

# New Equation in Palestine

► Page 3



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TEHRAN — Millions of Iranians from all walks of life marched the streets on the last Friday of Ramadan to mark “International Quds Day”. The massive rallies were intended to highlight the Palestinian cause as the Islamic world’s number one priority.

Rallies were held in hundreds of cities in Iran, such as Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan, Shiraz, and Tabriz.

Although the rallies were supposed to begin at 10: a.m. nationwide, people flooded the streets at 9: a.m.

This year’s rallies marked a milestone in the history of support for the Palestinian people. The rallies were highly conspicuous after two years of limitations due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In view of the analysts the large rallies were synonymous with a referendum to put an end to apartheid against the Palestinians by the racist regime of Israel.

This great show of support for Palestinians came as the racist approach toward Palestinian worshippers has angered people across the world, especially in Muslim countries, against Israel. ► Page 2

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## Report

### Guterres admits failure in Ukraine as West ships more arms

During the United Nation’s Secretary General’s visit to the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, Antonio Guterres admitted the UN Security Council has failed to go far enough in its efforts to “prevent and end” the war in Ukraine.

In a joint news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky the UN chief said “let me be very clear: the Security Council failed to do everything in its power to prevent and end this war. And this is the source of great disappointment, frustration, and anger.”

Two explosions were heard after the UN chief ended his talks with Zelensky which focused on efforts to evacuate civilians from the southern port city of Mariupol. ► Page 5

## Op-ed

### Nassaji FC; in the pursuit of excellence

By Morteza Mohases

TEHRAN – “Wind of Hope” is blowing through Iranian football, with a new generation of homegrown football managers, the technocrat club presidents, and highly skillful players.

The excitement of football arguably brings together and unites football lovers in support of their clubs and national teams while inspiring Iranian children and adolescents to dream about future professional football career.

The pursuit of excellence is essential for the comprehensive football strategy of any professional football organization. ► Page 3

### Talks resumed between Iran, EAEU on free trade agreement

TEHRAN – Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) representatives have started a new round of negotiations for finalizing the draft of a free trade agreement between the two sides and to determine the commodity items that should be included in the agreement, an official with Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said.

According to Mir-Hadi Seyedi, TPO’s advisor in international affairs, the organization dispatched a team of negotiators to Russia to hold talks with representatives of the five Eurasian Economic Union member states.

Syedi noted that based on the free trade agreement tariffs on about 80 percent of goods exchanged between the two sides will

gradually be reduced to zero, while the remaining 20 percent will remain unchanged.

Stating that so far, the negotiations have been mainly focused on finalizing the draft of the agreement, the official added: “Negotiations in this round also include determining the commodity lists of the two sides.” ► Page 4



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**Iran unveils world’s longest-range tactical ballistic missile**

TEHRAN — Iran’s newest ballistic missiles, called “Kheiber-Shekan” and “Emad-3”, were unveiled during the Quds Day march in Tehran on Friday. Kheiber-Shekan is the world’s longest-range tactical ballistic missile with a range of 1,450 km. The last Friday of Ramadan, titled “International Quds Day”, aims to highlight the Palestinians’ struggle to get rid of the Israeli occupation and suppression.

### Tourism seen as effective tool against Iranophobia: ICESCO official

TEHRAN – The contribution of tourism and the hospitality industry is an effective tool to foil anti-Iranian sentiment or Iranophobia, which has long been forged and spread by some Western governments, an ICESCO official has said.

When holidaymakers arrive in Iran, they feel the real face of the country so tourism is a great instrument to help thwart Iranopho-

bia and Islamophobia sentiments, Abdolkarim Sadeqdoust said on Thursday.

“Through a correct introduction of Iran, we can stand against anti-Iran propaganda,” said the official who presides over the ICESCO office in Iran.

In this regard, Tehran is getting ready to host the 1st edition of the Islamic World

Tourism Exhibition (IWTE) aimed to turn the spotlight on lesser-known destinations in 15 countries including the Islamic Republic.

Sightseeing tours, ecotourism centers, medical tourism, and pilgrimage are the main themes of the exhibit, which will be held at Shahr-e Aftab International Exhibition Center from June 7 to 10. ► Page 6

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## Interview

### Ukraine war breaks US global geopolitical dominance: Italian expert

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – The director of the online newspaper L’antidiplomatico says that the Ukraine war will change the geopolitical order of the world.

“What happens in Ukraine breaks the global geopolitical and financial dominance of the United States and the Western bloc,” Fabrizio Verde tells the Tehran Times.

“Russia has openly challenged U.S. unipolar hegemony, which has long been crushing under its iron heel even what was once the great European civilization,” Verde adds.

The Italian expert is of the opinion that the sanctions imposed on Russia by the Western bloc would cause a general weakening of these countries and even NATO.

“So with a weaker NATO, a broader partnership between Germany, France and Russia could be achieved. The excessive use of sanctions and especially their use against Russia since 2014 have led to a self-sufficient Russian economy that is 80 percent self-sufficient in consumer goods and impressive technological advances in the oil and gas sectors,” he argues.

“Moscow also benefited greatly from Chinese cooperation which enabled it to offset the impact of sanctions.” ► Page 5

### Quran activists honored at Tehran international exhibition

TEHRAN – Twelve Iranian Quran activists were honored on Thursday during the closing ceremony of the 29th edition of the International Holy Quran Exhibition in Tehran.

The honorees received their awards from President Ebrahim Raisi at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla in Tehran.

In his short speech, the president said, “Humanity is established under the influence of the Holy Quran.”

“Today, humanity needs the Quranic teachings and guidelines more than ever; society needs the Quranic guidelines in the areas of culture and economics at all levels,” he added.

Calligrapher Mohammad Kashani-Azad, actor Amir-Abbas Qelichlu and filmmaker Jamal Shurjeh were among the honorees.

Kashani-Azad was selected for his focus on the Holy Quran in his artistic career spanning almost 30 years. ► Page 8





**REMEMBER  
PALESTINE**  
by Tehran Times

## After two years, free-spirited people celebrate approaching decline of apartheid

From page 1 ► The marches proved that people's heart regardless where they live beat for the oppressed Palestinians. Moreover, the rallies showed that people shun occupation, suppression, and racism.

Also, this is a lesson from history that injustice cannot exit forever.

### Demonstration of military power

An hour before the start of the Quds Day march in Tehran, Iran's newest ballistic missiles called "Kheybar Shekan" and "Emad 3" were displayed.

Kheybar Shekan is the world's longest-range tactical ballistic missile with a range of 1,450 km.

Also, on the sidelines of rallies in Tehran, an exhibition was held to display the missiles of the Resistance Front.

The Qassem missile of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Ayas 250 missile of Hamas, the Fateh 110 missile of the Lebanese Hezbollah, the Tashrin missile of the Syrian army, the Jamal 69 missile of the Iraqi nobles, the Quds 2 missile of Yemen's Ansarallah, the Sajjil missile of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps are put on display.

During the march, reporters spotted Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir Abdollahian. He told reporters that the resistance movement is at its best condition in the region, Lebanon and Palestine.

Amir Abdollahian also announced that next week, a special meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will be held in Jeddah on the issue of Palestine and the recent crimes of the Israeli regime against the people of the region.

"We strongly condemn the recent actions of the Zionist regime in desecrating Al-Aqsa Mosque. We have taken intensive diplomatic action over the past three weeks to counter this desecration. We had consultations and talks with the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and some of the foreign ministers of Islamic countries, and we requested that an emergency meeting be held in this regard," he said, adding that next week a meeting will be held at the level of special representatives and ambassadors of OIC member states in Jeddah.

"Fortunately, our diplomats have been stationed at the headquarters of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Jeddah for about three months, and we will be active in this meeting. We hope to be able to hold this meeting at the level of foreign ministers as well," he elaborated, wishing that someday all Iranians will pray in Quds.

The Quds Day march brings back the issue of civil society in solving the Palestinian cause.

In a significant development, UN human rights experts called on the international community to take immediate and effective steps to protect and sustain the six Palestinian civil society groups that were designated as 'terrorist organizations' by the Israeli regime in October 2021.

In a press release by the Office of the High Commissioner of the United Nations Human Right body, the UN experts dubbed the Israelis' reckless act to designate civil society groups as terrorist organizations as a "disturbing designation."

"Israel's disturbing designation of these organizations as 'terrorist organizations' has not been accompanied by any public concrete and credible evidence," said the human rights experts. "We note that the information presented by Israel has also failed to convince a number of governments and international organizations that have traditionally provided funding for the indispensable work of these six organizations."

In October 2021, the UN experts denounced Israel's designation of six Palestinian civil society organizations – Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, AL-Haq, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Defense for Children International, Palestine, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, and the Union of Palestinian Women Committees – as terrorist organizations. Israel's designation enables it to close the organizations, seize their assets, end their work and charge their leadership and staff with terrorist offences.

Meanwhile, the Axis of Resistance has been strengthened, therefore, the Palestinian youth have been confronting the Zionist regime's atrocities with more power.

According to the recent studies, the Palestinians can launch 3,000 missiles in an operation in the occupied territories.

Iran has always supported the resistance of the Palestinian fighters, as portrayed in the words of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran advocates and supports the camp of Resistance. It advocates and supports the Palestinian Resistance. We have always said this, we have always acted on this, and we have stood by it. We condemn the treacherous move to normalize relations [with the Zionist regime]. We condemn the policy of a normalization of relations. Some Arab governments have asked the U.S. to accelerate the matter of solving the Palestinian issue," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a live speech on Friday.

## IRGC chief says Israel is on the path to decline

*'New world order will accelerate decline of Zionist regime': Gen. Safavi*

TEHRAN – Addressing Quds Day marchers in Tehran on Friday, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said Israel is on the path to decline and predicted that the Zionist regime will be wiped out of the world map soon, the ISNA news agency reported.

"Arrogant countries established the Zionist regime in the world and this regime will soon be wiped out of the world map," Major General Hossein Salami remarked.

Quds Day rallies are held annually on the last Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Salami also said negotiators with Israel will not bring peace for the Palestinians.

Pointing to the expulsion of millions of Palestinians from their homeland by Israeli settlers, the commander said the Palestinians have realized that they cannot wish a return to their motherland and coexists with the oppressors through worthless papers.

"This is a lesson that history have taught us all," the top military official noted.

The Palestinian Authority, now led by Mahmoud Abbas, has been negotiating with Israel for decades with no result. During these long years, Israel has only been annexing more Palestinian lands.

The top general called on Palestinians to continue their struggle against the Zionist occupiers, saying, "Your enemy is on the path to decline and your power is being reinvigorated."

Rahim Safavi, the assistant and senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, also said on Friday that the "new world order will accelerate the process of the decline of the Zionist regime."

Safavi, the former IRGC chief, made the remarks while addressing people in the Quds Day rallies in Arak, central Iran.

Safavi went on to say that while the Zionists were boasting that by normalizing ties with certain Arab states they have achieved a better security and stability in comparison to the past, the course of developments in Palestine, ranging from the spread of armed struggle from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to Jerusalem al-Quds and the lands occupied in 1948, show that days of the Zionist regime are numbered.

