

# Nakba Day: 74 Years of Repression

Page 3

Report

## Another “racially motivated” massacre in the U.S.

A heavily armed white gunman wearing military gear has opened fire on civilians with an assault rifle, killing at least ten civilians in a black community in Buffalo, New York.

Authorities are describing the massacre as “hate crime and racially motivated violent extremism” as the majority of the civilians that were shot at a busy supermarket were black Americans.

The FBI confirmed It is investigating the attack as a “hate crime” and as “racially motivated violent extremism.”

Part of the investigation includes whether the shooter had been associated with white supremacist ideology. The mass shooting is the latest massacre driven by a white supremacist ideology.

Questions have been raised as to why the incident is not being referred to as a terrorist attack?

Some observers have already said if the color of the attacker's skin and the color of the victims' skin were different then U.S. authorities may have described the deadly incident as a terrorist attack.

White supremacist ideology is an extremist ideology, if the attacker was associated with Takfiri ideology (another extremist ideology) then it would have been labeled as a terrorist attack; as is the case in West Asia.

In an ideal world, the same would be applied to any ideology or cult that results in terrorists targeting civilians.

Law enforcement sources, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case, also told U.S. media that initial indications are the shooter may have possessed extremist beliefs of which he was well informed about online. ▶ Page 5

Opinion

## What made Esteghlal different after almost a decade

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Ending a nine-year drought for a club considered one of Asia's most decorated teams, Esteghlal won the 2021/22 Iran Professional League (IPL) crown on Saturday following a win against Foolad.

A match with few clear-cut chances finished 2-1 after the final whistle, meaning the Blues established themselves as the new champions of Iranian football.

The wait for an Iranian championship, nearly one decade in, was too much for some of the Blues' fans to contain themselves.

Hundreds of fans stormed the streets around Iran even before the final whistle of Esteghlal's game with Foolad. In social media, hundreds became thousands soon after that, when Esteghlal officially secured the point which needed to give them an unsailable nine-point lead with three games left.

There are various reasons for this championship. Farhad Majidi's side won the league in an unbeaten run and memorable season. Here are some talking points from Esteghlal's IPL triumph. ▶ Page 3



Reuters

## Next Nakba Day could be the day occupiers leave Palestine

TEHRAN — May 15 marks Nakba Day, also known as the Day of Palestinian Catastrophe. It is the day that comprised the destruction of Palestinian society and homeland in 1948, and the permanent displacement of a majority of the Palestinian people.

For Palestinians, this day is an annual day

of commemoration of the displacement that preceded and followed Israel's so-called establishment.

Palestinians use suppressed anger on this day to express their hatred towards the occupiers that have stolen their land, and are proceeding with their ethnic cleansing. This

year, however, the Palestinian Catastrophe Day could backfire on the Israelis, following the brutal killing of the veteran Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh.

Abu Akleh, a veteran Al Jazeera Arabic TV journalist, was killed on Wednesday after being shot in the head while reporting ▶ Page 2

## Iran exports 17 bcm of gas in a year

conference held on the sidelines of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022) on Sunday.

The official also announced that the country has exported averagely 20 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas per day to Iraq in the

past year, which is 35 mcm at the present.

“We also exported about nine mcm of gas to Turkey per day in the previous year”, he added.

**Daily gas production up 45 mcm**

The NIGC's managing director also announced that Iran's daily gas production increased 45 mcm in the past year. ▶ Page 4

## Iran, Russia set up joint technology center

TEHRAN – The Iran-Russia Joint Technology Center was established at St. Petersburg Polytechnic University with the aim of implementing joint projects and developing bilateral technological cooperation.

Due to the high potential of Russia in the field of science, technology, and innovation and the interest of Iranian knowledge-based companies to develop technological cooperation with their Russian counterparts, it was scheduled to transfer and purchase high-tech products.

“Facilitating the transfer and exchange of technology between Iranian and Russian companies and the export of high-tech products”, “holding joint meetings and specialized courses”, “marketing high-tech products of knowledge-based companies”, “providing legal services for contracts”, “registration of patents and certificates required”, “technology tours for high-tech ▶ Page 7



TEHRAN / Akbar Tavakoli

## 3rd volume of Unabridged Persian Dictionary published

Academy of Persian Language and Literature director Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel (L) and Persian litterateur Ali-Ashraf Sadeqi unveil a copy of the 3rd volume of the Unabridged Persian Dictionary at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on May 15, 2022.

The unveiling of the dictionary, written by top lexicographers at the academy, was part of the celebration for Ferdowsi and Persian Language Commemoration Day.

## A breath of fresh air! 7 pretty villages around Tehran

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - Teeming with life, bright lights and fantastic places to visit, the Iranian capital is the country's beating heart but its real soul may be found in nearby villages.

These days, more and more people are choosing to relocate out of the grime and pollution heading for a lush countryside in lesser-known villages

just outside of the city.

Maybe, urban residents tend to enjoy a slow-paced lifestyle that resembles something like 'the Internet + countryside'.

Spending a day in tranquil countryside, picking fresh fruits, fishing by the seaside, eating traditional dishes, or even staying with locals, may be among the encouragements.

Furthermore, the World Tourism Organization sees rural tourism as a type of activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sightseeing. Such tourism also possesses characteristics such as low population density, a landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry, as well as traditional social structure and lifestyle. ▶ Page 6

From Inside



- Amir Abdollahian, Bayramov call for closer Tehran-Baku ties **P2**
- Time for diplomats to redouble efforts to resurrect nuclear deal: analysis **P2**
- Ayatollah Raisi warns of takfiri influence inside Iran **P3**
- Iran human rights chief calls for international action against Israeli crimes **P3**
- 'IOTC prepared for maximum oil export' **P4**
- Direct container shipping lines launched from Chabahar to India, UAE **P4**
- Oil Ministry supports investors in complementary industries: Oji **P4**
- Archaeologists hail find of 'Seleucid satrap tomb' in west-central Iran **P6**
- Archaeologists hail find of 'Seleucid satrap tomb' in west-central Iran **P6**
- 230,000 foreign nationals vaccinated against measles **P7**
- Over 100 tons of drugs confiscated in 2 months **P7**
- COI: Iranian films need license for screening at global festivals **P8**
- 'Atabai' picked as best film by Iranian critics **P8**

Op-ed



## China's foreseen dilemma in Ukraine war

By Dost Muhammad Barrech

The ongoing war in Ukraine triggered by Russia has started a fascinating debate among the experts; viewing the Russian military operations in Ukraine will alter the complexion of international politics, and posing a grave challenge to the Western democratic values. The invasion invites the U.S. to untie its Western allies seeking to perpetuate the war. Washington is accustomed to embroiling itself in such wars since the end of WW II. Meanwhile, China accuses the U.S. of provoking Russia with its support for NATO expansion which impelled Moscow to wage a war. However Beijing may reassess the strategy of supporting Moscow because of multiple factors. The war has deepened political polarization within China, supportive group endorses alignment with Russia while the opposition bloc is apprehensive of China's support. The anti-Russia camp still remembers the Treaty of Aigun inked in 1858 resulted in the cession of China's nearly 230,000 square miles of territory to Russia.

Beijing's reluctance to condemn Moscow witnesses the deterioration of ties with immediate neighbors and the members of the Belt and Road Initiative BRI. China's mantra of a win-win situation and peaceful rise in the evolving Ukraine crisis turns out to be dubious. Supporting Russia has exacerbated China's ties with U.S. and its economic counterparts such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan. The war will further galvanize the members of Quad and AUKUS in the containment of China. The above-mentioned members vowed that they would join the bandwagon of the U.S. in imposing secondary sanctions on Chinese companies. ▶ Page 5

## Top negotiator: Iran is serious in Vienna, but distrusts the other side

TEHRAN— Iran's deputy foreign minister and chief nuclear negotiator says Tehran is ready for resuming negotiation to remove sanctions, and at the same time is aware of the other side's plans.

Speaking during a visit to Iran Oil Show 2022 on Sunday, Ali Bagheri Kani said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with scientists and technicians from the country's energy sector, will use all international capacities to enhance the country's ability to neutralize sanctions.

