



Khomeini's Line Endures

Special issue on 36th passing anniversary

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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The golden triangle of foreign policy

In an analysis, Hamshahri highlighted a unique diplomatic initiative involving three top Iranian officials, describing it as a sign of Iran's dynamic and multifaceted approach to foreign policy. The newspaper noted that diplomatic engagement has become one of Iran's defining characteristics in the current phase, with a particular emphasis on decentralizing nuclear negotiations and prioritizing the resolution of long-standing challenges. As part of this strategy, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi paid a visit to Egypt and is set to leave for Lebanon. Meanwhile, on Sunday, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf embarked on a regional tour of Latin America. His trip, which pursues multiple objectives, is expected to play a key role in deepening Iran's economic ties with countries such as Venezuela, Brazil, and Cuba. In another significant development, Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani traveled to Brazil, where he was appointed Vice President of the BRICS urban forum. Taken together, these diplomatic efforts represent a coherent triangle of engagement—consisting of the diplomatic corps, parliamentary diplomacy, and urban diplomacy—that has been actively supporting Iran's overarching strategy of “neutralizing sanctions” in recent months and years.

Jam-e-Jam: an agreement IAEA violated

In its editorial, Jam-e-Jam examined the recent report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iran's nuclear activities, criticizing it as a breach of earlier understandings. The article recalled a past proposal under which Iran agreed not to voluntarily expand its 60% uranium enrichment stockpile in exchange for the IAEA Board of Governors refraining from issuing a critical resolution. This compromise, reached during IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's visit to Tehran, was designed to reduce tensions and pave the way for diplomacy. However, according to Jam-e-Jam, this diplomatic path was ultimately blocked due to the insistence of three European countries and the backing of the United States. In response, Iran announced that it would no longer be bound by voluntary limitations beyond the requirements of the NPT and safeguards agreements. The editorial concludes that the increase in Iran's 60% enriched uranium reserves is a natural and justified reaction to the West's violation of informal agreements. “If anyone has grounds for complaint, it is Iran,” the piece argues, adding that it is the IAEA and European states that

have obstructed constructive engagement.

Siasat-e-Rooz: US has crossed Iran's red line

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz criticized the latest U.S. stance on Iran's nuclear program, saying Washington has effectively crossed one of Tehran's fundamental red lines. According to the newspaper, the U.S. has proposed that Iran halt its uranium enrichment in exchange for a formal recognition of its right to do so—a condition viewed by Iran as unacceptable. The editorial warns that if Iran agrees to such a condition, it would be relinquishing a legal right enshrined under international law. “The peaceful enrichment of uranium is the right of all IAEA member states,” the paper stated, adding that conceding this point would only embolden the United States and its allies to make further illegitimate demands. While both sides may ultimately benefit from a renewed agreement, Siasat-e-Rooz contends that the American position is intended to sabotage the talks. “The U.S. is well aware that uranium enrichment is a red line for Iran, yet it continues to raise the issue,” the editorial said. It concluded that unless Washington backs down and acknowledges Iran's right to peaceful enrichment, the negotiations are unlikely to succeed.

Arman-e-Melli: delivering US message to Tehran

After five rounds of indirect talks in Muscat and Rome, Iran and the United States appear to be heading toward a sixth round of negotiations—one that, according to some analysts, could lead to a breakthrough or at least lay the groundwork for an eventual agreement. Arman-e-Melli noted that both Tehran and Washington seem more committed and focused than in previous rounds, and the continued progression of talks itself suggests that meaningful progress has been made. While initial expectations were low, the fact that five rounds have already taken place is a sign of mutual willingness to keep the dialogue going. Iran's main demand remains the full lifting of sanctions, while the U.S. continues to seek assurances that Iran will not develop nuclear weapons. Whether Washington will ultimately agree to Iran's terms remains to be seen, but the possibility of another American backtrack remains a concern. The piece concludes that any future progress will depend on whether the United States upholds its promises—or once again fails to deliver.

Army Aviation boosts fleet with domestically refurbished helicopters

TEHRAN – In a ceremony at the Fourth Combat Aviation Base in Esfahan on Monday, Iran's Army (Artesh) Aviation Unit integrated 10 refurbished helicopters into its fleet while celebrating the production of its 1000th indigenized aircraft part.

The event, attended by senior military leaders including Army Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari and Army Aviation Commander Brigadier General Seyyed Ghasem Khamoushi, highlighted Iran's progress in achieving military self-sufficiency amid ongoing sanctions.

The newly operational helicopters—a mix of Cobra attack helicopters, Chinook heavy-lift transports, and tactical transport helicopters—were refurbished using domestically produced parts.

General Heidari emphasized their strategic value: “When helicopters support ground operations, they uplift troop morale and combat effectiveness.”

He added that Army Aviation has become “one of West Asia's elite units,” with night-vision systems now enhancing its operational reach.

Simultaneously, the unit unveiled its 1000th indigenized aircraft part, a milestone achieved through collaboration with knowledge-based firms, the Ministry of Defense, and local industries.

The parts, meeting global standards, cover critical systems from rotor assemblies to avi-

onics.

General Heidari directly tied the achievements to the vision of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei: “Our Leader's call for industrial self-reliance is the revolution's honor.”

He praised Army Aviation's “glorious history” in national defense and civilian service, declaring the day “historic” for the force.

General Khamoushi highlighted the broader resolve: “This reflects the Armed Forces' resolute will to defend Iran and implement national objectives, as commanded by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.”

He confirmed ongoing training for pilots and technicians to maximize the new capabilities.

The ceremony concluded with a Chinook helicopter circling Esfahan while carrying the Iranian flag—a visual testament to the fleet's readiness.

Iran's military has strengthened its capabilities despite decades of sanctions that have constrained its economy.

The country has developed advanced defense systems, including missiles, UAVs, fighter jets, and naval assets.

Iran's air force ensures operational readiness by sustaining and enhancing its fleet through domestic parts production and fortified mountain bases.

The army aviation unit has also maintained and upgraded its helicopter fleet, supporting national defense and public missions.

US proposal asks Iran for ‘zero’ enrichment, Iran preparing rejection

TEHRAN – A U.S. proposal delivered to Iran via Oman on Saturday calls for an end to Iran's uranium enrichment—a demand Tehran has consistently rejected, both privately and publicly, since indirect negotiations with Washington over its nuclear program began in April, according to information obtained by the Tehran Times.

So far, Iran and the U.S. have held five rounds of talks under Omani mediation, aiming to reach a deal that would impose limits on Tehran's nuclear activities in exchange for the termination of sanctions. The negotiations are led by Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and U.S. Special Presidential Envoy Steve Witkoff.

Iranian officials have repeatedly stated, including during these discussions, that uranium enrichment remains a red line. After enduring years of crippling sanctions and seeing its nuclear scientists get assassinated by Israel, Iran says it makes no sense for the country to give up



President Pezeshkian views an exhibition of Iran's nuclear achievements on April 9, 2025.

the cornerstone of its nuclear program.

The current talks began after U.S. President Donald Trump sent a letter to Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, signaling a willingness to soften his stance from his first term, when he withdrew from the original nuclear deal, the JCPOA, and demanded that any new agreement

also include restrictions on Iran's military and foreign policy.

So far, the U.S. has avoided raising non-nuclear issues, the Tehran Times has learned. However, its recent insistence on halting uranium enrichment—a shift from its initial position in early April—has raised doubts about Washington's sincerity in reaching a deal.

Doubts among Iranian political factions first grew after the third round of talks, when Witkoff and other U.S. officials separately told media outlets that Iran must cease enrichment and dismantle related facilities. These remarks, repeated sporadically in subsequent weeks, also unsettled analysts who initially believed the two sides were well-placed for an agreement.

Before Iran agreed to enter negotiations, Ayatollah Khamenei expressed skepticism that talks with the U.S. would yield results—a prediction that now appears increasingly plausible.

Although Araghchi himself avoided optimism throughout the five rounds, some speculated that after seven years of a failed “maximum pressure” campaign, Trump might be ready to pivot toward a mutually beneficial deal: one ensuring Iran could not develop nuclear weapons while respecting its right to a peaceful nuclear program free from economic coercion.

Iran-Venezuela alliance key to facing shared challenges: Qalibaf



TEHRAN – Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf says Tehran and Caracas are determined to expand comprehensive bilateral cooperation, calling for a transition from dollar-based transactions to national currencies and the use of the BRICS Pay system in their trade relations.

Qalibaf made the remarks on Sunday during a meeting with Iranian and Venezuelan business leaders and private sector representatives in Caracas. The

visit marks the beginning of his three-nation tour of Latin America, which will also take him to Cuba and Brazil to participate in the Parliamentary Forum of BRICS member states.

Emphasizing the need to overcome existing obstacles in banking and finance, Qalibaf highlighted the role of the Iran-Venezuela joint bank and underlined the potential of BRICS Pay — the economic bloc's alternative to the SWIFT system — to facilitate smoother financial

transactions between the two heavily sanctioned nations.

“Replacing the dollar with national currencies and regional payment systems like BRICS Pay can neutralize the impact of foreign pressure on our economies,” he said. “Traders and private sector actors in Iran and Venezuela are on the frontlines of the economic war waged by our common adversaries.”

The speaker reaffirmed that expanding Iran-Venezuela ties is a definitive policy of the Islamic Republic, and called for the swift implementation of long-term strategic agreements to solidify cooperation across vital sectors.

“The more coordinated countries with shared interests and common adversaries are, the more effectively they can capitalize on opportunities and confront threats,” he said.

Qalibaf pointed to wide-ranging areas of cooperation, particularly in oil, energy, and

OPEC-related coordination, as key examples of the two countries' strategic alignment. He also emphasized the importance of leveraging geographic advantages in both countries to bolster economic growth.