The senior military advisor said what is more important is the "armed struggle" against occupiers by ordinary Palestinian people which was not "conceivable" by the Israeli security bodies.

TEHRAN— Speaking at the gathering of the ambassadors of Islamic countries in Tehran, Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi stressed the need for unity among Islamic countries. He also criticized normalization with the Israeli regime.

At the beginning of the meeting which was attended by Iran's top diplomat Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the president noted that in the current circumstances, the Islamic Ummah needs unity.

**The Takfiri movement has become the infantry of the enemies of Islamic Ummah**

Raisi continued by saying that the Takfiri movement, which feeds on the blood of the Islamic world, is a clear deviation from the straight path of the unity of the Islamic Ummah.

"This movement has now become the infantry of the enemies of the Islamic Ummah, and in line with their hegemonic interests, they are committing massacres of Muslims in various Islamic lands," he added.

Raisi went on to say that the oppressed nation of Afghanistan has been struggling with war, insecurity and displacement for many years.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has been hosting Afghan refugees for more than forty years," he added.

The president continued by saying that it was expected that with the end of the war in the country, Afghan girls and boys would be provided with security, welfare and education, but now, unfortunately, there is a "dangerous and purposeful trend of promoting takfiri insecurity with foreign guidance, which seeks to ignite sectarian war, this time in another land of the Islamic Ummah."

According to Raisi, for this very reason, the Islamic Republic has always emphasized the real participation of all ethnic, religious and political groups in the future government of Afghanistan in order to minimize the possibility of

# Raisi says it's time for Islamic states to unite

*"Internal disputes must be resolved through dialogue"*



abuse by the enemies of the Afghan people to achieve peace after years of suffering.

Referring to the brilliant and successful record of the Islamic Republic in fighting Takfiri sedition, Raisi said, "If it had not been for the struggle of the great commanders of the Islamic world such as Martyr Abu Mahdi Al-Mohandes and Martyr Qassem Soleimani, today Daesh would have ruled in many countries."

Even now, he suggested, the Islamic Republic is extending its hand of cooperation to all Islamic countries in order to act synergistically to deal with Takfiri movement when it comes to discourse and battlefield.

On the other hand, the president said, the Zionist regime is still a "serious threat" against the Islamic

Ummah, and the "oppressed Palestine is the key to the unity of the Islamic Ummah."

"If it had not been for the resistance of the faithful youth of the Islamic Ummah, the Zionists, like the Takfiris, would have swallowed the countries of the region," Raisi added.

The president then pointed out that Israel is a shaky regime.

"State terrorism, systematic violations of human rights, the use of prohibited weapons against the people, increasing pressure on the people of Quds and the West Bank, and the desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque have not contributed to the stability and security of the Zionist regime. Had it not been for the resistance of the youth of the Islamic Ummah, the Zionists, like the Takfiris, would have

swallowed the countries of the region. The regime that has been causing insecurity, instability and displacement in the region for more than 70 years now not only cannot be a partner for peace, but also threatens stability and security wherever it goes," he pointed out.

**Quds Day is the day of solidarity of the Islamic Ummah**

In another part of his speech, Raisi referred to the role of Quds Day in keeping the issue of Palestine and resistance alive in the region, emphasizing, "Quds Day is the day of solidarity of the Islamic Ummah, and this day is the day of hope for the oppressed and the downtrodden, and the day of despair for the Zionist regime and the enemies of Islam. The Islamic Republic of Iran has proven in practice that it does not abandons the hands of its brothers and friends in difficult days."

At the same time, the president stated, Iran has offered a just, democratic solution based on international standards to resolve the grave problem of Palestine, and that is determining the fate of this land through the votes of all native Palestinians, including Muslims, Christians and Jews, and to create an inclusive state in the historical lands of Palestine, and "this initiative of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution is one of the documents registered with the United Nations."

The president added that the Islamic Ummah should not neglect the main issues of the Islamic world.

"More than fifty years ago, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (currently known as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) was formed correctly in response to the crimes of the Zionist regime at Al-Aqsa Mosque, and today it is expected that internal divisions will not overshadow the OIC," he added.

He then noted that the internal disputes within the OIC should be resolved through dialogue.

## War on terrorism should never be pretext to erode Syrian sovereignty: envoy

TEHRAN- The Syrian crisis cannot be handled without ending the occupation and eliminating terrorist threats, according to Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations, who also warned that the fight against terrorism must not be used to undermine Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Majid Takht Ravanchi, speaking at a UN Security Council meeting on political and humanitarian developments in Syria on Tuesday, said that Syria's humanitarian needs have reached an all-time high since the conflict began more than a decade ago, and that the recent report of the UN Secretary General indicates that 14.6 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, up 1.2 million from 2021.

Acute and quick economic downturns, as well as climate-related consequences, have emerged as new main drivers of humanitarian needs, according to the same research, as Ravanchi stated.

The Iranian ambassador stated that unilateral coercive efforts against the Syrian people have had terrible implications in all parts of the Syrian people's lives, and that the measures must be stopped.

Here is the full text of Ravanchi's statement:

"Madame President,

I thank the briefers for their insightful briefings.

Since the conflict began more than a decade ago, Syria's humanitarian needs have reached an all-time high. The recent SG's report indicates that 14.6 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, an increase of 1.2 million from 2021. According to the same report, acute and rapid economic downturns, as well as climate-related impacts, have emerged as new major drivers of humanitarian needs. The current economic crisis has impacted civilians across the country, particularly children, women, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

Given the dire humanitarian situation, it is more vital than ever to end unilateral coercive measures against the Syrian people. These illegal measures have had disastrous consequences in all aspects of people's lives and run counter to the Security Council

resolution 2585 relating to early recovery projects.

In his report, the Secretary-General has called for waiving of sanctions that are preventing access to critical health supplies, COVID-19-related medical assistance, and food. In this context, it is necessary that the ongoing technical dialogue on sanctions and humanitarian operations in the Syria Arab Republic between the relevant Member States and humanitarian actors provide solutions to the challenges that several humanitarian actors in the country face in ensuring adequate and reliable access to financial services.

As emphasized in the SG's report, current humanitarian relief efforts should focus on supporting early recovery and reconstruction projects, ensuring the continuous operations of water, electricity, education, and medical facilities, and the provision of basic services, as mandated by Resolution 2585 (2021).

Therefore, the Security Council must work diligently to ensure that resolution 2585 is properly implemented in a balanced and effective manner, particularly in terms of early recovery projects and the lifting of unilateral sanctions.

At the same time, political conditions should not be allowed to block early recovery projects as well as humanitarian assistance. We commend the Syrian government's, United Nations agencies, and humanitarian partners' efforts to expand the scope and frequency of humanitarian relief operations on a continual basis.

In this context, we salute the UN agencies for successfully completing the third cross-line delivery to Sarmada since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2585 in July 2021.

We reiterate our call for ending the plunder of Syria's natural resources, particularly oil and agricultural products, by foreign forces. This criminal act not only violates Syrian territorial sovereignty, relevant Security Council resolutions, and the United Nations Charter, but also has a negative impact on efforts and measures aimed at restoring the Syrian economy.

We support the initiatives to facilitate the repatriation of refugees and internally

displaced persons and are willing to provide assistance for the success of such endeavors.

After more than a decade of conflict in Syria, it has become evident that only one solution exists: a Syrian-led, Syrian-owned political process facilitated by the UN.

We support the continuation of inter-Syrian talks in Geneva. We warmly welcome the convening of the Constitutional Committee's seventh session. We also commend Mr. Pedersen's efforts to streamline the process.

We reiterate that the Committee must work in strict accordance with its Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, free from outside interference or pressure, and with no artificial timetables. This must be a fully Syrian-led and Syrian-owned effort and the UN role should be limited to facilitation

We are looking forward to the next meeting of the committee, which will be held in the second half of May. We hope that by working efficiently, independently, and without outside intervention, the Constitutional Committee will produce positive results.

The Syrian crisis cannot be resolved without putting an end to the occupation and uprooting the terrorist threats.

We once again reaffirm our commitment to Syria's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence and its efforts to combat terrorism.

We strongly condemn the Israeli regime's repeated violations of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We call on the Security Council to hold this regime accountable for such acts of aggression and malice, as well as its blatant threats to use force against other regional countries, endangering regional peace and security.

The war against terrorism must not be used to undermine Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The illegal presence of foreign forces in parts of Syria, which has created ideal conditions for terrorist activities, must end immediately.

We maintain our contacts with the Syrian government, the UN Special Envoy, and our partners in the Astana format in order to help end the crisis and alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people as soon as possible."



# New equation in Palestine

TEHRAN – In his speech delivered on the occasion of World Quds Day, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei shone a light on a range of regional issues that were sidelined in recent years by some regional and global parties.

On top of these issues is the question of Palestine which has been the main subject of many diplomatic initiatives the most important of which was the unveiling of the so-called “deal of the century” proposed by the Trump administration in early 2020. The Trump peace plan was nipped in the bud as it failed to garner support from almost all of the international community.

Despite its failure, the Trump deal rekindled old speculations that the Palestinian question has lost its relevance to many Arab and Muslim peoples, not to mention the Arab states. The trend of normalization of diplomatic relations between Israel and some Arab states was deemed the last nail in the coffin of the Palestinian cause as the normalization deals led many pundits to opine that Arab states are no longer conditioning establishment of relations with Israel to finding a resolution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But all these speculations proved wrong, according to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. Ayatollah Khamenei said Israel is now declining and a new equation is taking shape in Palestine while the previous projects of normalizations have come to naught. “Quds Day passes by us this year, and everything foretells of a



new equation for Palestine, today and tomorrow,” the Leader said in a televised speech delivered in Arabic.

Ayatollah Khamenei referred to many developments inside and outside Palestine forcing Israel to hunker down and adopt a defensive position instead of an offensive one. “The ‘unbreakable will’ in the Palestinian arena and throughout West Asia is replacing the so-called ‘invincible army’ of the Zionists. This criminal army was forced to switch its offensive line to the defensive one,” he said.

The Leader noted, “In the political arena, we see the most important supporter of the usurping entity [Israel], I mean America, suffering successive defeats: a defeat in the war in Afghanistan, a defeat in exercising maximum pressure on Islamic Iran, a defeat in front of the Asian powers, a defeat in controlling the global economy, and a defeat in

its internal management where there is the emergence of a deep rift in this administration.”

The situation in Israel is also moving on a trajectory of decline, he said. “The usurping entity is floundering in the political and military arena within a complex web of problems,” Ayatollah Khamenei asserted.

The Leader pointed to a significant change in the national mood of Palestinians inside and outside their territories. They now support a military confrontation with Israel, according to Ayatollah Khamenei.

“Polls indicate that nearly seventy percent of the Palestinians in the lands of forty-eight and sixty-seven, and in the diaspora camps, are calling on the leaders of Palestine for a military confrontation against the usurping entity. This is an important phenomenon, as it means the complete readiness of the Palestinians to confront the usurping entity. It also

means the public is giving green light to the jihadist factions to exercise their role whenever they deem the time necessary,” he stated.

Highlighting resistance movements in the 1948 territories, east Jerusalem, al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Gaza strip as well as demonstrations in Jordan, the Leader said, “Palestine as a whole has been transformed into a theater of resistance. The Palestinian people have now united their word regarding the continuation of the jihad.”

