

# How will Iran-UAE Relations Be Under Mohammad bin Zayed?

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Report 

## Seyyed Nasrallah: Abu Aqleh's faith most powerful message

The Secretary-General of Hezbollah has said Shireen Abu Aqleh's Christian faith sent the strongest message after the veteran al-Jazeera journalist's murder at the hands of Israeli regime forces.

In a speech during an electoral festival in the Beqaa, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, affirmed that "the strongest message in the testimony of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh is that she is a Christian."

"The crime committed by the Zionist occupation troops, which led to the martyrdom of journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh. On the one hand, Shireen Abu Aqleh was a witness to the crimes of the enemy for many many years, and she was also witness to the oppression of the Palestinian people and the crimes, massacres, attacks, and daily violations of people and their sanctities, and today she has become the oppressed martyr in one of those crimes."

"On the other hand, this is the reality of the enemy, this reflects its brutality that has not changed and will not change, from the massacres of Deir Yassin to all the massacres in Palestine, to the massacres in Lebanon, in Qana, Suhmor and the rest of the towns, to the massacre of Egyptian soldiers captives in Sinai to... to...to... this is its reality, this is its essence, brutality, arrogance, and bloodshed.

The regime forces even attacked the funeral procession for the journalist in the occupied territories. Mourners carrying the body of Shireen Abu Aqleh who was shot dead by Israeli troops kicked and hit the mourners with batons; which left those carrying her coffin to lose balance and drop it to the ground. ► Page 5

## US, EU squandering opportunity to use Iran's goodwill in nuclear talks: Shamkhani

TEHRAN - The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Ali Shamkhani, has noted that the U.S. and European Union have squandered an opportunity to gain from Tehran's goodwill in the Vienna nuclear talks on the renewal of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) due to their breach of obligations and passivity.

Shamkhani said in a tweet on Friday that many rounds of talks held in Vienna since April 2021 have failed to bring the U.S. back into conformity with the JCPOA.

"The Vienna talks have reached a stage where the knot can only be untied through the adherence of the violator party to Iran's logical and principled approaches," the senior security official noted.

"The United States, by breach of promise, and Europe, by inaction, scuttled the opportunity to benefit from Iran's proven goodwill. If they have the will to return, we are ready and an agreement is within reach," Shamkhani added.

The tweet followed after Enrique Mora, the EU's coordinator for the Vienna talks, visited Tehran for talks with Iranian officials, including chief negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani. After Mora returned to Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the stalled nuclear talks have been "reopened". ► Page 2



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TEHRAN— On Friday, 54 seconds of a disturbing footage shocked the whole world. During the funeral procession for Shireen Abu Akleh, a veteran journalist who worked for Al Jazeera, Israeli police forces attacked the mourners and tried to take the Palestinian flag off of her casket.

The footage raised the eyebrows of the

free-spirited people in the world, who asked if the Israelis are afraid of a casket, what will the truth do to them?

Abu Akleh was shot in the ear by an Israeli sniper on Wednesday despite wearing a vest marked "press", and a helmet.

Abu Akleh's targeting raised concerns over the targeting of the journalists by the Israeli regime, as systemic killing of journalists has become a dangerous trend by them. But the million-dollar question everyone wanted to ask was: Will the killing of an American citizen by the Israeli troops cause a rift between the two close allies? ► Page 2

## South Pars oil layer output to increase 10,000 bpd

TEHRAN - Managing Director of Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company (IOEC) Mohammadreza Zahiri said that production from South Pars oil layer, which is located in the country's giant South Pars gas field, is going to increase by 10,000 barrels per day (bpd), Shana reported.

Speaking in a press conference on the sidelines of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining, and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2022) on Saturday, Zahiri said: "With the implementation of a new contract for the development of phase 2 of the South Pars oil layer, production from this joint field will increase

by 10,000 barrels per day."

Regarding the signing of a contract with a foreign partner for the development of phase 2 of the South Pars oil layer the official said: "The contractor has already been selected and we only made some changes in parts of the contract." ► Page 4

## KANS award announces winners

TEHRAN - The winners of the 2nd edition of the Knowledge Application and Notion for Society (KANS) competition were announced on Friday.

The winners are selected from the six fields of Water, Environment & Energy; Health & MedTech; ICT; Transportation; Economics, Banking & Finance and 2021 Special Field: Mining and Mineral Industries.

Scholars judged the five-minute presentation of 20 finalists on Friday morning and selected the winners.

KANS Science Competition was held on the sideline of the 11th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2022) from May 10-13 at Pardis Technology Park.

Pike See Chea (Malaysia) and Seyyed Ali Mousavi (Iran) shared the prize in the field of Health and Med Tech. The winner in the field of Environment, Water & Energy was Mahdi Maleki (Iran). ► Page 7



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## Iran Oil Show 2022 running in Tehran

The 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022) is running at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

The four-day event, which kicked off on Friday, is hosting companies from 11 countries, besides the Iranian exhibitors.

Iran Oil Show is among the most significant oil and gas events in the world in terms of the number of participants and its diversity.

## Iran preparing to get Sassanid fortress, arch bridges on UNESCO list

TEHRAN - Lorestan province's tourism chief has said they are preparing to apply to UNESCO for listing a Sassanid collection, which comprises a fortress and several (ruined) arch bridges, on the World Heritage list.

"Over the past 20 years, the directors of Lorestan's cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts department have made great efforts to

pave the way for the UNESCO registration of Falak-ol-Aflak fortress and its associated historical sites," Seyyed Amin Qasemi said on Wednesday.

"Getting prepared for a possible UNESCO recognition, we are working on a proposed package that includes some historical (Sassanid) bridges as well," the official said.

Located in Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan,

the unmissable eight-towered fortress dominates the city as one of the most visited travel destinations in the region for both domestic and foreign sightseers.

The fortress seems particularly imposing and dramatic when floodlit at night, offering picturesque views of its encircling crenelated battlements. ► Page 6

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Interview 

## Ukraine war signals rise of multi-polar world: professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A professor of international human rights at the University Of Pittsburgh School of Law says that the Ukraine war solidifies the rise of a multi-polar world.

"It is clear that this war, and the West's reaction to it, accelerates the rise of a multi-polar world, replacing the unipolar world in which the United States was the sole superpower," Daniel Kovalik tells the Tehran Times.

"This development is a good one for the world which has been held hostage by the United States since the collapse of the USSR in 1991," Kovalik notes.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is likely to accelerate a long-standing transition to a multi-polar world, one that will be increasingly shaped by competition over strategic connectivity.

This war showed the interconnected nature of the global system and how significantly those connections can be redirected due to conflicts such as the Ukraine war. Financial, energy and weaponry flow, and indeed even the flows of people in the form of refugees and internally displaced persons have been starkly impacted as a result of the Ukrainian conflict. The war has thus shaped the architecture of connectivity flows of the world, with Russia, Ukraine and the West each trying to shape such flows to secure and benefit their respective positions. ► Page 5

## Book carrying Ayatollah Khamenei's discourses on Bosnia-Herzegovina published

TEHRAN – A collection of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's spoken discourses on Bosnia-Herzegovina has been published in a book.

Entitled "Cramped in Their Home: Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's Discourses" has been compiled by Vahid Parast-tash, an expert on the Balkan region.

The publisher, Parandeh, has showcased the book at the 33rd Tehran International Book Fair underway at Imam Khomeini Mosalla.

The book was published with an introduction by Hojjatolislam Akbar Eidi, the representative of the Leader in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Balkan region.

"The Bosnian war was one of the Muslim world's crises at the beginning of Ayatollah Khamenei's leadership; a crisis that represented the second most important consensus of the Muslim world about an issue after the Palestine crisis," he wrote. ► Page 8





**REMEMBER  
PALESTINE**  
by Tehran Times

## Afraid of a casket, let alone the truth

From page 1 ► Immediately after the news broke out, the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem issued a statement condemning the killing and asking for an independent investigation into the matter. However, the Israelis, as usual, are evading responsibility regarding Abu Akleh's targeting.

On Friday, a funeral procession was held in the occupied Jerusalem for the seasoned journalist. Hours before the procession began, the Israeli police forces were waiting and ready to beat up and attack the mourners of press freedom.

Minutes after the procession began, Israeli occupation forces attacked the funeral for the slain journalist outside the French Hospital in occupied Jerusalem.

They later stormed and shut down the mourning house for Abu Akleh.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said that 33 people were hurt in the Israeli attack on the funeral procession of Abu Akleh in occupied Jerusalem.

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh said on Friday, "A regime that is scared of the funeral of the martyr of the truth, Shireen Abu Akleh, and the raising of the Palestinian flag in Jerusalem is destined to evaporate."

France's embassy in the occupied lands also issued a statement condemning the attack.

"Dismayed by Israeli police violence at Shireen Abu Akleh's funeral at St Joseph's Hospital, an establishment under French protection. These scenes are shocking," the statement wrote.

Even the close buddy of the Israeli regime, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said, "We are deeply troubled by the images of Israeli police intruding into the funeral procession of Palestinian American Shireen Abu Akleh. Every family deserves to lay their loved ones to rest in a dignified and unimpeded manner."

Later, at the White House press briefing, reporters asked Jen Psaki, the White House spokesperson, about the troubling footage.

"Did the President see and the White House have any reaction the disturbing images out of Israel this morning of Israeli police beating mourners of the Al Jazeera journalist and American citizen Shireen Abu Akleh, including they briefly dropped the casket? Does the White House have any response? And is the President taking any action in response?" a reporter asked.

