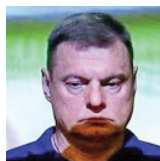




**Israel lost the ‘public opinion’ battlefield to Palestinians** *Page 2*



**No guarantee to win medal at Tokyo: Alekno** *Page 3*



**Giant kilim unveiled in Ardebil** *Page 6*



**No COVID-19 vaccine export until domestic need is met** *Page 7*



PARIS: A Pro-Palestine Protestor gets hit by police water canon as police try to break up a demonstration in solidarity with Palestine

## Britain far from a so-called post-racial society: activist

**BY REZA MOSHFEGH**  
Noting that most of the British media are uncritical when it comes to the royal family, a London-based writer says Britain is far from a so-called post-racial society.

“Much of the media remains wholly uncritical and from neutral when it comes to many issues, including how they cover the royal family,” Richard Sudan, a political activist and performance poet, tells the Tehran Times.

“While social media is certainly changing that, mainstream platforms still maintain an incredible amount of influence and unfortunately, often, rather than reporting on things truthfully, they play the role of simply shaping public opinion, rather than encouraging critical thinking and offering true balance and objectivity.”

The BBC’s coverage of the death of the Duke of Edinburgh has drawn 110,000 complaints, the highest number ever published in the UK about television programming.

Prince Philip died at Windsor Castle on April 9th, 2021, at the age of 99, prompting the corporation to clear its schedules across both BBC One and BBC Two to run a series of mirrored special programs.

The coverage also took over the news channel and BBC radio stations.

However, according to Sudan, “for many, the coverage of the death of Prince Philip was incredibly excessive and also was a whitewash of the many offensive comments he made throughout his life.”

**What is your comment on Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s problems with the royal family?**

It’s clear for many people that as well as having a history rooted in colonialism and the exploitation of Africa, Asia and other parts of the world, that in 2021 the royal family as an institution is riddled with problems that it simply cannot shake. The revelations in the U.S. interview with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle were deeply damaging for the royal family. They were referred to by Markle as ‘the firm’, which sounds more akin to a criminal organization than a family. The idea that concerns were expressed about the skin color of Harry and Meghan’s baby angered many, although frankly, many were not surprised at the allegation of such comments.

*Continued on page 5*

## INOTEX 2021 underway in Tehran

TEHRAN – The 10th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2021) is underway at Tehran Permanent International Fairground.

The event, observing health protocols, is held both virtually and in-person on May 18-21.

INOTEX has become a platform for the supply of innovation and technology, exchange of technical knowledge, as well as partnerships between companies and domestic or international investors. During the past nine editions, the event hosted over 1,850 Iranian and foreign companies and startups and more than 60,000 people have visited the exhibition.

It is expected that more than 20,000 people will attend the event which is aimed to attract investment for startups and introduce investment opportunities to them.

Over 300 companies, startup accelerators, technology parks, and investors will set up booths at the exhibition representing their latest achievements, with more than 30 hours’ side events to be held during the four-day event.

Different sections of INOTEX meet the different demands of a startup ecosystem. At the INOTEX Stage, the speakers held sessions on challenges and opportunities of the innovation ecosystem.

A section named Samayeh Café provided an opportunity for the entrepreneurs and startup owners in order to attract investors by holding meetings.

At the INOTEX Peach, another section of the event, startup owners competed with each other in the presence of judges and investors.

Established in 2012, INOTEX is a platform for innovation and technology, which seeks to introduce the latest technologies to large and medium-sized industries in addition to connecting customers of technology products to their manufacturers, and also introduces investors to the opportunity to invest in technological projects or start-ups.

## Yemenis hold massive rallies in solidarity with Palestine

Thousands of Yemenis organized a massive rally in the capital Sana’a in solidarity with Palestinian resistance against the Zionist regime’s aggression, Almasirah reported.

In a large-scale rally held on Monday in Yemeni capital Sana’a in support to the Palestinian Resistance movement, a member of Supreme Political Council of Yemen Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, called the Saudi-led coalition for going with its planes to free Palestine, emphasizing “Yemen are ready to help Saudi Arabia in this line.”

Thousands of people in Yemen’s capital Sana’a staged a large-scale rally to show their solidarity with the Palestinian people and Resistance movement in the fight against the usurper regime of Israel.

Pointing to the American-Zionist “Deal of the Century” he said, “Missiles fired by the Resistance forces to Israel collapsed the so-called

“Deal of the Century” in practice.

The Zionist regime’s forces are attacking Al-Aqsa Mosque and the occupied lands and territories and the Arab and Islamic nations must counter these attacks and stand by the Palestinian resistance groups, al-Houthi noted.

Emphasizing that Palestinian people have firmly stood at the forefront of defending the Islamic Ummah against the Zionist regime, he said, “We appreciate the massive presence of Yemeni people in today’s rally that conveyed its message to the Palestinian people.”

Saudi Arabia terms Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) a terrorist because this resistance movement is against the plans of the United States and the Zionist regime and foiled their malicious goals in the region, he added.

## Safavid-era caravanserai to undergo restoration for possible UNESCO registration

TEHRAN – The Safavid-era (1501-1736) Khan Caravanserai in Khoy, the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan is planned to be restored and preserved, the provincial tourism chief has said.

It is one of the three caravanserais in the province being considered to be added to the shortlist of historical Iranian caravanserais prepared for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. CHTN quoted Jalil Jabari as saying on Tuesday.

This is why the historical structure must be conserved and repaired as soon as possible, the official added.

In 2019, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravansaries for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of

their architecture, historical and cultural values.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining “caravan” with “serai”. The first stand for a group of travelers and seari (or sara) means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

*Continued on page 6*



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## National Eternal Innovative Youth Award wraps up

The closing ceremony of the National Eternal Innovative Youth Award was held in Tehran on Tuesday with honoring the youth who have endeavored to promote philanthropy, altruism, self-confidence, as well as social innovation.

The organizers also appreciated boys and girls between 18 and 35 years of age who have helped improve hope and enthusiasm in the society.

## Palestine, to whom does it belong?

**BY ANTHONY MATHEW JACOB**

Palestine is considered sacred to all three religions that trace their roots to Prophet Abraham: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

For the Jews, this is the place where the temple of Prophet Solomon stood. For the Christians this is the place where the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was born, preached and was crucified. For the Muslims, this is the place from where Prophet Mohammad ascended to heaven on the night of Mea’raj.

For centuries the Jews, Christians and Muslims lived in peace in Palestine. Although there were instances of clashes in different times, it never led to confiscating each other’s properties or large-scale evictions. However, the rise of modern Zionism in Europe in the 19th century and the “Balfour Declaration of 1917” announced by the British, changed the course of history forever. The Zionist justification of the biblical “promised land” and the persecution of the Jews in Europe, especially Germany in the 1940s, turned the tide in their favor. The Zionists used two major justifications for occupying Palestine:

- The Biblical claim of Palestine belonging exclusively to the Jews
  - The persecution of the Jews in Europe
- For the practicing Jews in Palestine as well as other parts of the world, Zionism was a political movement led by non-religious Jews who intended to occupy the land of Palestine in the name of religion. As for the Biblical claim, Jewish Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss explains: “Zionism is only around 100 years old. It is the transformation from religion to nationalism, to materialism created by non-religious Jews who hated their religion.”

*Continued on page 5*



## Prominent candidates introduced

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — As the registration for the June 18 presidential elections closed on Saturday, the Tehran Times has decided to provide respectful readers with brief introductions of prominent presidential candidates. This series of introduction will continue tomorrow.

### Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Known to the public as former president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was born in 1956. He was president from 2005 to 2013 for two consecutive four-year terms.

Ahmadinejad served in positions such as governor of Ardebil (1993 to 1997), and mayor of Tehran (2003-2005). He got the post of mayor after he was elected as a city councilor from the metropolis of Tehran in 2003. In that year, principlists won all the council seats in Tehran.

During his 2005 election campaign, he used populist techniques to attract the low-income communities.

Considered as a brand-new politician, he has his own ideology known as “Ahmadinejadism.”

He registered for the June presidential elections, saying that he is entering the race due to an insistence by the people.

### Masoud Pezeshkian

Masoud Pezeshkian is a reformist, who served as former first deputy parliament speaker in the two previous parliaments.

Currently he is serving as the representative of Tabriz in the parliament. Born in 1954, he was also minister of health from 2001 to 2005.

Pezeshkian is a heart surgeon and an academic member of Tabriz University of Medical Sciences at the present time.

He is also a member of Iran-Turkey Friendship society in the parliament.

The MP has stated it is necessary to approve the FATF, comparing it to FIFA establishment. Yet, he proposed Iran to create a domestic anti-money laundering system similar to the FATF.

Pezeshkian defends free market and fair and a just tax system. He has said that he will create a well-founded tax system if elected president.

He has also proposed an interesting issue, suggesting to give provinces more authorities to run their affairs.

He has declined to comment on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

The heart surgeon has also frequently criticized South Korea, saying that Iran has created a lucrative market for the Koreans, whereas they don't give Iran's oil money back.

Pezeshkian says the FATF is a necessity, noting that without the FATF Iran cannot do trades with regional countries and neighbors.

His slogan is “Honesty, justice, and fairness.”

### Rostam Ghasemi

Born in 1964, Rostam Ghasemi served as minister of oil in the Ahmadinejad administration.

After the Iran-Iraq war, he joined the Khatam-al Anbia troops in Bushehr, the Guards' engineering and construction Company.

He was director of the Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters from 2007 to 2011.

On 26 July 2011, he was nominated as oil minister by Ahmadinejad to succeed Masoud Mir Kazemi.

He is one of the persons included on the European Union sanction list.

Prior to his registration for the upcoming presidential elections, he said he will extend his hand to all Iranians whose “hearts beat for Iran” with “different political persuasions” to help make the country economically prosperous.

He says that Iran should change what he calls “imploreing diplomacy” to “diplomacy of power”.

Ghasemi also says that the United States “must return to the JCPOA without any preconditions.”

In his April 20 press conference, he also said lifting sanctions is a “first priority” and making sanctions ineffective comes next.

“Now removing sanctions is the first priority and making them ineffective is the next priority. If I want to negotiate, I will strengthen the country's economy,” Ghasemi pointed out.

The former director of the IRGC construction unit says, “I see no ban on having relations with all countries in the world except the Zionist regime.”

On the issue of corruption, Ghasemi says it is necessary to counter corruption and creating a transparent atmosphere to develop the economy.

He says he has a plan to overcome the “difficult living conditions” but his major plan is to restructure state institutions.

## Zaribafan quits election race in favor of Raisi

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Masoud Zaribafan, a former MP who registered to run for the upcoming presidential elections, released a statement on Tuesday saying that he is withdrawing his candidacy in favor of Judiciary Chief Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi.

In his statement, Zaribafan said by seeking the views of experts and consultations with friends he reached the conclusion that his withdrawal from the election race will help people elect a “visionary” president.

It is expected that more principlist candidates to withdraw from the election race in the coming days in favor of Raisi, thereby raising his chances at the June 18 elections.

## Hossein Mar’ashi appointed as Jahangiri campaign manager

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN**— Hossein Mar’ashi, a senior member of the Servants of Construction Party (SCP), was introduced on Tuesday as Es’haq Jahangiri’s campaign manager.

After more consultations with his staff, Jahangiri elected Fatemeh Pahlavani as his spokesperson and secretary of the policymaking council, and Mohammad Rahbari as senior assistant.

The presidential campaigns will begin on May 28, a day after the Guardian Council announces the names of the qualified presidential candidates.

# MP: U.S. must guarantee sanction removal

‘Rushing in verification of sanctions removal would result in continuation of sanctions’

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Seyyed Mahmoud Nabavian, the representative of Tehran in the parliament, says that a verification of sanctions removal is not possible in a short term and the United States must guarantee that it will lift all sanctions on Iran.

“Sanctions should be lifted together, not that the Americans lift one of our sanctions today and lift another one a few months later if they so wish,” Nabavian said in an interview with the Mehr news agency published on Tuesday.

Nabavian also said that the negotiation over the return of the U.S. to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is “unnecessary” as the it did not negotiate with Iran or the JCPOA Joint Commission when it withdrew from the multilateral agreement. “The International Atomic Energy Agency verified that Iran was committed to its JCPOA obligations 15 times,” he stated.

