

## Leader: Nothing More Beneficial for Islamic World than Unity



Shia and Sunni Muslims joined together before meeting with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, on May 4, 2025.

## Iran, Africa ink trade, investment deals in 4 key sectors

TEHRAN – The secretary of the Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit said commercial and investment contracts were signed between African traders and Iranian business leaders in four key sectors—mining, agriculture, petrochemicals, and medical equipment—at the conclusion of the third Iran-Africa summit.

Seyed Mehdi Hosseini said African delegations left Iran with substantial results, noting that foreign businesspeople and Iranian economic operators both benefited from the international gathering.

According to Hosseini, the third summit was distinguished by its focus on specialized, results-oriented activity, which led to greater coordination, satisfaction among participants, and significant achievements.

He noted that the summit witnessed several key developments, including the signing of commercial and investment agreements in the mining, agriculture, petrochemical, and medical equipment sectors. ▶ Page 4

## Tehran slams Western complicity in Israel's deadly repression of journalists in Gaza

TEHRAN – On World Press Freedom Day, Iran condemned the systematic killing of Palestinian journalists in Gaza, holding Israel and its Western allies—chiefly the United States—responsible for enabling a campaign of genocide and information suppression.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei offered a scathing critique of Israel's deliberate targeting of journalists in Gaza, noting the regime's actions are emboldened by unwavering Western support. "The Israeli apartheid regime could not have carried out such a systematic assault on journalists without the complicity of its backers, particularly the United States," Baghaei said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, on Saturday.

Baghaei paid tribute to the bravery of Palestinian media workers who risked—and often lost—their lives while covering Israel's ongoing war in Gaza. "We honor over 200 journalists, photographers, and videographers who fell victim to the genocidal campaign they sought to unveil," he stated. "They were targeted for documenting the pain and suffering of Palestinians and for exposing the crimes of a colonial occupier." ▶ Page 2

## Female Iranian innovator grabs WIPO prize, IFIA IIS certificate

TEHRAN – Hasti-Sadat Hosseini, a female Iranian inventor, has won the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) prize, and received the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA) innovation standard (IIS) certificate for her invention, 'Hasticell', at the 50th edition of the International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva.

The event was held from April 9 to 13 with 1,043 inventions from 42 countries and regions, and more than 28,000 visitors participated in this year's edition.

Hosseini's invention, Hasticell, was granted the IFIA Innovation Standard Grade A.

The invention is about stem cell grafts to repair wounds, especially cervical wounds, and the negative side effects of human papillomavirus (HPV) on the cervix. This miraculous graft is effective in other fields of medicine and surgery. It is extracted from the fetal membrane of the placenta. Biological Dressing Made of Amniotic Membrane comprising an epithelial cell layer, a thick basement membrane, and an avascular stromal matrix. ▶ Page 7



### Four major cognitive errors of the White House

Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour

Head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization

TEHRAN – The U.S. government's pressures on Harvard University and other educational institutions in the country have entered harsher and more overt stages.

In the latest instance, Donald Trump announced that Harvard University, one of America's most prestigious institutions, will lose its tax-exempt status. Zionist lobbies in the U.S., along with the country's two main political parties (Democrats and Republicans), have accused Harvard and other academic centers of political bias and anti-Semitism following widespread student protests in support of Palestine. Several students have been barred from studying, and some remain detained in Federal Police and National Security Agency prisons, under the silence of Western media.

Trump recently claimed that the next chapter of American history will be written without mentioning "Harvard University"! American policymakers, in this regard, are suffering from cognitive errors, the effects of which are evident in their rhetoric and actions.

### Netanyahu's survival strategy fuels internal revolt

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – In a major sign of growing divisions in Israeli society, tens of thousands of citizens are protesting across the country. They are demanding that hostages taken by Hamas in Gaza be brought home quickly. They are also strongly speaking out against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership.

The protests, which began in late 2023 and have grown stronger in 2025, show both the deep pain of families with loved ones held hostage and a serious political problem that could shake Israel's government.

The protests also show the sad results of Israel's heavy use of military force and its long-running control and blockade of Gaza. While most people are marching for the return of Israeli hostages, the protests also hint at a bigger issue: Israel's approach to the Palestinian conflict is not working. It has not brought peace or safety, and instead has caused more violence and suffering for both sides.

### Foreign-funded outlet defames the Nasrallah mausoleum

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — In an era of political and media debauchery, and a confirmation of the moral collapse of the anti-Resistance team, even martyrs are not spared from lies and slanders. Just as he terrified them in his honorable lifetime, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah continues to terrify them even after his martyrdom.

On May 2, Lebanese Al-Jadeed TV channel's journalist Josephine Deeb hosted Tony Boulos, a Saudi media activist, to present a short documentary about the mausoleum of Hezbollah Secretary-General martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah (ra).

Following the presentation of the bombastic report, Deeb claimed that Al-Jadeed TV had not prepared it; however, an informed source confirmed to the Tehran Times that the report was presented as part of a plan devised by Al-Jadeed TV to attract Arab-Persian Gulf funding ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections in May 2026.

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### "Melodies of the East" concert highlights Iran-Japan cultural ties

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- The "Melodies of the East" concert, a cultural event featuring the collaborative artistry of renowned Iranian musician Keivan Saket and Japanese violinist Nagayo Tsumuzi, was held on Saturday at the Japan's Embassy in Tehran.

The event, attended by foreign ambassadors and Iranian cultural officials and artists, underscored the deep-rooted cultural exchange between Iran and Japan.

The event commenced with remarks from Adachi Hideaki, the Minister Plenipotentiary of the Japanese Embassy in Iran.

Adachi emphasized the concert as a testament to the ongoing musical cooperation between the two nations. ▶ Page 8



### Yemen changes the equation by striking Ben Gurion Airport

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Yemeni forces hit Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, declaring the airport is "no longer safe".

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces, confirmed the missile had accurately struck its target. He noted that both Israeli and American air defense systems failed to intercept it.

Saree underlined that the strike led to a complete suspension of airport operations for over an hour and forced millions of Israelis into shelters.

Following the strike, Yemeni forces reiterated their warning to all international airlines to avoid flights to Ben Gurion Airport, declaring it an unsafe airspace. ▶ Page 5



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## Waltz and Rubio are no different

In an interview with Amir Ali Abolfath, an analyst on American affairs, Ham Mihan discussed the changes in the White House and their impact on the Iran nuclear issue. He said: We will see the impact of these changes when we face the positions taken by the Americans. That Rubio is replacing Waltz will not change that anti-JCPOA thinking. Waltz was anti-JCPOA enough, and Rubio is in the same group. Regarding Rubio's two recent comments about enrichment and inspection of facilities, it should be said that the Islamic Republic insists that enrichment must be carried out within its own territory. But the degree and extent of it are open to discussion. Iran insists on the right to enrichment. We should also see what Rubio means about American inspectors. If the U.S. government wants to conduct an inspection outside the framework of the IAEA, it is almost certain that the Islamic Republic will not accept it, and this is a challenge.

### Sobh-e-No: Israel seeks tension

In an analysis, Sobh-e-No discussed Israel's view of the Iran-U.S. negotiations and wrote: It is clear that Israel is strongly opposed to any agreement between Iran and the U.S. due to its deep concerns about Iran's nuclear program and the geopolitical importance of a possible nuclear agreement. Israel believes that the agreement not only will not prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, but will also strengthen Iran's economic, military and regional influence by lifting sanctions and change the balance of power to the detriment of Israel and its allies. There is speculation that the reason for changing the venue of the negotiations from Oman to Europe is due to the Zionist regime's hidden policy of eavesdropping on the negotiations. But rather than accepting any unrealistic narrative or psychological warfare that Israel may put forward, especially during the negotiations and implementation of the (possible) agreement, the United States should rely on diplomatic and realistic principles. If the United States looks at the negotiations rationally and adopts its policies based on accurate and fact-based assessments, these negotiations will undoubtedly reach a positive outcome.

### Iran: What will happen to Iran-Russia trade relations?

The strategic agreement between Tehran

and Moscow has opened a new chapter in the relations between the two countries; it is based on mutual interests and places Iran's position in the regional geopolitical and energy equations at the center of attention with greater dimensions. The agreement is not just a symbolic statement, but a serious attempt to redefine a strategic relationship based on the requirements of today's multipolar world. Iran, with its unique position in the heart of the West Asia region, plays a key role in linking the centers of tension and energy. Tehran, with its huge energy reserves, is known as the world's third-largest oil and second-largest gas producer. Therefore, in a situation in which Russia is facing many tensions with Western countries and NATO due to the war in Ukraine, cooperation with a country like Iran, which is known as the largest regional power in West Asia, has gained double importance for Moscow. Therefore, the strategic agreement is not only focused on energy and economic capacities but is also considered a sign of strategic convergence in the face of rapid changes in the international order.

### Arman-e-Melli: Logic of those in favor and against nuclear talks

In a commentary, Arman-e-Melli examined domestic approaches to the Iran-U.S. negotiations and said: Indirect negotiations between Iran and the U.S. are the most important issue of the country's affairs these days. There are three thinking groups regarding the negotiations with the United States. The first group, which constitutes a significant number of societies, backs negotiations and believes that negotiations with the U.S. are reasonable to lift sanctions and improve the country's conditions. The second group, who is in minority, opposes the negotiations. This group, which is also known as the beneficiaries of sanctions, not only does not consider sanctions as the root of corruption and problems, claims that sanctions provide opportunities. The third group is the moderates, who are more inclined towards the first group and are in favor of negotiation, but within a framework and general policies. However, the reality is that whatever the nature of negotiation is, the three principles of "honor, wisdom, and expediency" are always observed in negotiations.

## Iran and Venezuela forge closer ties in nuclear science

TEHRAN – Venezuela's Deputy Minister of Science, Alberto Quintero, recently concluded a visit to Iran, marking a significant step in strengthening cooperation between the two nations.

Quintero met with Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), to discuss enhanced collaboration in nuclear science and technology. The discussions highlighted a shared commitment to national sovereignty and advancement despite external challenges.

Eslami warmly greeted Quintero and his delegation, emphasizing the potential for fruitful collaboration. "Venezuela possesses significant capabilities, and its people are deeply invested in their nation's future," he stated. "I trust that these meetings will effectively contribute to stronger ties between our countries." He stressed the importance of national pride and self-reliance, adding, "The path to true dignity and success lies in safeguarding the independence of a nation and its people."

Eslami also acknowledged the challenges posed by the "hegemonic system," hinting at external pressures. "Our progress towards independence has been met with resistance from those who seek to maintain control. They create obstacles to hinder our development under various pretenses. However, we are determined to move forward with strength." He reaffirmed Iran's dedication to joint projects and enhanced technological cooperation, expressing hope



that "the people of Venezuela will achieve their important goals by standing firm against these pressures."

Quintero conveyed greetings from Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Minister of Science and Technology Gabriela Servilia Jimenez, praising Iran's resilience. "We are eager to learn from Iran's example," he said, "to understand how you have transformed sanctions into opportunities for national advancement." He highlighted Venezuela's long history of striving for independence and suggested that closer collaboration with Iran could bolster their efforts across diverse sectors, including industry, healthcare, and agriculture.

During his visit, Quintero toured key Iranian facilities, including the Rasa Technology and Innovation Center and the Tehran research reactor. He expressed particular interest in establishing a nuclear physics program at the University of Science in Venezuela and launching advanced degree programs at the Scientific Research Center.

