

Leader meets with families of helicopter crash martyrs on 1st martyrdom anniversary

Martyr Raisi Was Honest and Sharp



© khamenei.ir

Raisi: The exemplary human of the Islamic Revolution

By Ehsan Salehi

TEHRAN – On the anniversary of the martyrdom of Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei highlighted his exceptional qualities, emphasizing that recounting these traits serves as a lesson for all.

He concluded that figures like the late president, who steadfastly followed the path of martyrs over the past four decades, embody the enduring strength of the Islamic Revolution. This human capital is what Imam Khomeini called 'Fath al-Futuh', or the Ultimate Victory.

Following the success of Operation Tariq al-Quds during the Iran-Iraq War, Imam Khomeini, in a message, defined 'Fath al-Futuh' as these very human assets: ▶ Page 3

Turkmenistan's FM talks bilateral relations in Tehran Times interview:

Ties with Iran good, will get even better

▶ Page 2



Operation Susannah 2.0? Tehran warns UK of Mossad-style plots to derail ties

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Iran's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ali Mousavi, has sounded the alarm over potential "false flag operations" aimed at sabotaging Tehran-London relations.

In a meeting with UK Security Minister Dan Jarvis on Monday, Mousavi denounced the recent arrests of Iranian nationals as "politically motivated fabrications" and called for heightened vigilance against covert schemes to escalate tensions.

"Third parties will stop at nothing to undermine diplomacy, even staging fabricated incidents," Mousavi warned, pointing to the release of four Iranians detained this month under counterterrorism laws without charges. ▶ Page 2

A failing heartbeat: How civilians are dying inside Gaza's battered hospitals

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – Since October 2023, the Gaza Strip has witnessed an unprecedented and systematic assault on its healthcare infrastructure by Israeli forces.

This campaign has not only targeted hospitals, clinics, and ambulances but also medical personnel, resulting in extensive destruction and a humanitarian crisis of immense proportions.

The ongoing offensive has critically weakened Gaza's already fragile health system, pushing it to the verge of total collapse and sparking global condemnation. ▶ Page 5

WAC issues urgent statement on Gaza cultural heritage crisis

TEHRAN – The World Archaeological Congress (WAC), a leading international body of archaeologists committed to human rights and the protection of cultural heritage, has issued a powerful statement addressing the deepening humanitarian and cultural crisis in Gaza.

The statement, released following an Extraordinary Council Meeting held on April 30, 2025, reiterates WAC's concern over the escalating violence and the targeted destruction of cultural heritage sites in the region.

"In line with our mission and ethical commitments, we reaffirm our condemnation of all forms of violence against civilians and cultural heritage," said Koji Mizoguchi, President of the World Archaeological Congress, speaking on behalf of the Council. "We call on all parties to cease hostilities immediately and uphold international humanitarian law."

In a particularly pointed appeal, the Congress urged the Government of Israel to halt any actions that could be construed as genocide, crimes against humanity, or collective punishment of Palestinian civilians. WAC also called for an end to the systematic destruction of Palestinian cultural heritage, which it described as "not only the history and identity of the Palestinian people, but also part of the shared heritage of humanity." ▶ Page 6

Ayatollah Khamenei's response to US 'nonsense':

Iran does not need anyone's permission to enrich uranium

Leader says he does not think talks with US will bear results, as Americans continue to violate Iran's red lines

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Iran has repeated its long-standing position that uranium enrichment cannot and will not stop within the country, with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei taking to the public stage this time to ask Americans to stop talking "nonsense", after multiple warnings by lower-ranking officials seemingly failed to resonate during ongoing

ing nuclear talks with the United States.

Tehran and Washington have participated in four rounds of indirect talks since early April. The discussions aim to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the termination of sanctions, mirroring a deal the

two sides signed alongside five other countries in 2015, and saw Donald Trump withdraw from in 2018.

In his first term, Trump aimed to add restrictions to Iran's military and foreign policy in addition to its nuclear program, demands he now appears to have

dropped. However, he is still fixated on Iran's uranium enrichment, an issue Tehran clarified is a nonstarter since the new negotiations began. During an interview last week, Washington's lead negotiator and special presidential envoy, Steve Witkoff, said the U.S. "cannot allow even

1% of an enrichment capability" to exist in Iran.

"To say that 'we will not allow Iran to enrich uranium' is a huge mistake," Ayatollah Khamenei stated in Tehran on Tuesday, after warning Americans to stop saying "nonsense". "No one is waiting for permission from anyone. The Islamic Republic has its own policies, its own methods, and it pursues its own agenda," he added. ▶ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Sharp and tense positions before the fifth round of negotiations

Farhikhtegan addressed the tense atmosphere between Iran and the United States before the fifth round of negotiations and wrote: The fifth round of negotiations with the Americans has not yet begun, but the senior member of the American negotiating team has begun to raise ambitious demands in the media. Steve Witkoff mentioned this issue in an interview with ABC on May 18 that the United States has a red line in negotiations with Iran, saying, "We cannot allow even 1% of an enrichment capability" by Iran. Araghchi responded that enrichment in Iran will continue. Of course, there is still uncertainty whether what the Americans raise in the negotiations differs from their media statements. But the Iranian Foreign Minister's response to these statements shows that putting pressure on Iran through the media is a failed project, and Iran will not back down from its right to enrichment. Iran is ready to build trust by not building nuclear weapons; but it will not give up on the right to peaceful enrichment, and more importantly, it will not give up on the Americans' excessive demands, and it does not consider any agreement better than no agreement, and it is not afraid of leaving the negotiating table.

Hamshahri: Tehran's green light for idea of ??a "nuclear consortium"

In an analysis, Hamshahri discussed the idea of ??a nuclear consortium and Iran's satisfaction with this proposal. The paper said: It is said that Iran has proposed a partnership with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia for uranium enrichment. Therefore, if this idea is accepted, Saudi Arabia and the Emirates will be shareholders and financial providers and will have access to Iranian technologies. The idea of ??creating a "nuclear consortium," although old, has once again become a topic of discussion and has provoked reactions amid indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States. Iran has shown its satisfaction with this proposal, but it remains to be seen whether the United States and the Persian Gulf Arab states are also satisfied. The participation of the Persian Gulf states in Iran's enrichment project could be seen as a kind of "additional security guarantee," meeting the U.S. requirement to ensure that Iran's nuclear program will not be diverted to military purposes. Some Arab countries in the region have not welcomed the idea. Implementing such an agreement would make Saudi Arabia and other countries dependent on Iran, which they are unlikely to accept without U.S. or Russian guarantees.

Sona Ahmadi appointed as Iran's consul general in Almaty

TEHRAN – Sona Ahmadi, currently serving as Advisor to the Foreign Minister of Iran on Women's Affairs, has been officially named as the new Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Ahmadi departed for her post following a formal meeting with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, a customary engagement for senior diplomats ahead of taking on overseas assignments.

Her appointment marks a notable addition to Iran's diplomatic corps, particularly as she steps into a key post in Central Asia.

Her new role comes as part of a broader reshuffle within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei provided an update on the status of several diplomatic postings.

"As is customary, a number of ambassadorial terms and heads of mission appointments are currently under review.

Some are in the final stages of confir-

Sobh-e-No: Why does Iran insist on enrichment?

Iran's uranium enrichment program is not only a technological program but also part of the country's strategic identity and scientific independence. The enrichment program is a symbol of independence and resistance to pressure from global powers. From this perspective, stopping enrichment would not only mean political concession but also a retreat from scientific and technological achievements. Uranium enrichment in Iran is not an end goal but a means to achieve strategic scientific, energy, medical, and industrial goals. Stopping this process means stopping the growth of indigenous knowledge and re-dependence on the West. In addition, the bitter experience of the JCPOA, during which, despite Iran's commitment, the Western parties did not fulfill their economic obligations, has made the Iranian negotiating team look much more cautiously toward a new agreement. Therefore, Iranian officials have warned that if enrichment is stopped under U.S. pressure, Washington's next step will be to put pressure on the country's missile program and then other security areas. In this regard, Araghchi has emphasized: "We are people of negotiation, not surrender."

Jam-e-Jam: Iran is pioneer in regional diplomacy

Jam-e-Jam, in a commentary, addressed the Tehran Dialogue Forum and said: The forum, as one of the most prominent platforms of Iranian diplomacy, is an opportunity to exchange views, promote understanding, and explain Iran's pivotal role in the new regional and global order. By adopting a "zero tension" policy with neighboring countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted an intelligent and pragmatic approach, a policy that is based on strengthening diplomatic relations, reducing tensions, and expanding economic and security cooperation between neighboring countries and the region. Iran's zero-tension policy, given the dynamic diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and insistence on this policy by the Foreign Minister at the Tehran Dialogue Forum, demonstrates Tehran's determination to create stability in West Asia and neighboring regions. Araghchi's statement, emphasizing a fair (nuclear) deal coupled with termination sanctions, not only clarified Iran's position on the nuclear talks but also emphasized Tehran's role in promoting regional peace and security. In a region where foreign powers often seek to escalate disputes, Iran's approach could serve as a constructive model for other countries in the region.



mation or awaiting host country approval," Baghaei said.

He specifically pointed to Ahmadi's new assignment, highlighting her current role as an advisor within the ministry and noting her selection for the Almaty post as one of the confirmed changes.

The Foreign Ministry has emphasized that updates on finalized appointments and further developments will be announced in due course, as Iran continues its efforts to reinforce its diplomatic footprint across the region.

Stronger Iran-Turkmenistan ties key to regional prosperity: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has underlined Iran's strong desire to broaden and deepen relations with neighboring Turkmenistan, highlighting energy, trade, and infrastructure as key areas of cooperation with vast untapped potential.

Speaking during a high-level meeting in Tehran on Tuesday with Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, President Pezeshkian emphasized that stronger ties between Tehran and Ashgabat would not only benefit both nations economically but also promote regional stability and security.

"Deepening bilateral cooperation—particularly through joint investments—can secure a future of prosperity, friendship, and mutual trust for both countries," said Pezeshkian. "We believe that through collaborative projects, we can ensure lasting comfort and security for our peoples."

Energy cooperation took center stage in the talks. President Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's interest in importing natural gas from Turkmenistan, pointing to the Islamic Republic's strategic capability to act as a regional gas hub through exports and swap arrangements with its neighbors.

Highlighting the importance of infrastructure, he called for the construction of a dedicated pipeline between Iran and Turkmenistan to support a range of



President Pezeshkian (R) meets with Turkmenistan's FM Rashid Meredov in Tehran on May 20, 2025.

Ties with Iran good, will get even better, Turkmenistan's FM tells Tehran Times

TEHRAN – Turkmenistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rashid Meredov, said in remarks to the Tehran Times that Tehran and Ashgabat are working on concrete steps to implement cooperation agreements signed in recent years.

"Our ties with our Iranian brothers are very close and cordial. Both sides are also keen to further strengthen this relationship," the top diplomat explained on Monday, on the sidelines of the Tehran Dialogue Forum (TDF) and after a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Seyyed Abbas Araghchi.

"This morning, I took part in a joint economic commission. A lot more will be done to elevate cooperation and coordination in the fields of energy, transfer, and culture. We keep in close contact with Iran and see a very bright future for the two countries."

objectives—from domestic consumption and exports to regional gas swap mechanisms.