The Iranian speaker stressed the urgency of removing banking hurdles and establishing free trade mechanisms to facilitate smoother private sector engagement. He noted that the Iran-Venezuela partnership is grounded in sustainable and logical economic principles based on mutual supply and demand.

In June 2022, Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year cooperation agreement during Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's official visit to Tehran. The deal includes collaboration in oil, petrochemicals, defense, agriculture, tourism, and culture, and provides for the repair of Venezuelan refineries as well as the export of Iranian technical and engineering services.

‘Israel exploits nuclear issue to manipulate US foreign policy:’ Iran Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baqaei, has asserted that the Israeli regime is exploiting Iran's nuclear program as a tool to control U.S. foreign policy in West Asia.

“If you review the reports related to Iran's nuclear issue, you will notice that since 1984, Israeli officials have claimed that Iran will acquire a nuclear bomb within the next six months. Now, about 40 years have passed since then,” Baqaei declared at a weekly press conference in Tehran on Monday.

He added that the regime's repeated warnings about Iran's nuclear program are a deliberate tactic. “What the Israeli regime fears is its inability to pursue its ambitions in the region as it did in previous decades,” he stated, arguing that Israel uses these claims to manipulate U.S. policy.

“We have seen this become a pattern, where Israel has consistently sought to instigate repeated and ongoing wars in our region,” added the diplomat.

When asked about reported U.S.-Israel disagreements over Iran, Baqaei dismissed their significance, stating, “If there are differences, they are more about how to apply pressure on the Iranian nation. There is no doubt that both sides, in word and deed, aim to harm the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

He suggested that such portrayals are a coordinated effort to vilify Iran.

Baqaei also reaffirmed Iran's longstanding proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free West Asia, noting, “Iran was the first country in the 1970s to propose the initiative of creating a region free of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in West Asia.”



Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baqaei, during his press conference in Tehran on June 2, 2025.

He pointed to Israel as the primary obstacle, accusing it of hiding an undeclared nuclear arsenal and refusing to join non-proliferation treaties.

“The demand for a nuclear-free West Asia must be consistently emphasized by regional countries at all levels,” he urged.

Addressing recent military threats from Tel Aviv, Baqaei warned, “Any foolish action by this regime will be met with a decisive response from the Islamic Republic of Iran. There is no doubt about that.”

He also condemned Israel's response to the recent IAEA report about Iran's nuclear program, calling it a distraction from its own actions, and demanded, “Threats against peaceful nuclear facilities are prohibited under international documents, including IAEA Resolution 533, and constitute a threat to international peace and security.”

Baqaei criticized the IAEA report's political undertones, saying, “Unfortunately, this report has been produced under pressure from Europeans and others on the IAEA Board of Governors, making it a political and unconstructive action.”

He warned, “If they misuse this report politically, it will be met with Iran's response.”

The remarks follow a contentious IAEA report claiming that Iran's stockpile of 60% enriched uranium reached 408.6 kg in May—a development Tehran dismissed as “politically motivated” and based on “recycled allegations.”

Consortium idea ‘no substitute for domestic enrichment’

Baqaei addressed reported Western proposals for a nuclear fuel consortium during the indirect Iran-U.S. nuclear talks, stating, “The consortium idea is not new; it has been raised for decades and has resurfaced in the media in recent weeks.”

While open to collaboration, he firmly rejected it as an alternative to Iran's enrichment program, declaring, “The consortium idea cannot in any way replace enrichment inside Iran.”

He added, “If some partners propose a process in which Iran participates in fuel production for nuclear reactors, we would welcome that,” but insisted it must complement, not supplant, domestic efforts.

Iran views its enrichment program as essential for energy independence and scientific progress, rights it is entitled to under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

No nuclear deal without enrichment rights: Araghchi



FM Araghchi (L) meets with IAEA chief Rafael Grossi in Cairo, Egypt on June 2, 2025.

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has reiterated that any nuclear agreement with Western powers will be contingent upon full recognition of Iran's right to enrich uranium, stressing that diplomacy remains the preferred route for resolving tensions.

Speaking at a joint press conference in Cairo alongside his Egyptian counterpart, Araghchi addressed key regional and international issues, including the Gaza crisis, Iran's nuclear program, and the path forward for Tehran-Cairo relations.

In response to the latest written proposal from the United States concerning the stalled nuclear talks, Araghchi said Tehran would soon deliver an “appropriate response.” However, he made it clear that Iran's inalienable right to enrich uranium under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) must be fully respected for any agreement to move forward.

“We are ready to build trust and assure the world that Iran is not seeking nuclear weapons,” he said. “But if the objective of negotiations is to strip Iran of its peaceful nuclear rights, there will be no deal.”

He emphasized that uranium enrichment is a major scientific achievement accomplished through the efforts of Iranian

scientists, for which the nation has paid a high price. “This right is non-negotiable,” he added.

Touching on the potential use of the so-called “snapback mechanism” by European parties, Araghchi warned against such a move, calling it a grave mistake that would only deepen existing tensions.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting on the sidelines of his visit—held at the request of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi—Araghchi criticized the “unfounded accusations” in the Agency's latest report on Iran's nuclear activities. He reminded Grossi of the IAEA's responsibility to carry out its duties professionally and impartially.

“The credibility of the Agency must not be compromised by the political agendas or pressures of certain member states,” he asserted.

Iran urges collective action from Islamic nations to halt Israeli war in Gaza

In his remarks, Araghchi strongly condemned Israel's ongoing war in Gaza. He called on the international Muslim community to take “collective and effective” measures to halt Israel's crimes in Gaza, as well as its continued occupation of parts of Lebanon and Syria.



FM Araghchi (L) and his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty attend a joint press conference

“The people of Gaza are living in unimaginable pain. More than 54,000 have been killed and over 124,000 wounded since October 7, most of them women and children,” he said.

Araghchi praised Egypt and Qatar for their efforts to secure a ceasefire and facilitate humanitarian aid, emphasizing Iran's full support for any ceasefire that reflects the will of the Palestinian people. He also backed an exchange of prisoners and unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza.

‘No barriers to progress’, Araghchi urges deepening of Iran-Egypt relations

On bilateral relations, Araghchi highlighted a shared determination between Tehran and Cairo to enhance cooperation. He noted that there are currently no serious obstacles preventing the expansion of ties and expressed hope that remaining issues would soon be resolved.

“Iran and Egypt are two influential nations with ancient civilizations,” he said. “We have agreed to continue political consultations, expand trade relations, and increase tourism exchanges.”

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, with whom Araghchi met during his visit, echoed the sentiment. He reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to region-

al peace and emphasized the need to safeguard the interests of Muslim countries. President Sisi also called for continued high-level dialogue between Iran and Egypt and closer coordination on regional matters.

The Iranian foreign minister also discussed indirect negotiations between Tehran and Washington, reportedly mediated by Oman, during his meeting with President Sisi. These talks come amid rising regional tensions and renewed international attention to Iran's nuclear file.

Before departing for the next leg of his regional tour in Lebanon, Araghchi held detailed discussions with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, focusing on regional developments and bilateral cooperation.

Mohammad Hossein Soltani-Fard, head of Iran's Interests Section in Cairo, said on Sunday that Araghchi's visit aligns with Iran's broader diplomatic strategy aimed at addressing regional conflicts—including the wars in Gaza, Sudan, and Libya—through dialogue among influential states.

He emphasized that Iran-Egypt relations have shown steady progress, with regular diplomatic exchanges and serious discussions between the two countries' foreign ministries.

Cairo and Tehran: Redrawing the lines of regional engagement

By Mustafa Kamal

CAIRO – The visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to Cairo marks a highly significant diplomatic moment in a turbulent regional context. It reflects a gradual shift in Egyptian-Iranian relations, which had been frozen for decades due to geopolitical considerations and divergent regional alliances.

The reception of Araghchi by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi sends a dual message: one to Iran, signaling the possibility of broader official communication channels, and another to international capitals, emphasizing that Cairo is acting in line with its national interests and strategic balances. This reinforces Egypt's position as a flexible actor in shaping West Asia's dynamics.

The political dimension of the visit goes beyond the resumption of bilateral relations, extending to Egypt's attempt to reclaim its role as an active diplomatic mediator in sensitive issues, particularly the Iranian nuclear file. Cairo's hosting of a trilateral meeting involving Araghchi, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty carries strategic implications for Egypt's repositioning at the heart of nuclear non-proliferation equations. This grants Egypt new leverage in regional security arrangements and aligns with its historical stance advocating for a West Asia free

of weapons of mass destruction.

The nuclear aspect of the visit serves as a real test of Egypt's ability to play the role of a “constructive neutral zone.” While not a party to the Muscat negotiations, Egypt possesses diplomatic capital that could be invested in facilitating understandings. This role aligns with Cairo's principled and steadfast commitment to limiting nuclear proliferation as a cornerstone of its vision for collective security in West Asia. It also helps Egypt formulate balanced and internationally acceptable positions among various regional and global actors.

The nuclear aspect of Araghchi's visit offers Egypt new leverage in regional security arrangements

Furthermore, the separate meeting between Araghchi and Egyptian political and economic elites holds both symbolic and strategic significance, reflecting Iran's desire to develop a “second track” in relations—one that bypasses governments and relies instead on elite understandings, think tanks, and investment firms. This approach could establish common ground for shared priorities and overcome the stereotypes that have long hindered bilateral relations.



These meetings also present an opportunity for Egypt to present its vision for regional cooperation from an integrated perspective encompassing economy, security, and culture. To achieve this, Cairo is expected to propose non-confrontational approaches to thorny issues like Yemen and Syria, emphasizing that economic cooperation cannot be separated from security and political realities. In this sense, Egypt is practicing a form of “preventive diplomacy” aimed at reducing regional tensions rather than merely managing them.