Ayatollah Khamenei said, “These events, and what the Palestinian arena witnessed in recent years, have canceled all settlement projects with the Zionist enemy. It is not possible to implement any project regarding Palestine in the absence of its owners, the Palestinians, or in opposition to their point of view. This means the nullification of all previous agreements such as Oslo, the two-state solution, the deal of the century, or the recent humiliating normalization.”

The Leader strongly denounced the normalization trend, saying, “We condemn the treacherous approach to normalization. We condemn the phenomenon of ‘the feasibility of normalization’ and what some Arab governments have said to America of the need to expedite the liquidation of the Palestinian issue.”

He noted, “The Islamic Republic of Iran is supportive of the resistance front, and supportive of the Palestinian resistance. We have said this repeatedly and acted on what we say, and we insist on that.”

## Iran FM, foreign officials discuss Quds Day

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held phone conversations on Thursday with a number of foreign officials discussing a variety of issues including World Quds Day.

In a phone conversation with Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Hussein Ibrahim Taha, Amir Abdollahian discussed the latest developments of the Islamic world, including Palestine, Yemen and Afghanistan.

In this conversation, the top Iranian diplomat praised the stances of the OIC secretary general on the issue of Palestine and the efforts of this organization in establishing peace and security in the region and the Muslim world, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The Iranian foreign minister expressed support for the meeting of the ambassadors of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation focusing on the issue of Palestine. He welcomed a meeting at the level of foreign ministers of Islamic countries to consult on the latest developments in Palestine and the Zionist regime’s crimes in Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Amir Abdollahian also expressed support for the implementation and continuation of the ceasefire in Yemen and stressed the need to completely lift the humanitarian siege on Yemen.

The Iranian foreign minister also condemned the recent killings and acts of terrorism in Afghanistan and called for more attention from Islamic countries as well as the international community to help resolve the problems of the Afghan people.

In the telephone conversation, the OIC secretary general called the issue of Palestine the top priority of the organization and the Islamic world. He stated that the OIC has always supported Palestine and is pursuing different initiatives to support Palestine and holy Quds, and follow up on the legitimate rights of the people of this country with the support of major Islamic countries.

Ibrahim Taha also condemned the heinous terrorist acts in Afghanistan, calling them an attempt to divide Muslims.

He added that all the efforts of the OIC are aimed

## Iran, Saudi Arabia agree on roadmap for talks: ambassador

TEHRAN – Iran’s outgoing ambassador to Iraq has revealed new details about the latest round of talks between Tehran and Riyadh, saying the two sides agreed on a roadmap for moving ahead with the negotiations.

Iraj Masjedi, who will soon be replaced by Mohammad Kazem Al Sadeq, said that the fifth round of Iran-Saudi talks hosted by Baghdad on April 21 resulted in the two sides approving a roadmap for their future interactions.

“In the fifth round of Iran-Saudi Arabia talks, which was held last Thursday, a roadmap for the future

was discussed and agreed upon. Both sides had some suggestions which were agreed upon after the Thursday meeting and turned into a roadmap for the future,” the ambassador told state news agency IRNA published on Friday.

Responding to a question on whether the two countries will reopen their embassies, Masjedi said, “The course of talks will determine whether there will be an exchange of embassies. This issue depends on the next negotiations.”

He added, “In the last round of negotiations, it was important

that the two sides have an agreed framework for the future which came to fruition. And this is per se a positive point that will pave the future way for both sides.”

Masjedi pointed to the agreed issues between Tehran and Riyadh, saying one issue is “confidence-building” measures. The other issue, Masjedi said, is bilateral cooperation and measures such as the Hajj and the exchange of embassies. And the third issue is “regional and international matters,” Masjedi noted without elaborating.

The five rounds of talks between

Tehran and Riyadh were all held during the tenure of Masjedi as Iran’s ambassador to Iran. He will soon leave Iraq.

Iran has appointed a new ambassador to Iraq who will head to Baghdad soon to begin discharging his duties. The appointment was announced by Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on April 11.

The latest round of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia was attended by Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

APRIL 30, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### “Nassaji FC; in the pursuit of excellence

From Page 1 ▶ Watching the final match of the Hazfi Cup in front of approximately 40,000 cheering crowd at Azadi Stadium, we remember what Bill Shankly, former Liverpool manager and one of the most outstanding football technicians, once said about this game, “Some people think football [soccer] is a matter of life and death. I don’t like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that.”

Nassaji, the current Hazfi Cup champions, are based in the city of QaemShahr, an actual football city with one of the most united and passionate fan bases supporting them everywhere in Iran.

Nassaji defeated Aluminium 1-0 in the final match of the Hazfi Cup to clinch the title.

Both teams started the match energetically. Nassaji played a very flexible 1-3-4-3 formation, with Alireza Haghighi in the goal proved uncompromising when defending.

Masoud Shojaei, an experienced and highly skillful skipper, was their main offensive initiator.

On the opposite side, Aluminum head coach, former Iran national team goalkeeper Mehdi Rahmati, used a 1-4-3-3 system of play.

Highly talented 22-year-old front striker, Alireza Azadi, was unlucky to hit the post twice in the first half.

The match opened up drastically after the break. The tireless Nassaji midfielder Mehrdad Abdi scored the stunning goal of this spectacular match with a header from a pinpoint free-kick delivered by Ayoub Kalantari in the 58th minute.

After that, the clear-cut scoring chances were few and far between. Both teams were using high tempo, strong running, and played deep defending line and quick counter attacks.

Football, without any doubt, will continue to evolve in Iran in the near future. Soon we will witness the impact of technical directors, professional football management, marketing, sports science, and a new breed of highly competent and resilient football managers in Iran.

### FIVB development support helps to empower women’s volleyball in Iran

TEHRAN – The Iran Volleyball Federation is committed to raising the level of its women’s national volleyball team with the FIVB providing 12 months of coach support to help accelerate the team’s development via the revolutionary program of Volleyball Empowerment.

The FIVB approved 12 months of coach support for 2022 for the Iran women’s national volleyball team, with the Iran Volleyball Federation selecting Italian coach Alessandra Campedelli to help improve the team’s performance at an international level, fivb.com reported.

In addition to coach support, the Iran Volleyball Federation has ensured the team has access to an exclusive training camp with world-class facilities. The team is also set to compete at Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games in September 2022, their first appearance at the event since 1974.

FIVB President Dr Ary S. Graça F° is excited to see the Iranian women’s volleyball team in the 2022 Asian Games.

“The FIVB is committed to raising the level of volleyball worldwide in both the men’s and women’s game. Our sport is gender balanced by nature and we want to ensure this is reflected in the parallel development of both men’s and women’s teams across the world.

“We have been delighted to see the positive impact of coach support on helping the Iran women’s national team to raise both its technical and tactical level, and we are excited to see how they perform at Hangzhou 2022.”

Iran Volleyball Federation President Mohammad Reza Davarzani hailed revolutionary program of Volleyball Empowerment.

“With the FIVB’s support, Coach Alessandra Campedelli from Italy has been able to help us fulfil our plans for women’s volleyball in Iran. I believe that volleyball is the only sport in Iran that could establish an exclusive training camp for women which can help pave the way for their success. The strategy of the Iran Volleyball Federation is to develop gender equality for men and women in volleyball.”

Coach Alessandria Campedelli has also helped share the latest training methods and best practices with local coaches who have had the opportunity to join training sessions.

“With this project, I believe that the FIVB is giving Iranian women’s volleyball the necessary support to develop and grow. The senior women’s team of Iran has to improve primarily in the technical and tactical aspects that will allow them to compete with the best Asian teams in the world. In addition to training, they will have to take part in some tournaments and friendly matches to help them to gain more international experience,” the Italian coach said.

### Nassaji win Iran’s Hazfi Cup

TEHRAN – Nassaji football team won the title of the Iran’s Hazfi Cup for the first time Wednesday night.

In the match held in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium ahead of more than 40,000 spectators, Nassaji defeated Aluminium 1-0.

Mehrdad Abdi scored the winner with a header in the 58th minute.

Esteghlal are the most decorated team in Hazfi Cup competition, winning the titles seven times.

The Hazfi Cup was founded in 1975.

### Ex-Iran wrestler Mollaghasemi laid to rest in Amsterdam

TEHRAN – Former Iran national team wrestler Hossein Mollaghasemi was laid to rest in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

He died at the age of 89 at a hospital in Amsterdam on Monday.

Mollaghasemi won a silver medal at the 1957 World Championships in -62kg freestyle. He then changed to Greco-Roman wrestling and competed at the 1960 and 1964 Summer Olympics.

He led Iran’s Greco-Roman wrestling team in the 1974 Asian Games, where Iran claimed the title with eight gold medals.

He was Mahmoud Mollaghasemi’s nephew, who won a silver medal at the 1951 World Championships and a bronze medal at the 1952 Olympics.

Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to his family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

### Qatari clubs eye Milad Sarlak

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team midfielder Milad Sarlak has reportedly been linked with Qatari teams.

Sarlak, whose contract runs out in the summer, has been linked with Al-Ahli and Al-Arabi.

The 27-year-old player joined Persepolis from Shahr Khodro in September 2020 on a two-year contract.

He was a member of the Persepolis team that advanced to the final match of the 2020 AFC Champions League.

### Barij Essence beaten by Kuanysh in Asian Women’s Club Volleyball C’ship

TEHRAN – Kazakhstan’s Kuanysh defeated Barij Essence in straight sets (25-16, 25-16, 25-17) in the 2022 Asian Women’s Club Volleyball Championship on Friday.

Barij Essence have previously lost to Thailand’s Diamond Food–Fine Chef Sport Club, and Kazakhstan’s Altay.

The Iranian team started the campaign with two 3-0 wins over Kyrgyzstan VC and Uzbekistan’s Jizzakh State Pedagogical Institute.

Kazakhstan’s Altay and Kuanysh, Barij Essence of Iran, Thailand’s Diamond Food–Fine Chef Sport Club, Uzbekistan’s Jizzakh State Pedagogical Institute and Kyrgyzstan compete against one another in the single round-robin competition in Semey, Kazakhstan from April 24 to 30.



## Monthly non-oil export rises 25% year on year



TEHRAN- The value of Iran's export of non-oil products increased 25 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, the deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Foroud Asgari also said that the country's non-oil trade with other countries registered a \$875-million positive balance in the first month.

Iran exported 7.324 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$3.699 billion in the said month, with 10 percent drop in weight as compared to the first moth of the previous

year, the official stated.

The country's monthly non-oil import stood at 2.252 million tons worth \$2.824 billion, with one percent rise in value and 10 percent growth in weight year on year, he added.

As previously announced by the IRICA head, the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400, as compared to its previous year.

Alireza Moqadasi put the country's non-oil trade at 162 million tons worth \$100 billion in the past year.

He said that Iran exported 122 million tons of non-oil products worth \$48 billion in the previous year, which was \$14 billion (41 percent) more than the figure for its preceding year.

The country's non-oil trade record in 1400 was reached while the toughest sanctions were imposed on Iran, but thanks to God and the efforts of entrepreneurs, producers and the cooperation of foreign trade-related organizations, a historical record was achieved in the past year which was unprecedented in recent decades, the official underlined.