"In addition to the energy sector, we are also keen to expand

ties in transport, trade, investment, and cultural exchanges," he added, noting that the two countries share longstanding historical and cultural connections that can be leveraged for

Operation Susannah 2.0? Tehran warns UK of Mossad-style plots to derail ties

From page 1 ► He pressed British officials to uphold due process and cautioned against "hidden agendas" framing Iran for destabilizing acts.

The rift widened after the UK charged three Iranians under its National Security Act, alleging ties to a "foreign intelligence service".

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the British chargé d'affaires, condemning the arrests "unlawful" and a breach of international norms.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi tweeted: "Iran rejects these accusations outright. The timing and lack of transparency hint at ulterior motives."

Some experts contend that the UK's actions are rooted in mounting frustration over its declining influence in international diplomacy, prompting British officials to leverage pressure tactics to steer negotiations.

Additionally, other analysts argue that these measures dovetail with pro-Israel initiatives aimed at designating Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization—a classification Tehran vehemently condemns, viewing it as an unjustified escalation that

severely damages diplomatic relations and heightens tensions between Iran and the West.

Iranian officials cite the Israeli regime's track record of false flag operations to bolster their warnings. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei declared: "The Zionist regime has long flouted international law, from Gaza to the Lavon Affair, using sabotage to deceive."

The Lavon Affair (1954)

In July 1954, the Israeli regime launched Operation Susannah, later dubbed the Lavon Affair, a botched covert mission in Egypt.

Israeli military intelligence recruited a cell of Egyptian Jews to bomb civilian targets—cinemas, libraries, and U.S.-owned cultural centers in Cairo and Alexandria.

The plot aimed to pin the attacks on the Muslim Brotherhood or Egyptian communists, sowing chaos to convince Britain to keep troops in the Suez Canal zone, a linchpin for Tel Aviv's regional strategy.

The operatives used crude incendiary devices hidden in books and bags, targeting places like the Cairo train station's post office and the Rio Cinema.

Egyptian security foiled the



Israeli regime's then War Minister Pinchas Lavon (left), military Chief of the General Staff Moshe Dayan, with military Director General Shimon Peres in the background, on February 8, 1953.

scheme, capturing the agents after a bomb prematurely detonated. Public trials followed, with two executed and others imprisoned.

The fallout humiliated the Israeli regime: War Minister Pinhas Lavon resigned amid internal strife, and relations with the U.S. and UK soured.

Israel denied responsibility until 2005, when it honored surviving operatives, quietly admitting its role.

USS Liberty Incident (1967)

On June 8, 1967, amid the Six-Day War, Israeli jets and tor-

bomber engagement.

Foreign Minister Meredov, who is visiting Tehran to attend the 18th meeting of the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, echoed the sentiment. He said Ashgabat views Iran as a key partner in long-term economic strategy and is committed to expanding trade corridors, improving cross-border markets, and enhancing energy transit routes.

"Turkmenistan sees significant opportunities in cooperating with Iran, particularly in the transit and export of natural gas through its territory," Meredov noted, adding that the Central Asian country is eager to expand its access to global markets through Iranian infrastructure.

In recent years, Iran and Turkmenistan have signed several natural gas swap agreements, enabling Iran to receive gas from Turkmenistan and deliver equivalent volumes to third countries such as Azerbaijan and Iraq. These arrangements have strengthened Iran's ability to meet domestic demand in its northeastern regions, home to major industrial and population centers.

Additionally, Iran imports nearly two billion kilowatt hours of electricity annually from Turkmenistan to help meet peak power demands in the same region—an area that often experiences shortfalls during high-consumption periods.

scheme, capturing the agents after a bomb prematurely detonated. Public trials followed, with two executed and others imprisoned.

The regime insisted it mistook the Liberty, flying a U.S. flag, for an Egyptian horse carrier, offering apologies and compensation.

Yet survivors and U.S. officials, including Secretary of State Dean Rusk, disputed this, citing evidence of deliberate intent.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian deputy interior minister arrives in Dushanbe for high-level security talks

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Minister of Interior for Security and Law Enforcement, Ali Akbar Pourjamshidian, arrived in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe on Tuesday to take part in the third Iran-Tajikistan Joint Security and Law Enforcement Working Group—an initiative aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in regional security.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Interior's Information Center, Pourjamshidian was welcomed upon arrival by Abdurahmon Alamshozoda, First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajiki-

stan, in a formal reception that underscored the strategic importance both nations place on deepening their security ties.

The visit is expected to include a series of high-level meetings between Pourjamshidian and senior Tajik officials, including the Minister of Internal Affairs. Discussions will center on a broad range of shared concerns, from combating organized crime and drug trafficking to counterterrorism cooperation and border security management.

The highlight of the visit will be the convening of the third

joint working group on security and law enforcement, a mechanism established to institutionalize collaboration between the two countries. This latest round is anticipated to yield practical steps toward improving intelligence exchange, coordinating cross-border operations, and training law enforcement personnel.

Observers say the meeting reflects growing momentum in regional efforts to tackle transnational threats, particularly in the wake of shifting geopolitical dynamics in Central and South Asia.

Officials from both sides have described the talks as a vital platform for exchanging operational expertise and aligning policy approaches to tackle common challenges. The joint working group, first initiated in recent years, has gradually evolved into a cornerstone of Iran-Tajikistan security dialogue.

The outcome of this week's meetings is expected to contribute to a broader framework of cooperation between Tehran and Dushanbe, with implications for wider regional stability.

Ayatollah Khamenei’s response to US ‘nonsense’: Iran does not need anyone’s permission to enrich uranium

From Page 1 ▶ The Tehran Times understands that Witkoff’s recent statements in the media, coupled with similar pronouncements from other American officials, have fueled skepticism among Iranians regarding the U.S.’s genuine intentions. Ayatollah Khamenei publicly spoke of that skepticism during his Tuesday address. “During Martyr Raeisi’s term, there were

indirect negotiations, but they yielded no results,” Ayatollah Khamenei noted, adding, “Now, we don’t think they’ll lead to a result either, and we don’t know what will happen.”

The Leader said he will expound on why Washington is so vigorously demanding an end to Iran’s uranium enrichment on another occasion.

Shortly after the American official made the remarks in an ABC interview, Araghchi took to X to make it clear that Iran will continue uranium enrichment “with or without” an agreement with the United States. “If the U.S. is interested in ensuring that Iran will not have nuclear weapons, a deal is within reach, and we are ready for a serious conversation to achieve a solution that will

forever ensure that outcome. Enrichment in Iran, however, will continue with or without a deal.”

A fifth round of talks remains unscheduled. Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has said that a date and location have been offered, but Tehran has yet to deliver a confirmation. It is unclear whether Iran has shelved the decision due to Witkoff’s latest remarks.

Leader meets with families of helicopter crash martyrs on 1st martyrdom anniversary Martyr Raisi was honest and sharp

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei held a gathering in Tehran on Tuesday to honor late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, late Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, and a number of other officials who lost their lives during a helicopter crash on May 19, 2024.

Ayatollah Khamenei described the principal purpose behind honoring the martyrs as promoting reflection and drawing lessons from their lives. Elaborating on the spiritual, verbal, and practical characteristics of the martyred president, he said that, “Martyr Raisi was a complete embodiment of the characteristics of an official in a divine government. With tireless dedication, he served the people, and he defended the dignity, honor, and credibility of the Iranian nation. This path and this approach offer a great lesson for all of us officials, for the youth, and for future generations.”

The Leader of the Revolution regarded distancing oneself from Pharaoh-like governance and advancing toward divine governance as an essential standard for managing the country, identifying Martyr Raisi as a perfect representation of this principle.

Citing Quranic verses, he stated: “arrogance, belittling the people, and placing the burden of responsibility upon them are among the traits of Pharaoh-like rule. Martyr Raisi stood in stark contrast to such traits. He regarded himself as being among the people, and in some cases,

even lower than them, and it was with this perspective that he governed the country.”

Ayatollah Khamenei regarded utilizing all available capacities in the service of God’s servants, and avoiding any personal exploitation of the political and social positions that come with authority, as among the key lessons of Martyr Raisi’s life, adding that, “There are many individuals within the Islamic system who are adorned with these traits, but these characteristics and lessons must be transformed into public culture.”

He emphasized that a person’s heart, speech, and actions are the three fundamental elements for recognizing their character. Referring to these in the case of Martyr Raisi, he said: “He [Martyr Raisi] possessed a humble and God-remembering heart, a frank and truthful tongue, and tireless, continuous action.”

The Leader stated that Martyr Raisi’s humility, prayer, supplication, and spiritual intimacy with God were constant characteristics throughout all stages of his responsibility and beyond. Ayatollah Khamenei continued by saying that, “His heart overflowed with compassion for the people. Without expressing complaints about their expectations or harboring pessimism toward them, he was constantly concerned about fulfilling the heavy duties he bore.”

Ayatollah Khamenei noted that Martyr Raisi’s manner of speaking, even in the realm of diplomacy, was marked by clarity and honesty: “He would adopt clear



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei attends a ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of late president Ebrahim Raisi’s martyrdom, in Tehran on May 20, 2025.

and explicit positions and never allowed the enemy to pretend that Iran had been brought to the negotiating table through threats, inducement, or tricks.”

Ayatollah Khamenei, highlighting Martyr Raisi’s clarity and sincerity, said: “To grasp the significance of his manner of speaking, one must compare it to the duplicitous language used by the officials of certain Western governments — those who loudly claim to defend peace and human rights, deafening the world with their slogans, while shutting their eyes to the massacre of more than 20,000 innocent children in Gaza — and even supporting the criminals who commit these atrocities.”

He then described Martyr Raisi’s extraordinary work ethic and practical commitment as another dimension of his excellence, reiterating that, “He was constantly working and striving. He recognized neither exhaustion nor the division of day and night when it came to providing con-

tinuous, high-quality service.”

Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to various services carried out by Martyr Raisi, such as water supply, road construction, job creation, reviving dormant and shuttered workshops, and completing unfinished and stalled projects, as tangible, direct services for the people. He added the fact that Martyr Raisi also served the nation’s honor, dignity, and international standing, and he enhanced them.

The Leader referred to international financial centers’ reports showing Iran’s economic growth, rising from nearly zero at the beginning of the 13th administration to nearly 5% at its end, as a source of national pride and honor, and an indication of the country’s progress. He further stated: “The fact that the President [Martyr Raisi] held up the Quran and held up a picture of Martyr Soleimani in a UN General Assembly is a source of pride for the nation.”



Hardworking, courageous, and revolutionary, he was a man of ethics, deeply connected to the people, and tirelessly dedicated to empowering the youth. He was knowledgeable, detail-oriented, and capable of uniting diverse talents. Above all, he was pure-hearted, sincere, and humble.

Yet all these qualities rested on two foundational pillars. Without them, Raisi would not have personified the Revolution’s Ultimate Victory, nor would he have earned such deep public affection and the Leader’s high praise. Without them, “Raisi” would not have become “Martyr Raisi.”

Those two pillars were truthfulness and sincerity.

It was the miracle of sincerity that made Raisi the “Martyr President.” He lived as a martyr so that he would die as one—and the essence of such a life is sincerity. He mastered his inner self to undertake great external endeavors.

Every transformation, movement, and struggle he manifested outwardly stemmed from the strength he cultivated within.

Raisi’s truthfulness and sincerity turned him into a legend. His time in leadership served as a reminder that even in a world marred by deceit, where corrupt rulers honor each other for crimes and oppression, purity and genuine service remain possible.