The timing of the visit is inseparable from broader regional contexts, particularly the relative U.S. withdrawal from West Asian affairs and the growing competition among Turkey, Iran, and Israel in contested areas like the Caucasus and the Eastern Mediterranean. Within these dynamics, Cairo sees an opportunity to present a third model for regional relations—one based

on containment rather than confrontation, and dialogue rather than polarization—while maintaining its Persian Gulf and international alliances.

On the economic front, Egypt could offer Iran promising opportunities for cooperation, especially in energy, maritime transport, agricultural investments, and petrochemical industries, leveraging its geographic position as a gateway to African markets. In return, Tehran could propose preferential agreements for Cairo in non-sanctioned sectors, opening the door for “calculated” cooperation that considers international reservations without missing developmental opportunities.

At the IAEA level, the participation of its director general in the trilateral talks adds a technical dimension that enhances the visit's credibility.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

A glance at Amir Ghalenoei's Iran

TEHRAN – Head coach Amir Ghalenoei has announced his 28-man squad for the upcoming 2026 World Cup qualification matches against Qatar and North Korea, as Iran's national football team look to solidify their commanding position atop Group A. Having already secured their berth in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Team Melli aim to conclude the third round of Asian qualifying on a high note.

Iran, currently leading their group with an impressive 20 points, will travel to Doha to face Qatar at Lusail Stadium on June 5. Five days later, they will return home to host North Korea in Tehran for their final fixture.

The 28-player roster, unveiled after two weeks of mini-camps, features a blend of seasoned veterans and promising new talents. Among the notable inclusions are goalkeepers Alireza Beiranvand, Payam Ni-azmand, and Seyed Hossein Hosseini. The defensive line sees familiar faces like Milad Mohammadi, Shoja Khalilzadeh, and Morteza Pournajaf, alongside new call-up such as Aref Aghasi.

Midfield stalwarts like Saeid Ezatolahi, Saman Ghoddos, and Rouzbeh Cheshmi provide experience, while the attacking force boasts the prolific Mehdi Taremi, Ali Alipour, Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh and Shahrir Moghanlou. Young talents like Mohammad Ghorbani, Mehdi Hashemnejad and Javad Hosseinejad have also earned a place in the squad.

Ghalenoei's squad selection shows a careful balance between proven players and fresh faces who have impressed in the domestic league.

The inclusion of players like Aghasi and Hashemnejad, who have excelled for Tractor, highlights the coach's readiness to integrate in-form domestic players.

With their World Cup spot already secured, these two matches offer Ghalenoei an opportunity to fine-tune his squad and experiment with tactics ahead of the global showpiece. Team Melli will be looking to maintain their unbeaten run and carry strong momentum into the next phase of their World Cup preparations. The upcoming encounters against Qatar and North Korea will serve as crucial tests, allowing the coaching staff to assess various combinations and solidify the team's cohesion.

Persepolis complete signing of Mohammadhossein Sadeghi

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club completed the signing of Mohammadhossein Sadeghi on Sunday.

The 21-year-old winger has joined Persepolis on a four-year deal.

Sadeghi has joined Persepolis from Havadar football club.

He is Persepolis's sixth signing after the Reds signed Thievy Bifouma, Mojtaba Fakhrian, Amin Kazemian, Reza Shekari, and Payam Niazmand.

Clarence Seedorf arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN – Dutch football legend Clarence Seedorf, who was appointed as an adviser to the CEO of Esteghlal Football Club, arrived in Tehran, capital of Iran Monday morning.

The renowned football figure was appointed as the club's CEO adviser by a decree from Ali Nazari Joybari in mid-May.

Seedorf will be introduced at the Espinas Palace Hotel.

He has traveled to Tehran to finalize his deal.

Seedorf, who played for Ajax, Real Madrid, Inter Milan, and AC Milan, converted to Islam to marry Iranian Sophia Makramati.

Iran to play Indonesia in 2025 AVC Women's Volleyball Nations Cup Opener

TEHRAN – Iran will begin the 2025 AVC Women's Volleyball Nations Cup with a match against Indonesia on June 7.

Team Melli Banovan has been drawn in Pool B along with the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Indonesia and New Zealand.

Iran will travel to Vietnam on Wednesday.

Pool A consists of Vietnam, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and India.

The Nations Cup will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam from June 7 to 14.

Iran's Fixtures:

June 7: Iran vs Indonesia

June 8: Iran vs New Zealand

June 9: Iran vs Philippines

June 11: Iran vs Kazakhstan

June 12: Iran vs Mongolia

Tractor eye Brazilian goalkeeper Luan Polli

TEHRAN – Tractor football team are reportedly interested in signing Brazilian goalkeeper Luan Polli.

Polli previously played for Nassaji last season, but after Nassaji's relegation from the Iran Professional League (IPL), he left the team.

Currently, IPL champions Tractor are in negotiations to bring him aboard.

Alireza Beiranvand is likely to face a suspension due to a contract termination violation with Persepolis. In this case, Tractor will enter negotiations to sign the Brazilian goalkeeper.

Women's football forward Dabbaghi sidelined for months

TEHRAN – Hajar Dabbaghi, Iran's women's football team forward, has suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) during a national team camp.

Her absence is expected to be a significant blow to Team Melli in the qualifiers for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup.

Iran are drawn into Group A, alongside Jordan, Bhutan, Singapore, and Lebanon. The team will face Singapore in their opening match.

A torn ACL typically requires six to nine months of rehabilitation and recovery, meaning Dabbaghi will likely miss a considerable portion of the upcoming competitions.

Iran down Kazakhstan in 2025 CAVA Men's Nations League

TEHRAN – The Iran 'B' volleyball team defeated Kazakhstan in straight sets (25-15, 30-28, 25-15) in the 2025 CAVA Men's Nations League on Monday.

Team Melli 'B' had defeated India 3-1, Turkmenistan 3-1 and Uzbekistan 3-0 in its previous matches in Pool A.

Iran will play Pakistan on Tuesday.

The event began on May 29 and will run until June 4 in Fergana, Uzbekistan.



Khomeini's line endures



TEHRAN – On the afternoon of March 22, 1963, when the agents of the Pahlavi regime stormed the mourning crowd of students at the Fayziyyah Seminary in Qom—who were commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (AS)—and unleashed their full brutality, the atmosphere of terror was so suffocating that even the city's hospitals dared not admit the wounded from the savage attack.

A small group of seminarians, seeking refuge, went to Imam Khomeini's home. And they had every right to be afraid. What they had witnessed was, at the very least, unprecedented in Iran's modern history.

Imam Khomeini, standing before that frightened and anxious group, said something astonishing:

"Do not be distressed or worried. Cast away fear and terror. You follow leaders who endured calamities and tragedies far greater than what we see today. Our noble Imams faced events like Ashura and the night of the 11th of Muharram—they bore such hardships in the path of God's religion. So what are you saying today? What are you afraid of? Why this anxiety? ... By committing this crime, the ruling regime has exposed and disgraced itself, revealing its barbaric nature. In carrying out this atrocity, the tyrannical regime has sealed its own defeat and destruction. We have won. We had prayed to God that this regime would expose its true nature—and now it has." (Sahifeh-ye Imam, Vol. 1, p. 166)

In that atmosphere of horror, mere hours after a full-scale, savage

crackdown, these words seemed so detached from the grim reality that they might have been spoken only to soothe the trembling hearts of that gathering. As the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution recounted more than 60 years later:

"On that historic night after the attack on Fayziyyah in 1963, when Imam Khomeini addressed a small, terrified group of seminarians in his home after the Isha prayer, some of us might have considered his bold declaration—'They will go, and you will remain'—as mere idealism or wishful thinking. But time proved that faith, patience, and trust in God uproot mountains of obstacles, and the schemes of enemies are powerless against divine decree." (From the message "The Pioneering and Leading Seminary", May 6, 2024)

From that bold prophecy on that dark and terrifying night to the dawn of victory, 15 long years passed—years filled with highs and lows, moments when the Pahlavi regime saw itself at the peak of power, and when neither it nor its supporters could have dreamed that the prediction of that man of God (then in exile, cut off even from his people) would come true.

Today, in many ways, the times are not so different. The arrogant powers of the world have joined hands to block the path of the great Khomeini and erase the Islamic Revolution—his legacy, which stands as a barrier against their devilish greed. In America, a man no less tyrannical than Pharaoh sits in power, boasting that he holds life and death in his hands, edging ever closer to claiming divinity. His rabid dog

in the region continues its slaughter, and on the surface, no one seems able to stop this killing machine.

Yet, in this era of collusion between wealth, force, and deceit, the Leader of the Revolution promises victory and sees a bright, inevitable triumph ahead—as he emphasized just days ago in a meeting with Pakistan's Prime Minister:

"We are optimistic about the future of the Islamic world." (May 25, 2024)

This courage, steadfastness, faith, and depth of thought are the fruits of following the Imam's path. An Imam who made no claims for himself—whose every thought, word, and action was drawn from pure Islam, not an Islam confined to ritual purity laws but rooted in dynamic jurisprudence, offering solutions for the complexities of modern life.

Thirty-six years have passed since that man of God's departure, yet the enmity toward him has only grown. If Imam is dead, why such relentless hatred? Is this not the clearest proof that his path and legacy are alive? Had the Revolution strayed from its course, why would they need such relentless slander and hostility?

As the Leader has repeatedly stressed, the people held a genuine and unique place in Imam Khomeini's thought and actions—a position born out of sincere belief, unlike worldly politicians who see the masses as mere tools for power and profit. It was with this conviction that Imam declared in his first speech upon returning from exile:

"With the support of this nation, I will appoint a government..."

Today, many of the Leader's predictions, decisions, and actions are based on this same understanding of the people and their support. A people who, despite the most complex and brutal operations, pressures, and attacks – such as economic and cultural warfare – remain steadfast in their loyalty to Imam and the Revolution.