## More contradictions from Trump on Iran's nuclear program as talks postponed

TEHRAN – U.S. President Donald Trump told American media that he wants indirect talks with Iran to lead to a "total dismantlement" of the country's nuclear program, but he would still muse an agreement that acknowledges Iran's right to pursue "civilian nuclear energy".

Trump's recent comments to NBC News add to a string of inconsistent statements from U.S. officials regarding Iran's nuclear activities and a potential new agreement. The president unraveled a 2015 deal on Tehran's nuclear program during his first term, with his then-Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, demanding new curbs, particularly on Iran's military and foreign policies.

As Trump returned to the White House for a second time this year, he reached out to Iran via a letter, stating he was willing to engage in talks without asking for concessions on non-nuclear issues. The two sides have so far engaged in three rounds of



U.S. President Donald Trump during an interview with NBC News

indirect talks since early April, with authorities in Tehran saying that, apart from military and foreign policy issues, they are also unwilling to discuss the full dismantlement of the country's nuclear program.

"I think that I would be open to hearing it, you know?" Trump

said to an NBC interviewer when asked about the prospects of a potential deal that respects Iran's right to operate a nuclear program. "Civilian energy, it's called. But you know, civilian energy often leads to military wars. And we don't want to have them to have a nuclear weapon.

## Tehran-Baghdad anti-terror coordination intensifies with high-level judicial agreements

TEHRAN – Nasser Saraj, Deputy for International Affairs of Iran's Judiciary, led a high-profile delegation to Iraq this week. The visit culminated in the signing of four bilateral agreements on Saturday and intensified commitments to combat terrorism and address judicial challenges faced by Iranian pilgrims.

During meetings with senior Iraqi judicial officials, including Faeq Zaidan, President of Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council, Attorney General Najm Abdullah Ahmad, Justice Minister Khaled Shwani, and Laith Jabr Hamza, head of Iraq's Judicial Oversight Organization, Saraj underscored the necessity of expanding legal cooperation.

Key discussions centered on accelerating efforts to prosecute terrorist groups such as the Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), ISIS, Komala, and PIJK, as well as advancing cases related to the 2020 U.S. assassination of Martyr General Qassem Soleimani and his companions.

"Iran and Iraq are brothers, bound by deep-rooted cooperation that will continue to thrive," stated Iraqi Attorney General Najm Abdullah Ahmad during the talks, reaffirming Baghdad's commitment to judicial collaboration.

During the visit, Saraj announced the signing of four critical agreements covering

prisoner transfers, criminal extradition, civil cooperation, and mutual legal assistance.

These accords build on the outcomes of the fourth joint Iran-Iraq Anti-Terrorism Judicial Committee meeting held in Baghdad on Thursday, which saw both sides condemn the Israeli regime's aggression in southern Lebanon and the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Highlighting progress on prisoner exchanges, Saraj noted, "We recently facilitated the transfer of 50 Iranian prisoners from Iraq and anticipate swift resolutions for remaining cases."

Iraqi Justice Minister Khaled Shwani pledged continued cooperation, emphasizing the "constructive and historic partnership" between the two nations.

Millions of Iranian pilgrims travel to Iraq each year, especially during Arba'een, a religious observance commemorating forty days after the anniversary of Imam Hossein's martyrdom at Karbala. In light of this, Saraj urged Iraqi authorities to streamline entry and exit procedures.

He cited cases where pilgrims faced detention due to missing Iraqi entry stamps despite having valid Iranian exit permits.

"The element of criminal intent is absent in these cases," the Iranian judge argued, stressing



The Iranian judicial official, Nasser Saraj, and his Iraqi counterpart, Laith Jabr Hamza, sign a cooperation agreement in Baghdad on May 3, 2025.

that pilgrims inadvertently violating technicalities should not be penalized.

Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council President Faeq Zaidan pledged to address these concerns, stating, "We are prepared to resolve judicial hurdles faced by Iranian pilgrims to ensure their dignified visits."

Both sides agreed to enhance border coordination, ensuring pilgrims receive proper entry stamps and avoid legal complications.

At Thursday's meeting, the Iran-Iraq Anti-Terrorism Judicial Committee finalized ten key resolutions. These include joint efforts to track down MKO and ISIS affiliates through intelligence sharing and legal

## Tehran slams Western complicity in Israel's deadly repression of journalists in Gaza

From page 1 ▶ The spokesman also reiterated Iran's position that Western countries enabling Israel's military operations share in the responsibility for the atrocities. "Those who support, defend, or remain silent in the face of Israeli war crimes—most notably the United States—must also be held accountable," he declared.

His remarks come amid mounting international criticism of Israel's treatment of journalists since the outbreak of its war on Gaza following October 7, 2023.

The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, a U.S.-based think tank, reported that 232 journalists and media workers have been killed since the conflict began, with an average of 13 journalists dying each week in Israeli bombardments.

In addition to fatalities,

Gaza's Government Media Office reported that 409 media professionals have been injured, 48 arrested, and 21 social media influencers killed. The same report noted that 28 journalist families were entirely wiped out and 44 homes belonging to media workers were destroyed. Damage to Gaza's media infrastructure, including news agencies and broadcast facilities, is estimated at \$400 million.

"These are not isolated incidents," said Ismail al-Thawabta, head of Gaza's media office. "This is a systematic attempt to silence the press and erase documentation of the genocide."

Rights organizations including the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights have described the attacks as war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)



has submitted evidence to the ICC suggesting that the Israeli military intentionally targeted journalists.

The legal pressure intensified when ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan announced on May 20, 2024, that arrest warrants had been requested for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on charges of war crimes

It's a very simple deal."

The fourth round of talks was scheduled for May 3, but it was postponed due to "logistical and technical reasons", according to previous remarks by the Iranian foreign minister and chief negotiator in the Omani-mediated discussions, Abbas Araghchi. Since entering the talks, Araghchi had been cautious to strike an optimistic tone, seemingly due to American officials' fickleness and their history of abandoning commitments.

While Iranians across the political spectrum have been clear about what they want from nuclear negotiations for years – the removal of sanctions – voices within the Trump administration have taken on different positions. Alarming analysts, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, for instance, prefers foregoing discussions with Iran and instead engaging in a conflict, according to obtained by the Tehran Times.

action, condemnation of Israeli war crimes in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon, as well as U.S. aggression in Yemen.

The committee also agreed to activate a 2011 prisoner amnesty agreement to speed up transfers and conduct annual reviews of bilateral commercial dispute courts to enhance efficiency.

Saraj emphasized the committee's role in "safeguarding regional security," while Laith Jabr Hamza, representing Iraq, hailed the "fruitful dialogue," reinforcing mutual objectives.

The talks concluded with both nations vowing to uphold judicial reciprocity, combat financial corruption, and curb drug trafficking.

and crimes against humanity.

Earlier, on October 13, 2024, the IFJ and its global affiliates urged UNESCO to step up protection for journalists and push for de-escalation in the conflict. They warned that the continued targeting of media workers not only constitutes a humanitarian crisis but also undermines global efforts to preserve press freedom.



# Leader: Nothing more beneficial for Islamic world than unity

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, met with Iranian officials overseeing the Hajj pilgrimage on Sunday at the Imam Khomeini Hus-sainiyah.

During the meeting, he described awareness and understanding of the goals and various dimensions of Hajj as a necessary prelude to properly fulfilling this highly significant obligation. He added that the use of the term “nas” (people) in many of the Quranic verses related to Hajj indicates that God has prescribed this obligation for the management of the affairs of all people — not only Muslims. Thus, the proper conduct of Hajj is a service to all of humanity.

Elaborating on the cognitive aspects of Hajj, Ayatollah Khamenei referred to it as the only obligation whose form and composition are one hundred percent political, since it gathers people together each year, at one time and place, for specific purposes, an act whose very nature is political. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution added that alongside the political form and composition of Hajj, its content is entirely spiritual and devotional. Each of its components carries symbolic and instructive meaning, offering lessons tied to the essential matters of human life.

In clarifying the meaning of these symbols, Ayatollah Khamenei referred to the lesson of Tawaf (circumambulation) as the necessity of revolving around the axis of Tawhid, and mentioned that the Tawaf teaches mankind that governance, daily life, the economy, the family, and all aspects of human existence must be



built upon the foundation of Tawhid. If this is realized, there will no longer be any trace of such cruelty, child-killing, and insatiable greed. The world will become a garden. The Leader described the Sa'l (walking back and forth) between Safa and Marwah as pointing to the need for constant effort amid the mountains of hardship, saying: Man must always strive, and never remain still, confused, or idle.

Ayatollah Khamenei mentioned the movement toward Arafat, Muzdalifah (Mash'ar), and Mina, saying that it conveys a lesson in continual motion and the avoidance of stagnation. And the sacrifice (Qurban) is a symbolic reminder that sometimes, one must part with one's most beloved possessions, offer a sacrifice, or even become the sacrifice. He described Ramy al-Jamarat (the stoning of the pillars) as God's emphasis on the fact that man must identify the devils among jinn and mankind, and wherever the devil is found, strike him and crush him.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolu-

tion also described putting on the Ihram wrap as a sign of humility and the leveling of all distinctions between human beings before the Lord, adding:

All these rites serve to guide human life.

Referring to the noble verse of the Holy Quran in Surah Al-Hajj, Ayatollah Khamenei identified the purpose of the Hajj gathering as the attainment of diverse human benefits, stating,

“Today, there is no benefit greater than unity for the Islamic Ummah. If such unity, harmony, and mutual synergy existed, today's tragedies in Gaza and Palestine would not have occurred, and Yemen would not be under such pressure.

He described division and fragmentation within the Islamic world as the grounds upon which colonialists — the United States, the Zionist regime, and other greedy powers — impose their interests upon nations. He added: Through unity, Islamic countries can achieve security, progress, and synergy. This is the lens

through which Hajj must be viewed. Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the significant role and responsibility of Islamic governments, particularly the host country of the pilgrims, in articulating the truth and objectives of Hajj, saying that the officials of these countries, scholars, intellectuals, writers, and those who influence public opinion are obligated to clarify the truths of Hajj for the people.

Early in his speech, Ayatollah Khamenei offered his condolences once again to the families of the deceased and the wounded of the deeply sorrowful incident in Bandar Abbas, praying for patience and tranquility for the bereaved families and those affected. He stressed: In return for the patience shown in the face of such tribulations, God grants rewards of immeasurable and incomparable worth. He noted that the damage to infrastructure in both natural and man-made disasters can be repaired through the efforts and capacities of other institutions, adding that what truly breaks the heart are the families who have lost a beloved one, which has turned this incident into a shared grief for all of us.

Before Ayatollah Khamenei's remarks, Hujjat al-Islam Seyyed Abdolfattah Nawab, the Leader's representative in Hajj and Pilgrimage Affairs and the Head of the Iranian Pilgrims' Delegation, declared this year's Hajj slogan as:

“Hajj: A Quranic journey, Islamic convergence, and support for the oppressed people of Palestine.” He also outlined this organization's programs for pilgrims during this year's Hajj season.



uled for Wednesday, May 7, will feature speeches and messages from several senior religious authorities, including Ayatollah Javadi Amoli and Ayatollah Subhani. Video messages from Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi and Ayatollah Nouri Hamedani will also be presented, alongside international guests.

A'rafi announced that the Leader's new charter on clergy will be unveiled during the event. “This document will shape the future of seminaries and renew the vision originally laid out by Imam Khomeini,” he said.

