

VICTORY

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U.S. blind support for Israel fails to rescue Netanyahu from facing a humiliating defeat in beleaguered Gaza



IRGC unveils large 'Gaza' drone

TEHRAN — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corp on Friday unveiled three new and advanced strategic weapons, including the wide-body "Gaza" drone, a ground to air missile called "Dey 9", and an advanced radar system called "Quds".

The Gaza drone is a heavy UAV (unmanned armed vehicle) capable of carrying 13 bombs to a 2000-kilometer radius. It also has a flight endurance of over 35

hours. The drone can carry 500 kilograms of equipment as well as gathering signals and data collection.

At the ceremony, the ground-to-air "Dey 9" missile was also unveiled, which is capable of engaging and countering cruise missiles, drones, and bombs.

Iranian leaders have frequently stated that the country will not hesitate to develop its military capabilities, particularly its missile power, which is solely for defensive

purposes. They have also insisted that Iran's defense capabilities will never be negotiated.

Salami says strategy is to develop defense territory at great depths and high altitudes

"We need to acquire the capability of remote warfare, which we have achieved by the grace of God," the IRGC chief Hossein Salami said at the ceremony.

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Petrochemical projects worth over \$1.3b go operational

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday inaugurated three major petrochemical projects worth \$1.304 billion in southwestern Iran through a video conference. Inaugurated in Khuzestan and Bushehr provinces, the mentioned projects are going to create job opportunities for over 2,454 people, IRNA reported.

As reported, the new petrochemical units, namely Masjed Soleiman Urea and Ammonia unit, Assaluyeh Exir Halale Petrochemical Plant, and Sabalan Methanol unit, will add a total of 3.5 million tons to the country's annual petrochemical production capacity.

The said projects have been put into operation following a series of inaugurations in the country's petrochemical industry as the government is taking serious measures for realizing the second leap of the industry. Some 17 petrochemical projects worth about \$12 billion were planned to be inaugurated across the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) to realize the second leap of the industry, 12 of which were put into operation and the rest were postponed into the current year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

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Israel shares many of characteristics of European white settler colonies: rights activist

BY REZA MOSHFEGH

TEHRAN - An American human rights activist says that Israel is a regime that has inherited many traits of past and present European white settler colonies.

"Israel shares many of the characteristics of past and present European white settler colonies established since the 1500s," Randy Short tells the Tehran Times.

He adds, "Israel is the latest European creation of a 'Herrenvolk society' that enshrines a bifurcated society that makes laws and policies that use caste and biological racism to establish a hierarchical society that divides people into those who are full citizens and others who are hated and oppressed pariah outcast inferior beings."

In its most comprehensive report to date on Israel's treatment of Palestinians, Human Rights Watch (HRW), on April 27, accused Israel of committing "crimes against humanity" and said the U.S. and the international community have "turned a blind eye."

The group's 213-page report, titled "A Threshold Crossed," accuses Israel of "apartheid and persecution," as defined by international conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It emphasizes that the Israeli regime perpetuates structural oppression to "maintain the domination of Jewish Israelis over Palestinians" in both Israel and the Palestinian territories, where today both groups of people are about equal in size.

Linking Israeli discrimination against Palestinians to white racism and supremacist approach in the U.S. and Europe, Short argues that "all of the worst characteristics of white settler colonies—inclusive of theological doctrine justifying the conquest, exploitation, marginalization, and slow elimination and or population reduction of the indigenous population—can be found in Israel, and this oppression is inclusive of Palestinians, Druze, Bedouin, Falasha, and Mizrahi."

However, American media tries not to echo what is going on in Palestine in an effort to keep the public unaware of Israeli crimes.

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Organ donation, a generous life-saving 'gift'

BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI

TEHRAN — Organ donation is the donation of life to thousands of patients whose future is hanging in the balance, a humane and benevolent act that can prevent the death of 3,000 people annually in Iran.

The country celebrates "National Organ Donation Day" annually on May 21. The day commemorates the issuance of a decree by the late founder of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini, on May 21, 1989, authorizing organ donation.

The history of organ and tissue transplantation in Iran dates back to 1935 when a patient's cornea was transplanted in one of Tehran's hospitals. Kidney transplantation first took place in 1968 and transplantation of other organs and tissues gradually took place in the 1970s and 1980s.

According to the Iranian Society of Organ Donation, there are two types of death in the medical world; Heart death (common death), which accounts for 99 percent of deaths worldwide, and brain death, which accounts for one percent of deaths.

Organ donation is an altruistic decision that can be made by the family members after brain death.

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Assad: Israel's existence based on terrorizing people, assaulting rights

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has said the existence of the regime in Tel Aviv in the region is based on terrorizing the Palestinian people and assaulting their rights, noting that Israel does not understand the language of peace or dialogue.

He made the remarks during a meeting with a number of leaders and representatives of Palestinian factions in Damascus on Thursday, during which the two sides discussed the latest developments surrounding Israel's acts of aggression against the Palestinian people.

According to Syria's SANA news agency, Assad renewed his country's firm stance toward the Palestinian cause as a central issue and supported the Palestinian people's resistance against the occupying regime to restore their rights.

The Palestinian figures, for their part, appreciated Syria for supporting the Palestinian

people, saying the Israeli regime's occupation of Palestine and its massacre of Palestinians prove that resistance is key to restoration of the violated rights of Palestinians and liberation of their lands.

They also underlined that Syria's resilience in the war against Western and Israeli-backed terrorists has helped boost the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

Iran football's punishments not in accordance with law: lawyer

BY FARROKH HESABI

TEHRAN - The Disciplinary Committee of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) announced punishments for three players and one coach for infractions during two weeks of the Iran Professional League (IPL).

The FFIRI's Disciplinary Committee found Persepolis' captain Jalal Hoseini and Sepahan defender Ezzatollah Pourghaz guilty for violent conduct at the end of the game between Sepahan and Persepolis in Matchday 22 of IPL and

suspended them for one match each.

The committee also suspended Persepolis player Farshad Faraji and Esteghlal coach Behzad Gholampour for two matches for their participation in controversy at the end of the match between Esteghlal and Persepolis at Matchday 23.

Also, Persepolis and Sepahan matches in the next season of IPL must be played at a neutral venue, considering the incident in the matches between the two teams during recent years.

Esteghlal and Persepolis clubs have both filed complaint to the federation's Appeals Committee for the sanctions issued by the Disciplinary Committee.

Alireza Ghadir, an Iranian Lawyer and an expert in sports law, believes that the DC's decision about playing in a neutral venue for the Persepolis-Sepahan match is not correct based on the articles of the disciplinary regulations.

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ELECTION WIRE

Recent polls show Raeisi lead by 30%

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Recent polls conducted by various institutes, including ISPA (Iranian Students Polling Agency), show that Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi is leading the presidential polls by a vast margin.

The research conducted by ISPA had two parts. In the first part, the institute published the response to the question: “Who are you voting for?” And in the second part, it put Raeisi against different candidates, such as Ali Larijani, Es’haq Jahangiri, and Masoud Pezeshkian.

The first part of the research showed that Reaisi is ahead in the polls by a wide margin.

According to the study, Raeisi has 36.7% of the votes, with Larijani behind him with 3.5%.

Others are ranked as follows: Mohsen Rezaei 2.8%, Masoud Pezeshkian 2.1%, Es’haq Jahangiri 1.6% and Saeed Jalili 0.9%.

In the second part of the poll, Raeisi is put against Larijani, and the results are as follows:

Raeisi: 55.3%
Larijani: 7.9%
Neither: 14.3%
No response: 22.5%

Fars predicts Raeisi leads Ahmadinejad as runner up

Also, according to a report published by the Fars News Agency on Thursday, Raeisi enjoys 32.6% of the votes, with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad behind him with 26.7% of the votes.

The report states that 42% of the people eligible to vote will participate in the elections.

It also says that 21% of the eligible voters will not participate due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It also asked participants who will they vote for if Ahmadinejad withdraws candidacy or is disqualified by the Guardian Council in which 10% said they will vote for Raeisi, 1.5% for Rezaei, 1.3% for Larijani, and 3.3% were undecided.

According to the report, Saeed Mohammad has 3.6% of the votes.

The report also says that 32% of eligible voters will not participate due to economic hardship.

Larijani holds first social media meeting

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Speaking at a Clubhouse session on Thursday night, Ali Larijani answered various questions from reporters.

The session lasted for 4 hours, with approximately 25,000 attendees.

Larijani has been the most active presidential candidate, releasing two teasers and a video clip series entitled “difficult question,” in which he answers to difficult questions by the people. So far, he has released the first video of the series.

His Twitter account also got suspended last night. The campaign did not announce the reason for the suspension.

Mottaki: Unity council backs Raeisi

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Manouchehr Mottaki, spokesman for the unity council of principlists said on Friday that it supports Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi in the June presidential elections.

“Based on the choices made at the unity council, the offices of the unity council in the country’s provinces were entrusted with selecting respectable and capable individuals among national and provincial personalities as the head of the unity council’s election headquarters in that provinces,” he stated.

The unity council election headquarters will be leading Raeisi’s presidential campaigns, said Mottaki, the former foreign minister.

Mottaki said that the council has mobilized all its capacity throughout the country to unite in support of Raeisi.

Luxembourg to unfreeze Iranian funds

POLITICAL **THERAN** — Iranian central bank chief Abdolnasser Hemmati has said the Supreme Court of Luxembourg issued an order on Thursday to unfreeze the blocked Iranian funds in the Luxembourg banks, considering the seizure as illegal.

The Court of Appeals ordered the ruling.

On May 15, a court in Luxembourg determined that Iranian funds held in the European country could not be transferred abroad without the agreement of the country’s judicial authorities.

Luxembourg courts, according to the ruling, do not recognize verdicts issued by the U.S. legal system. It was referring to recent legislation that allows American courts to order the seizure of Iranian assets anywhere in the world.

The Luxembourg court reiterated that any enforcement of a ruling issued by a foreign court must first be recognized by domestic courts before it can be enforced.

U.S. blind support for Israel fails to rescue Netanyahu from facing a humiliating defeat in beleaguered Gaza

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Joe Biden sells Israel \$735 million worth of precision guided missiles, yet he puts on the face a broker who mediated a ceasefire. Will there be another forged Nobel Peace Prize on the way?

Biden named his foreign policy plan “reset.” Though he didn’t specify a reset to what.

The administration kicked off January with Biden not answering Bibi Netanyahu’s phone call and not trying to converse with him for more than a week, a move widely considered unexpected, perhaps quite rare in the history of American presidency. He then moved to a low-key approach towards the Israel-Palestine issue, shifting towards Iran to re-enter the 2015 nuclear deal, and mending partnership with China.

The Gaza war, however, turned Biden’s attention to West Asia again. Once he said he has lobbied for AIPAC more than anyone in the Senate. Biden’s historically iron-clad support for Israel is no longer legitimate to the progressive Democratic Party members such as Rashida Tlaib and Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez. They are calling for a more equal approach to recognize the Palestinians’ rights.

Even Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez, D-N.J., a longtime admirer of Israel, issued a statement this weekend condemning the Israeli military strike on the media tower that houses the Associated Press, BBC, Al Jazeera, and other news organizations. Netanyahu has defended the strike as legitimate, stating that the structure also housed Hamas military intelligence, without giving any evidence on that matter. Perhaps this was a trigger for Secretary of State Anthony Blinken to travel to the region.

Yet, after 11 consecutive days of ruthless bombardment of the defenseless people of Gaza, and after blocking the United Nations Security Council for three times to issue mild statements to criticize Israel, the U.S. was forced to oblige Netanyahu to accept an offer for an unconditional ceasefire. Biden released a video message on Friday offering his condolences to the families of Israeli and Palestinian victims.

He said that both the Israelis and the Palestinians “equally deserve to live in safety and security and to enjoy equal measures of freedom,



prosperity, and democracy.” He did not mention the fact that the Israeli Supreme Court ruled in favor of evicting Palestinians from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah. He did not mention the fact that he has opposed a referendum as a final solution to the decades-long Palestinian issue put forward by Iran.

He did not explain how the Palestinians can elect their government freely and democratically. He did not explain what the Israelis are doing in the lands of millions of Palestinians. These are the questions the global community poses to the 78-year-old politician, demanding answers.

The social media has taken on a new approach in the world of politics these days. One of its privileges is that the Palestine narrative cannot be censored or distorted anymore. Although platforms such as Instagram are trying their best to censor the Gazans by removing related hashtags and posts, the world is now aware of the true face of Israel as a thief. Movements like Black Lives Matter have expressed solidarity with the Palestinians, asking to reclaim the narrative on the Palestine crisis.

Following the third UN Security Council emergency meeting in a week, the United States used its veto power to block a proposed statement drafted by China, Norway, and Tunisia and supported by the other 11 members of the Council. No vote was held on the statement. Arab countries, especially Tunisia, Qatar, Jordan and Egypt tried their best to broker a ceasefire, while China strongly pushed for a condemnation

from the UNSC. The U.S., however, backed its ally by blocking the request and pressured the UN to be silent.