And so, despite 36 years since the heart-wrenching departure of that towering historical figure, his path endures. The covenant that Ayatollah Khamenei firmly declared in 1989 remains as strong as ever:

"The path Imam charted for the Revolution—the path we and the Iranian nation have walked for ten years—is the path of Islam's greatness and the dignity of Muslims. It is the path of defending the oppressed across the world. It is the line that has transformed Iran from a backward, dependent, lifeless nation into one of the most independent, vibrant, and dynamic nations on earth. It is the path that has ignited the people's faith, love, and passion for Islam, driving them to unparalleled sacrifices. This path is our life, our entire existence, our national and revolutionary identity. By God's grace, we will advance on this path with determination, strength, and hope—with the same spirit Imam taught us throughout the struggle and the Revolution. We are ready to sacrifice day and night to solidify Imam's path, the path of the Revolution. Our lives and blood are sacrifices for this path. Our happiness lies in living and dying for it—of this, there is no doubt."

Resistance movements owe everlasting gratitude to Imam Khomeini

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — On the anniversary of the passing of Imam Khomeini (ra), Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem affirmed that "revolutionary Iran—under the leadership of Imam Khomeini—stood steadfastly alongside the Resistance Front to liberate Palestine and Holy al-Quds."

The Hezbollah chief emphasized that the Islamic Ummah "is today illuminated by the rays of the pure light of Muhammadan Islam, which Imam Khomeini established through his revolutionary project."

Sheikh Qassem said, "The late Imam embodied the values of faith and rejected injustice, occupation, and subordination," noting that these principles continue to be a beacon for resistance and liberation movements in West Asia.

The Secretary-General of Hezbollah added: "With the victory of truth over falsehood, we experience hope after this divine leader accomplished a historic shift, transforming Iran from the rule of the U.S.-backed Shah into an

Imam Khomeini is credited with energizing the Palestinian cause in the hearts and minds of the Islamic Ummah 46 years ago

independent and dignified Islamic Republic that stood with the oppressed around the world."

Iran, under the reign of Shah (King) Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, before the victory of the Islamic Revolution in February 1979, was aligned with the American-Israeli project and had the closest relations with the Zionist entity.

However, Imam Khomeini, from the beginning of his movement in 1963, stood against the Shah, repeatedly affirmed his absolute support for the Palestinian resistance to liberate all of Palestine, from the river to the sea.

In 1968, Imam Khomeini announced his famous fatwa ordering the donation of khums and zakat to support the Palestinian cause.

Before the victory of Imam Khomeini's revolution, the Amal Movement,

led by Martyr Sayyed Musa al-Sadr (ra), sheltered dozens of Iranian revolutionaries who played an important role in strengthening cooperation with Palestinian resistance leaders.

Shortly after the victory of Imam Khomeini's revolution, the slogan "Today Iran, Tomorrow Palestine" was raised.

Imam Khomeini made a historic decision to close the embassy of the Zionist entity and transform it into the embassy of Palestine, and declared the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan as "International Quds Day."

The first to visit Iran was the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat; this caused a huge strategic shift in the conflict with the Zionist enemy, especially after Egypt signed the Camp David Accords in 1978.

Because of Imam Khomeini's over-

whelming support for the Palestinian cause, Iran was subjected to numerous conspiracies to overthrow the Islamic establishment, including the ill-fated Operation Eagle Claw by the United States; the ignition of internal conflicts; and the Iraqi Baathist regime's invasion of Iran, which coincided with an ethno-sectarian propaganda against the Islamic Republic in the Arab media.

Despite these challenges, Imam Khomeini sent, after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces to support Lebanese resistance movements against the occupation. This later paved the way for the birth of Hezbollah.

Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah Secretary General, recounts: "Nine individuals were delegated to the Islamic Republic to meet with Imam Khomeini. They asked him, 'What is our mission?'"

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Imam Khomeini and the occupied Palestine

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – One of Imam Khomeini's most enduring legacies is his pivotal role in placing Palestine firmly back on the world's map.

The former Iranian monarchical system under Mohammad Reza Pahlavi maintained highly favorable policies toward the Israeli regime and consistently opposed the cause of the oppressed Palestinians.

At the time, this stance was welcomed across the Arab world. Pahlavi's views found appreciation among Arab leaders, many of whom adopted similar positions.

Then came an Imam in 1979, who led the Islamic Revolution, declaring that today our focus is Iran, and tomorrow: Palestine.

In response, the Arab world drastically reversed its position toward Iran at the time, insisting that Palestine was solely an Arab matter and had no relevance to non-Arab nations.

Imam Khomeini, however, envisioned a different path; one in which Palestine, abandoned by international law, could only be liberated from Israeli occupation through some form of resistance.

From an Islamic perspective, the al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, remains under Israeli military occupation in al-Quds (Jerusalem).

The 1979 revolution was, after all, an Islamic Revolution, and Imam Khomeini remained committed to his pledge on Palestine.

This commitment was enshrined in the new Iranian constitution, which asserted the Islamic Republic's duty to stand with the oppressed.

Over time, further legislation reinforced this responsibility.

These laws ensure that any Iranian government, regardless of who leads it, cannot ignore the plight of the Palestinian people.

During the 1980s, Lebanon also endured Israeli occupation, notably when Israeli tanks reached the Presidential Palace in Beirut.

In response, Iran, under Imam Khomeini's leadership, supported resistance against the Israeli aggression. Iran pledged assistance if those under Israeli oppression sought help.

This doctrine, later advanced under Imam Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, led to armed resistance from Lebanon and Gaza against the Israeli occupation.

The emergence of Hezbollah in Lebanon ultimately resulted in the successful expulsion of Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) in 2000.

In Gaza, a U.S.-backed campaign of genocide has sought to destroy Palestinian resistance, exposing the brutal atrocities committed by the Israeli regime, particularly against Palestinian children.

Yet, according to the American Intelligence Community, the Palestinian resistance in Gaza remains as resilient today as it was on October 7, 2023.

Other intelligence reports state that Hamas, despite the Israeli regime's vows to eliminate it, has doubled its number of fighters in the past 20 months.

In contrast, the Palestinian Authority, indirectly highlighted by Imam Khomeini's school of thought as an example of failed reliance on the international community, has remained ineffective.

The PA, headquartered in the occupied West Bank, continues to await foreign intervention amid a record surge in illegal Israeli settlement expansion.

A point may soon arrive where the scale of these settlements forces the PA to abandon Ramallah and seek refuge abroad, leaving indigenous Palestinian land behind.

Israeli ministers have made their intentions clear: they aim to Judaize Gaza, occupied al-Quds, and the West Bank—regions they describe in biblical terms.

Today, armed resistance is emerging in the occupied West Bank, particularly among younger Palestinians who are reconnecting with their national, Arab, and Islamic identity.

Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank refuse to capitulate. They would rather die in their homes than endure another Nakba.

This steadfastness is evident before our eyes on television screens every day.

Imam Khomeini established the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan as International Quds Day. Since then, mass street protests have spread worldwide to mark the occasion.

"Muslims across the world should regard Quds Day as a day when every Muslim is required to join. It is the oppressed people's day," Imam Khomeini declared.

What some Arab rulers, in particular the new government in Syria, fail to grasp is that Israeli occupation knows no borders. Its ambitions extend until the "Greater Israel Project" is realized.

"Everyone should realize that the world superpowers' aim in creating Israel does not end with the occupation of Palestine. They plan, God forbid, to extend Palestine's fate to all Arab countries," Imam Khomeini warned.

This is the ultimate goal of the Israeli occupation, and it should deeply concern Arab rulers.

One man changed the course of the Palestinian struggle.

Imam Khomeini: A legacy of spiritual leadership and revolution

By Sayed Mehdi Rizvi

MUMBAI - Imam Ruhollah Khomeini, who was born in 1900 in the town of Khomeyn, Iran, was a significant figure in the Islamic world, not only as a religious scholar but also a revolutionary leader. At an early age, he was left without parents and was raised in a religious family, later he became a devoted scholar in Islamic beliefs. He received his religious education certificate in the city of Qom, where he studied science, philosophy, and mysticism. His great knowledge of Islamic culture and his rich inner life were the main reasons for him to be appointed as an Ayatollah and later on a Grand Ayatollah.

When Imam Khomeini observed the corruption and the Western influence in Iran under the Pahlavi monarchy, that was the period when his political consciousness began developing. In 1963, he disapproved of the Shah's regime not only for the White Revolution but also for what he considered an assault on the Iranian and Islamic way of life. By doing so, he was arrested and later deported to Turkey, Iraq, and finally, France. Following this trend and he was in exile, he steered the people of Iran through his speeches, letters, and recorded messag-es in the resistance against the oppressors.

After a long period of fighting, in 1979 Imam Khomeini finally managed to stage the Islamic Revolution in Iran, which led to the Shah's overthrow and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was the first secular state that stuck to the principles of the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist (Wilayat-e-Faqih), where the scholars of Islam rule the nation in line with the laws of the Creator. As the Supreme Leader, he foregrounded the ideas of fairness, independence, and solidarity among Muslims. He was also a supporter of the oppressed and was particularly opposed to U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Imam Khomeini left the world for his heavenly abode on June 3, 1989, but his impression has not lesson and even in the Muslim world, his influence is quite evident. People cherish him not only as the man behind the revolution but also as the one who gave impetus and shape to Islamic thought in the modern world. Even after his death, the system he initiated, and the values he upheld - fighting against oppression, inner growth, and never-fading commitment to Islam, have been followed over the years.

36th death anniversary of Ayatollah Ruhullah Moosavi Khomeini commemorated at Kesar Baug Hall, Mumbai

By Mufeed Rizvi

MUMBAI - The 36th death anniversary of Ayatollah Ruhullah Moosavi Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was solemnly commemorated at Kesar Baug Hall in an event titled Yaad-e-Imam-e-Rahil. The program drew a large gathering of attendees from various walks of life, including prominent scholars, students, community members, and women, for whom special arrangements were made.