He concluded by urging scholars and academics to contribute ideas for the continued advancement of the seminary. “We must look to the future, address our shortcomings, and respond effectively to the evolving needs of society,” he said.

## Leader's charter on clergy to mark turning point in seminary discourse, says senior cleric

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Alireza A'rafi, Director of Iran's Islamic Seminaries, said the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's upcoming Charter on Clergy will mark a significant turning point in religious and academic developments, aligning with the legacy of the Founder of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini's original vision.

Speaking Sunday at a press conference ahead of the International Conference on the Centenary of the Re-establishment of the Qom Seminary, Ayatollah A'rafi outlined the pivotal role of seminaries in Iran and the broader Islamic world. The event was held at the Malek Museum in Tehran and attended by senior seminary officials and scholars.

Describing seminaries as knowledge-driven, ethical, and people-oriented institutions, A'rafi emphasized their historical role in promoting science, thought, and social engagement. “The seminary has a deep-rooted legacy,” he said, “and its network, extending from Iran to Iraq and beyond, has always worked to preserve its scholarly and religious identity.”

Ayatollah A'rafi identified four defining characteristics of Islamic seminaries: academic rigor, ethical leadership, social connection, and responsible political engagement. “In earlier eras, when seminaries and universities were not separate, all branches of science flourished in the seminary,” he noted, underscoring the institution's intellectual heritage.

On the seminary's social roots, A'rafi said: “The seminary is by the people and for the people. Serving society is its fundamental mission.”

He also lauded the seminary's moderate political stance. “Seminaries have long stood firm against foreign interference and upheld the independence of Islamic nations,” he said, noting their critical role during the Islamic Revolution and other historic turning points.

He credited Imam Khomeini with spearheading the development of Islamic political thought and establishing a new model of governance—religious democracy—originating in Qom. “The ideas born here went on to shape major regional and global transformations,” he said.

A'rafi stressed that the seminary has expanded the reach of Islamic sciences in recent decades. “Today, our knowledge framework spans over 16 domains and 400 academic fields, including contemporary jurisprudence, comparative legal studies, and engagement with Western philosophy,” he said.

Ayatollah A'rafi also highlighted the growing role of women in Islamic scholarship. “For the first time since the Islamic Revolution, the doors of seminary education have opened widely to women,” he said, adding that around 500 women's seminaries now operate across the country.

“The seminary's reach is global,” he added, “with its teachings now present in over 100 countries.”

The upcoming international conference, sched-

## Controversial UK raids target seven Iranians, prompting calls for legal clarity

TEHRAN – British police's so-called “counter-terrorism” unit has arrested eight men, including seven Iranian nationals, in two separate operations, sparking accusations from critics of systemic bias and politically motivated overreach.

The raids, announced on Sunday and framed by UK authorities as an effort to disrupt a “plot to target a specific premises,” have reignited debates over legal transparency and the British government's increasingly contentious stance toward Iran.

“These actions are the result of Britain's erroneous perspective on Iran. Accusations built on baseless conjecture are both damaging and unconstructive,” an Iranian source told the Tehran Times about the arrests.

In the first operation, five men—

including four Iranian nationals aged 29 to 40—were detained in Swindon, west London, Stockport, Rochdale, and Manchester.

A fifth suspect's nationality remains unconfirmed. Authorities cited “preparation of an act of terrorism” under the Terrorism Act but provided no evidence, citing operational secrecy.

A separate raid in London saw three Iranian nationals arrested under the National Security Act, which targets “foreign power threat activity.”

Critics argue the detentions underscore significant legal gaps, including the UK's use of pre-charge detention without concrete evidence under the Terrorism Act 2000, which permits holding suspects for up to 28 days without charge—a practice



East Street in Rochdale, where armed British police arrested an Iranian man on May 3, 2025.

condemned as a breach of justice principles.

The suspected denial of consular access and legal representation to the detained Iranians further risks

violating the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, amplifying concerns that national security imperatives are being exploited to normalize systemic injustice.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper praised police for “keeping our country safe,” but opponents counter that the arrests reflect a politicized counter-terrorism strategy.

Dominic Murphy, head of the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, stated investigators are “exploring various lines of enquiry” to determine motives, though no public evidence has been disclosed.

The UK's recent designation of Iran as a ‘highest tier’ foreign influence threat has further heightened concerns that the recent arrests may be politically motivated and rooted in systemic xenophobia.



## SPORTS

### Gholizadeh steals show as Lech Poznan down Puszcz Niepolomice

TEHRAN – Lech Poznan football team defeated Puszcz Niepolomice 8-1 in the 2024-25 Ekstraklasa on Saturday.

Iranian winger Ali Gholizadeh scored his team's first two goals in the 3rd and 14th minutes.

Mikael Ishak and Afonso Sousa scored twice each.

Kornel Lisman and Dino Hotic were on target as well.

Jani Atanasov scored Puszcz Niepolomice's sole goal at the Enea Stadion.

Lech Poznan remained contender to win the title with 63 points, two points behind Raków Czstochowa.

### Ghaedi scores against Dibba Al-Hisn in ADNOC

TEHRAN – Ittihad Kalba defeated Dibba Al-Hisn 2-1 in 23rd round of the ADNOC Pro League at Kalba Stadium.

Mehdi Ghaedi scored the first goal for Kalba in the 57th minute, followed by Daniel Bessa adding another goal in the 77th minute.

For Dibba Al-Hisn, Pierre Kunde found the back of the net in the 42nd minute.

With this victory, Kalba climbed to 28 points and is now in ninth place in the league standings.

On the other hand, Dibba Al-Hisn remain at 16 points, sitting in thirteenth place and in danger of being relegated to a lower division.

### Ezatolahi nets as Shabab Al Ahli lose to Al Wasl

TEHRAN – UAE Pro League leaders Al Wasl defeated Shabab Al Ahli 2-1 at Zabeel Stadium on Saturday.

Zabeel's stands were rocked by Nicolas Gimenez's opener in the 20th minutes.

Fabio Lima cemented the host's lead three minutes into the second half.

Saeid Ezatolahi pulled one back for Shabab Al Ahli in the 79th minute.

Shabab Al Ahli remain top with 56 points, 11 points above Sharjah.

### Al Ahli win Asian Champions League Elite

TEHRAN – Saudi Arabian club Al Ahli defeated Japan's Kawasaki Frontale 2-0 in the final to win the inaugural Asian Champions League Elite on Saturday.

The star-studded Jeddah team, playing at home in front of 60,000 fans at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium, deserved what was a comfortable victory and completed an unbeaten tournament.

First-half goals from Galeno and Franck Kessie put the two-time beaten finalist in control against the five-time Japanese champion.

The tournament quarterfinals, semifinals and final were staged in Jeddah and Al-Ahli rode a wave of support.

Esteghlal and Persepolis featured Iran in the inaugural edition.

### Dastan: We progress step by step in 2025 Beach Soccer World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran's beach soccer goalkeeper Mohammad Dastan has expressed confidence that the team will progress step by step in the 2025

FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

Iran opened their campaign with a 5-4 victory over Mauritania in Group B and also secured a 5-1 win against Paraguay.

The team are now set to face Portugal on Monday for the top spot in the group.

“So far, we have performed very well, especially with the victory against Paraguay, which are a strong team. We hope to win against Portugal as well and qualify as the top team. Of course, if we do, we will face Brazil in the next stage,” Dastan said.

Regarding the potential matchup with Brazil, Dastan added, “With respect to all beach soccer teams worldwide, I must say Brazil are the greatest team in this sport. I hope we succeed on this journey and defeat teams one by one. My belief is that we should progress step by step. Right now, we need to focus on the game against Portugal.”

He concluded, “We want to dedicate this championship to the people of Iran. That's why we are here. There is a difficult task ahead, but we will do our best to win the title for the first time ever,” Dastan finished.

### Antonio Guerra Peixe pens deal with Iran handball federation

TEHRAN – Brazilian coach Antonio Guerra Peixe penned a deal with Iran handball federation on Saturday.

He will accompany Team Melli as technical advisor in the 10th Asian Women's Beach Handball Championship 2025.

Iran have been drawn in Group B along with the Philippines, Pakistan, India and Jordan.

Group A consists of Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Maldives and Hong Kong.

Guerra Peixe has won five gold medals out of 10 World Beach Handball Championships.

### Ex-Iran striker Rowshan undergoes surgery

TEHRAN – Former Iran and Esteghlal football club Hassan Rowshan underwent a successful surgery on Sunday in Tehran.

He underwent surgery to treat a gallstone and should be kept under medical observation.

Rowshan, 70, scored Iran's only goal against Peru in the 1978 FIFA World Cup, where Team Melli lost 4-1.

Rowshan played for Esteghlal football team for eight years in two stints.

### Faraji claims bronze in WTT Youth Contender 2025

TEHRAN – Benjamin Faraji of Iran won a bronze medal in the WTT Youth Contender Bangkok 2025 on Sunday.

He lost to Korean Choi Jiwook 3-2 (7-11, 11-5, 11-6, 7-11, 11-9) in the U19 Boys' Singles semifinal.

He had won a bronze medal on Saturday in the U19 Boys' Doubles.

The 2025 WTT Youth Contender Bangkok is being held from May 2 to 4 in Thailand.

### Fasihi to miss 2025 Asian Athletics Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian woman sprinter Farzaneh Fasihi may miss the 2025 Asian Athletics Championships due to a foot injury.

She suffered a hamstring rupture several months ago and has not fully recovered.

Fasihi is likely to be sidelined from the championships, scheduled to be held in Gumi, South Korea, in late May.

She holds the Iranian indoor record for the 60 meters with a time of 7.20 seconds.

Fasihi has represented Iran at the 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games.



## Car tire production grows 15% amid calls for more investment

TEHRAN – Iran's car tire production rose by 10 to 15 percent last year, while total tire output saw an 8.0 percent increase, according to Jamal Mirzaei, a board member of Iran's Tire Industry Association.

In an interview with IRNA, Mirzaei said the goal for this year is to raise production by another 15 percent to meet domestic demand.

He emphasized that in line with Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei's designation of the year as one focused on investment in production, the tire industry requires new investment to boost output and generate new jobs.

Mirzaei noted that Iran currently has a production deficit of 120,000 tons. He said expanding capacity from the current 300,000 tons to 450,000 tons would allow the country to meet domestic needs and shift focus toward exports.

He highlighted the opportunity for increased foreign currency earnings once local demand is fully met, describing exports as a viable path to economic growth.

Currently, about 50,000 people are directly or indirectly employed in 11 major tire manufacturing units. Of these, four companies have ongoing expansion projects—each around 40 percent complete—that aim to add 50,000 tons of new production capacity this year.

Mirzaei cited delayed currency allocation as the industry's most pressing issue. Timely access to foreign currency is essential to ensure continuous production, he said, warning that shortages affect raw material supply. He also blamed restrictive monetary policies for



delays in bank financing.

He criticized the reduction in tire import tariffs over the past two years, arguing that the lower duties have disproportionately benefited importers. He suggested that domestic production would have been better supported by a tariff range of zero to six percent.

The official warned that the current tariff system has created opportunities for rent-seeking in the import market and stressed the need for protective measures to help local manufacturers grow.

According to Mirzaei, production costs surged by eight to ten percent in the second half of last year, driven by rising prices for raw materials, foreign currency volatility, and issues in the petrochemical and mining sectors.

