



With special issue

77 Years of Resistance Against Nakba

Transcending the mistakes of the past

By Mostafa Kamal

CAIRO - Within the context of the decades-long Arab-Israeli conflict, the 1948 war-later known as the Nakba-stands as the most tragic and consequential starting point in the modern history of the Middle East. This war marked the foundational moment for the establishment of the State of Israel, but it also represented a profound, ongoing tragedy for the Palestinian people, leaving strategic, political, and social consequences that persist to this day.

While the 1948 Nakba is still bleeding, Gaza is facing a second Nakba

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN - May 15, 2025, marks the 77th anniversary of the Nakba, a catastrophe that forcibly uprooted over 750,000 Palestinians and erased more than 500 villages in 1948. However, this tragedy is not limited to the past; it continues to reverberate in the present, particularly in Gaza.

Remembering Nakba: cinematic stories of displacement, hope

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN - Since 1948, when the United Nations officially recognized the state of Israel, the issue of land seizure and the displacement of Palestinian inhabitants has remained a central and tragic theme.

Tehran International Book Fair helping create cultural connections among nations

By Mohamadreza Seyedagha

TEHRAN-The 36th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), one of the largest cultural events in the West Asia, is currently underway at Imam Khomeini Mosalla in Tehran.

This year's fair features participation from approximately 2,400 domestic publishers and 600 international publishers from various countries, offering books in multiple languages such as English, Arabic, Spanish, Turkish, and Russian among others.

Midway through the fair, the Tehran Times interviewed foreign participants and discussed various topics related to books. ▶ Page 8

Mortopolitics: a book in progress

By Kurosh Alyani

TEHRAN - What you are reading is an excerpt from Kurosh Alyani's unpublished book about Israel's war on the people of Gaza. In this book, which is scheduled to be published in Persian in the coming months, the author presents a theoretical account of this deeply unequal—and yet in many ways unprecedented—war.

Palestinians resisting another Nakba

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Why the resilience of Palestinians will prevent another Nakba amid unprecedented war crimes in Gaza.

Despite enduring a brutal Israeli genocide, Palestinians are refusing to let history be rewritten; they will not allow the Nakba to be erased from memory or repeated without resistance.

Palestine's ongoing Nakba

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — The Nakba in Palestine in 1948 marked a turning point in West Asia. It was no less dangerous than what happened at the end of World War I, particularly for the Islamic Ummah, as the Zionist entity was established to serve global imperialism.

After overthrowing the army of Muhammad Ali Pasha (ruler of Egypt from 1805 to 1848), British Foreign Secretary Henry Palmerston (1784-1865) recommended the establishment of a human barrier separating the Maghreb from the Levant.

▶ Page 4-5

Trump's West Asia tour spurs more distrust with Iran after 'deceptive' comments

TEHRAN - U.S. President Donald Trump's pronouncements on Iran during his ongoing West Asia tour have so far done little to help him advance a nuclear deal with the country, with Iran's foreign minister taking to the public stage on Tuesday to call out the president's "deception" and dishonesty.

Trump visited Riyadh on Tuesday before heading to Doha, Qatar. His next stop is the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he is expected to secure similar investment deals from the Persian Gulf state as he did in the two other capitals.

So far during his trip, when not signing economic cooperation deals ensuring billions of dollars from Arab rulers, Trump has been answering questions posed by journalists or speaking in forums. Part of his statements have focused on Iran and the indirect negotiations he has been holding with the country since early April. ▶ Page 2

Iran, E3 to convene in Istanbul for nuclear talks

TEHRAN - Iran and the European trio of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (E3) are set to hold a new round of nuclear negotiations in Istanbul on Friday, amid heightened warnings from Tehran that triggering UN sanctions through the 2015 nuclear deal's "snapback mechanism" could lead to irreversible consequences.

Esmail Baqaei, spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, announced on Wednesday that deputy foreign ministers from Iran and the E3 will meet in Istanbul to discuss ongoing nuclear diplomacy, including indirect U.S.-Iran talks.

"This meeting, planned for Friday, aims to continue consultations with the E3 on key issues, including the nuclear agreement and regional developments," Baqaei stated.

Earlier on the same day, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reiterated Iran's readiness to engage with Europe but criticized the E3's approach, speaking to reporters after a cabinet meeting.

"We are prepared to negotiate, but unfortunately, Europe has isolated itself through its own policies," he said, adding that the Istanbul meeting represents a "fragile yet promising step" toward reviving diplomacy.

The talks come after multiple delays. A previous round of Iran-E3 negotiations, initially scheduled for early May in Rome, was postponed reportedly due to shifting timelines in U.S.-Iran indirect talks. ▶ Page 2

Iran's envoy in Oman: private sector well-positioned to enter Omani market

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Oman Mousa Farhang says the Arab country's economic ecosystem is favorable for Iranian private sector companies, encouraging firms to begin with smaller-scale projects to establish a foothold in the Omani market.

During a visit to the Tehran Chamber of Commerce pavilion at the Oman Oil and Energy Exhibition, Farhang met with Iranian business representatives and company delegates, expressing optimism about Oman's potential as a destination for Iranian private investment.

"The Omani market is open and welcoming, especially for private Iranian firms. It's not necessary to start with large-scale projects; even small collaborations can lead to meaningful long-term partnerships," Farhang said, according to a statement from the Tehran Chamber of Commerce.

Saeed Tajik, head of the Tehran Chamber's delegation to the exhibition, highlighted the chamber's commitment to supporting exporters and attracting foreign investment. He urged Iran's embassy in Oman to continue facilitating private sector engagement. ▶ Page 6



Resistance against Israeli crimes a universal duty: Leader

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei condemned relentless Israeli crimes in the region during a Tuesday meeting, stating that standing against the regime's heinous acts is a duty that falls upon everyone around the world.

The Leader was meeting with a group of Iranian aid workers and organizers of the National Congress of Medic Martyrs. During the meeting, he also emphasized the need to promote Iran's culture of martyrdom and self-sacrifice to counter Western influence.

Ayatollah Khamenei described the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza as the antithesis of humanitarian values, stating, "The opposite of the Iranian people's spirit of sacrifice is the crimes and savagery of the Zionist regime in Gaza and the West's support for it." He declared that standing against this "front of falsehood" is an obligation for all. ▶ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Joint nuclear cooperation fills the gap in the JCPOA

In an interview with Seyyed Sajjad Tabatabaei, Farhikhtegan discussed Iran's purported proposal to form a joint nuclear consortium with the Persian Gulf countries. He said: One of Iran's proposals at the negotiating table to prove the peaceful nature of its nuclear program is to form a joint nuclear consortium with the Persian Gulf Arab countries, meaning that some of these countries would supervise the uranium enrichment process on Iranian soil.

The main goal is to create trust over Iran's nuclear program, strengthen friendship between Iran and regional Arab countries, create a ground for common interests, and pave the way for close economic and political cooperation. When the JCPOA was signed, some Arab countries found themselves sidelined and played destructive roles to kill the agreement. In some cases, they even considered the JCPOA a threat to their interests.

Now, the new idea seeks to prevent any excuses and create a common interest with regional Arab countries.

Shargh: Why is the European trio threatening to activate snapback mechanism?

Shargh analyzed a threat by the European troika to activate the snapback mechanism, which would return the UN Security Council sanctions against Iran. It wrote: Araghchi's warning to the European troika indicates the sensitivity of the current moment in Iran-Europe relations.

While negotiations between Tehran and Washington are underway, the troika is playing a dangerous diplomatic game by threatening to activate the snapback mechanism. Perhaps, from one point of view, Washington is seeking to divide tasks with Europe or the White House is not reluctant to intensify pressure on Tehran by keeping the lever of the snapback mechanism in Europe's hands. This approach could lead to the collapse of the JCPOA and an escalation of regional tensions. The future of Iran-Europe relations and even stability in the region are dependent on the decisions at this critical moment.

Europe faces several challenges in this diplomatic game. First, the risk of diplomatic isolation if Russia and China oppose activating the snapback mechanism. Second, the weakening of Europe's position in the nuclear negotiations, because activating the snapback could force Iran to change the nature of its nuclear program, as Araghchi had previously warned.

Iran will only accept a fair agreement in nuclear talks with US, lawmakers say

TEHRAN – Iranian parliamentarians have reaffirmed that the nation will only accept an equitable agreement concerning its peaceful nuclear activities and the removal of illegitimate American sanctions.

In a Wednesday declaration, lawmakers emphasized Iran's principled engagement in indirect talks with the U.S., seeing it as another chance for the U.S. to prove its sincerity to the world.

The statement asserted that Iran will only consent to a just resolution that fully secures its rights under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and IAEA Statute, alongside the complete end of oppressive and illegal U.S. sanctions. The Parliament's Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions will steer Iranian negotiators.

Arman-e-Melli: Trump in the Middle East

Arman-e-Melli analyzed Trump's trip to the Middle East and wrote: Many Middle East analysts believe that Trump's travel to the Middle East is not unrelated to the process of Tehran-Washington negotiations. This is while other issues, such as regional security, energy, defense, and economic cooperation, are at the top of Trump's agenda in meetings with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf countries. The White House has shown that, given the rapid international developments, it is trying to strengthen its strategic cooperation with its partners in the region. Some rumors indicate that the U.S. president will propose plans to end the Gaza war during this trip. The White House's actions in this context could include the formation of an interim government and new security arrangements for Gaza after the war, paving the way for the resumption of normalization talks. The U.S. president had a secret meeting with Israel's strategic minister to discuss the Gaza war and nuclear talks with Iran. Given the ongoing negotiations with Iran and the huge contracts in the Middle East, it seems that we should wait for the end of the Gaza war.

Donya-e-Eqtesad: Both countries want an agreement

Donya-e-Eqtesad devoted its editorial to the desire of Iran and the U.S. for an agreement and the obstacles ahead. The paper said: It seems that two driving forces in both Iran and the U.S. are pushing the two sides towards negotiations and an agreement. On the U.S. side, the main issue is containing China, and on the Iranian side, the economic crisis. When the two driving forces move the sides towards an agreement, the possibility of an agreement increases. Of course, the U.S. will want an agreement that allows American companies to invest in profitable sectors in Iran. Some forces are interested in preventing an agreement between Iran and the U.S. The first and most important opposition force is Israel and the Israeli lobbies, along with extremists and warmongers inside the United States. In Iran, extremists and those who benefit from the sanctions are also not interested in seeing the negotiations come to fruition. But if an agreement is reached, Iran must be prepared to engage with the world and investors interested in investing in Iran. Therefore, as the negotiations progress and possible results are achieved, plans must be made to create the capacity to attract investors.

Trump's West Asia tour spurs more distrust with Iran after 'deceptive' comments

From page 1 ▶ Speaking at an investment forum in Riyadh, Trump called Iran the "biggest and most destructive" force in West Asia, before proceeding to make fun of the economic woes of its population of 90 million caused by debilitating and unabating U.S. sanctions in the past four and a half decades. The sanctions were lifted for a while during the 2010s after Tehran signed a deal that limited its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, but Trump scrapped that pact during his first term in office and brought back the embargoes.

"Iran's decades of neglect and mismanagement have left the country plagued by rolling blackouts lasting for hours a day," Trump said, before claiming that "Iran's leaders have managed to turn green farmland into dry deserts, as their corrupt water mafia -- it's called the water mafia, causes droughts and empty riverbeds." Trump's statement omitted the fact that U.S. sanctions have severely restricted Iran's access to international drought relief and



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks at the Saudi-U.S. Investment Forum, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, May 13, 2025.

hampered its ability to produce and purchase electricity.