In his visit to the oil show, Bagheri Kani was accompanied by the directors general of the Foreign Ministry and some ambassadors.

Emphasizing that the strategic policy to neutralize sanctions is in line with the smart initiative to lift sanctions, he said this policy has thwarted the enemy's trick in stopping the train of progress and the national comprehensive development.

He continued, “The strong will and the amazing ability of the experts of the country's energy industry turned the art of circumventing sanctions, which was once the only tool of the industry sector against (George W.) Bush's ▶ Page 2





## Next Nakba Day could be the day occupiers leave Palestine

From page 1 ► the Israeli army's incursions into 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 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.

The tragic death of Abu Akleh sent a shockwave to the world. Scores of people poured onto streets on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to protest the killing of the seasoned journalist and condemn the brutal atrocities of the Israeli regime.

On Friday, 54 seconds of a disturbing footage shocked the whole world. During the funeral procession for Abu Akleh, Israeli troops 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?

Israelis attacking the mourners and the casket of Abu Akleh led to an outpouring of emotions all around the world.

On Sunday, pro-Palestine activists took part in a demonstration in Auckland, New Zealand, in commemorations of the 74th anniversary of the Nakba Day and in protest to Israel's cold-blooded murder of the veteran journalist.

South African activists also held a vigil in support of Palestine, calling on the South African government to cut diplomatic ties with the apartheid regime of Israel.

In this regard, a British member of Parliament for Leicester East, Claudia Webbe, on Sunday called for ending arms sales to Israel, following a series of human rights violations committed by Israel against Palestinian people, the latest was Israel's killing of Abu Akleh.

Also, Amnesty's Executive Director in Ireland Colm O'Gorman spoke out about Amnesty's report on Israel's apartheid that has built on decades of work by Palestinians.

This is the first of many public events

in the Irish campaign to end the Israeli Apartheid.

In Krakow, Poland, pro-Palestine activists took part in a vigil in commemorations of the 74th anniversary of the Nakba Day, and to condemn the brutal killing of Abu Akleh.

There is an expression in the English language that says "use your anger as a fuel." This expression could be interpreted in the public hatred towards the Israeli regime. The suppressed anger of the Palestinians, as well as the scores of free-spirited people all around the world could be used as a motivational tool to end the occupation of Palestine once and for all.

Maybe, on May 15 next year, we would not be commemorating the exodus of the Palestinians from their lands. We could be celebrating the Palestinians regaining their independence. However, this could only be achieved through unity among the Islamic states.

As Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei outlined in his meeting with the Emir of Qatar on Thursday, "The Arab world is expected to explicitly enter into political action against these open crimes."

While expressing his agreement with the statements of the Emir of Qatar in condemnation of the crimes committed by the Zionist regime, the Leader described the decades-long oppression of the vicious Zionists against the Palestinian people to be a bitter reality and a blow to the world of Islam.

"Against such crimes, the Islamic Republic of Iran expects the Arab world to explicitly enter the arena of political action," he said.

Iran's Foreign Ministry has also called for unity among Muslim states in its statement issued on Saturday.

"As shown by history, any compromise with the sworn enemies of the Islamic Ummah encourages the apartheid Zionist government's inhumane acts and violations of human rights. Muslim nations and leaders should know that the only way to realize the Palestinian people's rights is maintaining Islamic unity and convergence and the world's freedom-seeking governments and Muslim nations' support for the resistance against occupiers and bullying powers," the statement said.

Islamic unity can surely bring the Israeli regime to its knees.

## Amir Abdollahian, Bayramov call for closer Tehran-Baku ties



TEHRAN— Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian exchanged views with his Azeri counterpart Jeyhoun Bayramov during a phone conversation on Saturday, discussing ways to expand bilateral cooperation in different spheres.

During the conversation, Iran's chief diplomat underlined that the foreign ministries of the two countries have a mission to expand political ties.

Amir Abdollahian referred to last year's meeting between the presidents of the two countries, saying that important agreements at the level of presidents were made that the full implementation of them is on the agenda of Tehran and Baku.

Amir Abdollahian noted that the successful holding of a joint economic committee in Baku was among a key achievement in cementing bilateral relations.

Elsewhere in the conversation, the Iranian foreign minister pointed to the holding of the conference of the parliaments of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) members in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Amir Abdollahian expressed hope that the upcoming conference will result in strengthening the ECO more than ever before.

For his part, Bayramov referred to the need to strengthen bilateral ties between. He then announced Baku's readiness to continue diplomatic visits and strengthen political relations at different levels.

He also underlined the necessity of close and unbreakable ties between the two neighbors.

Bayramov then spoke of the agreements signed by the presidents of Iran and Azerbaijan, saying the presence of Iranian companies in the reconstruction of the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an important step in this process.

Bayramov and Amir Abdollahian also underlined the significance of continuation of consultations and cooperation at regional and international levels and also the significance of protecting bilateral ties from the conspiracies of the enemies of the two nations.

# Time for diplomats to redouble efforts to resurrect nuclear deal: analysis

TEHRAN - In a commentary published in The Financial Times on May 12, a nuclear policy specialist at Princeton University says if the United States removes foreign terrorist designation against Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and Iran also delist the U.S. CENTCOM, the chances to revive the 2015 nuclear deal will increase.

"Simultaneous and reciprocal lifting of the IRGC and CENTCOM terrorist designations could reduce tensions and help to resolve the current deadlock" surrounding the Vienna talks to restore the nuclear deal, Seyed Hossein Mousavian suggests.

He says the nuclear agreement — known officially as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — was the product of 12 years of intensive negotiations, and the most comprehensive non-proliferation deal in history.

However, Mousavian, a former Iranian nuclear negotiator, wrote this article before European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the ice

to resume nuclear talks in Vienna has melted. The comments followed after his deputy Enrique Mora, who acts as the coordinator of the nuclear talks, visited Iran last week for talks with Iranian officials, including chief negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani.

Speaking on the sidelines of the G7 meeting in Germany on Friday, 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."

The terrorist designation against the IRGC has brought the Vienna talks to a standstill. Donald Trump designated the IRGC in order to make a revival of the JCPOA difficult.

"Iran's demand that the U.S. lifts Trump's designation of Iran's powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization. In retaliation, Tehran placed the U.S. Central Command — America's top military entity focused on the Middle East — on its own list of terrorist groups. Iran insists that, until the U.S. designation is removed,



the deal cannot be rescued, pointing out the IRGC was not classified as a terrorist group when the original deal was signed. Conversely, Israel, which is not a party to the deal, argues the IRGC should stay on the list."

He adds, "The fact is that Iran's Quds force — the elite branch of the revolutionary guard — and CENTCOM have played a central role in the region."

The former diplomat also says security concerns in the Persian Gulf can be allayed through dialogue between regional countries. "Concerns in the Persian Gulf could be addressed through regional talks," he suggests.

He adds, "Without cooperation, the chance for resolving regional crises peacefully would be critically undermined."

The former diplomat says Iran and Saudi Arabia have already held a fifth round of direct talks in Baghdad.

"Iran's Supreme National Security Council reached important

agreements with Saudi Arabia's intelligence chief," he says.

The former diplomat says "collective security" is possible only through cooperation between Persian Gulf countries, particularly between Iran and Saudi Arabia, two heavyweight countries in the region.

"Cooperation and peace among the Persian Gulf countries, especially Iran and Saudi Arabia, could prove critical in resolving their proxy battles in the region, including Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Libya. Sustainable peace, stability and security in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East (West Asia) will not be possible without a system of cooperation and collective security."

Considering all these things into perspective, the former diplomat suggests that it is now the time that diplomats from Iran and other parties to the nuclear deal as well as the U.S. make serious efforts to resurrect the JCPOA.

"Now is the time for diplomats on all sides to redouble their efforts in pursuit of that goal."

## Top negotiator: Iran is serious in Vienna, but distrusts the other side



From page 1 ► smart sanctions plan, to a technology to counter the crippling Obama sanctions and then into knowledge to neutralize the sanctions imposed by Trump's campaign of "maximum pressure."

Bagheri added now other countries under sanctions are seeking to use the Iranian experience in neutralizing sanctions.