Despite these challenges, he assured that there is currently no shortage of tires in the market, as production has increased.

Under a recent directive from Iran's customs administration, imports of passenger car tires will now be subject to 16 percent commercial profit tax and 4 percent customs duties.

## Record participation expected at Iran Oil Show 2025

TEHRAN – More than 2,000 Iranian and foreign companies are set to participate in the 29th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2025) in Tehran—marking the highest number of participants in the history of the event.

According to the official news agency Shana, the exhibition will be held from May 7 to May 10 at Tehran's permanent fairground. The number of companies registered for this edi-

tion sets a new record for participation since the event's inception.

While the number of applicants exceeded the final tally, space limitations at the venue prevented some companies from securing booths.

A significant portion of the participating companies will be knowledge-based firms, which have shown strong interest in the 29th edition of the expo.

## Iranian, Chinese plastic industry groups sign co-op deal at Iran Expo 2025

TEHRAN – On the sidelines of Iran Expo 2025, the Iranian Masterbatch and Compound Producers Association and the Shenzhen Plastics Association of China signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) aimed at enhancing cooperation in the plastics industry through experience-sharing, technology exchange, and investment opportunities.

The agreement marks a step forward in fostering international collaboration in the sector. A key component of the MOU is a mutual commitment to exhibition space exchange, which will allow manufacturers from both countries to showcase their products and innovations in each other's specialized trade fairs. This reciprocal presence is expected to help both sides better understand industrial capabilities and market demands.

Beyond exhibition collaboration, the deal also prioritizes the transfer of technical knowledge and advanced technologies—particularly in the field of engineering plastics. These materials play a crucial role in high-tech industries, and cooperation with Chinese firms could help Iranian manufacturers enhance production quality and competitiveness in global markets.

The agreement also includes provisions for trade delegation visits and efforts to facilitate joint investments. These initiatives are expected to foster direct negotiations, build lasting commercial partnerships, and attract foreign capital and know-how, ultimately driving production growth and job creation in Iran's plastics industry.

The MOU signals the start of a new chapter in constructive cooperation between the Iranian and Chinese plastics sectors.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021.

The document was signed between Iran's former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Back in December 2022, Iran and China finalized 16 MOUs under the framework of the two countries' strategic 25-year agreement.

The MOUs were signed in an Iran-China comprehensive cooperation program summit which was held in Tehran on December 13 in the presence of Iran's former First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

The summit was focused on four areas explored by four committees between the two countries with the aim of paving the way for the implementation of the 25-year agreement.

In a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Cong Peiwu on October 15, 2024, Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati emphasized the importance of implementing the memorandums of understanding (MOUs) signed between Iran and China.

In the meeting, held at the place of the ministry, the Iranian minister followed up on the negotiations that took place during the BRICS Economic Ministers' Meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, stressing the importance of implementing the MOUs between the two countries.

He also considered the two countries' Joint Economic Committee as a suitable platform for negotiations on economic, trade, and investment cooperation, and welcomed the holding of the 19th Joint Economic Committee in Tehran.

Cong Peiwu, for his part, stated that Beijing aims to expedite the implementation of the MOUs and enhance practical cooperation to deepen relations between the two countries.

# Annual sponge iron export increases 11%

TEHRAN– Iran's export of sponge iron increased 11 percent in value, and 12 percent in volume in the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20), as compared to the previous year, the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) reported.

As ISPA announced, Iran exported sponge iron valued at \$401 million in 1403, while the figure was \$361 million in 1402.

Direct reduced iron (DRI), also called sponge iron, is produced from the direct reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps, pellets, or fines) into iron by reducing gas or elemental carbon produced from natural gas or coal.

Many ores are suitable for di-



rect reduction.

While Iran is fighting the U.S. severe sanctions on its economy, and the country's different industrial and economic sectors have

been affected by the limitations and difficulties caused by the sanctions condition, the country's mining sector is moving forward noticeably, overcoming such bar-

## Iran, Africa ink trade, investment deals in 4 key sectors

TEHRAN – The secretary of the Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit said commercial and investment contracts were signed between African traders and Iranian business leaders in four key sectors—mining, agriculture, petrochemicals, and medical equipment—at the conclusion of the third Iran-Africa summit.

Seyed Mehdi Hosseini said African delegations left Iran with substantial results, noting that foreign businesspeople and Iranian economic operators both benefited from the international gathering.

According to Hosseini, the third summit was distinguished by its focus on specialized, results-oriented activity, which led to greater coordination, satisfaction among participants, and significant achievements.

He noted that the summit witnessed several key developments, including the signing of commercial and investment agreements in the mining, agriculture, petrochemical, and medical equipment sectors.

Hosseini explained that unlike the two previous summits, which were general in nature, this edition was structured around four economic sectors: oil and petrochemicals, mining, agriculture, and medical equipment. Accordingly, the invited foreign delegations had relevant experience and expertise. This specialization, he said, helped ensure the summit remained outcome-driven.

He added that these four sectors were chosen due to their interrelated nature, with complementary operations and aligned objectives. The structure of the summit helped produce substantial results, the details of which would be disclosed in the coming days.

Hosseini said a major feature of this year's event was the shift away from centralization in Tehran. After initial visits and consultations in the capital, delegations were divided into 15 groups based on their sectoral focus and flown to Isfahan for field visits.

This targeted approach allowed each group to visit companies and institutions aligned with their interests. African delegates specializing in mining, for instance, met directly with Iranian miners and entered negotiations or agreements.

According to the summit secretariat, a major memorandum of understanding was signed between an African trading company and an Iranian firm in the pharmaceutical and medical equipment sector, described as significant in scope.

On Friday, May 2, coinciding with the final day of Iran Expo 2025, several African delegates departed Iran after concluding purchase agreements and visiting pavilions representing the four main sectors.

### Long-term impact and increased engagement expected

Hosseini emphasized that the positive experience of the attendees would turn them into "ambassadors" for Iran's capabilities, increasing the likelihood of higher foreign participation in future events. He highlighted that 20 percent of the summit's participants extended their stay to explore more economic opportunities in Iran.

Describing the summit's outcomes as positive, Hosseini said approximately 600 African traders, officials, and economic experts participated, underscoring Iran's strong capacity across various economic and commercial sectors.

He stressed that while this year's summit focused on a few sectors, showcasing Iran's full capabilities would likely attract more foreign participation in the future.

More than 1,000 Iranian companies displayed their achievements in petrochemicals, mining, agriculture, and medical equipment during the summit. Choosing Isfahan as a co-host reflected the broader geographical potential of the country, he said.

### Kerman and Tabriz tapped for next summit

Hosseini noted that Tehran is no longer ideal for hosting large-scale economic events due to its congestion and logistical limitations. The successful experience in Isfahan encouraged organizers to consider other cities, including Kerman and Tabriz, for future editions.

He highlighted Tabriz for its tractor manufacturing and carpet industries and Kerman for its rich mineral resources. These provinces, he said, could serve as future hosts, enabling broader exposure of Iran's economic strengths. He concluded by thanking Iranian authorities for facilitating the event, noting that many foreign delegates extended their stay at personal expense, suggesting strong interest in Iran's untapped economic potential.

### Follow-up on economic agreements begins

Hosseini announced that the summit's secretariat has already begun pursuing the implementation of the agreements signed during the event.

In a separate interview with state media, Hosseini said the parallel hosting of Iran Expo 2025 allowed African business delegations to explore additional trade opportunities, further strengthening the summit's outcomes.

He underscored that consistent follow-up is essential for turning summit agreements into tangible results. The secretariat, operational since February, is now tasked with ensuring the implementation of signed memorandums and deals.

Hosseini concluded by stressing the need for trade balance between Iran and Africa. While the current relationship is one-sided, he said sectors such as petrochemicals and mining—where Iran is a major exporter and Africa has mineral wealth—could help bring trade flows into equilibrium.

Trade between Iran and Africa is experiencing significant growth, with both sides actively pursuing new opportunities in key sectors such as energy, industry, and agriculture. The Iranian government has emphasized its commitment to enhancing commercial relations with African nations, leveraging strategic initiatives aimed at boosting trade volumes.

Speaking at the opening of the Third Iran-Africa Cooperation Summit in Tehran, Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Mohammad Atabak highlighted the vast potential for cooperation between Iran and Africa and announced plans to increase trade value by tenfold, aiming for a target of \$10 billion.

Atabak emphasized that the friendship between Iran and Africa is a long-standing cultural and historical bond that has now evolved into a valuable asset.

While reflecting on the long-standing economic relations between the two parties, Atabak noted that current trade volumes are insufficient and stated, "At present, Iran's trade with Africa constitutes only three percent of the country's exports and one percent of imports, amounting to around \$800 million."

The minister highlighted that the goal for the future is an annual exchange of more than \$10 billion in goods, services, technical expertise, and value chains. "We have large-scale plans to achieve this target," he said.

Key initiatives outlined by Atabak to achieve this goal include: infrastructure development,

riers.

Among the mining sector's different products, sponge iron is an outstanding example, as the production of this item is rising more and more in the country.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has stated that one of the most important reasons for the increase in sponge iron production in Iran is the establishment of new sponge iron plants, adding that in recent years, with its new strategy and with the participation of the private sector, the organization has been able to launch several projects to produce sponge iron.



the construction of industrial parks and refineries, expansion of renewable energy sources, overseas farming, the establishment of shipping lines to Southern and Southwestern Africa, launching air routes, facilitating banking exchanges, and setting up a settlement mechanism through a foreign exchange fund. Additionally, there are plans to create operational strategies for Africa's strategic mines and allocate €2 billion in financing through the National Development Fund's buyer-seller credit mechanism.

Atabak also announced plans to expand the number of joint chambers of commerce from 13 to 20 and increase commercial attachés to 12. Furthermore, the establishment of a joint Iran-Africa development fund was revealed, with the fund aiming to attract \$2 billion in investment and provide 75 percent insurance coverage to reduce commercial risks.

Also speaking on the sidelines of the summit, the spokesperson for the Trade Development Commission of the Iran House of Industry, Mine, and Trade Seyed Rouhollah Latifi, stated that the total foreign trade volume of the African continent stands at \$12 trillion. However, he pointed out that Iran's share of trade with African countries is just one-thousandth, which is very insignificant, despite Africa being a golden opportunity for Iranian trade.

Latifi highlighted the importance of Iran's trade with Africa over the past three decades. He noted that trade with this region of the world became a focus of Iran's foreign policy since the 1990s. However, he added, "What occurred in the political and economic spheres did not align with one another, and the economic sector lagged behind political developments."

Also, during a specialized session at the summit, the head of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) also announced that Iran is fully prepared to cooperate with African countries in various industrial sectors, particularly in infrastructure, energy, and advanced industries.

Farshad Moqimi referenced the 58-year history of IDRO as the country's first and oldest development organization. He highlighted IDRO's areas of activity, which include transportation, industrial enterprise establishment and development, industrial renovation, advanced industries, maritime industries, and human resources development. He added that IDRO is fully prepared to collaborate with African countries, especially in the fields of infrastructure, energy, and advanced industries.

Moqimi also pointed out the potential for cooperation between Iran and African countries and mentioned that Iran can help increase the efficiency of projects by reducing investment time and costs. Furthermore, Iran is eager to jointly develop industrial capacities with African nations.

The deputy minister of industry, mining, and trade emphasized that Iran is ready to transfer expertise, knowledge, technology, and industrial equipment to African countries, expressing the country's desire for mutual cooperation aimed at fostering growth and development.