Speaking at her last briefing as the White House spokesperson, Psaki responded, "Well, I would first say that we have all seen those images; they're obviously deeply disturbing. We — this is a day where we should all be marking, including everyone there, the memory of a remarkable journalist who lost her life. We know that there is — with the disturbing footage from the funeral procession today in Jerusalem, we regret the intrusion into what should have been a peaceful procession. We've urged respect for the funeral procession, the mourners, and the family at this sensitive time."

She added that the White House is in close contact with both the Israeli and Palestinian officials.

"We're also in close touch with Israeli and Palestinian authorities — have been and obviously will continue to be, especially given the images we've seen today. We're not currently involved in any of the investigation, but we are working to bridge cooperation and available to provide assistance as needed."

Another reporter asked, "Back to the murder of Shireen Abu Akleh, I'm curious: Does the President himself plan to speak with her family, given especially in part that she is an American citizen?"

Psaki said, "We have, obviously, reached out and engaged through national security officials with her

family. I don't have any calls to predict or preview at this point in time. But if that does happen, we'd, of course, make that information available to all of you."

The reporter then went on to ask a second question about Abu Akleh, asking, "And does the President have any plans to speak with the Israeli government directly about the death and the ongoing investigation?"

Psaki responded, "Well, certainly, we have been engaged with them and have offered support. And if they need specific support from us, we will provide that. But I don't have any calls to predict at this point in time."

As the news of Abu Akleh's killing sent a shockwave to the world, it was natural that most of the reporters wanted to get the reactions of Washington.

Therefore, another reporter asked Psaki, "And I want to follow up with my colleague's mention of Shireen Abu Akleh. And I want to emphasize she is an American citizen. You know, when American journalists are killed in Ukraine, nobody waits for an investigation; they pinpoint their — you know, (inaudible) to the Russians. Why Israel get away with this? Why not calling for an independent inquiry since Palestinians do not believe that Israel is capable of investigating itself? I mean, this journalist was fully covered in a vest, in a helmet, yet she was targeted under the ear. That means it's a professional job by a sniper. And many people believe that it was an Israeli soldier who shot her."

Psaki responded, "Well, as we understand it, there are investigations by both sides. We've offered our assistance to the Israelis, to the Palestinians, and we're prepared to provide that should they want it."

While the UN Security Council has strongly condemned Israel's killing of Palestinian-American journalist and called for an immediate, thorough, transparent, and fair and impartial investigation, the Americans are hesitant to carry out an independent investigation regarding the killing of an American citizen by an ally. However, the White House's condemnation of the Israelis' attack to Abu Akleh's casket can portray a rift between the two close allies. Let's not forget that this is not unprecedented, and it has happened before.

In 2003, Rachel Corrie, an American political activist, was crushed to death by an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) armored bulldozer in a southern Gaza Strip combat zone during the height of the second Palestinian intifada under contested circumstances. When Corrie died, then U.S. President George W. Bush demanded a "thorough, credible, and transparent investigation" from then Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

In March 2003, U.S. Representative Brian Baird introduced a resolution in the U.S. Congress calling on the U.S. government to "undertake a full, fair, and expeditious investigation" into Corrie's death.

The House of Representatives took no action on the resolution. The Corrie family joined Representative Baird in calling for a U.S. investigation.

Years later, in 2012, U.S. Ambassador to the occupied lands, Dan Shapiro, stated that the Israeli investigation was not satisfactory, and was not as thorough, credible or transparent as it should have been.

Shapiro said the government of the United States is unsatisfied with the IDF's closure of its official investigation into Corrie's death.

Will the U.S. even sacrifice a citizen's life in order not to antagonize Israel? No question about that. But the outpouring of the emotions regarding Abu Akleh's tragic death will hunt those who remained silent.

administration, led by former President Donald Trump, unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018 and launched a "maximum pressure" campaign against the country.

Several rounds of talks between Iran and the five remaining JCPOA countries — the United Kingdom, France, Germany, China, and Russia — have been conducted in the Austrian capital since April 2021 in an attempt to bring the U.S. back on track. However, owing to the United States' withdrawal from the agreement, American diplomats are not permitted to attend the Vienna talks.

# Israeli atrocities will only cause public hatred: Iran's president

TEHRAN - Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has underscored that the crimes by Israel, such as the recent assassination a Palestinian journalist, will by no means bring security for the regime, rather will simply increase public disapproval.

Raisi made the remarks during a joint press conference in Tehran on Thursday with Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

During the press conference, Iran's president mentioned the Palestinian journalist who was killed by Israeli soldiers while documenting the recent Israeli attacks on Palestinians, offering his condolences over her murder.

"Such crimes do not bring security to the Zionist regime, but increase public hatred toward the regime," Iran's president said.

He went on to say that his condolences for the assassination of the Palestinian journalist go out to all journalists throughout the world who represent the Palestinian people.

Shireen Abu Akleh, a veteran Al Jazeera Arabic TV journalist, was killed on Wednesday after being shot in the head while reporting Israeli army incursions in the northern occupied West Bank city of Jenin.

According to the Palestinian health ministry, she was brought to a hospital in Jenin in severe condition, where she was



proclaimed dead shortly after.

A Palestinian journalist who was with Abu Akleh on the day she was killed has described the incident as a "deliberate attempt" to assassinate the journalists.

"We made ourselves visible to the soldiers who were stationed hundreds of meters away from us. We remained still for around 10 minutes to make sure they knew we were there as journalists," Shatha Hanaysha noted.

Iran's president also frowned at presence of foreigners, particularly Western countries, in West Asia.

"Such [foreign] presence does not bring security to the region, but on the contrary, undermines it," he added.

"During our talks, we discussed major regional issues, especially the issue of Yemen," Iran's president said, adding, "We

emphasized that the blockade of Yemen must end and Yemenis must be allowed to decide the fate of their country."

Another topic that Raisi discussed with the Emir of Qatar was the situation in Afghanistan, stressing that the nation needs an inclusive government that represents all groups and political factions in order to achieve long-term security.

According to Raisi, the two leaders also stressed the need to liberate the occupied Al-Quds, ending the terrible siege on Gaza as well as the Israel's atrocities against Palestinians.

Raisi also stated that Iran and Qatar prioritized expanding ties in all areas, including politics, business, commerce, culture, tourism, and energy.

Other topics discussed with

the Emir of Qatar were joint investment and fulfillment of mutual agreements achieved during Raisi's recent visit to Qatar.

The visit of Qatar's Emir to Tehran will be a watershed moment in the two nations' ties, according to Iran's president, and will play a critical role in increasing regional and international collaboration.

During their talks, the two leaders addressed important bilateral concerns as well as an all-out development of collaboration in all spheres, according to the Emir of Qatar.

Al Thani, for his part, emphasized the two parties agreed that negotiation is the best way to solve the region's present difficulties.

"The existing problems in the region must be settled through constructive dialogue," he said, adding that the two sides also discussed the ongoing situation in Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

The Emir of Qatar also expressed his condolences to the Palestinian journalist's family.

"The killers of journalist must be held accountable," the Qatari Emir remarked, underlining that there should be no double standards in dealing with this matter.

He went on to say that the Palestinian problem is the region's most pressing issue, and that it must be settled in its entirety, including all elements.

## Iran calls on Muslim states to halt Israeli occupation, atrocities

TEHRAN - In a statement issued on the occasion of Nakba Day, which commemorates the illegal Zionist regime of Israel, Iran's Foreign Ministry noted that the only option to ensure Palestinian rights is for governments and Muslim nations to embrace resistance against the occupiers.

Any compromise with the Islamic Ummah's sworn foes, according to Foreign Ministry, supports the apartheid Zionist regime's heinous deeds and human rights violations.

The full text of the statement is as follows:

"May 14, 1948, the Nakba Day, is reminiscent of occupation, massacre and displacement of the true owners of the Palestinian land at the hands of Zionist occupiers and usurpers, and the onset of a trend of systematic violations of the Palestinian nation's natural and basic rights.

Since that date, the criminal Zionists — backed by some Western powers — have usurped the holy land of Palestine with the forceful use of weapons and through carnage and plunder, laying the foundation for lasting insecurity and instability in the

West Asia region, a situation that continues to this day.

The anniversary of the Nakba Day once again reminds the world's governments and nations of their human and legal duty of defending the Palestinian people's rights and puts on display the failure of international institutions and organizations to resolve one of the longest-running humanitarian and political crises in the world. This comes especially at a time when the usurper Zionist regime has started a new round of desecrations of Palestine's religious sites, Islamic sanctities and al-Quds as well as slaughter of the defenseless Palestinian people, which has, of course, been met with a crushing response from Palestine's popular resistance and Intifada, with God's grace.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasizes addressing the issue of Palestine, as the foremost and principal issue of the Muslim world, and considers attempts by global Zionism to drive the issue into oblivion is doomed to failure.

As shown by history, any compromise with the sworn enemies of the Islamic Ummah encourages the apartheid Zionist government's inhumane acts and violations

## Raisi offers condolences over UAE president's demise

TEHRAN — In a message late on Friday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi expressed sorrow over the demise of Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The president's condolence message was addressed to the UAE crown prince.

"The news of the demise of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President

of the United Arab Emirates, caused grief and sorrow," Raisi said.

He added, "I offer my condolences on his passing to Your Excellency, the government and the nation of the United Arab Emirates, and I pray for him and wish you and your family patience."

On Saturday, UAE Federal Supreme Council elected Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed



as President of the State. The rulers of the UAE's seven sheikhdoms made the decision at a meeting.

After his election, Mohamed expressed appreciation of the "precious trust" placed in him by members of the council, WAM reported.

Widely known as MBZ, Sheikh Mohamed is one of the Arab world's most powerful leaders.

Bin Zayed, 61, had already been exerting power for years when Sheikh Khalifa suffered spells of illness, including a stroke in 2014.

