been recovered from mass graves at al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis and the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya over the past months following the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

Palestinian officials and several international organizations have stressed that the Israeli army committed war crimes at

these medical sites.

## Israel violates intl. law

International law stipulated that torture and other kinds of ill-treatment against protected persons in an occupied territory are instances of war crime.

**An official with the Palestinian monitor Addameer has told Al Jazeera that at least 40 Palestinians have died in Israeli custody since October 7.**

Nonetheless, Israel has shown utter disregard for international law.

Since declaring war on Gaza on October 7, Israel has slaughtered about 38,000 Palestinians and injured more than 80,000 others, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza.

The regime stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice.

The ICJ found in January that there was a risk of violation of the rights of the Palestinian people to protection from genocide.

It ordered Israel to "take all measures within its power" to desist from killing Palestinians in contravention of the genocide convention, to prevent and punish the incitement of genocide, and to facilitate provision of "urgent basic services".

The UN's top court also issued a ruling in May calling on Israel to end its operation in the Gaza Strip's southernmost city of Rafah; but to no avail.

**Hamas said the condition of the prisoners released on Monday and their testimony "confirm the criminal behavior of the Israeli occupation".**

Despite committing war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, Israel has not been held accountable so far.

Western countries have time and again issued statements criticizing Israel's brutalities in Gaza. They, however, continue to feed the Netanyahu regime's war machine by providing it with weapons.

## Hezbollah responds to Israeli attacks

### Iraqi resistance movement warns Israel against attacking Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ Israeli media acknowledged a "difficult" incident in the occupied Golan.

The Israeli military later announced that 18 of their soldiers were injured due to attacks launched by Hezbollah with some in critical condition.

Hezbollah claimed responsibility for 9 operations in 24 hours.

The resistance targeted the Israeli artillery positions in Khirbet Ma'ar with rockets.

Additionally, Hezbollah targeted the Ruwaisat Al-Qarn site in the Israeli-occupied Shebaa Farms in Lebanon and Samaka in the Kfar Shuba hills using rocket fire, confirming direct hits on both locations.

In separate statements, the Lebanese resistance movement said it had targeted the military command headquarters of an Israeli battalion at the Beit Hillel barracks with missiles, confirming direct hits that partially destroyed the targets and led to casualties.

Israeli military sites in Yeru'on and Al-Mutala were also attacked, "using appropriate weapons and achieving direct hits".

The resistance movement underscored that its operations are in support of "our steadfast Palestinian people in Gaza and in

support of their courageous and noble resistance, in response to the Israeli enemy's attacks on resilient southern villages and safe homes, especially in the towns of Kfar Kila, Houla, in addition to the town of At-Tayyiba."

Israeli media reported the sounding of sirens along the northern regions in She'ar Yashuv and Mount Hermon, as well as in the settlements of Beit Hillel, Ma'ayan Baruch and HaGoshrim.

The latest operations also come on the backdrop of the Israeli assassination of three Hezbollah members on Sunday and attacks on residential areas in southern Lebanon.

The exchange of fire between Hezbollah and the Israeli military has escalated over the past weeks, with the Israeli army killing more Lebanese civilians. Hezbollah has also expanded its operations since the northern Israeli front opened on October 8, one day after the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza started.

Tel Aviv has threatened a full-scale war against Hezbollah and Lebanon, a move that experts have warned would draw the entire region into the conflict.

Among the latest to issue a warning to the Israelis has been the Iraqi Resistance Coordi-

nation Committee.

In a statement, the committee said in response to threats from the "Zionist-American enemy to launch a comprehensive war on Lebanon and its courageous resistance. The Coordination Committee decided that if the Zionists carry out their threats, the intensity and nature of operations against them will escalate."

The statement also sent a warning to the U.S. occupation forces in Iraq and its interests beyond Iraqi borders.

"The criminal interests of the American enemy in Iraq and the region will become legitimate targets for the resistance fighters," the statement said.

"The massacres and genocide suffered by our people in Palestine, supported by America, necessitate taking firm stances towards normalization, rather than supporting them with Iraqi oil and money," the statement added.

The Iraqi resistance has been the latest group to strongly advise against a full-out war against Hezbollah. Iran and Yemen's Ansarullah have been among many others who have issued similar warnings recently.

Thus perhaps the debate wasn't the definitive, turning-point event perceived by many pols and pundits on both sides of the political divide. Indeed, once the great mass of voters have time to crank in their perceptions, Biden's performance may not turn out to be as disastrous as the early reviews suggested. It could be argued that, without minimizing Biden's slips and stumbles, he rather held his own in the narrow competition of scoring debating points. (For skeptics, I would suggest a simple exercise: read the debate transcript, which would serve as a debate-point scorecard stripped of elements of image or style.)  
(See full text at [www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com))

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Israeli army needs 10,000 soldiers

The Israel Broadcasting Authority has quoted war minister, Yoav Gallant, as saying the Israeli army needs 10,000 additional soldiers immediately.

According to Al Jazeera, Gallant told the foreign affairs and defense committee that 4,800 of those required can be recruited from Israel's ultra-Orthodox community, which makes up about 13% of people in Israel.

Israel's supreme court ruled last month that ultra-Orthodox Jewish men must be drafted into military service, upholding an interim decision in May that said Israel had no authority to offer an exemption for ultra-Orthodox, or Haredi, men.