On the sidelines of a cabinet meeting in Tehran, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, "It is the U.S. that has prevented the progress of the Iranian nation through its own sanctions over the past forty-odd years, with its own pressures, and with military and civilian threats.

"The one responsible for the economic problems is the U.S. and the arrogant policies it has imposed on the Iranian people, demanding a dependent and obedient system, which is in contradiction to the dignity of the Iranian people," he added.

Araghchi also questioned how Trump has the audacity to call Iran a "destructive" force in the re-

gion in the face of heinous Israeli crimes in the past two years. "The U.S. President has ignored all of Israel's crimes in the region and is seeking to portray Iran as a threat; this is pure deception and a reversal of the source of threats," he said. "Who has caused this much destruction in Gaza? Which regime attacks the areas surrounding Palestine, including Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen? The extent of the occupation carried out by the Zionist regime in Syria in recent months is greater than the entire area of Gaza," Araghchi added.

Iran and the U.S. have held four rounds of indirect talks to reach an agreement on Tehran's nuclear program and are currently scheduling a fifth one. Trump told both Saudi and Qatari officials that he desires a deal with Iran, but made sure to couple that with threats of "maximum pressure" or unspecified "bad" consequences. To date, the president's presence in West Asia has not appeared to significantly facilitate progress towards this deal.

Iran, E3 to convene in Istanbul for nuclear talks



From page 1 ▶ Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs, described earlier discussions with the E3 as "open and constructive" in a statement in January, emphasizing that Tehran had raised issues such as sanctions relief, nuclear cooperation, and Europe's "unacceptable support for Israeli crimes in Gaza."

Iran's warning on snapback

Araghchi issued a stark warning to European powers on Sunday, stating that any attempt to invoke the snapback mechanism under UN Resolution 2231 would mark the "end of Europe's role in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)" and risk "irreversible tensions."

His post was part of a longer op-ed for Le Point, in which he wrote: "We have officially warned all JCPOA signatories that abusing the snapback mechanism will lead to consequences—not only terminating Europe's role in the deal but escalating tensions beyond repair."

Iran maintains that Europe's apparent eagerness to trigger snapback—despite the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018—reflects bad faith and undermines Tehran's compliance efforts.

From Tehran's perspective, re-imposing sanctions would sabotage diplomatic channels and cement Europe's alignment with U.S. "maximum pressure" tactics.

Particularly with Iran's recent ex-

perience with Europe—when bold promises to alleviate its economic hardships and shield its adherence to international commitments fell short—Tehran steadfastly continued its JCPOA commitments even as Trump unilaterally exited the deal and imposed crippling sanctions in his first term.

Although the E3 loudly vowed to "save" the agreement and play a constructive role, their actions ultimately mirrored the unhelpful actions of the U.S.

Europe's strategic confusion and sidelining

While Iran has consistently sought to reengage with Europe, the E3's role has diminished amid Washington's unilateral diplomacy.

European frustration peaked in April when the U.S. began indirect talks with Iran in Oman without consulting its allies, despite their pivotal role in enforcing sanctions.

Meanwhile, Araghchi has repeatedly emphasized Tehran's willingness to rebuild ties, including offers to visit Paris, Berlin, and London. "We do not seek to exclude Europe. Global understanding, including IAEA oversight, remains

key," he stated.

Iran has expanded its diplomatic outreach, consulting with Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar on the nuclear issue, thus, it is not Iran that chose to sideline and exclude Europe.

The Europe-Grossi nexus

Meanwhile, criticism of IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi has intensified in Tehran. Iranian officials have noted that Grossi has politicized the agency's mandate by making unverified statements, such as his recent claim that Iran is "capable of developing six to seven nuclear bombs."

The Tehran Times previously revealed that the E3 has pledged support for Grossi's bid to become the next UN Secretary-General in exchange for him going along with Europe's punitive agenda regarding Iran.

Sources suggest Grossi's acts aim to justify a forthcoming report that could enable the E3 to trigger snapback sanctions—something that derails diplomacy and undermines the prospects for genuine, balanced dialogue with Tehran.

IRGC chief says Iran ready for 'any scenario'

TEHRAN – The commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), Major General Hossein Salami, declared that Iran stands fully prepared for any scenario and vowed that any aggressor would be "shattered."

Speaking at a Tuesday gathering in Iran's northeastern Mashhad, Salami emphasized that Tehran is vigilantly tracking its adversaries while maintaining an unyielding stance, even as indirect nuclear negotiations continue.

"We know the enemy completely and are monitoring its movements. Even now, as political contacts and negotiations are underway, we stand with grandeur and firmness, and whoever dares to engage with Iran will be shattered," he declared.

The commander's comments come amid repeated U.S. threats of military action should indirect nuclear talks with Iran fail to produce outcomes that serve their interests.

Yet, Salami projected confidence, highlighting Iran's bolstered military capabilities. "Iran's power has developed many times over since last year," he stated, adding that this growth is evident to the nation's foes.

Resistance's resilience shines through

Salami dismissed claims that the Resistance Front has been diminished by Israeli aggression. Instead, he pointed to recent developments as proof of its enduring strength.

"The enemies believed that the Resistance Front had been weakened, but they have seen that Gaza has grown stronger. Yemen is now striking more effectively with missiles, and Hezbollah has restored its power," he said.

A striking example of this resilience emerged this week when Yemen's Ansarallah movement launched a hypersonic ballistic missile at Ben

Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv on Wednesday. The attack, conducted in solidarity with Palestinians amid Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza, entered the occupied territories, forcing millions of Israelis into shelters and suspending air traffic for nearly an hour.

Similarly, on May 4, Yemen's Armed Forces directly struck Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport after the regime's air defense systems—including Arrow and THAAD—failed to intercept an advanced missile.

Since late 2023, the Yemeni Armed Forces have targeted the Israeli regime in response to its military campaign in Gaza, which has so far killed over 61,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

Despite aggressive U.S. military operations under the Trump administration aimed at "eliminating the Houthis [Ansarallah]"—including a direct strike campaign lasting over a month—the group has endured, downing U.S. Reaper drones and sustaining pressure on the Israeli regime. Salami pointed to Israel's vulnerability and questioned the regime's capacity to endure a larger onslaught. "Those who could not even withstand a single missile from Yemen's Ansarullah, what will they do if they are faced with 600 missiles at once?" he remarked.

The IRGC chief painted a grim picture of the regime's future. "Agitated and incensed, there is no bright horizon for it," he said, noting that the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is a convicted war criminal haunted by the specter of arrest.

"Politically, Israel has completely collapsed, and even Europe is unwilling to maintain proper political relations with it. Economically, they are disintegrated, and without U.S. assistance, they wouldn't last a day," he added.



IRGC Commander-in-Chief Major General Hossein Salami

The U.S. waning power

Salami reserved equally sharp criticism for the United States, describing it as a nation in disarray.

"The U.S. knows engaging in wars has not resolved any of its problems; it is facing a decayed and exhausted military, beleaguered and powerless political leaders, and an overwhelming array of crises and challenges," he asserted.

He further argued that changes in U.S. leadership, including Trump's tenure, have done little to reverse this trajectory.

"The president of the United States initially came in like a bully to change the world, but now he is the one being changed and has failed in and retreated from all his plans," Salami remarked.

Analysts note that Trump has struggled to deliver on key promises in his first 100 days, with efforts to end the Ukraine war, reform the economy, adjust tariffs, and address West Asian conflicts meeting significant setbacks or outright failure.



Brigadier General Esmail Qaani (R), commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), met with Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim Mohammad Jalal al-Araji in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, on May 14, 2025.



Resistance against Israeli crimes a universal duty: Leader

From Page 1 ▶ So far, during its deadly military campaign in the besieged enclave, Israel has massacred over 60,000 civilians, razed the territory to the ground, and rolled out plans to forcefully displace the remaining war-stricken population.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei said: “Today, the world is run by these human-like beasts,” referring to Israeli leaders and their Western backers. He stated that the main problem Western oppressors have with the Islamic Republic is its rejection of their false civilization, saying: “Falsehood is doomed to decline and destruction. However, achieving this requires action and steadfastness, while avoiding passivity, retreat, smiling at falsehood, or praising it, as these only empower it.”

The Leader stressed the im-



portance of cultural efforts to immortalize Iran’s martyrs, particularly medics who sacrificed their lives during Saddam Hussein’s brutal invasion of Iran.

“Medics, under a hail of bullets, were only thinking of saving others, not themselves. Their astonishing spirit of sacrifice was such that they sometimes even helped

wounded enemy prisoners. This behavior stands in stark contrast to a world devoid of humanity.”

He further added: “The selfless efforts of doctors and nurses in field hospitals near the frontlines during the Sacred Defense cannot be described except through the language of art.”

Criticizing the failure to properly introduce the great achievements of the Iranian people to the world, the Leader of the Revolution said: “While some countries with no history or heroes artificially create and heavily promote fake heroes, we must introduce our real heroes and make them part of public culture. This will demonstrate that rescue and aid are Islamic and humanitarian duties that must be perpetuated across all generations.”

The Leader of the Revolution highlighted that the entry of motivated and innovative youth into various fields—such as industry, politics, construction, literature, and art—has been the driving force behind current advancements. He added: “With the presence of determined and highly motivated youth, nothing is impossible in this country.”

Muslim unity essential to ending Israeli occupation in Gaza: Iran Parliament speaker



Parliament Speaker Qalibaf at the 19th PUIC summit in Jakarta on May 14, 2025

TEHRAN – Speaking at the 19th Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) summit in Jakarta on Wednesday, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf called on Islamic nations to take unified and decisive action against Israel, urging immediate political, economic, and military sanctions in response to the ongoing siege of Gaza and alleged crimes committed by the Israeli regime.

“It is time for Islamic countries to make a collective and resolute decision to end the blockade,” Qalibaf said, emphasizing that the international community can no longer remain silent in the face of what he described as war crimes, genocide, and apartheid.

Qalibaf called for the recognition of these crimes by Islamic states and demanded that the leaders of Israel be brought before international courts of justice. He said Israel’s actions must be confronted through coordinated pressure from the Islamic world.

Qalibaf condemned recent remarks by the U.S. President Don-

ald Trump as “delusional,” and reaffirmed Iran’s commitment to resistance against Zionist aggression and foreign interference in the region.

“Trump remains lost in delusion,” Qalibaf declared. “He should open his eyes to the undeniable reality that Resistance is not only surviving—it is thriving, firmly rooted in the beliefs of nations across the region.”

Qalibaf noted that support for Palestinian Resistance groups remains strong in both Gaza and the West Bank despite over a year and a half of sustained bombardment by Israel. He further pointed to Lebanon’s recent municipal elections, in which candidates affiliated with the Resistance movement won decisively, despite immense economic and political pressures.

“The people of this region are no longer swayed by threats or propaganda,” he said. “They have chosen the path of resistance.”

‘Iran does not seek nuclear arms or war’

In his remarks, Qalibaf also reiterated Iran’s official stance on

nuclear weapons, emphasizing that Tehran has never pursued nuclear arms and continues to advocate for regional peace through dialogue and cooperation.

“Iran does not seek war—but we will never accept surrender either,” he said. “We believe in fraternal relations with our neighbors and categorically reject any attempt by the U.S. to stir division for the sake of boosting its arms industry.”

He described Washington’s long-running “maximum pressure” policy against Iran as a failure, adding that the Islamic Revolution’s message of resistance has now reached American universities, where student protests in solidarity with Palestine have led to expulsions and budget cuts.