## US, EU squandering opportunity to use Iran's goodwill in nuclear talks: Shamkhani

From page 1 ► Speaking on the sidelines of the G7 meeting in Germany, the EU's chief diplomat said, "The negotiations were blocked and they have been unblocked and that means there is the prospective of reaching a final agreement."

Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iran's foreign minister, said on Twitter on Friday that Tehran and the P4+1 group of countries still have a chance to establish a "good and reliable" agreement provided the U.S. takes the appropriate decision and keeps its pledges.

Despite the Islamic Republic's full adherence to its responsibilities under the deal, the U.S.

administration, led by former President Donald Trump, unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018 and launched a "maximum pressure" campaign against the country.

Several rounds of talks between Iran and the five remaining JCPOA countries — the United Kingdom, France, Germany, China, and Russia — have been conducted in the Austrian capital since April 2021 in an attempt to bring the U.S. back on track. However, owing to the United States' withdrawal from the agreement, American diplomats are not permitted to attend the Vienna talks.

## Defense Minister: Iran to beef up deterrence capability



TEHRAN - Promoting deterrence capability to counter threats is the main strategy, Iranian

Defense Minister Mohammad-Reza Gharai Ashtiani has said.

The Defense Ministry will continue its main mission which is to support armed forces and creating national power, Ashtiani said, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Referring to the Defense Ministry's capabilities, especially in the field of joint technologies with the civilian sector, Ashtiani said his ministry is ready to assist other sectors in producing and transferring knowledge.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the brigadier

general said the U.S. and its allies, especially the Israeli regime, are seeking unilateralism, imposing will on other nations, creating division, and provoking war between countries. Even they do not hesitate to kill innocent people, the minister added.

The defense chief went on to say that developing relations with neighbors, reinforcing interaction and multilateralism, paying attention to economy-oriented foreign policy, as well as strengthening the Resistance Front are on the agenda of Iran.



# How will be Iran-UAE relations under Mohammad bin Zayed?

TEHRAN – The change in the leadership of the United Arab Emirates offers a new opportunity for greater thaw in Tehran-Abu Dhabi relations that if seized by the new president of the UAE would elevate the relations to a new level.

Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan is now the new president of the UAE. He has been elected president of the oil-rich Arab country during a meeting of the Federal Supreme Council, which comprises the rulers of the UAE's seven emirates. The election was announced a day after former president Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed passed away on Friday after years of battling the effects of a stroke he suffered in 2014.

Rulers of each emirate pledged allegiance to the new president. "Today, the Federal Supreme Council elected my brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, as President of the State," Dubai's ruler Mohammed bin Rashid wrote on his Twitter account.

"We congratulate him and we pledge allegiance to him, and our people pledge allegiance to him."

Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed appreciated the rulers' pledging allegiance to him. He "expressed his appreciation for the dear trust that his brothers, their highnesses, members of the Federal Supreme Council, have entrusted him with, praying that Almighty God helps



him succeed, helps him in taking on this great responsibility and meeting it in serving the UAE and its loyal people," according to state news agency WAM.

On Friday and Saturday, messages from leaders of the world continued to pour in on the UAE to offer condolences and express grief at the loss of Sheikh Khalifa. Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian also were keen to offer their condolences.

First, Amir Abdollahian sent such a message to his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan to "offer condolences to the brotherly and friendly government and people" of the UAE, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

"The news of the departure of His

Excellency Sheikh Khalifah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the UAE government was sorrowful. I would like to offer condolences to Your Excellency as well as the government and people of the UAE. I also wish divine mercy and forgiveness for the late leader and for you and the honorable family," Amir Abdollahian said in the message.

Ayatollah Raisi addressed his message to Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed before the latter becomes president. "The news of the demise of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, caused grief and sorrow," he said in the message.

The Iranian messages of condolences were predictable given the laggard progress in the development of the ties between

Iran and the UAE. Ayatollah Raisi had received an invitation from the late president of the UAE to visit Abu Dhabi last December. It was delivered by UAE National Security Advisor Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed during his December visit to Tehran where he met with Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

The visit is still on agenda but it is unlikely to take place soon, though Ayatollah Raisi is reportedly planning to visit Oman in the near future. Iranian sources have told Al Araby Al Jadeed that the Emirati side repeated the invitation in other meetings, some of which were secret between the two parties. However, these sources confirmed that the completion of the visit is on the Iranian president's agenda but it will take place "at the appropriate time."

It seems that the slow pace of rapprochement is the main reason for this delay. The UAE can expedite this visit by taking practical steps to improve relations with Iran, particularly in the economic sector, which serves the interests of both sides. The UAE leaders, including Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed, have expressed their willingness to improve their relations with all the countries of the region, including Iran. Therefore, it would be no surprise if he takes steps to move relations with Iran to a new level.

In the meeting, the Iranian foreign minister offered condolences over the martyrdom of Shirin Abu Akleh to her family, the resistant people of Palestine, the Christian community there and media outlets. Amir Abdollahian also handed over a memorial plaque to the Qatari foreign minister to give it to Abu Akleh's family in Palestine.

Also, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has strongly condemned the deliberate targeting of Shirin Abu Akleh, the famous reporter of Al Jazeera news channel in occupied Palestine by the Zionist regime's forces.

Khatibzadeh extended condolences over the martyrdom of this senior correspondent to her family, Al Jazeera network and journalists who are committed to the cause of Palestine and the holy city of al-Quds all over the world.

The Iranian Foreign ministry spokesman described this criminal act by the Zionist regime as clear proof of the regime's lack of commitment to the role and place of the press, the media and journalists in promoting public awareness.

Khatibzadeh noted that the Zionism propaganda machine and its affiliated outlets, in spite of their false claims, are afraid of the dissemination of the truth, and the Zionist regime massacres reporters if needed.

Khatibzadeh urged international organizations, human rights bodies and international media unions to do an independent investigation into the martyrdom of Shirin Abu Akleh and demanded that the regime be held accountable for its crime.

The two sides exchanged views and reached an agreement on consular affairs, including facilitating the issuance of tourism visas, commerce and investment, resolution of issues facing students, expansion of consular-judicial cooperation, support for the rights of Iranian citizens and companies active in Tajikistan, cooperation over illegal migration and human trafficking, fight against terrorism, and the issue of nationality.

The Tajik side announced that it had started issuing electronic visas for Iranian citizens, with the situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic having returned to normal.

The Iranian team, in turn, called for facilitation of issuing visas by eliminating the intermediaries and easing the administrative procedure.

The two sides agreed to put forward and discuss a plan for eliminating tourism visas within the framework of their consular talks.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

MAY 15, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Paykan outplay South Gas in 2022 Asian Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Paykan of Iran eased past South Gas of Iraq 3-0 (25-14, 25-17, 25-14) in Pool A of the 2022 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship at the Azadi Hall here on Saturday.

Earlier in the day, Japan's Premier League champions Suntory Sunbirds got off to a superb start following a sensational 25-19, 25-21, 25-16 victory over Nakhon Ratchasima QminC.

On Sunday, Paykan will take on Suntory Sunbirds, while Nakhon Ratchasima QminC play South Gas.

Pool B comprises Al-Rayyan Sports Club, winner at the 2021-22 Qatari Volleyball League and the 40th Arab Club Championship, Taraz VC from Kazakhstan, Iran B's Shahdab Yazd, the 2021-22 Iranian Volleyball Super League champion, and Iraqi club Erbil Sport Club.

### Iranian teams learn fate at 2022 IHF Beach Handball World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran men's and men's youth handball teams discovered their rivals at the 2022 IHF Men's and Youth (U18) Beach Handball World Championships.

The men's team have been drawn in Pool C along with Denmark, Norway and Egypt.

The youth team have been also drawn in Pool A along with Sweden, Qatar and the U.S.

The 2022 IHF Men's and Women's Youth (U18) Beach Handball World Championships will take place between 14 and 19 June, while the IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships are set to be played between 21 and 26 June in the same venue in Heraklion, Greece.

\*2022 IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championship

**Group A:** Argentina, Greece, the U.S., Puerto Rico

**Group B:** Croatia, Spain, Uruguay, Ecuador

**Group C:** Denmark, Norway, Iran, Egypt

**Group D:** Brazil, Portugal, Qatar, New Zealand

\*2022 IHF Men's Youth (U18) Beach Handball World Championship

**Group A:** Sweden, Iran, Qatar, the U.S.

**Group B:** Brazil, Croatia, Togo, France

**Group C:** Spain, Greece, Jordan, Czech Republic

**Group D:** Ukraine, Argentina, Germany, Uruguay

### Iran, Uzbekistan share spoils in 2022 CAFA U16 Championship opener

TEHRAN – Iran were held to a 2-2 draw by Uzbekistan in the opening match of the 2022 CAFA U16 Championship on Friday.

Reza Ghandipour and Mahan Sadeghi were on target for the Hossein Abdi's team.

The eight-day competition has brought Tajikistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan together.

The 2022 CAFA U16 Championship takes place in the Republic Central Stadium in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

### China Withdraws from Hosting 2023 Asian Cup

TEHRAN – China has relinquished its rights to host the 2023 Asian Cup finals due to the COVID-19 situation in the country, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced on Saturday.

The event, which is played every four years and features 24 national teams from across the continent, was due to be held in 10 cities from June 16 to July 16 next year.

"Following extensive discussions with the Chinese Football Association (CFA), the Asian Football Confederation has been officially informed by the CFA that it would not be able to host the AFC Asian Cup 2023," the confederation said in a statement.

"The AFC acknowledges the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the relinquishment by China PR of its hosting rights."