Futsal coach Soleimani satisfied with World Cup qualification

TEHRAN – While they may have fallen short of retaining their AFC Women’s Futsal Asian Cup title, Iran was still able to achieve its goal of qualification for the inaugural FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup after their third-place playoff win on Saturday.

A gritty 3-1 victory against China allowed the Central Asians to claim the final berth on offer in Hohhot and head coach Forouzan Soleimani hailed the achievement as something that is built on the collective efforts of the women’s futsal community back home.

“This World Cup qualification is a credit to all of women’s futsal in Iran and is invaluable for them,” she said. “It is a huge community full of girls and women who love futsal, all across Iran and in provinces far away from the cities, and they play with passion and love.

“They support us every day and give us strength, and we do what we do for them,” she added.

The 55-year-old added that Iran’s status as traditional powerhouses can be attributed to establishing women’s futsal earlier than most other countries in Asia, starting around 20 years ago, which has since flourished into a network of around 100 teams across three divisions.

“All 32 provinces have their own leagues, and each team is led by experienced female coaches,” Soleimani stated.

Soleimani also paid tribute to her charges for bouncing back from the disappointment of defeat in the last four to Japan and looked ahead to their debut in the Philippines come November.

“Our aim was to defend our title, so we were mentally down after the semi-final defeat,” she said. “What we did was to talk to them and motivate them, including the mental aspect.”

“We knew how China would play and we asked our players to play powerfully and with high pressure; the match was very hard, but we were more experienced and created more opportunities, which led to our victory.

“Our players compete regularly in domestic leagues and we also have frequent training camps, so this is also what we will continue to do to prepare for the World Cup,” Soleimani concluded.

Sardar Azmoun wins top scorer award: ACL Two

TEHRAN – Shabab Al Ahli’s Sardar Azmoun was named the AFC Champions League Two 2024/25 Top Scorer on Sunday.

The forward netted nine goals in UAE side Shabab Al Ahli’s run to the quarter-finals.

In his first season with Shabab Al Ahli, four of Iran striker’s goals came in the Round of 16 win against Jordan’s Al Wehdah.

He also scored once in the first leg of the quarter-final against Sharjah FC but it was Shabab Al Ahli’s local rival who advanced to the semi-finals after winning the penalty shootout 5-4, with the tie having ended 2-2 on aggregate.

Azmoun finished one goal ahead of Tractor FC’s Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh and Shawal Anuar of Lion City Sailors FC.

Kish Island to host 2025 CAFA Men’s Futsal Championship

TEHRAN – Kish Island has been selected as the host for the 2025 CAFA Men’s Futsal Championship.

The tournament will take place from July 9 to 19 in the Persian Gulf, known as the pearl of the region.

Participating teams include Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan. Armenia and Russia will also be invited as guest teams.

The CAFA Futsal Cup is an international futsal competition in Central Asia, featuring member nations of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).

Payam Niazmand signs for Persepolis

TEHRAN – Sepahan goalkeeper Payam Niazmand joined Persepolis football team on Monday.

Niazmand will replace Algerian custodian Alexis Guendouz in the Iranian giants.

Persepolis have previously signed Thievy Bifouma, Mojtaba Fakhrian, Amin Kazemian and Reza Shekari in the current week.

Persepolis, headed by ?mail Kartal, finished in third place in the 2024/24 Iran Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL).

Iranian teams eye Kalba forward Moghanlou

TEHRAN – Persepolis, Tractor, Sepahan and Esteghlal have reportedly set their eyes on signing Ittihad Kalba forward Shahriyar Moghanlou.

The 30-year-old striker joined the Emirati side from Sepahan last season but is frustrated by lack of game time.

Moghanlou has also played for Portuguese team Santa Clara.

Media reports suggest that Sepahan are closer to signing the forward.

Moharrami linked with NK Osijek

TEHRAN – Sadegh Moharrami is set to leave Dinamo Zagreb at the end of the season, but he may stay in the Croatian SuperSport HNL, as NK Osijek has shown interest in signing him.

The Iranian right-back has made eight appearances this season, with two of those as a starter.

Osijek has already inquired about his availability and is keen to bring him in during the summer transfer window. The club previously negotiated with Fran Kara?i? of Lokomotiv Moscow, but no agreement was reached, prompting Osijek to explore other options.

Moharrami joined Dinamo from Persepolis in summer 2018, with a status as an Iranian national team player. He has earned 32 caps for Iran. Notably, he played the full 90 minutes in the 2022 World Cup match against England, which ended in a 6-2 defeat, and scored his only national team goal on December 9, 2023, in a 4-0 victory over Angola.

2025 West Asia Baseball Cup: Iran lose to Palestine

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Palestine 18-3 in the 2025 West Asia Baseball Cup on Monday.

Iran had defeated Bangladesh 7-6 in its opening match in Group B and lost to Pakistan 14-0.

The competition is being held in Karaj’s Engelab Stadium in Iran.

Pakistan is the West Asia Baseball Cup defending champion.

The Asian Baseball Cup was launched in 1995 in Manila, Philippines, as a qualifier for the Asian Baseball Championship. The tournament was split into the West Asia and East Asia Baseball Cups in 2012.

Polli and Yamga leave Nassaji

TEHRAN – Brazilian goalkeeper Luan Polli and French winger Kevin Yamga have parted ways with Nassaji football club.

The Ghaemshahr-based team were relegated from the Iran Professional League (IPL) and will compete in the 2025-26 Azadegan League.

Despite their departure from Nassaji, both Polli and Yamga are expected to remain in Iran to continue their careers in IPL teams.

Media reports suggest that Luan Polli has been linked with several Iranian clubs, indicating his potential stay in the league.

Raisi: The exemplary human of the Islamic Revolution

By Ehsan Salehi

TEHRAN – On the anniversary of the martyrdom of Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei highlighted his exceptional qualities, emphasizing that recounting these traits serves as a lesson for all.

He concluded that figures like the late president, who steadfastly followed the path of martyrs over the past four decades, embody the enduring strength of the Islamic Revolution. This human capital is what Imam Khomeini called ‘Fath al-Futuh’, or the Ultimate Victory.

Following the success of Operation Tariq al-Quds during the Iran-Iraq War, Imam Khomeini, in a message, defined ‘Fath al-Futuh’ as these very human assets:

“What fills me with pride is the unwavering spirit, the hearts brimming with faith and sincerity, and the martyrdom-seeking devotion of these beloved individuals—the true soldiers of Imam Mahdi (AS). This is indeed the Ultimate Victory.”

The people shaped by the Islamic Revolution and the teachings of Imam Khomeini continue to emerge, inspiring not only Iranians but people worldwide. The martyrs who defended the

shrines of holy figures against Daesh terrorists represent the latest generation of this revolutionary spirit and the heirs of Imam Khomeini’s legacy.

Haj Qasem Soleimani stands as the ultimate embodiment of this school of thought. Martyr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, in turn, was a perfect example of the Islamic Revolution’s ideals, proving through his leadership that Imam Khomeini’s ‘Fath al-Futuh’ remains fruitful. His life was a testament to the Revolution’s vitality.

The people of the Islamic Revolution are relentless in their pursuit of ideals, undeterred by danger. But what drives this unwavering dedication? What sets them apart from others? How does a follower of Imam Khomeini’s teachings leave such a profound impact, stirring hearts even amid the challenges of leadership? And why does even their absence compel critics to acknowledge their virtues?

Raisi possessed remarkable personal and managerial qualities. His transformative influence was evident wherever he served—whether at the Astan Quds Razavi, the judiciary, or the presidency. He was not one for routine; he brought fundamental, lasting change.

Iran offers to share mineral exploration, processing expertise with Afghanistan



TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Seyed Mohammad Atabak has announced Tehran's readiness to transfer technical expertise and experience in mineral exploration, extraction, and processing to Afghanistan.

According to the Industry Ministry, Atabak made the remarks during a meeting with Hedayatullah Badri, acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum of Afghanistan, expressing hope that enhanced cooperation in the mining sector would significantly boost revenues for both countries.

Atabak described the fraternal ties between the Iranian and Afghan peoples as a solid foundation for infrastructure development and deeper bilateral collaboration. He emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to share its technical knowledge and experience in mineral development with Afghanistan.

He pointed to the rich mineral resources of both countries as a unique opportunity to generate added value and economic growth. "We are ready to establish joint industrial zones and processing plants and engage in bilateral investment to leverage national resources for mutual development and expanded economic cooperation," Atabak said.

The Iranian minister also stressed the need to implement bilateral agreements and announced the formation of joint committees focused on mineral exploration, extraction, and processing industries.

In turn, Badri called for Iranian technical and

engineering services to help develop Afghanistan's mining sector, particularly in the areas of exploration and extraction.

Tehran, Kabul eye joint oil, gas development

In a related development, Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad and Hedayatollah Badri agreed to explore avenues for expanding cooperation in the oil and gas sector.

At a meeting on May 20, Paknejad emphasized the Iranian government's strategy to strengthen economic ties with neighboring countries, particularly in the energy domain. He described relations with Afghanistan as "brotherly" and founded on mutual interest.

He pointed to the significant capabilities of Iranian public and private firms in the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas fields, and expressed Iran's readiness to provide comprehensive cooperation in upstream and downstream areas, including petrochemicals and refining.

"Despite our shared needs and capacities, the current level of cooperation is far below its potential," Paknejad said, urging deeper integration between the two countries.

He also highlighted Iran's capabilities in petrochemical exports, human resource training, natural gas supply, and CNG infrastructure development, saying these areas could be expanded to benefit both nations.

Afghanistan seeks support from Iran's knowledge-based companies

Badri, in turn, noted the two countries' shared cultural and geographical ties and emphasized their potential to enhance regional connectivity and cross-border trade.

He said Afghanistan has five sedimentary and exploratory zones rich in oil and gas, but lacks the technical capacity to fully develop them. He welcomed the participation of Iranian knowledge-based firms, saying they possess the expertise needed for exploration, development, and production of the country's newly discovered or potential hydrocarbon reserves.

two countries."

"The UAE, as Iran's second biggest trade partner, has great strategic importance for us," the minister said.

Referring to the location of Iran and the UAE in the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), Bazarpash said: "Access to the markets of the north and south can create an opportunity for the two countries to cooperate." In the end, the minister emphasized solving the banking and monetary problems between the two countries to facilitate bilateral trade relations.

Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri for his part underlined the importance of the meeting, saying: "Holding today's meeting shows the development and expansion of economic relations between the two countries. After China, the UAE has the largest amount of trade relations with Iran. The trade value of the two countries has reached 27 billion dollars and many Iranian companies are established in the UAE."

"Creating new opportunities for transportation and banking cooperation is one of the achievements of this commission," the official said.

Referring to the performance of the UAE government in the field of investment, the official said: "The approval of the law on the formation of foreign companies and the government's support for companies that operate in the field of new energies has created a good opportunity for business with the UAE."

The 3rd Iran-UAE Joint Economic Committee meeting was held in Abu Dhabi from April 30 until May 1, 2024.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years. Iran has proposed the formation of a joint working committee between its Chamber of Commerce and the UAE Chambers Confederation to capitalize on the re-export potential of Iranian products through the United Arab Emirates.

Iran, Turkmenistan to expand energy cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran's Oil Minister and Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister have emphasized deepening bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas sector and discussed avenues to broaden energy collaboration.