The program, held with dignity and devotion, was marked by deep reflection on the life and legacy of Imam Khomeini. His pivotal role in the Iranian Revolution and the establishment of an Islamic Republic based on the values of justice, resistance, and spiritual revival was the central theme throughout the event.

A highlight of the evening was the moving rendition of Salaam Farmande by over 50 children, who delivered a passionate group performance. Their spirited recitation infused the gathering with a renewed sense of purpose and emotion, symbolizing the transmission of Khomeini's ideals to the next generation.

Several respected Ulama took to the stage to share insights into different aspects of Imam Khomeini's multifaceted personality. Among the distinguished speakers were Maulana Haider Abbas, Maulana Syed Mohammed Askari, Maulana Husain Mahdi Husaini, and Maulana Hasnain Rizvi Kararvi. Each speaker touched upon various dimensions of Khomeini's life, including his unwavering stand against oppression, his deep commitment to the teachings of the Qur'an and Ahlul Bayt, and his vision for Muslim unity and self-reliance.

The speakers also emphasized the relevance of Imam Khomeini's thought in today's socio-political climate, urging the audience to reflect on his message of resistance against tyranny and moral integrity in leadership.

Adding depth to the tribute was an audio-visual presentation that chronicled the journey of Imam Khomeini—from his early life and struggle against the Pahlavi regime, to the 1979 Iranian Revolution and the transformative impact he had on the global Islamic awakening. The presentation offered a rare glimpse into historical moments that changed the political and spiritual landscape of the Muslim world.

The event concluded with prayers and a renewed commitment to uphold the values Imam Khomeini stood for. The successful coordination of the event, high attendance, and moving tributes served as a testament to the enduring impact of his legacy even more than three decades after his passing.

The political legacy of Imam Khomeini

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – On the 36th anniversary of the passing of Imam Ruhollah Khomeini, the central figure of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, his thought continues to influence not only the political trajectory of the Islamic Republic but also broader debates about the relationship between Islam and politics in the Muslim world.

Far from being a mere regime change, the Islamic Revolution represented, for many of its supporters, a profound rupture with the dominant modern political paradigm. At the heart of this movement was a key idea: Islam should not be reduced to a purely spiritual or ritual practice but could offer an alternative model of political, cultural, and social organization, articulated from its own tradition.

Islamism, understood as the political formulation developed by Ayatollah Khomeini, according to which Islam must occupy a central place in the public sphere and in the configuration of power, displays several defining traits. Among them is the conviction that the West has lost its normative hegemony; the overcoming of the nation-state as the sole legitimate political framework; and the need for an Islamic power capable of representing and defending the umma—the global community of believers—on the international stage.

In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran presents itself as a political actor with autonomous representational capacity, independent from the dictates of Western powers and articulated through its own political grammar.

Imam Khomeini understood that the orientalist gaze remained the dominant prism through which Muslim societies outside the Eurocentric narrative were interpreted. This outlook assumes that Western ideology—with its categories, methods, and values—is universal, valid for analyzing and explaining any reality, even those foreign to its historical and cultural origins.

Islamism, however, challenges this premise. From this perspective, the West is not defined as a concrete geographic space but as an ideology: a thought system that presents itself as neutral while actually imposing its own epistemic limits when interpreting the non-Western. The Islamist critique is therefore not only political but also epistemological: it questions the legitimacy of the conceptual framework used to understand the Islamic world.

According to Islamists, the Western normative view starts from the assumption that Islam cannot serve as a valid political tool. From this standpoint, presenting Islam as a political identity alternative to the Pahlavi regime would be dismissed as a distraction from the real, deeper causes of the revolution. Islam, in this narrative, is reduced to a mere epiphenomenon—a smokescreen without power to transform the political order.

Imam Khomeini's thought emerged in opposition to Eurocentrism. The revolution was not only the overthrow of the Pahlavi dynasty (1925–1979) but also a break with the orientalist framework that portrayed Muslims as lacking political agency. This opposition manifested in a cultural transformation aimed at the “de-Westernization” of Iranian society.

The 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran has been subject to many interpretations, ranging from sociological and theological to geopolitical and cultural analyses. However, it has rarely been approached as an epistemic event in the fullest sense, not merely as a regime change or a historical anomaly, but as a rupture that destabilizes the very frameworks through which politics has been conceived in modernity.

From this theoretical vantage point, the Islamic Revolution is neither a theocratic regression nor an exception within the secularization process but an epistemic break: a radical questioning of the modern political order founded on theological-Christian sovereignty. What is at stake is not only the ideological content of a new state but the very configuration of the political field as constituted by Western thought. In this sense, the revolution can be interpreted as an attempt to reconfigure the political from a different place, outside the Western paradigm that reduced the Islamic to the premodern or irrational.

Islamist historiography views this revolution as the first that did not follow Western political grammar, making it unpre-

dictable for scholars and experts. A recurring example is the book Iran: Dictatorship and Development, written by Fred Halliday just months before the 1979 revolution. In this work, Halliday attempts to foresee possible scenarios after the fall of the Pahlavi dynasty, which was already evident. However, among his many predictions, he never considered the possibility of an Islamic revolution, instead proposing options such as a nationalist government, socialism, or even a new monarchy.

The absence of the Islamic revolution from such predictions allowed Islamists to criticize Western political perspectives, which, they argue, were incapable of conceiving Islam as a political tool. In other words, the possibility of using Islamic language to achieve political emancipation was, and remains, unimaginable within the Western narrative.

Imam Khomeini constructed an autonomous identity with Islam as its nodal point. According to this interpretation, the founder denied the universality of Western epistemology while simultaneously challenging the historical sequence known as “from Plato to NATO.”

The revolution materialized as an Islamic identity embedded in an alternative genealogy of anti-colonial resistance, with its own grammar that cannot be expressed in the Western language of national liberation or Marxism.

Thus, Imam Khomeini, through his political thought, answered one of the most pressing questions for Islamism: how can Muslims live politically, as Muslims, in the contemporary world?

Imam Khomeini's importance lies in his political project, which aimed—and succeeded, in displacing the West as the normative discourse. This process was carried out using exclusively the language of the Islamic tradition, without any reference to political doctrines considered Western, unlike other Islamic reformists.

Imam Khomeini wrote as if Western grammar did not exist. For his followers, this irrelevance was fundamental, as it meant the materialization of an autonomous Muslim political identity. That Imam Khomeini wrote as if the West did not exist also implies that Islam cannot be reduced to the category of “religion.”



From this perspective, the idea of “religion” is a product of the European Enlightenment, a model that has been globally exported. Accepting the universalization of the category “religion” ignores that it is a project attempting to present European local history as a universal narrative. Islamism denounces this imposition of Western epistemic norms over Islamic traditions.

Religion as a colonial category

The idea that there exists something universal under the name of “religion” assumes a trans-historical essence that overlooks the differences among the various projects invoking the figure of God. From the perspective of the Islamic Republic, speaking of “religion” implies accepting its character as a private belief, separate from politics, as understood in the West. For this reason, discourse on religion can only be fully understood in relation to the narrative of secularism.

Secularism should not be understood simply as the absence or exclusion of religion from the public sphere, but as a normative project that establishes its own boundaries. For the Islamic Republic, secularism is neither natural nor the culmination of a historical process; rather, it is a disciplinary discourse, a political modality that validates certain political sensitivities while excluding others by deeming them threats.

The use of religious language is not merely a descriptive exercise but carries a clear prescriptive intention: the ultimate goal is to regulate the space of Islam.

Imam Khomeini captures this idea that Islam cannot be reduced to the colonial category of “religion” when he states:

“If we Muslims did nothing but pray, beg God, and invoke His name, imperialists and oppressive governments would leave us alone. If we had said: let us focus all our energies on the call to prayer for 24 hours and simply pray, or: let them steal everything we have, for God will take care of it, since there is no power greater than God and we will be rewarded in the hereafter—then they would not have bothered us.”

Imam Khomeini's point is that Islam cannot be reduced to a ritualistic or moralistic matter devoid of political essence. It is precisely Islam's political articulation that prevents its dissolution.

The Islamism of the Islamic Republic

One of the fundamental differences expressed by Iranian Islamism, in contrast to other regional Islamization projects, is that Islam cannot be reduced to a fixed and limited set of characteristics. This idea is reflected in several letters that Imam Khomeini addressed to the then-president and current Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khomeini. In these writings, Imam Khomeini asserts that the Islamic Republic can modify or even repeal any concrete manifestation of Islam if necessary to ensure its survival. While some experts interpret this stance as an expression of Imam Khomeini's nationalist thinking, others see it as the affirmation of an Islam that transcends its historical manifestations and is always projected beyond them.

Another characteristic of Khomeinism is that, although Imam Khomeini considered himself a follower of Shia Islam, his political practice is understood as an attempt to bring Sunni and Shia closer together under what experts call a “post-mazhabi” vision—mazhab or madhhab meaning “legal school” in Arabic. This search for Islamic unity is key to understanding the Islamic Republic's self-definition as a political home for all Muslims, positioning itself as a power capable of defending the entire Islamic community against Western aggression.

A final fundamental pillar of Khomeinism is the doctrine of Wilayat al-faqih, translated as “government of the jurist,” which represents the most important political vision of this current. Imam Khomeini understood that the solution to the problems of Iran and the Islamic community in general is not merely theological but a political challenge requiring concrete responses in that sphere.

In fact, Imam Khomeini succeeded in creating an Islamic political identity capable of transcending national and sectarian divisions. His proposal conceives political agency as the capacity of Muslims to decolonize themselves and reweave their societies within an Islamic historical tradition. This decolonization aims at dismantling the global colonial order.