The AFC said a decision about the hosting of the tournament would be revealed in due course.

The Asian Cup is the latest international sporting event to be affected by China's attempts to tackle the pandemic.

Earlier this month, Asian Games organizers the Olympic Council of Asia postponed the next edition of the multi-sport event, due to be held in the Chinese city of Hangzhou in September, until 2023.

### Iran down Jordan in U16 FIBA Asian Championship WABA qualification

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Jordan 88-43 in the U16 FIBA Asian Championship WABA qualification underway in Amman, Jordan.

The Persians had previously defeated Syria 99-50 and Lebanon 72-67 in their first two matches.

Iran are scheduled to meet Iraq respectively in their last match.

The West Asia Basketball Association (WABA) is a subzone of FIBA Asia, consisting of countries from West Asia.

### Beiranvand linked with Persepolis: report

TEHRAN – Antwerp football team Alireza Beiranvand has been reportedly linked with a move to Persepolis football club.

Beiranvand was loaned to Portuguese first division team Boavista this season but remained an unused substitute in the team.

"I would have liked to end my career in Boavista in a different way but I have to say goodbye," Beiranvand shared on his Instagram account.

Now, the Belgian site voetbalnieuws.be has reported that Persepolis has shown an interest in re-signing the goalkeeper.

The 30-year-old goalie joined Royal Antwerp from Persepolis in 2020 but failed to meet the expectations.

### Iran's women volleyball team defeat OK Tent

TEHRAN – Iranian women's volleyball team defeated OK Tent 3-2 in a friendly match.

Alessandra Campedelli's women defeated their Serbian opponent (15-25, 25-21, 22-25, 25-11, 15-7), Tasnim news agency reported.

They had defeated ŽOK Ub 3-2 (14-25, 18-25, 25-23, 25-22, 15-9) in their first friendly match.

The Iranian team will also play one more game with a Serbian club in its camp on Sunday.

Iran prepare for the Asian Women's Volleyball Championship, which will be held in the Philippines from August 30 to September 6.

## Iran urges UN to act urgently as Israel assassinates Palestinian journalist

TEHRAN – Mohammad Reza Sahraei, adviser to the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, has condemned the assassination of Shirin Abu Akleh, the Palestinian journalist and Al-Jazeera correspondent, and called on the organization, especially the UN Security Council, to take urgent action to end the Israeli crimes.

"We have witnessed these days another crime by the Israeli entity against the Palestinian people. Two days ago, veteran Palestinian journalist Shirin Abu Akleh was martyred in a barbaric attack by the occupation forces in Jenin, occupied Palestine," Sahraei said in his speech on Friday during a meeting of the information committee of the United Nations, according to Al Alam.

He added, "Shirin Abu Akleh was the voice of the courage of the Palestinian people and a national symbol of steadfastness and endurance in the face of the aggression and unjust occupation that the Palestinian people have endured for a long time."

He noted, "The assassination of Shirin Abu Akleh by the Israeli entity is part of the long-term war, intimidation and violence against journalists in order to cover up the crimes of this entity against the Palestinians and its flagrant violation of international laws and norms."

Sahrai considered the martyred Palestinian journalist another victim of the global community's inaction in the face of war crimes and the continuing terrorism practiced by the Israeli regime against the Palestinian people and other countries in the region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, while denouncing the assassination of Shirin Abu Akleh, and with a

view to ending the attacks of the Israeli entity and its impunity, calls on the United Nations, especially the UN Security Council, to take urgent measures in support of the Palestinian people and to hold the entity accountable for its international crimes that it has committed over decades," he stated.

He pointed out, "The Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning the assassination of the Palestinian journalist, affirms its unlimited and comprehensive support for the Palestinian people in the just and legitimate resistance against occupation and aggression and for them to obtain the right to self-determination."

Earlier, during a meeting with his Qatari counterpart in Tehran on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian alluded to the killing of the Palestinian journalist.

The top diplomats of Iran and Qatar condemned the brutal killing of Shireen Abu Akleh, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

They attributed the continuation of the acts of terror and atrocities by the Zionist regime to lack of serious action on the part of international and human rights organizations and also to their double standards regarding human rights abuses in Palestine including the targeted killing of journalists.

The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Qatar then noted that when she was martyred, the Palestinian journalist was wearing a journalist vest. They added that the cold-blooded act by the Zionist regime shows Tel Aviv is opposed to freedom of speech and is seeking to cover up truth and its terrorist crimes in Palestine.

## Deputy FM meeting Tajik top diplomat

TEHRAN – Alireza Bigdeli, the Iranian Foreign Ministry director for consular, parliamentary and Iranian expatriates' affairs, met on Thursday with Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Serajeddin Mehrettin in Dushanbe.

During the meeting, the Tajik foreign minister hailed the expansion of ties between Iran and the Tajikistan, saying that a new page has opened in bilateral cooperation with Iran.

Mehrettin has said relations between his country and Iran are very good but do not meet expectations of the two brotherly nations who speak the same language and share the same history, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The foreign minister was speaking on the eve of the fifth session of the joint consular commission of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan during a meeting with Bigdeli.

The Iranian deputy Foreign

Minister also said consular cooperation and closer people-to-people interactions will pave the way for the expansion of relations in economic, political and cultural spheres.

Bigdeli expressed hope that during the post-Covid era and under the current difficult situation in the region, the two countries would elevate their ties to the desired level by facilitating people-to-people interactions, wavering visa and tapping all opportunities.

The Tajik foreign minister suggested that the two countries work closely together regarding regional issues and at international organizations, adding all Tajik officials believe that Iran and Tajikistan must establish a higher level of bilateral, regional and international cooperation in political and security matters.

He also referred to the active participation of Iranian companies

and investors in Tajikistan and the country's economic opportunities, saying his Dushanbe sees no limits to working with Iran. The minister also said his country is satisfied with the expertise of Iranian companies.

In the meeting, the two officials also discussed regional and global issues, the Ukraine crisis, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the reopening and expanding of Iran's missions in Tajikistan, expansion of tourism as well as problems faced by some Iranian companies in Tajikistan.

During the visit of Bigdeli to Tajikistan, the fifth Joint Consular Meeting of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan was held in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Bigdeli and Sharaf Sheralizoda, the Tajik deputy foreign minister for economic and consular affairs, as well as consular experts of the two countries.



## South Pars oil layer output to increase 10,000 bpd

From page 1 ► **Iran able to build pressure booster platforms**

Mentioning the development of the South Pars gas field and the need for pressure boosting equipment in this field in the near future, Zahiri said domestic manufacturers have the ability to build pressure booster platforms for the South Pars field and we don't need foreign partners in this regard.

"One of the major challenges of constructing these platforms is the need for precise designing of its foundations due to the high weight of facilities installed on the platform," he said.

According to the official, IOEC is currently designing these platforms in collaboration with the country's universities and there is no problem in designing, constructing, transporting, and installation of such platforms, but building the jacket takes some time because the exact weight of the equipment used on these platforms should be determined first.

**Phase 11 output to be transferred to onshore refineries by late Dec.**

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zahiri mentioned the development of South Pars phase 11 and noted that a platform from Phase 12 of the giant gas field is planned to be transported to the said phase and after installation of the mentioned platform the produced gas will be



transferred to onshore refineries by the end of autumn (late December).

On May 6, Karim Zobeidi, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)'s director of corporate planning, said that the Phase 11 development project is expected to produce 14 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas on a daily basis by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

**IOEC contributing to various projects outside Iran**

The IOEC managing director further noted that his company is implementing several projects outside the country in addition to the development projects being carried out inside.

The official did not provide any details on the mentioned projects, pointing to some sanction-related limitations as the reason.

## Iran, Pakistan to open 3 new border markets soon



TEHRAN – Head of Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak met with Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran Rahim Hayat Qureshi on Saturday to discuss the expansion of trade ties, the TPO portal reported.

During this meeting, the two sides decided on making the necessary preparations for the opening of three new markets at the border of the two countries.

Reviewing the level of trade between the two

countries, the officials expressed satisfaction with the growing trend of economic relations and emphasized increasing the level of trade.

The development of transportation ties, the establishment of joint transportation companies, and the optimal use of the north and south corridors were also emphasized by both sides.

They also underlined the importance of using barter trade and exchange of goods for boosting trade relations between the two countries and emphasized the faster implementation of this mechanism in order to resolve some banking problems in financial exchanges and increase the level of trade between the two countries.

Forming specialized committees for pursuing the issues related to barter trade and transportation cooperation were also among the subjects that the two sides agreed upon during the meeting.

# NIGC invites GECF secretary-general to visit South Pars gas field facilities

TEHRAN – Head of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has invited the secretary-general of Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) to pay a visit to the South Pars gas field facilities in southern Iran, Shana reported.

Majid Chegeni extended the invitation to Mohamed Hamel during a meeting on the sidelines of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2022) in Tehran on Friday.

Briefing Hamel on the country's oil and gas industry achievements, Chegeni noted that Iranian knowledge-based companies

have had a strong presence and an impressive performance in the gas sector in recent years.

The NIGC head underlined the mediatory role of GECF among its member countries and noted that the forum plays a crucial role to facilitate cooperation among gas producing countries to form a great network.

Chegeni hailed the statement GECF issued at its recent summit, assuring that it would create an attractive landscape for its members when the words are translated into action.

The achievements of GECF have been mainly ignored, regretted



NIGC Head Majid Chegeni (R) and GECF Secretary-General Mohamed Hamel

the top Iranian official, blaming lack of follow-up for failure in implementing them by member states.

Hamel, for his part, said the GECF was set up in 2011 with the aim of bringing its members together and exchanging views and experiences.