According to Shana, during a meeting on Tuesday (May 20) with Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad highlighted the ongoing session of the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Committee and its diverse agenda. He said the committee could significantly boost trade exchanges between the two countries.

Paknejad emphasized that constructive engagement with neighboring countries—particularly Turkmenistan, a "friendly and brotherly nation"—has always been a priority in Iran's foreign policy. He added that the current administration is firmly



committed to expanding energy ties with Turkmenistan.

He pointed to the swift implementation of the gas swap deal through Iran that delivers Turkmen gas to Turkey, expressing hope that other energy-related agreements—such as direct gas imports from Turkmenistan—

would advance at a similar pace.

Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister and Head of Cabinet, Rashid Meredov, noted that Iran and Turkmenistan have historically maintained strong ties. In recent years, he said, relations have entered a new phase, with both sides eager to expand coopera-

tion across various sectors.

Meredov identified three key areas of cooperation with Iran: gas exports to Iran, joint development of compressor stations and pipelines, and gas swaps to third countries via Iranian territory. He said Turkmenistan currently produces over 80 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually, a substantial portion of which could be exported in collaboration with Iran.

He described the swift launch of the Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey gas swap as a testament to the strong partnership between the two nations and stated, "Based on this positive experience, we believe there is significant potential to further expand energy cooperation. We also have ambitious plans for increasing gas exports to Iran."

Iran Agrofood 2025 kicks off in Tehran with 888 companies from 13 countries

TEHRAN - The 32nd International Exhibition of Food, Food Technology and Agriculture (Iran Agrofood 2025) officially opened on Monday at Tehran's International Permanent Fairground, drawing participation from 750 Iranian and 138 foreign companies representing 13 countries.

Held annually, Iran Agrofood is one of the country's largest specialized trade events, serving as a key platform for technology transfer, knowledge exchange, and the promotion of non-oil exports in Iran's agriculture and food sectors.

This year's opening ceremony was attended

by senior officials including Akbar Fathi, Deputy Minister for Planning and Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture; Ebrahim Sheikh, Deputy Minister for General Industries at the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade; and Sadif Beikzadeh, head of the Iran International Exhibitions Company, along with public and private sector representatives and industry professionals.

Exhibitors from countries such as Spain, Austria, the UAE, Uzbekistan, Italy, Germany, Brazil, Turkey, China, Russia, India, and Greece are showcasing their latest offerings in three main sections: Iran Food, Iran FoodTech, and Iran

Agro. Featured categories include food and beverages, protein products, packaging equipment, industrial machinery, and agricultural inputs.

Distinctive features of this edition include the active participation of industry associations such as the National Date Association and the Organic Association of Iran, as well as a pavilion for knowledge-based companies and startups, backed by the Innovation and Prosperity Fund.

The exhibition also hosts B2B meetings, technical panels, and trade negotiations aimed at fostering industry collaboration and enhancing productivity.

Iran's strategic transit opportunity amid global supply Chain realignment

By Nourallah Biranvand

TEHRAN- The global supply chain landscape is being reshaped by geopolitical rivalries, regional conflicts such as the war in Ukraine, and growing instability in key maritime routes like the Red Sea.

These disruptions are prompting countries to redefine their logistics strategies and seek alternative trade corridors that are cost-effective, secure, and reliable.

Amid these changes, Iran's unique geostrategic location at the intersection of East-West and North-South trade axes gives it an exceptional opportunity to become a regional transit hub.

With access to the Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and borders with 15 countries, Iran is strategically positioned to support major initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), and the Chabahar-Central Asia corridor.

Iran's Seventh Development Plan sets a clear national objective: to raise the country's annual transit capacity to 40 million tons. This is not merely a strategic goal—it holds real foreign exchange earning potential.

Estimates suggest that each additional million tons of transit cargo could generate hundreds of millions of dollars in direct and indirect income through customs fees, logistics services, banking, insurance, and job creation.

Key Strategies and Policy Recommendations:

1. Prioritize and Expand Rail-Based International Corridors

Projects such as Rasht-Astara, Shalamcheh-Basra, and Chabahar-Zahedan-Sarakhs must be fast-tracked as part of a national effort to connect Iran to global corridors more effectively.

2. Coordinate Policies with Stakeholder Countries

Aligning customs regulations, tariffs, and procedures with countries such as China, Russia, India, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Iraq, and Turkey is vital. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation frameworks should be institutionalized.

3. Pursue Joint Investment and Financing Models

Iran should leverage FDI, PPPs, and regional investment funds to finance logistics infrastructure. Chabahar (with India) and INSTC (with Russia) serve as useful

precedents.

4. Digitize and Create a Unified Transit Window

A single-window digital platform is needed to streamline cargo clearance and improve transparency and efficiency at border crossings.

5. Promote Iran's Transit Routes Globally

Iran must actively market its corridors in global forums and logistics expos to position itself as a competitive and trusted option for international freight.

6. Develop Chabahar as a Strategic Southern Gateway



Chabahar, outside the Strait of Hormuz and less exposed to sanctions, is ideal for linking

Central Asia and Afghanistan to the Indian Ocean and global trade.

7. Ensure Stability and Predictability for Investors and Partners

Iran must offer a reliable environment through consistent policy, legal protections, and secure infrastructure to attract international logistics companies.

Conclusion:

The global reconfiguration of supply chains is a rare opportunity for Iran to leverage its geography into sustainable economic advantage and geopolitical relevance. With focused planning, regional collaboration, and smart investment, Iran can emerge as a key player in the 21st-century logistics network.

Nourallah Biranvand is Deputy for Investment & Transport Economy in Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI)

Tehran, Moscow eye \$10b trade target amid push for banking, logistics reforms

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has called for financial and regulatory reforms to unlock a surge in bilateral trade with Russia, as the two countries seek to deepen economic ties following the signing of a 20-year strategic cooperation pact.

During a visit to Moscow on Monday, Samad Hassanzadeh met with Sergey Katyrin, head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, to discuss pathways to expand trade and investment.

Hassanzadeh said Iran and Russia are poised to enter a new phase of cooperation, supported by the political will of both governments and their private sectors. He underscored the need for stable and secure financial channels, the use of national currencies in transactions, and harmonized customs pro-

cedures under the Eurasian Free Trade Agreement framework.

"The creation of infrastructure for issuing Eurasian Free Trade certificates of origin is underway," Hassanzadeh said, adding that further growth hinges on several strategic pillars: resolving banking bottlenecks, fixing currency exchange rates, upgrading transport systems, boosting rail and maritime fleets, and deepening cooperation within multilateral bodies such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

He also called for easing visa procedures for business travelers and proposed enhanced collaboration through specialized committees, joint exhibitions, investment funds, and agricultural and industrial initiatives.

Ghadir Ghiafeh, deputy head of ICCIMA, acknowledged that Iran-Russia trade has yet to

reach its potential but expressed optimism that evolving geopolitical conditions would enable closer ties.

"Some Iranian products are more competitive than their European counterparts," Ghiafeh said, noting Iran's export of steel and specialized industrial components, including catalysts used in Russian ammonia and urea plants.

He emphasized the need for market insight, professional conduct, and ongoing engagement with Russian consumers. With the Eurasian Free Trade Agreement now in effect, Ghiafeh said Iran aims to raise bilateral trade with Russia to \$10 billion over the next decade.

Kazem Jalali, Iran's Ambassador to Russia, said political conditions are now favorable for trade expansion, adding that some banking and logistics issues are being resolved.

Will Arabs beware of the likes of Eli Cohen?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — On the 60th anniversary of his execution, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, showed off the alleged achievement of recovering 2,500 documents of Mossad agent Eli Cohen, to his opponents who are relentlessly trying to bring down his government due to its failure in Gaza.

Netanyahu claimed that his forces accomplished “secret and complex operation carried out in cooperation with a strategic intelligence agency partner, during which the official Syrian archives related to Eli Cohen were transferred to Israel.”

Cohen had entered Syria under the name Kamel Amin Thabet, claiming to be a businessman and a member of a Syrian family that had immigrated to Latin America.

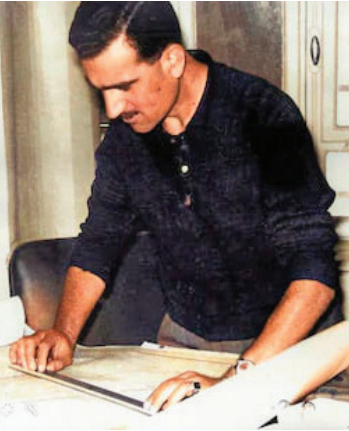
Although the Golan Heights was a closed military zone at the time, Cohen was allowed to enter it at least three times, with the



approval of the then-Syrian Chief of Staff.

After the June 1967 war, then Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol is quoted as saying, “Had it not been for the information Cohen provided, the army would have had to recruit a larger number of brigades to fight in the Golan Heights.”

Cohen expanded his relationships with high-ranking government officials before being discovered and executed on May 18, 1965, in Marjeh Square in central



Damascus.

According to iNews 24, during a private meeting attended by Netanyahu and Mossad chief David Barnea, the documents were reviewed, including the original will Cohen wrote hours before his execution.

The Hebrew channel added that the archive transfer came after “decades of efforts by Mossad intelligence, operations, and technology personnel, in cooperation with partners in the intelligence and security community in

Israel and around the world.”

The documents include forged passports, documents used by Cohen, and numerous telegrams he received from the Mossad, including an order to monitor Syrian military bases in Quneitra.

Informed Syrian sources explained that these documents were kept in the archives of the former Syrian regime’s National Security Headquarters.

The headquarters, like other security and intelligence headquarters, was not raided on the first day of the fall of Damascus, which confirms that these documents did not reach the Israeli enemy through an ordinary intermediary.

This is especially true under Syria’s de facto ruler, al-Julani (known as Ahmed al-Sharaa), who is prepared to appease the Israeli enemy in every possible way.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

A failing heartbeat: How civilians are dying inside Gaza’s battered hospitals

From page 1 ► **Widespread destruction of medical facilities**

Between October 7, 2023, and May 20, 2025, Israeli airstrikes and ground operations have severely damaged Gaza’s medical system. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there have been at least 686 attacks on healthcare-related sites during this period.

These include attacks on 122 health facilities, including 33 hospitals and 180 ambulances, many of which are now non-functional or working at very low levels.

One of the worst of the strikes took place on May 13, 2025, when Israeli air strikes took out the Gaza European Hospital in Khan Yunis, among the largest in the territory.

The attack left at least 28 people dead and around 40 others injured. The hospital had taken on displaced civilians in addition to its usual patients, making the disaster even larger in scale.

On the same day, the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis was hit, killing two, among them a journalist.

In northern Gaza, the Indonesian Hospital was forced to cease operations amid heavy bombardment and siege. Around 30 patients and 15 staff were trapped inside.

Several other hospitals—including Al Adwan, Al Shifa, and Al Awda—have suffered similar fates due to strikes, encirclement, or siege, further paralyz-

ing emergency medical response capabilities.

Civilian casualties and medical staff losses

The human toll from the attacks has been devastating. At least 53,475 Palestinians have been killed and more than 121,000 injured since October 2023, the Gaza Health Ministry says. More than 1,400 frontline health workers, including doctors, nurses, and volunteers trying to save lives amid increasingly perilous conditions, are counted among the dead.