## Iran, Russia ink comprehensive transport agreement

TEHRAN – Iran and Russia have signed a comprehensive agreement to expand transportation cooperation between the two countries, the portal of Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry reported on Friday.

The agreement was signed by Iranian Transport Minister Rostam Qasemi and his Russian counterpart Vitaly Savelyev at the end of Qasemi's visit to Moscow.

Qasemi, who traveled to Moscow on top of a delegation on Tuesday, discussed various topics including the finalization of previously reached agreements in the field of rail, sea, road, and air transportation with the Russian official.

Speaking at the meeting, Savelyev referred to the expanding relations between the two countries and expressed hope that with the signing of this agreement, bilateral cooperation in the field of transport will be further expanded.

Russia's transport minister said the north-south railway corridor could be the basis for expanding cooperation between Russia, Iran, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, and that a deal would be needed to implement the massive project.

He also expressed hope that the two sides

would collaborate in completing the Rasht-Astara railway project as soon as possible.

Pointing out that his country views the Islamic Republic of Iran as a trade and transit hub in the region, Savelyev said: "With the completion of Iran's railway lines, especially the Rasht-Astara section, northern Europe will be connected to the Indian subcontinent, and this will have huge transit revenues for the countries along the route, including Iran and Russia."

Qasemi for his part expressed the Iranian government's willingness for the expansion of ties with neighboring countries.

"If Iran and Russia work closely together, U.S. and Western sanctions against the two countries will have no effect," the Iranian minister said.

According to the official developing transportation relations between the two countries is a prerequisite for the expansion of trade ties, saying that Iran welcomes any kind of agreement between the two countries in the field of transportation.

"Trade exchanges between the two countries and Russian exports to other countries through Iran can be the topic of new agreements and such agreements can be implemented in the shortest possible time," he said.

## Permits issued for construction of solar farms with 4GW capacity

TEHRAN- Iran's Energy Ministry issued permits for the construction of solar farms with the capacity of four gigawatts (GW) across the country, Fars news agency reported.

The ministry's Renewables Department has announced that building the mentioned solar farms will become operational within the next two years.

It said that the permits were issued after the government committed to provide the considerable financial resources required for construction of the solar farms.

"The new plants are part of a 10-GW new renewables capacity that the Iranian government aims to develop until 2025," the energy ministry added.

Earlier this month, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian said that the

country's installed capacity of solar farms stands at nearly 900 megawatts (MW).

Highlighting that many good strides have been taken in this field in the country over the recent years, the minister said that the significant increase in the capacity of the country's power plants, which is the result of the efforts of domestic experts, can meet all the electricity needs of the country, while boosting Iran's electricity export.

The share of solar power plants in Iran's renewable electricity generation capacity has reached 49 percent, according to the data released by Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA).

Renewables, including hydropower, account for seven percent of Iran's total energy generation, versus natural gas's

90 percent share.

Overall, in the next four years, Iran is aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

According to SATBA, the number of small-scale solar power plants across the country which are used by households or small industries is also increasing noticeably as Iranian households and small industries are embracing the new technology with open arms and investors also seem eager for more contribution in this area.

Iran is also planning on expanding its presence in the region's renewable energy market.

According to the energy minister, the country has great potentials in the

# Talks resumed between Iran, EAEU on free trade agreement

From page 1 ► "Currently, the draft of the agreement has been mainly finalized and there are few cases left that need further consideration by both parties," Seyedi said.

TPO's adviser on international affairs and trade agreements further said that negotiations between the two sides will continue in the coming months until the free trade agreement is signed between the two sides before the end of 2022.

Earlier this month, TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak met with the minister in charge of the economy of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) in Moscow to discuss upgrading the preferential trade agreement already reached



between the two sides to a free trade agreement.

After several years of negotiations, Iran and EAEU finally reached a preferential trade agreement in 2018 based on which

about 862 commodity items are subject to preferential tariffs. The agreement came into effect on October 27, 2019. It was designed to be in effect for three years, it is to expire in October this year.

The value of trade between Iran and the EAEU members reached \$5.643 billion during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), registering a 66-percent rise compared to the figure for the preceding year.

According to Spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Ruhollah Latifi, the weight of Iran-EAEU trade in the mentioned year stood at over 13.127 million tons which was also 51 percent more than the previous year.

Iran exported 2.77 million tons of commodities worth over \$1.170 billion to the mentioned union to register a 3.5 percent increase in terms of weight and 12 percent growth in terms of value.

## Iranian economy minister visits Armenia to pursue expansion of trade ties

TEHRAN – Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi headed a delegation on a visit to Armenia to hold talks with the country's senior officials with the aim of expanding economic ties between the two nations, IRIB reported.

Arriving in Yerevan on Friday, Khandouzi met with Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister Mher Herbert Grigoryan, the country's Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan, and Minister of Finance Tigran Khachatryan.

As reported by Armenian media, during the meeting with Grigoryan, the deputy prime minister highlighted the importance of the Iranian minister's visit on the eve of the 17th meeting of the Armenian-Iranian Joint Economic Committee meeting and underlined Armenia's readiness to develop ties with Iran.

The officials discussed the expansion of economic relations between the two countries and underlined the need for improving trade



turnover and facilitating customs and border control procedures.

The two sides also touched upon the possibilities to realize the existing potential for deepening collaboration with Iran within the frames of the Eurasian Economic Union.

In the meeting with Kerobyan, issues related to joint projects and the removal of financial barriers were discussed.

## Iran boosts oil exports as China cuts imports from Russia



TEHRAN – Iran is boosting oil exports in the current year as major oil buyers like China are cutting back imports from Russia due to the war with Ukraine, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing data from commodity data provider Kpler.

As reported, Iranian oil exports increased by 30 percent in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the previous year, to reach 870,000 barrels per day (bpd).

The jump in Iran's oil exports in Q1 was the fastest among all producers in West Asia, while the volume of exports is estimated to be the highest since former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the so-called Iranian nuclear deal in 2018, the report said.

China is a major buyer of Iranian crude oil which has never stopped shipping in the Islamic republic's oil even during the sanctions. Now, the Asian country is emboldened to import more oil from Iran, not expecting to be hit by U.S. sanctions "because Washington has its plate full with Russia," a Kpler analyst told the Journal.

Earlier this month, Washington

Free Beacon, an American conservative political journalism website, said in a report that Iran's "fleet of ghost ships" has been successfully sidestepping U.S. sanctions, delivering millions of barrels of crude oil and petroleum products to foreign destinations.

The report claimed that Iranian oil tankers have shipped at least \$22 billion worth of oil only to China since 2021.

According to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, the country's oil exports have increased by 40 percent in recent months.

Iran's crude oil production in March reached 2.546 million bpd to register a 7,000-barrel

increase compared to the figure for February, according to OPEC's latest monthly report.

The country produced 2.539 million bpd of crude oil in February, the report said citing secondary sources.

The Islamic Republic's average crude output for the first quarter of 2022 stood at 2.528 million bpd indicating a 56,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for the fourth quarter of the previous year, the report indicated.

The country's heavy crude oil price also increased by \$19.36 in March, to register a 20.8 percent rise compared to the previous month, according to the OPEC report.

## Tehran, Baghdad reach agreement on settling gas debt

TEHRAN – Iraq's Acting Electricity Minister Adel Karim announced reaching an agreement with Iran on settling his country's gas debts to the Islamic Republic, IRIB reported.

Karim made the remarks following his recent visit to Iran during which he met with Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji.

According to the official, in his visit to Tehran, Iran has agreed to increase its gas exports to Iraq during summer in return for the Arab country's repaying of its gas dues to Iran.

Karim arrived in Tehran on top of a delegation on Wednesday and was received by Oji upon arrival.



*Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji (L) and Iraq's Acting Electricity Minister Adel Karim*

During the mentioned meeting, the two sides had stressed the need for the expansion of mutual ties.

## Gilan province farms 30 tons of fishes in cages in a year



TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 30 tons of fishes were bred in cages in Gilan province, in the north of Iran, during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

Hamidreza Taqi-Nasiri, the acting head of the province's Fisheries Department, said the nominal capacity of fish farming in cages in the province is 75,500 tons in 27,000 hectares of water body in 12 regions and seven support sites.

He said that Gilan province has a good capacity

for fish farming in cages due to having about 300 kilometers of coastline.

As stated by an official with Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO), production of 714,000 tons of fishery has been targeted for the current Iranian calendar year.

Morteza Afrasiabi, the acting head of the IFO's fishery development department, said that of the mentioned figure, 277,000 tons will be fishes bred in cages and 70,000 tons will be shrimps.

Achieving the targeted 714,000 tons of fishery

requires infrastructure as well as credits and banking facilities, the official added.

Fishery production has increased noticeably in Iran in recent years.

Enjoying high quality, Iran's fishery products were sold easily in the export markets, and also some new export destinations welcomed these products in the past three years; as new markets including China, South Korea, and the Eurasian Union nations opened up for Iranian fishery products.



# Ukraine war breaks US global geopolitical dominance: Italian expert

From page1► The following is the text of the interview:

**Western countries call Russia's attack on Ukraine an invasion while the Kremlin describes it as a special military operation. Whatever we call it, what are the causes of such a dramatic situation?**

In Western countries where we have the bleakest Russophobia, the mainstream media and governments insist that Moscow treacherously invaded Ukraine and waged war on Kiev. In reality, Russia has not started a war, but as announced by President Putin himself in his speech to the nation on the night of February 24, Russia started a special military operation aimed at demilitarizing and denazifying the Kiev regime and protecting the Donbass. This may seem like a minor or merely semantic issue, but in my opinion, it is not, because it is the basis for the pro-NATO warmongering propaganda that is sweeping the Western world and occupying all the media space without admitting dissident voices. I think that the causes and responsibilities of the tragic turning point in Ukraine are to be found in the policies of the United States and NATO. Arms and instrument through which the United States controls Europe.

When the Soviet Union implosion occurred, the Western bloc assured Russian leaders that NATO would not advance an inch. Instead, the Atlantic bloc has gone as far as the borders with Russia, which is so backward that it has its back to the wall. Furthermore, the United States has turned Ukraine into an anti-Russian outpost, a military and even a biological threat to Russia on its doorstep. While Kiev was carrying out a genocidal policy towards the populations of the Donbas initiated after the fascist coup of 2014, trying to deliberately annihilate all that is Russian. Here we come to the direct involvement of the West in Ukraine, which began with the Orange Revolution in 2004, and then culminated in the illegal removal of a democratically elected pro-Russian government and its president through a coup that had the support and involvement of Western powers.

Putin viewed the overthrow of a legitimate government and Kiev's membership of NATO as crossing the red line. He immediately took control of Crimea, which he thought would rightly become a NATO naval base. This was the beginning of the Russian determination to create a buffer between NATO and Russia with neutral Ukraine. Finally, I believe that to understand what is happening today we must look backward. The break-up of Yugoslavia by

NATO and the creation of Kosovo in 1999 demonstrated the weakness of international law and the United Nations. It was a humbling experience for the Russian Federation, as there was no Security Council resolution approving action on a fabricated charge of genocide.