“Despite all efforts to isolate us, Iran stands more resilient than ever,” Qalibaf said.

‘Iran-Saudi cooperation vital to ending Palestinian crisis’

On the sidelines of the PUIC summit, Qalibaf held a series of high-profile meetings with his counterparts from other Islamic countries—chief among them, a significant bilateral discussion with Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Al-Sheikh, Speaker of the Saudi Shura Council.

During their meeting, Qalibaf emphasized that progress in the Islamic world depends heavily on the cooperation of Iran and Saudi Arabia. “The necessary channels of communication between our two nations have been restored, and this opportunity must be seized to confront the shared

challenges of the Muslim world,” he said.

He also praised Saudi Arabia for facilitating this year’s Hajj arrangements and called for expanding bilateral ties in political, cultural, and economic domains. “If Islamic nations—especially Iran and Saudi Arabia—stand united over Gaza, we can move closer to resolving the Palestinian issue,” Qalibaf stated.

For his part, the Saudi Speaker described the situation in Gaza as “heart-wrenching,” saying the suffering of Palestinians under siege affects the entire Muslim world. “This is not just about Gaza—it is about all of Palestine. No human being could endure such injustice,” Al-Al-Sheikh said, calling for pragmatic cooperation and frequent engagement between Islamic states.

Qalibaf also met with Ibrahim Boughali, Speaker of the Algerian Parliament, and Khalid bin Hilal bin Nasser Al-Maawali, Speaker of the Omani Parliament. These talks focused on enhancing parliamentary collaboration, supporting the Palestinian cause, and strengthening unity within the Islamic world.

The 19th PUIC Conference, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the Union’s establishment, brought together parliamentary delegations from 38 Islamic countries under the theme “Good Governance and Strong Institutions as Pillars of Resilience.” Held from May 11 to 14 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the summit served as a critical forum for addressing the Gaza crisis and fostering strategic cooperation among Muslim nations.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) meets with Japan's Senior Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroyuki Namazu in Tehran on May 13, 2025.

and international issues, adding that enhanced coordination between the two countries could contribute positively to peace and stability in Asia and the broader international community.

Bilateral relations between the countries were further under-

scored in 2019 when the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a historic visit to Tehran.

The visit, the first by a sitting Japanese premier in nearly 40 years, was part of efforts to mediate resolution of standing issues in the West Asia region.

PGPL final week promises excitement rivalry

TEHRAN – The 24th edition of the Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) has reached its dramatic conclusion, with the final Matchday 30 set to take place this Thursday.

While the identity of the champions and relegated teams has already been decided, the final week promises excitement in the battle for the coveted AFC Champions League Elite spots and the Golden Boot race.

Tractor, under the guidance of Croatian coach Dragan Skocic, have clinched their maiden PGPL title in commanding fashion. The Tabriz-based club’s dominant performance throughout the season ensured they could celebrate their historic achievement without pressure in the final two weeks. Tractor will travel to Ahvaz to face Esteghlal Khuzestan in their final fixture, a match that will serve as a celebratory occasion for their loyal fanbase.

At the other end of the table, Havadar and Nassaji have been relegated to the Iran Football League Division One – Azadegan League – bringing an end to their top-flight campaigns.

Intense battle for Asian Champions League qualification

The most compelling drama in the final week revolves around the fierce competition between Sepahan and Persepolis for a coveted spot in the AFC Champions League Elite. Persepolis will host the already-relegated Havadar in Tehran, while Sepahan will welcome Esteghlal to Isfahan.

Intriguingly, Esteghlal, the long-standing and fierce rivals of Persepolis, could inadvertently play a crucial role in determining Persepolis’s continental fate. This has led to a peculiar situation where some Esteghlal fans are reportedly hoping their team do not win or even draw against Sepahan, preferring their rivals miss out on the Champions League Elite and instead focus on their Hazfi Cup semi-final clash against Sanat Naft Abadan.

Sepahan, who were title contenders under the management of Patrice Carteron, now find themselves in a precarious position. A recent loss and a draw in their last two matches have jeopardized not only their chances of finishing as runners-up but also their qualification for the AFC Champions League Elite. Consequently, they will be desperate for a victory against Esteghlal on the final day.

The Golden Boot race also remains undecided, adding another layer of intrigue to the final week. Persepolis striker Ali Alipour and Tractor forward Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh are locked in a tight battle for the top scorer award, with both players currently sitting on 12 goals. The final matches will determine which of these prolific strikers will claim the prestigious Golden Boot.

Persian Gulf symbol to feature prominently in final matchday

In a show of unity and national pride, the Football League Organization of Iran, in collaboration with the clubs, has announced that the 30th week of the PGPL will prominently feature a symbol of the Persian Gulf.

This initiative aims to counter attempts to distort the historical name of the Persian Gulf. The Football League Organization has recommended that all PGPL teams take to the field with a symbol of the Persian Gulf in the final week. This collective action seeks to reiterate the Iranian football community’s social and national responsibility, echoing the sentiments of the Iranians worldwide in underscoring the internationally recognized name of the Persian Gulf.

Iran’s Mohammadi, wushu sanda rising star of the Year

TEHRAN – Iran’s Amir Hesam Mohammadi was recognized as the IWUF Wushu Sanda Rising Star of the Year.

He has been practicing wushu and competing for nine years in sanda events. In 2023 he won the sanda gold medal at the 11th Asian Junior Wushu Championships, and in 2024 he won the gold medal at the 9th World Junior Wushu Championships.

Amir Hesam has an exceptional talent in Wushu Sanda, having participated in two Asian Junior Wushu Championships, where he held gold medals in both events. Furthermore, at the 9th World Junior Wushu Championships in 2024, he demonstrated remarkable skill by completing one of his competitions in a single round and overcoming all professional competitors within two rounds.

He was recognized as the IWUF Wushu Sanda Rising Star of the Year and gained popularity with a global audience.

“I am absolutely thrilled to receive this title. It is a great honor to be recognized as a rising star by wushu enthusiasts worldwide, and I deeply appreciate the support and encouragement from fans across the globe,” he told International Wushu Federation (IWUF).

“Winning the gold medal was an incredibly meaningful achievement for me, as I dedicated a great deal of effort to it. This victory holds immense value in my journey as an athlete. I have no doubt that this success played a key role in my selection for the Rising Star award, as it demonstrated my commitment to the sport and resonated with my supporters,” he added.

“My primary goal for 2025 is to compete in the Asian Championships, where I aim to defend my title and secure another championship victory. I am fully committed to giving my best performance and achieving this important milestone.

Hossein Rezazadeh, a true Iranian hero: IWF

TEHRAN – Weightlifting symbolizes strength, and the super heavyweight category is often associated with the ‘strongest men’ on earth.

Lifters shining in this category are often elevated to a stardom status, both in the history of the sport and of their respective country. Hossein Rezazadeh, from Iran, is certainly a good example of this principle.

Born in 1978, he started to shine at the end of the 1990s, with one bronze medal at the 1998 Asian Games, the gold at the 1999 Asian Championships, and another third place at the 1999 World Championships.

Arrived in Sydney (AUS) for his first Games in 2000, Rezazadeh breaks the hegemony of Soviet/Russian lifters in the heaviest category, earning his Olympic title in 212.5-260-472.5.

It was the initial highlight of an outstanding career that would include another Olympic victory in Athens 2004 and four World wins, from 2002 to 2006. He triumphed also in the 2002 and 2006 editions of the Asian Games.

Moreover, the Iranian ace established six World Records during his career, with bests of 213kg in Snatch and 263.5kg in Clean & Jerk.

In 2008, before the Games in Beijing, he was advised by his medical team to stop weightlifting, and much to the surprise of his fans, he announced his retirement, iwfsport reported.

A true hero in his country, he was immediately invited to join the Iranian Weightlifting Federation as special advisor (then manager and coach) and initiated also a political career, namely as a member of Tehran’s City Council. Having won ‘Iran’s Sportsperson of the Year’ award on four occasions, he is the only athlete in his country to have achieved such an accolade.

Iran’s Hazfi Cup final to be held in Arak

TEHRAN – The final match of the 2024-25 Iran Hazfi Cup will be held in Arak’s Imam Khomeini Stadium on May 29.

On May 23, Gol Gohar will host Malavan in Sirjan, followed by Esteghlal facing Sanat Naft in Tehran on May 24.

Esteghlal are the most successful team in Hazfi Cup history, having won the title seven times.

Remembering Nakba: cinematic stories of displacement, hope



A scene from Iranian director Seifollah Dad's 1995 movie "The Survivor"

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN – Since 1948, when the United Nations officially recognized the state of Israel, the issue of land seizure and the displacement of Palestinian inhabitants has remained a central and tragic theme.

Over the past seventy-seven years, this ongoing catastrophe—known as the Nakba—has inspired countless works of literature, art, and film aimed at remembering and raising awareness about the Palestinian struggle.

Many remain unaware of the true depth of what happened to Palestine starting from 1948. It is often mistakenly believed that the tragedy only began on October 7, 2023, or in recent escalations. But the roots of this suffering stretch back to 1948—the year of the Nakba, a defining moment of dispossession and exile that set the stage for decades of resistance and resilience.

Despite the many media outlets addressing this history, art and storytelling often have a deeper emotional impact—evoking feelings and reflection that news reports alone cannot achieve.

In this context, films—especially narrative cinema—have a unique power to humanize this history. They create emotional connections, offering viewers a visceral experience of loss, displacement, and hope. Yet, surprisingly few films directly tackle the Palestinian Nakba. Most are produced outside Palestine, in neighboring countries, due to restrictions, censorship, and the complex political landscape that prevent filming within the occupied territories.

Among these rare films, Iranian director Seifollah Dad's 1995 prominent drama "The Survivor" stands out as a compelling portrayal of the Palestinian experience. It vividly captures the emotional and human toll of displacement, making the suffering accessible and personal.

"The Survivor" is notable for being one of the few films explicitly about the Nakba. It tells a deeply personal story, focusing on the emotional scars and memories of Palestinians who endured the catastrophe. What makes "The Survivor" particularly compelling is its approach to art and storytelling as acts of remembrance. The film becomes a form of resistance, a way to keep alive the memory of the Nakba in a world where mainstream Western media often neglect or marginalize this history.

It is not merely a documentary but a storytelling effort that aims to humanize the abstract concept of displacement. It underscores how art and literature serve as vital tools in memorializing struggles, fostering collective identity, and ensuring that the stories of those displaced are not erased.

The film is based on Palestinian author Ghassan Kanafani's novel "Returning to Haifa". The narrative is set against the backdrop of the 1948 events when Zionist militias, under the leadership of figures like Shimon (a character representing Israeli military authority), began forcibly evicting Palestinian residents from their homes.

The narrative follows a Palestinian doctor, his wife, and their newborn son Farhan. On the day of the invasion, the doctor is at work caring for patients, while his wife tends to their home

and baby. As violence escalates, the family's struggle for survival begins. The wife and husband attempt to reunite, but in the chaos, they are killed by Zionist forces outside their home. Their young son is left behind, captured and handed over to an Israeli couple, with Shimon overseeing the transfer—highlighting the systematic dispossession inflicted upon Palestinian families.

The doctor's mother, upon learning of his son's death, approaches the Zionist family to care for Farhan. She takes a job as a nanny in the former home of her son—now occupied by the Zionists. Meanwhile, the doctor's father secretly forms a group to oppose the Zionists. Ultimately, when Zionists plan to go to another city to carry out a massacre, the doctor's mother places a bomb suitcase, given to her by her husband, on a train. Holding Farhan in her arms, she jumps off the train as it explodes. The film concludes with images of her wounded figure and the crying Farhan.