The Trump administration withdrew from the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal, in May 2018. His administration’s move was foolish in terms of diplomacy, international law and ethics.

The MP said, “The United States is following ‘negotiations for negotiations’ policy, and seeks to gain advantage from



Iran.”

Stating that the lifting of sanctions must be verified, he said it should not be in a way that the Americans say that the sanctions on Iran have been lifted and that the Islamic Republic should accept it without verification.

He then moved on to exemplify the verification process, saying, “I need to give an example. Suppose the United States say that sanctions on Iranian oil have been lifted

and that we can sell two million barrels of oil. In the next stage, it is necessary for the money from the sale of oil to enter the country. In this situation, the Americans will definitely say that we said that the sanctions on the sale of Iranian oil have been lifted and we did not talk about the lifting of the banking sanctions! Accordingly, the lifting of the oil embargo without the lifting of the banking embargo is of no use to us and is ineffective.”

## Palestine is again a focus of ‘global moral campaign,’ Iran says

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN**— Speaking at his weekly press briefing on Tuesday, Ali Rabiei, the Iranian government spokesman, responded to the recent atrocities of the Israeli regime in Gaza, saying that the Palestine issue has once again turned into a “global moral campaign”.

“The Zionist regime is shamelessly committing its crimes against the oppressed people of Palestine in a violent and aggressive manner, ignoring the most basic global principles, treaties and resolutions,” he lamented.

The spokesman said now everyone can see the support for justice and freedom of the Palestinian people from five continents.

“Today, as the global conscience has awoken to this barbarism in the 21st century, we continue to stand with the Palestinian people in support of this global cause and to

uphold the rights of these oppressed peoples in accordance with international law and norms,” he reiterated.

### ‘Spokesman thanks Leader for clarifying speech’

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rabiei began to respond to questions about the elections.

He began his remarks by thanking the Leader about his enlightening speech on May 12, saying, “These days, the country has entered the election atmosphere. Regarding the elections, I would first like to express my gratitude for the enlightening statements of the Leader of the (Islamic) Revolution. This approach should be an example for all institutions that somehow influence the election process. He declared maximum participation as the first priority of all those involved and the nation.”

Referring to the difficult conditions in the society due to the coronavirus pandemic, the ensuing economic

## Resistance is only approach to end apartheid in Palestine: veteran politician

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — The chief of Iran’s Strategic Council on Foreign Policy Kamal Kharrazi suggested on Tuesday that resistance is the primary tactic to put an end to the crimes of the apartheid Zionist regime in Palestine.

“The only way to thoroughly defeat this criminal regime and transform its apartheid government into a democratic one is to maintain the Palestinian people’s resistance and that the world’s freedom-seekers support Palestinians in their battles,” Kharrazi remarked on Tuesday.

The former foreign minister also said, “The United Nations Security Council has

once again demonstrated its ineptitude as a result of sabotage by the U.S. and pro-Zionist nations,” he noted.

He said what is happening in Palestine today is not solely an Islamic or Arab issue.

The veteran politician stated that recognizing Palestinian wishes is the only answer to the country’s problems, saying the prevailing notion in the world today is to end the apartheid Zionist rule in Palestine and establishing a single democratic administration.

To end more than seven decades of bloodshed and violence in the occupied territories, Iran has suggested holding a referendum with the participation of all native inhabitants.

## Health must be a top priority in the Iran nuclear deal: The Lancet

Unilateral U.S. sanctions against Iran in recent years have been harsh on the health and lives of Iranians, The Lancet wrote in a commentary on May 17.

Many scholars have reported that sanctions markedly deteriorate people’s health.

Restrictions on financial transactions and trade undermine access to basic needs such as food, medicine, and medical supplies. Moreover, the impacts of sanctions on the economy have decreased the ability of Iranians to pay for life-saving services.

Coping with the COVID-19 pandemic has multiplied the negative impact of the sanctions.

Iran is seeing the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a daily death toll of more than 360 people, as of May 13, 2021, according to WHO. Case numbers and mortality might

continue to surge given the inadequate vaccination levels of the population. Despite compelling evidence on the harsh effect on health, the sanction-implementing agencies have always stated they did not target people’s health and that essential medicines and equipment are exempt from the embargo.

Following President Biden’s inauguration, a new round of negotiations on returning to the Iran nuclear deal has begun. Two task forces have been defined in the preliminary negotiations: one to return sanctions imposed during the Trump administration and the other to return Iran to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action commitments. Experience of previous negotiations has shown that reaching any agreement can take months. One area of mutual agreement is that people’s health, as a human right, must be preserved

under any sanction regime. Given the impact of current sanctions on citizens’ health, immediate action is needed to review barriers to the equitable access of people to medicines and medical supplies.

In parallel with the task force work, we recommend the formation of an additional group to identify immediate measures to reduce the impact of sanctions on health. For example, protecting certain banking channels through specific financial institutions could facilitate the provision of medicines and health-related products. Immediate policies are required to alleviate the negative effects of sanctions to save lives in Iran. Agreements on health should be on a shorter timeline than other disrupted issues that might require longer and more serious negotiations.

## Parliament: All sanctions must be lifted

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s lawmakers on Tuesday ruled out any classification of sanctions whose termination is being discussed in the JCPOA talks in Vienna, emphasizing that nothing will change unless all sanctions against Iran are lifted in a verifiable and irreversible manner.

In a statement about the JCPOA negotiations released on Tuesday, 200 Iranian parliamentarians signed a statement highlighted that the main condition for Tehran’s return to the JCPOA commitments is the “real cessation of all sanctions and their thorough verification.”

The statement noted that the criterion for evaluating the results of the Vienna talks is economic benefits for the Iranian nation from the 2015 nuclear deal, the common name for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

“The Parliament will not accept any sep-

He added, “On the other hand, suppose that the banking embargo on Iran is lifted, all ships carrying oil must have insurance, in which case, the Americans say that we did not promise you to lift the insurance embargo.”

Underlining removal of all sanctions, particularly those related to SWIFT, the MP said that the verification in his view is that all sanctions on Iran, including oil, banking, transportation, nuclear and missile, should be lifted.

“Our traders must be able to do their oil and non-oil exchanges as well,” he stressed.

He said that Iran insists that the interests of the Iranian people must be secured and that sanctions be lifted in full, that all the world’s banks be able to transact with Iran, that any of Iran’s oil and non-oil exports be facilitated, and that Iranian merchants report to the parliament and say that they have no problem in this regard.

“Verification of these issues takes at least 6 months,” he predicted.

Nabavian reiterated that a hasty verification means nothing but a continuation of sanctions.

In that case only one or two banks will have ties with Iran, or that only \$5 billion of Iran’s blocked money is released, which will be of no value, he stated.

pressures from the United States, he said the next elected government should enjoy the support of the majority.

Pointing to other advantages of a high voter turnout, the spokesman said, “In a world of emerging regional developments and a new world order, a government that is not backed by the majority will not be able to position itself in the best interests of Iran, since gaining Iran’s worthy position in the region and the world today requires a high level of social asset, which requires maximum participation of the people in electing the next president.”

Rabiei also noted that a strong involvement in international arena requires a strong government, and a strong government “will be achieved through high participation.”

The upcoming presidential elections will be held on June 18. The Guardian Council will announce the names of the final candidates after careful screening on May 27.

## Iran’s advances in aircraft engine highlighted by top general

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Iranian scientists have made significant progress in designing and manufacturing engines used in various aircraft and missiles, according to Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces.

During a visit to a factory producing homegrown “Owj” turbojet engines, General Bagheri said Iran is now among a select group of countries in the world with the knowledge to manufacture engines for aerial vehicles that are at the cutting-edge of technology.

Iran has fully matured in designing and

manufacturing advanced aerial engines due to the efforts of its experts and scientists, he added, noting that thousands of aircraft, drones, and missiles in Iran have been equipped with homegrown engines.

The senior commander also highlighted that all advancements in the defense industry have taken place in the face of harsh foreign sanctions.

Iranian officials have frequently stated that the country will not hesitate to develop its military capabilities, particularly its missile industry, which is solely for defensive purposes, and that Iran’s defense capabilities will never be negotiated.



efforts will be made to close the loopholes.

“With the war exercises we will stage soon, God willing, we will lessen and eliminate the weaknesses in dealing with cyber threats,” he explained.

According to the rear admiral, several hundred young Army officers have organized cells on the platform of local and foreign systems to carry out cyber defense operations during the exercise.

The General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces warned in August 2020 that cyber threats from any state, group, or individual against Iran would be dealt with decisively.



SPORTS

No guarantee to win medal at Tokyo: Alekno

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** - Iran national volleyball team head coach Vladimir Alekno says that there is no guarantee they will climb the podium at this year's Olympic Games. Iran have been drawn along with Japan, Poland, Italy, Canada and Venezuela in Pool A of the 2020 Olympic Games. Pool B consists of Brazil, the U.S., Russia, Argentina, France and Tunisia. In a news conference held in Tehran, capital of Iran, Alekno said they will do their best to win the first-ever medal at the Olympics but there is no guarantee it will happen.



"First of all, I have to say I will not promise to win a medal at the Olympics and only charlatan coaches do that. I am a volleyball coach for 25 years but I never promised to win a medal in a tournament. We will make our best to make the Iranians happy," Alekno said.

The Russian coach has most recently worked at Zenit Kazan but he says there is difference between Iran volleyball team and the Russian club.

"Iranian team are technically good but they are not physically strong as Russia and Poland are. There is no enough time and I'd rather prepare the players mentally for the Games.

"We've analyzed the Iran league competition and I have to say the Iranian players use float serve but they must use jump float serve in the big matches. I think we are weak in reception and need to work to solve the problem," the Russian coach added.

Under coaching of Alekno, Russia won a gold and bronze medal in 2012 and 2008 Olympic Games, respectively. Now, he says the Tokyo 2020 will be his last Olympics as a coach.

"To bid farewell to volleyball is very hard for me since I've spent 40 years of my life working in the sport. It's very tempting to participate in Olympics for the fourth time but I need some rest after the Games. I cannot work with half of my energy and prefer to work as a technical manager in a Russian team," Alekno went on to say.

"We have talked to Argentina and France coaches to play friendly matches in Tokyo. The matches will be held as part of preparation for the Olympic Games ahead of the event," Alekno said.

Iran volleyball team will take part at the 2021 FIVB Volleyball Nations League (VNL) in Rimini, Italy and Alekno says that the tournament can be a good preparatory event for the Olympics.

"We have a chance to field our young players in the VNL. The competition can prepare us for the Olympics. Several players have a bright future in Iran volleyball. Javad Karimi and Amirhossein Esfandiari must change their mentality if they want to be successful. Saber Kazemi and Bardia Saadat will have a bright future," Alekno concluded.

Esteghlal face Zob Ahan in must-win game: Hazfi Cup

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** – Esteghlal football team will host Zob Ahan in Iran's Hazfi Cup Round of 16 on Wednesday. The match will be held 10 days after the Blues suffered a 2-0 home loss to Zob Ahan in Iran Professional League. Esteghlal also lost to archrivals Persepolis 1-0 on Friday and the match against Zob Ahan is a must-win game for them.

On the other hand, Zob Ahan are struggling to escape the relegation zone and winning Hazfi Cup title means that they can book a place in the next season's AFC Champions League.

Esteghlal have defeated Zob Ahan three times in Hazfi Cup and lost two times.

The match will be held in Tehran's Azadi Stadium. The Iran's Hazfi Cup was founded in 1975 and Esteghlal are the most successful club with seven titles, followed by Persepolis who have won six titles.

**Draw in full:**  
\*Zob Ahan v Esteghlal  
\*Persepolis v Shahin Bandar Ameri  
\*Tractor v Aluminum  
\*Khooshe Talaei v Sepahan  
\*Gol Gohar v Pars Jonoubi  
\*Qashqai v Foolad  
\*Nassaji v Malavan  
\*Kheybar Khorramabad v Sanat Naft

Zorya eye to sign Sayyadmanesh on permanent deal

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** – Ukrainian football club Zorya Luhansk are going to sign Iranian international winger Allahyar Sayyadmanesh on permanent deal. The 21-year-old player joined Zorya on a loan deal in October 2020.

He penned a five-year deal with Fenerbahce in July 20219 however didn't live up to the expectations.

The forward was a member of Iran football team who qualified for the 2017 FIFA U 17 World Cup quarter-final in India.