**How may the Ukraine war change the current world order?**

As stated by President Putin, Russia has decided to fight for its sovereignty, for the right to be and to remain in Russia. What happens in Ukraine breaks the global geopolitical and financial dominance of the United States and the Western bloc. Russia has openly challenged U.S. unipolar hegemony, which has long been crushing under its iron heel even what was once the great European civilization, that is, the current non-sovereign European Union, actually dominated by NATO on behalf of Washington. It is very likely that the sanctions imposed on Russia by the Western bloc, and only by the Western bloc, will cause a general weakening of these countries and even of NATO. So with a weaker NATO, a broader partnership between Germany, France and Russia could be achieved. The excessive use of sanctions and especially their use against Russia since 2014 has led to a self-sufficient Russian economy that is 80 percent self-sufficient in consumer goods and impressive technological advances in the oil and gas sectors. Moscow also benefited greatly from Chinese cooperation which enabled it to offset the impact of sanctions.

Russia and China have already begun to question the dollar's role as a reserve currency and are looking for alternatives. Much of the Chinese and Russian trade is now conducted bilaterally. ASEAN has also started to trade more and more in their own national currencies. In this regard, hypotheses of payment in rupees or rubles for the oil that Russia supplies to India are being studied. While Venezuela advances in the implementation of the Mir payment system of the Eurasian country.

We can put a tombstone on the theory of the so-called "End of History" the American political scientist Fukuyama proposed at the fall of the Soviet Union. History has started up again, change is already underway, it happens before our eyes. This is why war propaganda is so strong,



and even timid dissent is silenced and criminalized in what, against all evidence, still insists on calling itself a free world.

The unipolar order dominated by the United States has now reached its end credits. At the end of the Russian military operation in Ukraine, humanity could finally enter a new era marked by multipolarity and the rise of the Eurasian powers.

**How do you see the global alignments when it comes to the Ukraine war? While Western powers condemn Moscow, apparently the Eastern states are reluctant to denounce Russia.**

Let's take a map and we'll have a clear picture of the situation. The United States and Washington's vassal countries, the so-called Western bloc, condemn Russia, while the rest of the international community has decided to remain neutral or to support Moscow. Let us then look at the vote on the resolution condemning Russia tabled by the Western bloc at the UN General Assembly: we have two iron allies of the U.S. such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates together with the two largest economies in South

America, Mexico and Brazil, South Africa together with India and China who did not support the resolution. Together they make up 85% of the world population. In this scenario, where Europe, as we have seen, has no sovereignty and follows

Washington's geopolitical and economic agenda, there is a Russia increasingly oriented towards Asia. The partnership with China continues to flourish and the two countries are the leaders of the new multipolar order. Then we have another large country like India which, despite the pressures, has decided to continue its military cooperation with Moscow and will buy oil and coal from Russia using a new scheme that provides for payments in Rupees and Rubles, thus bypassing the dollar. Among other things, Indian coal imports could completely absorb the missed exports to the European Union. Like India, Pakistan has decided not to condemn Russia despite very strong pressure. His former Prime Minister Imran Khan denounces being disheartened in Parliament for his pro-Russian stance that would have infuriated Washington. In short, as previously stated, the world is changing rapidly, and with its alliances and geopolitical alignments.

**How do you see the role of mainstream media in characterizing this war?**

The mainstream information circuit in the scenario of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine acts as a megaphone for NATO's war propaganda. The mainstream media are therefore broadcasting Western intelligence leaks, baseless news, unverified news, real fake news. The whole Western media apparatus, instead of providing correct information, is in this phase subservient to the narrative imposed by NATO and functional to Washington's geopolitical interests. The mainstream has also decided to put a lot of emphasis on the emotional aspect of information. Public opinion is thus confused and almost paralyzed. People, blinded by terrible images and false stories, are no longer able to reflect, ask questions, and try to understand how and why this situation has come about.

In this way, the mainstream media help Western governments to spread Russophobia and prepare the ground for an eventual escalation of the conflict.

**What are the global fallout of sanctioning Russia?**

We can say that if the U.S. and its Western vassals wanted to bring Russia to its knees by imposing extensive sanctions packages, the strategy failed. Just as if they wanted to provoke regime change to oust Putin, they have also failed.

On the contrary, the Russian people seem to be clinging even tighter to their president.

In Europe, we are seeing that after the proclamations of the various leaders, the reality is setting in and governments are realizing that there would be big repercussions if they really were to decide on a total embargo on Russian gas and oil. The sanctions against Moscow are proving to be a real boomerang for those who imposed them. Most of the international community is not hiding its irritation at the behavior of the U.S. and the Western bloc. Beijing has called the sanctions "reckless", a geopolitical maneuver by Washington that has had a major impact on the world economy and severely affected the most vulnerable countries. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro stressed that the sanctions imposed against Russia had generated a "boomerang effect" by affecting the economies of Europe, the United States and the world in general. They have caused "record inflation" in several countries and have "affected" the price at which a number of products are sold and purchased globally, such as wheat, oils and soybeans.

## Guterres admits failure in Ukraine as West ships more arms

From page1► Asked about the blasts Guterres told a Portuguese broadcaster "there was an attack on Kyiv...it shocked me, not because I'm here but because Kyiv is a sacred city for Ukrainians and Russians alike."

In the second phase of Russia's military operation, Moscow has shifted its forces hundreds of miles eastward to capture two provinces in a battle the West believe may prove a decisive turning point in the war.

Since that shift, which Moscow says is the second phase of its operation, there has rarely been reports of any explosions in Kyiv.

Analysts say the West, in particular the United States and the United Kingdom, are pouring weapons into Ukraine to keep the war at an impasse and prolong it.

The more Moscow comes to achieving its goals militarily and diplomatically through the peace process, the more the U.S. and the UK are sending advanced and more sophisticated weapons to Ukraine to keep the war stretching hopefully in Washington and London's eyes for years.

For example, Western countries have ramped up weapons supplies to Ukraine in recent days as the fighting in the east has escalated.

This week more than two dozen countries met at a U.S. air base in Germany and pledged to send heavy arms such as artillery for what is expected to be a vast battle of opposing armies in Eastern Ukraine.

Experts say this is the only way the West can try to contain Russia's growing economic and military power, by keeping it engaged in a war while the propaganda machine in the Western mainstream media works overtime.

It's not the same actors in Ukraine but it's a very similar strategy that the West used against Syria, by waging a war against the Arab country that stretched a decade and continuing to pump weapons, support and training to the foreign backed militants and terrorists.

On Thursday, U.S. President Joe Biden asked Congress for \$33 billion to support Kyiv, a massive jump in U.S. funding that includes over \$20 billion for weapons and ammunition and other military aid.

The package forms part of U.S. efforts to isolate and punish Russia for its February 24 military offensive in Ukraine, which has forced more around five million people to flee abroad.

"We need this bill to support Ukraine in its fight for freedom," Biden claimed at the White House after signing the request "the cost of this fight, it's not cheap, but caving to aggression is going to be more costly" he also claimed.

In addition, the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a bill that would remove several constraints on sending weapons to Ukraine. However, the bill has been passed with the condition that Ukraine has to pay for the "return of and reimbursement and repayment for defense articles loaned or leased" to it.

The eastern European country's ability to make such payments has come under the spotlight as the Ukrainian government is currently requesting \$7 billion per month from the U.S. and the EU only to continue paying salaries and pensions for Ukrainians.

Washington has said it hopes Ukrainian forces can not only repel Russia's assault on the east but also weaken its military.

The German parliament meanwhile has backed sending Ukraine heavy weapons, marking a sharp shift from its previously cautious approach to Russia. Some

analysts have pointed out that Berlin has succumbed to pressure from the United States, the United Kingdom and other western countries.

Russia has strongly denounced the statements of NATO, especially Britain that it is legitimate for Ukraine to target Russian logistics.

Speaking to reporters in Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said "in the West, they are openly calling on Kyiv to attack Russia including with the use of weapons received from NATO countries" Maria Zakharova said, "I don't advise you to test our patience further." She added.



The Kremlin warns that Western arms deliveries to Ukraine will pose a threat to European security.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also told reporters. "The tendency to pump weapons, including heavy weapons into Ukraine, these are the actions that threaten the security of the continent, provoke instability."

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, has called on Kyiv's allies to send more tanks and other heavy lethal weapons to Ukraine.

According to Truss, NATO should integrate Finland and Sweden "as soon as possible" if the two Nordic nations choose to do so. Something Moscow has repeatedly warned would lead to further instability.

Russia says that this amounts to NATO waging a "proxy war" against it, and has made a

number of threats this week of unspecified retaliation.

The country's Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, has said "NATO is essentially going to war with Russia through a proxy and arming that proxy. War means war."

President Vladimir Putin calls Russian actions a "special military operation" to disarm Ukraine that became necessary as the United States was using the country to threaten Russia and Moscow had to defend ethnic Russian-speaking people from further persecution.

In the lead up to the war, Moscow sent proposals to NATO and the United States regarding security guarantees as the U.S.-led military alliance was expanding eastwards. However, the Kremlin's proposals were rejected by both NATO and Washington.

Moscow says Kiev's failure to implement the terms of the Minsk agreements, first signed in 2014 also led to the outbreak of fighting. Russia eventually recognized the breakaway eastern Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk. The German- and French-brokered protocols were designed to give the breakaway regions special status within the Ukrainian state.

Ukraine argues it is fighting an imperial-style land grab and has dismissed Putin's claims of persecution.

Analysts have said the war could have been avoided if NATO agreed to Moscow's demands to end the military alliance's Eastward expansion towards Russian borders, but this was not in the interests of the Anglosphere.

Russian forces are now focused on the East of Ukraine, where Moscow-backed separatists have partially controlled the territory since 2014, and also hold a swathe of the south they seized in March.

Russia's defense ministry says the country's military had fired missiles at six Ukrainian arms and fuel depots and destroyed them, and that 76 Ukrainian military facilities were also hit.

Russia has also reported what it says have been a series of Ukrainian strikes on Russian regions which border Ukraine and has warned that such attacks risk significant escalation.

Also on the battlefield, more reports are emerging of explosions being heard inside Russian territory near the border with Ukraine, according to media reports citing witnesses. It has not been made immediately clear what caused them, whether there were any casualties or damage and whether these are attacks from the Ukrainian military using Western weapons.

Russia's defense ministry says its forces have destroyed seven Ukrainian fuel and ammunition depots with "high-precision missiles".

Tehran Times could not immediately verify the latest battlefield reports.

## Kazakh president proposes referendum on constitutional amendments

*"A referendum will allow all citizens to directly participate in deciding the country's future and will also strengthen a policy aimed at fully democratizing the country and building a new Kazakhstan"*

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has proposed holding a referendum on amending the country's constitution, TASS reported.

"I believe that constitutional changes through a popular vote will make the people's will perfectly clear," he pointed out at a meeting of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan on Friday.

"A referendum will allow all citizens to directly participate in deciding the country's future and will also strengthen a policy aimed at fully democratizing the country and building a new Kazakhstan," Tokayev remarked.

The Kazakh president noted that a



referendum was an important democratic institution but Kazakhstan had last held one in 1995, when the current constitution had been adopted.