Therefore, for his followers, Imam Khomeini's importance lies in his ability to break the identification between “universal” and “the West.” In other words, thanks to Khomeinism, the West is revealed as just another particularism within the global political world.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

CBI chief heads to China for SCO summit on financial co-op

TEHRAN – Mohammad Reza Farzin, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), departed for Beijing to participate in the meeting of central bank chiefs from member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and hold bilateral talks with his counterparts.

According to a Sunday night statement from the CBI, the SCO currently includes ten full members: China, Russia, India, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus. An additional six countries—Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka—participate as dialogue partners.

Tehran signals readiness to boost role in regional transport development

TEHRAN – Iran is fully prepared to play an active and constructive role in the development of regional transport and logistics, Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh said at the 13th Meeting of ECO Transport Ministers held in Tehran on Sunday.

Addressing delegates from member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Sadegh emphasized the importance of strengthening regional cooperation to advance shared goals such as expanding transport infrastructure and

The international gathering of SCO central bank governors, scheduled for June 3 in Beijing, will focus on enhancing monetary and banking cooperation among member states.

According to the event's secretariat, key issues on the agenda include strategies to boost financial and monetary transactions and facilitate currency settlements between member countries.

Bilateral meetings are also expected to take place on the sidelines of the summit, aimed at strengthening monetary and banking ties among SCO members.

promoting trade.

"This significant event offers valuable opportunities to deepen collaboration within the ECO framework and accelerate connectivity among member countries," she said.

Sadegh reiterated Iran's commitment to the organization, calling for serious attention to the ECO 2035 Vision Document. "Our past experience shows that ECO can serve as a foundation for enhancing ties among member states, and Iran remains fully dedicated to supporting this process," she added.

Iran's non-oil exports reach \$8.2b in 2 months

TEHRAN – Iran exported 24.6 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$8.24 billion in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–May 21), according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Foroud Asgari, who also serves as deputy economy minister, said the volume of exports rose by 4.4 percent year-on-year, although the total value saw a marginal decline of 0.11 percent. The average customs value of each exported ton fell by 4.3 percent to \$335.

Among the major non-oil exports

were liquefied propane (\$643 million), natural gas (\$455 million), liquefied butane (\$452 million), petroleum bitumen (\$419 million), and methanol (\$388 million).

Petrochemical products accounted for 5.7 million tons valued at \$2.22 billion, reflecting a four percent increase

in volume and a three percent rise in value compared to the same period last year.

China remained Iran's top export destination, receiving \$2.43 billion worth of goods, followed by Iraq (\$1.5 billion), the United Arab Emirates (\$1.09 billion), Turkey (\$673 million), Afghanistan

(\$374 million), Pakistan (\$322 million), and Oman (\$305 million).

Asgari also provided data on imports, which reached 5.9 million tons worth \$8.47 billion in the same two-month period. While the import volume rose by 1.16 percent, the value dropped by 7.8 percent year-on-year.

The average value of imported goods stood at \$1,431 per ton, down nine percent from the previous year.

Top imports included unrefined gold (\$860 million), corn feed (\$657 million), rice (\$289 million), sunflower seed oil (\$215 million), and soybeans (\$211 million).

Iran, Tajikistan stress necessity to expand, facilitate bilateral trade

TEHRAN- During a meeting between Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi and Tajikistan's Minister of Industry and New Technologies Sherali Kabi, the two sides emphasized

the necessity to expand and facilitate trade cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, the TPO head expressed hope that serious cooperation will increase trade relations

between the two countries to several times the current level; and that the forward trend of cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries will be further deepened and expanded.

Iran launches trade policy council for Iraq as private sector eyes major investments

TEHRAN – Iran's private sector is ready to boost its investment presence in Iraq, senior officials from the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) said during a joint meeting with Iraq's ambassador to Tehran.

The meeting marked the formal launch of the Iran-Iraq Trade Policy Council at the ICCIMA, aimed at expanding bilateral trade and reducing the trade imbalance between the two countries by up to 50 percent.

Samad Hassanzadeh, head of ICCIMA, said the new council would help increase imports of goods and raw materials from Iraq, while facilitating joint investment and production ventures between private entities in both countries.

He noted that a recent investment forum introduced 140 opportunities in Iraq and expressed hope that detailed data on those projects would be shared with ICCIMA to enable more effective participation by Iranian investors.

Hassanzadeh emphasized the importance of holding workshops on Iraq's investment incentives and simplifying the issuance of bank guarantees, which he said were key concerns for Iranian investors. Ownership rights and the future security of investments in Iraq also require clarification, he added.

In this meeting, ICCIMA Deputy Head Hossein Pirmoazzen said that Iraq remains one of Iran's top

economic partners, with bilateral trade currently valued at \$12.7 billion. But he noted the potential for even greater economic cooperation, citing plans to increase Iran's ranking from the fourth to the second-largest exporter to Iraq.

To support this, the council includes representatives from major provinces and border regions active in Iran-Iraq trade. Pirmoazzen urged improve-

ments in transport infrastructure and customs processing, including the deployment of X-ray systems at border crossings, to ease trade bottlenecks that have cut freight movement by nearly 50 percent.

He also revealed that the council plans to allocate 10 percent of Iran's total imports to come through Basra and neighboring Iraqi provinces.

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For further inquiries, please contact us at:

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By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- In a press conference held at Atana Hotel in Tehran on Sunday, the details and goals of Iran's first international blockchain conference, titled deBlock 2025, were clarified.

deBlock 2025, which is scheduled to be held at IRIB Conference Hall in Tehran on June 15 and 16, 2025, aims to strengthen Iran's position in the digital economy and create synergy between the government, businesses, and universities.

The press conference was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, academics, and those active in technology industry.

deBlock planned to connect government, businesses, universities

Addressing the press conference, Pouria Astaraki, founder and secretary of the conference, mentioned that cryptocurrencies in the country face different challenges, from mining and exchange to the lack of laws and a roadmap in the conflict between the institutions.

Over the next five years, cryptocurrencies and blockchain will add \$1.86 trillion to global GDP, with 82 percent of the value of this sector going beyond mining



and exchange, he stated, adding, "As a result, deBlock conference has planned to connect government, businesses, and universities."

"The conference wants to turn Iran into the region's blockchain hub and become the world's largest cryptocurrency conference", founder of the event further highlighted.

Blockchain: Foundation of trust and digital transformation

Addressing the same press conference, Ehsan Chitsaz, the deputy minister of communications and information technology, considered blockchain to be more than a technical tool, saying: "Blockchain is not a code, but a promise for trust, transparency, and the future of the digital economy. By linking artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things

(IoT), and big data, this technology gives meaning to transactions and empowers societies."

"Blockchain is transforming supply and financing chains and making our lives more transparent every day. Of course, there are challenges along the way for this technology and there are many barriers to its adoption in organizations, but it has nevertheless found its way", the official further stated.

deBlock enjoys noticeable scientific participation

Mohammad Amin Zarei, scientific secretary of the conference, was the other speaker, who announced the extensive scientific participation in the deBlock Conference.

He said so far, 107 essays have been received in the four areas of economics, business, legislation,

and technology, 15-20 percent of which are from foreign countries.

Zarei expressed hope that deBlock would become a permanent secretariat to accelerate blockchain development in Iran.

deBlock means removing obstacles

Abbas Ashtiani, the executive secretary of the conference, for his part said: "deBlock means removing obstacles, and one of the most important steps that this conference intends to take at the level of our country, neighboring countries, and invited countries is to consider the financial, legal, regulatory, and other obstacles that exist in the path of the applicability of this technology."

Cryptocurrencies have been recognized as an asset class for several years all over the world and have passed this stage, he noted, adding, "Our country, along with other countries, has faced this complexity of nature, but almost all countries in the world have overcome the issue of multi-nature, and there is hope that with the wisdom that exists in all government agencies, this issue can be overcome and enter the phase of exploitation and proper use of both crypto assets and blockchain technology as the most important registration technology."

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Real Density:	2.22 – 2.25 g/cm ³
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Ash Content:	0.2 % Max.
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Nipple Length:	457.20 mm
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Thread Type:	Tapered Thread

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Sierra Leone Red Cross seeks to boost ties with Iranian Red Crescent

TEHRAN – Officials from the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society have expressed interest in expanding cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in the treatment and rehabilitation sectors.

Sahr Christian Fayia, the president of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, and Kpawuru E.T. Sandy, the secretary general of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, held a meeting in the African country with Babak Mahmoudi, the chief of the IRCS rescue and relief organization, IRCS reorted.

The two sides discussed ways to broaden collaborations. They signed a memorandum of understanding, extending cooperation between the two societies for another 15 years.

Lauding the IRCS for providing health services to vulnerable people, the Sierra Leonean officials sought to deepen ties in the rehabilitation and educational fields.

Given that Sierra Leone is a risk-prone country, they also called on the IRCS to share expertise and experiences in relief and rescue services as well as crisis management.

For his part, Mahmoudi highlighted activities of the IRCS to promote health services; boosting the export of pharmaceutical



products, medical equipment, and supplies; expanding health, treatment, and rehabilitation services; providing educational services; and equipping a healthcare center to provide specialized services.

Referring to some problems of the IRCS medical center in Sierra Leone, Keivan Asadpour, the head of the IRCS medical center in Sierra Leone, said the Red Cross Society needs to support the IRCS.

The IRCS has signed memorandums of understanding with red crescent societies of 19 countries over the past three years to expand and enhance cooperation in humanitarian as well as rescue and relief operations.

The IRCS looks forward to

boosting cooperation with other societies to promote awareness, resilience, and capabilities of the societies in confrontation with disasters and the provision of relief services.