Noting the ability of scientists to neutralize sanctions in addition to greatly increasing the diplomatic capacity to lift sanctions, he said this ability would also significantly enhance the country's deterrent power in the face of oppressive sanctions.

The deputy foreign minister said that the stability to lift sanctions depends on maintaining and enhancing the hardware and software capacities in neutralizing the sanctions.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is serious in

the process of negotiations and fulfillment of international obligations, including the agreement on lifting sanctions. But at the same time, it is very well aware and distrusts the enemy and is wary not to rely on foreigners for immunity from sanctions," he pointed out.

The chief negotiator continued, "Revolutionary wisdom requires that by not trusting the enemy and not relying on foreigners, we use all the capacities of the field of diplomacy to ensure national interests."

Emphasizing that the Foreign Ministry is determined to seriously use diplomacy to lift sanctions, Bagheri said, "The country will also use all within its power to neutralize sanctions.

## FM briefed about situation of Iranians in Qatar

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian met with Tehran's ambassador to Doha on Sunday to get briefed about the situation of Iranian nationals living in Qatar, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Ambassador Hamidreza Dehghani Poudeh presented a comprehensive report to the foreign minister about his mission with regard to the ties between Iran and Qatar, especially providing services to those who want to attend the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar as well as the situation of Iranians living in Qatar and their conditions and employment there.

During the meeting, the foreign minister referred to the importance of the policy of good neighborliness and underscored the necessity of implementing the agreements made during meetings between high-ranking officials of the two countries.

Amir Abdollahian also gave some instructions regarding links with Iranians in Qatar and providing appropriate consular services.

Following the good neighborliness policy of Ebrahim Raisi's administration, the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani paid a visit to Tehran on Thursday.

After a meeting, the two heads of states participated in a joint press conference.

"During our talks, we discussed major regional issues, especially the issue of Yemen," Iran's president said. "We emphasized that the blockade of Yemen must end and Yemenis must be allowed to decide the fate of their country," Raisi added.

Another topic that Raisi discussed with the Emir of Qatar was the situation in Afghanistan. The Iranian president stressed the need for an inclusive

government in Afghanistan that would represent all groups and political factions in order to achieve sustainable security in the country.

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 Israel's atrocities against Palestinians.

Raisi also stated that Iran and Qatar put emphasis on 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 visit to Qatar in February.

According to Iran's president, the visit of Qatar's Emir to Tehran will mark a watershed moment in the two nations' ties and will play a critical role in increasing regional



and international collaboration.

During their talks, the two leaders addressed important concerns as well comprehensive collaboration in all spheres, according to the Emir of Qatar.

Sheikh Tamim also said the two parties agreed that negotiation is the best way to solve the pressing problems in the region.

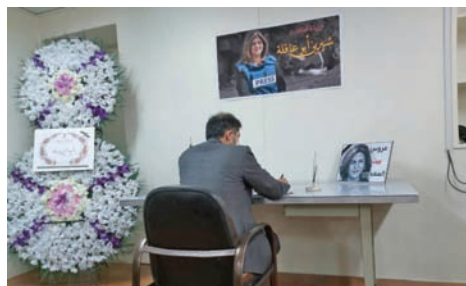
"The existing problems in the region must be settled through constructive dialogue," he said, adding that the two sides also discussed the ongoing situation in Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

## Foreign Ministry official pays tribute to Palestinian journalist

TEHRAN— Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman visited the Palestinian embassy in Tehran on Sunday and signed the memorial book of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh killed by Israeli occupation forces.

During the visit, Saeed Khatibzadeh condemned the Israeli regime's terrorist act and offered his condolences on the assassination of Abu Akleh to her family, the Palestinian people and the media.

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.



# Nakba Day: 74 years of repression

TEHRAN – Thousands of Palestinians took to the streets in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as well as other parts of the world to remember a disaster that took place decades ago and never really came to an end.

The occasion, known as Nakba Day, marks the establishment of Israel as a “Jewish-majority state” at the expense of the near-total destruction of Palestinian society.

Nakba translates to “catastrophe” in Arabic, which demonstrates how Palestinians feel about the emergence of Israel. The day in question is May 15, 1948, when the establishment of Israel resulted in the forced expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of the Palestinian population at the time.

More accurately, Nakba is a period of systematic ethnic cleansing of Palestinians by Zionist paramilitaries between 1947-1949.

Zionist forces had taken more than 78 percent of historic Palestine, ethnically cleansed and destroyed about 530 villages and cities, and killed about 15,000 Palestinians in a series of mass atrocities, including more than 70 massacres, according to Al Jazeera.

Millions of Palestinians were also either internally displaced or forced to flee historic Palestine, creating Palestinian refugee camps in all



neighboring countries and strong Palestinian diaspora communities almost in all Western and most non-Western countries.

Many nations in the world have experienced periods of agony and displacement but Palestinians are the only nation whose plight never ended and continued to this day. Some pundits believe that amounts to “intergenerational trauma.”

“There isn’t one Palestinian family that has not been impacted by the Nakba. Unfortunately, we are transferring intergenerational trauma to our children,” Honaïda Ghanim, the general director of the Palestinian Forum for Israeli Studies, told Al Jazeera. “We wish we were commemorating what happened in 1948, but it is an ongoing feeling

where you cross checkpoints and face the brutality of the military Israeli occupation through daily destruction, house demolitions, and ethnic cleansing.”

She noted the grave injustice the Palestinians are suffering. “It is the ongoing injustice where Jews from anywhere can come and live in Palestine whereas Palestinian refugees cannot even visit,” Ghanim said.

Over the last seven decades, Israel has rejected all peace initiatives and worked to render moot any potential peace plan by continuing to expand its borders both into neighboring Arab states and Palestinian territories. Israel used to occupy Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula and still occupies Syrian and Lebanese territories in addition

to its occupation of vast Palestinian territories in the West Bank.

Meanwhile, Israel has rejected and continues to reject, all efforts aimed at finding a solution to the plight of Palestinians. It has rejected the Western-backed two-states solution. Over the years, Israel made its top priority to ensure that the two-state solution is dead. Israel hugely undermined this solution by moving ahead with its settlement construction plans in the Palestinian territories.

On the other hand, Israel also vehemently opposes the one-state solution with equal rights for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. In a blow to the one-state solution, the Knesset passed a controversial law in July 2018 stipulating that Israel is a “Jewish state,” effectively turning Israel’s sizable Arab Palestinian population into a second-class citizen.

Israel has opposed the democratic solution proposed by Iran which calls for a referendum among the indigenous people of Palestine to determine their future.

Rejecting all solutions, Israel continues to repress Palestinians, with the killing of veteran AL Jazeera correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh in Jenin, the West Bank, being the latest case of Israel’s state-sponsored violence against Palestinian civilians.

## Iran human rights chief calls for international action against Israeli crimes

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian official in charge of human rights has reacted to the Israeli police beating the mourners at the funeral of a prominent journalist killed in an Israeli raid in Jenin, the West Bank.

The official, Kazem Gharibabadi, who is the Vice-President of the Judiciary for International Affairs and Secretary General of Iran’s High Council for Human Rights, described Israel as a blood-thirsty regime whose crimes will not stop unless the international community takes a stand.

“How can one expect the blood-thirsty Israeli regime which headshots journalists to respect their dead bodies?” he said on Twitter.

He added, “Enjoying the United States’ unwavering support for decades, the regime’s unspeakable crimes will continue with no end in sight – unless the intl. community makes a stand!”

Gharibabadi also posted a video showing Israeli police officers beating pallbearers and mourners at the funeral of Al-Jazeera correspondent Shirin Abu Akleh who was shot dead on Wednesday by Israeli forces while covering an Israeli raid on Jenin.

Earlier, Mohammad Reza Sahraei, adviser to the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, had condemned the assassination of Shirin Abu Akleh 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.”

Sahraei 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.”

Also, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has strongly condemned the deliberate targeting of Shirin Abu Akleh.

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 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.

policy, as well as maintaining and strengthening the resistance front,” the defense minister noted.

The general called on the Defense Ministry officials to focus efforts on enhancing various dimensions of defense power by upgrading the technical and hardware capabilities, monitoring the threats and international developments, and acquiring advanced technologies.