"The GECF has always called for close cooperation among member countries and some institutes are now cooperating with the forum," he said.

"We are convinced that technology plays a strategic role in the GECF member states," Hamel added.

The official expressed his gratitude to Iran for inviting him to visit the South Pars field, extending his invitation to Chegeni to pay a visit to the GECF headquarters in Qatar and exchange views on the gas sector's different issues.

Back in February, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji paid a visit to Doha to attend the 6th GECF Summit, during which he met with Hamel.

During the talks, areas such as gas swap, technology transfer, technical knowledge, and investment in oil and gas fields were discussed.

## ICCIMA to hold Iran-Cuba business forum on Monday

TEHRAN – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) will hold an Iran-Cuba business forum on Monday.

The forum will be held by the ICCIMA's International Affairs Department concurrent with the meeting of Iran-Cuba Joint Economic Committee and trip of a Cuban trade delegation to Iran.

ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie and Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz as well as the representatives of some Cuban companies will participate in the forum to be held at the place of ICCIMA.

The participating Cuban companies are active in the fields of foodstuffs and food industries, medicine and vaccine, oil and oil products.

In a meeting between ICCIMA head and Cuban Ambassador to Iran Alberto González Casals at the place of ICCIMA on April 19, Shafeie referred to the holding of the Iran-Cuba Joint Economic Committee meeting in Tehran in May, and suggested developing a specific model for promoting economic cooperation between the two countries and noted that the two sides should sign a memorandum of understanding at the Joint Committee meeting for economic cooperation based on the mentioned model.

During the meeting, the two sides also expressed the need for removing transportation barriers as a prerequisite for expanding trade ties.

The officials also emphasized the need for establishing direct flights between Tehran and Havana in order to boost economic exchanges.

Also, in last October, Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) held a webinar on Iran-Cuba trade



opportunities in collaboration with the Iranian embassy in Cuba.

The webinar covered a variety of subjects including opportunities for developing economic and trade relations between the two countries' private sectors and the challenges and obstacles faced by the two sides' traders.

The event was attended by Iranian Ambassador in Havana Mohammad Hadi Sobhani, TCCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Hessamedin Hallaj, TCCIMA Secretary-General Bahman Eshqi, Cuban Ambassador to Tehran Alberto Gonzalez, and the President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Cuba Antonio Luis Carricarte Corona.

In that webinar, the participants expressed their views on the cooperation capacities of the private sectors of the two countries.

Speaking in the online meeting, Eshqi noted that the U.S. sanctions could be considered an opportunity for Iran and Cuba to expand economic ties in line with political cooperation.

"Despite the economic differences and the geographical distance between the two countries, Iran and Cuba are facing common challenges and have been facing the problems caused by sanctions for many years and have the experience of trade under the shadow of sanctions. The private sectors of the two

countries can formulate a joint plan to continue cooperation and turn it into a joint roadmap," Eshqi said.

Eshghi proposed the establishment of a virtual TCCIMA office in the Cuban Chamber of Commerce and added: "By opening this office, the information of the members of the chambers of commerce of the two countries, their services, products, and capacities can be exchanged and made available to the other side."

Further in the online event, Sobhani referred to the good political relations between Iran and Cuba over the past 42 years and noted that unfortunately, economic and trade cooperation between the two countries has not progressed in line with political cooperation.

Finally, Gonzalez for his part expressed the Cuban private sector's interest in increasing trade between Iran and Cuba.

He welcomed the Tehran Chamber's proposal to open a virtual office in the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, saying: "Such activities will be very effective in promoting economic relations between the two sides."

Meanwhile, two weeks ago, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji traveled to Havan to meet with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel and discuss expansion of economic ties.

During the meeting with Diaz-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.

## TEDPIX rises nearly 14,000 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 13,961 points to 1.578 million on Saturday.

Over 12.828 billion securities worth 75.4 trillion rials (about \$251.3 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 10,283 points, and the second market's index gained 27,935 points.

As published on the website of TSE, 58.919 billion securities worth 351.381 trillion rials (about \$1171 billion) were traded at the exchange during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday, May 13).

As reported, 27.161 billion securities worth 178.394 trillion rials (about \$594.646 million) had been traded at the TSE, which is Iran's major stock exchange, during the week ended on May 6.

As stated by the head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), the monthly sales of the shares of companies



listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange has been very good in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), and it is predicted that the growing trend of the exchanges will continue in the present year as well.

"Considering the general provisions approved in this year's budget bill we expect that companies will have good capital increase and take positive development measures, and it will be easier for

investors to make decisions," Majid Eshqi told the press on March 12.

Mentioning the measures taken for the improvement of the market in the past year, the official said: "For nearly 12 years, no new brokerage companies were established across the country, but since late October 2021, a licensing permit has been issued in this regard and a new brokerage firm has also been established."

The establishment of new financial institutions including investment funds, investment consulting companies, financing firms, and financial information processing companies were also mentioned as other steps taken in this regard.

Eshqi also pointed to the launch of Iran's largest and most advanced capital market data center earlier this month and said that in order to promote the use of information technology in this sector, a smart system is also going to be unveiled for monitoring and assessing the capital market and investment companies.

The above-mentioned data center was established with the aim of stabilizing and developing technology infrastructure in all areas of processing, storage, and security in order to protect the interests of shareholders and meet the technological needs of the capital market.

International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022) at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Friday.

It was also agreed that further negotiations for broader ties in various possible energy fields will be held in the future, in the presence of both sides' engineers.

engineers.

Iran Oil Show is among the most significant oil and gas events in the world in terms of the number of participants and its diversity.

The event covers a variety of oil industry areas, including upstream industries, universities and

science centers, start-ups, and science and technology parks, petrochemicals and related industries, gas and related industries, pipes and tubes, valves, refining and distribution and related industries, rotary machines, as well as products exporters, and etc.

## NIOC, Gazprom explore avenues of cooperation

TEHRAN- During a meeting between National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Managing Director Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr and top managers of Russia's Gazprom Company, the two sides explored the ways for the expansion of cooperation.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 26th



# Ukraine war signals rise of multi-polar world: professor

From page 1 ► Just as importantly, these shifts in connectivity flows can be seen as indicators and precursors of a broader shift in the global power architecture.

The Ukrainian conflict has impacted power relationships throughout the world, namely by accelerating the transition to a multipolar world order that was already underway well before the war began.

Russia is directly challenging the global power position of the U.S. and its Western allies in Ukraine, while other actors are playing increasingly important roles in shaping both sides of the conflict and its impact on the broader world order, from China to Turkey to India.

“The U.S. has used its power to invade and bully countries at will, destroying nations and causing the greatest migration crisis in world history. From now on, the U.S. will not be able to act militarily with the impunity it has now enjoyed for over 40 years,” the American academic argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

**Western countries call the Russian attack on Ukraine “invasion” while the Kremlin call it “special military operation”. Do you think that Russia’s military operation in Ukraine is legitimate?**

I believe that Russia was put in a position in which it had no choice but to intervene in Ukraine, both in its own defense and the defense of the people in the Donbas region.

In other words, this is a classic case of collective self-defense. Ukraine was threatening and preparing to re-take Crimea by force and launch a massive invasion into Donbas after 8 years of already brutalizing that region in a conflict that claimed 14,000 lives even before the Russian intervention. On the weekend before the Russian Special Operation, there were over 2000



ceasefire violations between the Ukrainian military and the Donbas, according to official EU observers in the theater. Meanwhile, Russia had strong intelligence that the massive invasion of Donbas was imminent. Russia had the choice to wait for that invasion to come and then face a situation in which it either could not stop it or only be able to stop it with a much larger loss of life than the Special Operation will entail, or to act pre-emptively, which is what it did. I think that this was a defensible decision.

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

It is clear that this war, and the West’s reaction to it, will solidify the rise of a multi-polar world, replacing the unipolar world in which the United States was the sole

superpower. This development is a good one for the world which has been held hostage by the United States since the collapse

“The U.S. is the country that bears the most blame for this situation as the prime instigator of the war and the prime mover of these sanctions.”

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

A: For the most part, the only countries actively opposing Russia at present are those situated in the “West,” meaning the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia

and Japan (an honorary Western country). The rest of the world, both East and Global South – meaning most of the world – are either supportive of Russia or neutral. I believe that these latter countries are taking such positions because they have suffered greatly under Western imperialism and will not support the West in what is clearly a proxy war against Russia. I also believe that they welcome the multi-polar world which is now in birth.

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

The Western mainstream media is unanimous in propagating anti-Russian propaganda on a level I certainly have not seen in my lifetime. The media has whipped up hysteria against Russia to drum up support for the proxy war in Ukraine and possibly a war directly against Russia. It is very difficult to find a counter-narrative to the mainstream version of events, and those journalists and outlets that are providing another point of view are being marginalized and silenced.

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

The sanctioning of Russia is and will continue to cause suffering throughout the world, including in the West. Food prices are rising around the world and food is becoming scarce in certain parts of the world, for example in the Middle East which is experiencing a shortage of wheat and bread. Fuel prices continue to rise which will cause a rise in the price of all consumer goods, hurting the poor and working-class in every country.

It looks like most of the world may be facing the prospects of a recession, if not depression, as the result of these ill-conceived sanctions. The situation is quite dire, and the U.S. is the country that bears the most blame for this situation as the prime instigator of the war and the prime mover of these sanctions.

## inside the secret meeting between the CIA director and Saudi crown prince

In an unusual foray into diplomacy, William Burns pressed Mohammed bin Salman on oil production, prominent detainees, and the kingdom’s relationship with China.