### Iraq slams US Congressman's remarks on judiciary independence

President Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid denounced on Monday the remarks made by Congressman Mike Waltz, stating they undermine the independence of the Iraqi judiciary.

In an official statement, the Presidency's media office said, "We condemn the statements of Republican representative Mike Waltz, which not only target the head of the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council, Judge Faiq Zidan, but also threaten the independence of the Iraqi judiciary."

The statement emphasized, "The Iraqi judicial system is recognized as one of the most robust and independent in the region, upholding justice, supporting the rule of law, and ensuring citizens' legitimate rights to a free and dignified life. Iraq's current security and political stability are a testament to this strength."

It further warned, "The repetition of such irresponsible statements could negatively impact the bilateral relations between Iraq and the United States of America."

Waltz on Thursday retweeted a U.S. media report about him preparing to label the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council and Faiq Zidan "Iranian-controlled assets" via a legislative move by submitting a draft law amendment that includes a clause to back up his claim.

### France's far right celebrates lead, seeks majority

France's far right is in pole position after the first round of parliamentary elections that confirmed their dominance in French politics and brought them to the gates of power.

Supporters of Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration National Rally (RN) cheered as she said the president's "Macronist bloc has been all but wiped out".

RN won 33.1% of the vote, with a left-wing alliance behind on 28%, and the Macron camp behind on 20.76%.

"I aim to be prime minister for all the French people, if the French give us their votes," said 28-year-old RN party leader Jordan Bardella.

What Marine Le Pen and Jordan Bardella want is an absolute majority of 289 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly.

Seat projections for next Sunday's second round run-off votes suggest they may fall short.

### Qassam Brigades kills Israeli troops in Shujayea

The armed group of the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement has said its fighters attacked soldiers holed up inside a house in a neighborhood in the east of Gaza City.

A statement on Telegram said the building

was targeted with a "TBG thermobaric rocket", killing and wounding the soldiers. Fighters also "managed to snipe" an Israeli soldier inside a separate home in the neighborhood.

### Fatima Payman 'exiled' by Labor

The Western Australia Labor senator Fatima Payman said she has been "exiled" by the party and colleagues after warning she might cross the floor again on votes relating to Palestinian statehood.

The senator issued a statement on Facebook on Monday afternoon claiming she had been removed from group chats, caucus meetings and ostracized from colleagues.

"The prime minister suspended me indefinitely from the Australian Labor party caucus," Payman said.

The first-term senator said she had been "exiled" and had been led to believe "some members are attempting to intimidate me into resigning from the Senate".

"As a result, I will abstain from voting on Senate matters for the remainder of the week, unless a matter of conscience arises where I'll uphold the true values and principles of the Labor party," she said.

"I will use this time to reflect on my future and the best way to represent the people of Western Australia."

### Kremlin: UN atmosphere hostile toward Russia

The atmosphere in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is very anti-Russia, presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.

Asked at a news briefing whether Russia would be able to bring objectivity to the work of the UN Security Council during its one-month chairmanship, Peskov said: "This will certainly be very difficult to do in four weeks, given the extremely confrontational atmosphere [towards Russia] in the Security Council."

Russia began its one-month presidency of the UN Security Council on July 1. The last time the country coordinated the work of the global body's key department was in April 2023.

### Foreign envoys condemn largest Israeli demolition since Oct. 7

Diplomats based in West Jerusalem (al-Quds) and Ramallah condemned Israeli destruction of Palestinian buildings during a visit to Um al-Kheir in Hebron.

Representatives from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom noted in a joint statement that this was the largest demolition operation in the occupied West Bank since October 7.

Diplomats witnessed the aftermath of the Israeli demolition of residential structures, the community center, and an electricity generator that supplied power to the community.

The delegation called on Israel to respect its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, including the prohibition of forcible transfer and to stop demolitions and confiscation of Palestinian property.

## America was the real loser in the presidential debate

Democrats are panicking over President Joe Biden's debate performance against Donald Trump on Thursday evening. And there's no doubt that he showed signs of senility at times during the verbal joust. But that doesn't mean he ceded all prospects of defeating Trump come November. Perhaps the panic isn't altogether justified by what happened on that debate stage.

Yes, as former Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri said after the exchange, Biden "had one thing...to accomplish and that was to reassure America that he was up to the job at his age, and he failed." But Trump had something to accomplish also, and that

was to demonstrate that he could expand his base of support by luring to his banner independent and swing voters. There is no evidence that he did that with a debate performance that was mediocre at best.

Columnist Carlos Lozada of the New York Times wrote that Trump won the debate "by default." Perhaps he did. But, if Democratic leaders can't persuade Biden to exit the race, and there's little likelihood that they can, we'll be back to square one, with two highly flawed candidates vying to be, in the end, the least flawed. At that point, barring a dramatic, unexpected development or event, either man could win.

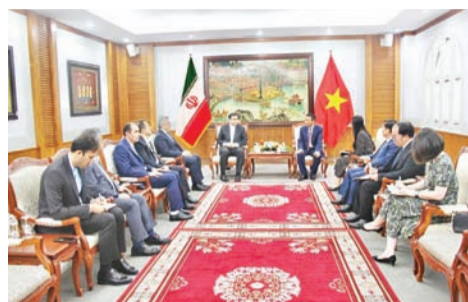
## Iran, Vietnam negotiate tourism cooperation agreement

TEHRAN - In a significant move to enhance bilateral relations, Iran and Vietnam have discussed signing a cooperation agreement aimed at expanding tourism between the two countries.