## Iran defense minister says U.S. sowing divisions, inflaming wars

TEHRAN – Iran’s Defense Minister, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani, has criticized the United States and its allies for sowing discord and division among nations.

The defense minister said the U.S. leads the arrogance system and its proxies such as Israel as the archenemies of the Islamic Republic, Tasnim news reported.

He made the remarks in a meeting with a group of Defense Ministry officials on Saturday.

The U.S. and its cohorts proved amid the recent conflicts in the region that they seek to exercise unilateralism, impose their will on nations, create divisions, and inflame wars among countries, as they feel no compunction about killing innocent people, the Iranian minister added.

He went on to say that the Iranian Defense Ministry’s main purposes in countering the threats are to generate power and boost the country’s deterrent capabilities.

“Accordingly, plans are on agenda for the promotion of purposeful relations with the neighbors, interaction and multilateralism, attention to the economy-oriented foreign

together in Islamic Iran for many years.”

Ayatollah Raisi also referred to request by some Sunni scholars to employ them more in managerial positions, saying, “Using qualified people is an important and necessary thing, and the criterion for the government is competence, and in every province I go, I emphasized the local forces must be employed more.”

During the meeting, Ayatollah Raisi also referred to the government’s serious efforts to solve people’s livelihood problems, saying, “The government pays attention to the concerns of the people that are conveyed to the clerics and tries to solve these problems.”

Explaining the situation in the country at the time of the inauguration of his administration, Ayatollah Raisi said, “Budget deficit of nearly 500 trillion, remaining monthly debt of 10 trillion, death of nearly 700 people a

day with coronavirus, unprecedented inflation, injection of the (the heavily subsidized) 4k-toman (foreign) currency to the market and the unfavorable situation of the stocks of basic goods in the country were among the issues that the government was dealing with in the early days after its inauguration.”

Ayatollah Raisi described the payment of the 4k-toman currency as one of the country’s problems and stated, “In practice, a large part of what was paid as subsidized exchange rate was in the service of corruption and rent. In fact, we had a waste of the country’s resources and subsidies did not reach the people, so in order to prevent this situation from continuing, it was decided to give this amount to the last chain and the main beneficiary, the people and consumers, instead of paying to the first supply chain.”

Emphasizing that paying 400,000 toman per month to each person is a difficult task, but experts consider this method as a step towards approaching justice and eliminating absolute poverty.

## What made Esteghlal different after almost a decade

From Page 1 ► **\*Management**

Esteghlal’s management role in this season’s success is undeniable. Ever since Mostafa Ajorlou came to Esteghlal, the Blues’ problems have been reduced to a minimum. Let’s not forget that before his presence, the Blues were in crisis in terms of the club management.

**\*Majidi**

In his third spell in charge of Esteghlal, Majidi succeeded in making this team the league champions in a fantastic run. The Blues legend became a calmer coach on touchline comparing his previous two periods when he had the lead role in Esteghlal. His behavior, decisions, and reactions are no longer emotional. He supported his players even when his team was not getting good results and created a good atmosphere in his dressing room.

**Consistency and quality**

Majidi’s consistency in selection helped his side’s consistency in performance. The right wing-back and one of the three – or four – central defender spots were the only areas of the team to undergo regular rotation throughout the season. Other areas of the team benefited from the regularity of selection.

**\*Rivals’ poor performance**

Esteghlal grew into the season after a shaky start. Their league form undoubtedly changed by a disappointing removal from the Asian Champions League after having their licenses withdrawn by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). The elimination helped them to focus on the domestic games. The poor performance of Persepolis, the defending champions, and other contenders for the league title also helped Esteghlal find their way to the league title easier.

## Paykan beat Suntory Sunbirds at Asian Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Paykan of Iran came from a set down to beat Japanese giants Suntory Sunbirds 3-1 (22-25, 25-19, 25-19, 25-21) in Pool A of the 2022 Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship at Azadi Hall here on Sunday.

Dmitry Mozersky scored 30 points for Suntory, while Earvin Ngapeth earned 19 points for Paykan.

Paykan, the most decorated Asian club, started the campaign on Saturday with a win over Iraqi side South Gas and will play Nakhon Ratchasima QminC VC from Thailand on Monday.

Pool B consists of Al-Rayyan (Qatar), Taraz VC (Kazakhstan), Shahdab Yazd (Iran) and Erbil Sport Club (Iraq).

The winners of the Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship will qualify for the FIVB Volleyball Men’s Club World Championship.

## Iran in third place of Deaflympics medal table

TEHRAN – Iranian athletes claimed 12 gold, eight silver and 11 bronze medals in the 2021 Summer Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil.

Ukraine won 56, 36 silver and 37 bronze medals in total and claimed the title.

The U.S. finished in second place, winning 19 gold, 10 silver and 22 bronze medals.

The Iranian delegation took part in the 24th edition of the games in eight sports in athletics, beach volleyball, football, judo, karate, shooting, taekwondo and wrestling.

“Success in Silence” was Iran’s official motto in the competition.

## Former Iran athlete Ghafourizadeh dies

TEHRAN – Former Iran athlete Hossein Ghafourizadeh passed away in Tehran on Sunday.

He passed away at the age of 79.

Ghafourizadeh competed in the men’s 400 meters at the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

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

## Iran, Argentina futsal friendly confirmed

TEHRAN – Iran national futsal team will play Argentina in two friendly matches, Ehsan Osooli, member of football federation’s board of directors, said.

The Iranian team prepares for the 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup which will start in Kuwait in September.

According to him, Iran are scheduled to meet the South American giants on July 8th and 10th in Argentina.

The Iranian futsal team are headed by former Team Melli player Vahid Shamsaei.

## Esteghlal win Iran football league after nine years

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team claimed the title of Iran Professional League (IPL) Saturday night.

The Blues had not won the title since 2012/13 season.

Esteghlal defeated Foolad 2-1 in Ahvaz thanks to goals from Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh and Adel Hardani.

Alireza Kushki scored the hosts’ sole goal in the dying moments of the match.

In Sirjan, Persepolis suffered a 2-1 loss against Sepahan.

Mohammad Nejadmehdi and Sajad Shahbazzadeh were on target for Sepahan and Ali Nemati pulled a goal back for Persepolis.

Elsewhere, Havadar edged past Fajr Sepasi 1-0, Shahr Khodro and Paykan shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw, Aluminum defeated Sanat Naft 2-1, Gol Gohar beat Mes 2-1, Zob Ahan and Tractor played out a goalless draw and struggling Naft Masjed Soleyman were held to a 1-1 draw against Nassaji.

With three matches to spare, Esteghlal won the title with 63 points. Persepolis are second with 54 points, followed by Sepahan with 52 points.

## Iran, Canada friendly sold out

TEHRAN – All the tickets for the friendly match between the national football teams of Canada and Iran have been sold out.

The match is set to be staged at Vancouver’s BC Place Stadium on June 5. The stadium can host 54,500 spectators.

The reports of a friendly encounter between Iran and Canada had surfaced days ago and were later officially confirmed by the two countries’ federations.

According to reports, the Canadian federation has been surprised by the warm welcome of both Canadian and Iranian fans for the match.

Some 27,000 tickets were sold in the first hour, reports suggest.

Thousands of Iranian immigrants live in different Canadian cities. According to Canada’s 2016 census data, there were more than 210,000 Iranians living in the country and the number is estimated to be higher these days.

The match is the first friendly game of Iran ahead of the 2022 World Cup and the last friendly match of Canada at home.

Iran are handed Group B of the major football event along with England, the USA, and the winner of the European playoff. Canada are in Group F of the event where they will meet Belgium, Morocco, and Croatia.



## Iran exports 17 bcm of gas in a year

From page 1 ► He said that 98.4 percent of the cities in the country enjoy natural gas at the moment, which will reach 99 percent, and 85.4 percent of villages enjoy natural gas which will reach 89 percent.

The official put the number of cities and villages supplied with natural gas at 1,221, and 35,575, respectively, and said that gas is being supplied to 29 cities and 2,952 villages.

Chegeni put the number of subscribers at 28.5 million in the household sector, at 90,000 in industry sector, 60,000 in agriculture sector, and said that there are 2,280 CNG stations, 330 power plants, and 2,000 public units supplied with gas in the country.