LAST MONTH, as part of a regional tour, CIA Director William Burns quietly met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah, a port city in western Saudi Arabia. The unusual meeting, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, is the first known encounter between the United States’ top spy and Saudi Arabia’s de facto ruler — and, according to three sources familiar with the matter, the latest attempt by high-ranking U.S. officials to appeal to Saudi Arabia on oil amid rising U.S. gas prices. Also on the table, two of the sources told The Intercept, were Saudi weapons purchases from China.

President Joe Biden has so far refused to meet with MBS, as he is known, owing to the crown prince’s role in ordering the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. But in February, Biden made an effort to begin repairing the relationship with the kingdom, asking King Salman to increase the country’s oil production in return for U.S. military support for its “defense” against Yemen’s Houthis. According to a Saudi readout of the call, Biden was denied. Though Burns again asked for an oil production increase last month, Saudi Arabia announced last week that it would be sticking to its production plan, once more denying the U.S.’s request.

A spokesperson for the CIA declined to comment on Burns’s travels. The Intercept’s sources — a U.S. intelligence official, two sources with ties to the U.S. intelligence community, a source close to members of the Saudi royal family, and a think tank official — interviewed for this story spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

The meeting was also an opportunity to broach a subject of intense concern to Washington: Riyadh’s growing relationship with China. In addition to Burns’s ask on oil, the CIA director also requested that Saudi Arabia not pursue a purchase of arms from China, according to the two sources close to U.S. intelligence.

Saudi Arabia’s very public overtures to Bei-

jing — most notably, exploring the possibility of selling its oil in the Chinese currency, yuan — have caused consternation in Washington. This week, in Senate testimony, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines warned of efforts by China and Russia to “to try to make inroads with partners of ours across the world,” mentioning Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as examples.

What is not publicly known, however, is that the Saudi government is planning to import ballistic missiles later this month from China under a secret program code-named “Crocodile,” the source close to U.S. intelligence said. (The other source with ties to U.S. intelligence confirmed that the discussion pertained to arms sales with China.)

Burns also requested the release of numerous high-profile Saudi royals whom MBS has detained, including MBS’s cousin, former Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the sources said. MBN, as he is known, was heir to the throne before his ouster by Crown Prince Mohammed in 2017. Because MBN is a close partner to U.S. intelligence, the Biden administration has reportedly pressured for his release amid allegations of torture.

Relying on a CIA director to conduct high-level diplomatic engagement of this sort is extremely unusual, although it does offer at least one big advantage: discretion. Burns’s presence also served as a means of attempting to mend the fraught relationship between MBS and other top Biden administration officials, the source close to U.S. intelligence said. Last year, when Biden’s national security adviser Jake Sullivan brought up the Khashoggi murder, MBS shouted at him, remarking that the U.S. could forget about its request to increase oil production, as the Wall Street Journal recently reported.

Burns’s meeting with MBS was one of several with leaders in the region, including in Qatar, the UAE, and Oman, the source also said. (A prominent think tank official close to the Biden administration confirmed that Burns had been traveling throughout the Middle East.) Burns’s meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed echoed the theme of his meeting with MBS, urging him to stop warming up to China, specifically

referring to the construction of a Chinese military base in the UAE. Last year, the Biden administration reportedly warned the UAE that China had been building a military facility at an Emirati port and that its construction could imperil their relations. In the case of Saudi Arabia, U.S. intelligence has assessed that the country has been working with China to manufacture its own ballistic missiles domestically — raising concerns about touching off a regional arms race.

“What’s different about this is the Saudis are now looking to import completed missiles,” the source close to U.S. intelligence said.

Burns has come under criticism for conducting diplomacy for the administration, which is supposed to be handled by diplomats at the State Department. Last year, as Kabul fell to the Taliban, Burns was reportedly in the Middle East, meeting with top Israeli and Palestinian government officials. Shortly thereafter, Burns secretly met in Kabul with Taliban leader Abdul Ghani Baradar. Just last week, Burns met with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, urging him not to interfere with his country’s elections.

“Burns has been doing a lot of the diplomatic heavy lifting, which is terrible,” a U.S. intelligence official close to the administration told The Intercept, decrying what he called the “further castration of the Department of State.” This has rankled diplomats at Foggy Bottom, who had hoped that Biden would make good on his campaign pledge to empower diplomacy after years of neglect by the Trump administration.

Concerns about Burns’s role in diplomacy and sidelining the State Department have even come from figures like Michael Rubin, a former Pentagon official and now a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. “Intelligence professionals can coerce and threaten unencumbered by the restraints of diplomacy,” Rubin wrote in a recent article for the Washington Examiner. “They are not there to debate and formulate foreign policy.” The Biden administration is currently without an ambassador to Saudi Arabia, having only last month announced its intent to nominate diplomat Michael Ratney for the position.

(Source: The Intercept)

## Seyyed Nasrallah: Abu Aqleh’s faith most powerful message

From page 1 ► The regime’s forces are said to have assaulted the mourners to prevent them from taking the coffin of Abu Aqleh to the Roman Catholic church in the Old City, before taking her to a cemetery, where she was laid to rest alongside her parents.

Sayyed Nasrallah also hit out at the supporters of the regime, including those in West Asia who advocated for the normalization of ties with Israel.

“The first to feel shame... shame and humiliation are those who are accustomed to the enemy from regimes, governments, activists and individuals, who are trying to convince our peoples that ‘Israel’ is a natural existence, a natural choice, a civilized and civilized state, and it is possible to live with it in peace.”

“The first thing that crossed my mind when I saw on TV the martyr and her blood, it occurred to me that her blood is on the faces of the rulers, on the faces of the media, on their foreheads, on their words, and on their hands.”

Nasrallah added “the message from the testimony of Shireen Abu Aqleh is that the Israeli enemy is targeting Christians and Muslims as well as their sanctities.

“This incident, has very strong messages for the Palestinian people, for the Arab and Islamic peoples, and for the whole world.”

“Unfortunately, some quickly tried to move the discussion from a serious crime committed by enemy troops to discussing Shireen Abu Aqleh’s religion and her religious affiliation.”

“I tell you: The strongest message in the testimony of this oppressed woman is that she is Christian. This message brings awareness to everyone that ‘Israel’ the temporary usurping entity is attacking Muslims and Christians, the people of Palestine and the peoples of the region, and is killing, oppressing, displacing, arresting and demolishing the homes of Muslims and Christians.

“Israel” this usurper, occupying entity attacked the sanctities of Muslims and the sanctities of Christians, and a few days ago, in the month of Ramadan, we witnessed the Zionist aggressive behavior towards worshippers on Fridays at the al-Aqsa Mosque and on Holy Saturday in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Their souls, their blood, their youth, their livelihood, their homes, their future, their destiny, and their Islamic and Christian sanctities.”

“The message says: This racist entity, which today is the only entity on the planet where a recognition has emerged that it is an apartheid regime is ‘Israel’, that this inhumane system, which is ‘superior’ to all human beings, did not change and does not change because this is its reality and essence, no matter what the media do and no matter how hypocritical they are.”

“We hope that the blood of Shireen Abu Aqleh and the blood of the young men and women, men, women, and children of Palestine, will awaken those dead and dull consciences, and will awaken all the goodness and honor that remains in this nation with its Muslims and Christians.”

Sayyed Nasrallah also offered his condolences to the families of the Popular Defense Forces in the Syrian army who were martyred on Friday at the hands of takfiri terrorist groups in the countryside of Aleppo.

Sayyed Nasrallah went on to address the people of Beqaa participating in the electoral festival, saying that “the Beqaa and its people have always been an essential part of the resistance, in terms of foundation, front, presence in the field, and support. It was on its land that the most important confronta-



tion took place in 1982, which halted the advance of the Israeli enemy.”

He added, “The battle of Sultan Ya’qub and the Battle of Al-Mudayrej gave a clear message to the occupation, that within a few days the resistance operations began so that it was surprised by the mobilization of the people of the Bekaa. Indeed, the frenzy stopped.”

Sayyed Nasrallah recalled the early years of the resistance, since 1982 when operations were taking place in the occupied territories, while “the Israeli reaction was taking place in the Bekaa,” noting that “the Israeli bombing was not only to avenge the resistance’s operations, but it was an Israeli policy that was always followed in order to pressure the people, and its goal was to say to the people of the Beqaa: Get the resistance out of your towns.”

He added, “They want the people of Beqaa to abandon the resistance and its weapons, through bombing, politically, financially, and in the media.”

And Sayyed Nasrallah added, “In the land of the south, the most precious and dearest men in the Beqaa were martyred, Mr. Abbas al-Moussawi and Mrs. Umm Yasser Al-Moussawi. And in the July war, you were present in this war, and your men participated in the fronts,” noting that “there is a long list” among the martyrs who fell in Baalbek-Hermel and the western and central Bekaa.

He addressed the people of the Beqaa, saying: “You are Hezbollah and you are the resistance, and it is not correct to say you aren’t with the resistance, because for 40 years you have spared blood, loved ones and the resistance was your choice, your determination, and your insight,” stressing that “there are those who plot against your sacrifices and your victories.”

With regard to the election developments in the Lebanese regions, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah said that “in every place in which we attended strongly, we were able to be more in the service of people,” adding “If we assume the responsibility of a ministry, we do not take money from it, but spend money in it.”

Lebanese will head to the ballot boxes for their upcoming parliamentary election scheduled for Sunday and which will determine the formation of the country’s next government.

## India bans wheat exports with immediate effect

India banned wheat exports with immediate effect on Saturday, just days after saying it was targeting record shipments this year, as a scorching heatwave curtailed output and local prices hit an all-time high amid strong export demand.

According to CNBC, the government said it would still allow exports for letters of credit that have already been issued and on the request from countries that are trying “to meet their food security needs.”