With ICRC assistance, IRCS is ready to share expertise

The head of the IRCS, Pirhossein Kolivand, has announced readiness to share its scientific and educational experiences as well as operational expertise with other red crescent societies with the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The IRCS is willing to share its expertise in different fields, such as diagnosing individuals

with mobility problems through screening, providing rehabilitation services, and training individuals living in areas affected by landmines on how to identify and avoid mine hazards, Kolivand noted.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Nicolas Von Arx, Director of Operations for NAME (North African and Middle East), and the representative of the ICRC in Iran, Vincent Cassard, on May 20.

Also, Kolivand called on the ICRC to hold a congress to commemorate the efforts of the international rescuers who have lost their lives to save others, and proposed hosting the congress.

By supporting measures and humanitarian activities of red crescent societies, the ICRC will boost motivation among them, he noted.

Referring to unilateral sanctions, the official said, “We expect the International Committee of the Red Cross to play its role in facilitating the import of medicine and medical equipment by the Iranian Red Crescent Society.”

The official went on to ask the ICRC to equip Red Crescent helicopters with night vision cameras to enhance their ability in rescue operations.

National plan to improve wetland conservation via empowering local communities



TEHRAN –The Department of Environment (DOE) and the Ministry of Agriculture have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to launch a national plan for empowering local communities to protect and promote the sustainable use of wetlands.

The main objective of the MOU is to turn wetland protection from a government initiative into a comprehensive social responsibility by focusing on training, empowering, and involving local communities. Wetlands represent a vital ecosystem and are known as the kidneys of the Earth. These ecosystems, among other things, provide clean water, protect against floods, restore underground aquifers, and maintain surface water flow during dry periods.

Iran's geography is distinct, teeming with diverse landscapes. The country has various wetlands, 27 of which were listed in the International Ramsar Convention.

Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project

On December 10, 2024, Mehri Asna-Ashari,

an official with the DOE, said the conservation project of Iranian wetlands has resulted in a 27.5 percent decrease in irrigation water consumption while increasing agricultural products by 22.5 percent.

“Currently, 49 wetlands, covering around 22 percent of the whole wetlands in the country, are being conserved in the form of native ecosystem management partnership,” IRNA quoted Asna-Ashari as saying.

She made the remarks at the meeting of the steering committee of the international project for the conservation of Iranian Wetlands.

Since 2021, the conservation project has been carried out in three wetlands including Shadegan in Khuzestan province, Bakhtegan in Fars province, and Urmia in West Azarbaijan province, the official noted.

Sustainable farming methods were implemented and 2,433 farmers were trained.

By February 2024, the results showed that average agricultural production increased by 22.5 percent, whereas irrigation water consumption reduced by 27.5 percent. In addition, the consumption of chemical fertilizers decreased by 25 to 30 percent. Consequently, the income of each farmer increased by 14 percent.

The establishment of 26 non-governmental

organizations (NGOs), and 181 livelihood support groups, and the implementation of alternative livelihood plans in 44 villages are some of the other achievements of the project, she added.

The official went on to say that “in 2024, the project was implemented with a budget of 678,000; we hope the project further yields positive outcomes with the allocation of the new budget.

Of course, the financial contribution of the government was received with a little delay and insufficiently.

To implement the project more successfully, the Ministries of Agriculture, Energy, Interior, Foreign Affairs, as well as Planning and Budget Organization, and the United Nations Development Program are required to cooperate with each other,” Asna-Ashari noted.

In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value with an area of over 3 million hectares have been identified, of which 25 wetlands are designated as wetlands of international importance (registered in the Ramsar Convention) covering more than 1.4 million hectares and four sites are biosphere reserves.

Wetlands represent a vital ecosystem and are known as the kidneys of the Earth.

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‘Further measures required to preserve forests’

Iran's forest area is approximately 12 million hectares with 0.2 hectares per capita, which is one quarter of the world average, so attention to preserve the forest areas must be four times the global attention, faculty member of the Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands has said.

Mohammad Darvish made the remarks on the occasion of the National Tree Planting Day.

Unfortunately, forests have been taken for granted in the country, as 2 million hectares of the northern forests has been depleted since 1330s (1950s), thus no serious protection measures have been taken, he said.

حفظ جنگل ها نیازمند اقدامات بیشتر است

بر اساس آخرین آمار موسسه تحقیقات جنگل ها و مراتع، وسعت رویشگاه های جنگلی ایران حدود ۱۲ میلیون هکتار و سرانه هر ایرانی از جنگل، کمتر از دو دهم هکتار است که یک چهارم سرانه جهانی می شود بنابراین باید توجه ما به حفظ رویشگاه های جنگلی، ۴ برابر توجه جهانی باشد.

محمد درویش عضو هیات علمی موسسه تحقیقات جنگل ها و مراتع کشور روز چهارشنبه همزمان با روز درختکاری و آغاز هفته منابع طبیعی این مطلب را عنوان کرد.

او در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: به نظر می رسد در کشور آن طور که باید به درختان و حفاظت از آنها توجه نمی شود؛ نابودی دو میلیون هکتار از جنگل های شمال از دهه ۳۰ تاکنون گواه این ادعاست.

Ten more care centers to be established for autistic persons



TEHRAN – So far, six centers have been launched in the country to provide care for persons with autism, and 10 more centers will be founded by the end of the current Iranian year, March 2026, according to the head of the Welfare Organization.

Highlighting that the Welfare Organization has established a participatory secretariat for empowering families with autistic children and developing relevant guidelines, Javad Hosseini said these centers target individuals above 14 years of age, IRNA reported.

The centers will address increased behavioral challenges in autistic individuals at this age and ease their families' stress. Families can drop off their children during the day and pick them up at night, he added.

Timely interventions in children with autism are crucial. Currently, the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder has risen from 8 in 10,000 children in 1994 to one in 100 children in 2023, which does not necessarily show the increase in prevalence rate but the improvement in diagnosis, the official said.

According to studies conducted, in developed countries such as the United States, diagnosis and intervention for children with autism are made at the age of 2 - 2.5 years, while in Iran, these interventions mainly begin at the age of 5 or 6 years, Hosseini noted.

“Autism disorder develops during the fetal period. The symptoms appear by the age of three, so the best time for intervention is the age of two. Research shows without timely interventions by the age of seven, the autistic individuals will face many challenges in their lives.

“To improve the situation, we have strengthened screening, early diagnosis, and referral to specialized centers. We are also negotiating with the Ministry of Health and the Organization for Special Needs Education to conclude a memorandum of understanding to develop screenings for different ages, as well as an integrated system for timely interventions,” he further noted.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASDs) is a diverse group of conditions. They are characterized by some degree of difficulty with social interaction and communication. Other char-

acteristics are atypical patterns of activities and behaviors, such as difficulty with transition from one activity to another, a focus on details, and unusual reactions to sensations.

The abilities and needs of autistic people vary and can evolve over time. While some people with autism can live independently, others have severe disabilities and require life-long care and support. Autism often has an impact on education and employment opportunities.

In addition, the demands on families providing care and support can be significant. Societal attitudes and the level of support provided by local and national authorities are important factors determining the quality of life of people with autism.

According to Iran Autism Association (IAA), the inclusion of autistic individuals is not a favor – it is a right. No child should be denied education because they learn differently. No adult should struggle for employment because they experience the world in a unique way.

About 1 in 150 children in Iran is born with autism, IRNA reported. The IAA has registered 6,262 individuals with autism so far in the country.

The Welfare Organization is planning to raise public awareness by holding workshops, seminars, and educational programs, develop culture and create environment for the inclusion of autistic people.

The organization also aims to establish a center for providing rehabilitation services to adults with autism.

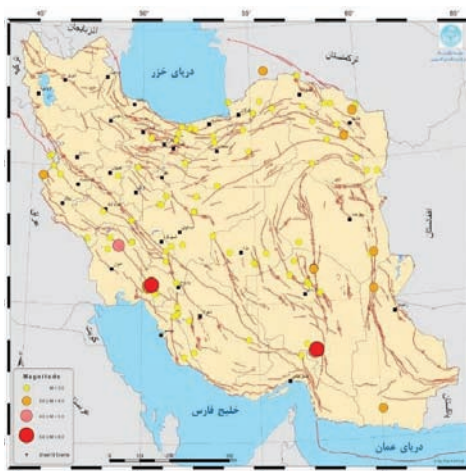
To raise awareness about autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and promote inclusion and support for autistic individuals, World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated on April 2, annually.

The 2025 World Autism Awareness Day was organized by the Institute of Neurodiversity (ION), with the support of the United Nations Department of Global Communications. ION is a neuro minority-founded and led global membership organization headquartered in Switzerland, with a presence in 40 countries worldwide.

As the largest, most globally represented neurodiversity initiative, ION works to empower neurominorities, advocate for equal opportunities, and promote acceptance and education.

This year's theme ‘Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’ highlighted the intersection between neurodiversity and global sustainability efforts, showcasing how inclusive policies and practices can drive positive change for autistic individuals worldwide and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Over 125 earthquakes shake Iran in a week



TEHRAN – A total of 127 earthquakes were recorded across the country from May 23 to 30, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 106 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3; 17 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4; two earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5; and two earthquakes with a magnitude between 5 and 6 have occurred in the country, IRNA reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 5.1 on the Richter scale, which occurred on May 29 in Kerman province.

Among the provinces of the country, Kerman,

with 22, experienced the highest number of earthquakes, followed by Semnan and Khorasan Razavi with 21 and 17 earthquakes, respectively.

During the same period, two earthquakes hit Tehran province. No earthquakes were recorded in West Azarbaijan, East Azarbaijan, Ardabil, Alborz, Zanjan, Qom, Kordestan, and Gilan provinces.

A total of 6,272 earthquakes were recorded 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.