The May 13 strike on the European Hospital left bodies scattered throughout the premises and overwhelmed medical teams. The destruction of hospitals has not only caused direct casualties but also led to indirect deaths, as many patients can no longer access life-saving care due to lack of fuel, medical supplies, and functioning facilities.

Israel’s justifications and international response

Israel has justified its actions by alleging that Hamas uses hospitals for military activities, such as weapon storage and command centers, which strip such facilities of their protected status under the laws of war.

Israeli officials said the May 13 attack on the European Hospital was aimed at destroying Hamas leaders, suspected of hiding in underground bunkers. But these claims have come under fire from critics.

Investigations by international



journalists, human rights groups, and observers have found no evidence to support Israel’s claims, suggesting that the attacks are disproportionate and unlawful.

The siege and blockade

The ongoing Israeli blockade has severely restricted the entry of essential medical supplies, fuel, food, and humanitarian aid into Gaza, deepening the healthcare crisis.

Since March 2, 2025, no humanitarian or commercial supplies have been allowed into Gaza, causing critical shortages. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) reports that over 40% of essential medical supplies are out of stock, with more expected to run out soon.

The blockade has also prevented medical evacuations and blocked humanitarian access to besieged hospitals.

The closure of the Indonesian Hospital exemplifies this crisis, with Israeli forces preventing the movement of patients and staff. Other hospitals have suffered bombings, arson, and encircle-

ment, leaving thousands of sick and injured without care and raising fears of a mounting death toll from preventable causes.

Broader legal implications

The repeated destruction of Gaza’s healthcare infrastructure and the killing of civilians in hospitals constitute a grave humanitarian crisis.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations have condemned these attacks and called for immediate cessation and accountability for violations.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that since October 2023, at least 842 incidents have impacted UNRWA premises, with over 767 persons sheltering in these installations killed and 2,419 injured.

The collapse of the health system threatens not only immediate survival but also the long-term well-being of Gaza’s population.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Ambushes kill and injure Israeli soldiers

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – As Israeli occupation forces attempt another invasion of Gaza, Palestinian resistance strikes back with deadly force.

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, announced that its fighters carried out a complex ambush in the al-Atatra area, west of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza.

According to the al-Qassam Brigades, their fighters targeted three Israeli military vehicles using two explosive devices and a Tandem shell, followed by direct clashes with another Israeli Occupation Force (IOF) unit.

In a statement, the al-Quds Brigades stated that their fighters inflicted casualties on the occupying Israeli forces, causing deaths and injuries. They also observed helicopters landing to evacuate the wounded.

Hebrew media reported that at least one Israeli soldier was killed in what was described as a “difficult security incident” in Gaza.

Despite the regime’s media censorship surrounding Israeli casualties, the IOF con-



firmed that one soldier was killed after an RPG hit a building during the clashes.

Two other soldiers were reported injured.

The IOF identified the deceased as a member of the 601st Engineering Battalion.

This latest death raises the official IOF death toll since October 7, 2023, to 857.

Critics maintain that the true figure is likely much higher, accusing the occupation regime of deliberately hiding the full extent of its casualties.

Meanwhile, the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the al-Quds Brigades, reported that its fighters detonated several pre-planted explosive devices targeting an Israeli military convoy during an incursion northeast of Khan Yunis. A helicopter was seen landing in the area to evacuate the dead and wounded IOF soldiers.

The al-Quds Brigades also stated that its fighters successfully lured an IOF unit into a pre-planted minefield, hitting another convoy that had advanced near Khan Yunis. The fighters confirmed the success of the operation upon their return and again observed helicopter evacuations at the site.

These developments follow the deaths of three Israeli soldiers last week across Gaza as well as numerous others who had been wounded.

As the IOF attempts to intensify its occupation of the enclave, Palestinian resistance factions have resumed guerrilla tactics, ambushing IOF units in open areas where the regime believes it is safe to continue its genocide in Gaza.



INTERNATIONAL

MAY 21, 2025

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

5

France says ‘determined’ to recognize Palestinian state

France is “determined” to recognize a Palestinian state, its foreign minister said on Tuesday, condemning Israel for the “indefensible” situation in Gaza created by its military campaign and humanitarian blockade, Al Monitor reported.

Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot also reaffirmed that Paris backed a Netherlands-led initiative for a review of the cooperation agreement between the European Union and Israel, which could affect political and economic ties.

President Emmanuel Macron has left open the possibility that France could become the latest European nation to recognize a Palestinian state at a UN conference in June.

“We cannot leave the children of Gaza a legacy of violence and hatred. So all this must stop, and that’s why we are determined to recognize a Palestinian state,” Barrot told France Inter radio.

“And I am actively working towards this, because we want to contribute to a political solution in the interest of the Palestinians but also for the security of Israel,” he added.

UN warns 14,000 babies in Gaza could die within days

Thousands of babies in Gaza could die within days without immediate food and medical aid, the United Nations has warned, as Israel allowed a limited number of humanitarian trucks into the besieged enclave for the first time in weeks, Time Magazine reported.

The UN said on Tuesday it had been granted permission to send “around 100” aid trucks into Gaza following an 11-week blockade.

UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher warned that 14,000 babies in Gaza could die within 48 hours if they do not receive urgent nutrition and care. Five trucks entered on Monday, he said, describing the situation as “catastrophic” and the current aid flow as “a drop in the ocean.”

“This is not food that Hamas is going to steal,” he told the BBC. “We run the risk of looting, of being hit by the Israeli offensive. We will be impeded, we will run huge risks, but I don’t see a better idea than getting that baby food in, to those moms, who at the moment cannot feed their own kids.”

Israeli airstrike targets power generators at Indonesian Hospital in Gaza

The Israeli military struck the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahia in northern Gaza late

Monday, targeting its power generators and sparking a massive fire, medical sources told Anadolu.

The airstrike came amid a siege by Israeli troops on the facility as part of Israel’s genocide across the Gaza Strip.

Munir al-Bursh, director general of Gaza’s Health Ministry, told Anadolu that the hospital lost electricity following the strike.

He said the facility houses patients and wounded people receiving treatment and warned that the bombing of the generators poses a serious threat to their lives.

Al-Bursh accused Israel of showing disregard for the health system and international humanitarian law, saying the military continues to target medical infrastructure.

Gaza’s Civil Defense reported receiving distress calls from hospital administrators about a fire that broke out in the external generators and spread to parts of the facility.

US terminates \$60 million in Harvard grants over alleged anti-Semitism

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said on Monday that it was terminating \$60 million in federal grants to Harvard University, saying the Ivy League institution failed to address anti-Semitic harassment and ethnic discrimination on campus, Reuters reported.

U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration has frozen or ended federal grants and contracts for the university worth nearly \$3 billion in recent weeks.

The administration has accused Harvard of continuing to consider ethnicity when reviewing student applications and of allowing discrimination against Jews as a result of the student protest movement against the war in Gaza that roiled American campuses last year.

UK suspends free trade talks with Israel over Gaza war

The British government says it will suspend new free trade negotiations with Israel due to its military conduct in the war on Gaza, where hundreds of Palestinians have been killed in recent days under bombardment and as a new ground offensive has been launched, Al Jazeera reported.

The United Kingdom also announced on Tuesday that it was imposing sanctions on illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The actions came a day after the UK, France and Canada condemned Israel’s handling of the war in Gaza and assaults and raids in the West Bank.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer ramped up his pointed criticism of Israel on Tuesday, saying the level of suffering by children in Gaza was “utterly intolerable” and repeated his call for a ceasefire.

The fulfilment of Trump’s dreams

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – Trump’s visit to the Middle East concluded with astronomical investment commitments—estimated at between \$3-\$4 trillion—primarily from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE. These deals, sealed in grand ceremonial events, reflect what can be described as unprecedented, extraordinary displays of political submission, more than Trump could have dreamed of. Given that the U.S. GDP stands at approximately \$27 trillion, these agreements represent nearly 15% of that figure, showcasing Trump’s business-centric approach: aggressively securing lucrative deals to reinforce America’s economic standing.

Trump sees himself not just as a national leader but as a global figurehead. His vision for America involves reasserting its dominance through economic leverage. This is

evident in his strategy of raising tariffs to incentivize domestic manufacturing, thereby reducing reliance on imports. A weaker dollar, something Trump has favored, boosts the competitiveness of U.S. exports globally, aligning with his goal of positioning America as a leading exporter. He believes that without a solid economic foundation, U.S. global influence is unsustainable—particularly considering China’s rise. For Trump, economic strength must underpin America’s geopolitical power.

During the trip, major deals involving Boeing aircraft, U.S. defense systems, and technology agreements were struck. These moves are designed to stimulate the domestic defense industry, create thousands of jobs, and re-establish America as a manufacturing hub.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))



WAC issues urgent statement on Gaza cultural heritage crisis

TEHRAN - The World Archaeological Congress (WAC), a leading international body of archaeologists committed to human rights and the protection of cultural heritage, has issued a powerful statement addressing the deepening humanitarian and cultural crisis in Gaza.

The statement, released following an Extraordinary Council Meeting held on April 30, 2025, reiterates WAC's concern over the escalating violence and the targeted destruction of cultural heritage sites in the region.

"In line with our mission and ethical commitments, we reaffirm our condemnation of all forms of violence against civilians and cultural heritage," said Koji Mizoguchi, President of the World Archaeological Congress, speaking on behalf of the Council. "We call on all parties to cease hostilities immediately and uphold international humanitarian law."

In a particularly pointed appeal, the Congress urged the Government of Israel to halt any actions that could be construed as genocide, crimes against humanity, or collective punishment of Palestinian civilians.

WAC also called for an end to the systematic destruction of Palestinian cultural heritage, which it described as "not only the history and identity of the Palestinian people, but also part of the shared heritage of humanity."

The organization stressed that cultural heritage is not a secondary concern in times of conflict, but a fundamental aspect of human dignity and community resilience.

"As we stated in 2023, the value of human life and the principle of universal human rights must take precedence over all other concerns," the statement reads. "At the same time, we affirm that cultural heritage is inte-



Gaza City's Al-Omari Mosque, Gaza's oldest mosque, damaged by Israeli bombardment on January 5, 2024. (Photo: AFP)

gral to human dignity and community resilience, and its preservation is a basic human right."

The Congress vowed to continue monitoring the situation in Gaza, raising awareness within the global archaeological community and beyond, and taking action consistent with its long-standing mission to protect people and their heritage in both peace and conflict.

With members in over 90 countries, the World Archaeological Congress stands as the only fully international and representative organization of practicing archaeologists.

WAC's work includes promoting professional training in disadvantaged communities, empowering Indigenous and minority groups, and advocating for the conservation of archaeological sites threatened by conflict, looting, and development.

Intricately carved 2,700-year-old Assyrian relief unearthed in Iraq

TEHRAN - A team of German archaeologists from Heidelberg University has made a major archaeological breakthrough in the ancient city of Nineveh, unearthing a monumental Assyrian bas-relief dating back to the 7th century BC.

The relief, discovered in the North Palace of King Ashurbanipal, is among the most significant finds in recent years, offering new insights into the religious iconography and political symbolism of the Assyrian Empire.

The intricately carved stone panel—measuring approximately 5.5 meters in length, 3 meters in height, and weighing 12 tons—depicts Ashurbanipal, the last great king of Assyria (reigning from 669 to 631 BCE), flanked by two prominent Assyrian deities: Ashur and Ishtar. Behind the divine figures stand a fish-genius, symbolizing life and salvation, and a scorpion-man figure with raised arms—both of which suggest the presence of a large winged sun disk above, a common Assyrian motif denoting divine protection and royal authority.