He said that gas was supplied to six cities, 1,426 villages, 1,300 large industrial units, and 6,200 small industrial units in the previous year.

### NIGC's prioritized projects in this year

Elsewhere in his remarks, the managing director of National Iranian Gas Company referred to the priority projects of his company in 1401, and said "The main focus of the NIGC is to supply gas to deprived and remote areas, and in this year's target, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Hormozgan province and the southern part of Kerman province have priority in gas supply."

In recent days, the gas transferring pipeline



to Zabol (in Sistan-Baluchestan) was put into operation and gas was injected in 220 kilometers of the pipeline. Also, projects related to southern Sistan-Baluchestan are underway, he added.

The 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022) kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Friday.

The motto of this year's edition of the exhibit is "Knowledge-Based Oil, Iranian Production, and Global Export".

The inauguration ceremony of the oil show was participated by Oil Minister Javad Oji, Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Managing Director Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr, senior officials of oil industry, and some MPs.

## NIOC to award Azadegan oil field to a consortium of domestic firms



TEHRAN – The managing director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said his company is going to award the development of Azadegan oil field, including South and North blocks, to a consortium of domestic companies, Shana reported.

"Following the NIOC's comprehensive programs for the development of joint fields and maximum

use of the capabilities of Iranian companies, the second phase of North Azadegan field's development project and the ongoing project of South Azadegan will be awarded to a consortium comprised of exploration and production companies under a \$7.5 billion contract," Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr said on Saturday.

Speaking in a press conference on the sidelines of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022), Khojasteh-Mehr said: "The above-mentioned companies will form a single firm to develop the field and all of them will have equal shares under the mother company."

"So, the final contract is not an exclusive deal and we do not intend to award the field to just one or two companies, but it will be awarded to all of them," he added.

## 'Vice Presidency for Science and Technology supports knowledge-based oil companies'

TEHRAN – Vice President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari said his department has close cooperation with the Oil Ministry in supporting knowledge-based companies active in the oil and gas industry, Shana reported.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022), Sattari underlined the positive role of the oil industry in the growth and development of knowledge-based companies, saying: "The role of the oil industry in the development of

knowledge-based companies is serious, and fortunately we have close cooperation with the Oil Ministry in this regard."

The official praised the oil exhibition as a platform for showcasing the capabilities of the country's oil industry and emphasized the strong presence of knowledge-based companies in this year's exhibition.

The 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on May 13.

## Oil Ministry supports investors in complementary industries: Oji

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji said on Saturday that his ministry fully supports companies and contractors that invest in oil sector's complementary industries, Shana reported.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022), Oji said: "This year, we will seriously support investors to enter the complementary industries chain."

The official noted that the oil industry's upstream sector, especially the petrochemical industry, has been given enough attention and been developed desirably, however, one of the problems of the country today is the lack of development of the complementary industries.

Oji said that one of the purposes of holding the Iran oil show is to determine the needs of the Oil Ministry's major subsidiaries so that capable domestic contractors could assess



*Oil Minister Javad Oji (L) and National Petrochemical Company Managing Director Morteza Shahmirzaei in Iran Oil Show 2022*

the needs of the industry and sign cooperation agreements to meet them.

*By Mahnaz Abdi*

TEHRAN- Iranian Oil Terminals Company (IOTC) is completely prepared for the maximum oil export, the managing director of the company stated.

Abbas Asadrouz made the remarks in a press conference held on the sidelines of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022) on Sunday.

"Given the Oil Ministry's target of the pre-sanction level of oil export, our whole attention is toward the infrastructure in this due, including storage facilities and pipelines", the official further underlined.

Emphasizing that the IOTC does not have a problem in terms of infrastructure for increasing exports, Asadrouz stressed: "Evidence shows that Iran's oil exports have increased significantly and the export operations are underway in oil terminals."

Saying that Iranian Oil Terminals Company has done its job well in the field of oil storage under the sanctions condition; about how much the storage capacity of crude oil is to be increased, he said that the storage capacity of crude oil in Kharg oil terminal is planned to be increased by 4.2 million barrels.

Kharg Island is a continental

# 'IOTC prepared for maximum oil export'



island in the Persian Gulf in the south of Iran. The island is located 25 kilometers off the coast of Iran and 483 kilometers northwest of the Strait of Hormuz. Administered by the adjacent coastal Bushehr Province, Kharg Island provides a seaport for the export of oil and extends Iranian territorial sea claims into the Persian Gulf oil fields.

Due to its close distance to oilfield regions, its good offshore

position, and suitable depth for gigantic oil vessel berthing, Kharg Island oil terminal has been recognized as one of the country's most suitable places for crude oil export and loading sites.

### High co-op with knowledge-based companies on agenda

Answering to the Tehran Times about the approach of the company for materializing the motto of the present Iranian calendar year (Knowledge-Based

and Job-Creating Production), the managing director said that IOTC has long-term and short-term plans to this end, and relations and high cooperation with the knowledge-based companies is on the agenda.

It should be mentioned that Iranian Oil Terminals Company signed some contracts with a number of Iranian companies in a ceremony before the Sunday press conference.

The mentioned contracts were on domestic production of some major and strategic equipment used in the oil terminals.

Signing these contracts (on the sidelines of the oil show) is a big step toward materializing the slogan of the year.

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 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.

## Direct container shipping lines launched from Chabahar to India, UAE

TEHRAN – Three direct container shipping lines have been launched from Iran's southeastern Chabahar Port to Nhava Sheva and Kandla ports in India as well as Jebel Ali Port in United Arab Emirate, the portal of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported.

Iran and India had previously launched shipping lines between Chabahar and the Indian ports of Mumbai, and Mundra.

The first shipping route between the two countries was put into operation in 2017 between Iran's Chabahar port and Mumbai.

In January 2019, Iran and India inaugurated the second direct shipping route which passes through Mumbai, Mundra, Kandla, Chabahar,



and finally Bandar Abbas in southern Iran.

India is using the mentioned shipping routes to transit goods to Afghanistan and Persian Gulf nations as well as the countries in Central Asia.

Through Chabahar port India can bypass

Pakistan and transport goods to Afghanistan and Central Asia, while Afghanistan can get linked to India via sea.

Iran has awarded India the project for installing and operating modern loading and unloading equipment including mobile harbor cranes in Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar.

The strategic Chabahar port in southeastern Iran is the only ocean port on the Makran coast and it has a special place in the country's economic affairs.

Back in September 2021, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called on Central Asian countries to benefit from Chabahar Port capacities for expanding their trade in the region.

## 25 idle mines revived in Zanjan province in a year

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 25 idle mines were revived in Zanjan province in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

Naser Faghfour, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that 355 mines are already active in Zanjan province, of them over 12 million tons of minerals is annually extracted.

He said that 2,978 persons are working in the mines of the province at the present.

Of the total 355 mines of the province, 134 mines are in Zanjan county, of them over three million tons of minerals is annually extracted, the official further stated.

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

Based on the IMIDRO data, the

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

The total number of revived mines has reached 852 since the launch of the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry's program for reviving small mines across the country, in late March 2019. The revived mines in this program have created job opportunities for over 13,000 people in the mentioned period.

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

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



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

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

Following this program, so

far various small-scale mines including chromite, manganese, hematite, dolomite, iron ore, copper, and construction stone mines have been surveyed by monitoring and diagnosing the problems of the mines and providing solutions for resolving their issues.

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

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

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

## TEDPIX loses 5,400 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 5,431 points to 1.572 million on Sunday.

Over 12.511 billion securities worth 75.286 trillion rials (about \$250.95 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 5,443 points, and the second market's index dropped 6,403 points.

As published on the website of TSE, 58.919 billion securities worth 351.381 trillion rials (about \$1.171 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.

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

In an interview with IRNA on May 8, Ahmad Eshtiaqi pointed to the growth of the stock market index and the factors affecting it and said: "It seems that the shares of companies still have room for growth and according to the forecasts, the stock market can grow by about 30 percent by the end of the year, but this growth will be gradual and slow."

The analyst noted that the shareholders' interest in the capital market over the past few years has been due to the value of companies'

stock, so when the shares still have room to grow, the market index will grow as well.