Dad's "The Survivor" masterfully depicts what is happening to Palestine, conveying the ongoing tragedy not through visual spectacle but by imprinting it deeply into the viewer's mind. The film symbolizes the loss of the educated doctor's role in society, replaced by a helpless, defeated man—one who has no choice but being a part of the occupation. The angelic mother of Farhan is replaced by an exploitative woman. Yet, what remains constant are the figures of the doctor's mother and Farhan—symbols of homeland and hope.

Through symbolic imagery, the director powerfully communicates the suffering inflicted upon the oppressed Palestinians. The climax of this artistry is a scene where the doctor and his wife are murdered by Zionists in front of their house. They fall onto the ground, as if lying in a bed, but their bed is the soil of Palestine—blood spilling from their bodies onto this land. Doctor's mother, symbolizing the motherland, sacrifices herself to save Farhan—symbolizing hope and renewal—fighting the enemies of this land.

The film emphasizes that, despite the bloodshed and suffering inflicted by Zionist forces, they cannot destroy the spirit of homeland and hope. It becomes an allegory of resilience and resistance—proof that no matter how brutal the occupation, the essence of homeland and hope remains unbreakable.

Poetically capturing a moment of catastrophe, "The Survivor" presents this as not just history, but a living, breathing tragedy. The film's imagery is haunting, and its emotional depth stems from its focus on individual stories amid broader historical violence. It underscores the pain of loss, displacement, and the erasure of identity—emotions that continue to define Palestinian memory and resistance.

In a wider context, "The Survivor" exemplifies how art and cinema serve as vital tools for remembrance and activism. Western media and major international outlets, often overlook or marginalize the Palestinian narrative due to political pressures. Films like "The Survivor" challenge that silence, voicing the Palestinian experience and preserving its memory for future generations. The film becomes a form of resistance, a language of mourning, and a call for justice.

Mortopolitics: a book in progress



By Kurosh Alyani
Iranian cultural critic

TEHRAN – What you are reading is an excerpt from Kurosh Alyani's unpublished book about Israel's war on the people of Gaza. In this book, which is scheduled to be published in Persian in the coming months, the author presents a theoretical account of this deeply unequal—and yet in many ways unprecedented—war.

Not a novel: A timeline

Part of this book is a timeline that spans approximately 81 weeks, collecting and briefly describing events focused on Gaza and all matters related to Gaza and resistance.

A timeline of this kind is a carefully selected slice of life. Life itself is neither fair nor logical, and no fragment of it can claim to be either. Still, it's important to note: a timeline is not a novel. Of course, it is fragmented like a novel, it is unfair like a novel, and it is selective like a novel—but there are differences too.

A novel has a single author who is its absolute and sovereign force. This author does whatever is necessary to carry out the plan in their mind. They narrate and create everything needed to advance that plan. A timeline, on the other hand, has billions of human authors—and perhaps natural events could also be considered authors in another sense.

These authors, limited by the presence of others and by what we call "reality" or "the real world," cannot do whatever they please. Their plans are incomplete and constantly changing. In a novel, the author directs your gaze. They determine exactly where you look.

The person who selects and compiles the events in a timeline cannot direct your gaze the way a novelist can. You are not just following a clear, linear storyline;



you also have the ability to fact-check and explore beyond the timeline's frame.

That is also why a timeline quickly becomes boring. It lacks innovation. No matter how astonishing the events it contains may be, it soon falls into repetition and normalcy, dulling the reader's mind. A timeline is not a highly efficient, guided narrative with near-total impact.

It neither guides nor entertains—just like life itself, which offers no direction or amusement, but merely becomes the ground for awareness. It neither guides nor entertains—just like life itself, which offers no direction or amusement, but merely becomes the ground for awareness. To put it more simply—and in the spirit of clarity—the timeline is like a field in which you must labor to reap a harvest.

No one sows anything for you. If you plant attention like a seed, you will harvest. Surely, the text will regularly and eventually offer outcomes—but none of them will mean anything unless you've made the effort yourself.

A breach in time and space

Another part of this book presents an emerging theory called mortopolitics. In simple terms, this theory explores a system of domination that targets the body, health, life, and death of both individuals and society, aiming to bring all under its control.

October 7, 2023, Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, and the Gaza Strip are significant because they caused an irreparable rupture in this system of domination. The wall around Gaza was a physical barrier that was broken. But along with it, metaphorical

walls—those of time, structure, and capital—were also torn apart that day, in ways that cannot be ignored or repaired.

October 7 demonstrated that a temporal shift—from a besieged, disappearing Gaza to a liberated, agentive Gaza—is not impossible.

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood proved that all stolen capital—land, lives, faith, even intelligence—can be taken back or rebuilt. Nothing is locked away in vaults forever.

On that day, we, the Palestinians, and the Israelis all came to see that this system of domination does not have an impenetrable structure. Its militarism did not make it invincible, nor did its security systems or its various technologies, especially those related to information.

Inevitable pluralism

The morning of October 7 is the clearest moment in the sequence of events to understand the essence of disagreement. That morning, a fighter cutting through the fence or gliding over it on a paraglider might have seen, above all, the fulfillment of a divine promise—a victory close at hand.

An Israeli resident of Nahal Oz might have been listening to birds and thinking about the day's tasks, while another Israeli stationed at the military-security base in Nahal Oz was waiting for their shift to end, eager to escape the heavy quiet of their surroundings.

An Israeli wearing light, floral-print pants, deciding how many bracelets or necklaces to wear—perhaps even stashing away the last bit of their canna-

bis in a ziplock bag to hide it from freeloading friends in their water flask—was probably thinking about how much fun they'd have at the Supernova music festival.

Years from now, a Bible scholar—neither tied to a synagogue nor a church—might say that Hamas's action on the morning of October 7 was an example of the Hebrew concept of Exodus ("Yetziyah"), severed from its linguistic connection to Egypt and reimagined as a modern, militant spirituality free from ethnic identity.

It becomes clear that this is not merely about different levels or types of awareness. It is about identity itself. A Palestinian whose brother was shot—two months or two years earlier—at a checkpoint, without cause and for amusement, could never feel what an Israeli parent waiting for their child to return from military service and begin a tech job in an IT firm, would feel.

Endless in human history

Human history appears to be a continuous story of the rise, reinforcement, and dominance of power systems on one side—and resistance, defiance, and breakthrough on the other.

From myths and legends—like Kaveh the Blacksmith or Hou Yi the Archer—to ancient national histories and modern times, this pattern has never ceased. Gandhii in Asia, Lumumba in Africa, Fred Hampton in America, Bobby Sands in Ireland, and the anarchists who fought Franco in Spain are just drops in the vast, endless ocean of this struggle.

It is important to understand that this is not a tale or a piece of emotional propaganda. It is rooted in the neurological and biological structure of human beings—that this struggle never truly stops. It is also important to see that the story of Gaza, however it winds up, does not truly end—just as the story of Husayn did not end and never will, and the story of Arash did not end and never will.

* Kurosh Alyani, author of the book **Israel: A Narrative of Continuing Discrimination, Assassination, and Aggression** (2021).

Transcending the mistakes of the past

A new strategic vision to support Palestinian rights regionally and internationally

By Mostafa Kamal

CAIRO – Within the context of the decades-long Arab-Israeli conflict, the 1948 war—later known as the Nakba—stands as the most tragic and consequential starting point in the modern history of the Middle East. This war marked the foundational moment for the establishment of the State of Israel, but it also represented a profound, ongoing tragedy for the Palestinian people, leaving strategic, political, and social consequences that persist to this day.

The roots of this conflict can be traced back to the nineteenth century with the emergence of the Zionist movement, which was based on the idea of establishing a national homeland for Jews in Palestine. The movement exploited a range of historical and religious claims and benefited from strong Western support, particularly from Britain and the United States. Zionism played a decisive role in building a strong, organized Jewish community in Palestine through intensive settlement mechanisms, which accelerated especially after the Balfour Declaration in 1917.

The period of the British Mandate over Palestine (1920–1948) was a pivotal phase in the evolution of the Zionist project. The Mandate allowed Britain to create ideal conditions for implementing the Balfour Declaration by facilitating Jewish immigration and enabling Zionist organizations to acquire vast tracts of land. In this context, Zionist groups such as the Haganah, Stern, Irgun, and Palmach succeeded in transforming their settlements into well-trained military centers, establishing a significant military and economic presence that paved the way for the founding of



Palestinian refugees fleeing into Lebanon in 1948.

Israel after the end of the British Mandate in 1948.

Jewish settlement activities in Palestine were not random; rather, they were strategically organized. Zionist organizations deliberately established settlements in strategic areas along the borders with neighboring Arab states—Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Syria—to secure the future borders of the Jewish state. They also concentrated their settlements in resource-rich areas such as the Hula Valley and Galilee, which gave them clear strategic advantages during the ensuing war.

On the other hand, although Palestinians and Arabs recognized early on the dangers associated with Jewish settlement, they failed to organize themselves effectively. This failure was due to internal divisions, the absence of a unified strategy, and reliance on the hope that Britain would change its stance—a hope that never materialized. Consequently, Arab efforts to confront the Zionist project remained weak and uncoor-

dated, in stark contrast to the high level of organization and strategic planning on the Jewish side.

As the end of the British Mandate approached, Zionist organizations had established a strong military presence on the ground. The Haganah alone boasted more than 100,000 fighters and was able to arm itself thanks to robust international support, making it the most organized and advanced military force in the region. At the same time, the Arab Liberation Army and the forces of neighboring Arab states lacked organization, coordination, and a clear strategy, in addition to suffering from severe shortages in arms and training.

When the State of Israel was declared on May 15, 1948, the Arab armies that entered the war faced enormous challenges. Despite the Arab military mobilization, which included forces from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, these armies suffered from poor organization, a lack of military coordination, and the absence of clear objectives or joint battle strategies. This failure in coordination and joint leadership gave the Israeli side a significant advantage.

On the battlefield, the Jordanian army, led by British officer John Bagot Glubb (Glubb Pasha), played a prominent role in maintaining control over strategic areas such as Jerusalem and the West Bank. The Iraqi army also achieved notable successes, particularly in the battles for the city of Jenin. However, the political leadership in Baghdad did not provide sufficient support to sustain operations and expand on the military gains achieved on the ground.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

While the 1948 Nakba is still bleeding, Gaza is facing a second Nakba

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – May 15, 2025, marks the 77th anniversary of the Nakba, a catastrophe that forcibly uprooted over 750,000 Palestinians and erased more than 500 villages in 1948. However, this tragedy is not limited to the past; it continues to reverberate in the present, particularly in Gaza.

Gaza is now a living example of ongoing ethnic cleansing and colonial expansion due to the heightened siege, widespread displacement, and unrelenting violence that echoes the trauma of the original Nakba.

The world must face a sobering moral reality as international warnings about a “second Nakba” intensify: the Nakba is an open wound that continues to bleed every day due to the silence and cooperation of world powers.

The catastrophe of displacement and loss

The Nakba began in 1948 with the establishment of the regime of Israel by a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing against Palestinians. Zionist militias, later supported by the Israeli military, forcibly expelled Palestinians from their homes through massacres, destruction of villages, and psychological terror. Palestinian homes were destroyed or repopulated by Jewish settlers, and biological warfare tactics such as poisoning wells were employed to ensure Palestinians could not return.