Now, the Turkish media reports suggest that Zorya want to sign Sayyadmanesh on a permanent deal.

Al Ahli eye Esteghlal star Mehdi Ghaedi

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** – Super Stars League outfit Al Ahli have set their sight to sign Esteghlal iconic forward Mehdi Ghaedi.

The Qatari club has previously negotiated with Persepolis defender Hossein Kanaazizadegan.

Qatar-based Al-Sharq newspaper has reported that Iranian midfielder Omid Ebrahimi wants to join Al Wakra and Al Ahli will sign Ghaedi as Ebrahimi's replacement.

Ghaedi played a key role in Esteghlal's success in the 2021 AFC Champions League Group Stage (West).

Israel lost the ‘public opinion’ battlefield to Palestinians

**P O L I T I C A L** **TEHRAN** – Israel is facing a full-blown campaign of criticism over the atrocities it is committing against civilians in Gaza and elsewhere in Palestine, and this is partly because Palestinians, along with other freedom-loving activists across the globe, are doing their utmost to present a clear picture of what's happening on the ground.

"Why do we deserve this? What did we do for this?" asked a 10-year-old grieving girl in front of the rubble of a building demolished by an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip. "It's not fair," she said in a video that went viral on social media platforms while shedding heart-breaking tears. The short video, published by Middle East Eye on Twitter, was viewed more than 12.8 million times, reflecting a widespread sympathy with the Palestinian people.

The video was only one piece in the multi-pronged campaign of the Palestinian people, who seem to have broken with their traditional political leaders in the West Bank.

Since the early days of the holy month of Ramadan, Palestinians began to peacefully push back against Israel after it imposed new bans on public activities in occupied East Jerusalem in what appeared to be a preparatory measure to pave the way for evicting Palestinian families from the homes in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. However, Israel moved ahead with its controversial, inhumane decision to evict the Palestinian families and replace them with extremist Jews, something that enraged the Palestinians and hundreds of millions of people around the world.

Right from the start, Palestinians, especially the youth, showed a great deal of unity and sympathy with each other all over Palestine. In Gaza, people took to the streets to protest against the Israeli evictions and when their voice was not heard, they responded to the Israeli misconduct. Israel intensified its



campaign of terror against the Palestinians without achieving any success.

Israel's continued bombardment and repression against the Palestinians did not prevent them from continuing their quest for freedom. On Tuesday, all Palestinians in Israel, occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank shuttered their shops and businesses in a first general strike in decades. The strike was particularly outstanding in Arab towns and cities inside Israel, which had been calm and silent in the not-so-distant past.

But the so-called Israeli Arabs are making it clear that they are an integral part of the Palestinian people and cause. Over the past weeks, Palestinians from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea have staged angry protests against Israeli racist policies.

The Palestinian struggle for freedom reverberated across the globe, causing freedom-loving activists to hold huge demonstrations in almost all big Western cities.

The overwhelming support for Palestine has put the Biden administration in a bind. It

has called for de-escalation but did nothing to pressure Israel to stop its carnage campaign in Gaza. This was evident from the Biden administration's decision to dispatch a low-ranking diplomat to the region.

But the growing support for Palestine and criticism against Israel in the world pushed the Biden administration to do more to put an end to Israeli atrocities. President Biden spoke by phone with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and urged him to end strikes on Gaza for the first time since the Israeli air raids began. American news website Axios quoted an Israeli official as saying that the Biden administration hadn't given Israel a deadline for reaching a ceasefire but had been stressing on Monday that it was reaching the end of its ability to hold back international pressure on Israel over the Gaza operation.

The American turnabout came after Palestinians and their supporters mounted a campaign, both on social media and the streets, to shed light on the Israeli crimes

and thereby pushing Israel to stop them.

The campaign has successfully made the Palestinian voice heard around the world.

"For the first time, mass media can't control the narrative around Palestine. No one can hide the abuse from social media. Our phones have become our biggest weapons. The power is shifting right before our eyes," tweeted Amani Al-Khatahtbeh, 29, the Palestinian-Jordanian-American founder of MuslimGirl.com, whose posts on the topic have been ubiquitous across social media over the past week, according to The New York Times.

"It feels different this time, it definitely does," she told the Times.

This happened because Israeli crimes can no longer be hidden. They are so egregious that no one can ignore them. For example, Israel failed to provide a shred of evidence that al-Jalaa tower was housing members of Hamas.

That's why Israel resorted to misinformation. Ofir Gendelman, a spokesman for Netanyahu, posted a video on Twitter purportedly showing militants launch rocket attacks at Israelis from densely populated civilian areas. But The New York Times said the video was neither from Gaza nor from this week. In fact, it was from 2018.

The misinformation may explain why Israel is falling into disrepute even among Jews. A landmark study of U.S. Jews by the Pew Research Center has demonstrated that young American Jews are increasingly likely to say they have less emotional attachment to Israel. According to the study, the level of connection of U.S. Jews with Israel is on the decline among younger Jews.

The level of connection to Israel in 2020 is significantly lower for the younger generation, with only 48% of those aged 18-29 saying they have an emotional attachment to Israel, and 51% saying they have little or no such connection, The Jerusalem Post reported.

Hamas sends letter to Ayatollah Khamenei

→1 "we established extensive contacts with various parties and asked them to prevent the advancement of the enemy's crimes and sinister goals and warned that these crimes will certainly not go unanswered by the Palestinian people and Resistance."

He stated that the insistence of the criminal leaders of the Zionist regime on continuing their aggression against the nation, the land and the sanctities of Palestine, required a decisive and legitimate response by the Resistance in the Gaza Strip.

Haniyeh noted that today the criminal enemy, with the deadliest internationally banned weapons, commits the most barbaric crimes against the people of Gaza around the clock, as well as the most heinous crimes against the demonstrators in al-Quds (Jerusalem), the West Bank and the 1948 occupied territories.

Haniyeh pointed out that in the face of these incessant crimes, "we call for immediate action and mobilization of Islamic, Arab and international positions in order to take decisive positions and force the Zionist enemy to stop its crimes against the besieged people of Gaza, to stop any aggression against the residents of Jerusalem and its sanctities, and to put an end to any aggression against Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Palestinian worshippers inside it."

This was the second letter sent by the chief of Hamas Political Bureau to the Leader in about ten days.

Haniyeh also spoke by phone with the Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at the start of Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. He briefed the

Iranian foreign minister on the latest situation in the occupied territories and the usurping Zionist regime's attacks against Palestinians as well as the Palestinian people who are resisting with all their power.

During the phone call, Haniyeh also asked Foreign Minister Zarif for Iran's support for the Palestinian people's resistance.

The Iranian foreign minister, in turn, reaffirmed Iran's solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine, and condemned the usurping and brutish Zionist regime's measures against the fasting people of Palestine as well as its attack against Al-Aqsa Mosque and martyring and wounding defenseless worshippers.

Zarif reiterated Iran's all-out support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause.

He also briefed Haniyeh on his consultations with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on supporting the Palestinian people's resistance at the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

A few hours earlier, Zarif had spoken with his Turkish counterpart about the latest status of the Holy Quds and the developments in the occupied territories.

The OIC held a virtual emergency meeting of foreign ministers on Sunday. During the meeting, Zarif said, "We witness the most heinous crimes being perpetrated against our brothers and sisters by Zionist forces in occupied Palestine."

Zarif noted, "Innocent men, women and children are being massacred by the deadliest and most sophisticated weapons. Homes are being demolished while their residents are trapped inside. Whatever remains of the

infrastructure in Gaza—including power and water supply—is effectively destroyed. We are facing blatant and systematic violations of human rights, humanitarian law and international law."

He added, "The massacre of Palestinian children today follows the purported 'normalization.' This criminal and genocidal regime has once again proven that friendly gestures only aggravate its atrocities. The sole aim of Israel's hypocritical gestures is to divide Muslims and isolate the people of Palestine. Make no mistake: Israel only understands the language of resistance and the people of Palestine are fully entitled to the right to defend themselves and to defy the bullying of this racist regime. These barbaric acts have proven once again that the only peaceful path to peace in Palestine is the holding of a referendum among all residents of Palestine, including displaced Palestinians and refugees."

The chief Iranian diplomat also said that the Palestinian question is not only an Arab or Islamic issue, but also an international dilemma. He said the international community has a duty to stop the Israeli atrocities.

"It must not be forgotten that Palestine is not only an Arab or Islamic issue, but also an international dilemma. The crimes committed against the innocent Palestinian people over decades weigh heavy on the conscience of humanity. The international community, therefore, has a duty to condemn the Israeli regime in the strongest terms and compel it to end the destruction and siege of Gaza," the foreign minister pointed out.

Zarif slams American arms sales to Israel amid Gaza war

“The world is watching as Israel and its enabler show their ugly faces”

**P O L I T I C A L** **TEHRAN** – Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has criticized the U.S. for selling state-of-the-art arms to Israel while it continues to bombard civilians in the Gaza Strip.

The top Iranian diplomat said these arms sales showed the "ugly faces" of the U.S. and Israel.

"As U.S.-made munitions rain down on innocent Palestinians, U.S. gives another \$735M in 'precision' missiles to Israel to kill more children with more precision. Then U.S. blocks the mildest possible UNSC statement. The world is watching as Israel & its enabler show their ugly faces," Zarif said on Twitter.

Zarif was referring to the Biden administration's approval of a new arms sale deal with Israel. The Biden administration has approved the sale of \$735 million in precision-guided weapons to Israel, The Wash-

ington Post reported on Monday.

Citing three sources familiar with the matter, the American newspaper said Congress was officially notified of the proposed sale on May 5.

The move aroused concerns in Congress about the U.S. providing support for the Israeli regime amid a deadly war on Gaza.

"It would be appalling for the Biden Administration to go through with \$735 million in precision-guided weaponry to Netanyahu without any strings attached in the wake of escalating violence and attacks on civilians," Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a statement Monday, responding to The Washington Post's reporting. "If this goes through this will be seen as a green light for continued escalation and will undercut any attempts at brokering a ceasefire."

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Tex.), who also sits on the committee, echoed Omar's concerns about the "timing of this weapons sale" and the "message it will send to Israel and the world about the urgency of a cease fire, and the open questions about the legality of Israel's military strikes that have killed civilians in Gaza."

"The United States government must not exacerbate this horrific violence. The American people expect Congress to take a hard look at how military aid and weapon sales are used and ensure that human rights are upheld," Castro said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration prevented the UN Security Council from issuing a statement on the Gaza crisis, signaling that its support for Israel was not limited to arms sales.

Zarif holds high-level talks in Italy

and medium-sized enterprises of both countries.

The Iranian top diplomat called for the removal of existing barriers and preparing the ground to enter a new era of cooperation between the two sides, especially in economy.

Zarif went on to highlight the dangerous situation in the region caused by Israel's moves, and condemned Tel Aviv's acts of violence against Palestinian people.

He also expounded on Tehran's stance on the situation in Yemen and Afghanistan.

The senior Iranian parliamentarian, in turn, underscored the significance of Tehran-Rome ties while expressing an interest in boosting mutual parliamentary relations.

He added the two countries have the potential to promote

their mutual cooperation beyond the current level.

Zarif also met with the Vatican's Prime Minister Cardinal Pietro Parolin and Secretary for Relations with States Archbishop Paul Gallagher in the Vatican City. During the Monday meeting, the latest developments in Iran's bilateral relations with the Vatican as well as the situation of the region were discussed.

Foreign Minister Zarif briefed the Vatican's prime minister and secretary for relations with states on Iran's view of the developments pertaining to the JCPOA, the Persian Gulf region, Palestine, West Asia, and Afghanistan.

The Vatican's prime minister, in turn, expressed hope for further consultations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on issues of mutual interest in different fields.

**P O L I T I C A L** **TEHRAN** – Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif held meetings with a number of high-ranking Italian officials during his tour of several European countries.

In continuation of his meetings in Italy and the Vatican, Zarif met with Paolo Petrocchi, the chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Italian Senate, at the residence of the Iranian ambassador in Rome, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

In the meeting, Zarif touched upon the 160-year-old relations between Tehran and Rome, describing as positive Iran-Italy cooperation in different areas, particularly in the economic domain as well as collaboration between small



## TEDPIX drops 1000 points on Tuesday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 1,111 points to 1.173 million on Tuesday.