On Monday, Ali-Asghar Shalbfafian, the Iranian deputy tourism minister, met with Hoang Dao Cuong, the deputy minister of culture, sports, and tourism of Vietnam, to discuss strengthening tourism cooperation between the two nations.

During the meeting, the officials exchanged views on updating the memorandum of understanding on tourism cooperation between Iran and Vietnam.

Moreover, they pinpointed the importance of increasing meetings between the public and private sectors to help gain a deeper understanding of tourism capacities.



standing of tourism capacities.

A key topic of discussion was the facilitation of Iranian citizens' travel to Vietnam through the removal of visa requirements by the Vietnamese side.

This initiative aims to boost mutual tourism and enhance cultural and economic ties between Iran and Vietnam.

## Golestan seeks to enhance accessible tourism

TEHRAN - Golestan province in northern Iran seeks to expand its tourism industry by implementing comprehensive measures to ensure that all tourist destinations, products, and services are accessible to everyone, regardless of physical limitations, disabilities, or age.

In a recent meeting dedicated to accessible tourism, a number of local officials, representatives of Gorgan's executive bodies, private sector stakeholders, and representatives of non-governmental organizations exchanged views to develop tourism for seniors and individuals with disabilities, ensuring all tourism facilities are universally accessible and barrier-free, CHTN reported.

During the session, Ali Nouri, an official with Golestan's tourism directorate, emphasized that raising awareness within both public and private sectors to meet the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities can create a supportive environment for sustainable actions.

He stated, "Ensuring equal access for all citizens, including those with special conditions such as the elderly and disabled, to the province's tourism facilities is part of their civil rights."

The meeting also involved the issuance of mandates to the members of Golestan's Accessible Tourism Desk. The discussion highlighted the need for suitable infrastructure and facilities to make museums and tourist attractions accessible.

Members of the desk also stressed the importance of equipping and creating necessary facilities during the construction of these sites, with a focus on benefiting all individuals, including those with disabilities and seniors, was underscored.

Accessible tourism, aka inclusive tourism



or disability tourism, refers to the travel industry's efforts to cater to individuals with disabilities, ensuring they can participate in tourism activities and access facilities without barriers. It primarily focuses on providing equal opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy travel experiences, accommodations, attractions, and transportation services. The concept extends beyond physical disabilities to include sensory impairments, cognitive limitations, and other accessibility needs.

One key aspect of accessible tourism involves the design and modification of infrastructure and facilities to accommodate individuals with disabilities. This includes wheelchair ramps, elevators, widened doorways, accessible restrooms, and tactile signage.

Promoting accessible tourism not only benefits travelers with disabilities but also presents economic opportunities for destinations and businesses. According to the UN Tourism, individuals with disabilities represent a significant market segment within the global tourism industry. By making destinations and services more accessible, businesses can tap into this market and attract a broader customer base. Moreover, accessible tourism initiatives contribute to job creation, economic growth, and social inclusion within communities.

## 2,000 years ago, a bridge in Switzerland collapsed on top of Celtic sacrifice victims, new study suggests

2,000 years ago, a bridge in Switzerland collapsed on top of Celtic sacrifice victims, new study suggests

When a small bridge in western Switzerland collapsed 2,000 years ago, the bodies of 20 people, three cows and two horses became entangled in the wreckage. But whether this event was the result of a catastrophic flood or an elaborate ritual sacrifice has puzzled archaeologists for decades. Now, new research, including an analysis of skeletal trauma and genetics, suggests that the answer may be both.

In the late 1960s, the splintered remains of a wooden bridge across the Thielle River were discovered along with iron and bronze weapons; pottery; and two dozen human and animal skeletons. Most of the recovered human skeletons were those of adult males, in some cases pinned underneath the beams of the bridge, which was initially constructed in 135 BC. While a flood may have triggered the collapse, resulting in deaths, the other possi-

ble interpretation is a Celtic ritual offering of sacrificed humans and animals.

In a study published June 17 in the journal *Scientific Reports*, researchers used a variety of analysis techniques to suggest that there may have been a complicated sequence of events at the site, including both sacrifices and a bridge collapse.

The team used carbon-14 analysis to date 11 of the human skeletons, with all of them falling between the third and first centuries BC.

Surprisingly, though, the oldest skeleton was dated to 361 to 152 BC, while the most recent was dated to 167 BC to 7 CE, suggesting that skeletons found in the river ended up there at slightly different times, some through the accident that destroyed the bridge and others through possible violent execution.

In other words, some of the people who were pinned under the bridge may have been long dead when it collapsed.

(Source: Live Science)

# UNESCO-listed Sassanian landscape to undergo tourist developments

TEHRAN - The UNESCO-registered Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of the Fars Region is set to undergo some tourism-friendly projects.

The property is composed of eight selected archaeological site components in three geographical areas Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan, all located in the Fars province of southern Iran. More precisely, it includes? fortification structures, palaces, reliefs, and city remains dating back to the earliest and latest moments of the Sassanid Empire, which ruled the Persian Empire from 224 to 651 CE.