"Among the many reliefs found in Assyrian palaces, it is extremely rare—if not unprecedented—to find depictions of major deities," said Professor Dr. Aaron Schmitt, director of the excavation. "This makes the discovery exceptional, both artistically and historically." The relief was uncovered in a pit behind a ceremonial niche in the throne room of Ashurbanipal's palace, a location believed to have been of high ritual significance. Experts believe

the relief was buried during the Hellenistic period (3rd to 2nd century BC), centuries after the fall of the Assyrian Empire. This intentional burial likely contributed to the preservation of the artwork, explaining why it remained undiscovered during earlier excavations, such as those by British archaeologists in the 19th century, whose findings now reside in the British Museum.

The discovery is part of the Heidelberg Nineveh Project, launched in 2018 by Prof. Dr. Stefan Maul of Heidelberg University's Department of Languages and Cultures of the Near East. Since 2022, the team has focused on excavations at the Kuyunjik mound—the site of ancient Nineveh and the heart of the Assyrian Empire under King Sennacherib in the late 8th century BC.

The relief is currently undergoing further study, with experts analyzing the type of stone, believed to be gypsum, and investigating the deeper meanings behind the symbolic imagery.

Assyrians are an ethnic group indigenous to Mesopotamia, a historical region in West Asia. Modern Assyrians are descended from the ancient Assyrians, one of the major civilizations of Mesopotamia. The ancestral lands that constitute the Assyrian homeland encompass ancient Mesopotamia and the areas surrounding the Tigris and Zab rivers. Today, this region is divided among modern-day Iraq, southeastern Turkey, northwestern Iran, and northeastern Syria.

Qeshm water storages being organized as living museums

TEHRAN—Head of Qeshm Free Zone Organization for cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts, Ebrahim Roshtam Gourani, said organizing water storages on Qeshm Island has begun in an innovative plan with a cultural, historical, and environmental approach. He also said these precious resources, are not only the infrastructure for supplying water, they are also being revived as living museums, CHTN reported.

Reservoirs that are in the form of domed structures are called "Berkeh" in the local dialect of Qeshm natives.

Berkehs as ancient water structures with a history of centuries and a pivotal role in life of islanders, are turning into living symbols of indigenous knowledge, adaptation

First train of Golden Triangle of Iranian tourism arrives Yazd

TEHRAN—The First train pertaining to the Golden Triangle of Iranian tourism, including cities Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd, arrived in Yazd Railway Station on Tuesday.

Its passengers were welcomed by the Director General of Iran Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, and other Yazd officials. Seyyed Reza Sadat-Hosseini, Director General of Yazd Railways, told IRNA that coordination has been made for tourists and passengers of this train to visit Yazd historical sites such as Amir Chakhmaq Square, Yazd Jameh Mosque and Dowlatabad Garden.

The train was expected to leave Yazd on Tuesday night for the destinations of Shiraz and then Isfahan, he predicted.

to dry weather, and the traditional architecture of the south of Iran. He said the water storages of the island include stories of effort, knowledge, and adaptation of mankind to nature.

"We, with a museum-based outlook, document, preserve, and improve these water storages so that they remain alive and tangible for future generations.

At the first phase of this plan, these ancient water storages have been covered in rural districts of Qeshm island. Apart from engineering measures, the introduction boards, visiting routes and local guides will be provided for the visitors."

He added that the five-day tour has been planned with an aim to promote the tourism industry and introduce the rich attractions of these three cities. The passengers visit the historical and cultural attractions of Yazd, Shiraz, and Isfahan and become familiar with the rich culture of civilization of these cities, he said.

The "Golden Triangle" tourism agreement, originally signed in 2016, has been revived by the governors-general of the Iranian provinces of Isfahan, Fars, and Yazd. The renewed agreement aims to strengthen cooperation among these historically rich regions to boost domestic tourism and attract international travelers.

3,200-year-old Iron Age woman's skeleton discovered in northern Iran

TEHRAN - A team of archaeologists has uncovered the 3,200-year-old skeleton of a woman in a rural district in northern Iran.

The Iron Age skeleton was unearthed near the village of Kami-Kola, which is located in the Shahne-Posht area of Babol county, Mazandaran province.

The discovery, described as one of the most significant in the region in recent years, has been transferred to the Babol Museum for preservation and further study.

Hassan Fazeli Nashli, Associate Professor of Archaeology at the University of Tehran, announced the discovery, noting that it emerged during a multi-year excavation project conducted between 2018 and 2020.

The archaeological team focused their work on two key sites - Qaleh Bon and Shahne-Posht—where they uncovered 16 burial trenches as part of their research into Iron Age funerary practices.

"This cemetery is among the richest Iron Age burial sites in Iran," Professor Fazeli Nashli said in an interview with ISNA. "Its



scale and density of findings are almost unparalleled in northern Iran."

In total, the excavation yielded 61 human skeletons, of which 31 were found during scientific excavations, while the remaining were recovered from areas previously looted during illegal diggings. Most of the remains, according to Fazeli Nashli, date back to the Iron Age.

He emphasized the historical significance of the Shahne-Posht site, which has been subject to looting since the mid-2000s.

Many graves and ancient artifacts—some more than 3,000 years old—have been lost to unauthorized excavations.

The northern section of Mazandaran province consists of a lowland alongside the Caspian Sea and an upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains.

Marshy backlands dominate the coastal plain, and extensive gravel fans fringe the mountains. The climate is permanently subtropical and humid, with very hot summers.

The highland slopes rise abruptly in the west and more gently in the east.

Forests have been largely destroyed; the higher parts are cultivated summer pasture studded with villages partly deserted in winter.

Wild boar, deer, and birds are numerous; the tiger, formerly found in the lowland, has disappeared.

Cattle are usually humped; the buffalo is widely used as a draft animal. There are many rivers as well.

Stolen artifacts from Shah Nematollah Vali Museum recovered, main suspect arrested

pieces from the famed Mahan Treasure—had been taken from the museum located within the Shah Nematollah Vali Shrine complex.

Following an urgent order from the head of the Endowments Organization and close coordination with police and judicial authorities, the case was pursued as a high-priority security matter. "The stolen items have now been recovered and returned to the museum thanks to ongoing judicial and intelligence efforts," the organization confirmed in a press release.

Earlier, the Mahan Public Prosecutor had declared the case was being handled with special urgency by Iran's judiciary and security forces. The Shah Nematollah Vali Shrine, home to the tomb of the 15th-century Iranian mystic and poet, is one of the most treasured historical landmarks in Kerman province.

Originally constructed in 1436, the shrine has seen numerous architectural additions under successive dynasties and remains a revered pilgrimage site.

First Announcement

Iran Tobacco Company

International One-stage Public Tender Notice for the Procurement of Selected Foreign non-

Tobacco Raw Material -Iran Tobacco Company
Reference Code Of the Tender Notice in the National Tender Platform:53/193/043

Iran Tobacco Company intends to supply some of the required items for its production lines as described in the following table through a one-stage international public tender. Therefore, all qualified applicants are invited from the date of 21st May 2025 until the end of the office hours 3rd June 2025 after depositing the amount of 2 million Rials to account number 47000701336609 in the name of Iran Tobacco Company at Parsian Bank, Azadi branch, at the address of Tehran- Qazvin St.- Iran Tobacco Company- Education Department - 1st Floor - Office The Secretariat of the Trading Commission can receive the tender documents or free after visiting or registering in the national tender information database at the address <https://iets.mporg.ir>.

Description of bidding items			
Item	Description of non Tobacco	Unit	Quantity
1	Cigarette paper 27mm x 6000 m light	Bobin	5,504
2	Cigarette paper Double 27mm x 6000 m Ultra-light	Bobin	2,944
3	Cigarette paper 54mm x 6000 m 40 Cu	Bobin	3,625
4	Cigarette paper Double 22mm	Bobin	2,600
5	Plug wrap 26.5mm x 6000 m	Bobin	9,511
6	Plug wrap 19mm x 6000 m	Bobin	8,628
7	Acetate cellulose tow 3y-35000-(3y-30000)	Kg	178,829
8	Acetate cellulose tow 4y-35000	Kg	91,934
9	Acetate cellulose tow 5y-30000	Kg	91,715
10	Acetate cellulose tow 6y-17000	Kg	26,892
11	Acetate cellulose tow 8y-15000	Kg	81,409
12	short size filter rod mm66	Rod	79,882,061
13	Medium size Filter rod 126 mm	Rod	35,001,720
14	king size (Gilan) filter rod mm126	Rod	31,239,000
15	king size Tehran filter rod 126 mm	Rod	4,914,000
16	Bahman ultra-light filter rod mm108	Rod	43,233,750
17	Bahman Nano & T4 filter rod mm108	Rod	250,545,678
18	Bahman super slim filter rod mm120	Rod	265,828,000
19	adhesive Max Glue Tipping	Kg	33,457
20	seaming adhesive Side (SE Glue)	Kg	14,803

All applicants who do not have approved samples/goods in the rows requested for tenders from Iran Tobacco Company in the last year should apply from 21st May 2025 to 21th June 2025 regarding sending the sample in standard and resistant packaging along with the technical specifications sheet (data sheet), product storage conditions (safety data sheet) according to the values in the table and to The address of this company is located in Tehran, Qazvin Square, Qazvin St., Shahid Golchin Building, 1st Floor, Administration of Security Central Office. Complete and accurate details of the seller must be included on the samples.

- The deadline for submission of proposals and deliver of documents and envelopes to the secretariat of the central security office located in the Shahid Golchin building, first floor, is until the last administrative deadline dated 23rd July 2025 .
- The date and place of the opening of the offer packets, at 10:00 a.m. on 27th July 2025, located in Tehran: Qazvin Square - Qazvin Street - Iran Tobacco Company - Hall The gatherings of Imam Ali (a.s.).
- Applicants participating in each row of tender items can apply for the guarantee of participation in the tender of the same row and submit the price offer in the same row based on the table in the conditions sheet In addition All price comparisons will be made on a CFR(cost and freight) Bandar Abbas basis.
- In case the submitted sample does not match the announced technical specifications, the bidder shall be allowed to modify and resubmit the sample within the initial submission period to the Security Department at the head Office.
(If you need help, call 51261651-51261920)

Communications and International Affairs Management, Iran Tobacco Company

Iran discusses expanding health ties with Switzerland, Saudi Arabia



TEHRAN – Holding separate meetings with his Swiss and Saudi counterparts, Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi has discussed the potential of expanding cooperation in the health sector with the two countries.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA), which started on May 19 and will run until June 27 in Geneva, Switzerland.

In a meeting with Swiss Health Minister Elisabeth Baume-Schneider, the two sides explored avenues for enhancing collaborations, particularly focusing on the third joint economic committee meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Tehran on September 16. Zafarqandi highlighted the high capacities of the two countries and proposed utilizing joint expertise in different health sectors.

Referring to measures taken for supporting Swiss factories operating in the country, the official said a special working group has been



set up to facilitate the activities of Swiss companies, including Roche, Nestle, Novartis, Johnson & Johnson, and Strauman in the healthcare sector. It has also played an important role in removing obstacles and following up on their issues, he added.

Baume-Schneider, for her part, said 'hosting World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland is trying to enhance cooperation with the organization as well as other member states. The world is changing, and we are seeking reforms to keep up with these changes.'