Over 4.891 billion securities worth 33.132 trillion rials (about \$788.8 million) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first market's index fell 921 points, and the second market's index dropped 1,874 points.

TEDPIX had gained 11,000 points, or one percent, in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).



Earlier this month, Market Analyst Rouzbeh Shariati said that TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), is going to improve over the next 1.5 months in comparison to the first 1.5 months of the current Iranian calendar year.

Shariati noted that reaching a possible agreement on the nuclear deal, the stability of the national currency, as well as the less attractive situation of the parallel markets are the important factors that would contribute to the improvement of the capital market.

Unprecedented fluctuations in the Iranian stock market over the past few months have led shareholders, experts, and scholars to call for the government to increase its support for the market, some shareholders want the government to guarantee the return of their stocks, some believe providing infrastructure is the best way to help this market.

## Greenhouse area to be doubled in Ardebil province in 2 years

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN**— The area under greenhouse farming will be doubled in Ardebil province, in the northwest of Iran, in two years, according to a provincial official.

Khalil Nikshad, the head of the province's Agriculture Department, also said that the greenhouse area in the province is anticipated to reach 350 hectares by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2022).

He further announced that permits have been issued for the establishment of 70 greenhouses in the province.

Due to the water shortage and drought crisis in different parts of the province and the 80-percent decrease in rainfall in recent months, it is necessary to develop greenhouses in the province, the official noted.

In the last four years, the development of greenhouses has taken a growing trend, so that 15 hectares of active greenhouses has now reached more than 115 hectares, the head of the province's Agriculture Department underlined.



While the agriculture sector plays a significant role in the promotion of the Iranian economy, drought in recent years has prevented this sector from being developed as expected.

To tackle this condition, the Agriculture Ministry has taken some measures and defined some programs, such as the improvement of irrigation systems.

One of the major programs that the ministry has defined and is seriously pursuing is the development of greenhouses throughout the country.

As reported, 80 percent of the country's greenhouse fruits and vegetables are exported.

The significance of boosting agricultural export is obvious when taking the country's recent approach to boost non-oil exports into account. The development of greenhouses is a very fruitful measure in this due.

Production of products in the greenhouses is today one of the most profitable methods in the agriculture sectors of the countries, in a way that they have defined it as one of their major production strategies because while greenhouses provide stable production of high-quality products, developing them is a proper way for tackling drought and for optimal use of water resources.

In Iran, the need for the development of greenhouses is now highly recognized, as the country is seriously following up on two main objectives of strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance, and boosting non-oil exports.

While many supportive measures are being taken to this end, Iran should also benefit from the experiences of those countries that enjoy significant achievements and progresses in the field of greenhouses.

# Electricity projects worth \$80m put into operation in 3 provinces

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian inaugurated 10 electricity projects worth 3.36 trillion rials (\$80 million) in 10 provinces on Tuesday, in the seventh week of the ministry's A-B-Iran program in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

The said projects were put into operation in Fars, Kerman, and Kermanshah provinces through video conference, IRIB reported.

Two solar power plants, some substations, and improvement and development of electricity network facilities were among the inaugurated projects.

The first phase of the A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19, 2020), during which 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion) were put into operation across the country.

In the second phase of the program that was carried out in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) 250 water and energy projects worth 500 trillion rials (about \$11.9 billion) were inaugurated in several provinces.

The third phase of the program was



officially started in early April and like the previous phases, this year, too, the Energy Ministry is planning to inaugurate numerous water and electricity projects in various provinces every week.

Last week, Ardakanian had inaugurated the national electricity network's

new dispatching center which is using the world's latest technologies in Energy Management System (EMS), Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), and Wide Area Management System and Control (WAMS) systems.

The National Dispatching Center man-

ages the entire power grid, including power plants, transmission lines, and substations throughout the country.

In the last week of the previous Iranian calendar year (which was the last week of the second phase of the A-B-Iran scheme) Ardakanian had inaugurated several new systems for improving services in the water and electricity sectors.

The mentioned systems were put into operation in various areas including resource consumption improvement, asset utilization, human resource management, financial resources management, and reforming work processes in order to create transparency and to facilitate and accelerate affairs while eliminating possible bottlenecks.

A smart system for improving the Energy Ministry's support and emergency centers called Homa, as well as a new customer services system called Chavoush were also among the launched systems.

A mechanized network monitoring system called Sanam was also put into operation; this system is aimed at monitoring the electricity networks of various provinces in order to reduce electricity losses and improve the efficiency of the country's power network.

## Over \$761m allocated for emergency water supply in dry regions

**→ 1** According to Ardakanian, the decline in rainfalls during the current water year (started in September 2020) has also caused a 3,200-megawatt decrease in the country's electricity production.

The minister called on people and authorities to monitor electricity and water consumption by households and government entities in order to pass the summer's peak consumption period without any shortages.

He pointed to the current year as the driest year over the past 50 years and stressed the need for taking consumption management programs seriously.

The official further mentioned the significance of the ministry's A-B-Iran program, saying that a total of 290 major energy projects are going to be implemented under

the framework of the mentioned program in the current Iranian calendar year.

The official put the total investment made in the mentioned projects at 80 trillion rials (about \$1.9 billion) and expressed hope that like the previous phases, this phase of the program will also be completed as scheduled.

Four dams, several power plants, some water and sewage treatment plants and numerous rural water supply projects are among the projects that are going to be implemented in the current year under the framework of A-B-Iran program.

Marking the seventh week of the A-B-Iran scheme in the current year, Ardakanian, on Tuesday, inaugurated 10 energy projects worth \$80 million in three different provinces through video conference.



## Govt. pays over \$18.3 billion in a year to compensate for pandemic damages

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian government spent a total of 770 trillion rials (about \$18.33 billion) to compensate for the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on people's livelihood and businesses and to support the country's healthcare sector during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Providing various facilities to households in two stages, paying benefits to workers unemployed during the pandemic, special support for the medical, tourism, culture, art, sports, and youth sectors, paying mortgage and low-cost employment-based loans to corona-affected businesses, extension of the deadline for payment of duties, taxes, and tax debts, providing livelihood packages for families, etc. were among the measures taken



by the government in the mentioned year.

As reported by IRNA, of the abovementioned figure, 495 trillion rials (about \$11.7 billion) was paid to households in the form

of facilities, while 14 trillion rials (about \$333.3 million) was also provided as livelihood packages.

Some 46 trillion rials (about \$1.095 billion) was also paid in the form of mortgage loans.

According to government officials, the support packages for households were provided for those without fixed-income who live in red zones.

Nearly 30 million people benefit from the mentioned support plan, Vice President for Economic Affairs Mohammad Nahavandian said back in November 2020.

As for businesses, 89 trillion rials (about \$1.1 billion) was provided to certain businesses as well as transportation companies in terms of bank facilities with low-interest

rates.

The government spent 20 trillion rials (about \$476.1 million) on unemployment insurance to support the unemployed and also 170 trillion rials (about \$4.04 billion) was allocated to support the medical sector.

Regarding the businesses, direct tax collection was halted in the previous year up to January 2021, and also for issuing or renewing business licenses, natural persons or economic units didn't need to obtain a tax payment certificate.

Like many other countries around the world, the Iranian economy was also severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic, while the country was also under heavy pressure from the U.S. sanction on various economic sectors.

## Exports from Yazd province rises 7% in a year

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Over 3.98 million tons of goods was exported from Yazd province, in the center of Iran, in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), which was seven percent more than the figure of its preceding year, a provincial official announced.

Mohammad-Hossein Salmani, the director-general of the province's customs department, put the value of annual exports from the province at \$380.258 million.

He named ceramic tiles, hydrocarbons, building glass, glassware, petrochemicals and agricultural products including pomegranate seeds, pistachios and pistachio kernels as the main exported items and Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Azerbaijan, Oman, Armenia, Turkey, Thailand, Kazakhstan, and India as the major export destinations.

The official further stated that 56,730 tons of commodities valued at \$193.958 million were imported to the province in the past year, and named raw materials, spare parts, and machinery as the major imported goods.

As announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran



Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past year.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi also put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons, and said that the figure shows a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions

and coronavirus pandemic.

Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, and that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official added.

Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was the first, with importing \$8.9 billion worth of products, Iraq was the second with importing \$7.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates the third with importing \$4.6 billion, Turkey the fourth with importing \$2.5 billion, and Afghanistan the fifth with importing \$2.2 billion, Mir-Ashrafi announced, and named gasoline, natural gas, polyethylene, propane, and pistachio as Iran's major exported products during the past year.

He further named Iran's top sources of non-oil imports in the said time, as China with exporting \$9.7 billion worth of products to the Islamic Republic, the UAE with \$9.6 billion, Turkey with \$4.3 billion, India with \$2.1 billion, and Germany with \$1.8 billion, respectively, and mentioned corn, cellphone, rice, oil meal and oil seeds, wheat, and raw oil as the major imported items.

## ICCIMA policy package aims to increase economic growth

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has prepared a package of proposals, aiming to help the next government boost the national economy.

ICCIMA Research Center on Tuesday published a comprehensive report on the major elements of the mentioned package which also contains the economic demands of the country's private sector.

ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie had previously announced the preparation of the mentioned package during the 14th meeting of the ICCIMA board of directors.

According to Shafeie, from the perspective of the private sector, the first priority of the

future President should be to accelerate the country's economic growth in a sustainable, stable, and comprehensive manner.

Emphasizing the challenges of the country's economy, such as water and environmental problems, budget deficit, inflation, unemployment, etc., the ICCIMA Research Center package emphasizes that the country will face even more complex issues in the next decade if the current issues are not resolved.

The said policy package offers practical solutions for preventing the above-mentioned issues both currently and in the future.

Curbing inflation, restoring people's trust in the system, providing accurate and honest statistical-analytical reports on the country's economic condition, and controlling

tensions in international relations are some of the major demands of the private sector highlighted in the ICCIMA's proposal for the next government.

Privatization, managing the forex market, development of non-oil exports, completing semi-finished projects, eliminating redundant bureaucracy, and fighting against corruption were also among the issues addressed in the mentioned proposal.

Iran's next presidential elections will be held on June 18, 2021, according to the deputy interior minister in charge of elections.

Candidates hoping to run in the next elections began applying since earlier this month for approval. The final list is to be announced by the Guardian Council in early June.



Under Iran's law, an incumbent president cannot run for a third term if he has already served for two consecutive terms in office. Rouhani was first elected in 2013 and reelected four years later.



# Palestine, to whom does it belong?

➔ **1** The reason why they use the name Israel, the Star of David, hijacking, stealing the identity of Judaism and the Jewish people is in order to gain a legitimacy for their existence that should lead people to say, ‘oh, it is God given to them’ and that they should use fear and intimidate people from speaking out against their actions because they will call those that do anti-Semitic; it couldn’t be anything further from the Truth.”

During one of his TV appearances, British MP George Galloway was told that Israel (occupied Palestine) belongs to the Jews because ‘they were persecuted in Germany,’ to which he replied “The British gave the land of one people (Palestinians) to another people (Zionist Jews) to compensate for the fault of a third people (Nazi Germany).”

**The Nakba**  
The Zionists, under the auspices of the British empire, orchestrated one of the largest migrations in history; a large number of Jews escaping Nazi Germany were settled in Palestine leading to a sharp rise in Jewish population in the region. When the WWII ended, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the partition of Palestine between Arabs and Jews. This gave birth to ‘state of Israel’ on November 29, 1947.

Subsequently, Israel emerged victorious in a war with neighboring Arab states and confiscated more land than the initial UN plan. The Palestinians called it “Al Nakba” meaning “the Catastrophe” as more than



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**All that they (the Tel Aviv regime and its lackeys) want you to know is: “The Israelis are “KILLED” by Palestinians and the Palestinians merely “DIE” to Israeli attempts at “SELF-DEFENCE.” The “OCCUPIER” is called the “VICTIM” and the real “VICTIM” is called a “TERRORIST”.**

750,000 Palestinians were displaced and rendered refugees. On the one hand, Palestinians were displaced and forced into refugee camps, and on the other hand Jewish migration to Israel was systematically encouraged and implemented.

Till today, Israel follows the policy of racial segregation, religious persecution, subjugation and harassment while continuing to deny Palestinian refugees their right to return home. Israeli settlement on Palestinian lands continues unabated, and so does the deliberate displacement of native Palestinians.