# Yemen changes the equation by striking Ben Gurion Airport

From page 1 ► Israeli media reported that the missile landed near Terminal 3, generating thick smoke, halting all takeoffs and landings, and disrupting train services in the area. Several injuries were also reported.

Air raid sirens were triggered across central Israeli regions as interception attempts failed. Israeli media outlets cited sources as saying the missile overwhelmed defense systems, compelling civilians to seek shelter en masse.

Channel 12 cited Israeli security assessments confirming that the Arrow 3 and U.S.-supplied THAAD missile defense systems failed to intercept the projectile.

Israeli outlets acknowledged, “There is no air defense system that offers 100% protection, regardless of its sophistication.”

Reports also stated the missile's impact created a crater 25 meters deep in the airport's vicinity in Lod. Images of the aftermath circulated across Western media platforms.

Military experts believe the missile used was a newly developed model. Regional reports highlighted Yemen's recent enhancements to its strategic missile arsenal, which now includes radar-evading capabilities and upgraded air defense systems.



Despite facing ongoing aggression, Yemeni forces are believed to be expanding their hypersonic missile stockpile along with advancements in drone and naval weaponry.

Simultaneously, Yemen confirmed a separate drone strike using a Yafa drone targeting a key Israeli site in the Ashkelon region.

The Yemeni Armed Forces stated their operations will continue as part of their “religious and humanitarian duty toward the Palestinian people,” vowing to resist American aggression and maintain support for Gaza until the genocidal war ends and the siege is lifted.

Mahdi al-Mashat, head of Yemen's Supreme Political Council, said Sanaa had “warned the Americans indirectly” about escalation,

but their warnings were ignored under the mistaken belief that U.S. defense systems would offer protection.

In response to the strike, Hamas praised Yemen for its “blessed attacks” deep inside Israel, calling them a reflection of Yemen's steadfast commitment to the Palestinian cause.

The resistance movement commended Yemen's leadership and people for their courage, expressing full solidarity and calling on Arab and Islamic nations to fulfill their moral responsibility to support Palestine.

Abu Obeida, spokesperson for the al-Qassam Brigades, lauded Yemen for “defying the forces of oppression” and “penetrating the world's most advanced defense

systems.”

He addressed the Yemeni people directly: “You are part of us, and we are part of you. May God guide your strikes and accept your sacrifices.”

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad also praised the operation, saluting Yemen's bravery and unyielding support for Gaza amid heavy sacrifices.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) described the precision strike on Ben Gurion Airport as a “qualitative leap in Yemen's response,” reflecting unity between Gaza and Sanaa. The group emphasized the operation's message: Israeli and American military defenses are increasingly vulnerable.

The Resistance committees echoed this view, stating the strikes highlight “the failure of U.S. aggression against Yemen,” and praised Yemeni technological advancements as ushering in a new phase of resistance.

The Mujahideen Movement also hailed the operation as a “strategic Yemeni strike” that overwhelmed the joint Zionist-American defense systems. The group called on Arab nations to break their silence and follow Yemen's lead in defending the Islamic world and the Palestinian people.

## Netanyahu abandons Azerbaijan visit after Turkey denies access to its airspace



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was forced to abandon his planned visit to Azerbaijan earlier this week after Turkey refused to allow his plane to enter its airspace, New Arab reported.

Netanyahu, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes in Gaza, was supposed to travel to Baku for talks with President Ilham Aliyev on Wednesday and stay through the weekend.

In a statement on Saturday, his office said that the visit had been cancelled, blaming a “tight political and security schedule” and developments in Gaza and Syria.

However, Israeli outlet Walla said the trip was called off after Turkey blocked the prime minister's plane from using its airspace.

## Trump to attend Persian Gulf summit during Saudi Arabia trip

U.S. President Donald Trump will take part in a summit with Persian Gulf Arab leaders during his visit to Saudi Arabia in May, Axios reported on Saturday, citing American and Arab officials.

Trump will travel to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from May 13 to 16 as part of a Middle East tour focused on defense, investment, and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, the news website reported.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Sal-

man plans to invite the Persian Gulf Arab leaders to Riyadh for the summit on May 14, it said.

An Arab official told Axios that, for now, there are no plans to invite other Arab leaders, but this could still change.

No official confirmation or denial of the reported summit has yet been issued.

During the visit, Trump is expected to discuss arms deals and economic partnerships, among other issues.

The Pentagon on Friday announced the State Department's approval of a potential \$3.5 billion sale of AIM-120C-8 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles to Saudi Arabia.

## EU president must face war crimes charges: UN's Albanese



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and other top EU officials should face prosecution for complicity in war crimes committed during “Israel's” war on Gaza, Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, has advocated, according to Al Mayadeen.

In an exclusive interview with The Intercept, Albanese argued that their political and diplomatic support for “Israel” amounts to aiding and abetting crimes under international law.

“They will have to understand that immunity cannot equate with impunity,” Albanese said. “I'm not someone who says, ‘History will judge them’ — they will have to be judged before then.”

A complaint was filed at the ICC against EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for complicity in war crimes in Gaza, as critics accuse top EU officials, including foreign affairs chief Kaja Kallas, of supporting “Israel's” actions despite international legal obligations to prevent genocide.

## Four major cognitive errors of the White House

From page 1 ► The following components of this cognitive error need to be addressed:

### 1 - Persistent Hatred of the Zionist Regime:

Trump and his White House allies, much like Democrats, believe that the hatred toward the occupying Zionist regime in American public and academic spaces is “temporary and transient,” tied to the Gaza war and the continuation of Zionist genocide. However, this hatred is enduring and targets the very nature of the occupying regime. While the events in Palestine over the past two years have significantly fueled this authentic hatred, its persistence is not contingent on the continuation or cessation of the Gaza war.

### 2- Generational Shift in America:

The new generation in America is not beholden to the overarching policies of the country's two traditional parties or the overt and covert power lobbies. The primary reason for the shared anger of Washington and Tel Aviv toward Harvard University stems from a notable December 2023 poll (during the height

of the Gaza war), which revealed that 51% of Americans aged 18–24 believe the ultimate solution to the Palestine issue is the complete return of occupied Palestinian land to its rightful owners. Significantly, not only Harvard but other American educational and research institutions have been strongly prohibited from conducting similar surveys over the past year and a half. Undoubtedly, the current repressive and biased actions against American academic institutions, combined with the independent monitoring of Palestinian developments by America's new generation, have further strengthened the inclination to move beyond Zionism among this generation.

### 3- Invalidation of the Fabricated Washington-Tel Aviv Narrative on Palestine:

Even if Trump erases Harvard University from American history and strips all pro-Palestinian students of citizenship or deports them, he cannot restore the power to reproduce the Zionists' fabricated narrative about the occupation of Palestine. The White House

must accept the reality that the American public's focus, particularly among the youth and students, on the roots of the Gaza war has led them to uncover the true story of Palestine's occupation. Consequently, the West's narrative of this tragic saga (which has served the goals and interests of humanity's enemies) has been invalidated in their minds.

### 4 - The Post-Zionist Era and Transition to a New Global Order:

Another factor in which Trump and other American officials suffer from a profound cognitive error is the reality surrounding the current and future global order. While the White House clings to the illusion of reviving a unipolar system, a new global order is rapidly taking shape with a critical perspective. The transition from the Western order affects not only narratives but also the structures and broader contexts. Escaping this reality cannot prevent its inevitable realization—a principle that American supporters of the Zionist regime have minusculely still struggle to comprehend.

## Foreign-funded outlet defames the Nasrallah mausoleum

From page 1 ► Deeb is a Lebanese political writer and media personality. She won the Thomson Foundation Award for Investigative Journalism from Reuters in 2009, and was also included among those referred to as “American Source Journalists” after she became known for promoting intelligence leaks in the Lebanese media.

On April 29, Deeb published an article titled “Hezbollah Refused the Army's Entry into Beirut's Southern Suburb (Dahiye),” falsely claiming that Hezbollah prevented the army from searching a warehouse in Dahiye, which later led to its bombardment by Israel.

Less than 24 hours later, President Joseph Aoun denied the allegations in an interview with Sky News Arabia: “The information that Hezbollah refused the army's entry to search a site in Dahiye is incorrect.”

In recent years, Deeb has participated in several journalism courses in the United States. Instead of using her professional connections to conduct critical and analytical journalism, she uses them against the Resistance to extract a small amount of ill-gotten money.

Josephine Deeb was preceded by the Lebanese Forces' leading figure, Ibrahim al-Saqr, who stole oil from the Lebanese market some years ago and withheld it

from the Lebanese people, before Iran provided it to the Lebanese people for free.

Al-Saqr said: “We must compromise with the Shiites; either they surrender the weapons of resistance or we deprive them of visiting the mausoleum.”

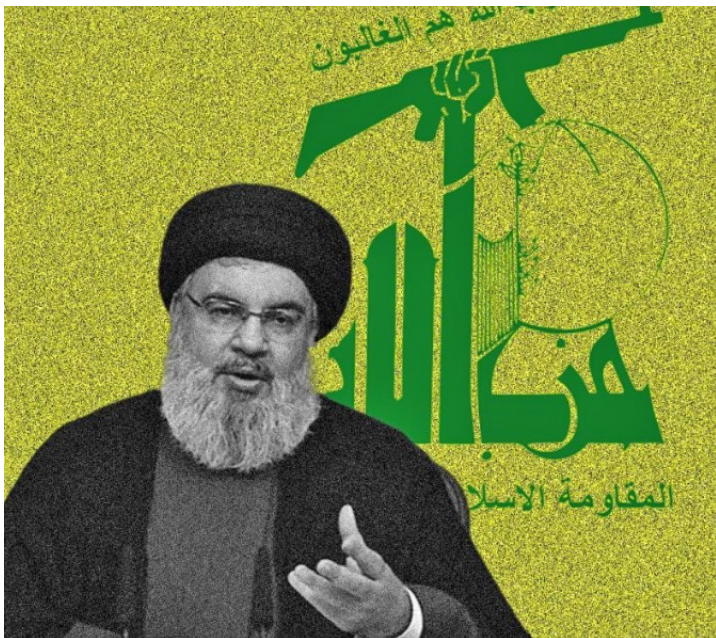
Observers wondered how a report could be presented without the program's producer and director being aware of its content?!

Obviously, the inflammatory report appears to have been prepared by an intelligence agency, as it addresses the details of the construction of martyr Sayyed Nasrallah's mausoleum.

In a post on his Facebook page, Ali Obaidi, an expert in visual media, criticized the use of vague terms such as “certified real estate expert” and “senior banking source,” without any evidence to confirm the credibility of these sources. This is in addition to blatant contradictions regarding the cost of building the shrine and the source of funding.

As for allegations of the “seizure” of the land, they are refuted in the report itself, as one of the speakers claims that “the land was purchased, a problem arose with the owners, and was subsequently resolved.”

Al-Jadeed TV channel's report adopts a narrative that falls under soft psychological warfare and a form of hate speech, largely



in line with the methods used by the Israeli enemy's media, with a soundtrack that invokes an atmosphere of danger and apprehension.

The report also classifies Sayyed Nasrallah's mausoleum as a “threat to Beirut's identity” and a “danger to other sects,” and that “Sunnis and Christians are threatened by a Shiite shrine in the heart of Beirut.”