Lauding Iran's efforts in dealing with drug abuse, the official said that required plans are underway to hold a joint economic committee meeting.

The Iranian official also met Saudi Arabia's Health Minister Fahad bin Abdulrahman Al-Jalajel. During the meeting, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand health diplomacy.

The signed MOU is expected to

strengthen joint efforts in global health security, Hajj and Umrah, smart hospitals, and training specialized human resources, Al-Jalajel noted.

Referring to the Hajj pilgrimage, Zafarqandi said there is good cooperation between the two countries, currently. Highlighting Iran's high capabilities in primary healthcare, healthcare networks, specialized medical services, medicine and medical equipment, and medical education, Zafarqandi expressed optimism that the two countries will further deepen ties in the health and treatment fields.

78th World Health Assembly

Focusing on the 2025 theme 'One World for Health', WHA78 will bring together high-level country representatives to address health challenges. This year's gathering comes at a pivotal moment for global health, as Member States confront emerging threats and major shifts in the landscape for global health and international development.

This year's theme underscores the World Health Organization's (WHO) enduring commitment to solidarity and equity, highlighting that even in unprecedented times, everyone, everywhere, should have an equal chance to live a healthy life.

During the meeting, participants will discuss and reflect on current and future priorities and challenges facing global health as per related documents, as well as the member states will declare their ideas about each document, IRNA quoted Alireza Biglari, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

Zafarqandi will present a statement on 35 specific documents related to the country's health system; these include 29 documents on general health activities, and six focus on the activities of different departments, and international cooperation, the official noted.

Moreover, other topics such as the budget and financial issues, the membership status of the member states, auditing, and issues raised in the executive board session of the WHO will be reviewed by specialized committees.

In the 78th WHA, a total of 56 topics will be discussed in the form of documents, Biglari stated.

On the sidelines of the WHA, the health minister plans to hold meetings with his counterparts from Switzerland, Italy, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, India, Cuba, and the WHO director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) to expand ties.

UNESCO programs in Iran to include environmental education

TEHRAN –Environmental education is placed among the list of major programs of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Iran, aiming to develop sustainable solutions and international cooperation to address environmental challenges.

From UNESCO's perspective, environmental education is a learning process that raises public awareness about the environment and its challenges; it equips individuals with knowledge, skills, values, experiences, and goals to tackle these environmental issues, IRNA quoted Hassan Fartosi, the Secretary General of the UNESCO National Commission in Iran, as saying.

The official made the remarks while addressing the 8th National Conference and Specialized Exhibition of Environmental Education held on Tuesday.

According to this definition, environmental education includes achieving environmental awareness, understanding challenges, and taking actions, Fartosi noted.

UNESCO helps countries and educational institutions develop and implement effective environmental education programs; it strives to preserve the environment through its international programs in the field of natural science and earth science education, the official added.

These include the international hydrology program, the international geoscience and geoparks program, the intergovernmental oceanography program, and the international basic sciences program. Greening education partnership is one of

the most important initiatives adopted by UNESCO to support countries in tackling climate change, he said.

UNESCO works to reduce the impacts of global change and water resources, and promote education for sustainable use of water resources; the organisation calls on member states to work together to address these challenges more effectively.

The 8th Conference served as a platform for sharing ideas, expertise, and achievements to promote sustainable development by conducting scientific research, utilizing modern technologies, and developing innovative solutions.

Addressing natural hazards, boosting climate change resilience

In April, the international project of managing natural disasters and enhancing resilience to climate change impacts was inaugurated officially by representatives from the Department of Environment (DOE), the Embassy of Japan, and UNESCO.

Funded by Japan, the project's document was signed on Monday by Ieng Srong, the head of the UNESCO Tehran Office, and Arman Khorsand, the head of the international affairs and conventions office of the DOE.

The main objectives of the project include developing flood hazard maps, establishing early warning systems, assessing and managing agricultural drought risk, and empowering local communities, particularly women and youth, to effectively pre-

pare them to respond to disasters and crises, DOE website reported.

The project also aims to develop scientific and technical infrastructure in crisis management with the prospect of becoming a regional model for combating climate change effects.

Referring to the challenges of climate change, Shina Ansari, head of DOE, highlighted the significance of public participation, indigenous knowledge, and modern technologies in disaster risk reduction.

The head of the UNESCO Tehran Office, Ieng Srong, for his part, lauded environmental cooperation between the two organizations and underscored the importance of prioritizing science and raising awareness in the fight against climate change. According to the country's former permanent representative and ambassador to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), climate change has greatly affected the agriculture sector and food security in many countries, most significantly in Iran.

In some parts of the country the air temperature has increased by 2 degrees while the highest temperature set in the world amounts to 1.5 degrees, IRNA quoted Mohammad-Hossein Emadi as saying.

Climate change also alters plant growth patterns, disturbing the nutritional values of crops, he stressed. In addition, unexpected effects of climate change like drought, flood, and landslides have all affected food security.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Climate change impact on Iran doubles world average’

The effects of climate change on Iran has more than doubled on average compared to other parts of the world, while southern provinces of the country are more likely to bear the consequences, an official with the presidential office has said.

“The Hoomand-Absard station in Damavand county in north-east of Tehran experienced a temperature increase of 2.7 °C over the past 50 years, while over the past 100 years, the temperature rise was about 0.76 °C,” ISNA quoted Mohammad Darvish as saying on Tuesday.

Climate change impact is increasing in southern part of the country, among which Yazd province's condition has raised concern, he said.

تغییرات اقلیمی در ایران دو تا سه برابر جهان

محمد درویش، دبیر سیاست محیط زیست مرکز بررسی‌های استراتژیک نهاد ریاست جمهوری گفته، ایران با تأثیرات تغییر اقلیمی دو تا سه برابر بیشتر از تأثیرات ایجاد شده در کره زمین روبرو شده است. محمد درویش، در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایسنا، اظهار کرد: ایستگاه هومند آبسرد در دامنه‌های کوه دماوند طی نیم قرن اخیر افزایش دمایی حدود ۲.۷ درجه سلسیوس را نشان می‌دهد و این مسئله در حالی رخ داده است که در ۱۰۰ سال گذشته، حدود ۰.۷۶ درجه سلسیوس افزایش دما داشته‌ایم.

وی اضافه کرد: هر چقدر به شهرهای جنوبی‌تر کشورمان نزدیک می‌شویم، تغییرات اقلیمی هم بیشتر می‌شود به طوری که از این میان بزد وضعیت نگران‌کننده‌ای دارد.

Widespread land subsidence: a national crisis

Water security, a global issue

By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN – Water supply in Iran largely depends on rainfall, snowmelt, and underground aquifers, but decades of over-extraction have left groundwater resources severely depleted. While the global water resources are stretched by climate change and human population growth, the farms and industries are increasingly turning to groundwater to fill their needs.

Unfortunately, pumping of groundwater can cause the ground surface to sink as aquifers below are drained and the architecture of the ground collapses. This phenomenon is also called land subsidence. This article attempts to introduce the phenomenon and the underlying causes, mainly in Tehran:

With a population of over 15 million residents, including a large floating populace, Tehran is now on the precipice of a severe land subsidence crisis. Established in 1953, the National Cartographic Center (NCC) of Iran has proved its role as the main leader of map production and spatial information in the country. According to Iran's NCC, some regions are sinking at alarming rates of 31cm per year, wreaking havoc on the vital infrastructure and historical sites, making it a national crisis. Cracked homes, tilting mosques, and endangering historical sites like ancient ruins of Persepolis are some of the examples. Even a modern infrastructure like the Imam Khomeini International Airport has not escaped the adverse effects of land subsidence.

According to another source, scientists from the GFZ German Research Center for Geosciences in Potsdam used satellite data to reveal the extent of the subsidence. The team used a tool known as Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) which can spot even the most minute difference in ground deformation. They revealed that land around Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKIA) was sinking at around 5 centimeters per year – which unfortunately was one of the more moderate areas of subsidence.

This crisis is unlike earthquakes or severe weather phenomenon that make media and TV coverage on an international scale. Land subsidence is invisible because it occurs at a very slow pace but its impact cannot be ignored.

Other causes for this phenomenon are attributed to scarcity of rainfalls, uneven distribution of water, high climatic variation, and mismanagement of the precious water resource. Subsidence is also associated with mining. Demographic factors such as population explosion is also cited. Just about 50 years ago Tehran had a population of only two million. The rapid expansion of the urban population has made the task of water distribution even more difficult.

The Amirkabir Dam, which passes through the Karaj River, has shrunk by seven percent to 22.09 billion cubic meters, spokesman of the Iranian Water Resources Management Company Isa Bozorgzadeh was quoted recently. The concrete dam, 30 km northwest of capital, was built in 1961 to supply Tehran with water and electricity.

Latyan Dam is a buttress dam located less than 25 km from Tehran, south of the city of Lavasan. Constructed between 1963 and 1967 it is one of the main sources of water and electricity for Tehran. With a capacity of 95 million cubic meters the dam has been operational since 1967.

Seventy percent of Tehran's water comes from five nearby dams, including Amirkabir and



A view of the effects of land subsidence in the capital Tehran.

Latyan. According to the state media reports as of March 5 the reservoirs are only 13 percent full.

A look back five years ago, in May of 2019, Mehr news agency reported that Amirkabir Dam was 93 percent full, an increase of four percent compared to the year before. The significant improvements were attributed to the exceptional water torrents that spring that covered almost all provinces after six decades. Unfortunately, this year water shortage has also been due to the low precipitation, which the Ministry of Energy has said barely reached 93.8mm from early October to mid-March, a dramatic shortfall from the national average of 157.8mm, a 60 percent reduction.

Under the circumstances, reduction of water use, minimization of waste and recycling of water are good first steps. Optimization of the water usage is bound to reduce the water consumption and can reduce overextraction of ground water.

Last year President Masoud Pezeshkian called for the relocation of Iran's political and economic center away from Tehran, citing the capital's mounting environmental and infrastructural challenges.

“We have no choice but to move the country's political and economic center closer to the southern waters,” he said adding that the current development trends in Tehran are unsustainable, particularly given the city's water scarcity.

“Whatever we do, we're just wasting time. We have no choice but to move the country's economic and political center to the south, closer to the sea,” he said.

Given Tehran's large population and being the economic heart of the country, the air pollution has become part of this problem. The quality of air in the capital contaminates the water storages in the form of ice on the mountain to rivers downstream.

The underlying cause of this crisis stems from groundwater over-extraction rising from 10 cubic meters per second in 2020 to 17.5 in 2023. Although it decreased to 14.5 in 2024, these levels remain unsustainable.

Without immediate reforms in water management and infrastructure planning, the capital city faces escalating risks to its infrastructure, heritage sites and population.

The unsustainable global practices for managing water resources will eventually lead to tighter restrictions and supply cuts. It will make today's uninterrupted and never ending supply of water look like a dream.

While today's global wars are on land and energy resources, the future wars will inevitably be fought over a more vital resource.

UNHCR lauds medical services provided to refugees in Isfahan

TEHRAN – Following a visit to Al-Zahra hospital in Isfahan province, Yumiko Takashima, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Iran, has commended the medical services provided to Afghan refugees.

During her visit to the hospital, the official talked to Afghan patients in person and was greatly impressed by hearing about their experiences and the way they were treated, IRNA reported.