Israel is an entity built on the Zionist ideology of ethno-religious supremacy, apartheid, occupation, settler colonialism and ethnic cleansing. The Israeli regime approves and encourages Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestine on a daily basis. This is the blood-stained history that Israel and its lackeys do not want you to know. All that they want you to know is: “The Israelis are “KILLED” by Palestinians and the Palestinians merely “DIE” to Israeli attempts at “SELF-DEFENCE.” The “OCCUPIER” is called the “VICTIM” and the real “VICTIM” is called a “TERRORIST”.

Despite all the propaganda, disinformation and manipulation, the truth is easy to discern, Palestine belongs to the Palestinians. Israel cannot expect the Christians and the Muslims to give up their land because the Jewish scriptures (according to Zionists) asks them to do so, or because the Jews were persecuted in Europe.

## Britain far from a so-called post-racial society: activist

➔ **1** And, of course, the Prince Andrew scandal and questions about his association with Jeffrey Epstein simply refuse to go away.

**To what extent do the royal family and the queen have influence on Britain’s political sphere?**

Although the royal family and the queen do have political power, the prime minister has to ask permission from the queen to form a government, and the queen must also greenlight laws and in theory, has the power to dismiss members of government, the influence they have is largely symbolic. But the power of that symbolism should not be underestimated. Prince Harry for example and others play a key role in bolstering the image of the armed forces, while many people of whatever economic standing, still believe in the idea that the royal family represent and are part of so-called British values, while others of course would argue that they are an out of touch institution which cost the taxpayer

a great deal of money, in reality still promoting the idea of the British empire abroad.

**Meghan revealed ‘concerns’ within the royal family about her baby’s skin color. Isn’t it a case of racism?**

A: In my opinion, it is absolutely a case of racism, and it wouldn’t be the first time that we have heard claims of racism made about the royal family. If the skin color of the baby was no issue, then why was the question asked, if indeed it was asked? The image of the royal family plays an important role in Britain and whatever people might say, Britain is far from a so-called post-racial society.

**What are the official protocols for announcing the death of a senior royal family member in the UK? How did it work for BBC channels when it comes to the death of Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II?**

For many, the coverage of the death of Prince Philip was incredibly excessive and also was a whitewash of the

many offensive comments he made throughout his life. The BBC received more than 100 000 complaints about the endless rolling coverage of Prince Philip, and again, some might argue it was used to try to revitalize the image of the royal family, which has undoubtedly been damaged over the last few months.

**Could you update us on how the media in countries like the UK and the U.S. are mainstream and, to some extent, shape peoples’ tastes and choices?**

A: Much of the media remains wholly uncritical and neutral when it comes to many issues, including how they cover the royal family. While social media is certainly changing that, mainstream platforms still maintain an incredible amount of influence and unfortunately, often, rather than reporting on things truthfully, they play the role of simply shaping public opinion, rather than encouraging critical thinking and offering true balance and objectivity.

## Ilhan Omar: ‘Delay in ceasefire has caused the slaughter of children’

Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar responded to U.S. President Joe Biden’s Monday night conversation with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in which he expressed his sup-

port for a ceasefire, tweeting, “Finally!! Our delay in supporting a ceasefire has caused the slaughter of children and destruction of lives.”

“Now Biden has to push for an end to the occupation,” she continued.

Israeli warplanes pounded the Gaza Strip, killing tens of children in refugee camps and

flattening a high-rise building that housed the offices of international media outlets.

The bombardments — for a week — fed fears of a return to all-out war on Gaza.

## The fallacy of the colonial ‘right to self-defense’

By Patrick Gathara

The violence convulsing the Middle East (West Asia) has produced heart-rending images and statistics. As I write this, at least 160 people, the vast majority of them Palestinians, including at least 41 children – the vast majority Palestinian – have been killed as the Israeli military carries out bombing raids in densely populated Gaza and armed Palestinian groups hurl rockets at Israeli cities. Meanwhile, inter-communal violence has broken out across Israel.

In response, Western governments, led by U.S. President Joe Biden, have been quick to unequivocally condemn Palestinian groups for the rocket barrages, but have been much more circumspect about condemning Israel’s attack on Palestinian civilians.

Lukewarm expressions of “dismay” and “grave concern” at Palestinian deaths have been interspersed with declarations of “unwavering support for Israel’s security and for Israel’s legitimate right to defend itself”. They have also included appeals for “moral clarity”, implying that the actions of Palestinian groups, though causing a tiny fraction of the death and destruction that Israeli bombardment has wreaked, were nonetheless much more objectionable.

While some progressive politicians – such as U.S. congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez – have pointed out the hypocrisy of a blanket assertion of the Israeli right to self-defense, even they have balked at outright rejection of Israeli justifications.

Colonial occupiers have long claimed a “right” to defend themselves from the resistance of native communities,

including by committing mass murder. The history of African colonization is littered with the corpses and mass graves of those who dared to resist the militarily superior Europeans.

In her book, the British Gulag, historian Caroline Elkins describes a “murderous campaign” by the British in colonial Kenya following the 1950s Mau peasant uprising, including the establishment of concentration camps for 1.5 million Kikuyu civilians and a brutal system of torture camps that may have claimed the lives of tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of those suspected to have pledged themselves to the rebellion.

The idea that imperial land grabbers have the right to terrorize, brutalize, torture and murder those whose land they steal under the rubric of “self-defense” flies in the face of UN General Assembly Resolution 37/43 of 1982 which recognized “the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle”. That resolution specifically reaffirmed this right in the case of the Palestinian struggle.

Thus, today in Gaza, rather than seeking “moral clarity”, the West is using moral obfuscation to justify attacks on a refugee population by a colonial power that has evicted them from their land, blockades them in what is, in essence, an open-air prison, and then claims the right to do so in peace and quiet.

When Western media speaks of a “cycle of escalation”, it equates oppression to the resistance to oppression, pre-

senting the violence as a conflict between two sides with equal claims to security and land. It ignores that the Palestinians are engaged in a struggle for national liberation against a decades-long illegal and immoral occupation, and the imposition of a regime of racial and ethnic discrimination which Human Rights Watch, in a report the media pointedly refuses to bring up, says fits the definition of the international crime of apartheid.

In interviews, Israeli spokespeople repeatedly stress the difficulty that Israel’s self-declared “most moral army in the world” has in finding and killing what are in essence Palestinian resistance leaders, who, they say, are hiding behind civilians.

The Western press is happy to accept that the leaders of Hamas and other groups are legitimate targets, and with it, the implication that while its tactics may be somewhat unsavory, Israel is nonetheless waging a legitimate war. Uncritically accepting this framing makes Western media complicit in the delegitimization of Palestinian resistance to colonial domination and dispossession by the Israeli state.

As Ocasio-Cortez pointed out, regurgitating the line that “Israel has a right to defend itself” without including the context of oppression simply excuses and legitimates even more oppression. But she should have gone further. If Western media, politicians and diplomats truly seek moral clarity, it behooves them to reject outright as gas-lighting and bothsidesism, the outrageous proposition that colonial states such as Israel have a right to defend themselves from those they oppress.

(Source: Aljazeera)

## Resistance groups thank Ayatollah Khamenei for his firm stance on supporting Palestine

Several Palestinian resistance groups have written separate letters to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, thanking him for his firm stances on supporting the cause of Palestine, which were expressed in the Leader’s speech on the occasion of International Quds Day.

In their letters and messages on Monday, five Palestinian resistance groups and movements lauded the position taken by the Islamic Republic and Ayatollah Khamenei on supporting the resistance of the Palestinian people and rejecting the recognition of the Zionist regime.

The groups stressed their resolve to continue anti-Israel resistance until the final freedom of Jerusalem al-Quds, noting that statements made by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution during his Quds Day speech delineate the roadmap to the liberation of Palestine.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Fatah al-Intifada group, Palestinian Popular Struggle Front and the Palestinian Forces Coalition commended the role of Iran as the axis of unity and resistance among Muslim countries.

They hailed the role of Iran’s top anti-terror commander, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated alongside his companions in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq in January 2020, in keeping the Palestinian cause alive.

In his address on the occasion of the International Quds Day, Ayatollah Khamenei said Israel is not a country but a terrorist base against the people of Palestine and other Muslim nations.

“Since the first day, the Zionists turned the usurped Palestine into a terrorist base. Israel is not a country, rather it is a terrorist camp against the Palestinian nation and other Muslim nations,” the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei added that the issue of Palestine continues to be the most important and active issue for the Islamic Ummah collectively.

“The policies of the oppressive and cruel capitalism have driven a people out of their homes, their homeland and their ancestral roots and instead, it has installed a terrorist regime and has housed a foreign people therein,” he said.

“Fighting against this despotic regime is fighting against oppression and terrorism. And this is a collective responsibility,” Ayatollah Khamenei added.

## Israeli army launches artillery towards Lebanon

The Israeli army said it launched artillery towards Lebanon on Monday in response to rocket fire from the neighboring country that failed to hit the Jewish state.

“Six failed launch attempts were identified from Lebanon that did not cross into Israeli territory,” the army said in a statement.

“Artillery forces fired toward the sources of the launches.”

A Lebanese military source told AFP three rockets had been fired from Southern Lebanon towards Israel.

“Three Grad-type rockets were fired from the Shebaa Farms area,” the Lebanese military source said.

“The situation in the area is now calm,” tweeted the UN peace-keeping mission in southern Lebanon, which is in contact with both countries, several hours after the rocket fire.

It is the second time rockets have been launched from Lebanese territory towards Israel since Israel bombed the Gaza Strip over the last week.

A source close to Israel’s arch-enemy Hezbollah said the Lebanese Shiite group had no link to the incident.

Protests have also been held against Israel’s air campaign on Gaza, with a Lebanese demonstrator killed by Israeli fire last week during a rally in the border area.

The Israeli army said Monday that in recent days it had “spotted a number of Lebanese suspects approaching the security fence.”

Over 200 people have been killed since the latest escalation in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Israel launched air strikes last Monday claiming that the strikes were in response to rocket fire from Hamas towards Jerusalem.

That was in response to bloody Israeli police action at the flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, as well as a crackdown on protests against the planned Israeli expulsion of Palestinians from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in annexed east Jerusalem.

## Resistance News

### Ramallah rises up in arms in support of Gaza

**INTERNATIONAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Palestinian armed groups start holding protests in the city of Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank in support of their fellow Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, who have come under a hugely deadly escalation by Tel Aviv.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades, a coalition of Palestinian armed groups in the West Bank, announced the decision on Monday.

They said they were holding the protests in solidarity with the resistance groups in Gaza, where a total of 212 people, including 61 children and 36 women, have been martyred and 1,400 others been injured during the escalation.

The West Bank-based groups said they had been absent from the battle against the occupying regime for long, but were now springing back into action. They also warned the Israeli regime about the dire consequence of their actions.

The Israeli regime’s latest attacks have attacked the central and northern parts of the Gaza Strip.

The regime intensified its attacks against Gaza last Monday after the territory rose in protest against the regime’s weeks-long violations against Palestinians in the West Bank, especially the holy city of al-Quds.

The violations have seen Israeli forces and illegal settlers attacking Palestinian worshippers and protesters for weeks. The forces once attacked thousands of Palestinian worshippers on the al-Aqsa Mosque’s compound in al-Quds’ Old City and tried to evict Palestinians from the city’s Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood on another occasion. Most recently, a Palestinian was killed during the forces’ attack on the al-Arroub refugee camp located north of the city of al-Khalil (Hebron) in the West Bank.

**Palestinian resistance targets Israeli forces’ gathering**

Also on Monday, the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movement of Hamas’ military wing, meanwhile, said it had targeted a gathering of Israeli forces near the city of Sderot in the southern part of the occupied territories, in its latest bout of retaliation against the Israeli regime’s incessant atrocities.

Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades staged the counterattack against an area known as Nir Am near Sderot. Reports also showed that Sderot itself had also come under retaliatory rocket fire.

## Recent escalation reflecting Netanyahu’s efforts to remain in power: professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** – A professor of international politics at Lancaster University says that the recent escalation in Palestine reflects Benjamin Netanyahu’s efforts to secure his base in power.