This narrative constitutes a clear violation of Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Journalistic Ethics, which emphasizes the obligation not to contribute to “the promotion of hatred,” as well as Article 13, which urges

journalists to avoid “using the media to serve non-professional interests and refrain from receiving personal gains in exchange for publishing or withholding information.”

As Lebanon faces an escalation of hostilities, the media bears the responsibility to preserve civil peace and accurate information out of respect for the public and to observe professional ethics.

Therefore, the documentary was premeditated to provoke the feelings of the public allied to the Resistance and is a vile participation in the American threat of a return to the Israeli war if Hezbollah does not surrender its weapons.

## Netanyahu's survival strategy fuels internal revolt



### From page 1 ► Nationwide protests show a crack in the Zionist facade

The hostage crisis began after Hamas launched an attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, and Netanyahu's government used it to justify a deadly war in Gaza. Many families now say the government is using their loved ones as pawns, but using their captivity as an excuse to keep attacking Gaza and harming innocent civilians.

By refusing to seriously negotiate and choosing war over diplomacy, the Netanyahu regime values power over human lives, both Palestinian and Israeli. Netanyahu's harsh language, calling UN genocide claims

“false and absurd” and dismissing outside criticism as antisemitism, portrays an image of a regime that vilifies anyone who speaks out.

The large protests by tens of thousands of Israelis calling for the return of hostages and speaking out against Netanyahu's government show how weak the regime has become. People are angry about the government's failure to protect them, its corruption, and its dangerous war choices that put Israeli soldiers at risk and cause great harm to Palestinian civilians.

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



### Tour operators from 50 countries to visit Iran



TEHRAN--Hormatollah Rafiei, the director of the Association of Iranian Travel Agencies, said tens of tour operators from neighboring nations as well as European, African and Latin American countries will visit Iran during August 23-September 1.

“We have invited a number of tour operators and tourism experts from 50 countries to take part in this 10-day event. By exchanging information, we hope that we can generate good income from tourists entering Iran,” he told IRIB.

“We predict that over 150 tour operators will

take part in the event.”

He called negotiations in the two cities of Shiraz and Tehran and visiting cultural and historical attractions as the programs prepared for the event.

In a striking revelation that counters long-standing negative perceptions, 100 international tour operators from 25 countries visited Iran’s ancient city of Isfahan in February 2025 and expressed their astonishment at the reality they encountered.

Their excursions, which were part of a five-day familiarization tour named “Isfahan Tour Operator Meeting,” provided an opportunity for tourism professionals to experience Iran’s Isfahan firsthand, challenging the tarnished global image of the country.

Organized by the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture in close collaboration with governmental bodies and the private sector, the fam tour aimed to showcase Isfahan’s historical grandeur, rich culture, and hospitality. It also facilitated business-to-business (B2B) meetings and discussions to enhance global tourism relations.

### Ministry prioritizes possible registration of Persian Gulf’s elements on national, intl. lists

TEHRAN - An Iranian tourism official has announced the beginning of a process to document and register the Persian Gulf’s cultural elements on national and international lists, given the waterways’ high status in historical documents and archeology.

Head of the Department for Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Alireza Izadi called it a strategic measure to defend the identity of Iran, ILNA reported.

During his visit to Bushehr province, Izadi said one of the priorities of Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts is to preserve and safeguard the historical identity of Iran.

Based on reliable historical documents and scientific evidences in archeology, name of Persian Gulf is an undeniable truth which should be registered nationally and stabilized globally in form of intangible heritage.

On repeated attempts to distort the name of the Persian Gulf by some currents, he said based on explicit order of the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri, a comprehensive document is under compilation in archeology sector with focus on ancient Siraf port.

He warned, “Some political rivalries and behaviors in international forums should not cause us to neglect the historical authenticity of this name. Persian Gulf is part of Iranian civilization identity and preserving it is a national, transnational, and cultural duty.”

Pointing to the huge capacities of Iran’s spiritual heritage, he said, there are over 50 intangible heritage documents which are under study to be registered on National Heritage List. A portion of them pertains to four southern provinces, he added.

Close to 50,000 tangible heritages have been registered on National Heritage List, he said

### Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley

Enclosed between the high mountains of the Hindu Kush in the central highlands of Afghanistan, the Bamiyan Valley opens out into a large basin bordered to the north by a long, high stretch of rocky cliffs.

The Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley comprise a serial property consisting of eight separate sites within the Valley and its tributaries. Carved into the Bamiyan Cliffs are the two niches of the giant Buddha statues (55m and 38m high) destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, and numerous caves forming a large ensemble of Buddhist monasteries, chapels and sanctuaries along the foothills of the valley dating from the 3rd to the 5th century CE. In several of the caves and niches, often linked by galleries, there are remains of wall paintings and seated Buddha figures. In the valleys of the Bamiyan’s tributaries are further groups of caves including the Kakrak Valley Caves, some 3km south-east of the Bamiyan Cliffs where among the more than one hundred caves dating from the 6th to 13th centuries

are fragments of a 10m tall standing Buddha figure and a sanctuary with painted decorations from the Sasanian period. Along the Fuladi valley around 2km southwest of the Bamiyan Cliffs are the caves of Qoul-i Akram and Lalai Ghami, also containing decorative features.

Punctuating the centre of the valley basin to the south of the great cliff are the remains of the fortress of Shahr-i Ghulghulah. Dating from the 6th to 10th centuries CE, this marks the original settlement of Bamiyan as stopping place on the branch of the Silk Route, which linked China and India via ancient Bactria. Further to the east along the Bamiyan Valley are the remains of fortification walls and settlements, dating from the 6th to 8th centuries at Qallai Kaphari A and B and further east still (around 15km east of the Bamiyan Cliffs) at Shahr-i Zuhak, where the earlier remains are overlaid by developments of the 10th to 13th centuries under the rule of the Islamic Ghaznavid and Ghori dynasties.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Traces of Neanderthal presence discovered in cave, western Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of Neanderthal habitation in Kuna-khera Cave, located in the Zagros Mountain range in western Iran’s Kermanshah province.

The discovery stems from an emergency excavation project aimed at rescuing the site from ongoing damage caused by illegal digging and natural degradation.

According to Nemat Hariri, the head of the archaeological team leading the emergency probe, the remains found at the site confirm Neanderthal use of the cave approximately 40,000 to 80,000 years ago.

“Due to extensive destruction in recent years, we initiated this project with authorization from the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Institute and support from the provincial heritage department,” Hariri stated.

The project had two main objectives: the rescue and documentation of cultural and biological remains at risk of destruction, and the pursuit of scientific data related to the region’s Paleolithic history.

The cave’s specific location places it in proximity to other significant archaeological sites, including the well-known Bawa-Yawan rock shelter.

Initial findings revealed Mousterian-type stone tools and sedimentary layers strikingly similar to those found in Bawa-Yawan shelter, a known Neanderthal site.

These findings align with the hypothesis that Neanderthal communities repeatedly used



the site during the Late Pleistocene, even in the presence of persistent snow lines at around 1,800 meters.

“The emerging evidence is consistent with recent scientific shifts in how Neanderthals are viewed—not as primitive or biologically limited, but as complex hominins with sophisticated cultural, cognitive, and survival capabilities,” Hariri explained.

Artifacts discovered include cut-marked animal bones showing signs of heating, likely from hearths used by Neanderthal groups.

The bones represent a range of fauna such as cave bears, equids, bovids, caprids, jackals, rabbits, and even freshwater turtles—suggesting a diverse and adaptive diet among these early humans.

Moreover, the presence of hearths and ash layers further underscores the cave’s repeated and organized use as a shelter.

## Palangan prepares to host Hezar-Daf festival with enhanced infrastructure

TEHRAN - The historic village of Palangan is gearing up to host the annual Hezar-Daf festival, one of the region’s most significant cultural and spiritual events celebrating the traditional music of the western Iranian region.

This year’s edition of the festival, which means “One Thousand Drums,” is being supported with wide-ranging infrastructure improvements and safety measures to ensure a smooth and memorable experience for visitors.

Kiumars Habibi, Deputy Governor of Kurdistan Province, announced on Saturday during a planning session with local officials and cultural heritage representatives that Palangan is fully prepared to welcome tourists and participants.

“This event draws large numbers of visitors each year, and we have taken extensive steps to improve both infrastructure and public services in the village,” he stated.

The festival, known for its mys-

tical and communal drumming ceremonies, attracts traditional music enthusiasts, spiritual seekers, and tourists from across Iran and beyond.

As mentioned by Habibi, preparations have focused heavily on ensuring visitor comfort and safety.

These include providing wheelchairs for people with disabilities, installing directional signs throughout the main village routes, and identifying accident-prone road sections leading to Palangan, where warning signs and traffic restrictions are being enforced.

To maintain order and security, law enforcement will be deployed across key locations in the village and along access roads.

Additionally, the Red Crescent Society will be present in the area to offer emergency and medical services during the event.

Upgrades are also being made to the village’s communication systems and Internet connectiv-



32 Polish cyclists moved from Warsaw, passed countries of Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey, and entered Iran via Bazargan border.

TEHRAN--Polish cyclists have moved from Warsaw toward Isfahan to commemorate General Andres’ Liberation Army in World War II, pay respect to 120,000 Polish prisoners re-

leased from Soviet labor camps and appreciate the hospitality of Iranians towards Polish emigrants, said the head of the Touring and Automobile Club of Gilan.

Mohsen Vahedi told CHTN that 32 Polish cyclists moved from Warsaw, passed countries of Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey, and entered Iran via Bazargan border.

They have planned to visit the cities of Bandar Anzali, Tehran, and Isfahan, go to the graveyards of Polish emigrants buried in these cities, and commemorate their memories, he said.

They will leave Iran via Razi Border in Khoy, West Azarbaijan province in May 9, he added.

Touring and Automobile Club of Gilan with cooperation of Gilan Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department welcome rally of Polish cyclists through plannings made in Gilan route and accompany them until they leave Gilan, he pointed out.

Vahedi also said 147 nations are members of FIA which support the rally of sightseeing tours in form of cycles and cars.

“We hope that We hope that such tours, with a tourism focus, which bring a message of peace and friendship and also familiarize foreign tourists with the culture, customs, and historical attractions of our country, especially Gilan, will receive more attention and support from the authorities,” he added.

Comprised of 245 motoring and motor sport club members in 147 countries, the Federation Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) is in a unique position to facilitate communication and the exchange of ideas among its 80 million members.

This comprehensive access means that the FIA and its clubs can actively educate and inform members of their responsibilities and encourage them to behave safely and make choices that are environmentally sound.

man behavior that is difficult to obtain in other ancient remains of the late Pleistocene era, Heydari-Guran has said.

“Paleolithic rock art has been discovered in various forms across the globe, including rock-carved portraits and abstract signs.

They have always been an important and, at the same time, fascinating topic for archaeologists and anthropologists.”

“Now, Paleolithic research in Kermanshah has led to the very important discovery of rock motifs in one of the most key places in this region,” the archaeologist said.

Conducting multi-faceted research shows, Bawa Yawan motifs are comparable with European Paleolithic rock motifs in terms of form and content, he said.

“Moreover, based on a statistical analysis, motifs discovered at Bawa Yawan can be related to the phenomenon of having children and recording it.”

The closest layer associated with rock art at Bawa Yawan is estimated to date from 13,400 years ago, the archaeologist added.

The long-term presence of Neanderthals in western Eurasia, according to the article, suggests that they were a resilient hominin subspecies.