Biden made a phone call to Netanyahu asking for “significant de-escalation” in Gaza. But does he really care? The U.S. does not directly deal with Hamas. Egypt acts as a link. However, the Biden administration is in close contact with Egypt and Israel and thus it is conducting a sort of indirect mediation between Israel and Hamas through Egypt. This reminds analysts of the famous Queen song, Show Must Go On. The show of public mediation and private backing of Israel unconditionally must go on.

Biden definitely knows that in terms of international law and humanitarian issues, he is standing on the wrong side. With an incomparable death toll of 12 Israelis against over 300 Palestinians, the U.S. is openly supporting its longtime ally, putting on a facade pretending as a mediator for peace. Don’t be surprised if Biden is nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his tireless efforts to bring peace to Palestine!

The Americans have a tough job supporting Israel in public this time, since the Israeli atrocities have turned the world against them. Even Arab countries that normalized ties with Israel under the so-called “Abraham Accords” criticized Israel’s behavior over the recent events in the West Bank. The UAE tried to broker a peace between Israel and Palestine. As his longtime friend, Netanyahu asked Biden not to intervene in the situation, yet buying \$735

million American precision-guided weapons, it seems that the 78-year-old AIPAC lobbyist is in a dilemma.

Biden and Netanyahu both knew that the Israeli target bank had run out of targets. Israel was targeting civilians, cars, media offices, and infrastructure in Gaza.

On the other hand, the Iron Dome proved ineffective, failing to intercept hundreds of missiles fired every day by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement. The Jerusalem Post wrote on May 14 that Hamas has identified a way to get past the Iron Dome.

The Palestinian response to the Israeli atrocities shocked the world and the Israelis. Their “stone intifada” turned into “missile intifada”. They fired missiles at Israel in its entirety, therefore pushing large number of Israeli settlers into shelters for the first time in decades. The Palestinians could keep on the fight back and push Israel, that’s when Biden comes to the rescue. Now it is the time to put on the face of a show-stopper. As a mediator he, along with Egypt and Jordan, pushed Netanyahu to accept an unconditional ceasefire, while there have been press reports that Israel has agreed to stop the Sheikh Jarrah eviction.

What Biden and Netanyahu failed to understand is that their strike on Gaza united the whole world against them. Even the Palestinians who live in the 1948 lands held demonstrations against the attacks. The public opinion pressured France to put forward a draft UNSC resolution; yet, in an idiotic move, the Biden administration threatened to block the resolution.

There has never been a better time to hold a referendum to solve the Palestinian issue once and for all.

The news of an immediate, unconditional ceasefire brought the Gazans to the streets as they celebrated a break from 11 days of constant bombardment. They poured onto the streets showing V signs and waving flags.

Major infrastructure, such as electricity and water supplies, has also been damaged as a result of the Israeli bombardments. People have been asking the municipality for water as the main pipeline has been heavily damaged. Yet, the United States seems to have taken the approach of silence. Weapons can be sold to Israel, but, humanitarian aid to Gazans no!

Iran calls Canadian court ruling legally unfounded

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — In a statement on Friday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said a provincial Canadian court has no jurisdiction to rule on a claim for damages over the crash of a Ukrainian passenger plane near Tehran in January 2020.

“The ruling in question has no basis and lacks any objective evidence and reason,” ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

“Given that the verdict is available online, we invite those interested in such issues to study the court ruling to realize that it is groundless,” Khatibzadeh added.

However, the spokesman said, it is not surprising to see that Canada disregards the fundamental and basic legal principles, given the overall behavior of the country with regards to the air accident.

He further dismissed as “regrettable” Canada’s behavior with regards to the Ukrainian plane incident and the “completely politically-tainted” approach adopted by Canada during the course of the legal proceedings in the country.

The Ukrainian passenger plane was mistaken for an invading missile. The tragic incident happened after Iran fired missiles at a U.S. military based in western Iraq in response to the assassination of Iranian Lt. General Qassem Soleimani near Baghdad’s international airport.

“By following in the footsteps of American courts, this Canadian court first named the accused, and then resorted to whatever relevant or irrelevant information available in public sources, especially in the cyberspace, to find a reason for its biased and pre-determined mentality,” Khatibzadeh added.

He reminded Ottawa that such politically-motivated and

vexatious moves will have no outcome other than disrupting the legal order ruling international aviation law and undercutting international law in general and harming all countries, including Canada itself.

The spokesman once again condoled with families of the victims, saying, “The political gestures of the Canadian government can only be interpreted as doing business with the grief and sorrow of the bereaved families and survivors of the accident and playing with their sentiments in order to achieve its short-sighted political objectives,” Khatibzadeh added.

Also, Abbasali Kadkhodaei, spokesman for the Guardian Council, said that the Canadian court’s ruling is illegitimate, as the court is far from the incident’s jurisdiction.

He posed the question: “Are Iranian courts legitimate to issue ruling over accidents in Canada?”

Zarif says Iran backs Palestinians’ right to self-determination, freedom in their ow land
Tehran renews proposal for a referendum as the “only path to peace in Palestine”

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** —In statement before the UN General Assembly on Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tehran backs Palestinians’ right “to self-determination, freedom and independence in their State of Palestine.”

In his statement, Zarif renewed Iran’s proposal for holding a referendum in occupied Palestine, saying it is the only solution to put an end to the decades-long conflict in the country.

“It is evident that the only path to peace in Palestine is the holding of a referendum among all residents of Palestine, Jews, Christians and Muslims, including displaced Palestinians and refugees,” Zarif said in part of his statement.

Following is the text of the statement titled “Question of Palestine”:

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening this timely meeting as the world witnesses the most horrific atrocities perpetrated by the Israeli regime against innocent Palestinians.

For more than seven decades, the Israeli brutal policies and

practices have continued to violate the fundamental human rights and dignity of the Palestinian people. As a result, Palestinians have been deprived of their lands, properties and businesses while being forcibly evicted from their homes and subjected to violence, terror, and intimidation. The Israeli regime, in line with its discriminatory and racist apartheid policies, has totally negated any right of the Palestinians to self-determination under the title of “one Jewish State”. Moreover, it has taken unprecedented measures and provocations to accelerate Judaizing Al-Quds Al-Sharif and altering its demographic composition through the elimination of Palestinian Christians and Muslims in the Holy City.

During the past week, Israeli forces have bombarded the Gaza Strip, the world’s biggest open-air prison, and through waging a disproportionate war by resorting to advanced weaponry in the most cruel and brutal manner have massacred hundreds of Palestinians and injured thousands of civilians. In the midst of an ongoing pandemic, the Israeli military attack against Gaza has destroyed thousands of homes, flattened entire apartment buildings as well as commercial buildings, including those housing journalists, and damaged other civilian vital infrastructures in a blatant and systematic violation of human rights, humanitarian law and international law. They even killed the head of Gaza Covid-19 response team.

And yet, the Security Council – despite the continued mass dispossession, occupation, and persecution of the Palestinian people by the Israeli regime – remains obstructed by the U.S. from upholding its Charter duties and shouldering its responsibility to stop violation of United Nations resolutions. In this regard, the General Assembly, as the collective conscience

“The immoral approach of some Western governments in equating victims with culprits is reprehensible, unjust and unacceptable.”

of the international community, has a vital responsibility to condemn Israel’s military aggression and its ethnic cleansing and adopt necessary measures to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The immoral approach of some Western governments in equating victims with culprits is reprehensible, unjust and unacceptable. Denial of the total asymmetry in the situation of an occupier and oppressor against an occupied and oppressed people not only exposes hypocrisy and an extreme lack of moral compass, but amounts to complicity in the crimes perpetrated against Palestinians. We emphasize that the people of Palestine are fully entitled to defend themselves and to defy the tyrannical tactics of this racist apartheid regime. The usurpation of another Arab neighborhood surrounding Al–Aqsa mosque proves the futility of normalization by some Arab states.

It is evident that the only path to peace in Palestine is the holding of a referendum among all residents of Palestine, Jews, Christians and Muslims, including displaced Palestinians and refugees.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. President, reaffirms its strong support for and solidarity with the just cause of Palestine and reaffirms its commitment to continue supporting the Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including their right to self-determination, freedom and independence in their State of Palestine with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

IRGC unveils large ‘Gaza’ drone

➔ Speaking about the Gaza drone abilities, Salami also said that the UAV is able to participate in reconnaissance flights and electronic reconnaissance.

“Next year it will enter the corps’ operational capacity and improve our capability in air battles,” he remarked.

He also talked about the Quds radar system, saying that the IRGC needed a new VHF (very high frequency)

band radar with high operational power, agility, and fast movement in order to achieve radar search systems for air purposes and to complete the comprehensive radar map.

He called the Quds radar “an important achievement that is in the production stage and was added to the Guards’ combat capability.”

Tender invitation No. 1400-1002

Iran Aluminium Company (IRALCO) would like to invite eligible suppliers for the supply of 3000 MT Aluminium Fluoride on tender basis.

Interested companies are allowed to send their competitive offer till 07.June,2021 based on our required instruction to following address: P.o. Box 31, opposite Bahonar Park, Natural Resources Boulevard, Arak-Iran Postal code : 3818998116

Attention : Mr. Omidi / Mr. Nabuini

Tel : +98 86 32162014 +98 86 32162181

No. 49, Mollasadra Ave., Vanak Square, Tehran-Iran, Postal Code : 1991614581

Name of office : Managing Director Office , Iranian Aluminium Company. Fax: +98 21 88049028 Tel : +98 21 88049024

For obtaining tender’s documents and more information, please check : www.iralco.ir

Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminium Company



Tender invitation No. 1400-1003

Iran Aluminium Company (IRALCO) would like to invite eligible suppliers for the supply of 1000 MT Cryolite(Na3ALF6) on tender basis.

Interested companies are allowed to send their competitive offer till 7-June -2021 Based on our required instruction to following address: PO Box 31, opposite Bahonar Park, Natural Resources Boulevard, Arak- Iran Postal code: 3818998116

Attention: Mr. Omidi - Mr. Nabuini

Tel: +98 86 32162014 +98 86 32162181

NO.49, Mollasadra Ave., Vanak Square, Tehran- Iran, Postal code: 1991614581

Name of office: Managing Director Office, Iranian Aluminium Company. Fax: +98 21 88049028 Tel: +98 21 88049024

For obtaining tender’s documents and more information, please check : www.iralco.ir

Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company



SPORTS

Iran football's punishments not in accordance with law: lawyer

→1 “The mentioned match was held in Isfahan, and the turmoil arose in the host team’s venue. So, it is just Sepahan that should be suspended from playing at their home venue for next season’s match against Persepolis. The Tehran based Persepolis must not be deprived of their hosting right.

“Regarding the suspensions of players, the remarkable point is that the Disciplinary Committee must summon the players who are accused of violent conduct, and their defenses should be heard. It is not the rule, but it always has been and still is the most important principle of a fair trial,” Ghadir said.

“I again emphasize that according to paragraph two of Article 86 of the disciplinary regulations of the FFIRI, the host club are responsible for maintaining discipline and security inside and outside the stadium before the match, during the match, and after the match.

“Therefore, disciplinary decisions and sanctions must be taken against the host club. However, with the current vote of the Disciplinary Committee, Persepolis as the visitors have been banned from hosting the game with Sepahan, which is not based on the regulations,” He concluded.

Fariba Sadeghi named Iran's women's volleyball coach

SPORTS TEHRAN — Fariba Sadeghi has been named as new head coach of Iran's women's volleyball national team.

She will have to prepare the Iranian women for the 2021 Asian Women's Volleyball Championship.

The competition will be held in the Philippines from Aug. 29 to Sept. 5.

The tournament serves as part of Asian qualification for the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship, with the top two nations including winners and runners-up advancing to the qualifying tournaments.

Sadeghi has previously coached Iranian volleyball clubs including Zob Ahan and also served as vice president of Women Department of Iran Volleyball Federation.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Physical Education as well as national refereeing certificate.

Nasiri bids farewell to wrestling

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iranian freestyle wrestler Meydan Nasiri announced his retirement from the sport on Friday.

Nasiri lost to his compatriot Abolfazl Hajipour 10-0 in Takhti Cup in Tehran and bade farewell to the wrestling.

Nasiri won a gold medal at the 2016 Asian Championships (Bangkok) and a bronze at the Asian Championships in New Delhi a year later.

The 65kg wrestler also represented Iran at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and 2017 World Wrestling Championships in Paris, France.

Nemati sees archery as a metaphor for life

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iranian Paralympic legend Zahra Nemati looks at the sport of archery as a metaphor on how we should live life.

“Life has messages for us and archery has one too. One of crucial messages of archery is once you shoot the arrow [and aim for] the gold, you cannot think about [it anymore] - it is [considered part of] the past [and that's why] we cannot think about it again.”

“[The arrow] resembles the future. You should not think about it because we don't know what's going to happen. At the moment you should enjoy yourself and your life. This is my philosophy and [this is] what I follow in my exercise and my training. If the archer can think in such a manner, they can get success.”