On Saturday, Fars province's tourism chief, Mohammad Sabet Eqlidi, announced the implementation of 20 prestigious cultural heritage projects aimed at enhancing the Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of the Fars Region.

These projects have been formulated to significantly improve the aesthetics and accessibility of the sites significantly, leveraging both national and provincial funds, ISNA reported.

The project will touch upon access routes, artificial lighting, tourist amenities, the official said, adding: "It includes the restoration and reinforcement of various historical monuments as well."

"These initiatives are scheduled for execution within this year (which ends on March 20, 2025)."

"Among the highlighted projects is the installation of protective coverings over the brick domes of the Sarvestan Sassanid Palace. Additionally, there will be



efforts to establish safe visitor routes and access to the architectural spaces and surrounding areas of the palace."

These comprehensive projects are set to revitalize and enhance the visitor experience of the Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of the Fars Region, ensuring the preservation and accessibility of these historical treasures, the official explained.

### Developments at the Bishapur complex

For the Bishapur complex, the projects include the creation of safe visitor routes and access to the architectural spaces, protective coverings over layers and decorations at risk, and the enhancement and safety improvement of the access route to the Shapur cave.

Other plans involve the improvement and organization of the access route to the rock carvings at Tang-e Chogan and the construction and renovation of sanitary facilities within the Bishapur complex.

### Initiatives in the ancient city of Gur

In the city of Gur, plans include the creation of tourist service areas and an information station... and the establishment of safe visitor routes and access to the architectural spaces.

Additionally, the restoration and reinforcement of the architectural structures of Qaleh Dokhtar and the construction of safe visitor routes and access to the Ardashir Palace and its surroundings are on the agenda.

### Enhancements to Ardashir Palace and other Sassanid sites

The enhancement and landscaping of the parking area at Ardashir Palace and the creation of an information station are also planned. Protective coverings over the Sassanid bas-relief in Tangab Valley and the improvement and adaptation of the access route to the Sassanid bas-relief in Tangab Valley will be executed. Furthermore, the installation of new furniture elements for the Sassanid complex, as well as the illumination of selected Sassanid

structures such as the Gur city minaret, Ardashir Palace, Bishapur's government citadel, and the rock carvings at Tang-e Chogan, will be carried out.

The Sassanid epoch is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under the Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as some palaces located in Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

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

## Multi-sided agreement signed for Arak's historical bazaar restoration

TEHRAN - A multi-sided agreement to map out a comprehensive restoration and revitalization of Arak's historical bazaar was signed on Monday.

The agreement has been reached by the provincial government, Arak Governorship, Arak Municipality, the City Council, the Provincial Office of Endowments and Charity Affairs, the Provincial Department of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, and the board of trustees and benefactors of the historical bazaar.

Farzad Mokhles -al- Aemeh, the Governor of Markazi province and one of the signatories of the agreement, emphasized the importance of reviving the symbolic and heritage sites in the region. He highlighted the historical bazaar of Arak as a premier exam-

ple of traditional bazaars and a significant identity marker for the city and the province.

"This bazaar is not just a collection of structures made of bricks, stones, and wood, but it holds a spiritual essence that forms its identity."

The governor also pointed out that the restoration of Arak's historical bazaar had been neglected for many years. "Today marks a historic day for Arak's historical bazaar," he said.

"This extent of collaboration being formed between various provincial organizations in this regard is unprecedented."

The agreement outlines a shared commitment to protect, restore, and revive the bazaar, ensuring it remains a vital part of Arak's

cultural and historical heritage.

The historical bazaar of Arak is renowned for its unique architectural design and cultural significance. It has been a central hub for commerce and social interaction, reflecting the rich history and traditions of the region. The planned restorations will not only preserve the physical structure of the bazaar but also aim to rejuvenate its cultural and economic vitality, ensuring it continues to serve as a cornerstone of Arak's identity.

In Iranian culture, bazaars have been traditional public spaces in Iranian cities with great contributions to commercial activities in urban life. Meanwhile, their extended activities can be traced to social, cultural, political, and religious roles.

## Intl. handicraft center to be set up within Risbaf Factory

TEHRAN - Breathing new life into Isfahan's historical Risbaf Factory, which had been closed since the 2000s, an international handicraft center is planned to be established within the business unit.

"The handicraft center will transform the historical Risbaf Factory into a hub for artisans from around the world," said a local official speaking at a press conference on Monday. "This initiative aims to promote development, dissemination, and practical research in the field of handicrafts on an international

scale."

A memorandum of understanding between the UN Tourism and the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts is in progress to facilitate the establishment process, according to Mehran Zeinalian.

This development, he wined up, is anticipated to significantly enhance the handicrafts and tourism industries in the province.

The Risbaf Factory, one of the last remaining wool spinning factories in Isfahan which was regis-

tered as a national heritage site in 2002, was previously owned by Bank Melli. For many years, there had been plans to transfer ownership to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts to establish a regional museum in Isfahan. However, these plans were delayed due to financial interests of Bank Melli's shareholders in the factory.

In last December, a decisive move was made to preserve this historical site, and the Risbaf Factory was officially handed over to the Cultural Heritage Department of Isfahan.

To facilitate its restoration and preservation, the building was placed under the care of the municipality.