“The escalation is a perfect storm of issues, reflecting Netanyahu’s efforts to secure his base after recent elections, but also to capitalize on wider Arab support stemming from the Abraham accords. This has meant that the Palestinian cause is increasingly abandoned,” Simon Mabon tells the Tehran Times.

Palestinian health authorities say the Gaza death toll includes more than 60 children as Israel’s bombardment enters its second week.

Days of heavy bombardment on the Gaza Strip intensified on Tuesday, with Israeli

fighter jets bombing several buildings and roads in a vital part of Gaza City.

According to Israeli authorities, the offensive began late on Monday in response to rockets fired by Hamas.

Anger has been growing over the forced expulsion of Palestinian families from the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, who have been facing multiple court cases filed against them by several pro-settler organizations since 1972.

The Israeli aggression met massive anger all around the world, from Britain to streets in Pakistan.

“In the UK, there is widespread anger at the treatment with Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories,” Mabon notes.

“Yet mainstream media narratives about Sheikh Jarrah have been subsumed

into broader questions about terrorism and missiles from Gaza.”

The escalation is the most intense since the seven-week 2014 Israeli war on Gaza.

Many Arab monarchies who decided to normalize their ties with Israel through the Abraham Accords are now facing questions about their move.

“Many Arab countries are in a difficult position with regard to Israel,” the director of SEPAD (the Sectarianism, Proxies and De-Sectarianization Project) remarks.

“A number have normalized relations with Israel, notably through the signing of the Abraham Accords, which has led to the marginalization of the Palestinian cause in an effort to cultivate better economic, technological and security ties.”

Asked about the U.S. role when it comes



to conflicts in West Asia, especially Palestine, Mabon says that “under Biden, it is unclear as to what the U.S. role will be in the Israel Palestine conflict.”

“Biden has thus far been occupied with the Iranian nuclear deal and war in Yemen. His failure to engage with Israel Palestine cannot continue,” according to British academic.



## TACI's roadside assistance app unveiled

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI) has recently unveiled an application for its previously-established Roadside Assistance Services.

“Software application for TACI's Roadside Assistance Services has been introduced to increase road safety in mobility, and facilitating multilateral connection and communication between repair centers, rescuers, members, and customers,” the club announced on Tuesday.



“By exploiting this application, the speed of relief operations has improved compared to the past. Moreover, the trust in assistance services and related costs has been increased.”

The service was initially established in 1968 to provide relief services (towing and repair) for road travelers in Iran. TACI has deployed local rescuers and has created representative branches in most provinces to expand its services.

According to the club, a total of 60000 subscribed to the different types of roadside assistance membership scheme in 2020.

TACI uses a large network of provincial rescue call centers with the dial numbers 09629 and 0216423, and the radio communication system (wireless), contractive garages, representative agents, rescuers, and the operation supervision and inspection teams throughout the country.

This enables it to provide roadside assistance services in the shortest possible time to its members or customers 24-hours a day.

## UNESCO-registered Golestan hosts philatelic exhibit

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – A philatelic exhibition, featuring the Qajar era (1789–1925) stamps, related documents, equipment, and accessories, opened on Tuesday at the UNESCO-registered Golestan Palace in downtown Tehran.

The exhibit kicked off concurrent with the International Museum Day intending to revive the memories of postal nostalgia, according to organizers.



A destination for domestic and international travelers, Golestan Palace is located in the heart and historic core of Tehran. The palace complex is one of the oldest in the Iranian capital, originally built during the Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) in the historic walled city.

Following extensions and additions, it received its most characteristic features in the 19th century, when the palace complex was selected as the royal residence and seat of power by the Qajar ruling family (1789–1925). At present, the Golestan

Palace complex consists of eight key palace structures mostly used as museums and the eponymous gardens, a green shared center of the complex, surrounded by an outer wall with gates.

UNESCO has it that the complex exemplifies architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar era including the introduction of European motifs and styles into Persian arts.

## Legal boundaries defined for ancient sites in West Azarbaijan

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** - A total of nine historical sites across the northwestern West Azarbaijan province were demarcated during the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020-March 21, 2021), CHTN reported.

Authorities seek to prevent acts such as land grabbing and illegal constructions within the legal limits of the sites, which included archaeological hills and historical churches, the report said.

Some 1,100 historical relics were also discovered during the several excavations carried out across the province during the mentioned time, most of which can be visited in the Urmia Museum.



West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Tepe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region has been the seat of several ancient civilizations. It formed part of Urartu and later of Media. In the 4th century BC, it was conquered by Alexander the Great and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. The area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE. The Arabs controlled Azerbaijan from the 7th century until Turkish nomads overran it in the 11th century. Thenceforth the inhabitants of the region were Turkish speakers. The region was overrun by the Mongols in the 13th century, and, under the ruler Hulegu, Azarbaijan became the center of a Mongol empire extending from Syria on the west to the Oxus River (now Amu Darya) on the east.

# Safavid-era caravanserai to undergo restoration for possible UNESCO registration

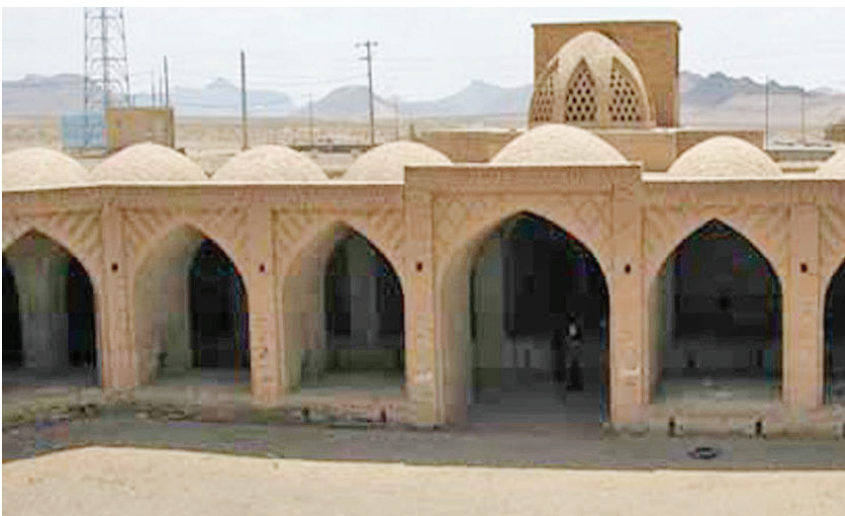
→ 1 Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 - 330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country.

Such roadside inns were originally built in various epochs along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Roads may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais.

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age!

Iran ranks 10th in the world in terms of the number of historical monuments and sites registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Before the Islamic Revolution, Persepolis, Naghsh-e Jahan Square, and Chogha Zanbil were the only three UNESCO-listed monuments, but today the number has been increased this number to 24 historical sites, of



which “Arg-e Bam” (Bam Citadel) represents an outstanding example of an ancient fortified settlement, is located in Kerman province.

“Bisotun” in western Kermanshah province, which is notable for its Achaemenid-era

inscription carved on a limestone cliff, lavish “Golestan Palace” in downtown Tehran which is a masterpiece of the Qajar era (1789 to 1925), and millennium-old “Gonbad-e Qabus” which is a mudbrick tomb tower for

Qabus ibn Wushmagir, are among the other UNESCO-designated sites in Iran.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Tepe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

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## Quake inflicts damage to historical sites in northeast Iran

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – A medium-sized earthquake struck Jajarm in the northeastern province of North Khorasan on Monday, causing relatively minor damage to several historic and heritage sites in the region, a local tourism official has said.

A group of assessors and cultural heritage experts have been dispatched to the damaged areas after the 5.5 magnitude quake to investigate possible damages,

Hadi Mohammadpur announced on Tuesday.

While assessing the harm is still ongoing, the investigations have revealed some minor harm and cracks in some historical sites including Jafar-Abad Castle and Darband Holy Shrine so far, the official added.

Experts believe though the northeastern province may not be the first choice of travelers, its tourism industry is getting momentum.

According to Lonely Planet, most foreign tourists pass straight through North Khorasan in transit between Mashhad and Gorgan, but if you have time to explore, it's worth diverting south from the capital, Bojnurd, towards Esfarayen, famed for its wrestling tournaments, the remarkable citadel of Belqays and the partly preserved stepped village of Roeyn some 20km north.

## Giant kilim unveiled in Ardebil

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – A giant kilim carpet was unveiled on Sunday in the city of Namin, northwestern Ardebil province.

Measuring 24 square meters, the handwoven flooring went on show at a local handicrafts exhibition attended by the province's governor-general Akbar Behnamju, provincial tourism chief Na-

der Fallahi and several cultural officials.

“Namin is considered as a national hub of kilim weaving, and this field of handicrafts has been practiced mostly by female crafters as their source of income,” Behnamju said.

He also expressed hope that kilim weaving would receive more support and be promoted more properly.

Kilim is a pileless floor covering hand-

woven in most places where pile rugs are made. The term is applied both generally and specifically, with the former use referring to virtually any rug-like fabric that does not have a pile.

When used specifically the term refers to a more limited number of techniques, including slit tapestry, warp sharing, and various forms of interlocking tapestry

weave.

The kilims are often woven on narrow looms, and two mirror-image pieces are sewn together along the long edge to produce the completed kilim. The vertical color junctions involve a discontinuity of the wefts, the colored yarns that produce the design. At these boundaries, there are small slits in the fabric.

## Archaeological survey begins on 4,500-year-old Hirbodan hill

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – A team of archaeologists has commenced work on Iran's Hirbodan hill, which is estimated to date from some 4,500 years ago.

“According to the head of the excavation team, based on data collected from archaeological trenches, the hill is associated with the Elamite civilization and dates some 4500 years,” a local tourism official has said, CHTN reported.



In addition to excavations, the survey is aimed to determine legal boundaries of the ancient settlement through carving and analyzing other trenches being carried out under the supervision of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism (RICHT).

Hirbodan hill is situated in Darab county of the southern Fars province that was once the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (c. 550–330 BC), which was stretching from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, to Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia and India.

Throughout the late prehistoric periods, Elam was closely tied culturally to Mesopotamia. Later, perhaps because of domination by the Akkadian dynasty (c. 2334–c. 2154 BC), Elamites adopted the Sumerian-Akkadian cuneiform script.

The modern-day provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan were once the seat of power of the Elamite kingdom.

Elamite language, extinct language spoken by the Elamites in the ancient country of Elam, which included the region from the Mesopotamian plain to the Iranian Plateau. According to Britannica, Elamite documents from three historical periods have been found. The earliest Elamite writings are in a figurative or pictographic script and date from the middle of the 3rd millennium BC.

Documents from the second period, which lasted from the 16th to the 8th century BC, are written in cuneiform; the stage of the language found in these documents is sometimes called Old Elamite.

The last period of Elamite texts is that of the reign of the Achaemenian kings of Persia (6th to 4th century BC), who used Elamite, along with Akkadian and Old Persian, in their inscriptions. The language of this period, also written in the cuneiform script, is often called New Elamite.



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Embassy of Pakistan invites applications (Pakistani / Iranian National) for the following vacant post for the Pakistan Embassy International School & College, Tehran.

Sr. #	Position	No. of Posts	Requirements
1	Accountant/Admin Officer	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Proof of at least 05 years of experience in Accounting and Administration in reputable organizations</li> <li>➤ Minimum qualification: Bachelors in (Accounting/Commerce) Or CA/ACCA</li> <li>➤ Higher qualification experience will be preferred</li> <li>➤ Max. Age 45</li> <li>➤ Fluency in English language (reading, writing, speaking)</li> <li>➤ Knowledge of Persian will be added benefit</li> </ul>

Applications with complete CV (including e-mail address, postal address and valid phone number) along with documents/experience certificate with a latest passport size photograph may be sent to the given e-mail address [info@piscstechran.com](mailto:info@piscstechran.com) within 15 days from the advertisement date. Also mention position title in e-mail subject.

- Short Listed candidates will be notified on their given e-mail addresses/ phone number with time and date of interview.



# National campaign to ease water stress in 4 provinces

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) will launch a campaign for the fourth time to solicit public donations to ease water stress in four drought-ridden provinces of the country.

The long-standing 20-year-old drought in the region is forcing many to have to provide their water from tank trucks delivering water to the areas.

The campaign, called Nazr-e Ab (literally meaning water donation), was launched three years ago, following the drought crisis in the southern and southeastern provinces of the country, with the aim of supplying fresh water to deprived areas with the help of the people and the IRCS.