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

He stated that in addition to the crude oil prices, the prices of petrochemical products and metals like copper, zinc, and other commodities have risen.

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



From page 1 ► The authorities have said that among the 13 victims shot, eleven were black American and two were white.

The sources say investigators are looking at multiple online postings that are potentially linked to the shooter himself which include praise for the South Carolina church terrorist Dylan Roof and the New Zealand Mosque have terrorist Brenton Tarrant.

The supermarket that was targeted is in a predominately Black neighborhood, some five kilometers north of central Buffalo. The surrounding area is primarily a residential black neighborhood.

Terming the attack as “racially motivated violent extremism” instead of “terrorism” is open to debate but analysts say officials may be reluctant to describe this as terrorism because of the powerful gun lobby groups in the U.S. who advocate for the right of individuals to take up arms.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been 198 “mass shootings” already this year in the United States. Among the casualties, 115 children have been killed and 258 others have been injured.

Anywhere else in the world, where terrorist targets and kills civilians based on the color of their skin, race, or religion with the aim of spreading fear in that community would be regarded and treated as a terrorist attack.

The use of the word terrorism in the U.S. would bring bad publicity about the state of security in the country; this is despite the U.S. homeland security declaring White Supremacists as the biggest domestic terror threat.

Speaking to media outlets, officials who again wished to remain anonymous because of the sensitivity of the matter say the shooter was wearing military fatigues, body armor, and a tactical helmet when he entered a Tops Friendly Supermarket.

The suspect has been identified in court as Payton S. Gendron. He has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder.

According to police, Gendron shot four people in the parking area of the

# Another “racially motivated” massacre in the U.S.



store, three fatally, before entering inside the supermarket where he was approached by a retired Buffalo police officer working as a guard for the store.

Police say the guard shot and hit the attacker, but it did not have any effect because of the metal body armor that he was wearing.

Gendron then proceeded to enter the store where he shot nine more people inside, police said.

According to officials, the shooter killed at least ten people and injured three others before being taken into custody.

Four of the shooting victims were employees at the store, while the rest were customers. The Buffalo police officer working as a security guard was among those killed, according to a law enforcement official which allowed to the attacker to enter the store.

The two officials who were not allowed to speak publicly on the sensitive matter and did so on the condition of anonymity provided the information but Buffalo police confirmed the attacker was in custody.

Authorities say the 18-year-old white, male shooter had a video camera affixed to his helmet that

streamed the shooting live online as was the case with the New Zealand Mosque terrorist Brenton Tarrant who killed dozens of Muslims in 2019.

New Zealand’s Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, was widely praised for clearly stating that the attack which killed 51 Muslims and injured 40 more was an act of terrorism.

Earlier at a press briefing, Erie County District Attorney John Flynn said Gendron will be initially charged with state murder charges and put on trial later.

“This is the worst nightmare any community can face,” Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown said at the same briefing. He added the suspect was not from the city and is believed to have driven for several hours to reach the predominantly black area of Buffalo.

Police officials and the supermarket chain spokesperson did not immediately respond to messages from Tehran Times seeking further comment.

Two eyewitnesses, both 20, told local media they had just pulled into the parking area when the shooter was leaving the supermarket after Gendron shot all his victims. They described him as a white male in

his late teens or early 20s with full camouflage, a black helmet, and what appeared to be a rifle.

“He was standing there with the gun to his chin. We were like what the heck is going on? Why does this kid have a gun to his face?” one of the witnesses said. He dropped to his knees. “He ripped off his helmet, dropped his gun, and was tackled by the police.”

Footage showed police closing off the block, lined by onlookers, and yellow police tape surrounded the entire parking lot.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul said on social media that she was “closely monitoring the shooting at a grocery store in Buffalo,” her hometown. She said state officials have offered help to local authorities. The Erie County Sheriff’s Office said on social media that it ordered all available personnel to assist Buffalo police.

“We are shocked and deeply saddened by this senseless act of violence and our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families,” Tops Friendly Markets said in a statement. “Our top priority remains the health and well-being of our associates and customers. We appreciate the quick response of local law enforcement and are providing all available resources to assist authorities in the ongoing investigation.”

More than two hours after the shooting, Erica Pugh-Mathews was waiting outside the store, behind the police tape.

“We would like to know the status of my aunt, my mother’s sister. She was in there with her fiancée, they separated and went to different aisles,” she said. “A bullet barely missed him. He was able to hide in a freezer but he was not able to get to my aunt and does not know where she is. We just would like word either way if she’s OK.”

The shooting comes against the backdrop of a similar incident last year when an attack took place at a King Soopers grocery in Boulder, Colorado that killed 10 people.

Investigators have yet to release any information about why the shooter charged in that attack targeted the supermarket.

## Lebanese head to polls to elect new parliament amid economic crisis

The Lebanese people voted in key parliamentary elections, which many hope can set the stage for a recovery from economic woes fueled by U.S.-led sanctions on the country.

Polling stations opened at 7:00 a.m. local time (0400 GMT) across 15 electoral districts on Sunday. Nearly four million people were eligible to vote, Press TV reported.

718 candidates competed for 128 parliamentary seats.

The vote came as the country has been rocked by an economic meltdown that the World Bank has blamed on the ruling class and the 2020 devastating port blast in the capital, Beirut.

The economic crisis, which began in 2019, led to a currency collapse of some 95 percent and the plunging of more than 80 percent of the Lebanese population into poverty.

Lebanon’s parliament is equally divided between Christians and Muslims.



The last vote in 2018 saw Lebanon’s Hezbollah resistance movement and its allies, the Christian Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) of President Michel Aoun and the Shia Amal party of Speaker Nabih Berri, secure a majority by winning 71 of the parliament’s seats.

The absence of former Prime Minister Saad Hariri has left a vacuum for Sunni votes, which both Hezbollah allies and opponents are seeking

to fill.

Hezbollah has said it expects few changes to the make-up of the current parliament, though its opponents, including the Saudi-aligned Lebanese Forces party, say they are hoping to scoop up seats from the FPM.

On the eve of the parliamentary elections, the Lebanese president earnestly called on the public to voice their grievances over the country’s economic hardships at the ballot boxes.

“The ballot box revolution is the cleanest and most honest revolution. Revolt against everyone who considers you a mere commodity! Revolt against political blackmail! Revolt against moral decadence and loss of values! Revolt against those who stole your money and deposits! Revolt against those who obstructed every step,” Aoun said.

“It can protect the rest of your rights or expose the thieves! Revolt against those who incite and favor sedition and possibly civil war.”

## China’s foreseen dilemma in Ukraine war

From page 1 ► The Ukraine war, presumably, is a part of the great powers competition in Eurasia. The region, presently, appears to have been the locus of the great powers’ rivalry. Eurasia in past remained a battlefield, currently, is exceedingly important for China’s BRI, Russian and the U.S. influence. Against this backdrop, Halford Mackinder articulates that “whoever rules Eurasia, controls the world”. Great powers will leave no stone unturned to increase their influence in this crucial region. Instability in the New Eurasia Land Bridge Economic Corridor connecting BRI with Europe through Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus would pose a grave challenge to BRI. China’s led BRI is unlikely to remain immune to the worsening situation in Ukraine.

The war disrupted supply and chains roiled commodities markets, and caused billions of dollars of losses for Chinese firms. Nickel titan Tsingshan Holding Group of China has approximately lost USD\$8 billion on ill-timed trades. The war has also resulted in China’s export order cancellations, enfeebling Chinese industrial productivity overwhelmingly. Biden in his speech

in Poland on March 26 says that “This battle will not be won in days or months either. We need to steel ourselves for the long fight ahead.” His speech clearly manifests that the U.S. intends to prolong the war. The perpetuation of war will augment China’s economic losses in the coming days.

After the initiation of BRI in 2013, Ukraine was believed to have been pivotal in the strategic calculation of China. Beijing is the biggest trading partner of Ukraine more than 6,000 Chinese citizens are in the country. Kyiv’s nearly 15.3 percent of exports go to China but the former has seriously been irritated by the latter’s support to Russia. Deepening ties between Moscow and Beijing to some Chinese experts does not serve China’s national interest. They reckon Beijing needs the West more than Russia in the sphere of trade, technology and investment. The rift between China and the West will force the members of the EU to get introspection and ponder over the success of the Build Back Better World (B3W) planned by the G7 group consisting of the world’s richest democracies. B3W is an alternative to BRI,

the U.S. including the western countries will start propaganda and an ideational war against BRI in a bid to make B3W more successful.