"I have initiated fundamental constitutional amendments that will radically change the country's political system. We are moving to a new model of government, a new model of interaction between the government and society," the president explained, adding that a working group had prepared amendments to 33 articles of the constitution.

A bill on introducing constitutional amendments has been submitted to the Constitutional Council that will soon announce its decision. The amendments particularly limit presidential powers, strengthen the role of parliament and local legislatures, and recreate the Constitutional Court.



## Cultural heritage experts to discuss Persian Gulf



TEHRAN – On the occasion of the Persian Gulf National Day, several lecturers and cultural heritage experts will discuss the strategic waterway in a webinar today.

Sadollah Nasiri Qeydari, Seyyed Mohammad Beheshti, Morteza Rezvanfar, Hamidreza Dalvand, Farzaneh Gashtash, and Maryam Nemat-Tavousi are among the lecturers in the event organized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

Moreover, some researchers have been invited to present studies on the historical heritage and cultural convergence of the locals across the historical waterway, ILNA reported.

The national day is annually observed on the tenth of the Ordibehesht (April 30) which marks the anniversary of Shah Abbas I of Persia's successful military campaign when the Portuguese navy was forced out of the Strait of Hormuz in the Capture of Ormuz (1622).

The modern strategic importance of the Persian Gulf dates from the mid-19th century when three great empires confronted each other there: British India, Tsarist Russia, and Ottoman Turkey.

The British established political control over much of the Persian Gulf in the early

1800s and kept it for 150 years, establishing a tradition of outside involvement that persists today. Britain did not establish formal protectorates (as in the case, for example, of Egypt), but did enter into treaties with local sheiks offering them protection in return for control over their foreign policy. In 1899, Kuwait, then considered a dependency of the Ottomans, was brought into this system.

After World War I, the political map of much of the Middle East was redrawn as the Ottoman Empire was replaced by modern states, including Turkey, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. The small Arab sheikhdoms on the western shore of the Persian Gulf were under British protection until 1971 (in the case of Kuwait, 1961). Iran (Persia) was never a colony, and for much of the 19th and 20th centuries, Britain competed with Russia for influence there.

Spanning some 250,000 square kilometers, the Persian Gulf is bounded by the Shatt al-Arab waterway in the north, which forms the frontier between Iran and Iraq, and the Strait of Hormuz in the south, which connects the sea to the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean.

Persian Gulf shares boundaries with littoral states Iran (Persia), Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.

Furthermore, it is of high importance as an international trade route connecting West Asia to Africa, India, and China. It has historically been an integrated region characterized by constant interchange of people, commerce, and religious movements.

## Sassanid-era bas-relief undergoes urgent restoration

TEHRAN – An urgent restoration work has commenced on a Sassanid-era (224–651) bas-relief in Mamasani, southern Fars province, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The restoration project is being carried out by a team of restorers and experts from the UNESCO-registered Persepolis protection and restoration team, Ali-Akbar Sadeqi explained on Friday.

Moreover, a workshop is being set up for research and executive activities related to the bas-relief named after the nearby village of Sarab-e Bahram, located nearby, the official added.

Sarab-e Bahram bas relief shows five figures carved on stone. In the middle of the relief, Bahram II is depicted sitting while holding his sword in both hands as a symbol of strength, authority, and power. During the Sassanid period, each king had his own crown, which led to the attribution of this relief to Bahram II because of this king's unique crown shape. The two elders of the country, who stand on either side of the king, hold up their index fingers in honor of him.

The ancient region of Fars, also spelled



Pars or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (c. 550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

The capital city of Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital which was the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights including Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, and Jameh Mosque of Atigh.

## Iranian kilims on show at Florence exhibit

TEHRAN – Iranian kilims from North Khorasan province are currently on show at the 86th edition of the International Handicraft Exhibition (Mostra Internazionale dell'Artigianato) in Florence, Italy, IRIB reported on Friday.

Several workshops, master classes, and special activities are organized on the sidelines of the exhibit, which hosts over 400 exhibitors from all over Italy and other counties including France, Turkey, Tunisia, Morocco, Peru, Egypt, India, Iran, Madagascar, Pakistan, Nepal, and Tibet Autonomous Region.

The exhibit, which is held in Fortezza

da Basso, a centuries-old fortress, will come to an end on Sunday.

Over 15,000 artisans and crafters practice 61 handicrafts fields across Iran's North Khorasan province, which is famed for its wrestling tournaments, the remarkable citadel of Belqays, and the partly preserved stepped village of Roein.

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

When used specifically the term

refers to a more limited number of techniques, including slit tapestry, warp sharing, and various forms of interlocking tapestry weave.

The kilims are often woven on narrow looms, and two mirror-image pieces are sewn together along the long edge to produce the completed kilim. The vertical color junctions involve a discontinuity of the wefts, the colored yarns that produce the design. At these boundaries, there are small slits in the fabric. Extremely fine kilims of silk were woven for the Safavid court (1502–1735), possibly in Kashan.

Persian carpets are sought

From page 1 ▶ Some experts believe Iran is still somehow “unknown” to many potential travelers due to such a “media war”. “Iran's tourism is grappling with some challenges, on top of those Western ‘media propaganda’ aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic.”

Long shunned by Western travelers, the Islamic Republic has steadily stepped-up efforts to use tourism, over the past couple of years, to help promote its international image battered by endless opposition mostly from the U.S.

A backpacker's dream, Iran holds vast potential as a holiday destination with stunning landscapes, numerous World Heritage sites, and above all, its hospitable people.

The country is often portrayed as “one of the safest to travel” by most visitors who experienced it, particularly solo female travelers and families, and the Lonely Planet calls its people the “friendliest in the world.”

“My advice is: don't believe what you hear on the news. Explore the place, talk to locals and come to your own conclusions. Come to Iran with an open mind and I guarantee you'll make many great friends in Iran,” Polish traveler Anna Karsten wrote in her travelogue in 2020.

“To me, being uncomfortable once or twice doesn't mean that the place is dangerous. I never

## Tourism seen as effective tool against Iranophobia: ICESCO official



once felt physically threatened, unsafe, or at risk, even when I was wandering the streets of Iran. I felt safer in Iran than if I was walking around in NYC. Even the tap water was safe in Iran!”

Ellis Veen, a cultural anthropologist from the Netherlands who has traveled for more than 20 years to over 50 countries along the ancient Silk Road, says: “After my visit to Iran one of the most frequent questions I got is whether it was

safe for me to travel to Iran as a woman. My short answer would be yes and I would recommend Iran to anyone considering it.”

“Iran is one of the safest countries in the Middle East (West Asia) and Iranians are among the friendliest people I have met in my travel history.”

It's no surprise for those who are aware of Iranian culture and the great hospitality its people are famous for. Iranians are traditionally generous hosts giving

## Gol Ghaltn, a ritual to soak up babies with petals

TEHRAN – Following a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus outbreak, the 13th edition of the national festival of Gol Ghaltn (literally meaning rolling in flowers) will be held in the city of Amirieh, north-central province of Semnan, on May 5 and 6.

The national festival, which dates back hundreds of years, is performed in May when roses are in full-blown, a local tourism official has said.

Organizing an exhibition of handicrafts and souvenirs of the region, performing local games and music as well as touring the historical sites of the city are among the programs of the festival, Mehdi Qasemi explained on Friday.

Gol Ghaltn has roots in an old Iranian myth called ‘The Smiling Flower’, in which pure and holy humans promised the birth of a child.

People in this region believe that rolling babies among the roses gives them joy and refreshment while keeping them untainted and free from diseases. The freshness of the petals saves the baby's skin, allowing them to stay happy.



Babies are rolled in the petals of very sweet-smelling kinds of flowers, best known as Mohammadi roses, in the first spring of their lives.

In spring, when the pink roses bloom in the area, when gardeners, people, and tourists are getting ready for the rosewater distillation festival, commonly known as “Golab-giri”, female members of the families, mainly the baby's mother, grandmothers, and aunts perform the Gol Ghaltn ceremony.

Days before the ceremony, the women go to the rose gardens early in the morning and pick and collect the flowers while reciting poems

## Food tourism conference to host female entrepreneurs

TEHRAN – On May 7, Tehran's Milad Tower will be hosting a conference on female entrepreneurs who own and run businesses in food tourism and gastronomy.

Organized by Iran's UNESCO Food and Gastronomy Club, the event is aimed at promoting the potential of food tourism and the role of women in this industry as well as introducing creative female entrepreneurs to the tourism sector, Tehran province's deputy tourism chief has said.

Tehran province has a high potential for developing food tourism with its variety of food, taste, hosting styles, food rituals,

and architecture of the Iranian kitchens, IRNA quoted Ali Rafiei as saying on Friday.

Among the goals of this conference are helping female entrepreneurs succeed in the food and tourism industries, promoting Iranian cuisine across borders and introducing the work of women in this segment, forming specialized working groups in the food and tourism industry, and identifying and showcasing Iranian brands, said the conference secretary Donya Akhgari.

It also aims at familiarizing more people with the activities of female chefs and entrepreneurs in the food and tourism industry as well

as with the growth of the industry along with the development of the culture of the country, she added.

Iranian food is a highlight of traveling in the country, with considerable variety on offer. While you may often eat cheap meals on the run, remember that for many Iranians, eating is a social event in which food is only half the story.

No Persian meal is complete without an abundance of herbs. Every table is usually set with sabzi-khordan, a basket of fresh herbs, radishes, and scallions, which are eaten raw and by the handful. Persian cuisine is, above all, about balance — of tastes and flavors, textures and temperatures.

the best of what they have to their guests. In traditional Iranian culture, guests are cherished like precious jewels. It is here in Iran that a typical invitation for a cup of tea can be extended to an overnight stay, or a humble asking for directions may forge a warm friendship.

In the realm of medical tourism, many domestic experts believe it is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

Amongst Iran's trump cards are the presence of credible surgeons and physicians, cutting-edge medical technologies, high-tech medicine and diverse specializations, super affordable procedures, and finally its hospitable people. The Islamic Republic has set goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around two million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025–March 2026).

The ICESCO, which stands for the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is a specialized organization that operates under the aegis of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and is concerned with fields of education, science, culture and communication in Islamic countries to support and strengthen relations among member states.

and verses of the Quran. The petals are then separated and poured into a light, white cloth.

On the day of the ceremony, one of the grandmothers takes the baby to the bath. Baby's hands are sometimes painted with henna in some regions. As the baby is dried, he/she is placed among the flowers on the cloth, and petals are poured on the babies, wishing them health and long life.

Women thereafter take four sides of the sheet and roll the baby among the petals while reciting religious songs and waving the sheet back and forth, believing the soul will be cleansed and the child will be kept healthy and fresh.

Guests place their gifts near the cloth after the baby was placed on the floor. As the ceremony concludes, sweets and tea are served.

When the ceremony is over, mothers dry the petals by placing them in shade to keep them for the future, placing the dried petals in their future prayer rugs.

The ritual was inscribed on the national intangible cultural heritage list in 2010.

## Parthian coin recovered in western Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian authorities have confiscated an ancient coin from an inbound passenger.

Customs police discovered an ancient coin from a passenger upon his/her arrival in Marivan, western Iran, CHTN quoted a local police commander as saying on Thursday.