Archaeological records and fossil evidence show that towards their extinction, their territory was dramatically limited for various reasons, including restricted food resources.



ity, while public amenities such as restrooms and prayer areas are being renovated. Clear signage will guide visitors from entry points to the main festival grounds.

In addition, environmental protection has also been prioritized. “We’re committed to preserving Palangan’s unique natural setting,” Habibi noted, adding that eco-friendly trash bags will be distributed throughout the area to minimize environmental impact.

He emphasized that the cul-

tural authenticity and ecological integrity of the festival must be preserved.

“This is not only a significant cultural celebration, but a potential pathway to future global recognition of Palangan as a unique cultural heritage site,” Habibi said.

The Hezar-Daf festival is expected to draw large crowds once again this year, celebrating not only the rhythm of traditional Kurdish-Persian music but also the harmony between culture, spirituality, and nature.



# GIEWS releases report on food security in Iran

TEHRAN –The Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) has released a report, providing up-to-date information on the food security situation in Iran.

The report includes information on the current agricultural season and the harvest prospects for the main staple food crops and the livestock situation. In addition, it provides estimates and forecasts of cereal production and trade volumes, together with food price and policy developments.

The report covers four main parts as follows.

## Dry weather conditions severely affected wheat production

After wheat plantings took place between September and November, the winter season from December to February 2025 started poorly, with rainfall amounts well below the average, with an adverse impact on yields.

Although the use of irrigation systems and improved rainfall in March in some regions, including Khuzestan, partially offset the dry conditions and improved biomass levels, low precipitation amounts are expected in May, likely causing production shortfalls. In



southern provinces, wheat harvest began in mid-April, while in northern provinces, including Golestan, the harvest season is expected to start in June and will be completed by July.

The government increased the wheat procurement price by 17 percent compared to the previous year and set it at IRR 20 500/kg for soft wheat and IRR 21 000/kg for durum wheat.

However, farmers faced challenges in securing inputs, including seeds and fertilizers, due to their high costs.

Regarding rice, planting operations are underway in key producing regions of Gilan and Mazandaran, and are expected to

be completed in June 2025.

According to Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), no desert locusts were detected in the country in March 2025 and no significant increase in numbers is forecast until mid-May 2025.

## Above-average cereal production estimated in 2024

Cereal production in 2024 is estimated at 26 million tonnes, about 22 percent above average, mainly due to abundant rainfall amounts and strong government support, including subsidized inputs, low interest loans and high government procurement prices of wheat that encouraged planting expansion.

## Low import requirements estimated in 2024/25 on account of above-average wheat output in 2024

Wheat import requirements for the 2024/25 marketing season (April/March) are estimated at 1.3 million tonnes, less than half the five-year average, driven by the adequate wheat harvested in 2024, which replenished carryover stocks. For the 2025/26 period, wheat import requirements are likely to increase, compensating for the expected deficit in the 2025 wheat output.

## Cereal retail prices surged in 2025

The subsidized preferential currency rate for the essential goods imports, remained unchanged from the previous year, at IRR 285000 per USD for the 2025/26 fiscal year (21 March 2025 to 20 March 2026), limiting inflationary pressure on imported agricultural commodities, including wheat.

The subsidized rate is about 40 percent of the market rate which was about IRR 750 000 per USD in December 2024. However, average wheat flour price in Tehran market increased by 18 percent year-on-year in March 2025, driven by the reduction of the retail price subsidy. Retail rice price surged by nearly 60 percent in March 2025 compared to the same period in the previous year.

## Iran prioritizes neighboring countries in science diplomacy: official



TEHRAN – The current administration places a priority on fostering scientific collaborations with neighboring countries, the head of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, has said.

The high capacities of the neighboring countries, on one hand, and their need to import Iran's science and technology, on the other hand, will lay the basis for the expansion of relations, IRNA quoted Farhad Yazdandoost as saying.

The official went on to say that since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the country has made great strides in promoting science, technology, and higher education; it has further demonstrated these accomplishments through interactions with universities around the world.

A prime example of that is the Iranian scientific elites, their achievements, and status abroad.

President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration is trying to restart and promote collaborative efforts with countries where developing science is on the agenda.

Hence, scientific communication is not just limited to neighboring countries, he stated.

"We are strengthening scientific and international partnerships with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

We are also planning to develop ties with some non-neighboring countries that rely on external scientific support, and import scientific knowledge to share our expertise with them.

Cooperating with Asian leading countries in science like China and South Korea, as well as African and South American countries, will help them get familiar with Iran's potential, which will definitely bring about favorable results," the official noted.

## Science production grows noticeably after Islamic Revolution

Science production in Iran has been experiencing a constant rise after the 1979 Islamic revolution, moving up by 33 positions among the world's countries from 50 in 1980 to 17 in 2024.

The country ranked second in science production among Islamic nations in 2024, compared with fifth in 1980, Mehr news agency reported.

Forty-six years after the Islamic revolution, the country has made great strides in different sectors, including science, health, security, economy, industry, and legislation.

A review of Scopus data shows that in the first twenty years following the Islamic revolution, scientific production moved up significantly, rising from 284 articles published in 1980 to 1450 articles in 1999, reaching 8497 articles in 2005. In 2024, Iran published 75,928 scientific articles.

Despite ongoing sanctions, Iran is planning to elevate the country's ranking for scientific productions from currently 17 to 12 by 2027.

Due to sanctions, economic restrictions, and the limitations on publishing papers by Iranian scholars, particularly during the last three years, Iran's ranking in scientific productions has lowered from 15 to 17, Shahin Akhoundzadeh, an official with the health ministry, has said.

The country's advancement in science production requires compensating for the regression in research and technology through providing funds, facilitating research, and promoting meritocracy, which will reduce young elites' migration, as well, the health ministry's website quoted Akhoundzadeh as saying.

## Female Iranian innovator grabs WIPO prize, IFIA IIS certificate

TEHRAN – Hasti-Sadat Hosseini, a female Iranian inventor, has won the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) prize, and received the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA) innovation standard (IIS) certificate for her invention, 'Hasticell', at the 50th edition of the International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva.

The event was held from April 9 to 13 with 1,043 inventions from 42 countries and regions, and more than 28,000 visitors participated in this year's edition.

Hosseini's invention, Hasticell, was granted the IFIA Innovation Standard Grade A.

The invention is about stem cell grafts to repair wounds, especially cervical wounds, and the negative side effects of human papillomavirus (HPV) on the cervix. This miraculous graft is effective in other fields of medicine and surgery. It is extracted from the fetal membrane of the placenta. Biological Dressing Made of Amniotic Membrane comprising an epithelial cell layer, a thick basement membrane, and an avascular stromal matrix.

IFIA Innovation Standard, IIS, is based on several principles such as being marketable, officially

patented, eco-friendly, and having an economic impact. These principles are explained in more detail below. So, having IIS helps ensure interested investors that they're facing an avant-garde community of innovators worldwide whose ideas have specific traits.

## WIPO 2024 releases Iran's ranking based on GII report

In November 2024, the WIPO published the Global Innovation Index (GII) report, based on which Iran's innovation capabilities are ranked in seven criteria that include institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, market sophistication, business sophistication, knowledge and technology output, and creative output.

Iran is ranked 133 in Institutions globally. In this category the country's global rankings in Operational stability for business, Government effectiveness, Rule of law, Business environment, Entrepreneurship policies and culture were 130, 120, 118, 128, and 85, respectively.

In Human capital and research criterion, the country is placed 64. It ranked 93, 109, 67, 66, and 96 in Education, Expenditure on education, Government funding/



pupil, School life expectancy, and Pupil-teacher ratio, respectively.

Iran's ranking in Tertiary education, Graduates in science & engineering, Research and development (R&D), and Researchers is 35, 8, 48, and 47, respectively.

The global ranking of the country in Infrastructure is 95. It ranked 5 in Gross capital formation, and 50 in General infrastructure.

In Market sophistication criteria, with a global ranking of 17, Iran is placed 70, 58, and 19 in Finance for startups and scaleups, Domestic industry diversification, Domestic market scale, and Market capitalization.

In Business sophistication, Iran is ranked 110. It is ranked 86 in Females employed with ad-

vanced degrees, 82 in Public Research-Industry co-publications, 121 in University-industry R&D collaboration, 55 in Research talent, and percent in businesses.

Iran has been ranked 49 in knowledge and technology outputs. In Labor productivity growth, Production and export complexity, Software spending, ICT services exports / total trade, it is ranked 68, 72, 3, and 125, respectively.

Within creative output criteria, Iran is ranked 52. Under this category, the country is placed 23 in Intangible assets, 1st in Trademarks by origin, 59 in Entertainment and media market, 93 in Mobile app creation, 74 in Creative goods exports, and 102 in Creative goods and services.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Afghanistan thanks Iran for free services to refugees during COVID-19

Afghanistan has appreciated Iran for offering health and treatment services to Afghan refugees infected with coronavirus free of charge.

All measures, especially the recent decree by the Iranian president to provide free medical treatment to Afghan refugees in Iranian public hospitals, have assured the Afghan government, IRNA reported on Sunday.

According to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, providing transportation services to transit trucks and providing the necessary health assistance to vulnerable Afghan nationals are among the measures that are highly appreciated.

## افغانستان از همکاری ایران برای مداوای مهاجران مبتلا به کرونا قدردانی کرد

وزارت امور خارجه افغانستان از کمک و همکاری جمهوری اسلامی ایران به مهاجران افغانی مبتلا به ویروس کرونا و مداوای رایگان آنها قدردانی کرد.

در این اطلاعیه آمده است: تمام اقدامات به ویژه صدور حکم اخیر رئیس جمهوری ایران برای درمان رایگان مهاجران افغان در بیمارستان های دولتی ایران موجب خاطر جمعی رهبری دولت افغانستان شد.

براساس اطلاعیه وزارت خارجه افغانستان، ایجاد تسهیلات در رفت و آمد کامیون های ترانزیتی و فراهم آوری مساعدت های لازم بهداشتی برای مهاجران در مناطق آسیب پذیر آن کشور اقداماتی هستند که از جانب دولت افغانستان به چشم قدردانی نگریسته می شوند.

years 1396 (2017-2018), 1397 (2018-2019), 1398 (2019-2020), 1399 (2020-2021), and 1400 (2021-2022) were 2,09, 1,95, 1,74, 1,65, 1,61 per each woman, respectively.

Despite offering incentives to encourage childbearing in line with the youth population law, the desired growth in the youth population has not been accomplished yet.

At best, Iran's population with a total fertility rate of 2.5 will reach 102,890,000 by the next seven years, IRIB quoted Mohammad-Javad Mahmoudi, an official with the Civil Registration Organization, as saying.

In May 2024, Hasan Farshidi, an official with the health ministry, said that two years after the implementation of the law on supporting families and the youth, investigations have shown that the health ministry has played a central role in the implementation of the law.

"Since the implementation of the law, the number of births among mothers aged 20 to 24 has notably increased," the official added.

The rate of mothers giving birth to three children increased from 16 percent in the Iranian year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020) to 18.97 percent in 1402 (March 2023-March 2024), and even the fourth childbirth increased from 5 percent to about 7 percent, Farshidi stated.

According to Saber Jabbari, an official with the health ministry, men and women aged above 60 constitute some 11.5 percent of Iran's population.

For the time being, elderly women account for 52.3 percent of the total population, outnumbering men (47.7 percent), ISNA reported.