From June 22 to September 22 in drought-ridden provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, Kerman, and Hormozgan, people can participate by donating bottled water, water tanks or cash, nationwide.

The campaign was first held in August 2018, in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan which went into trouble after the Hamoun wetland drained and the rainless sky left many in dire need of drinking water.

Precipitation has decreased by 50 percent compared to last year, so this year the project will be implemented more vigorously, Mohammad Nasiri, head of the IRCS volunteer organization said, YJC



**The long-standing 20-year-old drought in the region is forcing many to have to provide their water from tank trucks delivering water to the areas.**

reported on Tuesday.

The campaign has two main aspects;

the first one centers on water supply issues including desalination of water, rehabilita-

tion of qanats, improving wells and water quality, filtering and sanitation of reservoirs. And the second aspect focuses on health issues including health care services, free diagnosis, and etc., he explained.

Based on the latest data published by National Drought Warning and Monitoring Center affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization, since the current crop year (September 23, 2020), South Khorasan has received 59.7 millimeters of rainfall while the long-term averages are 110.5 millimeters. Last year during the same period, 156.4 millimeters of precipitation reported. So that the province is short of rain compared to both last year and long-run.

Precipitation in Sistan-Baluchestan province decreased to 15.3 millimeters from 165.9 millimeters in the previous water year, demonstrating a 90.8 percent decline. The amount also dropped in comparison to the long-term average of 84.6 mm, being short of rain by 81.9 percent.

Hormozgan province also has not met the normal averages, receiving 20.3 millimeters of rain while it reported raining 303.3 millimeters in the previous water year, showing a 93.3 percent drop, while it also experienced rainfall shortage in comparison to the long-term mean by 93.3 percent.

Kerman also received low precipitation compared to both the long-term average and last year.

## No COVID-19 vaccine export until domestic need is met

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** – No homegrown COVID-19 vaccine will be exported until the domestic need is fully met, although several countries have asked for purchasing the COVIRAN BAREKAT vaccine, Mohammad Mokhber, the head of the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, has said.

COVIRAN BAREKAT, the first coronavirus vaccine made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam which was unveiled on December 29, 2020, started to be mass-produced on March 29.

"We have so far produced 300,000 doses of the vaccine, which will reach 1 million doses by the end of the current month (May 21)," he added.

By June, this number will reach 12 million doses per month, and in August, and by September we will produce 20 to 25 million doses of vaccine, he noted, YJC reported on Tuesday.

Mokhber went on to explain that the third phase of the clinical trial started earlier this week by being administrated to 20,000 people, after the satisfactory result is proved, a general permit will be issued to start the mass vaccination. "We do not think about exporting at all, and our main obsession is our people," he further highlighted.

At least two European countries and three countries in the region are now seeking to negotiate on purchasing vaccine, but we will export once the domestic needs are met,



**COVIRAN BAREKAT, the first coronavirus vaccine made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam which was unveiled on December 29, 2020, started to be mass-produced on March 29.**

Mokhber stated on April 14.

### Homegrown vaccines

Meanwhile, a vaccine developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute (Razi Cov Pars) is expected to become the second Iranian-made vaccine to be administered among the population in early August; which started the clinical trial on February 27.

Iran has also successfully completed the first phase of the human trial for Fakhra vaccine, the third domestically developed COVID-19 vaccine, named after nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh (he was assassinated in November 2020 near Tehran), that was unveiled and started the clinical trial on March 16.

"Osvid-19", the fourth domestic vaccine produced by Osvah Pharmaceutical Company is also undergoing human trials, which will also be available in early September.

### New cases and mortalities

In a press briefing on Tuesday, Health Ministry's spokesperson, Sima-Sadat Lari, confirmed 13,930 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 2,779,415. She added that 2,258,046 patients have so far recovered, but 5,173 remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, 310 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 77,532, she added.

So far, 18,285,393 COVID-19 diagnostic tests have been performed in the country.

## Iranians donate medical supplies worth \$100,000 to Gaza

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) will send medical supplies and equipment worth \$100,000 supplied through public donations to Palestinian people in Gaza.

Since the beginning of the new crisis in Gaza, the Red Crescent Society has begun its activities in defense of civilians, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

IRCS will allocate up to \$100,000 medical equipment in the first phase for the Gazans, and in the coming days, with the help of the benefactors, will provide more

medical equipment and medicines.

Earlier on May 17, Iran's Emergency Services Organization announced readiness to provide medical treatment for the victims of the Zionist regime's brutal attacks on Gaza.

"Iran's Emergency Services is ready to send medical teams in order to help the Gazans wounded in the wake of Israel's brutal attacks and it is doing its best to transfer the injured to Iran for treatment if necessary," the organization's head Pir Hossein Kolivand wrote in a letter to Health Minister Saeed Namaki.



On May 6, the Israeli Supreme Court decided a forced eviction of the Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem. The Pal-

estinians protested over the unfair ruling, as they were forced to leave their homes.

Israeli forces stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, and dispersed the Palestinian worshippers elsewhere in East Jerusalem. Israel has been heavily bombing Gaza since last Monday, in which 212 Palestinians have been killed so far, including 61 children and 35 women, and 1,400 Palestinians were also injured.

The Palestinian resistance has also launched rain rockets in the occupied territories in response to the Israeli aggression and attacks on Gaza.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → €

## Families with multiple births to receive monthly allowances

In line with population growth policies, families with triplets or more will receive monthly allowances of up to 5 million rials (nearly \$120 at the official rate of 42,000 rials), head of Welfare Organization has announced.

The allowances would be paid when the children are born till the age of 6, IRNA quoted Vahid Ghebadi Dana as saying on Saturday.

Some 17,000 households with three or above births will receive the government support across the country, he stated.

He went on to say that since the Iranian calendar year 1393 (March 2014-March 2015) till 1397 (March 2018-March 2019), nearly 1.5 million births were registered in the country per year, 3 percent of which have been twins and 0.5 percent triplets or more.

## خانواده‌های دارای چندقلو کمک ماهانه معیشتی می‌گیرند

در راستای سیاست های افزایش جمعیت، به خانواده‌های دارای سه قلو به بالا ۵۰۰ هزار تومان به صورت ماهانه به عنوان کمک هزینه معیشتی پرداخت می‌شود.

به گزارش ایرنا، وحید قبادی دانا، رییس سازمان بهزیستی روز جمعه با بیان این که کمک هزینه از ابتدای تولد تا ۶ سالگی پرداخت می شود، ادامه داد: تعداد خانواده های دارای فرزند سه قلو به بالا نیازمند کمک معیشتی دولت، ۱۷ هزار خانوار در کل کشور هستند.

قبادی دانا اظهارداشت از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۷ هر سال تقریباً یک میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار نفر تولد ثبت شد، و بیش از ۳ درصد این تولدها دوقلو به بالا و حدود نیم درصد از آن سه قلو به بالاتر بود.

## The Most Beautiful National Parks in Iran

National parks of Iran are natural treasures that are scattered all around the country with a great variety of climate and geography. Among the dense forests, spectacular mountains, endless deserts, and ocean cliffs, it is hard to choose the most beautiful national parks in Iran.

Most of Iran's national parks contain reserves of natural lands or specific biodiversity. National parks are the safest habitat for plant and animal species protected by the government. If you are a nature lover or interested in wild life, here we will review the most beautiful, largest, and different national parks in Iran.

### Golestan National Park

We start with the largest and oldest national park in Iran. Golestan National Park or Golestan Forest with an area of about 91 thousand and 895 hectares is located in the east of Golestan province and west of North Khorasan province. In 1975, this park was registered as a biosphere reserve among the 50 biosphere reserves in the world in the UNESCO list. Golestan National Park has three different types of climate: dry, semi-arid, and semi-humid. Thus Golestan park has a variety of vegetation from dry steppes to grassy plains and dense forests.

Golestan national park is full of spectacular mountains and valleys. Some of the most beautiful ones are the heights of Qaraqon, Tangeh Gol, Shakha, Yeke Qadam, Qara Gashli, Qofi Ghorchi, and Almesh valley. The most famous waterfalls of Golestan National Park are Aqsu and Jangal waterfalls. Besides, this park is full of spectacular springs and rivers. There are many species of animals identified in this national park, including Persian leopards, brown bears, foxes, jackal, Caspian red deer, cescas, Persian ibex, goitered gazelle. Golestan national park is home to half of Iran's mammal species.

### Ghomishloo National Park

Ghomishloo National Park, with an area of about 86,000 hectares, is located near the west of Isfahan. Qomishloo, which means everglade, used to have a humid climate with many reed beds. However, the climate has now changed to mild and cold winters which is why this region has become a snow-covered mountainous habitat.

Qomishloo wildlife sanctuary has a valuable plant and animal wildlife. It is also historically worthwhile due to its castles and monuments related to the Qajar period. In this national park, you can see animals such as Agama, Persian hedgehog, ram and sheep, boar, caracal, rabbit, green toad. Ghomishloo is also a habitat for birds such as bees, bats, desert eagle, and black vulture.

### Nayband National-Marine Park

Nayband National Marine Park, with an area of about 46,000 hectares, is located in the south of Bushehr

province and near Assaluyeh in the south of Iran. This beautiful park was registered as the first national marine park in Iran. Nayband National-Marine Park consists of a valuable and unique collection of plants and animals. One of its most important features is the existence of various sandy, coral, and forest beaches.

Nayband sandy beaches are home to huge sea turtles. Its dense forests are also a suitable place for migratory birds and waterfowls in winter. As this park has various beaches, it's one of the most valuable marine habitats in the Persian Gulf. This habitat includes coral complexes, seaweeds, numerous coves, mangrove forests, beautiful sandy beaches, rocky shores, and old fig trees of temples that make Nayband national park the most appropriate place as an ecosystem.

### Urmia Lake National Park

Urmia lake National Park is located in northwestern Iran, between the two provinces of East Azerbaijan and West Azerbaijan. Urmia salt lake is the largest salt lake in Iran and an appropriate habitat for many faunas. This lake, with an area of 5,500 km, has 120 islands, Shahi island was historically the lake's largest island. The Urmia lake national park is one of the biosphere reserves by the UNESCO.

Urmia Lake National Park, Anzali Lagoon, is the most beautiful natural habitat of animals in Iran. Lake Urmia was once the largest salt-water lake in the West Asia (Middle East). It's still home to many migratory birds and indigenous animals, including flamingos, white pelicans, egrets, and white head and redhead ducks. Every year this lake attracts hundreds of tourists who bath in the water to take advantage of the therapeutic properties of this salt lake.

### Khojir National Park

Khojir National Park is one of Tehran's province parks. It's located in the east of Tehran and has an area of about 9,971 hectares. This park was built in 1754. After Tehran was chosen as the capital of the country during the Qajar period, Khojir national park was protected as a royal sanctuary or royal hunting ground. Then, in 1982, the Supreme Council for Environmental Protection, designated it as a national park in Iran.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 186)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

### ● تمرین ۱. هار وازه از کدام زبان است؟

۱. ضرب المثل ..... چیستان
۲. میز ..... صحبت
۳. تمدن ..... جنگال
۴. سینما ..... تله کابین
۵. بشقاب ..... آرامگاه

### 🎧 کدام واژه فارسی است؟

- ۱
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### ■ جدول

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							عمودی
							۱. همه‌ی مردم یک کشور ۲. دماوند بلندترین قله‌ی ... های البرز است ۳. معلم دانشگاه اما 'د' ندارد ۴. خدا را می‌خواهد هم ... را ۳. معلم دانشگاه اما 'د' ندارد ۴. فرهنگی است اما 'فر' ندارد ۵. رفتن به 'رو' رسیدن به ... ۶. همه با هم سؤال نکنید؛ یکی یکی، به ... سؤال کنید. ۷. شدن به 'شود' رفتن به ... ۸. می‌باید ۹. من خسته شدم، او هم خسته ... ۱۰. یک هتل ...



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Our affairs are attached to the destiny  
decreed by Allah, even our best plans may  
lead us to destruction.