JUNE 3, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Hearts of people are like wild beasts. They attach themselves to those who love and train them.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:03 Evening: 19:37 Dawn: 3:04 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:49 (tomorrow)

Radio Tehran and Russia's Sputnik strengthen media diplomacy through new partnership



TEHRAN – To enhance media diplomacy, Radio Tehran has entered into a strategic collaboration with Russia's international news agency Sputnik, marking a new chapter in the media engagement between Tehran and Moscow.

In an era where information warfare extends beyond geographical borders and narratives play a pivotal role in global power dynamics, media outlets have become key instruments of soft power, Mehr reported on Monday. The partnership between Iran and Russia—two influential players in Eurasia—underscores their shared strategic interests, the report added.

This latest cooperation aims to facilitate content exchange, develop joint analytical programs, and deepen coverage of bilateral relations and the emerging global order. Reza Koochakzadeh Tahmtan, Director of Radio Tehran, highlighted the objectives and importance of this collaboration, emphasizing Radio Tehran's longstanding influence and its ambition to expand its reach beyond local and national boundaries.

“Partnering with Russia's Sputnik is part of our broader strategy to strengthen media diplomacy, reflect Iran's strategic viewpoints, and shed light on overlooked potentials within Iran-Russia relations,” he stated. Under this agreement, both sides will undertake joint programming across various domains, including analyzing strategic opportunities and challenges in bilateral ties, exploring Iran and Russia's roles in shaping the new global landscape, addressing existing imbalances in political, econom-

ic, cultural, and media relations, and fostering synergy within regional organizations such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS. He also emphasized that this collaboration is not merely symbolic but will be actively implemented through analytical programs, audio documentaries, expert dialogues, and co-produced content.

The initiatives will focus on cultural diplomacy, transit and economic capacities, cooperation in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and promoting a policy of neighborhood engagement, he mentioned. Head of Sputnik's Department of Middle East Cooperation Ivan Zakharov underscored the strategic importance of this partnership in light of evolving Iran-Russia relations. “While our political and economic ties have entered a new phase, sustainable growth depends on targeted media support,” he remarked.

Zakharov stressed that Sputnik's mission in the region is to provide alternative, independent narratives rooted in national interests, countering Western media dominance. “Our longstanding partnership with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting has proven successful in producing joint radio programs.”

“However, we are eager to expand our collaboration into new media projects, elevating our joint efforts to a higher level. I am confident that our shared endeavors with Radio Tehran will lead to fruitful outcomes,” he concluded.

Radio Tehran, owned by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), primarily serves Tehran's residents with local programs. Established in the 1940s, it has evolved from early wireless beginnings, now operating 24/7 with diverse content across multiple departments, promoting cultural, social, and regional development in the capital.

Sputnik is a Russian state-owned news agency and broadcaster, launched in 2014, with global reach in 31 languages. Sputnik aims to provide alternative narratives, challenging Western media dominance and promoting Russian geopolitical interests worldwide.

Cartoon of Day



Children of Gaza

Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan

Leader's commendation for “Ruhollah” unveiled

TEHRAN – On Sunday morning, the unveiling ceremony of the commendation for the book “Ruhollah” from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, took place at the Institute for Research and Cultural Studies of the Islamic Revolution in Tehran.

The event was attended by the author of the book Hadi Hakimian, as well as a distinguished group of scholars and cultural officials.

In his commendation, Ayatollah Khamenei described the book as a successful portrayal of Imam Khomeini.

“This book has successfully portrayed a close-to-accurate image of Imam Khomeini — embodying wisdom, farsightedness, pure faith, sincerity in action, steel resolve, profound conviction in words and deeds, unparalleled bravery, extensive knowledge, a delicate and pure spirit, hope, and trust in God... And of course, there are other qualities that the author has not fully captured,” the Leader wrote in his commendation.

“In this book — rightly — Imam Khomeini is depicted as a great and unique leader, whose faith in his people forms half of his achievements,” he stated.

“Like the author, I say: May Allah preserve Khomeini until the advent of Imam al-Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance) for the sake of Islam and Muslims,” he noted.



TEHRAN – The Iranian musician, composer, and pianist Mahin Zarinpanjeh passed away on June 1, in Salman Shahr, Mazandaran Province, at the age of 87.

Her father, Nasrollah Zarinpan-



Reading this book is highly beneficial for our younger generation, he concluded.

“Ruhollah” is a documentary account of the life of Imam Khomeini, which comprises 412 pages and has been published by the Shahrestan Adb Publishing House.

Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was a towering figure in 20th-century Islamic and political history. Born in 1902 in Khomein, Iran, he dedicated his life to the revival of Islamic principles and the resistance against tyranny and colonial influence.

Renowned for his profound re-

ligious scholarship, unwavering faith and commitment to justice, Imam Khomeini became a symbol of spiritual and political leadership for millions of Iranians and Muslims around the world.

His leadership during the Iranian Revolution of 1979 marked a turning point, transforming Iran from a monarchy under Mohammad Reza Pahlavi into an Islamic republic based on the principles of justice, independence, and Islamic governance.

Imam Khomeini's legacy extends beyond Iran's borders, inspiring countless movements advocating

for justice, independence, and Islamic revival worldwide. His teachings emphasized the importance of faith, moral integrity, and active resistance to oppression.

Despite facing decades of exile and opposition from powerful enemies, his resolve and clear vision galvanized a nation to overthrow a despotic regime and establish a government rooted in Islamic values.

His influence continues to shape Iran's political, social, and religious landscape, leaving behind a lasting legacy as a reformer, spiritual leader, and revolutionary icon.

Iranian pianist Mahin Zarinpanjeh passes away at 87

the direction of master Rouhollah Khaleghi, where she learned the art and science of music from masters such as Khaleghi, Abolhasan Saba, Hossein Tehrani, and Javad Maroufi. Later, she studied European classical music and piano under Emanuel Melik-Aslanian and continued her Iranian music training with Morteza Mahjoubi.

After completing her studies, she joined the Ministry of Culture and Arts and after the formation of the Women's Orchestra, she became its conductor. She also performed piano solos in other orchestras.

In the 1980s, she moved to England, then emigrated to France and the United States, where she continued teaching piano.

In recent years, after a long time away, she returned to Iran, settled in the north of the country, and resumed teaching and composing music.

Mahin Zarinpanjeh composed over 60 musical pieces, some of which have been recorded and performed by major orchestras around the world.

Andisheh Cultural Center to show, review “Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story”

TEHRAN – The 2024 documentary “Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story” directed by Ian Bonhôte and Peter Ettedgui will be shown at the Andisheh Cultural Center in Tehran on Tuesday.

The film screening will be followed by a review session with the presence of the film critics Mohsen Soleimani Fakher and Mohsen Beigagha, ILNA reported.

“Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story” is about the life of American actor Christopher Reeve after a horse-riding accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down, and his subsequent work as an activist for disability rights.

Its title is a reference to Reeve's role as Superman in the 1978–1987 Superman films. Reeve's children Alexandra Reeve Givens, Matthew Reeve, and Will Reeve are featured in the film.

The story of Christopher Reeve is an astonishing rise from unknown actor to iconic movie star, and his definitive portrayal of Clark Kent/Superman set the benchmark for the superhero cin-

ematic universes that dominate cinema today.

Reeve portrayed the Man of Steel in four ‘Superman’ films and played dozens of other roles that displayed his talent and range as an actor, before being injured in a near-fatal horse-riding accident in 1995.

After becoming a quadriplegic, he became a charismatic leader and activist in the quest to find a cure for spinal cord injuries, as well as a passionate advocate for disability rights and care, all while continuing his career in cinema in front of and behind the camera, and dedicating himself to his beloved family.

This film includes never-before-seen intimate home movies and an extraordinary trove of personal archive material, as well as the first extended interviews ever filmed with Reeve's three children about their father, and interviews with the A-list Hollywood actors who were Reeve's colleagues and friends. The film is a moving and vivid cinematic telling of Reeve's remarkable story.

Ultimately, “Super/Man” is not about looking



back so much as it is about continuing forward with the drive and spirit that Christopher modeled and instilled in people.

A British-American venture, the film received universal acclaim from critics and audiences alike, and was named one of the top five documentary films of 2024 by the National Board of Review. Among other accolades, it won the Best Documentary award at the British Academy Film Awards and the Producers Guild of America, and six awards at the Critics' Choice Documentary Awards (including Best Documentary Feature).

Iranian Artists Forum to stage Peter Handke's “Kaspar”

TEHRAN – The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will host the play “Kaspar” written by Austrian playwright Peter Handke from June 8.

A solo performance, the one-hour play is directed and performed by Farid Adhami and will be staged at the Entezami Hall of the IAF for three weeks, Honaronline reported.

Published in 1967, it was Handke's first full-length drama. It depicts the founding Kaspar Hauser as a near-speechless innocent destroyed by society's attempts to impose on him its language and its own rational values.

“Kaspar” is loosely based on the story of Kaspar Hauser. Raised in a dark hole, at 17 he wan-

dered into an 1824 German town knowing only a single sentence and became a scientific curiosity: a nearly-adult human without language and external influences, a tabula rasa upon which society and its scientific teachers could write with impunity.

The play is about language and its ability to torture. In this play Handke allows us to listen differently and to reflect on how language is forced upon us by a society where conformism is the norm and received speech an almost tyrannical exploitation of the individual.

It is also a play that suggests individuals are bound to negate themselves under the pressure of the societies that they live in. What Kaspar ex-

periences on stage can happen daily: The need or desire to conform, to observe and imitate someone else's words and actions, to assert oneself and at the same time, negate oneself.

Individuals can also invent themselves using the language. In “Kaspar,” Handke writes: “Already you have a sentence with which you can make yourself noticeable . . . You can explain to yourself how it goes with you . . . You have a sentence with which you can bring order into every disorder”.

Handke himself wrote in the prologue to the play: “The play ‘Kaspar’ shows how someone can be made to speak through speaking. The play could also be called speech torture”.