In addition to being a historical occurrence, the Nakba is seen by Palestinians as the defining trauma that shaped their sense of national identity and political ambitions. It led to family separation, the loss of one's homeland, and a generation-long refugee crisis. Palestinian testimonies and independent historians have long contested Israeli narratives that minimize or deny these events, portraying them as an essential component of statehood.

Gaza today: The Nakba's unfolding tragedy

The Nakba's legacy is painfully alive in Gaza, where 2.3 million Palestinians are enduring one of the bloodiest tragedies and most severe humanitarian cri-



ses in today's world. Since October 2023, Gaza has been facing ethnic cleansing. Israel has also prevented the delivery of humanitarian aid, including food, water, medicine and fuel, to the besieged enclave since March 2, 2025. The blockade has caused catastrophic hunger, malnutrition, and a collapse of health services. According to the World Health Organization, nearly half a million people in Gaza face acute malnutrition, with children dying daily from starvation and preventable diseases.

Recent Israeli military operations have displaced over 450,000 Palestinians within Gaza, echoing the original Nakba's forced expulsions. The United Nations has warned the world is witnessing “another Nakba” as Israel pursues “wider colonial expansion” through ethnic cleansing and land confiscation. The destruction of civilian infrastructure, including UN shelters, and the targeting of medical and aid workers, compounds the suffering and violates international law.

Voices from the Nakba: Memories of loss and enduring hope

The testimonies of Nakba survivors offer a deeply human and poignant window into an ongoing catastrophe that transcends time, connecting the trauma of 1948 to the present-day horrors in Gaza. Hakma Atallah, now 105, vividly recalls the day her village was attacked, forcing her family to flee with only the clothes on their backs and the keys to their home—symbols of a return that never came. Despite the immense loss, Hakma's story, shared with UNRWA, embodies a resilient hope for justice and the right of return, a hope that sus-

tains Palestinians across generations.

Similarly, Abdul Rahman Yassin, who was eight years old during the Nakba, recounts the beauty of his childhood in the village of Al-Joura before displacement shattered his world. He has lived through every chapter of Palestinian suffering—from the Nakba to the 1967 occupation, the Intifadas, and multiple wars on Gaza. His family has endured massacres, the loss of sons, and the destruction of homes. Yet, his testimony is not only one of pain but of steadfast endurance, underscoring how the Nakba's trauma is not confined to history but is continuously inflicted upon Palestinians today.

Fatima Khamees Alyaan Abu-Shammala's memories bring the Nakba's human cost into sharp relief. At 14, she fled her lush village of Beit Dras, walking for 20 days to reach the Khan Younis refugee camp, where she lived in a tent with her family for three years. She recalls the sound of gunfire, the hunger, and the loss of loved ones, feelings that have been painfully resurrected by the ongoing bombardments in Gaza. Her story is a haunting reminder that for Palestinians, the Nakba is not a distant memory but a recurring nightmare.

These narratives reveal the cyclical nature of Palestinian suffering, the relentless repetition of dispossession, violence, and exile. Yet, they also highlight an unyielding determination to resist erasure. Survivors like Ramadan Emad, who fought alongside Arab armies in 1948, now see themselves defending Gaza alone but remain hopeful for liberation and return. Their

memories are living testimonies that bridge past and present, demanding recognition, justice, and fulfilling the Palestinian right of return.

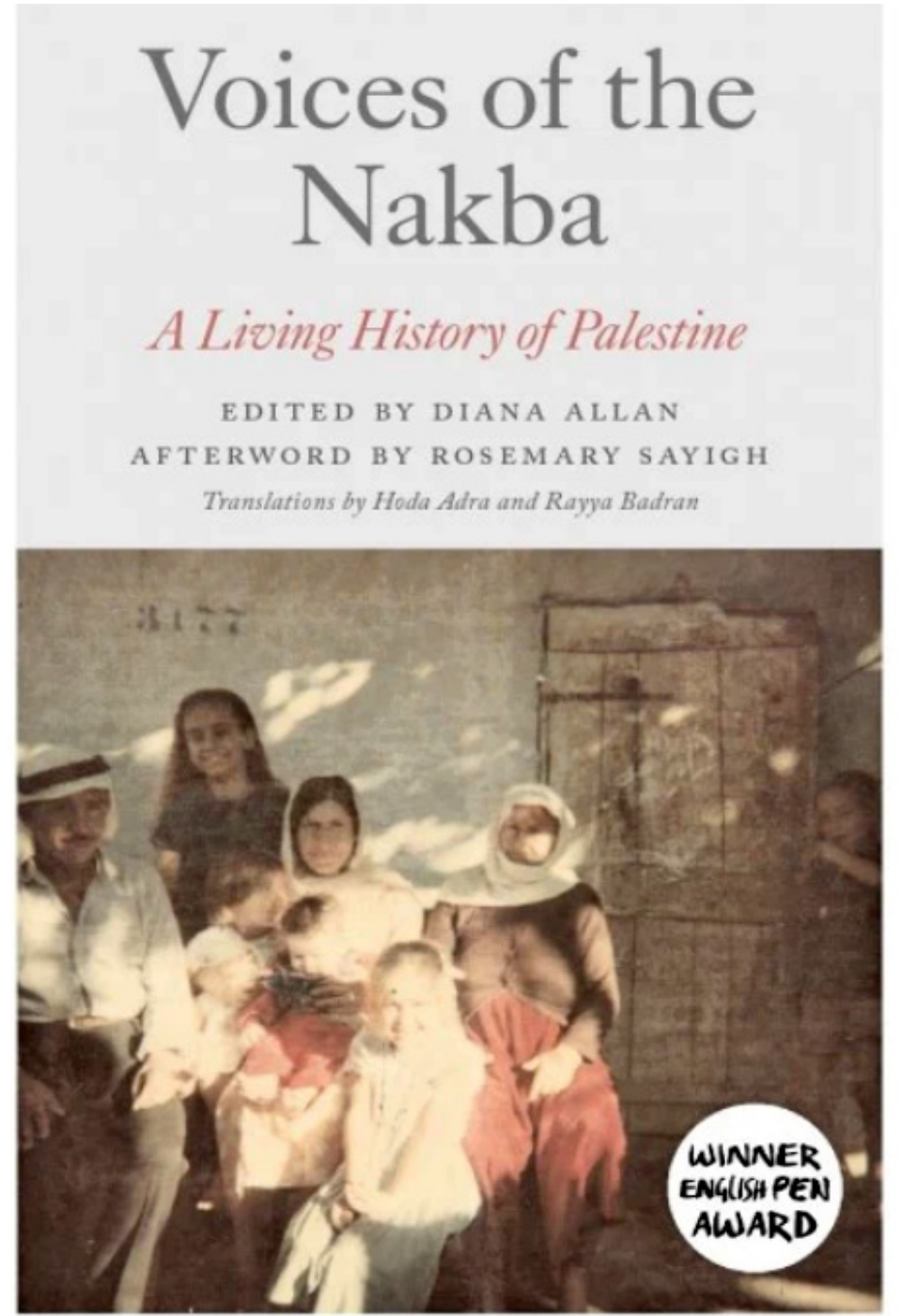
The psychological scars borne by these survivors are profound, yet their voices refuse to be silenced. They expose the ongoing ethnic cleansing and colonial policies that continue to inflict trauma on Palestinians. Through their stories, the Nakba emerges not as a closed chapter but as a continuous wound, one that the world must acknowledge if there is to be any hope for peace and justice.

The open wound of Palestine

As the world commemorates the 77th anniversary of the Nakba, Palestine's open wound is still incredibly raw and unhealed. The Nakba is a reality that continues to influence Palestinian identity, life, and struggle rather than a remote historical event. The 1948 dispossession is directly reflected in Gaza's current tragedy, which is characterized by ceaseless bombardment, the forced relocation of almost more than two million people, and a crippling siege that denies basic necessities. The truth of the Nakba is preserved by the memories of survivors who relive past and present traumas, calling for justice and the right to return. However, the world community's inaction and silence in the face of these crimes constitute a serious ethical breakdown.

With Gaza serving as its living example, the question now is whether the international community will stop its silence and respect international law or permit the Nakba to continue on a daily basis.

A book review of the Nakba



By Tehran Times staff writer

TEHRAN – Published more than seventy years after the expulsion of over 700,000 Palestinians from their homeland, *Voices of the Nakba: A Living History of Palestine*, edited by anthropologist Diana Allan, offers a rare and powerful collective portrait of a people whose history has been systematically silenced.

This landmark oral history collection documents the personal stories of first-generation Palestinian refugees, primarily in Lebanon, and offers readers not just historical testimony, but a vivid sensory encounter with the lived reality of exile.

Drawing on two decades of work by the Nakba Archive—an initiative co-founded by Allan and Mahmoud Zeidan—the book features testimonies from refugees expelled during the 1948 Nakba (Arabic for “catastrophe”), an event that continues to shape Palestinian identity and struggle.

Through the recorded memories of elders, the book revives a Palestine that existed before its erasure by war and colonization: a land of villages, vibrant communities, cultural diversity, and deep-rooted relationships with the land.

Organized into four parts—life in pre-1948 Palestine, resistance during the British Mandate, the violence of 1947–48, and exile—the book blends oral testimony with scholarly commentary.

This dual structure allows the reader to grasp both the personal texture of memory and the broader historical significance of the events recounted.

Each chapter presents excerpts from interviews followed by critical reflections from academics in fields ranging from anthropology to history and literary studies.

The heart of the book lies in the voices of ordinary Palestinians—men and women, peasants and city dwellers, Muslims and Christians—who speak in intimate, unscripted tones about loss, survival, resistance, and longing.

One recalls how Zionist militias rounded up villagers and carried out massacres; an-

other remembers the orchards, schools, and social bonds of a village life violently ended. The trauma is raw, but so too is the enduring sense of dignity and attachment to Palestine.

The interviews were often conducted in modest refugee camp homes, making the contrast between past and present all the more jarring—and poignant.

What distinguishes this book from previous historical accounts is its focus on orality and embodied memory.

The editors and translators work meticulously to preserve the rhythm and idiom of Palestinian Arabic, allowing these narratives to retain their emotional and linguistic authenticity.

As Diana Allan notes in her introduction, these stories are more than recollections—they are forms of resistance against historical erasure.

The timing of the book's release is significant.

As global awareness of the Palestinian cause grows amid renewed crises in Gaza and the West Bank, *Voices of the Nakba* offers urgent testimony that refuses to relegate Palestinian suffering to the past. It asserts that the Nakba is not a closed chapter, but an ongoing condition—a structure of displacement, denial, and resistance that continues to this day.

For journalists, educators, and policymakers, this book serves as a critical corrective to mainstream histories that omit or distort the Palestinian experience.

For Palestinians in exile, it is a tribute to their struggle, a record of endurance, and a repository of memory for future generations.

And for all readers of conscience, it is a profoundly moving reminder that justice begins with listening.

Voices of the Nakba is more than a collection of refugee stories—it is a living history and a call to moral responsibility.

On Nakba Day, when Palestinians and their allies commemorate the trauma of 1948, this book stands as a testament to the fact that those who will not forget will not be forgotten.

Palestine's ongoing Nakba

There is no solution except resistance

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — The Nakba in Palestine in 1948 marked a turning point in West Asia. It was no less dangerous than what happened at the end of World War I, particularly for the Islamic Ummah, as the Zionist entity was established to serve global imperialism.