For Nemati, it is this 'being in the moment' philosophy that has guided her throughout her career as a Para archer and one that she wants to impart on her fans and fellow archers.

And she surely is someone to emulate.

Nemati's been a force to reckon with ever since her debut at the London 2012 Paralympic Games, where she made history — becoming the first Iranian woman to win either an Olympic and Paralympic gold medal.

Australia v Iran referee Sandor Puhl dies

SPORTS TEHRAN — Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl died at the age of 65, the Hungarian Football Association (MLSZ) said on Thursday.

He refereed the second leg match between Australia and Iran in 1998 FIFA World Cup AFC–OFC qualification play-off in Melbourne.

The Hungarian official had previously traveled to Tehran, capital of Iran in 1995 to referee the match between Iranian giants Persepolis and Esteghlal in Tehran derby. Esteghlal won the match 3-1.

Puhl officiated the 1994 World Cup final between Brazil and Italy in Los Angeles, where Brazil won on a penalty shootout. Iran's Mohammad Fanaei was his assistant in the match.

He also was official of Borussia Dortmund and Juventus match in the 1997 Champion League final.

After his retirement, he served in several positions in the Hungarian Football Association (MLSZ), most notably serving as MLSZ's Deputy Chairman between 2000 to 2006. Since 2010, he had been vice-chairing MLSZ's Referees' Committee.

Up until a few months before his death, he had regularly appeared on the Hungarian sports TV channel as a pundit.

There is no information disclosed on the cause of his death.

Iran third best in FIBA Asia Cup

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iran's national basketball team sit third in the FIBA Asia Cup medal table.

The FIBA Asia Cup has a long and lengthy history dating back to 1960. There have been 29 editions of the premier competition of the region and with the 30th edition set to be played later this year, FIBA basketball took a look and see where each team stands in the rankings of these All-Time categories.

China are the most-decorated team, winning the title 16 times. The Philippines sit second with five titles and Iran are third with three titles.

There are only eight national teams that have played in over 20 Asia Cups, led by Korea who have never missed a single edition of the competition. Japan are just behind with 28 appearances, missing only Asia Cup 1963.

Iranian general sends letters to Palestinian commanders

POLITICAL TEHRAN — A senior Iranian commander has sent two letters to two Palestinian resistance commanders underlining that Palestine enjoys broad support from the Axis of Resistance in the region.

Commander of the elite Quds Force Brigadier General Esmail Ghaani told Mohammed Deif, commander of al-Qassam Brigades, and Akram al-Ajouri, commander of al-Quds Brigades, that the Palestinian resistance has defeated the Israeli regime.

In his letter to Deif, Ghaani underlined that “Palestine today is not alone, but with it a resistance axis that is getting wider, stronger and more coherent,” according to AlMayadeen.

General Qaani reiterated that “al-Quds is the compass of the axis of resistance and the Qiblah of its jihad,” pledging that “we will not leave Palestine alone, no matter how much pressure increases and the siege intensifies.”

“Living martyr”

Ghaani showered Deif with praise, calling him a “living martyr.”

“O living martyr who has spent his life in the front row of Jihad field and believes in victory, I address you as a brave and devoted commander and I say to all the commanders and Mujahideen of the resistance groups on my behalf and on behalf of the leadership of the Islamic Republic and I promise that Quds will be victorious and you were faithful to your promise. You made the usurper enemy taste the taste of fear, defeat and humiliation,” Ghaani told Deif.

He continued, “Greetings to the honorable people of Gaza who have embraced the resistance and stood firmly and resolutely against the savagery of the enemy. Greetings to the Palestinian people in al-Quds and the West Bank and all the occupied cities since 1948. The Palestinian people have proved to the whole world that they are alive and that over the years they will not be able to forget their rights, as the deluded people thought.”

Ghaani added, “We are in the atmosphere of the great operation ‘sword of al-Quds’ that you have started with all your battalions and brigades, and this war has caused a new stage in the battle with the enemy. Your resistance is written with blood and fire; an equation that says the enemy cannot isolate al-Quds without receiving a tough response, and Imam Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has emphasized that the countdown to the destruction of the enemy has begun and will never stop.”

Ghaani further emphasized that the battle of “sword of al-Quds” has once again attracted the attention of the Islamic Ummah to al-Quds and its holy places and has shown that those who participated in the sale of Palestine represent no one but themselves



and will regret the betrayal they committed. The resistance groups proved the weakness of the enemy with their resistance, the top Iranian general noted, according to Iranian state media.

In the letter, the commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps told the commander al-Qassam Brigades that “we are faithful to the promise made by the martyr of al-Quds Haj Qassem Soleimani to you, and we will never leave Palestine alone in a situation where the pressure on you has increased and the siege has intensified.”

At the end of the letter, it is stated that the enemy knows that Palestine is not alone, and the axis of resistance stands by it and its circle is constantly expanding and its power is increasing, and al-Quds is the compass of the axis of resistance and the Qiblah of jihad.

Ghaani ended his letter with this sentence, “Until the destruction of the usurper regime and the liberation of the whole land, we will not be at ease and we will not be at peace.”

Greatest wish of martyrdom

The commander of the Quds Force also sent a separate letter to al-Ajouri, praising his resistance against Israel.

“On my own behalf and on behalf of all the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I send greetings to you, the sincere commander and the brave and fearless Mujahid. Greetings to you and all the Mujahideen and the commanders of the resistance groups and the people of Gaza who are confronting the crimes of the Zionist enemy with dignity and honor and great disposition and steadfastness. Greetings to all the people and nation of Palestine who have stood up

in defense of the dignity of the nation and its sanctities in al-Quds and the West Bank and all the lands occupied in 1948,” Ghaani told al-Ajouri.

He added, “Mujahid Commander, dear commanders of the resistance, with your steadfastness, unity and command, and your wise and courageous guidance in the battle of Sword of al-Quds, you crushed and trampled on the pride of the Zionist army. You proved that Quds is not alone. You proved that your growing jihadist capabilities were able to inflict heavy losses on the Zionist army, and you proved that these capabilities are greater than what the enemy has ever seen and can even imagine.”

He continued, “Dear ones, the brutal crimes of the Zionist regime against the unarmed and innocent people are as painful for us as they are for the heart of the Muslim nation of Palestine; but what comforts and consoles us is that we and you are in the same school and in the same line; the same school and line that believes that murder - the greatest thing that our enemy threatens and commits against us - is the highest badge of honor we look forward to and eagerly await. Murder is martyrdom for us, and martyrdom is the gateway to real life; indeed, we believe that every drop of blood that is shed in the path of al-Quds brings us closer to liberating it from the filth of the occupiers.”

Ghaani further noted that our greatest wish is to get martyred in the cause of liberating the holy Quds. “We are confident that the result of this struggle will be the final victory and the final end of a regime based on falsehood. Indeed, we will enter the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque to offer our

prayers in it with dignity and authority,” the Iranian commander pointed out.

“Dear brother, dear brothers, we are with you and adhere to our covenant with the martyr of al-Quds, the supreme commander Haj Qassem Soleimani. With our soul and body and with all the power and facilities that God Almighty has given us, we in the Axis of Resistance are with you. The axis that is in fact the axis of al-Quds and its capabilities and abilities have expanded and increased over the past years. We will never give up on supporting you until the decline and destruction of this usurper regime are realized, no matter how much the challenges and dangers intensify and increase,” Ghaani stated.

The senior general also pointed to the recent speech by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on the occasion of International Quds Day in which he said that “fighting this criminal and bloody regime is a struggle against oppression and terrorism, and this is everyone's responsibility.”

Resistance will continue

In a speech delivered on May 7 on the occasion of International Quds Day, the Leader called Israel a terrorist base that should be countered by everyone.

“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. Fighting against this despotic regime is fighting against oppression and terrorism. And this is a collective responsibility,” he said.

Five Palestinian Resistance groups in separate letters expressed their appreciation in regard to Ayatollah Khamenei's speech and stance on Quds Day, according to khamenei.ir

In separate letters, Palestinian Resistance groups thanked the Leader of the Islamic Revolution for the position he has adopted on Quds Day. Five Palestinian groups thanked Ayatollah Khamenei for his speech on Quds Day by way of separate letters. In the letters, these groups stressed the continuation of the path of Resistance until the freedom of Holy Quds, describing the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's positions on Quds Day as the roadmap for the liberation of Palestine.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (the command office), Fath-Intifada, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (the political office) Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and the Coalition of Palestinian Forces stressed the role of the Islamic Republic as the pivot of unity and resistance in Islamic countries and commemorated the name and memory of martyr Qasem Soleimani in reviving the ideal of Palestine.

Iranian, Russian diplomats discuss counterterrorism efforts

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali met with Syromolotov Oleg, Russia's deputy minister of foreign affairs for counterterrorism, to discuss the fight against terrorism and extremism, Iran's state news IRNA reported on Friday.

Jalali and Syromolotov discussed the prospects of Iran-Russia cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

In recent years, Iran and Russia have had extensive cooperation in countering international terrorism.

Tehran and Moscow, along with Baghdad, set up a counter-terrorism exchange center a few years ago to fight terrorist groups, particularly Daesh, in the Iraqi capital, which is still working to fight terrorists, IRNA said.

IRNA added that Iran and Russia have also played an important role in the fight against Daesh in Syria, and their assistance and support to Syria led to the heavy and deadly defeat of the Daesh terrorist group, despite the support of some countries in the region and the West.

Iran and Russia are currently working together to combat terrorism and security threats posed by the activities and presence of terrorist groups in Afghanistan.

On May 14, Jalali met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov. The meeting focused on the current situation surrounding the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).



The two sides also stressed the importance of coordination and efforts of all members of the JCPOA for a sustainable implementation of the nuclear deal in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.

During the meeting, Jalali praised Russia's “principled and rational stance in support of the JCPOA and UNSC Resolution 2231 and its opposition to the illegal U.S. actions and sanctions” against Iran.

Iran is in close contact with Russia during the Vienna nuclear talks, and the Iranian negotiating team, led by Dep-

uty Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, has met with the Russian delegation, which is led by Moscow's Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov.

Ulyanov has recently said “significant progress” was made in the latest round of the Vienna talks. “I said that significant progress has been achieved, in my view. That is true. But unresolved issues still remain and the negotiators need more time and efforts to finalize an agreement on restoration of JCPOA,” the Russian diplomat said on Twitter.

The fourth round of the Vienna nuclear talks began nearly two weeks ago when Araghchi, along with a delegation of Iranian experts and diplomats, left Tehran for Vienna to resume the talks over the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal.

On Wednesday, the JCPOA Joint Commission held another meeting in which the parties to the JCPOA reviewed the latest progress made during the fourth round of talks. Araghchi said that “good progress” was made in terms of moving ahead in the nuclear talks but a few key issues remain unresolved which means that the negotiating teams should return to capitals to make some decisions.

“After two weeks of negotiations, we will have a meeting to conclude, and then the delegations will return to the capitals for consultations,” Araghchi told Iran's state media late on Tuesday.

Iranian diplomat lauds Palestine ‘tremendous victory’

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament on international affairs, has praised the Palestinian resistance against the Israeli regime, saying the resistance has achieved a “tremendous victory” in the face of Israel.

In a tweet on Friday, the diplomat said Israel's security has been destroyed and that al-Quds remains the eternal capital of Palestine.

“Palestinian Resistance & people made a tremendous victory. Palestine's unity has been demonstrated in Gaza, al-Quds, West Bank, & occupied territories. So-called Israel's security was shattered & fully destroyed. Quds remains Palestine's perpetual capital,”

Amir-Abdollahian said on Twitter.

The tweet came amid celebrations in Palestine and elsewhere in the world on the ceasefire that Israel unilaterally announced late on Thursday night after failing to defeat the Palestinian resistance.

Nearly two weeks ago, Israel began an air raid campaign against the Gaza Strip after the Palestinians there protested against Israel's atrocities in the West Bank, where Israeli authorities imposed new bans and doubled down on their crackdown against the Palestinians.

The whole episode began when Israel moved ahead with its inhumane and racist decision to evict a number of Palestinian families from their ancestral homes in Je-

rusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and replace them with extremist Jews, a move that caused an international outcry and eventually provoked Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to strike back at Israel.

During the war on Gaza, Israel targeted civilians and killed at least 60 children, something that fits well into Israel's global reputation as the killer of children.

The international community, including Iran, called on Israel to stop its atrocities.

Palestinian resistance groups thanked Iran for standing by the Palestinian people. Abu Hamza, spokesman for al-Quds Brigades, thanked Iran and the Resistance countries, saying that these countries are partners of the Palestinian groups in the victory over

the Zionist regime.

In a speech delivered on Friday, the spokesman said, “Quds is the basis of our war and the sword of resistance and the reason for our victory. The sound of rockets and gunpowder was cut off; but our long journey will not stop. We were able to rein in the enemy and the settlers. Today marks the end of another milestone in the history of resistance.”

“We respect the role of Iran and the axis of resistance in supporting [the Palestinian people] and tell them that you are our partners in this victory. We are always on the alert and our eyes are watching the enemy in all fields,” Abu Hamza said, according to Fars News.