“There is no discrimination between Iranian and Afghan patients in this hospital, and the medical staff's humane, professional, and equal treatment is commendable,” she said.

Al-Zahra Hospital, as one of the country's main medical centers, serves hundreds of patients, including Iranians and immigrants, per day. However, the economic pressures, sanctions, and the high costs of medical equipment have made it difficult to continue the services as in the past.

According to the head of Al-Zahra hospital, Minoo Movahedi, the Representative of the UNHCR was invited to Isfahan to become familiar with the capacities of the hospital, the kind of services offered as well as the problems in treating refugees, and to use the opportunity to develop cooperation with the organization to pay for part of the costs.

Appreciating the medical staff's efforts by writing a letter to the hospital, Yukimo has pledged to supply needed medical equipment, and cover part of the costs of refugees' treatment.

According to the information available to UNHCR, Iran hosts some 773,000 refugees with Amayesh (761,000 Afghans) and Hoviat cards (12,000 Iraqis), which grant foreign nationals temporary residence and provide holders with refugee protection.



MAY 21, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The best form of devotion to the service of Allah is not to make a show of it.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:28 Dawn: 3:14 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:54 (tomorrow)

François Truffaut's "The Green Room" to be shown at IAF

TEHRAN – The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen the 1978 French historical drama film "The Green Room" directed by François Truffaut on Thursday.

The 94-minute movie will be shown with Persian subtitle at the Nasser Hall of the IAF at 6 p.m., Mehr reported.

"The Green Room" is based on the 1895 short story "The Altar of the Dead" by Henry James, in which a man becomes obsessed with the dead people in his life and builds a memorial to them. It is also based on two other works by James: the 1903 novella "The Beast in the Jungle" and the 1896 short story "The Way It Came".

It was Truffaut's 17th feature film as a director and the third and last of his own films in which he acted in a leading role. It stars Truffaut, Nathalie Baye, Jean Dasté and Patrick Maléon.

Truffaut spent several years working on the film's script and felt a special connection to the theme of honoring and remembering the dead. In the film, he included portraits of people from his own life at the main character's "Altar of the Dead".

The story happens in a French little town, at the end of the twenties. Julien Davenne is a journalist whose wife Julie died a decade ago. He gathered in the green room all Julie's objects. When a fire destroys the room, he renovates a little chapel and devotes it to Julie and his other dead persons.

"The Green Room" was one of Truffaut's most praised films, and also one of his least successful works financially. It was made towards the end of Truffaut's career, and thematically the film contrasts to his earlier works. "The Green Room"

appears to reminisce on childhood, whilst focusing more on the final stages of life, as Truffaut expresses his views of death and remembrance of the dead. Nonetheless, the alternative theme of the film again reflects Truffaut's sense of personal expressionism throughout his career.

François Roland Truffaut (1932-1984) was a French filmmaker, actor, and critic. He is widely regarded as one of the founders of the French New Wave. He came under the tutelage of film critic Andre Bazin as a young man and was hired to write for Bazin's Cahiers du Cinéma, where he became a proponent of the auteur theory, which posits that a film's director is its true author. "The 400 Blows" (1959), starring Jean-Pierre Léaud as Truffaut's alter-ego Antoine Doinel, was a defining film of the New Wave.

Truffaut supplied the story for another milestone of the movement, "Breathless" (1960), directed by his Cahiers colleague Jean-Luc Godard.

His other notable films include "Shoot the Piano Player" (1960), "Jules and Jim" (1962), "The Soft Skin" (1964), "Two English Girls" (1971) and "The Last Metro" (1980).

Truffaut's "Day for Night" (1973) earned him the BAFTA Award for Best Film and the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

He wrote "Hitchcock/Truffaut" (1966), a book-length interview with his hero Alfred Hitchcock which tied for second on Sight and Sound's list of the greatest books on film. Truffaut paid homage to Hitchcock in "The Bride Wore Black" (1968), "Mississippi Mermaid" (1969) and his last film, "Confidentially Yours" (1981).

Cartoon of Day



Genocide

Cartoonist: Nicocomix from Italy

Exhibition celebrating martyrs of service inaugurated in Tehran

TEHRAN – A memorial event honoring the first anniversary of the martyrdom of former President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions, known as martyrs of service, was held at Soore University in Tehran on Sunday night, drawing esteemed figures from academic, cultural, and governmental circles.

The event was attended by cultural official and academic personalities including Ali Bahadori Jahromi, spokesperson for the government under martyr Raisi, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance under the same administration; and Mohammad Hossein Saei, the dean of the university, Mehr reported.

Speaking at the ceremony, Esmaeili highlighted the cultural and artistic achievements of the Raisi government. He stated, "The Raisi administration's record in the fields of culture and arts is com-



mendable in both qualitative and comparative terms."

"Having been a long-time pupil of Martyr Raisi, we shared a common understanding and vision in cultural domains," he added.

"President Raisi was deeply concerned about cultural issues. The most important foundational doc-

uments related to culture and arts were issued during his tenure," he continued.

Esmaeili further elaborated on Raisi's approach to culture: "His policy in the cultural sphere was neither detached nor overly interventionist, but rather balanced and strategic."

The event concluded with the opening of the "Procession of Iran's Servants" photography exhibition, showcasing photographs by Kamran Sharifi, Mohammadreza Mojahed, Mohammadreza Taheri Manesh, and Negin Hemmatzadeh.

In a tragic helicopter crash last year, President Raisi, along with prominent officials including former Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, former governor of East Azarbaijan Province Malek Rahmati, and former Friday prayer leader of Tabriz Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Ale-Hashem, lost their lives while traveling to the provincial capital, Tabriz.

The accident was caused by dense fog that severely limited visibility in the region, leading to a fatal crash. The incident shocked the nation and resulted in the loss of several key figures who played significant roles in Iran's political and religious spheres.

Iranian movie wins at Ankara International Wildlife Documentary Film Festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian documentary "Dog Eater", co-directed by Fathollah Amiri and Nima Asgari, won an award at the Ankara International Wildlife Documentary Film Festival, which was held in Turkey from May 15 to 18.

A total of 691 short and feature documentaries from 89 countries competed in the first edition of the Turkish festival.

"Dog Eater", the only participant from Iran, was one of the seven movies winning the best short documentary award, IRNA reported.

The 40-minute documentary explores a border village in North Khorasan province where tranquility is shattered by the disappearance of dogs and the fear instilled by a brazen panther.

Villagers, instead of taking drastic measures, seek help from environmental authorities and experts.

After ten days of struggle, they capture an old panther, shedding light on the mystery behind the dog-eating behavior. However, an unfortunate incident occurs after the panther is transported to Tehran, adding a tragic twist to the story.

A production of 2024, this documentary, as its title suggests, is a hybrid and narrative of the story of a creature from the wild and a protected species, inevitably caught in the unintended conflicts that arise in growing human societies. Seeking refuge in a border village in the outskirts of Khorasan to preserve its life, it turns to hunting the domestic

animals of villagers and herders.

This documentary carries a socio-environmental narrative where the filmmaker not only observes the challenges and struggles of the capture team with a documentary gaze but also delves into local communities to understand the environmentally-conscious behavior of the border villagers towards this large and elusive cat and examine it closely.

Ultimately, despite the success of the capture team and the kindness and integrity of the villagers towards this rare and majestic feline, an unfortunate fate still awaits such species that seek refuge in local communities to meet their needs.

Born in Ilam, Fathollah Amiri is a distinguished Iranian documentary filmmaker.

His passion for art and cinema began at a young age, leading him to Tehran to pursue his studies at the IRIB University where he obtained both a bachelor's and master's degree in cinema.

With his impactful and realistic documentaries, he has vividly portrayed the lives of animals, people, diverse cultures, and social issues.

His works have been showcased multiple times at prestigious international festivals and have won numerous awards. He is also committed to educating and training the new generation of documentary filmmakers in Iran.

Nima Asgari is a graduate of environment and natural re-



Nima Asgari (second L) and Fathollah Amiri (second R) hold their award at the closing ceremony of the Ankara International Wildlife Documentary Film Festival on May 18, 2025.

sources.

He studied filmmaking at the Iranian Youth Cinema Society - one of the most prestigious filmmaking associations in Iran.

He started his work in 2007 in the Iranian Cheetah Society as a researcher and cinematographer on endangered species, such as the Iranian cheetah.

His films are mostly about the relationship between humans and nature, and the effects of humans on the extinction of wildlife species.

He is now the main member of the Wildlife Pictures Institute and has made more than 30 films and received numerous awards at international festivals.

Türkiye is among the richest European countries in terms of wildlife.

However, the Anatolian wildlife is little known in the country itself and abroad.

One of the best ways to raise

awareness about this issue is documentaries, with their artistic power and ability to reach wide audiences.

Wildlife filmmaking in Türkiye is a profession practiced by a few people and a field that has a relatively short history.

Even if the number of programs about wildlife have increased in recent years, very few of them can be considered as documentaries.

Thus, by organizing an international wildlife documentary film festival, it is aimed to introduce world leading wildlife filmmakers and crews with the Turkish audience and to provide the right way of development for this field in Türkiye.

Ankara International Wildlife Documentary Film Festival seeks to attract national and international attention to Anatolia's wildlife, contribute to nature conservation efforts, and support wildlife filmmaking.

Tehran to host online session with American film scholar

TEHRAN – A specialized session in preparation for the upcoming 7th Tehran Short Film Studies Conference will be held virtually on Wednesday, featuring renowned American academic and film scholar Thomas M. Leitch.

The event is organized by the Iranian Youth Cinema Society (IYCS), one of the most renowned schools of cinema and short film production in Iran and throughout the world.

Professor Leitch, a distinguished scholar from the University of Delaware, the U.S., will be the keynote international speaker for this online session.

The event will include an introductory presentation by Navid Pourmohammadreza, a film researcher and instructor from Iran, who is also a member of the conference's scientific committee.

Mehdi Chavoshvar, an expert and translator, will moderate the session.

Leitch's talk, titled "The Persistent Marginalization of Adaptation in Short Films," will explore how adaptation remains a sidelined subject within the short film genre. Following his presentation, participants will have the opportunity to pose questions.

The conference follows two earlier ses-



sions organized in collaboration with the Iranian Book and Literature Home and Iranian Youth Cinema Society, featuring Mehrzad Danesh on "Adaptation from Non-Fiction and Religious Texts," and Ramin Shahbazi on "New Theories of Adaptation," held at the 36th Tehran International Book Fair's Literature Pavilion last week.

Born in 1951, Thomas Leitch is a distinguished American academic and renowned film scholar known for his extensive contributions to film studies and cultural analysis.

He earned his undergraduate degree magna cum laude in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University in 1972.

He continued his education at Yale University, where he obtained his MA in 1973 and his PhD in 1976.

Leitch's academic career began at Yale as an assistant professor in the Department of English, a position he held until 1983.

He then joined the University of Delaware, initially as an assistant professor, later becoming an associate professor in 1986 and a full professor of English in 1991, a position he still holds.

His research spans American and British literature, cultural studies, film, new media, and public humanities.

Leitch's interest in film developed in the 1980s, leading him to teach both undergraduate courses in film and graduate courses in cultural and literary theory.

He has authored numerous influential books, including "Film Adaptation and Its Discontents," and "The Encyclopedia of Alfred Hitchcock".

His work continues to shape contemporary discourse on film, literature, and digital knowledge. His academic focus encompasses film studies, adaptation theory, and Hitchcock studies.