Global buyers were banking on the world’s second-biggest wheat producer for sup-

plies after exports from the Black Sea region plunged following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in late February. Prior to the ban, India was targeting to ship out a record 10 million tons this year.

The Indian ban could drive up global prices to new peaks and hit poor consumers in Asia and Africa.

“The ban is shocking,” a Mumbai-based dealer with a global trading firm said. “We were expecting curbs on exports after 2-3 months, but seems inflation numbers changed government’s mind.”



## Iranian crafters to show off skills at Bukhara festival

TEHRAN – A selection of eight Iranian craftspeople and goldsmiths will take part in the first International Festival of Gold Embroidery and Jewelry, which will be held in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, from May 21 to 25.

Eight Iranian artisans have been selected to compete in Bukhara's International Festival of Gold Embroidery and Jewelry, the tourism ministry announced on Saturday.

According to organizers, more than 150 representatives of gold embroidery and jewelry art from 50 countries are expected to participate in the festival.

The event seeks to promote gold embroidery as a tool to create job opportunities for young people in particular. Moreover, it will embrace folk festivals, folklore and drama groups, theatrical performances of musicians and comedians, concert programs of artists and master classes by masters, artists' squares, and excursion routes.

Winners will be awarded by the Organizing Committee with a diploma, a souvenir, and prizes which include \$5,000 for the best gold embroider, \$5,000 for the best jeweler, \$3,000 for best master of embroidery school.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the

World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

The value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country's handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

## Tehran exhibit explores traditional jewelry

TEHRAN – Sets of traditional jewelry have been put on show at a solo exhibit currently underway at the Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex in northern Tehran.

Designed by Iranian artisan Elham Alirezai, the showcased collation is named after the ancient city of Isfahan, IRIB reported.

Her work is deemed to be a bridge between tradition and modernity in terms of personal ornamentation.

"Isfahan Collection is a symbol of the novelty of a new creation with styles and contexts that have been

recorded in the art history of our country," Alirezai said.

The exhibition will be running through May 19 at the mountainside parkland that used to be a royal summer residence during the Qajar and Pahlavi eras.

Saturated with a rich history and culture, the capital city of Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards.

## Iran becomes 30th country to register historical cars on FIVA list

TEHRAN –Iran has become the 30th country to register its vintage cars with the Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens or FIVA (The International Federation for Historic Vehicles) and receive identification cards for them, the president of the federation has said.

Although developed countries are not as active as they should be in registering their classic and vintage vehicles, it appears that in a country like Iran, this interest is greater, ILNA quoted Tidlo Bresters as saying on Saturday.

Now that the Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes the FIVA ID card, historical cars and motorcycles in the country can use this international identification card, he added.

Cars with FIVA ID cards will be recognized

internationally and registered globally, in addition to being able to travel on public roads, he explained.

Apart from the Classic Car Museum, which is very attractive and spectacular, Iran also hosts a number of rallies every year in the international arena, such as the Paris to Persepolis Rally, he noted.

For historical car enthusiasts, such events can be an attraction for traveling to Iran, he mentioned.

Referring to his recent trip to Iran he said that historical cars are a part of Iranian culture.

He also added that the warmth of the Iranian people and their fascination with historical cars are also noteworthy.

Cities like Shiraz are evidence of Iran's long and ancient civilization, he concluded.

FIVA is a worldwide non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation, and promotion of historic vehicles.

Established in 1966, it is active in more than 80 countries, representing millions of historic vehicle enthusiasts around the globe. Since 2017, FIVA has been a partner of UNESCO with consultative status, representing world motoring heritage and related culture.

Iran is home to thousands of remarkable classic and vintage vehicles. For instance, roaming Iran's classic car museum, visitors find a collection of the best classic and unique automobiles, some of which are single even in the world.

the official added.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent

status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

said.

This amount of money will be spent on strengthening the tourism infrastructure and preserving, revitalizing, and restoring the province's ancient and historical monuments, the official added.

Developing and enhancing tourism infrastructure is a key to creating sustainable employment in the country, he explained.

Attn! Attn! Wonderful Villa around Sadabad Palace to let. 1.250sqm Land, 860sqm Useful B/up. Duplex, Spacious Saloons, Best Marble Flooring, Huge Balconies facing beauty of the garden, Green house, Traditional, Kitchens, Iranian Art Office, CCTV, 4 Season Outdoor Swimming Pool, Servant Quarters, Cook Suit, Enough Parking, 3 entrances. For more information kindly call **Ms. Sonia: 09035755145, 02126131131**  
**Kakh Niavaran Housing Agency**

# Iran preparing to get Sassanid fortress, arch bridges on UNESCO list

From page 1 ► Experts believe that the ensemble is comparable with similar works in Naqsh-e Rostam, Naqsh-e Rajab, Tape Chugan, and Firuzabad in Fars province.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"-- to its World Heritage list. The ensemble is comprised of eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness

to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

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. In those



years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs on abrupt limestone cliffs are widely deemed as characteristics and striking relics of the Sassanian art, top examples of which can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam, and Naqsh-e Rajab in southern Iran.

Efforts made by the Sassanids also yield a revival of Iranian nationalism took place, for example, Zoroastrianism was declared the state religion.

The dynasty evolved by Ardashir I and was destroyed by the Arabs during the period 637 to 651. The

dynasty was named after Sasan, an ancestor of Ardashir I.

Under his leadership who reigned from 224 to 241, the Sassanians overthrew the Parthians and created an empire that was constantly changing in size as it reacted to Rome and Byzantium to the west and the Kushans and Hephthalites to the east, according to Britannica Encyclopedia.

At the time of Shapur I (reigned 241 CE–272), the empire stretched from Sogdiana and Iberia (Georgia) in the north to the Mazun region of Arabia in the south; in the east, it extended to the Indus River and in the west to the upper Tigris and Euphrates river valleys.

## Japanese sightseers resume Iran tours



TEHRAN – Following a two-year suspension resulting from COVID-19 restrictions, the first group of Japanese sightseers has commenced an Iran excursion, a tourism official has said.

Their itinerary commences from the northern province of Golestan, where they can visit Ashuradeh, Iran's sole island in the Caspian Sea as well as Miankaleh Wildlife Sanctuary, ISNA quoted Abbas-Ali Emamieh as saying on Saturday.

The group is scheduled to visit the northern provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran and the north-central province of Semnan, he explained.

It is hoped that this group will pave the way for other travelers and will lead to the arrival of more Japanese tourists in Iran, he added.

Earlier in January, an official with the tourism ministry announced that the Iranian tourism industry has suffered \$233m losses due to COVID restrictions over the past two years.

"Travel is not believed to be the cause of the outbreak, rather it is a lack of adherence to health protocols that have caused the outbreak, but people canceled their trips anyway, causing major damage to the tourist facilities across the country," he explained.

Last year the tourism ministry announced that the tourism of the country was growing before the corona outbreak, its revenues

reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, nearing the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which was 3.2 percent.

Iran was ranked as the second fastest-growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization.

Experts expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after the coronavirus is contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Second Announcement



## IN THE NAME OF GOD ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING INTERNATIONAL TENDER No: 1401/108-05/03

**Tender Holder:**  
**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)**

**Subject of Tender :**  
Leasing 9MHz bandwidth capacity on Eutelsat 3B in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

**Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:**  
From **Saturday 14 May 2022 (1401/02/24) 09:00 a.m** until **Monday 16 May 2022 (1401/02/26) by 14:00 p.m** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

**Place of receiving the tender document:**  
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4<sup>th</sup> Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

**The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:**  
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

**Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:**  
The amount of deposit for participating in tender is USD 26403 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 7393000000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

**Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:**  
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:00 a.m. on Saturday 18 June 2022 (1401/03/28)** at the address mentioned in 4<sup>th</sup> clause.

**Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:**  
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on **Saturday 18 June 2022 (1401/03/28) at 10:00 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

**Time and place of opening Envelopes:**  
The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on **Sunday 19 June 2022 at 05:00 p.m (1401/03/29)** in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.  
The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.  
Fore more information please see :  
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

## Rasht mosque added to architectural heritage list

TEHRAN – The Imam Khomeini Mosque in the northern city of Rasht has recently been added to the contemporary architectural heritage list, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Known as the Rasht Musalla, the monument has been registered on the prestigious list due to its special features as well as the indigenous architectural patterns of Gilan province, the report added.

Because of the importance and scope of the functions of this mosque as well as its special place within the culture of the Gilan people, it is expected to be included on the national heritage list as soon as possible, the provincial tourism chief Vali Jahani said.

The listing of historical monuments in the national heritage list can provide the basis for their preservation and protection as much as possible,

the official added.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent

status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

## Tourism projects to create 300 jobs in Ardabil

TEHRAN – Some 300 job opportunities are estimated to be generated by implementing 11 tourism-related projects across the northwestern province of Ardabil by the end of the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 428 billion rials (\$1.5 million) has been channeled into the projects, Nader Fallahi said, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The projects include hotels, guest houses, and eco-lodge units as well as a medical tourism center, a hydrotherapy center, and two traditional restaurants, the official added.

Earlier this month, an official with the tourism ministry announced that the Ardabil tourism directorate seeks to develop tourism infrastructure across the province.

It has been decided to allocate 800 billion rials (\$2.9 million) to the development of the tourism sector in the province, he



# Sources of SDS increase year by year

TEHRAN – Over the past two years, the precipitation rate has been on a downward trend, as a result, sources of sand and dust storms (SDSs) have increased compared to a year before, Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management has said.