Moscow is expected to attack Moldova to exert pressure on the Baltic States including, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland and convince other the former socialist states not to join NATO. If Russian expansions occur in the future, they will intensify Chinese worries about disturbing BRI projects. Russia, presently, is dissatisfied with China’s growing foothold in its backyard and Eurasia. The invasion of Ukraine with a fragile economy can be assumed to be a calculated move of Moscow to increase its influence in Eurasia and international politics.

Between 1958 and 1971, during the Cold War, China was also trapped in the shackles of great powers’ rivalry. The People’s Republic of China, at that time, met strategic threats from both the U.S. and the Soviet Union simultaneously. The strategic threats forced China to remain thoroughly prepared for a full-scale war against the foreseen threats of the two great powers. To secure its economic zones from the attacks,

China shifted factories from the developed eastern region to underdeveloped western areas concealing them in artificial caves. Reallocating industries caused significant economic hardships and rampant poverty.

During the Cold War, the People’s Liberation Army Navy PLAN’s main concern was Taiwan-based Kuomintang KMT forces that were perceived to be attacking the mainland of China. At the same time, the Soviet Union threat also emerged when China’s relations continued to strain with the former. In the later part of the 1960s PLAN shifted its focus from East and South to North to cope with the Soviet threats. Though the invasion was expected to be land-based, PLAN was alerted to avert any threat from the sea. This situation motivated Beijing not only to spend on its land forces but also on its naval and maritime forces to thwart threats emanating from the Soviet Union.

However, there has been a steep rise in convergence in interest between Moscow and Beijing on account of the U.S. hegemonic designs, impelling the latter to support Russia in the

Ukraine crisis. It is equally important to guess the contemplations of Russia in the ongoing war. Over the last three decades, the declining role of Russia in great powers’ rivalry due to its weak economy and the U.S. sanctions in the current war gives an impetus to revitalize its position. Arguably, joining NATO by Kyiv was one of the leading factors that forced Russia to start its military operations in Ukraine. The Russian move, by and large, is also attributed to consolidating its position in the great powers’ competition. China would ponder over the Ukraine war; the war is likely to be prolonged. The perpetuation of war could cause a huge blow to BRI, uniting the West strengthening Quad, and AUKUS against China. In short, the already divided world will witness further political polarization democracy vs. authoritarianism.

*Dost Muhammad Barrech is a former Research Associate of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), currently, teaches in the International Relations (IR) Department, University of Balochistan (UOB) Quetta. He is also a PhD (IR) candidate at (IIUI). He can be reached at bareach87@gmail.com*

## Turkey’s president opposes letting Finland, Sweden join NATO

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday that his country is “not favorable” toward Finland and Sweden joining NATO, indicating Turkey could use its membership in the Western military alliance to veto moves to admit the two countries.

“We are following developments concerning Sweden and Finland, but we are not of a favorable opinion,” Erdogan told reporters, according to npr.org.

The Turkish leader explained his opposition by citing Sweden and other Scandinavian countries’ alleged support for Kurdish militants and others whom

Turkey considers to be terrorists.

He said he also did not want to repeat Turkey’s past “mistake” from when it agreed to readmit Greece into NATO’s military wing in 1980. He claimed the action had allowed Greece “to take an attitude against Turkey” with NATO’s backing.

Erdogan did not say outright that he would block any accession attempts by the two Nordic nations. However, NATO makes all its decisions by consensus, meaning that each of the 30 member countries has a potential veto over who can join.

Russia’s aggression in Ukraine prompted Finland and Sweden to reconsider their traditions of military nonalignment. Public opinion in the two countries quickly started to shift toward favoring NATO membership after Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Should the two countries proceed on that path, it would represent a blow to Russia since President Vladimir Putin cited NATO’s expansion near Russian territory

as one of his justifications for invading Ukraine.

U.S. President Joe Biden held a call Friday with Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and President Sauli Niinisto of Finland.

The White House said in a statement that Biden “underscored his support for NATO’s Open Door policy and for the right of Finland and Sweden to decide their own future, foreign policy and security arrangements.”

Niinisto’s office said the three leaders “shared a deep concern over Russia’s war on Ukraine.”

“President Niinisto went through Finland’s next steps toward NATO membership. President Niinisto told (Biden) that Finland deeply appreciates all the necessary support from the U.S.,” the office said in a brief statement.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday that Washington is “working to clarify Turkey’s position” and believes

there is “broad support” among NATO members for Finland and Sweden to join the alliance.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken was scheduled to meet his NATO counterparts, including the Turkish foreign minister, this weekend in Germany.

The top American diplomat for Europe, Karen Donfried, told reporters ahead of Blinken’s trip that the United States remains supportive of Finland and Sweden’s prospective NATO membership bids. She said the U.S. remains convinced the alliance is more united than ever before because of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Finland’s president and prime minister said Thursday that they were in favor of rapidly seeking NATO membership, paving the way for the country to announce a decision in the coming days. Sweden’s governing Social Democratic Party, led by Andersson, was expected to reveal its decision Sunday.

Asked about Erdogan’s comments

during a press conference in Helsinki, Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto said: “We need some patience in this type of process. It’s not happening in one day. This is all what I can say at the moment. Let’s take issues step by step.”

The Finnish minister said he was likely to hold discussions with his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu, at the NATO meeting in Berlin over the weekend. Cavusoglu spoke Friday with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, but Turkey’s Foreign Ministry did not provide details.

Stoltenberg has said that Finland and Sweden, should they formally apply to join the world’s biggest security organization, would be welcomed with open arms.

The accession procedure could be done in “a couple of weeks,” several NATO officials have said, although it could take around six months for member countries to ratify the accession protocol.

Meanwhile, a report by the Swedish

government on the changed security environment facing the Nordic country after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine says Moscow would react negatively to Sweden joining NATO and launch several counter-measures.

The Swedish government’s security policy analysis, which will be used as a basis for Andersson’s Cabinet to decide whether to seek membership in the Western military alliance, was presented to Swedish lawmakers Friday.

The report did not include a recommendation on whether or not Sweden should try to join NATO. But it pointed to NATO membership carrying a number of advantages for Sweden – above all the collective security provided by the 30-member military alliance.

At the same time, it lists numerous tactics Russia is likely to take in retaliation, including cyber-attacks, violations of Swedish airspace and threatening to use nuclear weapons.



## Iran readies roadmap for gastronomy tourism



TEHRAN – Iran's tourism ministry is developing a national blueprint to boost gastronomy tourism, vowing to prepare for both domestic and international scenes.

"At present, together with private sector activists and other related agencies, we are developing a food tourism roadmap to achieve three outputs of the domestic and foreign tourism boom, and finally to launch a branding campaign," IRNA quoted a tourism official as saying on Sunday.

Iran is the paradise of foodies. Every province and even every city of Iran has its specific delectable dishes. So, one can enjoy a wide range of foods here

in Iran; and Kermanshah is one of the most popular places among foodies.

The cornerstone of every Persian meal is rice or Polo. Persian cuisine is, above all, about balance — of tastes and flavors, textures and temperatures. In every meal, even on every plate, you'll find both sweet and sour, soft and crunchy, cooked and raw, hot and cold.

No Persian meal is complete without an abundance of herbs. Every table is set with sabzi-khordan, a basket of fresh herbs, radishes, and scallions, which are eaten raw and by the handful, often tucked into a piece of fresh flatbread with a bite of feta, cucumber, or walnuts.

Experts believe that food tourism has become one of the most dynamic and creative segments of tourism and, at the same time, has naturally positioned itself as an element of diversification of tourism with a high impact on the promotion of sustainable development at the regional and local levels.

In 2020, Iran joined an online campaign launched by the UNWTO to promote gastronomy as an essential part of tourism. Iranian cuisine, usually dominated by fragrant herbs, varies from region to region. It principally accentuates freshness, deliciousness, and colorfulness.