In late May of this year, a ceremony was held to mark the beginning of the factory's restoration, coinciding with International Museum Day.

This restoration project aims to transform the factory into a thriving center for handicrafts, fostering international collaboration and exchange among artisans, according to the related officials.

## Tens of relics recovered in Kerman

TEHRAN - In an effort to protect Kerman's cultural heritage, local authorities have arrested two individuals involved in illegal excavations in southern Iran and seized 140 historical artifacts including coins and pottery pieces.

Two individuals have been arrested for their involvement in illegal excavations at the heights of Jopar in Kerman province, IRNA reported.

The police force traced the culprits following a report from honorary heritage guards in the city of Mahan, said a local official in charge of cultural heritage preservation.

Moslem Iranmanesh further highlighted that the operation led to the discovery of a significant cache of historical artifacts.

"A judicial order was obtained to enter the suspects' residence," he stated. "This search resulted in the recovery of more than 140 pieces of historical significance."

The seized items, Iranmanesh added, were meticulously examined by experts from the provincial office.

"The recovered relics feature nine historical coins dating from the early to mid-Islamic periods, the Qajar era, and the Pahlavi epoch," the

official elaborated.

"Additionally, the collection contains four ceramic pots and vessels from prehistoric and Islamic periods, a bronze bell from the later Islamic era, several metal rings and bracelets from the Islamic period, and 121 intricately carved beads."

Furthermore, Iranmanesh highlighted the effective collaboration between judicial authorities, police forces, and honorary heritage guards, which significantly enhances the cultural heritage preservation unit's ability to fulfill its missions.

# Heavy rainfalls revive dried lake in northeast

TEHRAN – Bazangan, the largest natural lake in the northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, has been revived thanks to recent heavy rainfalls.

Measuring around 80 hectares, the lake completely dried out last year due to drought, IRIB reported.

The increased precipitations in spring as well as renovation of canals that transfer water to the lake have contributed to the revival of dried-out lake. The status of Bazangan lake is favorable now.

Surface waters and three main streams in wetland that flow in to the lake provide significant portion of its water supply.

Presently, the lake hosts migratory birds passing summer in the region as the surrounding vegetation has recovered as well.

Bazangan is a great habitat for aqua and waterside birds during different seasons. It is also used for fish farm, particularly salmon. Having unique features, the lake has important research value; it is also known as a national heritage.



## Preservation of wetlands with an ecosystem approach

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

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

It was launched in the Iranian calendar year 1384 (March 2005-March 2006) in Parishan and Shadegan wetlands as well

as Lake Urmia, ISNA reported.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines the ecosystem approach as “a strategy for the integrated management of land, water, and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way”.

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

the nature of water keeps systems and functions connected.

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

In 2015, the DOE initiated an effort with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) aiming to preserve and revive the country's wetlands.

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

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

## The future of law: How AI can make courts faster and more efficient

By Soroush Saki

The justice system, long reliant on tradition and human judgment, faces a potential revolution with the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in legal decision-making. Data's ever-increasing presence raises the question: can algorithms, with their speed and logic, replace the wisdom and nuanced understanding of human judges? While the concept of an «algorithmic jury» seems futuristic, the legal field is exploring AI's potential for efficiency and reduced bias.

However, significant challenges remain concerning fairness, transparency, and the very nature of justice. Proponents of AI in courtrooms highlight efficiency gains. AI systems could analyze vast amounts of legal data rapidly, streamlining the system and potentially reducing case backlogs. Additionally, AI could theoretically reduce bias by basing decisions solely on objective facts, analyzing legal principles consistently. This potential for neutrality is appealing for those seeking a more just and equitable system.

However, the potential downsides of using AI in the legal system are significant. One major concern is the lack of human judgment. Legal cases often involve complex ethical considerations and require empathy and emotional intelligence – qualities AI currently lacks. Additionally, AI algorithms are only as good as the data they are trained on. Biased data sets could lead to AI perpetuating those biases, potentially exacerbating existing inequalities.

Transparency and accountability are further challenges. Unlike human judges who explain their reasoning, AI decision-making processes can be difficult to understand. This «black box» effect makes it hard to identify and address potential errors or unfair outcomes. Without transparency, holding the system accountable is difficult, potentially eroding public trust.

These challenges highlight the critical role that human judges will continue to play. Instead of a complete replacement, a collaborative model is likely the path forward. AI could streamline specific processes like pretrial risk

assessment or legal research, while human judges maintain oversight and ensure fair decisions, especially in complex cases requiring nuance and human understanding.

The use of AI in the legal system is still in its early stages. The key will be to develop and implement AI tools responsibly, ensuring fairness, transparency, and human oversight remain cornerstones of the system. This may involve creating rigorous ethical guidelines for data collection and algorithm development, alongside robust testing and evaluation procedures to identify and mitigate potential biases. Furthermore, ongoing human oversight and the ability to appeal AI-driven decisions will be crucial in maintaining public trust.

Ultimately, the debate around AI in the legal system is not just about technology, but about redefining what it means to achieve justice in a data-driven world. By leveraging the strengths of both human judgment and AI technology, the legal system can strive for greater efficiency, reduced bias, and ultimately, a more just and equitable outcome for all.

## Over 10,000 births registered by Iranians abroad in a year

TEHRAN – Iranians living in other countries registered a total of 10,433 births during the past Iranian year (March 2023 – March 2024), the Civil Registration Organization has announced.