Monthly gasoline consumption drops 8%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Gasoline consumption in Iran has decreased by eight percent in the second month of the current Iranian calendar year (April 21-May 21) compared to the figure for the previous month.

The consumption of the said fuel in the mentioned month, however, increased by five percent compared to the same month last year.

Gasoline consumption stood at 79.6 million liters per day in the first month of the current year (March 21-April 20) which coincides with the New Year holidays, IRNA reported.

The average consumption in the previous year's second month was reported to be 70 million liters per day.

Gasoline consumption in Iran has fluctuated over the past 15 months since the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country.

In the early days of the pandemic, concerns over the virus minimized the travels across the country and led to a record decrease in consumption in last Iranian calendar year's first month (March 20-April 20, 2020).



On some days in April 2020, gasoline consumption even fell to 40 million liters and the average daily consumption did not exceed 50 million liters that month.

In general, gasoline consumption in the country declined 20 percent in the past Iranian calendar year, as compared to its preceding year due to rationing this fuel and also the coronavirus pandemic.

Iran, which was an importer of gasoline for decades, exported over \$1.4 billion worth of the fuel in the first seven months of the past Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21, 2020).

The significant increase in the country's gasoline production and exports comes despite the fact that nearly two years ago Iran was shipping in over 4.5 million liters per day of the strategic product.

The Islamic Republic became a net gasoline exporter in February 2019, after the inauguration of the third phase of the Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGS) project which added 120,000 barrels to the country's daily gasoline production.

The increase in the exports of the mentioned commodity is a result of the increase in the country's refining capacity and the decline in domestic consumption following the implementation of a rationing program.

Monthly export of sweets, chocolates, cereal products rises 21% yr/yr

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value of Iran's export of sweets, chocolates, and cereal products increased 21 percent in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), as compared to the same month of the past year, an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

Mahmoud Bazari, the director-general of TPO's office of agricultural products and processing industries, said that the export of the mentioned items also registered a 13-percent growth in terms of weight in the mentioned month.

While mentioning Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Azerbaijan as the main target markets for the export of these products, he said the production of sweets and chocolates in the country has made good progress in the last ten years and can be said to have an acceptable status in terms of quality and variety of products.



The confectionery and chocolate industry is one of the oldest food industries in Iran, and it is now the second-largest exporter in the country's food sector after the dairy industry.

About 100 percent of the investment in this industry belongs to the private sector and most of its products are competitive globally.

The advantage of the confectionery and chocolate industry is the supply of its raw materials inside the country.

With this advantage, any investment will bring profit to this industry.

As a result of supporting domestic producers and products and banning the import of foreign products in this sector, Iranian producers are now able to meet the needs of the domestic market and are welcomed by domestic consumers.

This industry is also targeted to boost export to different markets all around the world.

Iran exports sweets and chocolates to 66 countries and the annual export of \$1 billion has been planned for this industry.

While the industry is trying to materialize the objective of surge in production and also boost export, it is facing some challenges especially in terms of production, as the production costs are increasing.

Meanwhile, the sanctions and coronavirus pandemic have made access to global markets difficult, and domestic demand has also declined.

The chairman of the Association of Iranian Confectionery Manufacturing Companies has said that due to the sanctions, the import of raw materials and essences from Europe has been stopped and products from Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and China have been replaced, which are of much lower quality.

For this reason, the overall quality of confectionery and chocolate products has also changed, Jamshid Maghazei said.

Petrochemical projects worth over \$1.3b go operational

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as the petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

Iran has been highly developing this sector over the recent years as the development of the giant South Pars gas field (Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf) has been supplying more feedstock to the petrochemical units.

Also, the U.S. sanctioning Iran's oil exports has encouraged more development of

the petrochemical industry to boost exports from this sector.

Now, pursuing the second and third leap in this sector, the country aims to boost its annual petrochemical production capacity to 100 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (March 2021-March 2022) from the current 66 million tons.

While the leap in the petrochemical output is a big measure to boost Iran's non-oil exports, it also plays a very significant role in the realization of the current Iranian calendar year's motto, which is "Production: Support and Elimination of Obstacles".



Balanced development of the petrochemical industry has also been of particular interest among the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) strategies for the current year since the development of downstream industries will prevent the sale of raw materials and

result in the production of products with higher added value.

Domestic equipment, licenses, and technological knowledge have been used in most of the underway and completed projects in this industry.

Top firms sign deals worth over \$71b to conduct industrial projects

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Five of Iran's top enterprises have signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry to invest three quadrillion rials (about \$71.4 billion) in industrial projects.

The mentioned MOUs have been signed under the framework of a program dubbed "Resilient Economy with Top Enterprises" in which the Industry Ministry defines new projects for the country's top companies to invest in.

As reported, the signing ceremony, held on Wednesday, was attended by the Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini, along with some governors, members of the parliament and judiciary officials.

The MOUs cover investment in more than 100 projects in various areas including mining and mineral industries,

food industries and home appliance.

National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC), Golgozar Mining and Industrial Company, Zar Food Industrial Group, Iran Radiator Company and Gohar Zamin Iron Ore Company were the signatories of the mentioned MOUs.

In the first phase of the Resilient Economy with Top Enterprises scheme which was started in March, Industry Ministry had signed deals worth 1.52 quadrillion rials (about \$36.1 billion) with five other major companies to conduct 62 projects in the fields of mining and mineral industries, food industry, machinery, and refining industries.

Back in March, Deputy Industry Minister Saeed Zarandi had said that the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry is implementing the "Resilient Economy with Top Enter-

prises" scheme for promoting investment in the country's industrial sectors.

According to Zarandi, as a preparation for the mentioned program, the Industry Ministry has been identifying pioneering companies in order to award them the country's major development projects.

"We believe that the country's economic development, in line with the policies of the resilient economy, requires increasing productive investments based on competitive advantages and completing the value chain in various industries," Zarandi had said.

Every year, the country's top 100 companies are ranked by the Industry Ministry according to their performance in the fields of production and export, job creation, and value-added.

NICIC inks \$4.5b MOU with Industry Ministry

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) worth \$4.5 billion with the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry for implementing 26 projects in the mining and mineral industries sector.

The MOU was signed on Wednesday in a ceremony attended by senior officials including the Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini and NICIC Managing Director Ardeshtir Sa'd-Mohammadi.

The mentioned memorandum is aimed at completing the value chain of the country's copper industry, with a focus on investment in various fields like exploration, extraction, production of copper concentrate, copper



Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini (R), and NICIC Managing Director Ardeshtir Sa'd-Mohammadi exchanging MOU documents in Tehran on Wednesday.

anode and cathode and development of downstream industries.

As reported, following the implementation of the mentioned projects, the NICIC's copper concentrate production capacity which currently stands at 1.2 million tons will be increased to 2.5 million tons, while the company's copper cathode production will also increase to 550,000 tons from its current 280,000 tons.

In addition to cretin employment, these projects are also going to increase the value of the country's annual copper export to \$4.5 billion from its current \$2.5 billion.

Back in April, Sa'd-Mohammadi had said that several major copper-related projects will go operational in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) which are

going to significantly increase the country's copper concentrate output.

According to Sa'd-Mohammadi, NICIC has defined more than €2.4 billion plus 300 trillion rials (about \$7.1 billion) worth of projects to be implemented over the next four years, which will increase the company's total copper concentrate capacity to 2.3 million tons.

The official had also announced the discovery of one billion tons of new copper reserves in the country.

He put the country's total copper reserves at 40 billion tons, saying that Iran currently has the world's seventh-largest copper reserves, and hopefully the country will climb to sixth place in the current Iranian calendar year.

Exports from Isfahan province increase by 3.5 folds

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — As announced by a provincial official, the value of exports from Isfahan province rose by 3.5 folds in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), as compared to the first month of the previous year.

Rasoul Kouhestani, the director-general of the province's customs department, said that 175 million tons of commodities worth \$123 million were exported from the province in the mentioned month, which indicates also a 201-percent growth in terms of weight.

He mentioned products such as iron, steel, and carpet, as well as petrochemical, chemical, organic and dairy products as the main exported goods.

The official further stated that Iraq, China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Afghanistan, and Indonesia were the major export destinations of the products.

As he previously announced, over 6.19 million tons of products worth \$2.072 billion were exported from Isfahan province in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Kouhestani said the annual export from the province shows 21 percent drop in terms of value, and 16 percent fall in terms of weight.

The official named steel, petrochemical products, and carpet as the major exported products, and Iraq, China, UAE,



Afghanistan, and Indonesia as the main export markets of the products in the past year.

Iran exported 8.302 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$2.968 billion in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year, registering an 80 percent rise in terms of value compared to the same period in the previous year.

According to the Head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi, the country's non-oil exports in the said period also increased by 56 percent in terms of weight.

TSE's main index falls 2.5% in a week

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 29,000 points, or 2.5 percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.154 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Iran Khodro Company, Isfahan Oil Refining Company, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, and Saipa Com-

pany were the most widely followed indices.

Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi, the chairman of the Iranian parliament's economic committee has said recently that the stock market is going to follow a positive trend in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

"[This year] the profits of major industries and influential companies in the capital market have been assessed positively, which is why the market will follow a positive trend this year," Pour-Ebrahimi told IRIB.

The official said that part of the current negative trend in the market is due to psychological factors and the fact that people have lost their trust in the capital market.

"In the first half of the previous year, the government failed to manage and monitor the capital market and did not do its job properly, which is why the capital market [index] witnessed such a severe decline," he said.

The government must act in such a way that the people's trust is restored and the



capital market is taken out of the current psychological atmosphere, he stressed.

CBI welcomes prosperity of stock market: governor

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said predictability of the economy is a prerequisite for the stability of markets adding that the central bank welcomes the prosperity of the capital market.

"Stability of all markets along each other is of utmost importance for the central bank,

therefore the bank supports the stability of the capital market," Abdolnasser Hemmati said in a meeting with the representatives of the capital market.

He emphasized that the approach of the Central Bank is to support the capital market, stating: "One of my personal economic beliefs is that our problem in economics is

the underdevelopment of financial markets, and capital market in particular."

According to Hemmati, inflation expectations affect the bank interest rates and consequently the market, therefore it is hoped that lower inflation expectations will lead to lower inflation and lower interest rates.

"All markets are highly sensitive to

change and inflation expectations, and this is not limited to the capital market," Hemmati said.

The Iranian capital market has been going through some turbulence over the past few months and in this regard, the government and related entities have been taking serious measures for stabilizing the market.

Israel shares many of characteristics of European white settler colonies: rights activist

➔ **1** “The American media is wholly biased against the Palestinians, and it is against all oppressed people—inclusive of the Black American people the world’s largest ethnic nationality group without genuine political representation,’ the American human rights activist notes.

Following is the text of the interview:
How can the behavior of the Israeli regime be described as it exercises discrimination and genocide against Arabs and Muslims?

Israel shares many of the characteristics of past and present European white settler colonies established since the 1500s. In all cases, wherein white (European) settlers seize and occupy lands of Black or Brown people, the process by which the indigenous population is subjugated, forcibly assimilated or significantly reduced in population, and dispossessed of their lands therein the conquered people are entrapped in an Apartheid-feudal matrix of discrimination and injustice. Israel is the latest European creation of a “Herrenvolk society” that enshrines a bifurcated society that makes laws and policies that use caste and biological racialism to establish a hierarchical society that divides people into those who are full citizens and others who are hated and oppressed pariah outcast inferior beings. All white settler colonies are highly militarized, stratified, racist, and possess a psychopathic and moral-ethical depleted malignant narcissism that these societies use to justify their human rights crimes against oppressed populations and, at the same time, profess to be free and fair with justice for all. In light of this well-documented 500-year unfolding of the historic phenomena of white settler societies in Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Algeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Canada, Brazil, America, Hawaii, Angola, Mozambique, and West Papua, it is both correct and fair to include the Zionist regime of Israel as a white settler colony. All of the worst characteristics of white settler colonies—inclusive of theological doctrine justifying the conquest, exploitation, marginalization, and slow elimination and or population reduction of the indigenous population—can be found in Israel, and this oppression is inclusive of Palestinians, Druze, Bedouin, Falasha, and Mizrahi.

How do American media cover Palestine developments?

The American media is wholly biased against the Palestinians and it is against all oppressed people—inclusive of the Black American people, the world’s largest ethnic nationality group without genuine political representation. While America is represented as a land of gross hedonism, materialism, and immoral excesses, the projected image is false. America is a highly conservative society. Israel is largely viewed as a stable and well-organized nation with institutions and values similar to that of most Americans. On the other hand, the Arab-Muslim world is seen as an exotic, violent, and Oriental hash of people, races, and anti-Western ideas that wish to destroy the Judeo-Christian societies of America and Europe. Much of the stereotypes and misconceptions about the Middle East (West Asia) and Muslim world are the result of Anglo-American Jewry, which has significant social, cultural, and economic influence in society in general and the mainstream media and government in particular. Therefore, the Palestinians are represented as dangerous, innately anti-Semitic, violent, evil, and untrustworthy terrorists who are determined to destroy Israel, which Jews had transformed from a deserted desert into a democratic paradise wherein, once, landless hated people could live in peace. The U.S. media has transformed the Palestinians into a kind



“Money, not principles or values, dominates the American political system.”

of “Black-like” people who are deserving of collective hatred for not being white, and this “tar-brushing” of undesirable enemies has been done to the Japanese, Iranians, Iraqis, and Filipinos in American history. In a nutshell, the many atrocities and abuses suffered by the Palestinians and Israeli-Arabs are ignored, downplayed, or not reported. If an atrocity cannot be hidden, the American news justifies it wrong done—just as it does with Blacks murdered by police.