Imam Ali (AS)

## Director Majid Majidi named Cinema Department's president at Iranian Academy of Art

→1 Majidi's "Children of Heaven" earned Iran's first Oscar nomination in 1999 and his "The Song of Sparrows" was nominated for a Golden Bear award for best film at the Berlin film festival



Director Majid Majidi in an undated photo

in 2008. Reza Naji won the festival's Silver Bear for best actor for his role in the film. His latest child labor drama "Sun Children" was Iran's submission to the foreign-language film category at the 93rd Academy Awards. However, it failed to receive a nomination to the shortlist.

The movie had its Iranian premiere during the 38th Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in February 2020, garnering the Crystal Simorghs for best film, script and set design. Numerous international events, including the 77th Venice Film Festival, have also screened the movie. The festival honored the film's star Ruhollah Zamani with the Marcello Mastroianni Award.

The 33rd International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Isfahan also awarded Majidi as best director and Zamani as best actor. He is the director of the controversial movie "Muhammad (S), the Messenger of God" about the childhood of the Prophet of Islam (S).

Majidi made "Beyond the Clouds" in India. The film, which is set in the slums of Mumbai, represented India at several international film festivals.

### New director at IAA

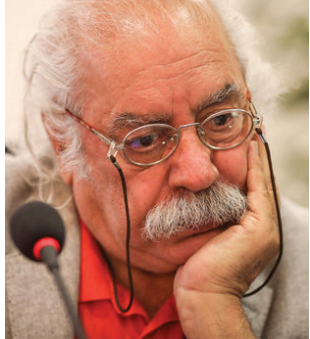
On March 9, President Hassan Rouhani selected Namvar-Motlaq, a comparative literature graduate of Blaise Pascal University in France, to helm the IAA as a new director of the academy, which was established in 1998 "to safeguard national Islamic art and cultural heritage."

He is also the dean of the Farshchian University of Iranian-Islamic Arts established by the Islamic Azad University in 2018. Earlier last week, he also appointed actor Ali Nasirian to the IAA Drama and Dramatic Literature Department.

## Actor Behzad Farahani to make directorial debut with "A Guest from the Caribbean"

→1 TEHRAN — Actor Behzad Farahani, who is also a prominent stage director, plans to try his hand at directing a romance feature film named "A Guest from the Caribbean".

The screenplay has also been written by Farahani based on his novel titled "A Guest from the Caribbean - A Night with Castro". Shahram Gilabadi will be the producer of the project, Farahani's publicist announced on Tuesday.



Actor Behzad Farahani (Mehrdad Asgari)

"A Guest from the Caribbean" is the story of an experienced tailor who falls in love with a widow whose husband has been executed.

Because of his lifelong friendship with her husband, the tailor cannot face the thought of betraying his old friend, and the widow's loyalty to her late husband also becomes another obstacle in triggering the love between the surviving couple.

In a summary of the novel, Farahani writes: "This hidden love is the unfinished story of many Eastern men and women. One must explore the Eastern philosophy to find the consequences of such love affairs."

Farahani, 76, published wrote his latest book "55 Short Stories" last November. A graduate of dramatic arts, he completed his studies in France. He began his acting career in theater and joined cinema with the screenplay "Journey of Stone" in 1978.

He has also performed numerous plays for radio and television, and has played leading roles in a number of acclaimed movies of Iranian cinema over the past few decades.

# "Asteroid", "Staging" picked for Fajr Eastern Vista

→1 TEHRAN — Iranian movies "Asteroid" and "Staging" have been selected to be screened in Eastern Vista, a section dedicated to Asian filmmakers, at the 38th Fajr International Film Festival.

Directed by Mehdi Hosseinivand, "Asteroid" tells the story of Ebrahim, a 12-year-old boy who lives in a remote desert village with his mother and five younger sisters and brothers. His mother still believes that her husband and elder son who left in search of work will one day return to the village, as Ebrahim is the only breadwinner in the family. "Staging" by Alireza Samadi revolves around a group of people who stage fake car accidents in a bid to extract money from insurance companies.

Three movies by Iranian filmmakers will also be screened in Cinema Salvation, the official competition of the festival, which is scheduled to take place in Tehran from



A scene from "Asteroid" directed by Mehdi Hosseinivand.

May 26 to June 2.

Cinema Salvation will also screen 12 other films from overseas filmmakers.

Among the films are Oscar-winning Hungarian director Istvan Szabo's latest movie "Final Report", Italian director Claudio Noce's drama "Padrenostro" and Ukrainian-Armenian filmmaker Roman Balayan's movie "We Are Here We Are Close".

In addition, Finnish filmmaker Antti J. Jokinen's romance historical drama "Helene", Bulgarian director Ivaylo Hristov's drama "Fear", Turkish filmmaker Ferit Karahan's "Brother's Keeper", Slovenian director Vinko Moderndorfer's "Deadlock" and Polish director Piotr Domalewski's drama "I Never Cry" have been selected to compete in the event.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 edition of the festival was canceled, but the organizers have said that this year the 38th edition of the festival will be held as planned.

## Iran's "Holy Bread" wins awards at Trento Film Festival



"Holy Bread" directed by Rahim Zabihi.

→1 TEHRAN — Iranian documentary "Holy Bread" won the Club Alpino Italiano Golden Award and the Peace and Human Rights Award at the 69th Trento Film Festival in Italy, the organizers announced on Sunday.

Directed by Rahim Zabihi, the film received the Club Alpino Italiano Golden Award for its perfect

representation of mountaineering, mountain life and mountain people.

The documentary highlights the dangerous work of Kurdish Kulbars.

Kulbars are workers who transport heavy goods on foot across the Iranian border passing through rocky, steep and slippery mountainous pathways to make a living to support their families.

The workers face numerous challenges as they walk along dangerous paths, suffering from injuries as well as being shot at by border police, and even dying along the hazardous route.

"Holy Bread" narrates the men's distressing stories with powerful scenes captured by the director's filming crew while accompanying the workers for 9 years, documenting what can be described as a disclosure of a group of men whose lives are driven by hunger, poverty and despair in the lowest margins of the social class.

Thirteen other films from France, Morocco, Switzerland, Italy, Uruguay, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, Austria, Poland, Bulgaria, Greenland, China and Belgium were also screened in the official competition of the event.

The City of Trento Grand Prix Golden Gentian

Award was given to "Cows on the Roof" by Swiss director Aldo Gugolz.

Gugolz's film is the story of Fabiano who is haunted by the death of a clandestine Macedonian worker who died in a fatal accident. Feeling responsible for the tragedy, Fabiano's troublesome life on his father's small farm is presented to the viewer as he struggles with debt while his partner's pregnancy adds to his miseries. But despite the difficulties, he holds on to his dreams of a simple life surrounded by nature and farm animals.

"Here I Am Again" by Polly Guentcheva from Bulgaria won the City of Bolzano Golden Gentian Award for the best exploration and adventure film.

The Silver Gentian Award for the best artistic and technical contribution went to "The Last Austrians" by Austrian director Lukas Pitscheider.

"Chadder - A River Between Us" by German filmmaker Minsu Park won the special jury award, which recounts a girl's last journey to her school across the mountains of Kashmir.

The Trento Film Festival, which is one of the oldest European film festivals focusing on mountain explorations, took place online from May 9 to 16 in Trento.

## Pompidou Center to screen "Walking with the Wind" in tribute to Abbas Kiarostami

→1 TEHRAN — The Pompidou Center in Paris plans to screen the documentary "Walking with the Wind" on June 18 in its tribute to the celebrated Iranian artist Abbas Kiarostami.

Directed by Mehdi Shadizadeh in 2019, the documentary attempts to portray Kiarostami's multiple artistic dimensions, and not just those of a filmmaking giant.

Seen through the eyes of a group of contemporaries made up of a filmmaker, an artist, a poet, a photographer, a graphic designer, a film critic and a gallery owner, we realize that Kiarostami was himself a poet, photographer, graphic designer, artist and woodcutter all rolled into one; a composite artist, and veritable modern-day Renaissance man.

Dreamlab Films, the France-based international distributor under Iranian

film expert Nasrin Mirshab, is handling the international sales of the documentary.

"Abbas Kiarostami, recognized as one of the greatest ever international filmmaking authors, has always been a motivational idol of mine and for whom I bear the greatest respect," Shadizadeh has written in a statement for his film.

He added, "However, he was not only a filmmaker, he was also a photographer, poet, painter and woodcutter, aspects of his life often overlooked.

"With this film I wanted to show Kiarostami in all his multiple aspects and not just concentrate on his cinematic brilliance. In doing so I sought out those who had known him, other artists and filmmakers, in order to build up a composite portrait of the man himself."

This film shows Golestan Gallery owner Lili Golestan, painter Aidin Aghdashlu, filmmaker Kianush Ayyari, poet Javad Mojabi, photographer Maryam Zandi, graphic designer Ebrahim Haqiqi and film critic Mohsen Azarm commenting about Kiarostami.

Screening the documentary is part of Pompidou Center's program "Where Is Friend Kiarostami?", which has been underway since May 5 to pay tribute to Kiarostami, who died of cancer on July 5, 2016.

The program organized in collaboration with the French company MK2 Films and the Kiarostami Foundation will exhibit an oeuvre of Kiarostami until July 5.

The entire works of Kiarostami, from films to photos and poems, are on view at the exhibition.

Numerous guests have been invited to



Filmmaker Kianush Ayyari in a scene from the documentary "Walking with the Wind".

attend the sessions reviewing 46 films by Kiarostami in the retrospective. The exhibit also features collections of videos and documents, series of his unpublished photographs, sequences of his most beautiful films and presentations of his works on classical and contemporary poetry.

## Sharjah Children's Book Illustration Exhibition to hang works by Iranian artists

→1 TEHRAN — Works by eight Iranian artists have been selected to be showcased at the Sharjah Children's Book Illustration Exhibition, which will open on Thursday.

Mohammad-Ali Bani-Asadi will be competing at the exhibition with his works for the book "Birds and the Sky" written by Farideh Farjam.

Published by Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development Children and Young Adults, the book teaches children to tolerate differences. They can also learn not to accept coercion.

The story of the book is set on a summer day as a flock of birds living together in peace decide to leave their nests to search for food. However, a group of other birds having a bell around their necks force them not to leave their nests.

Works by Mohamad-Hossein (Mason) Matak have also been selected for the exhibition.

He was among the 12 winners of the Illustrators of the



A poster for the book "Birds and the Sky" illustrated by Mohammad-Ali Bani-Asadi that will compete in the Sharjah Children's Book Illustration Exhibition.

Future Contest in the U.S. city of Los Angeles in 2020 for his illustrations for the book "Machucheh and Crow" written by Iranian writer Afsaneh Shaban-nejad.

Negin Ehtesabian, Haleh Qorbani, Hassan Amekan, Ali Buzari, Nushin Sadeqian and Mojgan saedian-Asl are other Iranian illustrators participating in the showcase, which will run until May 29.

Given the importance of illustrators' role in adding vitality and vigor to children's books, Sharjah Children's Reading Festival launched the Sharjah Children's Book Illustration Exhibition in 2012 with the aim of highlighting the magnificent illustrations that can be seen in many outstanding children's publications.

The participants will compete to win the exhibition's annual awards, whereby the first winner will receive \$8,000, and second and third will receive \$6,000 and 4,000 respectively. There are also three incentive awards to be granted, each of which amounts to \$1,000.

## New Persian translation of Paulo Coelho's "The Archer" comes to bookstores

→1 TEHRAN — A new translation of Brazilian author Paulo Coelho's "The Archer" has been published in Tehran.

Shurafarin is the publisher of the book translated by Masiha Vasiq.

"The Archer" is an inspiring story about a young man seeking wisdom from an elder, and the practical lessons imparted along the way.

In the book, we meet Tetsuya, a man once famous for his prodigious gift with a

bow and arrow but who has since retired from public life, and the boy who comes searching for him. The boy has many questions, and in answering them Tetsuya illustrates the way of the bow and the tenets of a meaningful life.

Coelho's story suggests that living without a connection between action and soul cannot fulfill, that a life constricted by fear of rejection or failure is not a life worth living. Instead, one must take risks,

build courage, and embrace the unexpected journey fate has to offer.

With the wisdom, generosity, simplicity and grace that have made him an international bestseller, Coelho provides the framework for a rewarding life: hard work, passion, purpose, thoughtfulness, the willingness to fail and the urge to make a difference.

Two more Persian translations of the book by Sonia Sing and Rafi Rafiei have previously been published in Iran.



Cover of a Persian translation of Brazilian author Paulo Coelho's "The Archer".