After overthrowing the army of Muhammad Ali Pasha (ruler of Egypt from 1805 to 1848), British Foreign Secretary Henry Palmerston (1784–1865) recommended the establishment of a human barrier separating the Maghreb from the Levant.

Accordingly, the decision was made to establish a Jewish entity and strengthen it militarily (in addition to providing a way for Europeans to resolve their Jewish problems)

to ensure Western hegemony over all of West Asia and dismantle its cultural, religious, and social fabric.

There are a number of myths that must be refuted, such as the claim that the Palestinians sold their land, even though, according to British documents, the percentage of Jewish ownership in Palestine in 1947 was only 6%.

The other claim is that the Palestinians made a mistake by refusing to establish a Palestinian state, as stipulated in Partition Resolution 181 of 1947, which legitimized the establishment of the Zionist colonial regime.

It should be noted that the resolution was a blatant injustice against 1.5 million Palestinians who owned 94% of the land and were given only 46% of their historical land, while

the Zionist colonial settlers numbered only 600,000 and were armed (the Palestinian people alone were unarmed).

In his book, *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, Ilan Pappé, the renowned Zionist historian, explains that the ethnic cleansing began in Palestine in early December 1947 with a series of systematic Jewish attacks called “Plan Dalet” which aimed to seize control of as much Palestinian land as possible and replace the Palestinian people with Zionist colonial settlers.

To achieve this, the Zionists resorted to genocidal ethnic cleansing against Palestinians, both individually and collectively, such as the Deir Yassin and Tantura genocides.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Palestinians resisting another Nakba

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Why the resilience of Palestinians will prevent another Nakba amid unprecedented war crimes in Gaza.

Despite enduring a brutal Israeli genocide, Palestinians are refusing to let history be rewritten; they will not allow the Nakba to be erased from memory or repeated without resistance.

A fascist government in Tel Aviv clings to the belief that it can reduce Palestinian territory to rubble, launching relentless attacks across the Gaza Strip without regard for civilian life to

force the indigenous population out.

Since October 2023, over two million Palestinians have been forcibly displaced, many uprooted a dozen times, fleeing from one place to another within an already besieged enclave.

This forced displacement echoes the horrors of the 1948 Nakba, when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were driven from their homes in what became a campaign of ethnic cleansing.

Today, this campaign continues under the guise of a manmade

famine and total blockade, with the Israeli occupation regime systematically banning the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Some Western commentators claim that if the Israeli occupation regime truly intended genocide, it would have already done so. Such statements reveal a deep ignorance both of historical genocides, which unfolded gradually over time.

Ethnic cleansing is not sudden; it is a prolonged, calculated process. Today, in the age of social media, that process is horrifyingly visible in real-time.

Products worth \$800,000 exported from Chabahar FTZ in a month



TEHRAN – Iran's Free Zones High Council announced that commodities valued at \$800,000 were exported from Chabahar Free Trade Zone, in southeast of the country, during the first Iranian calendar month Farvardin (March 21-April 21).

The council announced that the value of imports to the zone was \$13.3 million in Farvardin, so, Chabahar FTZ experienced a negative trade balance of \$12.5 million in the first month.

Raw materials, consumer goods, and vehicles were the major goods imported to the zone in the mentioned month.

Lying on the coast of the Gulf of Oman in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Chabahar is the country's only oceanic port and given its strategic location in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) development of the port is of high significance for Iran, so the government has some major projects to create multi-dimensional transportation facilities in this port.

As reported by Iran's Free Zones High Council, the trade balance of the country's free trade zones was \$41.463 million positive in Farvardin.

The total export of goods and services from these zones in the first month reached \$100.85 million. In contrast, the imports from the free zones, excluding machinery, were announced at \$59.207 million, indicating a posi-

tive trade balance of \$41.643 million.

In mid-February, Iran's Free Zones High Council Secretary Reza Masrour stated that regulatory restrictions in free trade zones have hindered their intended function in recent years.

He pointed to past policies, such as the ban on vehicle imports into free zones while allowing them in mainland Iran, as an example of such constraints.

However, recent government efforts have led to the removal of several limitations.

He emphasized the council's focus on enhancing the export role of free trade zones, as a significant portion of their production has historically been directed toward the domestic market, contradicting their core purpose. The new policy framework aims to steer businesses toward export-driven production.

Masrour highlighted that while free trade zones are more service- and commerce-oriented, special economic zones focus primarily on production and exports.

To improve export performance, new incentives have been introduced for production units engaged in exports.

Additionally, the council has partnered with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) to establish export management companies in free zones to facilitate international trade.

Masrour addressed concerns about smuggling in free zones, stating that all import processes are recorded in official systems.

He also announced a shift in trade exhibition policies, stating that foreign exhibitions, which were previously held outside free zones, have been limited due to high costs. Moving forward, exhibitions will be held exclusively within free trade zones, ensuring they target relevant markets and yield better economic results.

The official revealed plans for a greater emphasis on technology in free trade zones, and mentioned the development of an AI assistant tailored for free trade zones.

Tehran hosting intl. mining, foundry exhibition

TEHRAN – Iran on Tuesday opened the second specialized exhibition on mining, mineral industries, and related machinery at Tehran's Shahr-e Aftab Exhibition Center, bringing together over 100 companies to showcase the country's industrial capabilities and technological advancements.

The four-day event, running from May 13 to 16, spans 20,000 square meters and features two concurrent expos: one focusing on mining, construction machinery, and infrastructure equipment, and another dedicated to foundry, mold-making, and parts manufacturing.

The exhibition aims to present the latest innovations, machinery, and technologies in mining and casting, offering a platform for producers, experts, investors, and buyers to engage directly.

The mining section centers on heavy equipment and infrastructure machinery, with

displays including various models of excavators, bulldozers, loaders, dump trucks, mining trucks, drilling rigs, and crushing systems. The event is designed to facilitate direct connections between mining companies, construction contractors, and machinery suppliers.

Held in parallel, the second specialized exhibition on foundry, mold-making, and parts manufacturing showcases innovations in components, machinery, raw materials, mold-making tools, and engineering services. The presence of major domestic firms highlights the exhibition's role in strengthening supply chains, reducing reliance on imports, and improving the quality of local production.

Organizers say the dual event plays a vital role in fostering industrial collaboration, supporting local manufacturers, and attracting potential investors to Iran's mining and metallurgical sectors.

Shahid Bahonar Port: strategic overview, operational capabilities

TEHRAN- Shahid Bahonar Port is located in Hormozgan province, within Bandar Abbas county, on the northern coast of the Persian Gulf.

The port lies 1,333 kilometers from Tehran and is positioned just 8 kilometers west of the city of Bandar Abbas. Its coordinates are 27°08'N and 56°12'E, placing it at the entrance to the Persian Gulf, PMO published on its website.

Connectivity and Access

The port is well-connected to major Iranian cities, including Tehran, via air, newly developed railway systems, and paved roads. Its proximity to Bandar Abbas International Airport enhances its accessibility for both cargo and passengers.

Shahid Bahonar Port's location on the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) makes it a vital link for trade between

Iran, Central Asia, Russia, and beyond.

Capabilities and Advantages

Shahid Bahonar Port boasts 12 berths and favorable quayside depths, accommodating large vessels with drafts up to 11.5 meters.

It houses the largest international maritime passenger transfer terminal in Iran, serving as a major hub for marine tourism and passenger movement, including international routes such as the Shahid Bahonar-Sharjah line.

Cargo Handling

The port is a multipurpose facility, handling a wide variety of cargoes including Petrochemical products, Bulk and general cargo, Refrigerated goods, fruits, and vegetables (it is the country's largest sea port for the export of these items), Liquefied gases (as the only terminal for their export in Iran).

Iran's envoy in Oman: private sector well-positioned to enter Omani market

From Page 1 ▶ Tajik emphasized Iran's competitive advantages in oil and gas, engineering services, food industries, and agriculture, suggesting these sectors are well-suited for sustainable and competitive activities in Oman.

At the end of the visit, Ambassador Farhang invited the Tehran Chamber delegation to continue discussions at the Iranian embassy in Muscat.

Iran, Oman move toward energy cooperation

In a related development, Saeed Tajik—who also chairs the Tehran Chamber's Energy and Environment Committee—visited various booths at the exhibition and met with officials from Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

During these talks, both sides agreed to exchange lists of active companies in the energy and mining sectors and discussed mutual recognition of qualified Iranian firms by the Omani ministry to facilitate joint ventures and economic cooperation.

The two parties agreed to formalize their partnership by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Energy and Minerals of Oman and the Tehran Chamber of Commerce in the near future.

In an interview with IRNA in early February, Abdolamir Rabi-havi, the director general for West Asia at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), highlighted negotiations in Muscat (at that time) between Iran's Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak and Omani officials, adding that Atabak led a delegation of government officials, traders, and private-sector manufacturers to Oman for the 21st Joint Economic Committee meeting.

He stated that the committee covered various trade and logistics issues, resulting in numerous agreements, many of which stemmed from a year of negotiations.

A key achievement of the



meeting was the participation of private-sector representatives, coordinated by the Iran Chamber of Commerce and the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce.

On the sidelines of the event, bilateral meetings were held with Omani counterparts, and Iranian representatives toured Omani industrial and investment units, gaining insights into Oman's market and production landscape.

Discussions also addressed trade volume, customs and visa facilitation for businesses, maritime transit, leveraging Iran as a transit hub for Eurasian Economic Union exports to Oman, and ways to boost bilateral trade.

Rabi-havi highlighted the signing of a cooperation agreement between Iran and Oman and noted that Atabak met separately with Oman's transport minister, energy and mining minister, and the head of the Omani Investment Authority. The ministers then signed the joint committee's agreements and minutes.

Additionally, negotiations on a preferential trade agreement were extended, with plans to finalize and sign the document soon. The agreement aims to lower tariffs and facilitate trade.

The joint committee meeting yielded significant achievements for Iran. If these agreements materialize, trade will grow. Oman has free trade agreements with several countries, including Per-

sian Gulf Cooperation Council members, which Iran can leverage for re-exporting its goods," he concluded.

The 21st meeting of the Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee, which was held in Muscat on January 25, was described by the Iranian minister of industry, mining, and trade as distinct from the previous 20 gatherings, focused on three key agendas.

Mohammad Atabak has highlighted the signing of the MOU and elaborated on the meeting's agenda.

The first agenda item addressed the establishment of a preferential trade agreement and the elimination of tariffs between the two countries. Atabak stated that this initiative had been approved.

The second agenda item involved supporting joint investments between Iran and Oman. Atabak announced that both nations had reached an agreement on this issue.

The third agenda focused on necessary administrative and customs collaborations to facilitate trade. The minister noted that required planning and task allocation had been completed, and this initiative is expected to yield results shortly.

In meetings with Omani ministers of trade and energy and the chairman of Oman's investment authority on the sidelines of the joint cooperation meeting, the

two sides also explored avenues of cooperation in various areas.

In a meeting with Oman's minister of transport and communications, Atabak explored strategies to facilitate the transportation of goods, passengers, and commercial exchanges. This discussion aimed to expand economic and trade cooperation between the two nations.

Also, speaking to IRNA following a meeting with the governor of Iran's West Azarbaijan province, in late April, the head of the Chamber of Commerce for Northeast Oman said West Azarbaijan offers exceptional development potential, adding that Oman is ready to invest in the region.

Mohammad bin Nasser Al-Maskari expressed a strong willingness to expand bilateral cooperation with the province's Chamber of Commerce.

He highlighted key opportunities in tourism, mining, and agriculture that could mark a turning point in economic relations between Iran and Oman.