The SDSs phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces. According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

SDSs hotspots cannot be counted accurately, but their location is known, studied, and adapted in maps, and it is quite clear how many dust hotspots there are, but the point is that the amount of them is not constant because it is based on annual rainfall, he explained.

Declining water levels in dams and lakes mean that water available to humans has been reduced and the dust-raising areas have been increased, he lamented, ISNA reported.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1.460 million



hectares are dried wetlands.

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

All the SDSs sources are not located in Iran, 300 million hectares in the neighboring countries are giving rise to SDSs, which transport dust into Iran. The total dust density is estimated at about 150 million tons.

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

**SDSs mitigation requires enhanced diplomacy**

Controlling sand and dust

storms (SDSs) requires strengthening diplomacy, and it will never be eradicated unless international institutions reach a consensus.

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

These dust sources have appeared many years ago, and due to the drought and water shortages that have occurred in recent years, they have both intensified and increased in number. In fact, abandoned agricul-

tural lands in those countries are a source of SDSs, he explained.

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

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

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

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan are the external sources of sand and dust storms.

## Pakistani official lauds Iran's progress in knowledge-based ecosystem

TEHRAN – Iran's progress in the field of the knowledge-based ecosystem is significant, Azra Fazal Pechuho, Health and Population Welfare Minister of Pakistan's Sindh Province, has said.

She made the remarks on the sidelines of the 11th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2022), held on May 10-13 at Tehran's Pardis Technology Park.

Referring to the achievements of Iranian knowledge-based companies, especially in the field of health and medicine, she announced readiness to transfer Iran's achievements to Pakistan.

Iran has taken an important step in co-operation and coordination for technology transfer between the eight Islamic countries, she added.

Lauding Iran's medical advances, she said that Iranian knowledge-based companies could exchange knowledge and technology with Pakistani knowledge-based groups.

INOTEX is Iran's biggest technology event and the forerunner in the region, bringing technology and innovation experts around the world together to bridge the gap between innovators, investors, and traders. Held this year with the theme of 'innovation ecosystem under one roof'.

### Health technology development

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries, which shows an improvement of 60 steps compared to 2014, the deputy health minister for research and technology, has announced.



A total of 1,670 knowledge-based firms are operating in the health sector, Younes Panahi said in April.

He added that there are 13 science and technology parks and 95 technology growth centers in the field of health, while 343 technological products have so far been licensed, and 335 inventions in medical sciences have been patented.

### Exporting technological products

Exporting technological products of Iranian knowledge-based companies is one of the important and key programs of the vice presidency for science and technology, and in this regard, five houses of innovation and technol-

ogy were inaugurated in Kenya, China, Russia, Syria, and Turkey.

It is also planned to establish two innovation centers in Iraq and Armenia over the next months.

In December 2021, Marzieh Shaverdi, the manager of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, said Iran will launch production lines of knowledge-based products in seven countries, namely Turkey, Armenia, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, Syria, Iraq, and Kenya.

### Knowledge-based companies

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP, Sattari told Fars on February 13.

The share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, he stated.

There are currently 6,263 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Fund, stated.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Afghanistan thanks Iran for free services to refugees during COVID-19

Afghanistan has appreciated Iran for offering health and treatment services to Afghan refugees infected with coronavirus free of charge.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry in a statement on Saturday announced its gratitude and appreciation to Iran for its humanitarian efforts to address the issue of Afghan refugees in the country.

All measures, especially the recent decree by the Iranian president to provide free medical treatment to Afghan refugees in Iranian public hospitals, have assured the Afghan government, IRNA reported on Sunday.

According to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, providing transportation services to transit trucks and providing the necessary health assistance to vulnerable Afghan nationals are among the measures that are highly appreciated.

## افغانستان از همکاری ایران برای مداوای مهاجران مبتلا به کرونا قدردانی کرد

وزارت امور خارجه افغانستان از کمک و همکاری جمهوری اسلامی ایران به مهاجران افغانی مبتلا به ویروس کرونا و مداوای رایگان آنها قدردانی کرد. وزارت امور خارجه افغانستان روز شنبه در اطلاعیه‌ای اعلام کرد: مراتب امتنان و سپاسگزاری خود را از جمهوری اسلامی ایران در رابطه به اقدامات بشردوستانه آن کشور درباره رسیدگی به مهاجرین افغان در آن کشور ابراز می‌دارد.

در این اطلاعیه آمده است: تمام اقدامات به ویژه صدور حکم اخیر رئیس جمهوری ایران برای درمان رایگان مهاجران افغان در بیمارستان های دولتی ایران موجب خاطر جمعی رهبری دولت افغانستان شد.

براساس اطلاعیه وزارت خارجه افغانستان، ایجاد تسهیلات در رفت و آمد کامیون های ترانزیتی و فراهم آوری مساعدت های لازم بهداشتی برای مهاجران در مناطق آسیب پذیر آن کشور اقداماتی هستند که از جانب دولت افغانستان به چشم قدردانی نگریسته می‌شوند.

## SOCIETY

MAY 15, 2022

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

## KANS award announces winners

From page 1 ► The Mining and Mineral Industries had no winner. Mohammad Ali Akhaei won the award in the ICT field, Saeid Bostan Manesh also won the prize in the field of Transportation and Saeedeh Momtazi was the winner of Economics, Banking & Finance.

They won KANS Medals and a plaque of appreciation, 30-gram Gold Insignia, a sabatational worth \$2000, and special privileges for benefiting from MSTF networking platforms: STEP & EISA.

During the ceremony, the head of the event Saeid Sohrabpour called KANS an event that completes the value chain of the Mustafa Prize.

He said that the 20 finalists are composed of nine faculty members, four researchers, and seven activists of industries.

After one year of efforts, and evaluation of works by 50 evaluators, the winners were announced today, he said.

A high-ranking delegation from Pakistan headed by the Provincial Minister of Sindh for Health, and Population Welfare Azra Fazal Pechuho attended the awarding ceremony.

The MSTF has established a scientific competition called KANS: Knowledge Application and Notion for Society. This competition has been staged with the aim of bouncing ideas around in the academic community to address the problems of the Islamic world in different areas.

Scholars, researchers, innovators, university students, and professors under 45 years of age are encouraged to submit their scientific and technological ideas and achievements in the form of a five-minute video presentation.

## Tribes in Iran

Part 2

P. C. Salzman's studies of the Baluch in the Sarhadd district (south and southeast of Zahedan), such as the Yar Ahmadrizi and the Gamshadrizi, confirm the importance of descent-based organization.

Apart from halts, these tribes are constantly on the move, either to gather dates from palm groves in the Mashkel lowland or to find pasturage for their sheep in the Sarhadd highland. Consequently, neither territorial groups such as the bonend, a collection of mud or mud-brick houses and palm-frond huts occupied during the date harvest, in the Mashkel nor herding groups such as the halk, a number of families who own a flock and camp together, could become the basis of stable social organization in this district.

The reverse is the case because the spatial distribution of the bonends and halks depends on family relationships. In matters such as marriage, prayer, house building, seasonal migration, disputes, etc., lineage is thus the main consideration, not "vicinage."

The territorial groups are themselves formed from descent groups, and their bonds of common descent are reinforced by matrilineal and affinal ties.

On a higher plane, Baluchi tribes enter into large and small confederacies on the pattern of Ebn Khaldun's wala and helf. B. Spooner has described a confederacy of five "leading" tribes of Iranian Baluchistan, namely the Barakzi, Mir Moradzi, Bozorgzada, Bolida'i, and Shirani, to which the Mobaraki also adhered in 1342 SH./1963.

It seems that these tribes, together with others, the Rigi and the Esma'ilzi (Shabash), then had a dominant influence throughout Iranian Baluchistan and that the remaining tribes were all in some way attached to them.

The nature of these attachments has been described in studies carried out by the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman Research Center (1335 Sh./1976) about the relations of Zayn-al-dini, Ra'isi, Dawudi, Darzada, and Nowkari tribes with the chiefs of Mobaraki tribe.

The foregoing remarks on the Turkmen and



Baluchis cannot be simply generalized and taken as typical of all the tribes of Iran. The conceptual definitions which have been mentioned do not provide adequate criteria for distinguishing tribes from other groups.

In Part 3 below we shall discuss certain operational definitions which have been used in Iran in various attempts to compute numerical strengths of tribes, and we shall see how the lack of agreement on this subject has caused confusion in the estimates of Iran's tribal population.

### 2. Historical background.

It must be emphasized that in Iran nomadism, in the sense of seasonal migration (kuch), has since remote times been a way of life side by side with village-dwelling and city-dwelling.

According to Ebn Khordadbeh, quoted with some variations by Ebn al-Faqih (given here in parenthesis), there were four Kurdish tribes (zomum) in Fars, namely the zomm of Hasan (Hosayn) b. Jiluya or the Bazanjan, that of Ardam (Arjam) b. Jovanah (Khanjah), that of Qasem b. Shahrabaraz (Shahriar) or the Kurian, and that of Hasan (Hosayn) b. Saleh or the Suran (Ebn Khordadbeh; Ebn al-Faqih).

Somewhat different are the lists in Es-takhri and Ebn Hawqal (both mid 4th/10th century), namely the romum of Jiluya or the Ramijan, of Shahriar or the Bazanjan, of Hoseyn b. Saleh or the Divan, of Ahmad b. Layt or the Lavalejan, and Ahmad b. Hasan or the Karian (Estakhri; Ebn Hawqal, tr. Kramers).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 14

New cases	255
New deaths	7
Total cases	7,227,683
Total deaths	141,216
New hospitalized patients	55
Patients in critical condition	751
Total recovered patients	7,018,868
Diagnostic tests conducted	51,733,191
Doses of vaccine injected	149,438,470