In America, the white is always right, and Palestinians are not seen as white, whereas Jews are. The Israeli Defense Force has fiat overall news presented to the American public via the mainstream media. The Israeli superiority in weaponry and the abuses over the 54 years of occupation is not given much attention. At present, the Palestinian Al Qassam Brigades’ rockets fired from the Gaza Strip into Israel are represented as more dangerous than the racist Zionist Settler mobs attacking non-combatants Arabs or the Israeli Defense Forces bombing, shooting, and shelling civilian Palestinians and Israeli-Arabs. In a nutshell, Palestinian Lives, Iraqi Lives, Afghani Lives, Yemeni Lives, Libyan Lives, and Black Lives don’t matter to the biased-racist-conglomerated-American mainstream media. Sadly, the racist lies and propaganda of the ungodly Fake News Media brainwashes the minds and manipulates the souls of scores of millions of Americans who would care about their fellow human beings if they only knew the truth. I am partially Jewish and Semitic African in origin and I think Jewish Lives and Palestinian lives matter, but I don’t put my faith in the American media.

Do you think the public opinion in America is going to be unified against any form of discrimination, whether against racial or religious minorities inside and outside of the country?

Frankly, the United States is the world’s 3rd largest nation with the 3rd largest population and is the most ethnically diverse nation in the world. It is impossible to estimate what the American public will do as a whole regarding racism and injustice domestically or internationally—especially given the vise-like stranglehold that the racist biased media has over a crassly superficial, mediocre, hedonistic, selfish, egocentric, and escapist society. Most Americans are

in denial about racism, injustice, and militaristic imperialism, which is evidenced by the massive amount of illegal narcotics, marijuana, psychotropic drugs, tobacco, over-the-counter drugs, and prescription opioids consumed and washed down by rivers of beer, wine, and liquor. If Americans cannot flee reality with drugs and alcohol, they wallow in pornography, deviant sex, or diabetes-inducing and life-shortening junk food and soda. The Anglo-American elite’s hegemony is dependent on a divide and rule strategy wherein they blatantly promote class and color friction, racial stereotype, gender conflict, and identity politics struggles. Furthermore, most American people do not read and are over-worked or are consumed with basic survival. In fact, the Black, White Ethnic, Latino, African, Caribbean, Muslim, Asian-Pacific, and newly naturalized Americans are notoriously conservative, and many fear being perceived as radical, leftist, anti-white, or anti-Jewish. The American public, as a rule, is conservative and reactive to any efforts to promote rapid change. In addition, America is a very competitive and divided society wherein the values of cooperation and collective concern for the commonwealth is underdeveloped ethos, and the Mythos of Horatio Alger and the American Dream have a cultic hold over millions. The aforementioned causes limit the scope of how many Americans feel about human rights in America and beyond. Millions of people immigrate to America to forget about the rest of the world, and it’s troubles. We are a navel-gazing nation consumed with pleasure, escapism, or survival.

Why do the U.S. administrations persist in supporting Israel and turning a blind eye to its crimes? Is there any strong voice inside the U.S. to support Palestinian lives and rights?

Money, not principles or values, dominates the American political system, and it is psychiatrically intriguing that well-educated Muslims do not comprehend this. Frankly, rich Arabs and Muslims are cowardly and niggardly Quislings when it comes to using their wealth and power to challenge the present foreign policy of the United States in Palestine. Further, there is a powerful Stockholm syndrome roiling the minds of wealthy Arabs and Muslims wherein their

raison d’etre is not to worship Allah but to be accepted and embraced as honorary white Europeans. Jewish supporters of Israel and non-Jewish Zionists don’t have to try to be honorary white; this allows them to use their money and influence to slowly genocide the Palestinians via the contribution envelop and the ballot box. The plight of the Palestinians is wholly the fault of the Muslim and Arab world being more interested in betraying the indigenous people in the Holy Land for a mess of honorary white pottage than standing up for justice. On the other hand, the masses of Americans are increasingly tired of wars without end, and there is anger and frustration that the military-industrial complex enjoys all the wealth and resources in the coffers of the state. In addition to public malaise about excessive militarism, the successful efforts of activists and alternative media to raise awareness around the plight of the Palestinians and the growth of the Muslim population in the USA has altered the mindset of millions of Americans. Therefore, a fledgling movement in favor of the long-oppressed Palestinian people has begun to emerge—especially among the younger generations less swayed by Zionist Evangelicals and Jewish Holocaust barkers. Today, Palestinian people have support in many sectors of American life. Some of the largest groups are the Boycott Disinvestment and Sanctions Movement (BDSM), Jewish Voices for Peace, U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights, Black Lives Matter, the Movement for Black Lives, American Muslims for Palestine, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, Palestinian Children Relief Fund, Pastors for Peace, United Palestinian Appeal, Palestine Legal, Palestine Advocacy Project, and many other organizations that do not approve of Zionism.

How do Zionist lobbies try to link any opposition to the Israeli occupation to anti-Semitism? How do they exploit this label?

The greatest weapon of the Jabotinsky-style Zionist is the voodoo-like talisman called Anti-Semitism. Given the significant social, cultural, and economic power and influence wielded by the Jewish community—which is allied to the Anglo-American elites, anyone that is smeared with the libel of being an anti-Semite is likely to be ruined or at least harmed. Only very powerful Anglo-Americans like the Bush family can be associated with the Third Reich of Germany and institutions and businesses that historically discriminated against Jews and have no reason to fear. The term anti-Semitism is protean and can be whatever Zionists or Jews wish it to be. This power to define and slander is exponentially increased by the formidable power and influence of Jewish Americans in the realm of mass communications. American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Anti-Defamation League, the Southern Poverty Law Center, Center for American Progress, People for the American Way, B’nai B’rith, American Jewish Congress, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and many other powerful Christian and Jewish organizations have a powerful grip on American political and social life. Criticizing Israel in any way—regardless of if the same things are written in the Israeli press—can destroy a career, a business, and ruin the life of even that of a sincere humanitarian. In a sense, the real religion of most Americans is not Christianity but Holocaustianity. Until such a time come where the American society, as a whole, is not compelled to pay perpetual indemnities to Jewish Americans for the crimes of Hitler and Nazis of last century, the United States and its people will be incapable of being honest brokers for peace able to end the suffering of Palestinians.

China has not stopped its efforts for peace: Zhao Lijian

China Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, that Since the outbreak of the Palestine-Israel conflict, China has played the role of a responsible major country and done a lot of constructive work.

“As the rotating president of the UN Security Council, China has given top priority to addressing the current Palestine-Israel conflict. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi chaired an open debate on the issue at the Security Council and put forward China’s views and proposals. China has made every effort to urge the Security Council to speak with one voice and take concrete actions. However, because of the US obstruction, the Security Council has yet to reach a consensus so far.” Lijian added in a press conference on May 20, 2021.

“China has not stopped its efforts for peace. China has actively participated in mediation and good offices through its own channels and in its own way. Recently, Zhai Jun, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government for the Middle East, had telephone conversations with officials of the Palestinian and Egyptian foreign ministries respectively and conducted active mediation. He called for an immediate ceasefire, stop of violence and more assistance to Palestine, and reaffirmed the firm commitment to the “two-state solution”. The special envoy will also have telephone conversations with people from Israel, Russia, the UN and the EU. As long as the conflict in the Middle East continues, China will not stop its efforts to promote peace talks. In the future, China will also host seminars for Palestinian and Israeli peace advocates and welcome representatives from Palestine and Israel to come to China for direct negotiations.”

China Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said finally “China appreciates the mediation efforts for a ceasefire by Egypt and other relevant parties. We stand ready to strengthen communication and coordination with all parties to make concerted efforts for peace, and to do our best to provide humanitarian and other assistance to Palestine.”



Palestinians celebrate victory, Israelis mourn ‘embarrassing’ ceasefire

Palestinians in East Jerusalem al-Quds, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip celebrated victory against Israel, as a ceasefire unilaterally declared by Tel Aviv and accepted by Palestinian resistance groups went into effect early Friday.

In Gaza, which had been under heavy Israeli bombardment for 11 days, people came out onto the streets and chanted Allahu Akbar, while in East Jerusalem al-Quds and West Bank towns, people set off fireworks.

Mosques in Gaza broadcast celebratory chants through their loudspeakers to celebrate the end to the Israeli acts of aggression.

Israel on Thursday declared a unilateral ceasefire starting at 2 a.m. on Friday, and the Palestinian resistance groups in Gaza accepted it.

Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan said the resistance groups have obtained guarantees from Egyptian mediators that the Israeli attacks on Gaza and the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem al-Quds and al-Aqsa Mosque - the issues that triggered the fighting - would stop.

Earlier, the Israeli security cabinet convened to discuss a unilateral ceasefire to come into effect on Friday, Israel’s public broadcaster Kan said.

Israel began the aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip on May 10, after weeks of violence against Palestinians at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, where Israeli forces and settlers attacked Palestinian worshippers, and in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, where the regime tried to force Palestinians out of their homes to build more illegal settlements.

The Israeli regime killed at least 232 Palestinians, including 65 children and 39 women, through its aerial bombardment of Gaza. Palestinian resistance groups responded with thousands of significantly improved rockets, which caught Israel off guard.

In a commentary, the Times of Israel wrote Friday that the Palestinian resistance in Gaza has turned into “a military monster which now aspires to compete with Hezbollah and is managing to embarrass Israel time after time”.

Resistance News

Mishaal: Four messages delivered in Saif Al-Quds battle

INTERNATIONAL DESK **TEHRAN**— Khaled Mishaal, Hamas’s leader abroad, said on Thursday that the resistance sent four messages during Saif Al-Quds battle: Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa are a red line, the Palestinian issue is indivisible, Palestinians have not and will not stop struggling despite the difficulties, and the “Zionist entity” will pay for its crimes against the Palestinians.

Mishaal, during the opening of a seminar by Al Jazeera Center for Studies and Al Jazeera Live, titled “The Palestinian issue on the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba”, added that there was an increase in the positive Arab position towards the Palestinian cause and some Arab leaders saw that it is time to repay the “Zionist entity”.

He pointed out that some western countries wanted to save the “Zionist entity” from the foolishness of its aggression and that the United States wanted to create new political bases in the region.

“Our nation interacted with the Saif Al-Quds battle and was united as all the Palestinian people joined the battle and they found creative ways of resistance that worried the Zionist entity”, he underlined.

Mishaal stressed that the resistance can accomplish its goals and can establish a strategy to liberate Palestine and Al-Aqsa. “There is a new Palestinian and Arab message to the western world: The Zionist entity is finished and we do not accept its occupation”, he noted.

Sanders introduces resolution to block U.S. arms sale to Israel

Independent U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders has introduced a resolution blocking a \$735 million weapons sale to Israel amid the increased Israeli aggression against Palestinians.

Sanders presented the resolution to the Senate on Thursday which is similar to the one introduced by a number of Democratic lawmakers in the House of Representatives on Wednesday in response to Israel’s atrocities in the Gaza Strip.

“At a moment when U.S.-made bombs are devastating Gaza, and killing women and children, we cannot simply let another huge arms sale go through without even a congressional debate,” Sanders said in a statement

issued on Thursday.

“I believe that the United States must help lead the way to a peaceful and prosperous future for both Israelis and Palestinians. We need to take a hard look at whether the sale of these weapons is actually helping do that, or whether it is simply fueling conflict,” added Sanders, an independent who votes with Democrats.

The Washington Post first reported Sanders’s resolution, which only requires a simple majority to pass the Senate, but it would need a two-thirds majority in both the Senate and the House if it is vetoed by President Joe Biden.

U.S. presidents have traditionally vetoed such res-

olutions. Former U.S President Donald Trump vetoed three resolutions approved by Congress in 2019 seeking to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The Biden administration approved the planned sale of \$735 million in precision-guided missiles to Israel this year, and sent it to Congress for formal review.

A group of U.S. Democratic lawmakers on Wednesday introduced a measure to block Biden’s controversial plan to supply Israel with millions of dollars of weapons at the time of the Tel Aviv regime’s devastating bombardment of the Gaza Strip.

coalition and their mercenaries have violated 123 times during the past 24 hours a ceasefire agreement between warring sides for the western coastal province of Hudeidah.

According to Press TV, an unnamed source in Yemen’s Liaison and Coordination Officers Operations Room said the violations included 16 reconnaissance flights over Kilo 16, al-Fazeh, Jabaliya and Durayhimi

districts, 14 counts of artillery shelling and 86 shooting incidents.