Al-Maskari praised the province's historical and tourism assets, saying Oman plans to begin practical investment steps in the hospitality and tourism sectors before the end of 2025.

Referring to West Azarbaijan Governor Reza Rahmani as an internationally recognized figure in industry and economy, Al-Maskari noted that Rahmani's strong ties with Omani officials could significantly ease the investment process.

He emphasized that Oman initially seeks to focus on partnerships in tourism, agriculture, and food industries.

Al-Maskari further remarked that during President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration, cooperation between Iran and the Persian Gulf states has been steadily growing. He announced that Oman would soon host delegations from West Azarbaijan's tourism sector to discuss expanding collaboration.

South Korea offers housing development expertise to Iran, eyes joint urban projects in 2025

TEHRAN – South Korea is ready to share its successful housing development experience with Iran, the country's ambassador to Tehran said, citing lessons learned from South Korea's rapid population growth and housing crisis in the 1980s.

According to Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, South Korean Ambassador Kim Junpyo made the remarks during a meeting with the head of Urban Regeneration Corporation of Iran. He said Seoul is planning five joint projects with Iran in 2025, the most important of which involves collaboration on housing development through knowledge exchange with the Iranian ministry.

"We believe this cooperation can yield valuable results for both countries," Kim said, adding that a joint housing seminar will be



held in Iran this year. The event aims to enhance mutual understanding, explore potential areas of cooperation, and attract South Korean investment in Iran's urban development sector.

In response, Iran's Deputy Transport and

Urban Development Minister Abdolreza Golpayegani welcomed South Korean investment in Iran's urban renewal sector, particularly in the redevelopment of deteriorated urban areas.

Golpayegani noted Iran's own experience in revitalizing historic neighborhoods and expressed readiness to share this expertise with South Korea. He emphasized Iran's participatory approach to urban renewal, highlighting initiatives in which local residents drive redevelopment efforts, supported by government and municipal incentives.

He added that Urban Regeneration Corporation of Iran possesses land available for partnership with foreign investors—especially those from South Korea—in joint redevelopment projects.

Iran eyes high-value exports to China, leverages Chinese e-commerce platform

TEHRAN – Iran aims to boost exports of higher value-added goods to China and facilitate the sale of Iranian products through a Chinese online platform, the head of the country's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said.

According to a statement from the TPO, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, speaking at a meeting on the challenges facing Iran-China economic relations, described China as Iran's top trading partner and a crucial commercial partner for many countries. "Trade with China is

strategic and essential for Iran. The opportunities and potential in this area are significant, provided we concentrate more on it," he said.

Dehnavi, who also serves as deputy industry, mining, and trade minister, noted that the commercial opportunities in China surpass Iran's total trade with many other countries combined. "There is no doubt that major achievements are possible in China," he said.

Outlining the TPO's foreign

trade goals, Dehnavi stressed the need to shift from exporting raw materials to higher-value products. "A significant portion of our exports to China consists of raw materials. Even without marketing efforts, buyers are coming to Iran for these goods," he said.

"But the real impact will come when we export goods that are further down the production chain. While raw material exports do generate foreign currency and attract investment, the goal should be to produce and export

more industrial goods," he added.

Acknowledging that exporting to China, the world's manufacturing powerhouse, may appear challenging, Dehnavi argued that with the right strategies, it is achievable. "Through joint investment, integration into the global value chain—much of which runs through China—and technological cooperation, Iran can boost its exports of high-value-added products to China," he said.

Iran, China discuss ways to foster technological partnerships

TEHRAN – Iran's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister, Sattar Hashemi, and China's Minister of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), Li Lecheng, have explored avenues for the development of technological ties between the two countries.

The officials met on Tuesday in Beijing, China. Hashemi is paying a visit to China at the invitation of Li Lecheng, to further expand ICT ties with neighboring and friendly countries in line with technology diplomacy, dolat.ir reported.

The two sides highlighted the expansion of cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI), industrial intelligence, the development of communications infrastructure, and human resource training.

Emphasizing the historical and friendly relations between Iran and China, Li said Iran is one of Beijing's important regional partners, and called for boosting operational cooperation in technological fields.

The official voiced China's readiness to deepen ties with Iran under the 25-year strategic partnership, recognizing Iran's extensive capacities in information technology, artificial intelligence, and communication infrastructure sectors.

"The expansion of technological cooperation will not only contribute to the promotion of the national interests of the two countries, but will also play an effective role in fostering regional technological interactions," the Chinese official noted.



For his turn, Hashemi described China as Iran's 'strategic partner and ally'. Referring to the recent meeting between the presidents of the two countries in Kazan, Russia, he further stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral relations.

The official went on to propose enhancing joint efforts through sharing expertise in fields of e-government and smart services, as well as educational cooperation and training specialized human resources.

The ICT minister is also scheduled to deliver a lecture on new technologies at Beihang University, one of China's largest universities affiliated with the ministry of industry and information technology, hold meetings with senior Chinese government officials, as well as managers of large technological companies, and visit scientific and research centers.

Strengthening co-op on AI essential for future: Chinese envoy

On May 11, the Chinese ambassador to Iran, Cong Peiwu, under-

lined the need to boost cooperation in advanced technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, calling it essential for the future.

Lauding Iran's advancement in the information and communication technology sector, Peiwu highlighted the expansion of collaborations despite challenges and external forces, IRNA reported.

The official made the remarks on Saturday in Tehran, during a meeting with Information and Communication Technology Minister, Sattar Hashemi.

For his part, Hashemi said the two countries have high capacities in the AI field, which can lay the ground for future collaborations. He also stressed the importance of fully utilizing joint capabilities to accomplish the set goals of the strategic partnership.

The implementation of previously reached agreements in the ICT sector, as well as the development of ties in the digital economy, communication infrastructure, processing infrastructure,

space systems, and data transit, were among other discussed issues.

The ICT minister said he would follow up on the joint programs on his visit to China.

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

The document was signed between Iran's then 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 memoranda of understanding under the framework of the two countries' strategic 25-year agreement.

Iran committed to fostering regional AI cooperation

The combination of talent, data, and innovation makes Iran a key player in the regional Artificial Intelligence (AI) value chain, capable of driving meaningful cooperation and development. Iran is committed to fostering regional cooperation and building a future where AI drives prosperity and unity, Hashemi said in February.

Emphasizing that Iran is a major stakeholder in the regional digital landscape, Hashemi said that Iran is a major player in AI in the Persian Gulf and that the country is ready to start cooperation with regional states on this matter.

The official made the remarks while addressing the Iran Corridor 2025 conference held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

Iranian team wins medals at 25th Asian Physics Olympiad

TEHRAN – The Iranian students participating in the 25th edition of the Asian Physics Olympiad (APhO) 2025 have managed to grab a silver medal and six bronze medals.

APhO is an annual Physics competition for high school students from countries across Asia and Oceanic regions.

Hosted by Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, the competition was held from May 4 to 12. The event attracted some 240 students from 30 countries, including Iran, South Korea, India, Japan, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Singapore.

Countries around the world send a team of eight students and two leaders to represent them, and their knowledge and skills in physics are tested through two tests; one practical laboratory and the other theoretical written.

Milad Mohammadi grabbed the silver medal, while Arya Zarabi, Mohammad-Hassan Golabdar, Mohammad-Mehdi Keshavarzi, Mohammad-Mehdi Aqahosseini, Mohammad-Hassan Sadeqinejad, and Ilia Qashaei won the bronze medals.

APhO originates from the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO). APhO started in the year 2000 in Indonesia with 10 participating countries, and in 2024, the participating countries and territories grew to 24 countries.

The event is a regional platform for students who are passionate about Physics and who are talented, creative, and analytical to solve complex and challenging problems on Physics, which are widely recognized in the scientific community.

The competition is divided into 2 sections, a 5-hour theoretical examination, and a 5-hour laboratory experiment, consisting of either one or two experiments.

Iran world's third top country in intl. Olympiads

Iranian students won two silver and two bronze medals, ranking fourth at the Turkic International Mathematics Olympiad (TIMO) held from April 17 to 22, in Antalya.

TIMO is an international event that is open to students from grades 3 to 12. The competition is held in two rounds, including the preliminary and global rounds.

Parnian Heydarian and Anusha Abdi grabbed silver medals and won the world star awards, while Fatemeh Mazini and Ava Dejahon won bronze medals.

Attending several international Olympiads in 2024, Iranian students managed to win 10 gold medals, 10 silver medals, and two bronze medals, ranking third globally.

The United States and China ranked first and second, respectively. South Korea and India both ranked fourth, ISNA reported.

Iranian students grabbed a gold medal, two silver medals, and a bronze medal at the 36th IOI, ranking 9th among 96 countries. Egypt hosted the event in September 2024.

In a remarkable achievement, Iranian students won five gold medals, ranking first in the 17th IOAA, which was held in August 2024 in Vassouras, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Over 250 students from 57 countries participated in the event.

Five Iranian students who attended the 54th International Physics Olympiad managed to win a gold medal and four silver medals, improving the country's ranking from 17th in 2023 to fourth.

The 54th edition of the IPhO was held in July 2024 in the city of Isfahan.

A total of 200 elite students from 47 countries participated in the nine-day event, IRNA reported.

Iran grabbed one gold medal and three silver medals at the 56th IChO which was held in Saudi Arabia in July. The IChO 2024 was held under the slogan 'Building Connections Together'.

Uzbekistan seeks to boost ties with Iran on children's education

TEHRAN – Uzbek Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Kongratbay Sharipov, in a meeting with Science Minister Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, has underscored the need to enhance scientific and technological collaborations between the two countries, particularly focusing on children's education.

The two officials met on the sidelines of the 9th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Education Ministers, held on May 12 and 13 in Urumqi, China.

Referring to the joint technology park established by in Uzbekistan, Sharipov underlined the further expansion of these technological centers, IRNA reported.

The official highlighted a former agreement between Sharif University of Technology and Uzbekistan, saying that the country is willing to expand these collaborations further. He expressed optimism that the cultural commonalities between the two countries help them enhance ties.

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf underscored the need to establish more technology parks and international innovation zones collaboratively.

The official invited Sharipov to participate in the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-15) Dialogue Platform, which will be held in Tehran from May 18 to 20.

The 9th Meeting of SCO Education Ministers was attended by education ministers of SCO member states, experts, and scientists specializing in the development of educational contacts within the Organization.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Simaei-Sarraf visited an exhibition, titled 'Study in China, Brand Identity and Comprehensive Service Platform', showcasing the latest educational, research, and technology achievements of over 20 Chinese universities in different sectors such as agriculture, industry, oil, and petrochemical.

Science ministers of other SCO member states, including China, Belarus, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan, also visited the exhibition, which primarily aimed to boost relations between industry and universities.

The official also participated in the opening ceremony of the 'China-Central Asia industrial, educational, and applied research cooperation 2025 conference', which was held in the



presence of some science ministers from the SCO member states.

Tashkent seeks to boost sci-tech ties with Tehran

In April, Daliv Shahrukh Khozhakbarovich, Uzbekistan's First Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, called on Iranian universities and scientific institutions to help develop technology and innovation in Uzbekistan, saying that face-to-face interaction between scientific officials is much more effective than diplomatic communications.

The Uzbek official made the remarks in a meeting with Farhad Yazdandoost, the head of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, on April 19, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed the potential for developing scientific and technological collaborations between the two countries.

The official said the cooperation can be centered around sharing expertise, expanding scientific collaborations among universities' chancellors, and joint funding in technological fields.