The aging of individuals signifies increased life expectancy. However, population aging demonstrates a shift in the distribution of a country's population towards older ages, which is not a favorable indicator. In other words, the number of young people in society declines in comparison to the elderly population. It is one of the most important challenges facing the country.

The total fertility rate has lowered to 1.6 children per woman from about 2 children per woman.

According to Civil Registration Organization's report, the total fertility rate in Iranian





MAY 5, 2025

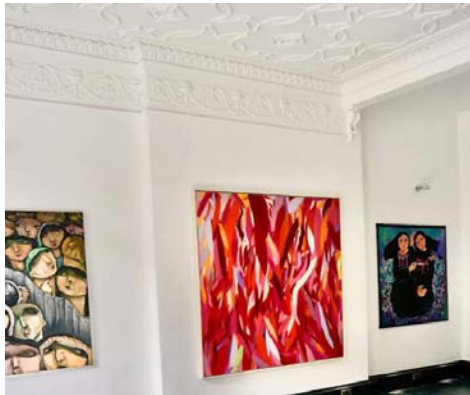
## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Failures are often the results of timidity and fears; disappointments are the results of bashfulness; hours of leisure pass away like summer-clouds, therefore, do not waste opportunity of doing good.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:14 Dawn: 3:32 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:07 (tomorrow)

## Palestine art to go on show in Scotland



Palestine Museum Scotland at 13A Dundas Street, Edinburgh.

Palestine Museum Scotland is set to open on May 17 in Edinburgh. It will be the first museum dedicated to contemporary Palestinian art in Europe.

The new museum, in the New Town will occupy a roughly 1,100-square-foot space in an 1810 building on Dundas Street, formerly the Arusha Gallery, the Edinburgh Reporter reported.

It will be part of the Palestine Museum US, founded by Palestinian American businessman Faisal Saleh. Located in Woodbridge, Connecticut, which opened its doors in 2018, becoming the first in the Americas devoted to Palestinian art.

Saleh was born in El-Bireh (Ramallah), to a refugee family from the pre-1948 Palestinian village of Salameh (Jaffa). Arriving in the United States in 1969 at age 17, he earned a BA in economics and an MBA in business management and founded several companies.

"We chose Scotland as the first European location for our museum expansion because of the strong support provided by the Palestine solidarity movement.

Many Scottish volunteers have stepped forward to welcome our new presence and offer to help manage and promote our program-

ming. We are grateful for this support and look forward to collaborating with Scottish artists and cultural organizations," Saleh said.

"Palestinian artists have long faced challenges in exhibiting their works in the Western world.

We are determined to tell the Palestinian story to a global audience. If that means creating our own museums to do so, then so be it," he added.

Saleh hopes the museum will challenge dominant narratives and showcase the rich cultural heritage of Palestine. He also believes the museum is "crucial in the face of Western media's persistent negative coverage of Palestine and the alarming cancellations of Palestinian events".

The first show will feature Palestinian art of the past decade in a variety of media by artists from different generations.

This includes 81-year-old Nabil Anani, who is regarded as a key founder of the contemporary Palestinian art movement, Sana Farah Bishara, a Nazareth-born sculptor based in Haifa, and Samia Halaby, who won a special mention at last year's Venice Biennale. Recent works by Gaza-based artists, among them Mohammed Alhaj and Maisara Baroud will also be shown.

"It is heartwarming to experience the Scottish hospitality. Edinburgh, with its rich cultural heritage and international art scene, is the perfect location for our expansion.

The city's August festivals provides a unique opportunity to showcase Palestinian arts and culture to a global audience," Saleh noted.

"We believe that our presence in Edinburgh will not only promote Palestinian arts and culture but also contribute to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Palestinian narrative.

We look forward to working with our Scottish partners and friends to make this vision a reality," her asserted.

## Cartoon of Day



Many Ways to Die in Gaza

**Cartoonist:** Ahmad Qaddura from Sweden

# “Melodies of the East” concert highlights Iran-Japan cultural ties

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- The “Melodies of the East” concert, a cultural event featuring the collaborative artistry of renowned Iranian musician Keivan Saket and Japanese violinist Nagayo Tsumuzi, was held on Saturday at the Japan's Embassy in Tehran.

The event, attended by foreign ambassadors and Iranian cultural officials and artists, underscored the deep-rooted cultural exchange between Iran and Japan.

The event commenced with remarks from Adachi Hideaki, the Minister Plenipotentiary of the Japanese Embassy in Iran.

Adachi emphasized the concert as a testament to the ongoing musical cooperation between the two nations, tracing the history of such exchanges back an impressive 1300 years to Japan's Nara period. He cited the presence of Iranian Sassanid artifacts, including the ancient Barbat instrument, in a collection in Nara Prefecture as historical evidence of this enduring connection via the Silk Road.

He also expressed hope for continued joint musical performances in 2029, which will mark the centenary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Japan.

Keivan Saket, the acclaimed Iranian tar and setar virtuoso, shared his intention to perform his composition “Afsoos” (Regret). He revealed that while the piece has been performed globally with various orchestras, its performance on this occasion held particular significance.

He dedicated the musical piece to the victims of the recent tragic



incident in Bandar Abbas, as well as to the victims of the historical atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, highlighting the shared human experience of loss and resilience.

“Given that we are all saddened by the tragic disaster in Bandar Abbas, I will dedicate this piece to the innocent victims of Bandar Abbas, as well as the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.”

For his part, Tsumuzi spoke about his first visit to Iran. He explained that he is in the country to record a new music video with the support of Iran's Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

Tsumuzi expressed his gratitude to the Iranian Ambassador to Japan, Peyman Sa'adat, who facilitated his trip.

Inspired by online images and the beauty of Isfahan, Tsumuzi revealed he composed a piece titled

“Cloudy Isfahan,” for which he is currently filming a music video. He also plans to record a video for his piece “Caravan,” inspired by a desert caravanserai.

The Japanese violinist lauded the assistance of the Art Bureau and the Iranian Ambassador in fulfilling his long-held wish to visit Iran.

He also recounted his recent six-day journey with a six-person mixed Iranian and Japanese group to the cities of Tehran, Isfahan, Kashan, Varzaneh, and Shiraz.

He highlighted the successful collaboration during the video filming process, stating that the group overcame national differences to complete their work. He emphasized how the journey deepened their mutual understanding of history and culture, leading him to believe that “countries with deep history get along better,” positioning Iran and Japan as potential partners due to their ancient heritage.

He also spoke of the “amazing” sense of “Japan-friendliness” he encountered, with people eager to take photos with him. This positive image and the friendly relations between the two countries were a source of pleasure, and he vowed to further expand these ties and return to experience “parallel hospitality.”

The concert presented a repertoire of ten musical pieces, jointly composed by Saket and Tsumuzi. They were accompanied by a group of Iranian musicians including daf player and percussionist Negar E'zazi, tonbak player Siavash Saket, cellist Raha Sajedi, and pianist Parizad Zeyghami.

The concert concluded with a symbolic performance of the national anthem of Japan and the beloved Iranian piece “Ey Iran” (“O Iran”), highlighting the unity and friendship between the two nations through the universal language of music.

## Iran-France joint play “Hope” performed in Clermont-Ferrand



TEHRAN-A joint theater production from Iran and France titled “Hope” (“L'espoir” in French) was recently performed in Clermont-Ferrand, France.

According to the media and publicity consultant of the play Sara Haddadi, the project was created

with the goal of exploring lived intercultural cooperation through the performing arts, bringing together young artists from both countries. The performance is about hope, the hope of rebuilding, the victory of light over darkness.

The production process included two in-person workshops in Tehran and Clermont-Ferrand, joint online sessions, and finally, a concluding workshop where participants transformed their rehearsals and intellectual exchanges into a shared stage performance.

This intercultural piece was performed in French, Persian, English, and Chinese in late April. “Hope” was designed in an episodic format,

incorporating a variety of performance styles such as documentary theater, object theater, movement, singing, and more.

The directors of the piece are Neda Shahrokhi from Iran and Yassaman Khajehi from France. Vocal coaching was provided by Hasmik Karapetyan, and the performers from both countries include Agathe Combettes, Elie Mpiana, Elina Naseri, Emil Amirian, Parmis Hamrahi, Romina Mohseni Far, Setareh Satari, Saba Mohammadi, Matin Mohammadhoseini, Maryam Dashtabadi, Noora Mahmoodi, Hanita Delfani, Jeanne Rondeau, Joséphine Vergé, Julie Huckel, Julie Robert, Lea Peguy, Pauline Cottin, Qiuhan Tu, and Romain Poyer.

## Book on first Somali-American Muslim woman elected to U.S. Congress published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book “This Is What America Looks Like” by Ilhan Omar and Rebecca Paley has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Sepideh Ashrafi has translated the book and Maaref Publication has brought it out in 184 pages, ILNA reported.

The book is the origin story of Ilhan Omar, a leader who, finding no set path that would take a person like her to the places she wanted to go, was forced, and free, to chart her own. It is an intimate and rousing memoir by progressive trail-blazer Ilhan Omar, the first African refugee, the first Somali-American, and one of the first Muslim women, elected to Congress.

Ilhan Omar, 42, is an American politician serving as the U.S. representative for Minnesota's 5th congressional district since 2019. She is a member of the Democratic Party. Before her election to Congress, Omar served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2017 to 2019, representing part of Minneapolis. Her congressional district includes all of Minneapolis and some of its first-ring suburbs.

A frequent critic of Israel, Omar supports the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and has denounced Israel's settlement policies and military campaigns in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as the influence of pro-Israel lobbies in American politics.

Omar has been the target of derogatory comments from political opponents, including U.S. President Donald Trump, and has received several death threats.

She was only eight years old when war broke out in Somalia. The youngest of seven children,

her mother had died while Ilhan was still a little girl. She was being raised by her father and grandfather when armed gunmen attacked their compound. The house took direct hits, food became scarce and 350,000 died in the first year of the conflict. The family decided to flee Mogadishu.

They fled to Kenya, where they faced malaria, dysentery, and near starvation. The family survived in a refugee camp for 334,000 people. Her father discovered that they could apply through the United Nations to go to Norway, Canada, Sweden, or the US.

Miraculously, a year after their first interview they were allowed to apply for America. Four years later, after a painstaking vetting process, her family achieved refugee status and arrived in Arlington, Virginia, where the combative Ilhan spent most of her time in detention. But then she decided, she writes, “that my education was the one element of my life I had full control over, and given the long hours of studying in detention”, by the time they moved on to Minnesota, she “had become a very good student”.

Aged 12, penniless, speaking only Somali and having missed out on years of schooling, Ilhan rolled up her sleeves, determined to find her American dream. Faced with the many challenges of being an immigrant and a refugee, she questioned stereotypes and built bridges with her classmates and in her community.

Her next stop was North Dakota State University, after a friend told her it was searching for students, offering scholarships and a “very low cost of living”. Back in Minneapolis after graduation, she immersed herself in the Democratic Farmer-Labor party, first working to defeat ballot



initiatives to require photo IDs for voters and to outlaw gay marriage.

She figured out a winning narrative: both were threats to freedom and civil liberties, a message that worked with communities of color and white rural Minnesotans. No anti-marriage equality initiative had ever been beaten until then – the same year Barack Obama was elected president.

Omar was elected to the state legislature in 2016, then to the US Congress in 2018, as one of the first two Muslim women in the House. She feared she would be banned from the House floor by an ancient rule barring hat, which would have prevented her wearing her hijab. Nancy Pelosi fixed the rule.