Delegates from the Houthi Ansarullah movement and representatives loyal to former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi attended the peace negotiations in Rimbo on the outskirts of Stockholm in December 2018. The talks resulted in the announcement of a breakthrough agreement.

Yemeni army forces, supported by allied fighters from Popular Committees, have intercepted and targeted an unmanned aerial vehicle belonging to the Saudi-led military coalition as it was flying over an area in the kingdom’s southwestern border region of Najran.

Spokesman for the Yemeni Armed Forces Brigadier General Yahya Saree said Yemeni

air defense forces and their allies shot down the spy drone as it was on a reconnaissance mission over the region, situated 844 kilometers (524 miles) south of the capital Riyadh, with a surface-to-air missile on Thursday.

He stressed that the specifications of the aircraft and details of the operation will be published later.

Moreover, forces of the Saudi-led military

Porcelain plates by Salvador Dali put on show at Tehran exhibit

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – A collection of fine pieces of porcelain, which bear decorations by the famous Spanish painter Salvador Dali (1904-1989), have been put on show at Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex in northern Tehran.



The collection is composed of 107 pieces, which are made by Porcelain Factory Schirnding A.G. in Bavaria, Germany, and some of which bear paintings by the Spanish surrealist artist, CHTN said on Thursday.

Sprawled on about 110 hectares of a mountainside parkland in northern Tehran, the Sadabad Cultural-Historical Complex is used to be a royal summer residence during the Qajar and Pahlavi eras. The site embraces a variety of buildings, some of which turned to be house museums showcasing a wide range of royal families' memorabilia including lavishly-made furniture, dishware, automobiles, carpets, and miniature paintings.

Iran seeks ICESCO heritage status for Alavian Dome

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iran has nominated its 12th-century Gonbad-e Alavian ("Alavian Dome") for inclusion on the cultural heritage register of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Located in Hamedan province, the monument is a prime example of Persian-Islamic architecture of the time.

"A [comprehensive] dossier for Gonbad-e Alavian was compiled and submitted to the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to register the monument on ICESCO list in 2021," provincial tourism chief Ali-Malmir announced on Wednesday.



The brick tower of the monument remains famous for the whirling floral stucco added in the Ilkhanid Mongol era; this ornamentation is described by British travel writer Robert Byron in his travelogue "The Road to Oxiana". In its small cellar, there are tombs of two elders of the Alavian family. The interior area is formed of six rooms with arches. Cube-shaped graves covered with turquoise bricks are in the center.

A rectangular plaque with stucco honeycomb patterns and flower motifs is hanged above the entrance of the structure. The outer frame of this plaque bears stucco reliefs of Quranic inscriptions in the Kufic calligraphy hand.

Headquartered in Rabat, the capital city of the Kingdom of Morocco, ICESCO is an international non-profit organization emanating from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, specializing in the fields of education, science, and culture.

Persian handicrafts: Abaa of Bushehr

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Abaa is a kind of loose-fitting and long robe worn over clothing. Such an outfit has been produced across Bushehr province and for centuries.



In the past, Abaas were made from camel hair so that water did not pass through them, and were in black. The Abaas is considered to be made in southern parts of Iran including Bushehr from about five hundred years ago.

There are some regions where the Abaas are made from felt fabric in colors such as brown or cream. These fabrics are made from wool or cotton and by textile machinery, where after being produced, they undergo final changes and then are cut to be sewed into Abaas.

According to Visit Iran, like many other textiles, there are many narrations about wearing Abaa in different historical eras. One example is that common people did not wear them in the Ilkhanate dynasty. During that time, the Abaas were made so long that the train of clothing touched the floor.

Having pseudo-sleeves, such ropes do not cover in front and they have been used by the clerics from a long time ago.

Iran considers opening borders to vaccinated travelers

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iran is weighing plans to open its borders to vaccinated tourists though it isn't yet clear exactly when tourists will be allowed to arrive.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts have already started extensive consultations with other government ministries for the reopening of borders to vaccinated travelers, the deputy minister Vali Teymouri said on Wednesday.

"One of the issues that we are pursuing strongly through various committees is the arrival of international citizens who have been vaccinated so that won't pose a threat or concern to the Iranian society," the official said.

"We have put forward the proposal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and to the President (Hassan Rouhani) as well."

He went on to say that other countries are planning to open borders to vaccinated tourists.

"We estimate that soon, various tourist destinations in the world, including the European Union, will open their doors to international tourists implementing a vaccine-passport approach...."

Earlier in March, the Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ebrahim Pourfaraj asked the government to issue tourist visas for the international applicants who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. "The Ministry of Health and the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control



can at least agree that the international tourists who have received the [second dose of] coronavirus vaccine would be allowed to enter Iran," Pourfaraj said.

He also lamented that the continuation of such a trend would result in losing international tourist markets more than before. "Or at least they should make it clear so that we can respond appropriately to foreign companies and tourists to not to miss

the international tourist markets more than before," he said.

According to available data compiled by the tourism ministry, the number of foreign visitors to Iran plunged 94% in the first nine months of the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20, 2021) as the coronavirus pandemic takes a heavy toll on the tourism industry.

"Some 450,000 foreign travelers arrived in Iran for mainly medical

or trade purposes during the first nine months of the year... tightened measures to tackle the new coronavirus has reduced international travel to the country by 94 percent," Teymouri said.

The coronavirus epidemic has ruined more than 1.5 million jobs in Iran's travel sector, tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said in December. "Over 1.5 million jobs have been lost in the tourism sector of Iran due to the COVID-19 disease.... Many of the tourism-insiders are now unemployed or they are staying at home," Mounesan said.

Smart and responsible traveling should replace "do not travel" recommendations, the minister stressed, adding: "In our country, Corona has caused problems in the tourism industry and the worrying point is the continuation of this trend."

Tourism [industry of Iran] was growing before the corona [outbreak], its revenues reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, near the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which was 3.2 percent, the minister explained.

The ancient land embraces hundreds of historical sites such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, the country aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Iranian researcher probes carpet patterns emerged during Qajar era

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – An Iranian researcher has investigated various rugs and carpets woven during the Qajar era (1789–1925) to discover novel patterns that emerged in the epoch.

The study has been conducted by Leyla Nafisinia who is one of the researchers of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism, CHTN reported.

The emergence and expansion of pictorial and adaptive patterns were the most important carpet designs during the period, according to the institute.

Moreover, the researcher has delved into various written sources and existing patterns and conducted interviews with experts as well.

According to the research, motifs used in such carpets, except pictorial designs, are mostly plant-based yet they bear animal motifs, especially imaginary animals as well.

Furthermore, a tendency towards realism and naturalism in drawing motifs is another feature of the Qajar-era carpets, the report said.

For millennia, Iran's eminent carpets, which are adored for their intricate designs, lavish colors, and matchless craftsmanship, have been produced

by hand along the nomad trail across the foothills and high plains of the ancient land.

Weavers, almost all of them women, spend several months in front of a loom, stringing and knotting thousands of threads. Some practice established patterns, some make their own.

It is a scene that seems ageless, a procedure that can take as long as a year, these efforts have long put Iran's carpets among the most complex and labor-intensive handicrafts in the world. When the weaving is finally done, the carpet is cut, washed, and put out in the sun to dry.

Persian carpets are sought after internationally with the medallion pattern being arguably the most characteristic feature of them all. However, there is tremendous variation in the shapes and sizes of the medallions as well as the way they are used in various rugs. It's not wrong to say that no two rugs will have the same medallion layout.

Based on available data, over 5,397,000 tons of Iranian carpets, worth \$424.451 million, were exported to over 70 countries with the U.S. standing on top of the importers' list, during the Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended March 20, 2019). Ger-



many, the UK, Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Russia, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway as well as Hungary, Romania, Poland, and Ireland were major importers of Iranian carpet.

Museum unveils Urartian inscription lately excavated in northwest Iran

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** – On Thursday, an Urartian inscription, which is estimated to date 3,000 years, was unveiled for a public show at Urmia Museum in northwest Iran.

Several local officials, archaeologists, and cultural heritage experts were attending the unveiling ceremony of the inscription lately discovered from the ruined Bastam citadel that is located in West Azarbaijan province, CHTN reported.

The citadel is situated in a village of the same name some 50 km north of the city of Khoy at an altitude of 1300 m



above sea level.

The Urartu kingdom rose to power

in the mid-9th century BC, but it went into a gradual decline and was eventually conquered by the Iranian Medes in the early 6th century BC. The Urartians were succeeded in the area in the 6th century BC by the Armenians.

Urartu, an ancient country of southwest Asia centered in the mountainous region southeast of the Black Sea and southwest of the Caspian Sea. Today the region is divided among Armenia, eastern Turkey, and northwestern Iran. As mentioned in Assyrian sources from the early 13th century BC, Urartu enjoyed considerable

political power in the Middle East in the 9th and 8th centuries BC.

According to Encyclopedia Iranica, the territory of the ancient kingdom of Urartu extended over the modern frontiers of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and the Republic of Armenia. Its center was the Armenian highland between Lake Van, Lake Urmia, and Lake Sevan. Urartian archeological finds in modern Iran including castles, settlements, water channels and other water constructions, rock chambers, rock graves, stelae, rock inscriptions, and building inscriptions.

Arts of ancient Iran: cylinder seal with links between Mesopotamia and the Indus

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – The pictured cylinder seal, which was found in Susa, southwest Iran, and is currently kept at the Louvre, reflects the extent of commercial links between Mesopotamia, Iran and the Indus.

The language of the inscription carved on the cylinder seal reveals that it was (probably) made in Harappa in the Indus Valley, according to the Louvre's Department of Near Eastern Antiquities.

In Antiquity, the valley was known as Meluhha. The seal's chalky white appearance is due to the fired steatite it is made of. Craftsmen in the Indus Valley made most of their seals from this material, although square shapes were usually favored. The animal carving is similar to those found in Harappan works.

The animal is a bull with no hump on its shoulders, or possibly a short-horned gaur. Its head is lowered and the body unusually elongated. As was often the case, the animal is depicted eating from a woven wicker manger.

The seal is made of fired steatite, a material widely used by craftsmen in Harappa. The animal - a bull with no hump on its shoulders - is also widely attested in the region.



Trading links between the Indus, Iran, and Mesopotamia

This piece can be compared to another circular seal carved with a Harappan inscription, also found in Susa. The two seals reveal the existence of trading links between this region and the Indus valley. Other Harappan objects have likewise been found in Mesopotamia, whose sphere of influence reached as far as Susa.

The manufacture and use of the seals

Cylinder seals were used mainly to protect sealed vessels and even doors to storage spaces against tampering. The surface of the seal was carved. Because the seals were so small, the artists had to carve tiny scenes on a material that allowed for fine detail. The seal was then rolled over clay to produce a reverse print of the carving. Some cylinder seals also had handles

What were the ancient seals?

Seals were small, engraved devices used to make an impression, usually on clay or wax. Seals came in various shapes, including cones, squares, cylinders, and even animal heads. Seal impressions could indicate ownership or authenticate a document, and they could be used to secure bags or openings, such as doors or entrances to tombs.

Seals were fashioned out of a variety of materials, including bone, limestone, metal, semiprecious stone, or wood. Sometimes the names of the owner and his father were inscribed on the seal. Some seals showed the owner's title.

In order to authenticate a document, the owner of the seal would press its engraving into the clay, wax, or other soft substance affixed to the document. The substance would then harden and hopefully prevent someone from tampering with the document.

Siberian cranes land in Ghouri Gol International Wetland

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — About 200 Siberian cranes, in a rare and unprecedented phenomenon, arrived in the Ghouri Gol International Wetland in the northwestern East Azarbaijan province, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Stretching to 200 hectares, Ghouri Gol together with the adjacent reed marshes, is an important breeding area for waterfowl. A 1.2 km² site was designated as a Ramsar Convention wetland protection site on June 23, 1975.

It is of national and international importance due to being host to a large number of migratory birds.

Siberian cranes have not landed in the wetland for years so that it was a rare event, Hassan Abbasnejad, head of the provincial department of environment, said.

Considering the well-known migration routes of cranes, the species is very rarely seen in this region, while its presence this year showed the desirable condition of the wetland such as habitat, biodiversity, and food availability, he explained.



According to the International Crane Foundation website, this critically endangered species is now only found in one main population in East Asia, with a few birds remaining in the historic Western/Central population.

The Eastern population breeds in northeastern Siberia and winters at Poyang Lake in the Lower Yangtze River Basin in China. In the Western/Central population, a single crane [Omid] continues to winter along the south coast of the Caspian Sea

in Iran. This population bred just south of the Ob River in Russia.

With a height of 140 centimeters and a weight of 6 kilograms, there are only 3,600 to 4,000 cranes left in the world. The Eastern population is stable, but the Western/Central population almost extirpated.

Adult cranes have red skin on the forehead, face, and sides of the head, white plumage with black wingtips, and reddish-pink legs while juvenile cranes have plumage mix of white and cinnamon-brown feathers and tan head.