For his part, Yazdandoost elaborated on the country's scientific achievements and significant growth in the number of students after the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Over sixty science and technology parks are operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, he said, "we're also planning to attract some 300,000 foreign students in a five-year plan."

The official highlighted that cooperation between the two countries can also include conducting joint research, exchanging students and professors, and holding joint sports activities for students.

Almost 140 earthquakes shake Iran in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 138 earthquakes were recorded across the country from May 3 to 9, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 114 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3; 20 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4; and one earthquake with a magnitude between 5 and 6 have occurred in the country, IRNA reported.

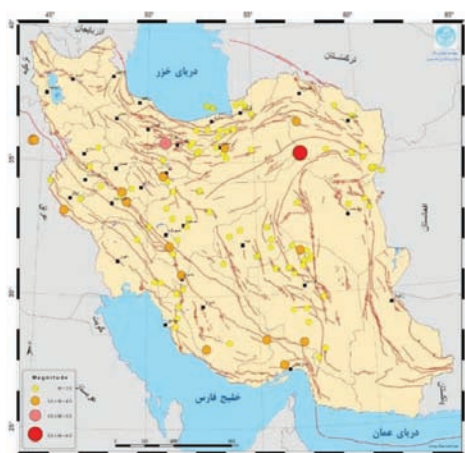
Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 5 on the Richter scale, which occurred on May 8th in Semnan province.

A total of 6,272 earthquakes were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2024 –March 2025).

Among the provinces of the country, Semnan, with 21, experienced the highest number of earthquakes, followed by Kerman with 18, and Khorasan Razavi with 14 earthquakes.

During the same period, three earthquakes hit Tehran province. No earthquakes were recorded in West Azarbaijan, East Azarbaijan, Ardabil, North Khorasan, Zanjan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Qazvin, Gilan, and Hamedan provinces.

A total of 6,272 earthquakes were record-



ed across the country over the past calendar year (March 2024 –March 2025), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Out of registered earthquakes, 150 were more than 4 on the Richter scale; at least five earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 4.5 occurred monthly in the country.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran, but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world's earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Afghanistan thanks Iran for 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.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry in a statement on Saturday announced its gratitude and appreciation to Iran for its humanitarian efforts to address the issue of Afghan refugees in the country.

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.

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.

وزارت امور خارجه افغانستان روز شنبه در اطلاعیه‌ای اعلام کرد: مراتب امتنان و سپاسگزاری خود را از جمهوری اسلامی ایران در رابطه به اقدامات بشردوستانه آن کشور درباره رسیدگی به مهاجرین افغان در آن کشور ابراز می‌دارد.

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.



MAY 15, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Often your utterances and expressions of your face
leak out the secrets of your hidden thoughts.*
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:23 Dawn: 3:20 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:58 (tomorrow)

“The City and Its Uncertain Walls” appears at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation Japanese writer Haruki Murakami’s novel “The City and Its Uncertain Walls” has recently been published by Milkan Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Araz Barsegian.

The story of “The City and Its Uncertain Walls” begins with a 17-year-old boy winning an essay contest with a girl who is 16. The girl keeps her distance, revealing that her true self exists in a city beyond a wall—an imagined or dreamlike place representing longing and mystery. Together, they envision this city in great detail, and the boy records their shared imaginings. One day, the girl vanishes, leaving the boy with an unfulfilled longing that persists into adulthood, symbolizing the enduring ache of lost love and unreachable dreams.

As an adult, the protagonist returns to the city beyond the walls, a surreal realm he had only imagined. To enter, he must separate himself from his shadow, a metaphor for relinquishing part of his identity. His daily routine involves reading dreams from strange orbs at a small library, assisted by the girl—who, curiously, has not aged and has no memory of their past. This suggests themes of reincarnation, memory loss, or archetypal persistence across time.

The shadow begins to fade, and the protagonist faces a choice: leave the city with his shadow or let it go. He ultimately releases his shadow, symbolizing acceptance of loss. Returning to everyday life, he works at a publishing house but remains haunted by his experiences and yearning for the girl. Driven by this longing, he leaves his job and moves to a secluded countryside to become the head of a private library.



There, he meets Koyasu, an eccentric old man who wears a beret and skirts, later revealed to be a ghost. Koyasu, after losing his family, turned his family’s sake refinery into a library, believing that only someone with experience of the city beyond walls could care for it. The protagonist takes over, symbolizing the passing down of wisdom and memories.

He also befriends a teenage boy in a Yellow Submarine hoodie, who has photographic memory but cannot attend normal school. Fascinated by stories of the city beyond walls, the boy asks to go there himself. One night, he mysteriously disappears, prompting a supernatural rescue by his family, hinting at the city’s otherworldly nature.

Meanwhile, the protagonist falls in love with a divorced woman who runs a coffee shop. His dreams blend his past and present loves, transporting him back to his youth. In the city beyond the walls, his body appears alongside the boy—who arrives illegally—and offers to become part of the protagonist by biting his ears, symbolizing merging identities.

The protagonist agrees, gaining heightened dream-reading abilities and passing his role to the boy inside him. Yet, ultimately, he desires to reunite with his shadow, realizing that embracing all parts of himself is true fulfillment. The boy, content to stay and read dreams forever, chooses to remain behind as a guardian of dreams and memories.

Ultimately, the story explores the fluidity of identity, the power of love and memory, and the mysterious boundaries between worlds—showing that some walls are both barriers and gateways to understanding oneself and others.

Tehran International Book Fair helping create cultural connections among nations

By Mohamadreza Seyedagha

TEHRAN-The 36th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), one of the largest cultural events in the West Asia, is currently underway at Imam Khomeini Mosalla in Tehran.

This year’s fair features participation from approximately 2,400 domestic publishers and 600 international publishers from various countries, offering books in multiple languages such as English, Arabic, Spanish, Turkish, and Russian among others.

Midway through the fair, the Tehran Times interviewed foreign participants and discussed various topics related to books.

Katuska Rodriguez, the Minister Counselor at the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Iran, said it is the third time that the embassy is participating in the fair, in a bid to develop the cultural relations between the two countries. “This year, the embassy is showcasing 36 titles at its pavilion,” she noted.

Comparing the TIBF to the Venezuela International Book Fair, she said: “it is amazing to see so many Iranian publishers attending the Tehran International Book Fair. Venezuela holds a book fair annually as well, where foreign countries also attend; however, due to the sanctions imposed against Venezuela, the physical publication of books has been reduced. But we are trying to resist and not lose our publishing industry”.



Katuska Rodriguez, the Minister Counselor at the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Iran, at the stand of the embassy on May 12, 2025.

Regarding the expansion of social media platforms in the current digital age, Rodriguez said: “I think a campaign should be launched to encourage readers to once again read physical books (instead of e-books) as holding a book creates a good feeling”.

About introducing Persian literature to the Venezuelans, and vice versa, through translation of works, she said: “In the past three years, we have strived to find publishers to translate various titles, whether children’s books or poetry and literary works as it is important for us to know more about Persian culture and literature and also familiarize Iranians with the Venezuelan culture and authors”.



Also speaking to the Tehran Times, Abdulrahman Rajeh, head of the Yemen Ministry of Culture stand at the Tehran International Book Fair said this is the third year that the Ministry of Culture of Yemen is participating in the book fair.

“Over 200 titles are presented at the Yemen pavilion this year, aiming at introducing the culture of Yemen as well as social, political, and cultural events and developments in the country, especially in the recent years,” he stated.

Rajeh called the TIBF one of the largest and most important book fairs in the region, which receives a lot of attention both from the public and publishers. “However, due to the prevalence of the Internet and social media platforms, I think there has been a decline in the number of book readers, not only in Tehran, but also all around the world,” he rued.

Rajeh noted that although the Internet and social media platforms are useful, he believes that physical books give a greater sense of intimacy compared to digital ones.

“Book fairs can help promote the culture of book reading among the public and improve the publishing industry. They also play a key role in creating cultural connections between the people of various nations,” he noted.

“Although books are not as popular as before across the globe these days, I believe that in the future, people will return to books,” Rajeh added.

“Here in the Yemen pavilion, we strive to introduce our culture to the Iranian visitors. Great Persian poets like Hafez, Saadi, Ferdowsi, Molana and others have poems about Yemen,” he underlined. “Yemen can also be seen in Persian literature and proverbs since the cultural relation between Iran and Yemen is not limited to the recent times and dates back to hundreds of years ago”.

Rajeh stressed that book fairs provide a good opportunity to foster cultural exchange-

es and said: “Persian books are usually translated into Arabic and Yemenis welcome them, particularly literary, historical, religious, and biographical books”.

Running from May 7 to 17, this year’s event is themed “Let’s Read for Iran,” highlighting the nation’s commitment to fostering a culture of reading and intellectual engagement.

Since its inception in 1988, TIBF has grown significantly, attracting millions of visitors annually, including students, academics, and families.

In addition to its vast book displays, TIBF 2025 introduces the Tehran Literary Fellowship Program, a new initiative aimed at strengthening literary exchanges and promoting Iranian literature on a global scale.



Abdulrahman Rajeh, head of the Yemen Ministry of Culture stand, at the TIBF on May 12, 2025.

The fair is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., providing visitors with ample opportunity to engage with the vibrant literary community, discover new publications, and participate in cultural programs. As one of the most anticipated events in Iran’s cultural calendar, the Tehran International Book Fair continues to be a platform for literary discovery and cross-cultural dialogue.

Cartoon of Day



Famine

Cartoonist: José Alberto Rodríguez Avila from Cuba

Lahore’s ‘Roses of Humanity’ art installation honors Gaza children killed in Israeli strikes

The Alhamra Arts Council in Pakistan’s eastern city of Lahore has opened an immersive art installation for visitors to honor the memory of children killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza, highlighting the devastating human toll of the war.

Israel’s 18-month offensive against Gaza has killed more than 52,000 people, many of them women and children, and displaced more than 90 percent of Gaza’s population, Palestinian officials say. The Israeli military has also blockaded aid to the Gaza Strip since March.

In remembrance of the innocent lives lost in Gaza, the Lahore-based Labour & Love social enterprise, in collaboration with The Fundraisers BBS, has set up the installation at the Ustad Allah Bux Gallery, encouraging reflection on the situation in Gaza.

The installation features thousands of hand stitched fabric roses, each one representing a child whose life was cut short,



transformed into a symbolic garden of remembrance, enveloped in evocative soundscapes, gentle fragrance and thoughtful lighting design.

“A total of 15,000 fabric roses represents the number of children reported killed in Gaza by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as of June 2024 a number that, heartbreakingly, has since grown,” said

Nuria Iqbal, who curated the installation.

“Together, these roses form a radiant tribute to humanity, reminding us that dignity flourishes when we are seen, heard and held in compassion.”

The installation will be on display at the gallery until May 18.

Iqbal shared that each of the roses was crafted from discarded fabric, once cast aside and

now reborn in beauty, symbolizing the forgotten lives of the children of Gaza.

“The varied colors and textures of the fabric reflect the rich diversity of creation and the strength of unity amidst difference,” she added.

The development comes at a time when Hamas has dismissed as pointless ceasefire talks with Israel, accusing it of waging a “hunger war” on Gaza where famine looms, as the Israeli military prepares for a broader assault.

The comments from Hamas political bureau member Basem Naim followed Israel’s approval of a military plan involving the long-term “conquest of the Gaza Strip,” according to an Israeli official.

The former Gaza health minister said the world must pressure Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government to end the “crimes of hunger, thirst, and killings.”