The object, according to initial estimates, dates from the Parthian era (247 BC – 224 CE), Rasoul Moradi stated.

The commander added that the suspect was surrendered to the judicial system for trial and further investigation.

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power in ancient Iran.

The Parthians largely adopted the art, architecture, religious beliefs, and royal insignia of their culturally heterogeneous empire, which encompassed Persian, Hellenistic, and regional cultures. At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to eastern Iran.

Parthian wealth obtained through lucrative trade networks resulted in substantial patronage of the arts, in particular, relief sculpture, statuary (large and small scale), architectural sculpture, metalwork, jewelry, and ceramics; coins with images of Parthian rulers form another important category of objects.



# Plan on desertification mitigation drawn up for West Asia

From page 1 ► Studies by international organizations show that the Islamic Republic has recorded the highest number of reforested desert areas after China, he added.

Iran is surrounded by 8 large SDS hotspots stretching to 270 million hectares in neighboring and Persian Gulf countries, he said.

In fact, the dust is raised from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in the northeast as well as Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan in the south, southwest, and west.

Part of our desertification mitigation program is called the West Asia Action Plan, and we demand that the first phase begins with the countries of the region and the other countries of the Persian Gulf later joining the action plan, he explained.

Dayoub also for his part said that the relations between the two nations are strategically close and strong, but a gap is felt in the fields of the environment, economy, and trade, which needs to be considered seriously and special measures should be taken to strengthen these fields of cooperation.

He further expressed readiness to cooperate effectively to expand relations between the two countries in all areas, including the environmental issue, mainly ecosystem and climate change.



### SDSs phenomenon

The SDSs phenomenon is no longer an uninvited guest because it has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces. According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1,460 million hectares are dried wetlands.

Some 4.23 million tons of dust are raised per year, which means the loss of soil fertility will hit the agricultural sector.

Recently, a dense mass of sand

and dust storms entered Iran from Iraq and affected the western and central provinces, and eventually hit 25 provinces, including Tehran, Alborz, Kermanshah, Ilam, Zanjan, and Kordestan, causing the air pollution index of Tehran to reach a very dangerous scale.

Dariush Gol Alizadeh, Head of Iran's National Climate Change Office (NCCO) of the Department of Environment, told IRNA that the hotspots of the dust have been haunting the country in the past few days in eastern Syria, western Iraq, as well as Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

These dust sources have appeared many years ago, and due to the drought and water shortages that have occurred in recent years, they have both intensified and increased in number. In fact, abandoned agricultural lands in those countries are a source of SDSs, he explained.

If serious action is not taken in the form of diplomacy and international institutions do not comply with the requirements to eradicate SDSs, the countries will always be haunted by the phenomenon, he lamented.

SDS not only affects people's health but also has a psychological effect, it also has a great negative effect on agricultural products, and on the reproduction of plant species and activities such as beekeeping, he further noted.

At present, this phenomenon cannot be dealt with, but the damage can be minimized, he said, adding, programs to be carried out in this regard can be planting crops, shrubs, and finally soil stabilization by biological mulches.

Part of the program is called the West Asia Action Plan. The first phase begins with countries of the region and other countries of the Persian Gulf will be later joining the action plan.

## Iran trembled by 500 quakes in a month

TEHRAN – Nearly 500 earthquakes have been recorded across the country over the past calendar month (March 21-April 21), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Of the total 495 quakes, 7 were more than 4 on the Richter scale, the largest of which occurred on April 17, with a magnitude of 4.4 in the central province of Yazd.

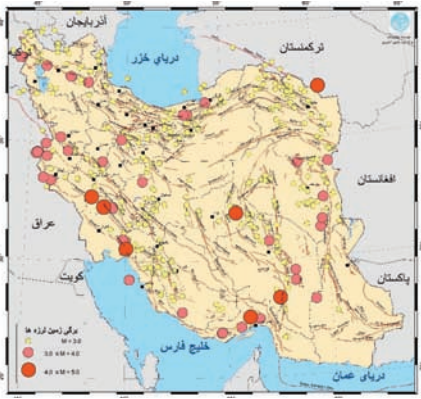
Statistically, 439 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, and 49 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 to 4 have occurred. At least 7 earthquakes with a magnitude of 4.5 to 5 have occurred in the country.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi with 56 earthquakes, Kerman with 46 earthquakes, and South Khorasan with 41 earthquakes recorded the highest number of earthquakes in the country.

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

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran but more than 6% of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes. This shows the high level of vulnerability in Iran, according to Mehdi Zare, a professor of engineering seismology.

Tehran is also one of the most hazardous metropolises in the world in terms of the risk of different natural disasters, such as earthquakes,



floods, subsidence, drought, landslide, fire following an earthquake, etc.

## Iranian scientist receives intl. award for water management

TEHRAN – Iranian scientist Mohammad Karamouz has been recognized with the 2022 Julian Hinds Award for his original outstanding contribution to environmental science, mainly water resources development and management.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has honored Karamouz, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, F.ASCE, with the 2022 Julian Hinds Award for original outstanding contribution in hydrology, hydraulics, irrigation and drainage, planning and management, hydroelectric power and reservoir operation, flood and drought, and climate change over a 36-year period of teaching, research, consulting, and leadership.



Karamouz has had a long and illustrious career in water resources engineering. He was the principal investigator of a \$3.8 million international project in hydraulics (flood plain, reservoirs/dams, hydropower), hydrological, and water resources planning in arid and semi-arid regions of the Middle East, including Iran.

He worked at New York University (NYU) as a research professor and the director of an environmental engineering program from 2009 to 2014, initiating a major university collaboration effort after Superstorm Sandy among NYU, Stony Brook, Cornell, Columbia, and City College that became The New York State Resilience Institute for Storms and Emergencies (NYS RISE).

Karamouz has contributed to the water field in three very significant areas of education and capacity building, research, and practical applications. He is one of those rare individuals who have bridged the gap between academics and prac-

tice in arid and semi-arid regions of the U.S. and the Middle East.

Karamouz served as the key figure in founding and maintaining the first Ph.D. program in water resources management in Iran.

The Julian Hinds Award is given to recognize the author or authors of that paper judged to make the most meritorious contribution to the field of water resources development. The award may also be made to an individual for notable performance, long years of distinguished service, or specific actions that advance engineering in the field of planning, development, and management of water resources.

## Women, villagers more empowered by tourism development

TEHRAN – The development of tourism cooperatives has increased employment for women and villagers, the deputy minister cooperatives, labor, and social welfare has said.

There are 3,299 cooperatives in the field of cultural heritage, handicrafts, and tourism in the whole country, IRIB quoted Mehdi Maskani as saying on Thursday.

Of these cooperatives, 62 percent are run by women, and if this sector can be developed, more jobs will be created for the target community, namely women and villagers, he highlighted.

Pointing out that 115 cooperatives are created annually in the field of handicrafts, he stated that Sistan-Baluchestan, Fars, and Kerman have the highest and Qom, Zanjan and Qazvin have the lowest rate of handicraft cooperatives in the country.

He went on to note that a total budget of 20 trillion rials (nearly \$76 million) has been allocated for cooperatives in line with the goal of developing the national economy, 10 percent of which can be allocated to the rural handicrafts sector.

There are 39 cities in the world that have handicrafts, of which Iran's share is 8 cities, he further said.

Many efforts have been made over the past

couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural development while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining).

Cooperatives have been acknowledged as associations and enterprises through which citizens can effectively improve their lives while contributing to the economic, social, cultural, and political advancement of their community and nation.

Cooperatives also foster external equality. As they are community-based, they are committed to the sustainable development of their communities – environmentally, socially, and economically. This commitment can be seen in their support for community activities, local sourcing of supplies to benefit the local economy, and decision-making that considers the impact on their communities.

Despite their local community focus, cooperatives also aspire to bring the benefits of their economic and social model to all people in the world.

## Efforts to protect natural resources, wildlife, and ecosystems in Iran

### Part 3

In an arid land such as Iran water is obviously a precious natural resource, yet, in practice, it is treated as a product “to be managed according to user's needs”. Inefficient and often excessive irrigation subjects much farmland to salinization; the resultant saline runoff harms downstream areas as well.

The indiscriminate sinking of wells in the past decade has dangerously lowered the water table in regions such as Khorasan. Tehran, its population rising implacably toward 12 and 13 million, requires more than double the 500 million cubic meters per year of treated water it received on average through the 1980s.

Plans are underway to bring some of the needed water from the central Caspian region. But urbanization of parts of the central Caspian region—a reasonably plentiful supply of water notwithstanding—is threatening that region with water shortage too.

Furthermore, raw sewage there is dumped into wells, although the water table is often only about a meter below ground level. This state of affairs threatens to cause irreversible pollution of groundwater.

Appropriate pollution-control laws and regulations are in force, but their application is haphazard and invariably directed at point sources, particularly industrial plants. For example, in 1991 a fine of \$3.5 million was imposed on a sugar factory whose effluents had badly contaminated the Zarrinehroud. But little effort is made to exert comprehensive control over urban or agricultural units.

### Soils and agriculture

Iran's cultivable land is estimated to be 16.6 million hectares, 10 percent of the area of the country, or slightly less than the area presently under cultivation. This is 0.25 hectares per person compared to 0.48 in Turkey and 0.74 in the United States.

Per capita cultivable land in Iran is thus very low and is diminishing proportionately to the rapidly expanding population. In a television broadcast in November 1991, it was stated by the agricultural-planning task force of the second five-year plan that the country's agricultural capacity could presently supply the needs of a population of 45 million and, with the application of the best agricultural techniques, could support no more than 67 million.

Soil loss through erosion is very great in Iran due to destructive practices such as ploughing slopes against contour lines, irrigating with erosive gravity techniques and destroying natural plant cover, and overgrazing. Soil loss is estimated to exceed 1.5 billion tons per annum, equivalent to the loss of 400,000 hectares of farmland.

Virtually all of the country's artificial lakes are rapidly filling with silt. Thirty years after the completion of the Sefidrud dam more than half of the reservoir's capacity of 1.8 billion cubic meters is filled with sediments. The loss of storage capacity has already compromised the function of the reservoir for irrigation and power and threatens to terminate, within ten to fifteen years, the project's usefulness.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## \$22m earmarked for equipping technical-vocational schools

A total budget of 900 billion rials (nearly \$22 million) has been requested to develop and equip technical-vocational high schools across the country in the current Iranian calendar year (ending March 20, 2019), Mohsen Hosseini, an official with the Ministry of Education has announced.

Describing some of the programs and priorities of the technical and vocational training organization affiliated to the Ministry, Hosseini pointed to improvement of technical and vocational training plans as the Ministry's main priority.

Competency-based education and assessment is among the most important programs of the technical and vocational organization, which must be well implemented in all career and technical education high school, he added, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

## تخصیص ۹۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار برای تجهیز هنرستان های کشور

مدیرکل فنی و حرفه‌ای دفتر متوسطه وزارت آموزش و پرورش از تخصیص ۹۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار برای تجهیز هنرستان‌های کشور در سال جاری خبر داد.