Meanwhile, 2,135 deaths were registered by Iranians living overseas over the past year, ISNA reported.

Over 4 million Iranians reside abroad. The Secretariat of the High

Council of Iranians Abroad announced in its 2020 report that more than four million Iranians reside abroad, 76 percent of whom live in the Americas and European countries.

The administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi had placed the issue of facilitating the return of Iranians living abroad to their home country high on its agenda, with government offi-

cially constantly reiterating the need to pave the way for the expatriates to return.

About 500 Iranian researchers have returned home over the past four years to transfer their knowledge and expertise to the country's universities, the vice presidency for science and technology reported in 2022.

With the support of the National Elites Foundation, univer-

sities, knowledge enterprises, technology parks, and incubators launched a plan titled 'cooperation with Iranian expatriate entrepreneurs and elites' in 2015.

The plan aims to attract Iranians abroad to share knowledge in different forms including postdoctoral research, research opportunities, and visiting fellows, in addition to being faculty members.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## 'Salt particles raising from Lake Urmia contained by 80%'

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

Some saplings and shrubs have been planted to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), he said.

The major salt particle hotspots in the province include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghan, Urmia, Chooanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation.

## کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش افزود: در حوضه آبریز با کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سیورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میان‌دوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند.

## Iran ranks first in neural network technology among Islamic nations



From page 1 ► According to the results, in the field of neural networks, the trend of scientific production has been upward increasing from 950 documents in 2014 to 2,207 documents in 2023.

In machine learning, scientific productions have risen from 81 documents in 2014 to 1656 documents in 2023.

Also, in the field of artificial intelligence, scientific productions have escalated from 98 documents in 2014 to 647 documents in 2023.

Over the past 20 years, the majority of scientific productions in the field of artificial intelligence have been associated with the University of Tehran, Tabriz University, and Amir Kabir University of Technology; and in visual computing and natural language processing, the University of Tehran, Amir Kabir University of Technology and Sharif University of Technology are ranked first to third respectively.

The majority of scientific production in machine learning is connected to the University of Tehran, Amir Kabir University of Technology, and Tarbiat Modares University; and in robotics, it is attributed to the University of Tehran, Sharif University of Technology, and Amir Kabir University of Technology.

University of Tehran, Tabriz University, and Iran University of Science and Technology in neural networks, and Amir Kabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, and University of Tehran in multi-agent systems, account for a significant share of scientific productions.

### Recent rankings

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

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

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

These leading universities are recognized for their overarching impact across several dimensions of sustainable development, making significant contributions to creating a sustainable and resilient future.

Their broad-based excellence underscores the importance of holistic approaches to global challenges and highlights the critical role of academia in driving sustainable change.

The methodology for the Overall Impact Rankings integrates scores across multiple SDGs to reflect overall performance and impact.

The SDGs indexes include no poverty; zero hunger; Good health and well-being; quality education; gender quality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and produc-

tion; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice, and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals.

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

Australia's Western Sydney University tops the list for the third consecutive year. The UK's University of Manchester and Australia's University of Tasmania follow in joint second place.

The 21st edition of the QS World University Rankings (2025) placed nine Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, compared with seven universities in 2024.

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

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

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

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

Malaysia, Indonesia, and Turkey ranked first to third respectively in terms of the number of universities.

Iran ranked 11th among Islamic nations in this year's QS ranking.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These institutions' rankings in West Asia were as follows.

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

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

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



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JULY 2, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*A wise man's tongue follows his heart, and a fool's heart is behind his tongue.*

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:24 Dawn: 3:08 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:53 (tomorrow)

## Polaris to give concerts in Tehran



TEHRAN- Setareye Qotbi (Polaris), an all-female Iranian pop band, is scheduled to give concerts at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The band led by vocalist, pianist and harpist

Bahar Ilchi will perform a repertoire of local pieces from various cities in Iran, including Azeri, Kurdish, Lori, Persian, Gilaki, and Southern dialects, as well as international pieces in languages such as English, French, Arabic, and Hindi.

Sepideh Ilchi on guitar, Pegah Ebrahim on violin, Shania Shahrari on trumpet, Samila Tahvildari on saxophone, Sara Parsai on flute, Ava Menbari on piano and Sahar Shateri on drum are among the members of the band. Puria Pirzadeh will be conducting the orchestra.

Only females are allowed to attend the performances.

## Iranshahr Theater to host Shakespeare's "King Lear"

TEHRAN-William Shakespeare's well-known tragedy "King Lear" will be staged at Iranshahr Theater Complex from July 5.

Directed by Kaveh Mahdavi, the 95-minute play will have Mehrdad Ziaee, Marjan Ghamari, Javad Purzand, Abdolreza Nasari, Nesa Yousefi, Elaheh Zahmati, Ahmad Samimi, Vahid Nafar, Rouzbeh Daneshian, and Maral Amini among others.

In the play, King Lear, in preparation for his old age, divides his power and land between his daughters Goneril and Regan, who pay homage to gain favor, feigning love. The King's third daughter, Cordelia, is offered a third of his kingdom also, but refuses to be insincere in her praise and affection. She instead offers the respect of a daughter and is disowned by Lear who seeks flattery.