The oldest documented crane was a Siberian Crane named Wolf, who died at the age of 83. Wolf is in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Habitat loss, especially due to changing hydrology caused by water diversions and conversion of wetlands, illegal take including hunting, trapping and poisoning, pollution, and environmental contamination is threatening this endangered species.

Over 41,000 rapid coronavirus tests conducted at border points

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Some 41,736 passengers have so far been screened for coronavirus by rapid tests at the country's official borders since March 10, Mehdi Valipour, head of Relief and Rescue Organization affiliated to the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), has stated.

During the aforesaid period, IRCS forces have screened 309,347 passengers for COVID-19, 15,749 of whom with symptoms underwent PCR and 41,736 rapid tests, he said, IRNA reported on Friday.

He went on to lament that some 58 individuals, who tested positive, have so far been temporarily quarantined, under a plan to rapidly identify suspected cases of coronavirus and prevent the spread of new UK strain.

Some 471 members of the IRCS co-operate for carrying out the plan in 16 provinces across the country, Valipour concluded.

With the cooperation of ministries of health and transport, a plan is being implemented with the goal of rapidly identifying and testing incoming passengers and keeping them in quarantine facilities, if necessary.

Thirty border checkpoints have been selected, including 18 land borders, nine



air borders, and three sea borders, all incoming passengers will be tested and referred to the quarantine facilities in case of necessity.

Around 8,000 individuals enter the country via borders on a daily basis.

New cases and mortalities

In a press briefing on Friday, Health Ministry's spokesperson, Sima-Sadat Lari, confirmed 11,250 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 2,815,882. She added that 2,304,824 patients have so far recovered, but 5,015 remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, 200 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 78,194, she added.

So far, 18,683,814 COVID-19 diagnostic tests have been performed in the country.

“Biodiversity, ecotourism development strategy” conference to be held

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — A national conference on “Biodiversity, ecotourism development strategy” will be held online on May 22-24, to mark International Day for Biological Diversity.

The event will be held in cooperation with more than 40 scientific associations, civic institutions, and non-governmental organizations in the fields of environment, tourism, biology, and veterinary medicine with more than 25 top universities in the country in attendance.

This conference has been planned with the focus on solutions for biodiversity management and ecotourism development, executive secretary of the conference, Sayad Sheikhil Ilanli said.

So that it will discuss the challenges and approaches to overcome the challenges in the field of biodiversity and ecotourism, he added.

Emphasizing the importance of biodiversity protection, he stated that the development of ecotourism in the country, regardless of the capacities and limitations of biodiversity, can cause irreparable damages and cause serious social and cultural damage.

In this event, officials, university professors, and experts will give lectures in four sessions of “Challenges and obstacles of biodiversity for ecotourism development”, “challenges of biodiversity management



in Iran”, “challenges and opportunities for ecotourism development” and “principles of biosafety in ecotourism”.

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 “The International Day for Biological Diversity” to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. When first created by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly in late 1993, December 29 (the date of entry into force of the Convention of Biological Diversity), was designated The International Day for Biological Diversity.

In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted May 22 as IDB, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on May 22, 1992, by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Organ donation, a generous life-saving ‘gift’

➔ Although many organizations and medical centers have implemented various interventions and training courses to increase satisfaction with organ donation, a lack of organs for donation still is a serious problem in the world.

As a result, thousands of patients on waiting lists for transplantation die every year.

In Iran, about 5,000 to 8,000 people die each year from brain death, half of whom, or about 3,000, have transplanted organs. Unfortunately, 1,000 families, or one-third, are satisfied with organ donation.

In Iran, there are over 25,000 patients in need of transplants on the waiting lists of various organs, but unfortunately, 7 to 10 of them die every day due to the lack of a transplanted organ, accounting for over 3,000 a year.

Considering that 7,000 transplant recipients are buried annually due to family dissatisfaction and 3,000 needy patients die, on the other hand, it can be considered that if only half of the buried organs could save the lives of all.

What discourages people to save lives of others?

But what really pushes away the people from donating their deceased beloved's organ and save the lives of many?

It is a touchy question, as some experts believe that there is a large disparity between the number of people who only claim that they support organ donation and the number of people who actually register for organ donation cards.

So, the factor keeping people from ultimately donating an organ is something that academics, doctors, and organ donation activists are trying to figure out.

Although, for long we have heard that organ donation is a generous life-saving ‘gift’, some are still unnerved by and skeptical about the donation process.

Making positive decisions about organ donation would likely require resolving tensions between respecting the family, community, and religious values versus their individual autonomy.

Such resistance may be explained by the lack of awareness about transplantation within their communities, dominant influences of older family members, religious myths and misconceptions, fear of premature death, concerns about bodily disfigurement, distrust of the medical system, and concerns of racial discrimination in organ allocation.

Providing targeted education about the process and benefits of organ donation within the community may clarify ambiguities surrounding cultural and religious-based views on organ donation, reduce taboos and suspicion towards donation, and in turn, lead to increased organ donation rates.

Understanding the meaning of neurological death is also another factor helping families to consent for organ donation of their brain-dead member of the family.

Neurological death is defined as ‘irreversible loss of capacity for consciousness combined with the irreversible loss of the capacity to breath’. It is a prerequisite for donation, although to families the body still appears to have life.

Making families of the deceased aware of the fact that

they can find a sense of meaning and creating a positive outcome of their tragic loss by organ donation is a must to promote the culture. Families should have a desire to help others and apprehend that the deceased's legacy will continue to exist through donation.

A lack of trust in the healthcare profession is also a major barrier to deceased organ donation; fears are mainly that doctors would not try as hard to save the life of an organ donor with physicians holding the power to decide whose life to save, as well as the belief that the wealthy are more likely to obtain a transplant.

Iran tops Asian countries in organ donation

Mehdi Shadnough, head of the Health Ministry's center for transplantation and disease management, announced in June 2020 that Iran is ranked first for organ donation among Asian countries.

“The country's organ donation rate is 14.34 per one million people,” he noted.

In February 2019, Shadnough said that the organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years. Although Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world.

Organ donation of brain death has reached up to 60 percent, he said, lamenting that the country ranks 21st regarding organ donation from brain dead patients in the world while ranking 14th regarding organ transplant from alive patients.

According to the figures revealed by the International Registry in Organ Donation and Transplantation (IRODaT), Spain leads the world in organ donation.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

◀ ▶ ↺

Cabinet disapproves production of carbureted motorcycles

While the ministries of industry and interior have demanded the cabinet to reconsider its decision to ban the production of carbureted motorcycles and allow issuance of license plates, the cabinet of ministers rejected the proposal on June 17, ISNA reported on Friday.

Resuming the production of carbureted-motorcycles and issuing license for carburetor motorcycles is against the law, Tehran city councilor Zahra Sadr-Azam Nouri has said.

تولید مجدد موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری خلاف قانون است

به گزارش روز جمعه خبرگزاری ایسنا با وجود درخواست به وزیر کشور و وزیر صنعت و معدن مبنی بر تولید موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری هیات دولت هفته ی گذشته شماره‌گذاری این موتورسیکلت را ممنوع اعلام کرد. زهرا صدر اعظم نوری رییس کمیسیون سلامت شورای اسلامی شهر تهران با اشاره به مصوبه هیات وزیران مبنی بر ممنوعیت تولید و شماره‌گذاری موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری، گفت: تولید مجدد موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری خلاف قانون است.

Iranian bird fauna

(Part 1)

Despite the fact that large portions of the country are arid to semi-arid, Iran possesses a very rich and diverse bird fauna; over 490 species are known to have occurred. Two main factors are responsible for this; the great range of habitats—from permanent snows to deep deserts and from lush deciduous forest in the north to palm groves and mangroves in the south—and Iran's position at a crossroads between three major faunal regions. The bulk of the country lies within the Palearctic faunal region, which stretches from Europe and North Africa across north and central Asia to the Soviet Far East and Japan. Lying along the southern edge of this region, Iran's bird fauna includes a large Western Palearctic faunal element, reaching its eastern extremity in the central Alborz and Zagros mountains, and a smaller, but still marked, Eastern Palearctic element, which extends into northeastern Iran in the highlands of Khorasan. In a number of cases, western and eastern forms—either closely related species or well differentiated subspecies of a single species—come together with a narrow zone of hybridization in the central Alborz; e.g., the wheatears *Oenanthe hispanica* and *O. pleschanka*, the buntings *Emberiza melanocephala* and *E. bruniceps*, and the green-backed and gray-backed forms of the great tit *Parus major* (Haffer). In southern Iran, two other faunal regions have a pronounced influence on the avifauna: The Oriental region in the southeast, and the Afrotropical (Ethiopian) in the southwest.

Of 324 breeding species, 131 occur widely in the Palearctic region, 81 are Western Palearctic species, reaching the easternmost extremities of their ranges in Iran, while 19 are typically Eastern Palearctic species, reaching the westernmost tip of their ranges in Iran. A further 25 species are characteristic of the great Sahara-Sindian desert belt which stretches along the southern edge of the Palearctic region from North Africa through the Middle East to Mongolia, while another 24 are Palearctic species with restricted ranges in the Middle East. The bird fauna of southern Persian Baluchistan and the southern Persian Gulf coast is predominantly Oriental, with some 29 breeding species of Oriental origin reaching the northwestern extremities of their ranges in Iran, while in southwestern Iran there is a small Afrotropical influence with six breeding species of African origin. Finally, there are nine species of sea-bird and shorebird of the Indian Ocean, which breed on islands in the Persian Gulf and the Straits of Hormoz.

Eight major habitat types may be identified, each with its own characteristic bird fauna:

True desert and semidesert. The desert environment occurs throughout the central desert basin from the region of Tehran through the great Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Loot deserts to the Jaz Moorian basin in central Baluchistan and locally along the southern coastal lowlands from northwestern to Baluchistan. Rather few species occur in true desert, and densities are very low, but most of those species which have become adapted to this hostile environment have large ranges both in Iran and in the southern Palearctic as a whole. Examples include: Houbara bustard *Chlamydotis undulata*, cream-colored courser *Cursorius cursor*, spotted and coronated sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus* and *P. coronatus*, desert and bartailed desert lark *Ammanotus deserti* and *A. cincturus*, hoopoe lark *Alaemon alaudipes*, desert warbler *Sylvia nana*, desert wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, hooded wheatear *O. monacha*, and trumpeter finch *Rhodopechys githagina*. Although Iran possesses no true endemic species, one species, Pleske's groundjays *Podoces pleskei*, which occurs widely in the deserts of central and eastern Iran, is almost confined to the country, and is known elsewhere only from extreme western Pakistan.

Semi-arid steppe of the desert rim and foothills. Much of Iran's land surface, lying between 1,500 and 2,000 m in elevation and with an annual rainfall of between 100 and 300 mm, supports a steppe vegetation dominated by the low shrub *Artemisia herba-alba*. Large tracts have been modified by man, either through the grazing of domestic animals or irrigation and cultivation, particularly for cereals. The resulting patchwork is now the home of many of Iran's commonest and most widespread birds. Characteristic species include: long-legged buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, Eurasian kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, black-bellied sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*, roller *Coracias garrulus*, bee-eater *Merops apiaster*, several species of lark *Alaudidae*, including the ubiquitous crested lark *Galerida cristata*, isabelline wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*, and black-headed bunting.

High mountains. The alpine zones of the Alborz and Zagros mountains and the higher peaks of mountain ranges in Azerbaijan, Khorasan, Kerman, and Baluchistan provinces support a montane fauna—the so-called Paleomontane fauna—typical of all high mountain ranges from the Pyrenees and Alps in western Europe to the Himalayas. Characteristic species include: golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, bearded vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*, alpine swift *Apus melba*, crag martin *Hirundo rupestris*, horned lark *Eremophila alpestris*, alpine chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus*, alpine accentor *Prunella collaris*, rock thrush *Monticola saxatilis*, black redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*, wall creeper *Tichodroma muraria*, and snow finch *Montifringilla nivalis*.

(Source: *Encyclopaedia Iranica*)

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 188)

(Source: *saadifoundation.ir*)

■ Literal and Formal Words

واژه‌های ادبی و رسمی

کلمات ادبی و رسمی مخصوص نوشتند. در صحبت کردن معمولاً از این کلمات استفاده نمی‌شود:

عادی و غیررسمی	ادبی و رسمی
آموختن	: خیلی چیزها آموخته‌ام.
آتومبیل	: با اتومبیل می‌رویم.
اکنون	: اکنون کار می‌کنم.
به نام	: جایی به نام لاله‌جین
پذیرفتن	: حرف تو را می‌پذیرم.
گفتگو	: باید با هم گفتگو کنیم.
عادی و غیررسمی	ادبی و رسمی
خیلی چیزها یاد گرفته‌ام.	با ماشین می‌رویم.
حالا/ الان کار می‌کنم.	جایی به اسم لاله‌جین
حرف تو را قبول می‌کنم.	باید با هم گفتگو کنیم.