به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر، سیدمحسن حسینی مقدم در دیدار با مدیران هنرستان‌های فنی و حرفه‌ای شهر شیراز و برخی از مناطق استان فارس با تشریح برخی از برنامه‌ها و اولویت‌های وزارت آموزش و پرورش در بخش فنی و حرفه‌ای، گفت: کیفیت‌بخشی برنامه‌های دفتر فنی و حرفه‌ای اولویت اصلی آموزش و پرورش است.

حسینی‌مقدم اظهار کرد: آموزش و ارزشیابی مبتنی بر شایستگی از مهمترین برنامه‌هایی است که در آموزش‌های فنی و حرفه‌ای دنبال می‌شود و باید این شیوه آموزش به خوبی مراقبت شده و در همه هنرستان‌ها اجرا شود.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON APRIL 29

New cases	719
New deaths	14
Total cases	7,221,121
Total deaths	141,072
New hospitalized patients	135
Patients in critical condition	1,076
Total recovered patients	6,980,483
Diagnostic tests conducted	50,066,345
Doses of vaccine injected	148,872,469



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APRIL 30, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who is greedy is disgraced; he who discloses his hardship will always be humiliated; he who has no control over his tongue will often have to face discomfort.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:02    Evening: 20:10    Dawn: 4:40 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:13

## What’s in Tehran art galleries

**Painting**

\* An exhibition of paintings by Nasim Davari is currently underway at Aran Gallery.

The exhibition will run until May 13 at the gallery located at 5 Lolagar St., Neauphle-le-Chateau St.

\* Paintings by Fatima Faraji are on view in an exhibition at Inja Gallery.

The exhibit entitled “Others” will run until May 20 at the gallery located at 4 Pedram Alley, Neauphle-le-Chateau St.

\* An exhibition displaying paintings by Reyhaneh Karimnejad is currently underway at Entezami Gallery.

The exhibit will run until May 5 at the gallery located at 608 Shariati Ave. near Motahhari St.

\* Silk Road Gallery is playing host to an online exhibition of paintings by Khashayar Javanmardi.

The exhibit will run until May 20 at <http://www.silkroadartgallery.com/>.

\* Paintings by Sheida Qolipour are on view in an exhibition at Negah Gallery.

The exhibit entitled “Fantasy and Color” will continue until May 11 at the gallery located at 64 Ghaffari St., Jam St., Motahhari Ave.

\* A collection of paintings by a group of artists is currently on display in an exhibition at Hoom Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until May 9 at the gallery that can be found at No. 2, 4th Alley off Qaem-Maqam St.

**Persian painting**

\* An exhibition of Persian paintings by Maryam Rohanzadegan is currently underway at Ehsan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until May 4 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

**Photo**

\* A collection of photos by Farzad Emami is on display in an exhibition at Haft Samar Gallery.

Entitled “Minimal”, the exhibition will be running until May 4 at the gallery that can be found at No. 8, Fifth Alley, Kuh-e Nur St., Motahhari Ave.

**Graphic design**

\* Graphic designs by Morteza Momayyez, Farshid Mesqali, Qobad Shiva, Behzad Hatam and Sadeq Barirani are on view in an exhibition at Hedayat Gallery.

The exhibits named “Elanart” will continue until May 4 at the gallery located at No. 16, 6th Alley, Nejatollahi St.

**Calligraphy**

\* Works by calligrapher Mostafa Shabestari are on view in an exhibition at Guyeh Gallery.

The exhibit runs until May 5 at the gallery located at 39 Lotfi Alley, Mashahir St. near Hafte Tir Square.

**Multimedia**

\* Artworks in various media by Parimah Moradi, Zahra Tabakhian, Fatemeh Shams and several other artists are on view in an exhibition at Golhaye Davudi Gallery.

The exhibition will run until May 4 at the gallery located at 263 near Nejatollahi St., Taleqani Ave.

# Quran activists honored at Tehran international exhibition

From Page 1 ► Qelichlu was honored for his acting career in movies portraying stories from the Holy Quran.

He has appeared in several TV series including, “The Men of Angelos” and “Prophet Joseph (AS)”, both by Farajollah Salahshur.

He also played a role in “Women of Sabra and Men of Shatila”, a play that was staged by director and writer Qotbeddin Sadeqi in 1998 at Tehran’s City Theater Complex.

The drama was about the Sabra and Shatila massacre, which took place between the 16th and the 18th of September 1982 in Lebanon by the Phalangists, a Lebanese Christian militia that was under the political and military control of the State of Israel.

“God Calls John in Jalil” is another play, in which he

Actor Amir-Abbas Qelichlu receives his award from President Ebrahim Raisi after being selected as a Quran activist at the 29th International Holy Quran Exhibition at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla in Tehran on April 28, 2022. (Hawzeh)

starred. The play directed by Saeid Shapuri at the City Theater Complex in 2005 was about the life story of St. John the Baptist.

Qelichlu also has played roles in “The Kingdom of Solomon”,

director Shahriar Bahrani’s 2010 movie about the life story of Prophet Solomon (AS), which was written based on the Holy Quran.

He has also penned several plays, including “An Empty

Frame”, based on stories from the Holy Quran.

Shurjeh is most famous for his movies on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, however, he was selected for his collaboration as an assistant director in “The Men of Angelos” and “Prophet Joseph (AS)”.

He is also the director of “33 Days”, a film on the Israeli 33-Day War of 2006 against Lebanon, and “Ahmed Bey” about the last Ottoman Bey who ruled Algiers during the 19th century.

The honorees also include the Quran scholars Ayatollah Mahmud Rajabi, Hojjatoleslam Ali-Akbar Rashad, Ahmad Mehrmashhadi-Afkhami, Mehdi Adeli and Abbas Emanjomeh, Quran reciter Hashem Soltanmejdi, Quran memorizer Ghasun Moslemi, Quran teacher Abdorreza Sediq, and Seyyed Abbas Anjam, a manager from a Quranic center.

## Ignasi Ribó’s “Prose Fiction” published in Persian

TEHRAN – “Prose Fiction: An Introduction to the Semiotics of Narrative” by Catalan writer Ignasi Ribó has been published in Persian.

Siahrud is the publisher of the book translated by Vafa Miah.

This concise and highly accessible textbook outlines the principles and techniques of storytelling. It is intended as a high-school and college-level introduction to the central concepts of narrative theory – concepts that will aid students in developing their competence not only in analyzing and interpreting short stories and novels, but also in writing them.

This textbook prioritizes clarity over the intricacy of theory, equipping its readers with the necessary tools to embark on further study of literature, literary theory and creative writing.

Building on a “semiotic model of narrative,” it is structured around the key elements of narratological theory, with chapters on plot, setting, characterization and narration, as well as on language and theme – elements which are underrepresented in existing textbooks on narrative theory.

The chapter on language constitutes essential reading for those students unfamiliar

with rhetoric, while the chapter on theme draws together significant perspectives from contemporary critical theory, including feminism and post-colonialism.

This textbook is engaging and easily navigable, with key concepts highlighted and clearly explained, both in the text and in a full glossary located at the end of the book.

Throughout the textbook the reader is aided by diagrams, images, quotes from prominent theorists, and instructive examples from classical and popular short stories and novels, such as Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*, Franz Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis*, J. K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter*, or Dostoyevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov*, amongst many others.

“Prose Fiction: An Introduction to the Semiotics of Narrative” can either be incorporated as the main textbook into a wider syllabus on narrative theory and creative writing, or it can be used as a supplementary reference book for readers interested in narrative fiction.

The textbook is a must-read for beginning students of narratology, especially those with no or limited prior experience in this area. It is of especial relevance to English and Humanities

Front cover of the Persian edition of Ignasi Ribó’s book “Prose Fiction”

major students in Asia, for whom it was conceived and written.

Ribó has a Ph.D. from the University of Sussex and holds graduate degrees in economics, political science and literary theory.

## Alicante Film Festival picks “Silence Again”, “To the Order!”

TEHRAN – Iranian short dramas “Silence Again” and “To the Order!” will be competing in the Alicante Film Festival.

The festival will take place in Spain’s southeastern port city of Alicante from May 21 to 28.

“To the Order!” directed by Reza Zarringol will be screened in the international competition.

The film is a narrative of the past 40 years of Iraq and the Iraqi people. When you travel to Iraq, what you will see are the ruins left over from the war, the mourners and the soldiers. Like children who play with guns, and what is most annoying is the joy that is evident in their faces. It is as if their uniforms and weapons have been distorted.

“Silence Again” will be competing in the Mediterranean

“Silence Again” by Mohammad-Kamal Alavi.

Short Films category.

Directed by Mohammad-Kamal Alavi, the film follows a young woman who lives on a hill far from the city.

Alone and in silence, she farms and takes her products to the city on an old motorbike. On the way back, a scarecrow

catches her eye. The woman returns home but cannot get out of the scarecrow’s mind. She gets up in the middle of the night and walks in the dark. The next morning, the scarecrow is at the woman’s house.

The woman is no longer alone. She changes the look

of the scarecrow and gives it a feminine look. The woman’s relationship with the scarecrow gradually deepens. One day the woman returns home. When she opens the door, the scarecrow falls on her face and injures her. The woman throws the scarecrow out of the house and sheds tears alone and broken.

The next morning the farmland, roads and houses are empty and silent. In the middle of a paddy field, a woman stands in a scarecrow shirt and hat with her arms outstretched; still and motionless, like a scarecrow.

In 2022, the Alicante Film Festival celebrates its nineteenth edition, in which 66 short films from 22 countries and 8 Spanish-produced feature films will compete.

## Omar Khayyam: As mathematician

Part 2

Khayyam thinks that the error his predecessors made, while trying to prove the Parallel Postulate, is that they disregarded some of the principles taken from the philosopher (i.e., Aristotle).

He believes that the Parallel Postulate should be proven taking as a starting point certain philosophical premises, which, in his opinion, are immediate consequences of the very notions of straight line and of rectilinear angle; for once these premises be taken as necessarily true, then the geometer can admit them without proof.

These premises are: (1) Two straight lines that intersect will diverge while going away from the point of intersection (Proclus had already resorted to this premise, attributing

it explicitly to Aristotle). (2) Two converging straight lines will intersect. (3) Two converging straight lines cannot diverge while going toward convergence, and vice-versa.

Khayyam also assumes (while proving the third proposition) that parallel lines are equidistant; but since he does not give any explanation whatsoever, it is difficult to know whether he takes this as an obvious consequence of the second premise, or whether he considers, like some of his predecessors, that “parallel” and “equidistant” are synonymous.

It should be noted in this respect that, from Khayyam’s point of view, the fact that the second and third premises are mathematically equivalent to the postulate he intends to prove is not an issue at all.

Khayyam is not really concerned with matters

of mathematical equivalence; he is rather concerned with the fact that the second and third premises are immediate consequences of the concepts of straight line and rectilinear angle, whereas the Postulate is not; and this is why the Postulate should, in his opinion, be proven through them.

The gist of Khayyam’s argumentation is found in the proof of the third proposition. In it he considers a quadrilateral ABCD, in which the sides AC and BD are equal to each other and both perpendicular to the base AB. As a consequence of the first proposition he had just proven, the angles ACD and BDC will then be equal to each other.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued