

# Lebanon Holds Pivotal Elections

▶ Page 3

## Report

### Israel plans 4,000 new settler units

Defying international law once again, Israeli occupation authorities plan to build around four thousand new settlement units in two areas across the occupied Palestinian West Bank.

The regime's announcement of approving the planning and building of 3,988 settler units has alarmed human rights organizations and the international community; not for the first time.

An official with the Tel Aviv regime claims there is a "growing need" for settlements as the Israeli settlers increase in occupied Palestine in the latest bid to ethnically cleansed the Palestinian natives from their land.

More than half a million Israeli settlers live in the occupied Palestinian territories, "with many more even wanting to move there", the Israeli official added.

The regime's Planning Council for the occupied West Bank is set to give its final approval for building 2,536 new settler units and approve plans for an additional 1,452 settlement units.

The 2,536 settlement units are said to include 761 units for the Beitar Illit settlement, 534 units for Shvuet Rachel, 364 for Dolev, 168 for Neria, 156 for Kiryat Arba, 136 for Givat Ze'ev, 114 for Ma'aleh Michmash, 106 for Tal Menashe, 92 for Zofim, 64 for Revava and 40 for Efrat.

Meanwhile, the 1,452 settlement units include 500 units for the Elkana settlement, 286 units for Kedumim, 192 for Sha'are Tikvah, 170 for Immanuel, and 110 for Mevo Horon, 90 for Dolev, 56 for Negahot, 32 for Nokdim and 16 for Ma'aleh Adumim.

Regime officials say initial intentions were to advance plans for close to 6,000 settler units but were told to cut around 1,800-2,000. ▶ Page 5

## Report

### Asian Games' postponement: opportunity or threat for Iranians?

By Farrokhesabi

TEHRAN - The postponement of the 2022 Asian Games has been of benefit for some Iranian athletes and federations, while it also brings its own set of challenges for others.

The Asian Games, scheduled to take place in the Chinese city of Hangzhou in September, have been postponed until 2023 because of the Covid-19 situation, the governing Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said on Friday.

Some athletes are happy with the deferred Games, among them is boxer Danial Shahbakhsh.

Shahbakhsh believes that the postponement of the Games is a "special opportunity" for the athletes.

"I cannot say it was a bad or good thing, but it has happened and we have no choice but to deal with it," said the first Iranian boxer who won a medal at the World Championships.

"In my view, we can look at this as a special opportunity," he added. "We all want to win the medal in the competition and now there is more time to practice and prepare to achieve this goal," Shahbakhsh said.

However, with the postponement, the Iranian Handball Federation is shocked. ▶ Page 3



## Leader: Syria has won international war

TEHRAN — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad made an unannounced visit to Iran on Sunday morning and met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi.

This is the second time that Assad visits Tehran since the beginning of the war in Syria in 2011.

According to the Leader's office, Ayatollah Khamenei told Assad, who was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, that Syria has "won an international war".

"Syria's credibility is much greater today than in the past," the Leader noted.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the resistance of the Syrian

people and establishment and their victory in an international war promoted Syria's charisma and pride.

More than 100 countries, calling themselves "friends of Syria", backed the opponents which were poised to overthrow the Syrian government. Some of these countries backed terrorist groups, which were active in Syria under different names. ▶ Page 2

## Iran becomes world's 20th largest economy despite U.S. sanctions

TEHRAN - In the latest ranking of the world's largest economies by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Iran is ranked 20th and stands higher than many European countries such as Poland, the Netherlands, Argentina, Switzerland, Belgium, and Austria.

As IRNA reported on Sunday, the mentioned ranking has been based on the gross domestic

product (GDP) per capita adjusted by purchasing power parity (PPP) in 2021.

According to the international organization, the value of Iran's GDP per capita when adjusted by PPP was \$1.436 trillion in 2021.

Based on the mentioned data, despite being subjected to harsh sanctions over the past few

years Iran's economy is reported to be larger than 173 countries in the mentioned year.

Countries such as Egypt, Thailand, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Argentina, South Africa, the UAE, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, Austria, Norway, Portugal, Greece, Finland, Oman, and Kuwait had smaller economies than Iran in 2021. ▶ Page 4



## Iran FM says diplomacy is only solution to Ukraine war

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Sunday that the Islamic Republic is against war anywhere in the world, underscoring diplomacy as the sole way out of the Ukraine war.

"We oppose war in Ukraine as we do in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq or any other place in the world," Amir Abdollahian said in a joint press conference with his Polish counterpart, Zbigniew Rau, in Tehran. ▶ Page 2

## Zoom in closer: Maragheh observatory

TEHRAN – Maragheh observatory in north-west Iran is a must-see destination for history buffs and ones interested in medieval astronomy.

Construction of the site commenced in the mid-13th century under the patronage of Hulagu Khan, the grandson of Genghis Khan, who selected Persian polymath Nasir al-Din

al-Tusi as the director of the observatory.

Abundant evidence suggests astronomers at Maragheh carried out complicated programs in observational and computational astronomy to update the Ptolemaic parameters.

Experts say ideas initiated by the Maragheh school created a considerable impact beyond

the Islamic territories and influenced the astronomical revolution of the 16th century.

According to the UNESCO Astronomy and World Heritage Webportal, Maragheh observatory represents a new wave of scientific activities in the Islamic world in the 13th century, it had a key role in the development of some sophisticated ▶ Page 6

## From Inside

- Navy, academic center sign MOU on Makran coasts **P2**
- Ababil 5: Novel step forward in evolution of Ababil UAVs **P2**
- Mora expected to come up with new initiative in Tehran: report **P3**
- Amir Abdollahian meets Iranian ambassadors to Iraq, Russia **P3**
- Annual sponge iron export rises 25% **P4**
- Iran inks 8 MOUs, deals with Latin American countries in oil, agriculture sectors **P4**
- Stock market can grow 30% by March 2023: expert **P4**
- Intl. conference to discuss Sassanid arts from 21st-century perspective **P6**
- Sari 2022 to touch Trans-Iranian Railway **P6**
- Drought causes \$107m damage to environment **P7**
- Turkey blamed for boom in dust storms into Iran **P7**
- Innovation and technology join Khwarizmi Intl. Festival **P7**
- Minneapolis festival screening movies from Iran **P8**
- "The Next Great Paulie Fink" comes to Iranian bookstores **P8**

## Interview

### 99% of Yemenis support Palestine cause: political analyst

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A Yemeni political analyst and activist says that a vast majority of Yemeni people support the Palestinian cause and their rights to liberate their lands.

"I can assure you 99% of Yemenis support Palestinian rights, including their right to bear and use arms to liberate themselves," Munir A. Saeed tells the Tehran Times.

Saeed believes that the main reason for the recent uprising in Palestine is the Zionist regime's occupation of Palestinian lands and denial of the rights of Christian and Muslim Palestinians to get the same rights as Jewish Palestinians.

Following is the text of the interview:

**What is the position of Yemen's Ansarallah in supporting the Palestinian cause and confronting Israel?**

I can't speak for Ansarallah. But I can assure you that 99% of Yemenis support Palestinian rights, including their right to bear and use arms to liberate themselves. Ansarallah as Yemenis has declared support for the Palestinians as I know.

**To what extent did normalization of ties with Israel contribute to the new round of Palestinian uprising?**

The most serious triggers for the uprising are the Zionist regime's occupation of Palestinian lands and denial of the rights of Christian and Muslim Palestinians to get the same rights as Jewish Palestinians. ▶ Page 5

### Persian musical "Simorghnameh" inspires new generation to care about environment

TEHRAN – A musical entitled "Simorghnameh" went on stage last week at Tehran's Vahdat Hall to inspire the younger generation to care about the environment.

A cast of children and young adults directed by Mitra Karimkhani gave three performances, the last of which was held on Friday. Karimkhani has written the musical based on Persian poet Attar's masterpiece "The Conference of the Birds".

The musical composed by Maryam Sharifzadeh tells the story of the perilous journey of the world's birds to the faraway peaks of Mount Qaf in search of their mysterious king, Simorgh.

"The troupe did their best to attract the theatergoers' attention to environmental issues and the natural heritage of our country by the musical performed by a group of children and young adults," the organizers said in a press release published on Sunday. ▶ Page 8





## Ababil 5: Novel step forward in evolution of Ababil UAVs



TEHRAN- Iran's progress in designing and manufacturing UAVs has always been magnificent over the last three decades, and Iran-made UAVs have demonstrated their high value in surveillance and spotting, targeting, and offensive operations in battlefields, particularly in the last decade due to the occurrence of regional conflicts.

Iran is presently one of the top ten UAV powers in the world, and one of the few countries with a progressive trend in UAV design, development, and manufacturing.

The Ababil UAV family, of which numerous versions have been constructed so far, notably the Ababil 3, has emerged successfully in various operational scenes. It is one of the successful UAVs made in Iran with a magnificent operational history. In 2014, the Ababil 3 drone was revealed and handed over to the Iranian Armed Forces.

The large and diversified presence of drones belonging to elements of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran was one of the major and distinguishing characteristics of the parade on April 18, 2022, in Tehran. Experts and domestic and international media were drawn to the name Ababil 5, which had previously been unknown.

The drone, which was initially observed, is an overview of a reconnaissance and attack drone that, when compared to several well-known Iranian drones, represents a succession of significant and successful enhancements.

With all of its successes and excellent operational experiences, the Ababil UAV family is not limited to the first, second, or third generations, and with the display of the Ababil UAV 5 during the current Iranian year's Army Day parade, it became clear that the process of upgrading the Ababil UAV family continues. The Ababil 5 drone is a cross between the Mohajer 6 and the Ababil 3 drones.

Three Ababil 5 drones were showcased on mobile tractors during the parade on April 18, 2022. Two diamond rocket launchers were seen under one wing of one of the drones, while three guided and double-barreled Qaem-class bombs were seen under each wing of another drone.

Some analysts believe the Ababil 5 drone is a smaller version of the Mohajer 6 drone, which can carry six smart bombs from the Qaem-class series.

The Ababil 5 UAV has a range of about 480 kilometers and is armed with a Qaem bomb and four Diamond-2 air-to-air missiles with a range of roughly 8 kilometers.

When looking at the body shape of the Ababil 5 drone, it is clear that the rear part of the fuselage, particularly the tail, has the same famous H-shaped design that was used in the early models of the Ababil 3 as well as the upgraded Atlas design, but the front and possibly the nose has a more advanced design than the Mohajer 6 drone.

The drone's wing span has also grown, as has the volume of portable ammo carried by the drone. Although the technical details of this UAV have not been released, Ababil 5 is expected to employ a Rotax 914 engine with 115 horsepower and specifications similar to Mohajer 6.

The Ababil 5 military reconnaissance drone, which is designed and sized similarly to the well-known Mohajer 6, is armed with four diamond air-to-surface anti-tank missiles with an 8-kilometer range and the capacity to "shoot and forget" under each wing and intelligently follows the course.

Another interesting feature of the UAV is that, according to accessible photographs, the front landing gear can be folded within the fuselage. This clearly demonstrates that new concepts were employed in the design of the Ababil 5's front end, and we are confronting more space while withdrawing the gear set from under the drone during flight, allowing for increased speed and improved aerodynamic circumstances.

Although the Ababil 5 UAV's specs and coordinates have not been officially released, based on its larger appearance and ability to carry more ammo, the Ababil 5 is likely to rank better than the Mohajer 6 in terms of durability, flying altitude, and portable cargo.

In reality, the development of UAVs like the Mohajer 6 and Ababil 5 series reveals the adoption and continuance of a successful and beneficial defense policy in the field of increasing UAV capabilities and delegating a substantial portion of armed forces operations to these birds.

This is based on knowledge obtained by the existence and use of military surveillance drones in 21st-century conflicts like the Karabakh war in 2020 and the Ukraine war in 2022.

At the same time, our country's wide terrain, particularly in the east and along the frontiers, has increased the necessity for drones for border surveillance and prospective operations against criminals, drug traffickers, and terrorist groups.

The Islamic Republic Army's tremendous development in drone capacity in recent years implies serious preparation to cover this kind of territory with drones.

The Ababil 5 drone allows an unmanned aerial vehicle to conduct surveillance operations over a broad region for a low cost in a short amount of time, while arming the drone with a choice of Qaem bombs or diamond missiles provides it tremendous strike and attack capacity to undertake combat tasks.

## Navy, academic center sign MOU on Makran coasts

TEHRAN— In a ceremony on Sunday, Iran's Naval Force and the Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research, known as Jihad-e Daneshgahi in Persian, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for mutual cooperation.

The ceremony, held at the Navy Command Headquarters, was attended by Navy chief Admiral Shahram Irani and Jihad-e Daneshgahi director Hamid Reza Tayebi.

The memorandum was signed to enhance cooperation in the field of education, health and technology as well as utilization of internal capacities of the Navy and Jihad-e-Daneshgahi to develop maritime economy.

Cooperation for the development of Makran shores and creating more capacities in the region was another issue mentioned in the MOU.

"The foundation of the Navy is based on the orders of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, who has a distinct view on the development of the Makran coast. Therefore, achieving this strategic goal requires education and attention to development," Admiral Irani stated, speaking on the sidelines of the ceremony.



He added the Navy can take an effective step on developing Makran coasts through cooperation.

"Of course, the focus is on the residents of these areas, and we are trying to take effective measures in these areas with the cooperation of other organizations," Irani stated.

Referring to the services of the naval force of the army to the people and its timely presence in case of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, Admiral Irani said that in the events that have taken place, the Navy has been a pioneer in serving the people.

"We are working with Jihad-e- Daneshgahi to improve the level of training and capabilities of our forces to serve the people and, of course, to be more effective," the Navy chief noted.

# Leader: Syria has won international war

## Syrian President Assad visits Iran

From page 1 ► Highlighting Syria's great military and political achievements, the Leader said today's Syria is not comparable to the Syria before the war.

Today the president of Syria and the Syrian people are proud of the nations of the region, Ayatollah Khamenei.

The Leader added, "Some leaders of our and your neighboring countries meet and greet with the leaders of the Zionist regime and drink coffee together, but the people of these countries take to the streets on Quds Day and chant anti-Zionist slogans, and this is the reality of the region today."

Pointing to several factors influencing the resistance and victory of Syria in the international war, the Leader told Assad, "One of the most important factors is your high morale and with this spirit, God willing, you can rebuild the ruins of the war because you have a great job ahead of you."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also commemorated the memory of the legendary commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, saying, "That great martyr had a special liking towards Syria and literally sacrificed his life for the country. His behavior in Syria was no different from his behavior in the eight-year Sacred Defense of Iran."

General Soleimani was very influential in defeating terrorists in Syria through his unique commandship.

Ayatollah Khamenei said General Soleimani and other prominent members of the IRGC, including martyr Hossein Hamedani, really worked hard and viewed the issue of Syria as a "sacred duty and obligation".

"This bond (between Iran and Syria) is vital for both countries and we should not let it weaken. On the contrary, we should strengthen it as much as possible," Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized.

The Leader also referring to expression of friendship and love of certain countries that were on the front line against Syria in previous years, suggesting Iran and Syria must clarify the path to future "with the benefit of hindsight."

Ayatollah Khamenei also praised the morale and vivacity of the Syrian president as the basis for doing great things.

During the meeting, which was also attended by President Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad, Assad thanked the position of Iran toward the Syria war and thanked the Iranian people and government for supporting his country in times of need. He also commemorated the memory of General Soleimani, saying, "Iran's steadfastness and stable position in the past four decades on regional issues, especially the issue of Palestine, showed all the people of the region that the path of Iran is the right and principled path."

The Syrian president pointed out that the ruins of the war in his country can be rebuilt, but if the foundations and principles had been destroyed, they could not be restored.

"The adherences of the Iranian nation to the principles of Imam Khomeini, which continued with your efforts, paved the way for the great victories of the Iranian nation and the people of the region, especially the Palestinian people," Assad told Ayatollah Khamenei.

The Syrian president added that some people think that Iran's support for the Resistance Front is of military nature "but the most important support and assistance of the Islamic Republic is to breathe the spirit of resistance and continuing it."

In conclusion, the Syrian president stressed that what has made the Zionist regime unable to rule the region is the strategic relations between Iran and Syria, which must continue with strength.

**Raisi says parts of Syria still under foreign occupation must be liberated**

Speaking in a separate meeting



with the Syrian president before noon on Sunday, President Raisi said, "What we are witnessing today in Western Asia, which is the result of the resistance of nations against domineering powers and aggressors, is what the Leader of the Islamic Revolution had predicted."

Commemorating the martyrs of the resistance from Syria and Iran, including General Soleimani, and appreciating the bravery of the Islamic world's fighters against terrorism, the president called Assad one of the figures of the Resistance Front "like his father."

Referring to the political and security developments in the region in the last decade, Raisi emphasized, "The warriors of the resistance have proven that they are a reliable force

**"In the years of resistance and confrontation with Western and Takfiri aggressions, Iran was the only country that stood by us from the beginning," the Syrian president says.**

for establishing stability and security in the region, including in Syria."

Emphasizing the need for all countries to respect Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the president stated that Iran stood by the Syrian people and government when some Arab and non-Arab leaders in the region were betting on the time of the fall of the Syrian government.

Raisi went on to say that the bravery demonstrated by the Syrian Army, national defense forces and Resistance fighters in the region, especially Hezbollah, played a key role in uprooting Daesh and other terrorist groups that threatened the security of the entire region.

Raisi also expressed regret that important parts of the Syrian territory are still occupied by foreign forces, suggesting, "The whole of the Syrian land must be liberated from foreign occupiers. This occupation should not be subject to the passage of time, and the occupying forces and their mercenaries should be expelled."

Referring to repeated aggressions of Israeli forces,

the president stressed that the threats of the Israeli regime in the region should be addressed by "strengthening and diversifying the deterrence equations."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi referred to the need to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two countries, emphasizing, "The serious will and desire of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to improve the level of cooperation and relations with Damascus, especially in economic and trade fields."

For his part, Syrian president stressed the role of Iran in the fight against terrorism in the region, noting that his country is ready for broader coordination with Iran in security, political and economic fields.

The Syrian president added, "In the years of resistance and confrontation with Western and Takfiri aggressions, Iran was the only country that stood by us from the beginning."

He described the relations between Syria and Iran as "strategic" and stated that developments in the region after a decade of war against the axis of resistance, have shown that resistance is effective and vibrant.

"We have shown that by working closely with the countries of the region, we can defeat the United States and the hegemony who claim to be superpowers, and today we are witnessing the collapse of the role of the United States in the Western Asia region," Assad stated, adding that the world is witnessing the declining role of the United States in the region.

Elsewhere in the conversation, the Syrian president said, "Experience has shown that the coordination and interaction of countries in the region on various issues, including the Palestinian issue, has been very effective, and the success of the Palestinian resistance has shown that compromise by some Arab states has backfired."

Thanking Iran's support for the Syrian people in the war on terrorism, Assad said, "The Syrian people and government are grateful to the Iranian people and consider themselves committed and indebted to Iran."

## Iran FM says diplomacy is only solution to Ukraine war

From page 1 ► "We believe the crisis in Ukraine will be resolved politically," Amir Abdollahian said.

Negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, he added, must lead to an immediate ceasefire.

Poland is hosting over three million Ukrainians fleeing the war since Russia launched attack on Ukraine on February 24.

Iran's chief diplomat also said he has been conveying the message of the Ukrainian foreign minister to the Russian foreign minister twice in line with Tehran's policy to help end the war.

Amir Abdollahian said once the war broke out, Iran was ready to dispatch a medical team to Poland's border. However, he said, as the International Committee of the Red Cross has set up hubs in neighboring countries, Iran was told there was no need for that dispatch. "We

are still ready to send a medical team."

The Iranian foreign minister said Tehran was willing to work for a ceasefire that would contribute to peace, stability and security throughout the world.

Russia said it was launching military campaign against Ukraine to "de-Nazify" the country and prevent it from joining NATO. The United States and its European allies have imposed a wide array of sanctions against Moscow ever since.

In mid-April, Amir Abdollahian communicated Iran's opposition to the war during a telephone conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba. He urged attention on the part of the concerned parties to the conflict to a political solution, hoping that negotiations between Russia and Ukraine "would lead to

## Russian deputy PM to visit Iran soon

Safari didn't say when the Russian deputy prime minister, who is also the head of the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Committee, will be visiting Tehran.

According to Safari, Novak will meet with Mokhber to discuss oil, gas and financial cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

He made the comments during a meeting of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's headquarters for foreign economic relations coordination.

The Iranian Ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, also attended the conference, which centered on the Iran-Russia Joint

stability and peace."

**Iran and Poland see eye to eye for cooperation in different fields**

During the press conference, Amir Abdollahian also said Tehran and Warsaw saw eye to eye on boosting cooperation in various fields, including energy, science and technology, automotive industry, nuclear medicine, and student exchange.

Rau, for his part, said promotion of trade and economic relations with Iran is among Poland's priorities once the Vienna talks on the revival of the 2015 deal are concluded.

"Reaching an agreement to ramp up cultural cooperation is the first step; we will try to strengthen trade ties as we believe Iran has a great potential to that end," the Polish foreign minister remarked.

Economic Committee.

In January 2022, the Iranian president traveled to Russia and met with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Tehran praised the visit as productive, with President Raisi calling it as a watershed moment in bilateral ties.



# Lebanon holds pivotal elections

TEHRAN – Lebanese expatriates headed to polling stations on Friday and Sunday across the world to cast their votes in parliamentary elections projected to maintain the current political array.

The second phase of the Out of Country Voting in the parliamentary elections started Sunday in 48 countries, with the participation of 194,348 Lebanese expatriates, according to the official Lebanese news agency. The first phase of the elections was held on Friday in nine Arab countries and in Iran.

More than 225,000 people have registered to vote abroad, a jump from roughly 92,000 in 2018 elections -- though only 50,000 of them voted at the time, according to AFP.

Lebanese voters residing in Iran flocked to the Lebanese Embassy in Tehran to cast their votes. The Lebanese ambassador in Tehran, Hassan Abbas, confirmed that the voting process went smoothly and without obstacles. The number of voters in Iran exceeded 65%, or 422 out of 642 voters, according to UNews. Iran was the first country to open polling stations to Lebanese voters at the Lebanese embassy at 6:30 am Beirut time.



Voter turnout among Lebanese expatriates in the first phase of the election was at about 59 percent, according to estimates offered by Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdullah Bu Habib.

Lebanese President Michel Aoun visited the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to see the progress of the polling process abroad, congratulating the election supervisors on the accomplishment of their tasks. Aoun expressed his hope that the elections will pass in all its phases without problems.

“Efforts undertaken to complete the elections abroad are not easy,

and we hope that things will improve in the next elections and be easier than today, and that each voter will have a password to vote from his home, and we hope that the elections will end without problems,” he said on Twitter.

The Lebanese foreign minister also paid a visit to control room at the ministry in a bid to oversee the process of voting. “We are in constant contact with embassies and consulates, and we want the elections to be conducted with integrity and transparency,” he said, adding that ballot boxes will begin to arrive to Beirut after the polling

stations are closed.

Bu Habib announced that the voter turnout in the first phase of the elections was 59.45%, adding that there are 3 countries where the voter turnout is above 70%, namely Iran, Bahrain and Syria. He said in Iraq it is 48%, and in Egypt it is less than 50%. As for the rest of the countries, the voter turnout was above 60%, he noted.

The elections will be held at home on 15 May. 103 electoral lists comprising 718 candidates distributed over 15 electoral districts are competing in the elections to elect 128 deputies in Parliament.

The elections are being held for the first time since Lebanon began plunging into an economic meltdown nearly three years ago which sparked nationwide protests and led to the overthrow of two prime ministers, namely Saad Hariri and Hassan Diab.

The dire economic situation has tempted many political factions and foreign countries to exploit the economic woes to vote out the current leaders out. But experts said this was unlikely as opposition candidates are disunited, inexperienced and short on cash, according to AFP.

## Amir Abdollahian meets Iranian ambassadors to Iraq, Russia

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has met with the Iranian envoys to Iraq and Russia to take stock of their diplomatic work.

The meetings with Mohammad Kazem Al Sadeq, Iran's new ambassador to Iraq, and Kazem Jalali, Iran's ambassador to Russia, took place on Saturday in Tehran.

Al Sadeq, who will replace Iraj Masjedi, will soon travel to Iraq to begin discharging his duties. The change of ambassadors comes as Iraq is gearing up for government formation in the wake of the recent parliamentary elections which handed cleric Muqtada Sadr a victory.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said recently that Iran seeks to become a facilitator in the internal affairs of Iraq and talk to all parties with the aim of achieving a smooth and democratic transition of power in the Arab country.

During the meeting, Ambassador Jalali presented a report on the latest activities of the Iranian embassy in Russia in order to carry out the missions assigned to it.

On Saturday, a meeting of the Foreign Economic

Relations Coordination Headquarters was held on the subject of the “Russian Joint Economic Commission”. The meeting was chaired by Mehdi Safari, the Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy. Relevant managers and Ambassador Jalali also attended the meeting.

Iran is accelerating efforts aimed at boosting trade ties with other countries through economic diplomacy. To this end, Safari met with Deputy Chairperson of the Indonesian House of Representatives for Industry and Development Rachmat Gobel on Saturday.

In the meeting, Rachmat Gobel said he is visiting Tehran for the purpose of pursuing agreements and understandings between the officials of the two countries, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Gobel also underlined the need for the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Indonesia to boost their ties as two important countries from two strategic regions of the world.

The deputy chairperson of the Indonesian House of Representatives for industry and development also referred to Iran's scientific

and technological capabilities and the country's resources, declaring that the Indonesian parliament is ready to expand cooperation with Tehran, especially in economic and trade areas.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy also pointed to the friendly ties between Iran and Indonesia and spoke about the capacities and capabilities of Iran in nano-technology, biotechnology, transit, railroad network, mining resources and energy. Safari called for Iran and Indonesia to focus on boosting relations in those spheres.

In further remarks, the deputy foreign minister stressed the possibility of increasing trade volume between Tehran and Jakarta and described Iran's Chabahar Port as a vital and safe transit point for Indonesian exports. Safari noted that the Indonesian goods can be exported to other regional countries including Central Asia and the Caucasus. He further announced Iran's readiness to use national currencies in trade deals and to employ the set-off mechanism to expand trade relations between the two countries as much as possible.

## Mora expected to come up with new initiative in Tehran: report

TEHRAN – The European Union coordinator of the Vienna talks is expected to present a new “American-European initiative” to push the stalled talks forward, an Arab news outlet said.

Enrique Mora, the EU coordinator of the talks, will arrive in Tehran on Tuesday for talks on the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Citing Iranian sources familiar with the matter, Qatari newspaper Al Araby AL-Jadeed said Mora was about to visit Tehran a few weeks ago, but the latter did not show enough desire to complete the visit, “because it did not bring anything new in response to Iranian demands regarding the remaining issues.”

The Iranian sources added that the approval of Mora's visit “came after a European talk about the existence of what could be considered a U.S.-European initiative to push the negotiations towards resolving the remaining issues,” but stressed that they did not know the details of the initiative.

The sources explained that “Iran is seeking to push the negotiations forward and move the stagnant

waters to reach a strong agreement,” noting that it had agreed to the visit with this motive.

They said that the EU coordinator will stay in Tehran until next Friday, and during the days of the visit, he will engage in intensive rounds of negotiations with the chief Iranian negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, in addition to other meetings with Iranian officials including Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

The sources attributed the reason for Mora's stay in Tehran for about four days to intensive negotiations that he will conduct in the Iranian capital, in addition to the fact that he will also wait for the final Iranian response to crystallize on the initiative he brought to Tehran to resolve the remaining issues in order to carry the response to the American side.

Nour News, which is close to the Iranian Supreme National Security Council, reported that Mora will visit Iran on Tuesday to meet with Iranian officials.

The news website said the visit “can be a new step for constructive consultations on the few, but important, remaining issues.”

It said there is still a possibility of making a deal. “Reaching a strong, lasting, and reliable agreement is possible but requires realism on the part of Washington and learning lessons from the mistakes that created today's complicated circumstances,” the website said.

Nour News said the U.S. is to blame for the prolongation of the talks as it is seeking to extract concessions through political pressure on Tehran but such a policy will not produce a change in Iran's principled positions.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told the Financial Times on Saturday that he was seeking a “middle way” to end the impasse over the IREG designation.

Borrell said he had wanted Mora to visit Tehran to discuss the issue, but added that Iran “was very much reluctant.” He described the diplomatic push as “the last bullet.”

According to the British newspaper, Borrell is considering a scenario whereby the designation on the Guards is lifted, but kept in place on other parts of the organization.

Iran is waiting for the U.S. to make political decisions regarding the talks

bellicose move will draw such a decisive response from the Iranian military forces that it will bring about a significant change in strategic equations.

In April, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri said all Iranian military forces are ready to give a decisive and crushing response to any threat at any level in such a way that the enemies would regret taking hostile action against the Islamic establishment.

# IRAN IN FOCUS

MAY 9, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

3

## SPORTS

### Iran to host IWAS Winter Games

TEHRAN – Iran has been chosen to host the first edition of the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports (IWAS) Winter Games.

IWAS president Rudi Van Den Abbeele and the organization's executive members have traveled to Tehran, capital of Iran to meet the Iranian sports officials.

The Organization has awarded the hosting right to Iran but the exact time of the games has not been decided yet.

They met Iran's Sports and Youth Minister Hamid Sajadi on Saturday and also paid a visit to Iran Sports Federation for the Disabled (IRISFD) on Sunday.

“I'm impressed by the facilities the Iranian federation has in the limited space in its headquarters. It helps the grassroots Para athletes to improve their ability. I'm also impressed to see the cooperation between the government and Iran's Paralympic Committee,” the five-time Paralympian Abbeele said.

“We are going to hold the first edition of the IWAS Winter Games in Tehran. The other skiers around the world will know about the ski resorts in Tehran,” the French added.

“As a person who has been in the Para sports in my whole life, I have to say the Iranian athletes have progressed over the last years, while so many countries have declined and it shows that you work hard in the field of the people with physical impairment,” Abbeele stated.

IWAS is an international sports organization that governs sports for athletes with physical impairments.

IWAS acts as a multi-sport competition organizer for the IWAS World Games and IWAS Under 23 World Games.

### Iranian taekwondo practitioners win four medals at Deaflympics

TEHRAN – Four Iranian taekwondo practitioners claimed medals in the 2021 Deaflympics.

Fatemeh Zahra Zelikani won the Olympic gold medal after defeating her Turkish opponent 24-16 in the final match of the women's 57kg.

In the men's 58 kg category, Alireza Shahrifi Manesh also defeated his Turkish rival and defeated him 23-16 to win the gold.

Marziyeh Khosh Ahval beat her Korean rival 30-7 in the women's 49kg bronze medal match.

Behzad Amiri also won the bronze medal by beating his Venezuelan rival 20-3 in the men's 68kg.

The Deaflympics had initially been scheduled to take place from December 5 to 21 in 2021, but was postponed due to COVID-19 complications.

There are 209 events in 17 sports on the Deaflympics program.

### Dragan Skocic to return to Iran on May 13

TEHRAN – Iran national football team head coach Dragan Skocic will return to Iran on May 13.

The Croat underwent a successful surgery in early May in his own country for suffering the gastrointestinal illness.

He will start his preparation program for Team Melli after returning to Tehran.

Iran has been drawn in Group B along with England, the U.S. and one of Ukraine, Scotland or Wales.

### Porto win Portuguese title

TEHRAN – Porto football team clinched their 30th Portuguese league title with a 1-0 victory away to Benfica.

The result also guarantees that last year's champions Sporting will finish second, and qualify for the UEFA Champions League group stage, with Benfica third.

Nigerian left-back Zaidi Sanusi struck on a counter-attack minutes into stoppage time to put Porto nine points ahead with one round of games to play.

Iranian forward Mehdi Taremi has scored 20 goals for Porto in the current season.

### Esteghlal, Shahr Khodro likely to be postponed due to air pollution

TEHRAN – A football match between Esteghlal and Shahr Khodro football teams in Iran Professional League will likely be postponed due to air pollution.

The match is scheduled for Monday in Tehran's Azadi Stadium but will likely be canceled due to unsuitable weather conditions in the Iranian capital.

The match between Paykan and Sepahan, which is scheduled to be held in Tehran, will likely be postponed.

Esteghlal leads Iran table, four points above Persepolis with five weeks remaining.

### Iranian archers advance to next stag of Asia Cup 2022 Stage 2

TEHRAN – The Iranian archers have advanced to the knockout stage of Asia Cup 2022 Stage 2 underway in the Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah.

Mahta Abdollahi from Iran finished first in the preliminary round of the recurve women section of the Asia Cup 2022 Stage 2 underway in the Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah with 641 points.

Abdollahi will face the winner of the match between Syria and Kuwait archers in the knockout stage, MNA reported.

Reza Shabani stood in third place in the preliminary round of the recurve men competitions with 655 points. He will face the winner of the match between Kuwait and Pakistan competitors in the knockout round.

Also from Iran, Nima Naderi came 10th in the preliminary round of recurve men with 635 points. After a break in the first round, he will face an archer from Iraq in next knockout stage.

Mohammad Hossein Golshani came in seventh place in the preliminary round of the recurve men competitions with 648 points. After a break, he will face the winner of the match between Palestine and the UAE representatives in the next round.

Meanwhile, Iran's recurve men team also finished third with 1938 points and after a break in the first round, the Iranian team will face the Kuwaiti team in the knockout round.

Iran compound recurve team consisting of Mahta Abdollahi and Reza Shabani stood in the second place with 1296 points. After a break in the first round, the Iranian team will face the winner of the match between Syria and Iraq team in the knockout stage.

### Asian Games' postponement: opportunity or threat for Iranians?

Frome Page 1 ▶ “We are still shocked from hearing the news about the deferral of the Games,” said Alireza Pakdel, the president of the handball federation.

“We brought a great foreign coach and we have to pay his salary every month. There are plans to hold training camps, and accordingly, camps must be held. This was a shock to us and I hope that after the postponement of the Games the Ministry of Sports and the National Olympic Committee will not leave us alone in terms of financial support. We are in a difficult situation and we need financial support,” he added.

Ebrahim Mehraban, secretary of the Wrestling Federation, also reacted to the postponement of the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games.

“We proceeded according to the selection cycle of the national team and we were preparing two strong teams to participate in the world competitions and the Asian Games. With the postponement of the Asian Games, we continue according to our plan and our whole focus will be on the 2022 World Wrestling Championships in Serbia,” he said.

## IRGC general warns of devastating reaction to naval threats

TEHRAN – Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy has warned the foes that Iran will give a crushing response to any threats to its interests, Tasnim reported.

Addressing a cultural event in the northeastern city of Mashhad on Saturday, Ali Reza Tangsiri said all military units of the Iranian Armed Forces have gained an acceptable level of combat readiness.

Highlighting the IRGC Navy's success in raising its combat capabilities and achieving a dependable level of preparedness, the rear admiral said, “The enemies are aware that if they plan to pose any threat at the sea to the Islamic Republic's resources and interests, they will receive a decisive response at a higher level in such a way that they'll regret it.”

In comments in December 2021, President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi cautioned the enemies that any



## Iran becomes world's 20th largest economy despite U.S. sanctions

From page 1 ► The International Monetary Fund predicts that Iran's GDP, based on purchasing power index, will increase by \$137 billion in 2022 to \$1.573 trillion.

According to the IMF report, China was the world's largest economy in terms of purchasing power in 2021, and the United States was ranked second in this regard. China's GDP in 2021 was estimated at \$27.206 trillion, which is much higher than the U.S.'s \$22.997 trillion.

In its latest World Economic Outlook report titled "War sets back global recovery" IMF revised up its projection of Iran's real GDP growth in 2022 to three percent from its previous report in which the figure was two percent.

The increase in Iran's economic growth came as the entity modified its forecasts of the global economic growth from 4.4



percent in its previous report published in January to 3.6 percent; the fund expects the global economy to follow the same modest growth and settle at 3.6 percent in 2023, as well.

Based on the IMF data, despite the sanctions and the negative impact of the pandemic, the Iranian economy is going to outperform many countries both in the region and across the world in 2022.

## TPO holds training course on trade diplomacy



TEHRAN - Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has held a trade diplomacy training course in Tehran in collaboration with the International Trade Centre and the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the TPO portal reported on Saturday.

The opening ceremony of the course was attended by senior officials including French Ambassador to Iran Philippe Thiebaud, Senior Advisor to Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Jalaedin Alavi

Sabzevari, and TPO's Deputy Head for Export Markets Development Ahmad-Reza Alaei Tabatabaei.

Speaking at the ceremony, Thiebaud referred to the European Union's desire to develop trade relations with Iran based on mutual interests, and said: "Currently, EU and Iran trade has reached a significant level."

"Last year, about 20 percent of Iran's imports came from the European Union, and the volume of trade between the two sides increased to about five billion euros," he said.

If other non-union countries are added to this list, trade between Iran with European countries reaches about 5.5 billion euros, he added.

Alaei Tabatabaei for his part considered the activities defined in the framework of this course important, and referring to the serious determination of the Trade Promotion Organization in this regard, called for the flexibility of this project to cover the needs of the private sector as much as possible.

# Iran inks 8 MOUs, deals with Latin American countries in oil, agriculture sectors

TEHRAN - During a visit of Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji to Latin America, four memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and two deals in the field of oil, as well as two MOUs in the field of agriculture were signed, Shana reported.

Oji headed a delegation to some South and Central American countries, including Venezuela and Nicaragua, last week to pursue the government's new policies on energy diplomacy.

Development of cooperation in oil and gas fields, upgrading and modernization of refineries and utilization of refinery capacities, training of manpower and expertise

in oil, gas and petrochemical industries, export of engineering services and technology transfer and development of export markets of crude oil, gas condensate and oil products were among the topics covered in the agreements.

During this visit the official had numerous meetings with officials of these countries, during which the above-mentioned memorandums and deals were signed.

The Iranian minister met with Nicolas Maduro, Venezuelan President, and the country's oil and foreign affairs ministers, head of the Venezuelan national oil company, and other senior officials



Oil Minister Javad Oji (L) and Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel

from this country.

During his visit to Nicaragua, Oji also met with President Daniel Ortega and the country's National Assembly President Gustavo Porras Cortés.

The Iranian delegation attended the Joint Economic Committee meeting of the two countries in which they held talks with Nicaraguan ministers of energy and mines, industry, development and commerce, finance and public credit, as well as agriculture and forestry to discuss mutual cooperation.

Oji also traveled to Havan to

meet with Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel and discuss expansion of economic ties.

During the meeting with Díaz-Canel, the two sides also signed two MOUs to expand cooperation between the two countries in various economic sectors including energy and agriculture.

In his visit to Cuba, Oji also met with the country's Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz and discussed ways for the two countries to work together in the energy sector.

Oji also visited some oil facilities in South and Central America.

## Annual sponge iron export rises 25%

TEHRAN- Iran's export of sponge iron increased 25 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has announced.

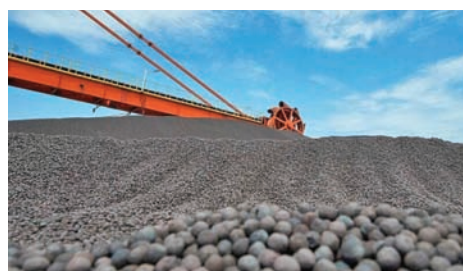
The IMIDRO's data put the country's sponge iron export at 1.055 million tons in 1400, and at 843,000 tons in 1399.

Direct reduced iron (DRI), also called sponge iron, is produced from the direct reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps, pellets, or fines) into iron by a reducing gas or elemental carbon produced from natural gas or coal. Many ores are suitable for direct reduction.

While Iran is fighting the U.S. severe sanctions on its economy, and the country's different industrial and economic sectors have been affected by the limitations and difficulties caused by the sanctions condition, the country's mining sector is moving forward noticeably, overcoming such barriers.

Among the mining sector's different products, sponge iron is an outstanding example, as the production of this item is rising more and more in the country.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries



Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has stated that one of the most important reasons for the increase in sponge iron production in Iran is the establishment of new sponge iron plants, adding that in recent years, with its new strategy and with the participation of the private sector, the organization has been able to launch several projects to produce sponge iron.

Meanwhile, in last July, IMIDRO reported that Iran's Mines and Metals Company (MME) has established China's first gas-based sponge iron production unit using the Persian Direct Reduction (PERED) technology.

"As the world's first manufacturer of gas-based sponge iron, Iran is now transferring the technology to the world's biggest steel

producer", IMIDRO announced at the time.

The deal for the construction of the first gas-based sponge iron plant was concluded between China's CSTM Company and MME Company from Iran as the license owner of PERED technology.

With a capacity of 300,000 tons, the plant has been launched in China's Taiyuan city.

PERED is a new technology for producing sponge iron using natural gas as fuel, which according to MME is a masterwork of the Iranian steel industry and is more efficient and effective in all respects such as the degree of metallization of the product, fuel consumption, operating costs and ease of operation compared to similar technologies.

This technology is already being used in several production units across Iran including Shadegan Steel, Miyaneh Steel, Neyriz Steel, and Baft Steel companies.

The main difference of the PERED technology with other technologies is the high and tangible quality of the sponge iron metallization, which has been reached above 95 percent on the initial day. In other technologies, however, it is very difficult to achieve a degree of metallization above 95 percent during the first months of a unit's operation.

## 20 idle mines to be revived in Hamedan province by next March

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 20 idle mines are planned to be revived in Hamedan province by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2023).

Ahmad Shanian, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that these mines have become idle due to some problems related to financial issues and investor, as well as environmental issues and machinery problems, so through follow-up measures and holding expert meetings to remove the existing problems, they will be reactivated.

Previously, the natural, geographical and industrial capacities of the region were not considered for the implementation of the projects, but now the establishment of mining and production units is subject to fulfilling all legal conditions and criteria, he said, adding, so the

province's industry and mining plan was prepared, and attracting the investors and launching the projects will be based on it.

According to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), 453 idle small-scale mines have been revived throughout the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Based on the IMIDRO data, the revived mines in the previous year created jobs for over 3,000 people and increased the country's mineral output by 22.5 million tons.

The total number of revived mines has reached 852 since the launch of the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry's program for reviving small mines across the country, in late March 2019. The revived mines in this program have created job



opportunities for over 13,000 people in the mentioned period.

The most important goal of this program, which is being implemented by IMIDRO, is to activate the country's mines, which will result in increased production and employment, especially in deprived areas.

Back in December 2021, Reza Azimi, who directs the ministry's program for reviving and developing small mines, had mentioned concluding 37 memorandums of understanding (MOU) for investment, and

scientific-research cooperation with knowledge-based companies, as well as the introduction of 124 projects to Mining Investment Insurance Corporation for receiving facilities, and the support and coaching of knowledge-based companies and startups as other measures taken under the framework of the mentioned program.

As reported, IMIDRO is conducting the program with the aim of providing feedstock for mineral industries, increasing production and completing the mining industry's product chain, and developing and creating sustainable employment.

Following this program, so far various small-scale mines including chromite, manganese, hematite, dolomite, iron ore, copper, and construction stone mines have been surveyed by monitoring and diagnosing the problems of the mines

and providing solutions for resolving their issues.

Over the past few years with new resilient economy strategies coming into play, the mining sector has become a major point of focus for the Iranian government and various organizations and bodies active in this sector have been tasked to implement new programs for boosting this sector.

As a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in the country, IMIDRO has been playing a significant part in the mentioned planning.

The organization has been implementing several new programs in all the main fields of the mining industry including exploration, machinery development, extraction and also reviving the country's idle mines.

market in the current year, Eshtiaqi said: "According to the forecasts, it seems that the stock market index will reach the range of 1.8 million points by the end of 1401."

According to him, most of the market growth will occur by the end of the fourth Iranian calendar month of Tir (July 22) and will experience a growth of about 20 percent by that point.

"If the nuclear deal is revived, we will see good days in the capital market and other parallel markets will not have much luck in comparison to the stock market," he added.

TEHRAN - A market analyst believes that the Iranian stock exchange market can grow by 30 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

In an interview with IRNA on Sunday, Ahmad Eshtiaqi pointed to the growth of the stock market index and the factors affecting it and said: "It seems that the shares of companies still have room for growth and according to the forecasts, the stock market can grow by about 30 percent by the end of the year, but this growth will be gradual and slow."

The analyst noted that the shareholders'

interest in the capital market over the past few years has been due to the value of companies' stock, so when the shares still have room for growth the market index will grow as well.

\*\*\*\*Global prices, an influential factor in stock market

The capital market expert further mentioned another factor influencing the rise of the stock market index and continued: "World prices rose sharply after the Russia and Ukraine war and oil prices reached more than \$100, and this has affected the performance of some companies to some extent."

He stated that in addition to the crude oil

prices, the prices of petrochemical products and metals like copper, zinc, and other commodities have risen.

Given that the stock market is commodity-based, therefore, the shares of the companies and refineries also experience significant growth in value, he said.

In addition to the above-mentioned factors, the offering of the shares of major Iranian car companies namely Iran Khodro and Saipa also helped to stimulate the growth in the capital market.

**Market outlook in current year**

Asked about his view on the trend of the

## TEDPIX climbs 9,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 9,150 points to 1,552 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 11,411 billion securities worth 59,384 trillion rials (about \$212.8 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 7,977 points, and the second market's index gained 14,481 points.

TEDPIX rose 145,000 points (10.5 percent) in the past Iranian month Farvardin, the first month of the Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20).

Head of Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi has said 25 new major companies are ready to offer their shares at the country's stock exchange.

"Many initial public offerings (IPOs) are going to be made in the near future, and now about 25 companies are ready to enter the market," Eshqi told IRNA on April 24.

"Over the last six months, we have been preparing initial offerings in accordance with market conditions and the balanced entry of liquidity into the market. Currently, Tehran Stock Exchange and Iran Fara Bourse (IFB) officials and experts have made the necessary plans so that the initial public offerings can be made in accordance with the best conditions for capital to enter the market," he explained.

Eshqi further mentioned some of his organization's programs for ensuring positive growth in the market, saying: "SEO's programs for this year include intelligent and electronic monitoring of the market. In this regard, we will strengthen the capital market monitoring center, which was launched in March, so that there is no violation in the market trading process. We will identify violations quickly."



# 99% of Yemenis support Palestine cause: political analyst

*“Apartheid was practiced in South Africa and the whole world fought against it. Why is it tolerated in Palestine?”*

From page 1 ▶ As to normalization, which in my opinion is itself an abnormality, since it intends to normalize an abnormality, meaning normalizing occupation and apartheid against a majority native population; it weakens our fight for Palestinian rights.

**You mention Jewish Palestinians. Can you elaborate, please?**

Well, anyone who claims to belong to land must identify with that land as a precondition. I cannot claim to be Yemeni but then give myself a different ethnicity. Jews of Palestine are Palestinians. Jews of France are French, German Jews are Germans, and Jews of America are Americans. Their religious identity is Jew, that is Judaism, but national identity is where they belong, the lands they are from. You cannot suddenly bring all of them and turn them into natives of Palestine while denying native Palestinians from Christian and Muslim communities. That's what's happening there. One Palestinian group belonging to one religious community, Jews, is being singled out and given rights over other Palestinian groups, Christian and Muslim. Essentially the focus is to try to create a state that is religiously exclusive to one religious community to the exclusion of all other religious communities. That's not a recipe for peaceful coexistence. That's apartheid. It was tried in South Africa and the whole world fought against it. Why is it tolerated in Palestine?

**So how does your definition comply with “two-state solution”?**

The so-called two-state solution is a bogus attempt to fool everyone in Palestine. No one seems to ask are the two states proposed going to have equal sovereign rights? The answer is no. One, namely the Jewish state led by the Zionist regime will be a full state while the “other” will be a kind of Bantustan deprived of all real sovereign rights. The Jewish state will be on more than 80% of Palestine while all others will live on the remaining.



**So what is your opinion of the real solution?**

One state for all Palestinians regardless of their religious beliefs. If anyone denies they are Palestinian and identify themselves differently, that's a choice they make. The Zionist regime must be dismantled and undone to be replaced by a state that represents all Palestinians. The effort they are making is to gain recognition of Zionism in our midst by forcing the region to recognize a Zionist state. See, they are not demanding recognition of Jews because Jews' existence is not in question nor do Jews need anyone's recognition of their existence. They lived and will continue to live among us.

But Zionism, like its predecessor, Nazism, must be removed because it is built on an ideology of apartheid that has caused wars in our region. Unless it is uprooted it will continue to destabilize and bring wars to the region. The effort of removing Zionism is obligatory to everyone in the region, including Jews in whose name Zionism exists while in fact endangering the rights of Jews to live peacefully with us in this region.

**Moving to Yemen. How do you see the current changes in Yemen?**

I am waiting for the new leaders to prove themselves. I will give them the benefit of the doubt for a while. But not for long.

**How do you find the**

**constitutionality of the changes?**

Nothing in Yemen since 2011 has been constitutional except the people's power revolution. Thereafter we entered a deep ocean of unconstitutionality starting with the GCC Initiative which I consider to be the foundation of all the troubles that followed the 2011 revolution, including the military intervention. So those talking about the constitutionality of the recent changes are being a bit foolish. Today we seek a return to peace, however it comes, that's primary. Thereafter, we can talk about constitution, law and order and we can ask ourselves the most important questions (such as) how did we get here and how can we prevent a recurrence?

**In your opinion the GCC laid the foundation for such a situation that followed the 2011 revolution. Can you explain?**

The Yemeni people wanted Ali Abdullah Saleh out 100% and eliminate his regime. The GCC Initiative gave him 50% control of the government and the political process itself, knowing that he will undermine that political process. I, in fact, challenged one of the EU ambassadors on this point in Sana'a in 2012 and he agreed that it was a serious fault line. How could anyone expect Saleh cooperate with a political process that aims to remove him and his entire regime? In which fantasy world does that happen? Thereafter, the engineers of the GCC Initiative

arranged a UN Security Council resolution that forbade Saleh from leaving the country despite the fact that Yemenis wanted him out of Yemen at least for a while so that their political process has a better opportunity to succeed. Putting him in Yemen gave Saleh more opportunity to be close and able to manipulate the political process and destabilize the country. But that's all in the past. Hopefully, those who played that part and even those who went into this reckless military intervention have learned bitter lessons and we can all work towards putting this terrible part of our lives behind, except for learning lessons.

**What do you think about the recent Riyadh conference and the increased talk of secession?**

I don't think about the Riyadh conference. It's not worth thinking about. As to the secession, if it happens, it won't result in two Yemens, but more than two. I said this before and I am saying it again. Those demanding sessions of the south must also listen carefully to the demands of others in the southeastern regions. And those who are today supporting or dreaming of the secession will dream of returning to the union that they hate so much now. Decisions of this magnitude should not be made emotionally under the stress of war and deprivation. Unfortunately, many people have short memories of the past and the youth have not lived in the past. They are fooled into thinking we lived in heaven before 1990. We didn't. There is a reason many emigrated and grew up elsewhere. So those who blame the union for all ills must go back and read a bit of our post-colonial history to refresh their minds with some inconvenient truths about our post-independence life. And sadly, most of those who caused that difficult period are trying to recreate it today instead of giving up and leaving young fresh energetic minds to take over. I honestly think we in Yemen should pass a law that forbids anyone above 60 to hold any decision-making political office. We have messed it up enough. Let's do some gardening instead.

## Israel plans 4,000 new settler units

From page 1 ▶ Qatar has been among the latest country to condemn the motion calling on the international community to act urgently to prevent the occupation authorities from approving the plans and forcing them to stop their settlement policies in the Palestinian territories.

Israel has reportedly told its top ally the U.S. that this measure would likely shore up Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's fragile coalition ahead of the return of the Knesset from the summer session.

Israeli settlements and their expansion in the occupied territories are illegal under international law, yet the regime continues to violate the UN charter.

This comes on the backdrop of an Israeli decision last week to uphold an expulsion order that would force at least 1,000 Palestinians out of their ancestral homes in the occupied southern West Bank where they have been residing for decades.

It is yet another example of the many methods Israel uses in its ethnic cleansing policies of the Palestinians, the most popular of which is violence against the Palestinians.

According to a publication by Doctors Without Borders in the occupied West Bank “systematic repression and discrimination by Israeli authorities against Palestinians continue, with home demolitions, forced relocations, and violence on the rise.”



“For many people, such experiences have long-term consequences, particularly when they come on top of pre-existing trauma from previous episodes of violence,” the international medical NGO added.

Meanwhile, the regime has demolished more Palestinian property.

This time the demolition (which normally occurs around dawn) took place in the occupied village of Silat al-Khartiyeh, with heavily armed Israeli troops raiding the village and setting off explosives to raze the family home to the ground.

Angry local residents came out in protest and threw stones at the regime troops who responded with live rounds and tear gas. According to Palestinian medics, at least three Palestinians have been injured by live fire and others sustained injuries from tear gas inhalation.

Such demolitions have been strongly denounced by rights groups as collective punishment, yet the regime's forces carry them out on a routine basis.

On many occasions, the regime claims the property was built without a permit but Palestinians argue Israel makes it practically impossible to obtain the necessary permits to build a home.

Tensions have been high in the occupied Palestinian territories recently as regime forces heavily crackdown on Palestinians killing at least 30 and injuring hundreds more.

Most of those killed and injured had been protesters who were attacked by Israeli troops across the occupied territories, in particular, Jenin and Jerusalem (al-Quds) where the regime has been regularly attacking worshippers brutally inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque and its compounds in the occupied city of Jerusalem (al-Quds) triggering protests by men, women, children and the elderly.

A smaller proportion of the casualties have occurred when Palestinians were shot dead after carrying out retaliatory attacks on Israeli forces and settlers in response to the regime's desecration of the holy al-Aqsa site.

Rights groups say Israel often uses unnecessary excessive force against unarmed

Palestinians, lately documenting the murder of an unarmed woman and two bystanders during the regime's military offensives in the occupied territories.

The retaliatory Palestinian operations have also grown over the past six weeks, mostly including lone-wolf attacks against Israeli forces and settlers that have left around 18 dead.

Israeli media pundits have called on the regime to respond by assassinating high-ranking officials belonging to Hamas in the besieged Gaza Strip, particularly the Gaza-based Palestinian government's top leader Yahya Sinwar.

Israeli officials including Knesset members, former military officials, and the media have also been calling for the assassination of Sinwar in response to the retaliatory operation carried out in the Israeli settlement of Elad near Tel Aviv on Thursday, in which three Israeli settlers were left dead.

Some of them even took those threats to social media with members of the Knesset Itamar Ben-Gvir calling on the regime to bomb the house of Sinwar.

Ben-Gvir said “the Air Force planes must now launch missiles at the house of Yahya Sinwar, who called for attacks with weapons and axes, and to assassinate him,”

Abu Obeida, the spokesman for the al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Hamas, has

hit back warning the Israeli occupation against such a move on the Hamas leader.

In a statement, Abu Obeida said: “we warn the enemy of an unprecedented response, and sword of al-Quds battle will be a normal event, compared to what [the occupation regime] will witness.”

Abu Obeida added, “whoever takes the decision to harm Sinwar writes a catastrophic chapter in the history of the entity, and commits a folly for which he will pay dearly.”

Last year, the Palestinian resistance in the besieged Gaza Strip launched operation sword of al-Quds after Israeli forces intensified their attacks on worshippers inside the al-Aqsa mosque.

The eleven-day battle saw some 4,000 Palestinian missiles target Israeli targets which shocked the regime.

In a speech last week, Sinwar called on the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Palestinian territories inside the occupied land to “launch attacks with firearms, and with knives if this is not possible”, in response to the recent Israeli violations of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Reports have also emerged about recent contacts taking place between Hamas movement and mediators, focusing on the matter of “stopping the [Israeli] attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque.”

The movement is said to have conveyed to the Egyptian mediators a warning to Israel, stating that it “is not indifferent to the occupation's threats to assassinate its leaders,” warning that “the price of such foolishness is known to the enemy,” and it means explosive operations inside the occupied land.

According to reports, Hamas had demanded through the mediators “the occupation's retreat from the incursions into al-Aqsa Mosque, and the return of the situation to what it was in 2000.”

Hamas is reported to have told the mediators the Palestinian resistance “will burn the cities of the center, and will direct massive missile strikes against Gush Dan and Tel Aviv, beyond the enemy's imagination if it implements its threats.”

## Lula targets centrist voters at launch of re-election campaign in Brazil

*Leftwing former president vows to defend national sovereignty as he takes on Jair Bolsonaro*

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva launched his bid for the Brazilian presidency on Saturday with a raucous campaign event that focused on building a big tent coalition to oust incumbent leader Jair Bolsonaro. Taking to the stage in São Paulo in front of thousands of members of his leftwing Workers' party, the former president commonly known as Lula was greeted by thunderous applause and saccharine musical jingles heralding “the flourishing of hope”.

“More than a political act, this is a call — to men and women of all generations, all classes, all religions, all races, all regions of the country — to regain democracy and regain sovereignty,” said the 76-year-old, at times appearing emotional. The event capped a remarkable turnaround in the political fortunes of Lula, who served two terms as president between 2003 and 2010, but was later jailed as part of the sprawling Lava Jato anti-corruption investigation. He spent almost two years in prison before his political rights were restored last year after the Supreme Court ruled there were procedural irregularities in the trial.

The former union leader — who referred to himself as the “victim of one of the biggest political persecutions” in Brazil's history — is the frontrunner to beat Bolsonaro in the October elections, although the far-right populist has begun closing the gap in recent weeks. Polls suggest between 5 and 15 percentage points now separate the two men.

Following a series of gaffes in recent weeks, Lula largely stuck to his script on Saturday, delivering a familiar message that was critical of Bolsonaro and heavy on nostalgia for his years in power. He did not lay out any detailed plans or policies for what he would do in power, despite growing pressure to do so. Instead he focused on



*Lula says universities needed to be funded and the Amazon rainforest protected from illegal loggers and gold miners.*

rebuilding bridges with middle class voters, who he alienated in recent weeks with offhand comments on the campaign trail, as well as women voters, who are generally more hesitant about voting for Bolsonaro.

He also dwelled on protecting Brazil's sovereignty, which he said meant keeping Petrobras — Latin America's largest energy company — as well as the country's numerous government-owned banks, in the state's hands. Universities needed to be funded and the Amazon rainforest protected from illegal loggers and gold miners, he said. “Our sovereignty and our democracy have been constantly attacked by the irresponsible and criminal policy of the current government. They threaten, dismantle, scrap, put up for sale our most strategic companies, our oil, our public banks, our environment. They hand over all this extraordinary heritage that does not belong to them, but to the Brazilian people.” Flanked by his girlfriend, who he is due to marry this month, Lula said he would travel around Brazil to spread his message.

He is due to visit Minas Gerais — a large swing

state — next week. “We can expect a focused campaign, presenting what he intends to do to improve people's lives, to control inflation, to make food accessible to Brazilians again. A campaign that makes people believe in the future of Brazil,” said Rui Costa, the governor of Bahia, who has been tipped to take a ministerial position in a potential third Lula administration. Despite his popularity when he left the presidency 12 years ago, Lula is today a polarising figure and is deeply disliked by many on the right for the rampant corruption that occurred in Brasília while he was in power. Both Lula and Bolsonaro are targeting centrist voters. For many such Brazilians, the election will be a question of who they dislike less. “Our challenge is to look for those who no longer believe in anything and don't want to vote. We have to awaken the passion, the belief in change,” said Edinho Silva, a mayor from Sao Paulo who is close to Lula.

As part of this process of winning over the centre — including Brazil's influential business community — Lula has picked Geraldo Alckmin, a blue blood conservative from Sao Paulo, as his vice-presidential running mate. In 2006, the two men contested a bitter presidential race that was marred by mudslinging and accusations of corruption.

On Saturday, however, Alckmin was greeted by cheers from Lula's supporters as he delivered a moderate message aimed at both the left and centre. “Let's prove that there is no incompatibility between individual prosperity and a solitary society. Let's prove that economic efficiency and social justice are not opposites,” he said. “Nothing, no divergence from the past, no difference from the present, nothing, absolutely nothing, will stop me supporting Lula's return to the presidency.”

(Source: Financial Times)



## Ancient Hegmataneh: working group formed to surmount obstacles in path of UNESCO registration

TEHRAN – Hamedan tourism directorate has formed a working group to identify, investigate and solve potential problems in the path of possible registration of ancient Hegmataneh in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

An expert team has recently visited the proposed area of Hegmataneh to identify and document obstacles in the path of its UNESCO registration, ISNA quoted the provincial tourism chief as saying on Sunday.

Moreover, Hamedan authorities are ready to take preliminary measures to pave the way for the global registration of Hegmataneh and prepare it to be assessed by UNESCO evaluators, Ali Malmir said.

The working group is supervised by the top cultural heritage expert Mohammad-Hassan Talebian who is a senior advisor to the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the official added.

Earlier this year, a traffic fellow related to a nearby steel marketplace was declared as one of the major barriers faced with the possible registration based on UNESCO criteria.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenid kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Ecbatana is widely believed to be once a mysterious capital of Medes. According to ancient Greek writers, the city was founded in about 678 BC by Deioces, who was the first king of the Medes.

French Assyriologist Charles Fossey (1869 – 1946) directed the first excavation in Tepe Hegmataneh for six months in 1913. Erich Friedrich Schmidt (1897 – 1964), who was a German and American-naturalized archaeologist, took some aerial photos from Hamedan between 1935 and 1937.

According to the Greek historian Xenophon



of Athens (c.430-c.355), Ecbatana became the summer residence of the Achaemenid kings. Their palace is described by the Greek historian Polybius of Megalopolis. He writes that the city was richer and more beautiful than all other cities in the world; although it had no wall, the palace, built on an artificial terrace, according to Livius, a website on ancient history written and maintained since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona Lendering.

Furthermore, an inscription unearthed in 2000 indicates that Achaemenid king Artaxerxes II Mnemon (404–358) built a terrace with columns in Ecbatana. Some twelve kilometers southwest of Hamedan is Ganjnameh, where Darius I and his son Xerxes had inscriptions cut into the rock.

Polybius, a Greek historian of the Hellenistic period noted for his work The Histories, tells that the builders used cedar and cypress wood, which was covered with silver and gold. The roof tiles, columns, and ceilings were plated with silver and gold. He adds that the palace was stripped of its precious metals in the invasion of the Macedonian king Alexander the Great and that the rest was seized during the reigns of Antigonus and Seleucus. Later, Ecbatana was one of the capitals of the Seleucid and the Parthian Empires, sometimes called Epiphaneia.

Around 1220 Hamedan was destroyed by the Mongol invaders. In 1386 it was sacked by Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, and the inhabitants were massacred. It was partly restored in the 17th century and subsequently changed hands often between Iranian ruling houses and the Ottomans.

## Tabriz pottery museum still unknown, tourism minister says



TEHRAN – Iran's tourism minister has said the Live Pottery Museum of Tabriz is still unknown and it needs to be promoted and introduced more effectively.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami made the remarks during a visit to the museum on Saturday.

“It is essential to make a comprehensive documentary about this museum to introduce it to as many people as possible.”

The Live Pottery Museum of Tabriz is a great example of creativity and artistic development since the visitor is present during both the beginning and the end of the creation process of a work of art and is closely involved with it, the minister added.

The ministry is prepared to take any action

needed to boost interest and the market for this valuable art form, he explained.

The Live Pottery Museum of Tabriz has been established in the historical mansion of Sarraflar, dating back to the Qajar era (1789–1925).

In addition to permanent and temporary exhibitions, there are shops and training classes at the museum.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

Shiraz since the 18th century. Part of a historical complex, the Arg is named after the founder of the Zand Dynasty Mohammad Karim Khan Zand who ruled Iran from 1751 to 1779 and selected Shiraz as his capital.

The massive walls of the citadel feature ornamental brickwork designs in particular on the four circular tower-like structures punctuating each of its corners. Walking inside, one encounters a typical design of the Persian garden that interweaves different fields of knowledge such as water management and engineering, architecture, botany, and agriculture.

# Zoom in closer: Maragheh observatory

From page 1 ► pre-Copernican non-Ptolemaic systems for explaining the planetary motions, and it was the model for several observatories that were built in Persia, Transoxiana, and Asia Minor up to the 17th century.

In addition, the Maragheh observatory represents a turning point in the development of alternatives to Ptolemy's planetary models that were compatible with Aristotelian cosmological principles. These elaborate models, together with further innovations developed at the Samarqand observatory and later at Damascus, found their way to Europe and formed a critical part of the mathematical tools that enabled Copernicus to create the heliocentric model of the universe.

The scientific institute had the main building for the observational equipment, some auxiliary buildings, and accommodation quarters.

The central structure is circular

at 22 meters. A 1.5m-wide entrance opens into a 3.1m-wide corridor that marks the meridian line and contains the remains of the mural quadrant, of which 5.5m has survived.

On each side of the central corridor are six rooms, the pair at each end being smaller than the rest. Outside the main building towards the south, south-east and north-east are five circular constructions. These were the places where the smaller observational instruments were once mounted.

There is also a separate building, with an area of 330 square meters, which is assumed to be once the library of the observatory.

In addition, archaeologists have discovered a unit where the metal parts of the instruments were cast and assembled.

As mentioned by the UNESCO Astronomy and World Heritage Webportal, the observatory had a library that is said to have contained



about 400,000 volumes. A team of astronomers, most of whom were invited from different parts of the Islamic world, were responsible for the design and construction of the astronomical instruments, as well as for conducting observations and performing calculations.

According to a text written by Mu'ayyad al-Din al-Urdi (d. 1266), one of the chief astronomers and instrument designers of the observatory, its astronomical equipment included a mural quadrant with a radius of about 40m, a solstitial armilla, an azimuth ring, a parallactic ruler (triquetrum), and an armillary sphere with a radius of about 160cm.

After the death of Tusi in 1274, the Maragheh observatory was supervised by his son and remained active until the end of the 13th century. However, following the death of Hulagu Khan in 1265 and his son Abaqa in 1282, it lost its powerful patrons and had become

inactive by the beginning of the 14th century.

Narratives say, Ghazan Khan, who reigned from 1295 to 1304, visited the Maragheh observatory several times, probably using it as a model for his own observatory in Tabriz.

The location of the observatory is essentially an archaeological site with visible material remains and ruins of ancient constructions.

The observatory and its surroundings were excavated in the 1970s by an Iranian archaeological team supervised by P. Vardjavand. They recovered the remnants of 16 original constructional units: some are located at the central observatory building, while others are assumed to be auxiliary structures. There have not been any further investigations since this time.

In recent years a dome-shaped shelter has been constructed above the remnants to preserve them from further destruction.

## Intl. conference to discuss Sassanid arts from 21st-century perspective

TEHRAN – The UNESCO-tagged Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region will host an international conference to discuss Sassanid arts from a 21st-century perspective.

The conference will feature presentations by twelve experts in the fields of archeology, art, and architecture of the Sassanid era (224–651) and discussions of new methods to be used in the study of cultural heritage, ILNA quoted the director of the World Heritage as saying on Sunday.

Through the application of technology to cultural heritage, researchers have clarified results and have developed a new understanding of water systems management, city construction, and Sassanid-period building projects in the Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region, Alireza Asgari Chaverdi said.

The international conference is scheduled for May 19, the official stated.

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in



the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance.

Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state.

## Sari 2022 to touch Trans-Iranian Railway

TEHRAN – The international event of Sari 2022 is aimed to put the spotlight on a variety of touristic sites and in particular the Trans-Iranian Railway.

The opening ceremony is scheduled to be held on May 10 in the presence of ambassadors from member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), IRNA reported.

The event will turn the spotlight on the Trans-Iranian Railway, parts of which pass through Mazandaran province, the official said.

“The introduction of national touristic capacities of Iran is among cultural programs of the event titled Spring Nights of Iran,” Mehdi Izadi, the tourism chief of Mazandaran province, told the news agency on Thursday.

It is arranged that the foreign

guests of Sari 2022 ride the rails on the way back to Tehran to get acquainted with some of the province's rail tourism attractions, CHTN quoted Izadi as saying on Friday.

Furthermore, Sari 2022 is to introduce off-the-beaten routes and lesser-known rituals, the official noted.

The 1,394-kilometer-long Trans-Iranian railway was completed in 1938 after 11 years of massively challenging construction as it crosses four distinct climates, linking the glittering shores of the Caspian Sea to the fertile plains of the Persian Gulf.

Moreover, the railway joins together a striking tapestry of landscapes from soaring mountain ranges, deep gorges, salt deserts, old-growth forests, and plains. That

was why experts from around the globe were presented with a technical challenge since the proposed route would cross four distinct climates.

More amazingly, chains of lengthy slopes take the single-track railway high into the mountains on either side of Tehran, which itself sits on a high plateau.

On July 25, 2021, the massive railway network was one of 33 new sites awarded World Heritage status by UNESCO, joining world eminent locations such as Venice, Machu Picchu in Peru, Yellowstone National Park in the U.S., and Ecuador's Galapagos Islands.

As mentioned by the UN cultural body, the railway is notable for its scale and the engineering works it required to overcome steep routes and other difficulties. Unlike most early railway projects, the

construction of the Trans-Iranian Railway was funded by national taxes to avoid foreign investment and control.

Some 224 tunnels of more than 76 kilometers in length; 174 viaducts and 186 smaller bridges were constructed between 1927 and 1938 to carry the railway across deep ravines and river valleys as it climbs to two 2,134-meter summits, a feat made possible by more than 70,000 workers, extensive mapping, and aerial photography.

When it comes to tourism, highlights for those able to experience it include the Se Khat Tala (Three Golden Lines) spiral, where the line can be seen at three different heights thanks to loops and tunnels that help it to gain height, and the spectacular Veresk Bridge in the Alborz mountains.

## Shiraz citadel hosts craftspeople in daylong event

TEHRAN – A one-day handicrafts exhibition was set up in the centuries-old Arg-e Karim Khan in Shiraz, southern Fars province, on Friday, a local tourism official has said.

Several handicrafts workshops were organized on the sidelines of the exhibit, which aimed to mark Shiraz Week, Majid Salimi explained on Saturday.

The exhibition also provided opportunities for the selling and offering of handmade products of the local artisans and craftsmen, the official added.

The Arg-e Karim Khan is an immense brick fortress that has dominated the southern city of



Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation. It was one of the most

important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

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 into this provincial capital.

Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

The UNESCO-registered Persepolis, also

known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars Province.

The ancient city is also home to some magnificent historical gardens such as Bagh-e Narenjestan and Eram Garden, which are top tourist destinations both for domestic and international sightseers.

UNESCO describes the Persian Garden as an idea that combines natural elements with manmade components to materialize the concept of Eden or Paradise on Earth.



# Drought causes \$107m damage to environment

TEHRAN – Drought has so far incurred a loss of 28 trillion rials (about \$107 million) to the environment, Hassan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment, has said.

Unfortunately, over 70 percent of the country is suffering from severe drought. The severity of the drought is devastating in areas such as the Zagros, which is both a source of water and natural habitats, he lamented.

Perhaps the first and most important damage of drought is the weakening of vegetation, which seriously disrupts the wildlife food chain. This is while this year in parts of the central plateau of Iran, there were few seasonal vegetation growths in Alborz and Zagros regions, which makes wildlife breeding a serious problem.

Akbari pointed to the increase of pests in forest areas, intensification of wildfires, wildlife diseases, and increase of wildlife damage to farms and main livestock as other consequences of drought.

Iran faces a range of environmental challenges from high temperatures, pollution, flooding, and vanishing lakes. In April 2021, the Iranian Meteorological Organization warned of an “unprecedented drought” and rainfall levels that were substantially below long-term averages.



From the beginning of the current crop year (September 23, 2021) until April 18, precipitation has dropped by 29 percent compared to a year ago, Sadeq Ziaian, director of the national center for drought and crisis management, affiliated with the Meteorological Organization, said.

The precipitation rate during autumn (September 23-December 21, 2021) was not very favorable, as the Meteorological Organization has considered this autumn one of the driest seasons in the past 50 years.

Overall, the rainfall rate during the current water year is not yet favorable, as it is 15.5 percent lower than normal averages.

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multi-annual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will

decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the long-term average.

## 4.8 million people at medium to high risk of drought

The amount of rainfall in Iran's main river basins from September 2020 to July 2021 was, in most places, substantially lower compared with the year-earlier period. Iran experiences frequent droughts and faces the prospect of more extreme conditions brought about by climate change.

According to current assessments, parts of Iran are facing a rainfall anomaly which has had an observed impact on vegetation and agriculture. Of particular concern is that these drought impacts have been observed in northeastern Iran in areas bordering Afghanistan.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote and rural areas of the provinces.

It reports that 29 of 31 provinces, and especially seven – South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, and Khorasan Razavi – have been severely affected by the drought. The lack of safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry, and electrical power is having a devastating and increasingly unsustainable strain on households' health, and income in addition to encouraging negative social trends and coping mechanisms.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, Iran's average rainfall will decline by around 75 percent in the next five years compared to the long-term average.

## Turkey blamed for boom in dust storms into Iran

TEHRAN - Building several dams over the Aras border river and constructing walls on the zero point of the border by Turkey has led to a spread of sand and dust storms into western and southern parts of Iran, Prosecutor General Mohammad Jafar Montazeri has said.

In a letter to Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehra-bian, the prosecutor general said it is necessary to follow up on the issue of receiving water right from the border river in order to prevent any further loss to the economy and agriculture of the region, IRNA reported.

Sand and dust storms (SDSs) have been plagu-

ing the country for several years, causing 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.

Out of 8 large SDS hotspots with an area of about 270 million hectares around Iran, five are located in neighboring and non-neighboring countries of the Persian Gulf, Ali Mohammad Tah-masebi, head of the national working group for mitigating SDSs, has said.

In the past four years, about €370 million has



been spent by the National Development Fund to combat SDSs, which had good results, but it seems that the annual credit is declining as conditions improve, he added.

## Innovation and technology join Khwarizmi Intl. Festival

TEHRAN – The fields of innovation and technology have been added to the acceptable fields of the 36th Khwarizmi International Festival at the suggestion of Science Minister Mohammad-Ali Zolfogol, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Applications are accepted in the fields of aerospace, civil engineering, materials, metallurgy and new energies, agriculture, natural resources, animal sciences and veterinary medicine, electrical and computer, mechanics, basic sciences, green technology, mechatronics, biotechnology, and basic



medical sciences, industry and technology management, medical sciences, chemical technologies, information technology, nanotechnology.

Those interested in participating in the 36th Khwarizmi International

Festival can send their works until mid-September.

The annual festival is an opportunity for both Iranian and foreign participants to put their scientific achievements on display. Khwarizmi International Award is dedicated to recognizing outstanding scientific achievements made by researchers, inventors, and innovators from all over the world.

The executive process of this festival in five competitive sections includes domestic projects, foreign projects, projects of Iranians living abroad, selected successful projects

in national production, commercialized projects from the previous award winners, and special awards (to honor Iranian intellectuals and scientists).

IROST proposed the creation of the Khwarizmi Award in memory of Abu Jafar Mohammad Ibn Mousa Khwarizmi, the great Iranian Mathematician, and Astronomer (770-840 C.E).

The first session of the Khwarizmi Award, in 1987, called for Iranian nationals to present their outstanding contribution, invention, or innovation.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Men with obese wives at higher risk of cardiovascular disease: study

The results of a 16-year study at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Tehran showed that men whose wives were obese or overweight had a higher risk of cardiovascular disease.

Farzad Hadaegh, the lead researcher of the study, said that couples share socioeconomic status, dietary patterns, and other environmental and lifestyle factors, but are genetically unrelated.

The results of this study emphasize the role of environmental factors, especially lifestyle behaviors of family members in the incidence of cardiovascular disease, and this may help to identify early at-risk individuals in the community and family to implement prevention programs, he explained.

## خطر ابتلا به بیماری های قلبی عروقی در مردانی که همسران آنها چاق هستند بیشتر است

نتیجه یک پژوهش ۱۶ ساله در دانشگاه علوم پزشکی شهید بهشتی تهران نشان داد خطر ابتلا به بیماری های قلبی عروقی در مردانی که همسران آنها چاق یا دارای اضافه وزن بودند، نسبت به مردانی که همسران شان وزن طبیعی داشت، بیشتر است و جالب اینکه این ارتباط مستقل از عوامل خطر مردان است. دکتر فرزاد حدادچاق مدیر مرکز تحقیقات متابولیک دانشگاه علوم پزشکی شهید بهشتی، در این مورد توضیح داد: زوجین در موقعیت های اقتصادی-اجتماعی، الگوهای غذایی و سایر عوامل محیطی و سبک زندگی مشترک مانند آماز، نظارت، تنبلی بی ارتباط هستند این استاد دانشگاه خاطر نشان کرد: نتایج این مطالعه به نقش عوامل محیطی به ویژه رفتارهای مربوط به سبک زندگی اعضای خانواده در بروز بیماری های قلبی عروقی تاکید می کند و این موضوع ممکن است به شناسایی زودهنگام افراد در معرض خطر در جامعه و خانواده برای اجرای برنامه های پیشگیری کمک موثری کند.

## A century of sincere voluntary service

From page 1 ► there are neither many National Societies nor humanitarian relief organization – worldwide, that have the same strength and reach as the IRCS, he highlighted.

The diligent humanitarian work of IRCS to help those in need in Iran is commendable, he said, appreciating their efforts in the fight against the global COVID-19 pandemic.

“Here in Iran, the IFRC is strongly committed to continue the support and further strengthen the cooperation and mutual growth to ensure continued high-quality humanitarian assistance to those in need.

We will also continue our collective efforts to advocate and enhance our humanitarian diplomacy efforts to mitigate the impact of the sanctions in the humanitarian field in Iran,” he emphasized.

Mardini also stated that the IRCS has gone from strength to strength over the decades, providing humanitarian services in numerous natural and man-made disasters. Today, we are proud to see the IRCS as a strong member of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – with extensive capacities in Relief and Rescue, Health, and Physical Rehabilitation, among others.

The ICRC dearly values our long-standing partnership with the Red Crescent Society of Iran, he highlighted, expressing eagerness to develop and strengthen bilateral relations.

“Responding to the protection and assistance needs of undocumented migrants who are continuing to arrive from Afghanistan is one, which builds on Iran's long history and experience of hosting and helping millions of migrants.

Expanding and deepening our exchanges and discussions with the National Committee on Humanitarian Law of Iran is another. And seeing how we can cooperate effectively beyond the borders of Iran is yet another,” Mardini noted.

### IRCS services

The IRCS, established in 1922, is one of the first and oldest members of the movement and is currently one of the top five societies in the world due to its significant activities in the na-

tional and international arenas.

In 2005, the IRCS received the Henry Davison Award for outstanding humanitarian services, and the IRCS initiative of volunteers was selected as the best project (out of 50 projects from 45 national societies), by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In addition to offering services to the victims of natural disasters in the country, it has taken numerous missions in international disasters and incidents helping the people of Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, Southeast Asia earthquakes, Lebanon, Gaza, Somalia, and Yemen.

In case of natural disasters or for provision of medical services to the deprived, it dispatches medical teams, which consist of doctors, paramedics, nurses, social workers, and health experts who are sent to provide free health care to disadvantaged areas and villages identified and assessed by other volunteer groups.

Moreover, the Iranian Red Crescent Society provides medical services to people in 13 Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

Currently, some 14 medical facilities are offering humanitarian, relief, and health services to the deprived people in 13 countries, including Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Congo, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, and Ecuador.

The IRCS polyclinic center includes various departments such as laboratory, pharmacy, radiology and physiotherapy, and general practitioners along with obstetricians, gynecologists, internal medicine, pediatrics, ophthalmologists, and dentists.

### World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

May 8 is celebrated annually as the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. The theme this year is Be Humankind. Everyone loves small acts of kindness. This year is an opportunity for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, with their nearly 15 million dedicated volunteers worldwide, to unite in an unwavering commitment to common humanity.

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

### Part 7

#### Wildlife

When the system of nature reserves was being established, the initial strategy was to make certain that viable remnants of each species remained in the reserves. Endangered and rare species were fully protected.

By the early 1970s no existing species was deemed truly endangered. But for the reserve system and the dedication of the environmental wardens and guards, dozens (if not hundreds) of species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and plants would probably have become extinct.

Among the more dramatic successes were the protection of the Persian fallow deer, the cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), the Caucasian black grouse (*Tetrao mlokosiewiczzi*), and the great bustard (*Otis tarda*). By 1991 many species were once again threatened. Departmental experts estimate that there are less than fifty cheetahs, a vulnerable species wherever it still occurs in the world, as

against 350 in the 1970s.

Other mammals threatened by habitat destruction and/or hunting are the Baluchestan black bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus*), *Blanford's* fox (*Vulpes cana*), the Manul cat (*Felis manul*), and the honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*).

Many species of birds are becoming rare or threatened: the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), the previously abundant white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), and the three species of bustards, to name only a few of the more prominent ones.

Habitat destruction in particular and also hunting, pollution, and pesticides are the main factors for such declines and for the great decrease of many other species of waterfowl and passerines. Evidently, various species of fish and reptiles are suffering similar decline.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

Concluded

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 8

New cases	488
New deaths	12
Total cases	7,225,189
Total deaths	141,177
New hospitalized patients	71
Patients in critical condition	896
Total recovered patients	7,005,420
Diagnostic tests conducted	51,493,179
Doses of vaccine injected	149,153,878



TEHRAN TIMES



[www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com)

Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**  
Editor-in-Chief: **Ali A.Jenabzadeh**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
Email: info@tehrantimes.com  
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran    P.o. Box: 14155-4843    Zip Code: 1599814713

MAY 9, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He is the wisest and the most knowing man who advises people not to lose hope and faith in the Mercy of Allah and not to be too sure and over-confident of immunity from His Wrath and Punishment.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:01    Evening: 20:17    Dawn: 4:27 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:04 (tomorrow)

## Omar Khayyam: As mathematician

Part 6

He finally adds: “But the readers must not be worried by the fact that this has been demonstrated by arithmetical means, even if the Ancients indeed made use of these demonstrations by proportions that are more mathematical than arithmetical, and this because the object of the research is arithmetical; for ratios and sizes of ratios and multiplications of numbers belong first of all to numbers, and, from there, to magnitudes, in accordance with the saying: ‘for these mathematical sciences appear to be sisters’”.

Comments of Eutocius on the compounding of ratios provides the groundwork for illustrating the fundamental problem that arises in this context.

Namely, that in Greek arithmetic a number is considered as a multitude of indivisible units (what we now call a natural number); consequently the size (pelikotes) of the ratio of two numbers or two commensurable magnitudes cannot, strictly speaking, be considered as a number, unless the antecedent of the ratio is a multiple of the consequent.

Therefore, if one wants to consider as a number the ratio of any two numbers or commensurable magnitudes, it will then be necessary to consider a divisible unit, as in Greek logistic, which deals with concrete rather than theoretical units.

In the first case one will end up with what is called a whole or natural number, and in the second case with a fractional number. And in case one wants to consider the size of the ratio between two incommensurable magnitudes, one will end up with what is called an irrational number.

Now Khayyam sets out to prove the preceding statement on the compounding of ratios in the general case, that is, for any three magnitudes; and it is precisely in this context that he engages in a detailed study of the quantitative nature of ratio and brings forward the concept of irrational number.

For Khayyam, every ratio expresses a measure; that is, a certain magnitude is assumed as unit, and the other magnitudes of the same kind are related to it.

For example, the meaning of “the ratio of three to five” is “three-fifths of a unit.” In case there be given a ratio between two magnitudes A and B, he then considers the magnitude G such that its ratio to the unit is the same as the ratio of A to B.

It is this magnitude G that will then express the measure (i.e., the size) of the ratio of A to B. Khayyam explains: “As to studying whether the ratio between magnitudes includes number in its essence, or whether it is inseparable from number, or whether it is joined to number from outside its essence because of something else, or whether it is joined to number because of something inseparable from its essence without requiring an extrinsic judgment: this is a philosophical study to which the geometrician must by no means devote himself;” for this study is not incumbent upon the geometrician once he has “realized that a ratio between magnitudes is conjoined with something numerical or in the potentiality of number”.

While proving the proposition in question, Khayyam goes back over these notions: “The magnitude G should not be regarded as being a line, or a surface, or a solid, or a time.

On the contrary, it should be regarded as being abstracted in the intellect from these adjunct characters and as being attached to number: not as a true absolute number, for it may be that the ratio between A and B is not numerical, so that no two numbers can be found in accordance with their ratio”.

In this manner, he is able to reduce the compounding of ratios to the multiplication of the numbers that express their respective sizes.

He also explains that the unit he considers is a divisible unit (in fact the unit considered by him, being a magnitude, is divisible ad infinitum); and it is only by assuming that a number such as 2 is composed of divisible units that one will be able to speak of “the irrational number of the square root of 2,” unlike the ancient Greeks, for whom a concept such as “the irrational number of the square root of 2” did not seem to have had any meaning; they would only speak in this case of the ratio of two incommensurable lines, namely the ratio of the diagonal of a square to its side.

This is how Omar Khayyam, by discussing the connection between the concept of ratio and the concept of number, and by raising explicitly the theoretical problems related thereto, made a decisive contribution both to the theoretical study of the concept of irrational number, and to the understanding of its status as a mathematical entity in its own right.

For although Khayyam’s point of view (it is not up to the geometer to justify the connection of ratio and number once he has realized that such a connection exists) might seem mathematically defective, it corresponds in fact to the attitude ultimately adopted by mathematicians for many centuries.

Such an attitude can be found, for example, in the beginning of Isaac Newton’s Universal Arithmetick, where he asserts without any kind of justification: “By Number we understand, not so much a Multitude of Unities, as the abstracted Ratio of any Quantity, to another Quantity of the same Kind, which we take for Unity. And this is threefold; integer, fracted, and surd: An Integer, is what is measured by Unity; a Fraction, that which a submultiple Part of Unity measures; and a Surd, to which Unity is incommensurable”.

### (2) The essay on the division of the quadrant on the circle

This essay has no title and is not dated; we only know that it was written prior to the treatise on algebra, since in the former, which deals only with one specific cubic equation, Khayyam alludes to the subject matter of the latter, namely, a full treatment of all cubic equations.

The aim of this essay is to determine on the quadrant AB of a given circle ABCD a point G, so that the radius AE is to the perpendicular GH as EH to HB.

In order to achieve this, Khayyam uses the traditional method of analysis and synthesis: he first assumes that the problem has been solved, and then deduces certain properties that will enable him to construct the point G, which is looked for.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

# Persian musical “Simorghnameh” inspires new generation to care about environment

From Page 1 ▶ “In a world in which people, especially children and adolescents, are facing the hard times that have followed in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, ‘The Conference of the Birds’ is a metaphor for the hardship people must endure for self-examination to achieve piety,” they added.

“The children and young adults, just like the birds in the story, must pass the hard days amid the pandemic to make a better world,” the organizers noted.

“In addition to its literary and artistic values, the performance intends to remind children about their social responsibility for the environment, and raise their knowledge of nature; a generation which is expected to make the future of our country, a generation which has not heard the songs of birds in their cities and are far from their legends, poems and nature. All members of the cast, one by one, have traveled along with the birds of the story and want to tell you about their mysterious journey,”

An Iranian troupe is given a standing ovation after performing the musical “Simorghnameh” at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall on May 6, 2022.

they stated.

The troupe has previously performed musical adaptations of Hans Christian Andersen’s

“The Ugly Duckling” and Darian Sanders’ “The Lion King”.

They also plan to stage musical adaptations of Louisa

May Alcott’s “Little Women” and the story of Ishmael (AS) and his father Abraham (AS) in the near future.

## Minneapolis festival screening movies from Iran

TEHRAN – Four Iranian films are competing in the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival underway in the U.S. state of Minnesota.

“Hit the Road” and “Zalava” have been chosen to be screened in the feature films competition, while “Identibye” and “The Little Sparrow” are competing in the short films section.

Director Panah Panahi makes a striking feature debut with “Hit the Road”, a charming, sharp-witted and deeply moving comic drama.

It follows a family of four – two middle-aged parents and their sons, one a taciturn adult, the other an ebullient six-year-old – as they drive across the Iranian countryside. Over the course of the trip, they bond over memories of the past, grapple with fears of the unknown and fuss over their sick dog. Unspoken tensions arise and the film builds emotional momentum as it slowly reveals the furtive purpose of their journey.

The story of “Zalava”, winner of the grand

prize at the 36th Venice International Film Critics’ Week, is set in 1978 in a small village called “Zalava”, where the villagers claim that a demon is among them.

A young sergeant who investigates the claim crosses paths with an exorcist attempting to evict the demon from the village. He arrests the exorcist on a charge of fraud, but suddenly finds himself stuck in a cursed house with his lover. The villagers, who believe they are both possessed by the demon, decide to kill them.

Director Arsalan Amiri has co-written the screenplay with Ida Panahandeh and Tahmineh Bahramalian based on a story on stories told to him by his father. “Zalava” is a brilliant examination of faith, science and tradition, and a terrifying horror film.

In “Identibye”, the protagonist must choose between his innermost feelings. He was always judged by those closest to him. Fear of these judgments fills him with doubt. He has to work against the clock to achieve his goal; he knows that one’s true identity matters most.

## “The Next Great Paulie Fink” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – American author of youth literature Ali Benjamin’s book “The Next Great Paulie Fink” has been published in Persian.

Keivan Abidi Ashtiani is the translator of the book published by Ofoq.

When Caitlyn Breen enters the tiny Mitchell School in rural Mitchell, Vermont, she is a complete outsider: the seventh grade has just ten other kids, and they’ve known each other since kindergarten. Her classmates are in for a shock of their own: Paulie Fink, the class clown, oddball, troublemaker and evil genius, is gone this year.

As stories of Paulie’s hijinks unfold, his legend builds, until they realize there’s only one way to fill the Paulie-sized hole in

A combination photo shows author Ali Benjamin and the front cover of the Persian edition of her book “The Next Great Paulie Fink”.

their class.

They’ll find their next great Paulie Fink through a reality-show style competition, to be judged by the only objective person around: Caitlyn, who never even met Paulie Fink.

Who was this kid, anyway – prankster, performance artist,

philosopher, or fool? Caitlyn’s quest to understand Paulie is about to teach her more about herself than she ever imagined.

Told via multiple voices, interviews and other documents, “The Next Great Paulie Fink” is a lighthearted yet surprisingly touching exploration of how we build up and tear down our

own myths... about others, our communities and ourselves.

In this acclaimed novel by the author of the award-winning, bestselling “The Thing About Jellyfish”, being the new kid at school isn’t easy, especially when you have to follow in the footsteps of a legendary classroom prankster.

Benjamin has written for the Boston Globe Magazine, Martha Stewart’s Whole Living, and Sesame Street. She is the co-writer for HIV+ teen Paige Rawl’s coming-of-age memoir, Positive, which will be a lead title for Harper Teen this coming Fall, and which will feature an introduction by Jay Asher. She is a member of the New England Science Writers.

## A review of social media

of the three books that Soore Mehr has recently published.

“Media, Persuasion and Propaganda” written by Marshall Soules, and translated by Ehsan Shah Ghasemi, is about deception and media manipulation. Unlike other books in this field, the author discusses and criticizes consumerism and capitalism in a different way in this book. To make educational topics interesting, the author also has used interesting examples and practices.

The next book is “The Village and Heads.” Its context has been selected and translated by Mohsen Badreh, and it’s a collection of great writers and thinkers from all over the world discussing the role of social media in today’s world. The book is divided into two sections: the political economy of international

relations in the first section, and the political economy of the Internet and social media in the second section.

The title of the other book is “Instagram: Visual Social Media Cultures,” written by Crystal Abidin, Tama Leaver, and Tim Highfield and translated by Muhammad Mahdi Vahidi. The book emphasizes that social media has created a new world in which almost everyone in the world is a member of social media. People’s political, social, cultural, and economic activities are defined by their use of social media, and many things would be disrupted if they didn’t exist. These media, in fact, create a new lifestyle for their users.

It’s also worth noting that the book’s three authors are all excellent social media and cultural anthropology researchers and writers.