ذکر

● تمرین ۱. "ص" یا "غ" بگذارید و غلط‌ها را تصحیح کنید:

۱. () مردم ایران و چند کشور دیگر به فارسی صحبت می‌کنند.
۲. () فارسی زبان سوّم دبای اسلام است.
۳. () ادبیّات فارسی ارزش بسیار دارد.
۴. () دانشجویان خارجی زیادی به زبان و ادبیّات فارسی علاقه‌مندند.
۵. () در ایران دوره‌ای برای ادامه تحصیل وجود ندارد.
۶. () علاقه‌مندان می‌توانند برای تحصیل به ایران مسافرت کنند.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The mind of a wise man is the safest custody of secrets; cheerfulness is the key to friendship; patience and forbearance will conceal many defects.

Imam Ali (AS)

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

■ Shirin Gallery is showcasing the latest collection of photos by Taha Quchakanlu in an exhibition entitled “Night Reveals”. The exhibit will run until June 3 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

■ Tarlan Tababar is hanging her latest collection in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery. The exhibit named “Memory Disorder” will run until June 18 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.

■ A collection of paintings by Paya Vedadi is on view in an exhibition at Baharak Gallery. The exhibits will continue until May 26 at the gallery that can be found at No. 312, Alley 1, Saberi St. in the Deh Vanak Neighborhood.

■ Golhayeh Davudi Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Laleh Sediqnejad. The exhibition will be running until May 26 at the gallery located at 263 near Nejatollahi St., Taleqani Ave.

■ An exhibition of paintings by Hassan Moradi is currently underway at the Zemestan Gallery of the Iranian Artists Forum. The exhibit will be running until June 8 at the gallery that can be found at Musavi St. off Taleqani Ave.

■ Paintings by a group of artists, including Yasaman Alipur, Nazgol Vakili, Maryam Isania, Arefeh Ahmadi, Zahra Akbari and Abbas Haj-Esmaeilzadeh, are currently on display in an exhibition at Ayrik Gallery. The exhibition will run until May 26 at the gallery located at Ayrik Center on East Ferdows Blvd.

■ A collection of drawings by Toktam Saberi-Ashrafi is on display in an exhibition at Soo Gallery. The exhibit named “Use Your Illusion” will continue until June 11 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St. Calligraphy

■ An exhibition of calligraphy works by Vahid Tak is underway at Entezami. The exhibit will run until May 26 at the gallery located at 608 Shariati Ave. near Motahhari St.

■ A group of artists, including Hadi Heidari, Firuzeh Mozaffari, Omran Salahi, Avideh Salmanpur, Kiumars Kiasat, Mehdi Ahmadian and Sadeq Baqeri, is displaying their latest cartoons and caricatures in an exhibition at Salees Gallery. The exhibit named “82 Million” will be running until June 8 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

■ Dastan Basement Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of sculptures by Amir Kamand, accumulated by Mamali Shafahi. The exhibit named “Aliens vs Gorillas” will be running until June 4 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.

Georgian translation of Masnavi-ye Manavi introduced in Tbilisi

CULTURE d e s k **TEHRAN** — A Georgian translation of Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi’s Masnavi-ye Manavi was introduced at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi last week.

Georgian poet Giorgi Lobzhanidze is the translator of the Persian masterpiece, which has been published in two volumes with contributions from the Iranian Culture Center in Tbilisi, the center announced on Thursday.

In his short speech made during the unveiling ceremony of the book, Lobzhanidze talked about the technical complexities of the translation of the book and the mysteries surrounding the numerous concepts the collection carries.

He also said that Rumi used the Holy Quran, hadiths from the Prophet Muhammad (S) and allegories to express his mystic thoughts and Islamic teachings, and praised Rumi’s knowledge of the three sources of his inspiration.

He also noted that Rumi’s thoughts have been expressed by many people from cultural communities across the world as his thoughts are universal.

He also recited verses from Masnavi-ye Manavi at the ceremony, which was attended by a group of Georgian cultural



A Georgian translation of Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi’s Masnavi-ye Manavi by Giorgi Lobzhanidze was introduced at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University in Georgia.

figures and literati, including the rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, George Sharvashidze.

He called the Georgian translation of the Masnavi-ye Manavi a great blessing and stressed the key role Rumi’s works played

to improve the cultural relations between Iran and other countries, in particular, with Georgia.

He also expressed his thanks to Lobzhanidze for the translation of the book from the Persian classical literature, as well as to the Iranian Culture Center for its contributions to this cultural endeavor.

Lobzhanidze, an oriental studies and Arabian language graduate of Tbilisi State University, is the director of the Oriental Studies Department at the Center of Cultural Relations of Georgia.

In 1997, he came to Iran to work on his Ph.D. research project in religion and mysticism at the University of Tehran. After returning to Georgia in 1999, he again started working at Tbilisi State University.

In 2005, he wrote his doctoral thesis on the topic “Jesus and Virgin Mary in the Quran”. He is currently known as a distinguished translator of a new generation. He is a translator of the Quran, and the collection “Persian Fairy Tales” and the Gulistan by Persian poet Sadi, “The Water’s Footsteps” by Sohrab Sepehri and “Another Birth” by Forugh Farokhzad.

Lobzhanidze has also composed five poetry collections, “A Teacher of Arabic”, “Noontime Shadows”, “A Bouquet of Dandelions”, “Boiling Temperature” and “Orphan’s Kveri”.

Fajr unveils Cinema Salvation lineup



“Magic Mountains” by Polish-Dutch director Urszula Antoniak.

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The 38th Fajr International Film Festival has added four other films the Cinema Salvation section to complete the lineup for

the official competition.

The films include “Magic Mountains” by Polish-Dutch director Urszula Antoniak, “The Island of Lies” by Spanish director Paula Cons. “Should the Wind Drop” by Armenian director Nora Martirosyan and “Miracle” by Min Byung-hun from Korea.

“Magic Mountains” is about Lex, a writer of popular novels who has money and fame, but lacks peace of mind since Hannah left him years ago. Lex now wants to really bring the relationship to a close with a symbolic gesture. He asks Hannah to accompany him into the mountains, to go hiking together for the last time.

The story of “The Island of Lies” is set in the early morning hours of January 2, 1921 amid thick fog, when the steamship Santa Isabel, with 260 emigrants bound for Buenos Aires, sank off the rugged coast of the island of Sálvora.

“Should the Wind Drop” is about Alain who arrives in Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, to assess the airport and open this self-proclaimed republic to the world. But Alain knows nothing about this strange

territory or its inhabitants, and things don’t go according to plan.

“Miracle” is the story of a man and a woman who drain the cup of sorrow to the bottom. And there is great nature beyond this infinitely fragile existence. Nature is an inexplicable universe, and art is the key to awakening the sleeping soul.

The organizers previously announced that Oscar-winning Hungarian director Istvan Szabo’s latest movie “Final Report”, Italian director Claudio Noce’s drama “Padrenostro”, Ukrainian-Armenian filmmaker Roman Balayan’s movie “We Are Here We Are Close”, Finnish filmmaker Antti J. Jokinen’s romance historical drama “Helene”, Bulgarian director Ivaylo Hristov’s drama “Fear” and Polish director Piotr Domalewski’s drama “I Never Cry” had been selected to compete in Cinema Salvation.

The official lineup also features “Major” directed by Ehsan Abdipour, “Shahrbanu” by Maryam Bahrololumi and “Gisum” by Navid Behtoui from Iran.

The Fajr International Film Festival is scheduled to take place in Tehran from May 26 to June 2.

Tehran theater to host “All My Sons”

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — A reading performance of American writer Arthur Miller’s 1946 popular play “All My Sons” will be staged at the Orkidah Hall of Tehran’s Shahrzad Theater Complex on Saturday.

Parnian Karimian will direct the reading performance based on a Persian translation of the play by Hassan Maleki.

Karimian, Ali Khayyam, Sadaf Asadollahi, Alireza Salmanian, Samin Sarsangi and Mohammad-Javad Shakeri will perform the reading.

Miller wrote “All My Sons” after his first play “The Man Who Had All the Luck” failed on Broadway, lasting only four performances.

He wrote “All My Sons” as a final attempt at writing a commercially successful play. He vowed to “find some other line of work” if the play did not find an audience.

The play is based upon a true story, which Miller’s then-mother-in-law pointed out in an Ohio newspaper. The news story described how in 1941–43 the Wright Aeronautical Corporation based in Ohio had conspired with army inspection officers to approve defective aircraft engines destined for military use.

Joe Keller and Steve Deever, partners in a machine shop during World War II, turned out defective airplane parts, causing the deaths of many men.

Deever was sent to prison while Keller escaped punishment and went back to business, making himself very wealthy in the ensuing years.

In Miller’s work of tremendous power, a love affair between Keller’s son, Chris, and Ann Deever, Steve’s daughter, the bitterness of George Keller, who returns from the war to find his father in prison and his father’s

partner free, and the reaction of a son to his father’s guilt escalate toward a climax of electrifying intensity.

Winner of the Drama Critics’ Award for Best New Play in 1947, “All My Sons” established Miller as a leading voice in American theater.

It introduced themes that thread through Miller’s work as a whole: the relationships between fathers and sons and the conflict between business and personal ethics. This edition features an introduction by Christopher Bigsby.

Miller’s plays have always been regarded by Iranian troupes and directors. The latest one was the Iranian theater troupe Peyvand led by veteran director Manijeh Mohammadi, which performed Miller’s 1991 play “The Ride Down Mt. Morgan” at the Qashqai Hall of the City Theater Complex in Tehran in December 2019.



A poster for a reading performance of Arthur Miller’s play “All My Sons” by director Parnian Karimian.

Iranian bookstores offer “500 Years of Ottoman Cuisine”

CULTURE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Turkish scholar Marianna Yerasimos’ book “500 Years of Ottoman Cuisine” has been published in Persian.

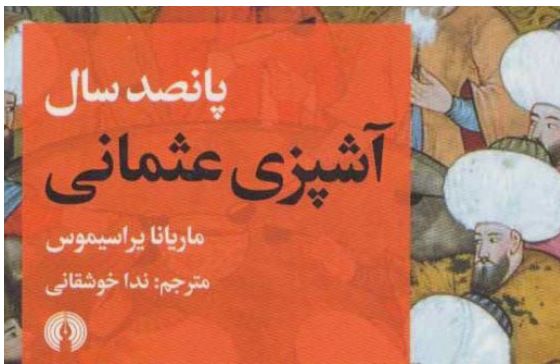
The book published by Elmi Farhani Publications has been rendered into Persian by Neda Khoshaqani.

In the preface to the book, Yerasimos wrote, “Ottoman cuisine was a culinary culture which grew from the 15th century onwards and was shaped by an élite group, who lived in and around Istanbul’s Palace, an élite who took pleasure in good food.

“This culture included everything from the ingredients used to the methods of cooking and from the kinds of food eaten to the eating habits, table manners and the type of kitchens where the food was prepared.

“The first part of the book looks at the elements which comprise Ottoman cuisine, and in the second part you will find a selection of recipes.

“The book deals with the cuisine of the Ottoman palace



Front cover of the Persian translation of Turkish scholar Marianna Yerasimos’ book “500 Years of Ottoman Cuisine”.

and élite society, and not the modest fare of the ordinary people. As in all societies, there was a considerable difference between the food culture of the Ottoman palace and that of the ordinary people, and there were also differences between the cuisine of Istanbul and the cuisines of other regions.

“The rather humble fare of the lower strata of society and recipes for it is a subject for another book, and one which I fear will present quite a challenge to its author, since it is unlikely that anyone would have taken the time to write down the plain combinations of foods eaten by the common people.

“Another point worth noting is the period covered by the book. Since the geographical area in question and its social limits are clearly defined, so too is the time frame: Istanbul was the capital of the Ottoman Empire from May 29, 1453 to September 13, 1923, and it is the development of Ottoman cuisine within this time frame that I aim to introduce to you.”

“Dear Madam President” available for Persian readers



Front cover of the Persian translation of Jennifer M. Palmieri’s “Dear Madam President: An Open Letter to the Women Who Will Run the World”.

CULTURE d e s k **TEHRAN** — “Dear Madam President: An Open Letter to the Women Who Will Run the World” written by Jennifer M. Palmieri has recently been published in Persian.

Zekr, a publishing house based in Tehran, is the publisher of the book translated by Mohammad-Mehdi Seidnasseri.

Palmieri is an American political advisor and media personality who served as White House Director of Communications from 2013 to 2015 and Director of Communications for the Hillary Clinton

2016 presidential campaign.

She is currently the co-host of the political documentary series “The Circus on Showtime”.

Framed as an empowering letter from former Hillary Clinton Communications Director Palmieri to the first woman president, and by extension, to all women working to succeed in any field, “Dear Madam President” is filled with forward-thinking, practical advice for all women who are determined to seize control of their lives-from boardroom to living room.

As a country, we haven’t wrapped our heads around what it should look like for a woman to be in the job of president. Our only models are men. While wildly disappointed by the outcome of the 2016 election, Palmieri argues that our feelings-confusion, love, hate, acceptance-can now open the country up to reimagining women in leadership roles.

And that is what Palmieri takes on in this book: redefining expectations for women looking to lead and creating a blueprint for women candidates and leaders to follow.