Regan and Goneril subsequently break promises to host Lear and his entourage, so he opts to become homeless and destitute, goes insane, and the French King married to Cordelia invades Britain to restore order and Lear's rule. In a subplot, Edmund, the illegitimate son of Gloucester, betrays his brother and father. Tragically, Lear, Cordelia and several other main characters die.

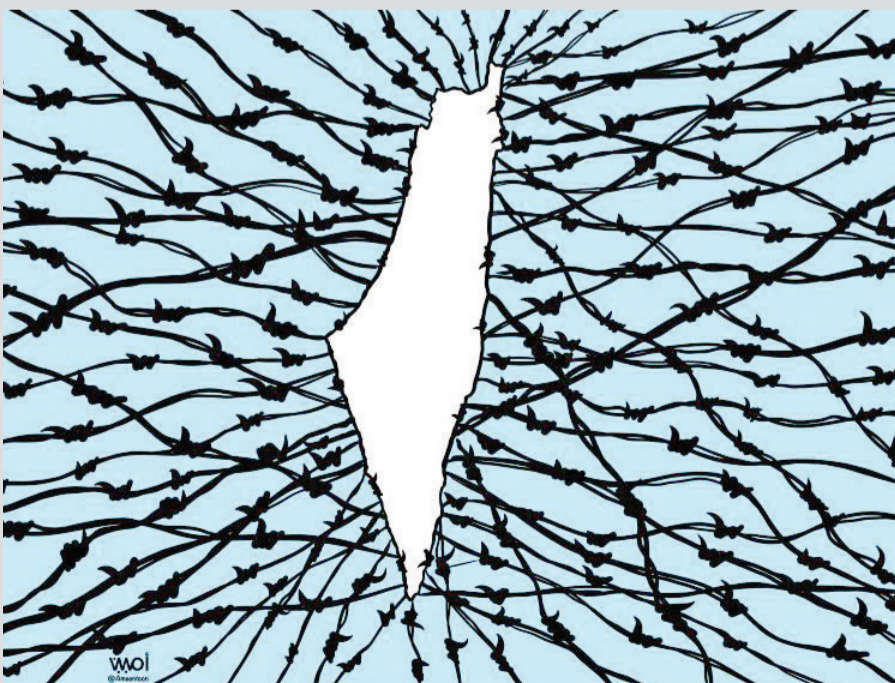
The plot and subplot overlap and intertwine with political power plays, personal ambition, and assumed supernatural interventions and pagan beliefs.

As the plot unfolds, Shakespeare delves into themes of loyalty, justice, and the nature of true love. The play is filled with complex characters and powerful dialogue that showcases the depths of human emotions.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was an English playwright, poet and actor. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. His extant works, including collaborations, consist of some 39 plays, 154 sonnets, three long narrative poems, and a few other verses. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. Shakespeare remains arguably the most influential writer in the English language, and his works continue to be studied and reinterpreted.

The play will be staged until August 14 at Iranshahr Theater, located in Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

## Cartoon of Day



Free Palestine

Cartoonist: Ameen Alhabarah from Saudi Arabia

# Davoud Rashidi to be commemorated in Energy Festival

TEHRAN- The organizers of the first edition of Energy Film and Photo Festival plan to pay homage to the late legendary Iranian actor Davoud Rashidi with a ceremony in Tehran.

The memorial ceremony for Rashidi, a prominent and influential figure in Iranian art, will take place on July 7 at the festival venue, honoring his lifetime of artistic contributions, ISNA reported on Monday.

The Energy Film and Photo Festival aims to promote energy conservation and raise awareness about the importance of smart energy consumption and its positive impact on society and the environment. The three-day event will take place from August 17 to 19 in Tehran.

The festival, supported by the With Energy campaign and its slogan "With You, Iran Shines", provides a unique opportunity for young artists to showcase their work in two categories - short films and photography - and participate in promoting energy conservation culture.

A jury consisting of 10 prominent artists in the fields of photography and cinema will evaluate the submitted works and award prizes to the top 10 selected entries.

The submission deadline for the festival will continue until July 31. The event aims to create a platform for healthy competition and discovery of young talents in filmmaking and photography.

Veteran actor Davoud Rashidi, renowned for his memorable performances in films such as Kiumars Purahamd's "Bibi Chelcheleh" and Ali Hatami's "Kamalolmolk", as well as his roles in acclaimed TV series like "Hezardastan" and "Mokhtarnameh", passed away in



2016 at the age of 83.

Rashidi was one of the five legends of Iranian cinema in acting, alongside Ezzatollah Entezami, Mohammad-Ali Keshvarz, Jamshid Mashayekhi, and Ali Nasirian, who were all pillars of the industry.

Due to his father's diplomatic mission, Rashidi finished high school in Paris.

He studied at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève, a music school in Geneva, Switzerland. He also studied music, theater and political science at the University of Geneva.

In 1964, he returned home and was employed at the Theater Office of the Ministry of Culture. Shortly thereafter, he gathered actors Parviz Fannizadeh, Dariush Farhand, Mehdi Hashemi, Fahimeh Rastkar, Siavash Tahmures, Marzieh Borumand and Susan Taslaimi to establish the Emruz Theater Troupe, which performed many plays that were

acclaimed by critics.

Rashidi left the Theater Office in 1973 to work as the director of the Theater and Entertainment Department of Iran National Television.

Rashidi was one of the five legends of Iranian cinema in acting, alongside Ezzatollah Entezami, Mohammad-Ali Keshvarz, Jamshid Mashayekhi, and Ali Nasirian.

He costarred with Behruz Vosuqi in his acting debut movie "Escape the Trap" by Jalal Moqaddam in 1971.

"Many people warned me

about Behruz, saying that he will degrade my role in that film... but we became friends. What they told me about him was not true," he said one in an interview.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, he chose to remain in Iran despite the fact that many of his colleagues left the country.

Playing the role of Javad Aqa in Purahamd's drama "Bibi Chelcheleh" developed his reputation.

However, he was previously hired by Ali Hatami to play the role of an inspector, one of the leading roles in the acclaimed TV series "Hezardastan", which was produced between 1981 and 1986.

"I really liked 'Hezardastan' and also my part as Reza Shah in 'Kamalolmolk,'" he once said.

For the last time, he made a cameo appearance in "Ekbatan" directed by Mehrshad Karkhani in 2011.

## Award-winning novel "Minor Detail" by Palestinian author published in Persian



TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "Minor Detail" written by the Palestinian author Adania Shibli has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Qoqnoos Publishing House has published the book in 111 pages with a translation by Sara Mostafapur, Mehr reported.

A 2017 novel, "Minor Detail" begins during the summer of 1949, one year after the war that the Palestinians mourn as the Nakba - the catastrophe that led to the displacement and expulsion of more than 700,000 people - and the Israelis celebrate as the War of Independence.

The book has two parts, first recalling a

true story of a 1949 gang rape and murder of a young Arab Bedouin-Palestinian girl by Israeli soldiers, and in the second part, telling of a fictional modern-day account of life of a Palestinian woman in Ramallah who tries to investigate this incident.

Her investigation is made difficult by the travel restriction faced by the Palestinians. Eventually, having violated the travel restrictions, she is executed by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on the same spot as the Bedouin girl.

A haunting meditation on war, violence and memory, "Minor Detail" cuts to the heart of the Palestinian experience of dispossession, life under occupation, and the persistent difficulty of piecing together a narrative in the face of ongoing erasure and disempowerment.

The novel was nominated for a National Book Award for Translated Literature in 2020, longlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2021 and won the LiBeraturpreis [de] in 2023.

Adania Shibli, 50, is a Palestinian author

and essayist. She is mainly known for the 2020 translation of her novel "Minor Detail" into English, German and other languages, and for a public controversy in Germany following the cancellation of a literary prize for this book, originally scheduled for the 2023 Frankfurt Book Fair.

She holds a Ph.D. from the University of East London in Media and Cultural Studies. Shibli has taught at the University of Nottingham and since 2013 has worked as a part-time professor at the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies at Birzeit University, Palestine.

Since 1996, Shibli has published in various literary magazines in Europe and the Middle East. Further, she has expanded her work to include novels, plays, short stories and narrative essays, published in several languages in anthologies, art books and literary and cultural magazines.

Shibli and her children split their time between Jerusalem and Berlin. Shibli speaks Arabic, English, Hebrew, French, Korean, and German.

## Two Iranian short animations to attend Greek festival

TEHRAN-Two short animations from Iran will participate in the Short Film Night (SFN) Loutraki Animation Festival in Corinthia, Greece, July 25.

"The Splint" written, directed, and produced by Mehdi Sedighi and "The Alchemist's Apprentice" by Erfan Parsapour are the Iranian works that will compete with 29 other animated films from around the world at the festival, ISNA reported.

A five-minute animation, "The Splint" is about a robotic truck driver, on a dirt road, who is replacing old wooden power poles with new concrete ones when he hits two birds.

"The Alchemist's Apprentice" is a 2D animated TV series. It depicts Shahrouz, a curious

chemist's apprentice boy, who goes on strange adventures with his master, Hakim.

On their journeys, they try to get the elixir of life. On the dangerous adventures ahead, there is one thing that saves them: Alchemy!

Together, armed with their knowledge of the arcane and a formidable arsenal of magic potions, the duo confronts a host of fantastical creatures and treacherous foes on their quest to vanquish evil and bring forth justice.

However, as they venture deeper into their quest, Shahrouz proves himself to be a wise and intuitive young man, often saving his master from the consequences of his own errors

in alchemy.

As such, their relationship becomes more than just master and apprentice; Shahrouz takes on a protective role towards Hakim as he guides him through their dangerous adventures.

Hakim, in turn, comes to respect and value Shahrouz's insight and judgement, leading them to become a formidable and effective team in their pursuit of wisdom and knowledge.

Short Film Night is an exciting annual event that celebrates the art and craft of animation.

It will be carried out in the picturesque town of Loutraki, Corinth, Greece.

SFN showcases a diverse range of animated films from

around the world, including stop-motion, 2D, 3D, and experimental animations.

In addition to the films themselves, visitors will be able to attend a series of events and activities such as workshops, masterclasses, exhibitions and concerts for an immersive and unforgettable experience.

Overall, SFN is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who loves animation and wants to immerse themselves in a vibrant and supportive community of fellow enthusiasts.

All the animated films will compete for the SFN's awards. The prize is an honorary plaque that will be awarded to the three winning films according to the audience's voting.