From page 1 ► Would you like to spend moments lazing in gardens, splashing in lakes, cycling, walking, and enjoying the fresh air and greenery away from the dust and oppressive heat of the city?

Still, the abundance of villages near Tehran can be overwhelming if you're trying to plan a trip, but there are some epic ones just can't be overlooked:

### Afjeh

Afjeh is one of the hushed villages if you want to get away from the hustle and bustle of Tehran. Located in Lavasan-e Kuchak Rural District, it embraces a variety of natural and historical attractions including waterfalls, a 19th-century palace, castle, and bathhouse.

The best time to visit is spring and summer. However, there is no hotel to stay in this area so far, and if you plan to spend the night in nature, you should have camping equipment with you.

### Arangeh

Situated in Adaran Rural District of Alborz province, the mountainside village of Arangeh can be reached on Kilometer 18th of Karaj-Chalus road westward Tehran.

The charming village is somehow an open-air museum where you can see some ancient sites.

It has many gardens and orchards that yield various fruits such as red apples, cherries, walnuts, pears, and berries.

In this beautiful village, several

## A breath of fresh air! 7 pretty villages around Tehran



villas have been built and many people choose to spend their weekends.

To reach this village, you have to leave Chalous road from the side and reach this beautiful area after a distance of 2 km. Among the spectacular attractions of Arangeh, we can mention Khor waterfall and Haft Cheshmeh valley. Also in winter, due to snowfall, the heights of this village become a ski slope.

### Ahar

Sandwiched between Rudbar, Qasran, and Shemiranat, Ahar has a cool climate and is one of the best

choices for those who want to avoid air pollution and need a breath of fresh air.

Rivers are going through the village. To get there, you have to enter Shahid Babaei Highway and then go to Lavasan-Lashkark road. The road towards Oshan gets you to Ahar village.

### Barghan

Situated in Savojbolagh county, Barghan is known as one of the most beautiful villages around Tehran.

It has a variety of recreational facilities and scenic destinations including a temple, mosque, arch

bridge, castle, and a shrine.

### Kordan

Like Barghan, Kordan is located in Savojbolagh county. Due to the pleasant climate and greenery, Kordan has long become one of the most popular villages near Tehran.

The historical village is situated about 50 km west of Tehran. There are extended orchards and gardens in the village and along a fresh-water river that flows through.

### Taleghan

Situated on the heights of the Alborz mountain range, some 130 km away from Tehran, Taleghan enjoys cool fresh air.

There are several waterfalls, several caves, various springs, and orchards in this village. The presence of these natural attractions has made Taleghan an ideal area for sightseeing.

### Filband

Encircled by an ocean of clouds, Filband is an eye-catching village due to its pristine nature and fresh air.

Situated some 2,700 meters above sea level, Filband is sometimes referred to as the roof of Mazandaran province. It has long been a destination for nature enthusiasts.

Because of the high altitude and hard access of the village in the past, it was difficult to reach, and as such, locals started to call it Filband, which stands for struggle and fatigue.

## Archaeologists hail find of 'Seleucid satrap tomb' in west-central Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists said on Saturday they had discovered what was believed to be the tomb of a Seleucid satrap or general in Hamedan, providing an extraordinary insight into the Hellenistic life in west-central Iran.

According to the senior archaeologist Mohsen Khanjan, who leads the excavation, they have discovered a tomb, which is probably the burial place of one of the satraps, ILNA reported.

The discovery is made in Tepe Naqarechi near what archaeologists have long been tracing to unearth the Seleucid Laodicea Temple under the modern town of Nahavand in Hamedan province.

"Naqarechi is a circular hill with a height of about eight meters situated among orchards in the southeast of Nahavand," Khanjan said.

"Nahavand was one of the towns that Seleucids built during their Iran rule over occupied Iran, using their own artisans, teachers, artists, historians, traders, ... to



Greekize Iranian land."

The archaeologist said the recent discovery may be a clue for the detection of Seleucid burial rituals in Iran or even their inspirations from Iranians of the time.

"Due to the scarcity of the so-far discovered Seleucid works in Iran, we do not know much about the architecture of Greek dwellings and their burial customs."

The discovery of this tomb can be of great help to archaeologists in illuminating the dark corners of the Seleucid period on the Iranian plateau,

Over the past couple of years, Khanjan has led several archaeological seasons to possibly unearth the Laodicea Temple believed to be placed beneath the Dokhaharan's sanctuary.

According to him, in addition to a Greek inscription, other significant objects such as bronze statues of Greek gods, a stone altar, column head, column shaft, column base, and pottery pieces had been discovered in the Dokhaharan neighborhood.

"Regarding those findings, we concluded that the history of the city of Nahavand goes far back in prehistoric times, on the contrary to what previously believed it only dates back to the Seleucid period."

"The outcome of previous excavations determined that a Seleucid city was established on remains of a prehistoric settlement..."

In the fifth season of excavation, 12 trenches were dug tightly based on speculations and discoveries made during the four previous seasons... the season, however, yielded some new clues on the ancient sanctuary.

In 1943, archaeologists discovered an 85x36 centimeter ancient inscription of 30

lines written in Greek calling on the people of Nahavand to obey the laws of the government. The inscription indicated the existence of the Laodicea Temple, which had been built by the Seleucid king who ruled Asia Minor, Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC), for his wife Queen Laodicea.

Two of the inscriptions as well as four bronze statuettes, unearthed at the site, are on display in the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran. And, column capitals and bases are currently being used as decorations in Nahavand's Hajian Bazaar and several other parts of the city.

Antiochus was the most distinguished of the Seleucids. Having made vassal states out of Parthia in present-day northeastern Iran and Bactria (an ancient country in Central Asia), he warred successfully against the Egyptian king Ptolemy V and in 198 BC obtained possession of all of Palestine and Lebanon.

He later became involved in a conflict

with the Romans, who defeated him at Thermopylae in 191 BC and Magnesia (now Manisa, Turkey) in 190 BC. As the price of peace, he was forced to surrender all his dominions west of the Taurus Mountains and to pay costly tribute. Antiochus, who early in his reign had restored the Seleucid Empire, finally forfeited its influence in the eastern Mediterranean by his failure to recognize the rising power of Rome.

The Seleucid Empire was a Hellenistic state ruled by the Seleucid dynasty which existed from 312 BC to 63 BC; Seleucus I Nicator founded it following the division of the Macedonian Empire vastly expanded by Alexander the Great. Seleucus received Babylonia (321 BC) and from there expanded his dominions to include much of Alexander's near-eastern territories. At the height of its power, the Empire included central Anatolia, Persia, the Levant, Mesopotamia, and what is now Kuwait, Afghanistan, and parts of Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

## West Azarbaijan to hold tourism festival after two-year halt

TEHRAN – West Azarbaijan is getting prepared to hold a national tourism festival after a two-year pause due to COVID restrictions, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The capital city of Urmia will be hosting the festival, which is scheduled to be run during the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 22-March 21, 2023), Jalil Jabari explained on Sunday.

Travel insiders and tour operators, the owners of the accommodation centers from across the country as well as tourism experts, craftspeople, and tourism investors will participate in the event, which aims at promoting travel and tourist attractions in the region, the official added.

The provincial capital of Urmia, also spelled Orumiyyeh, lies just west of Lake Urmia on a large fertile plain that yields grains, fruits, tobacco, and other crops. The population is mainly Azeri Turkish, with Kurdish, Assyrian Christian, and Armenian minorities. The remains of ancient settlements are scattered over the plain, as are traces of the ancient kingdom of Urartu.

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

The region was home to several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

## Former royal ensemble in Qazvin undergoes restoration

TEHRAN – A new round of a restoration project has been commenced on Qazvin's Safavid Garden Ensemble, locally known as "Dowlatkhaneh Safavi", Qazvin's tourism chief has said.

A budget of four billion rials (\$14,200) has been allocated to this phase of the project, Alireza Khazaeli explained on Sunday.

The project involves strengthening the walls as well as repairing the damaged parts, the official added.

Dowlatkhaneh Safavi, composed of some historical monuments, some of which have been

destroyed over time, was once a royal ensemble and residential complex for Safavid monarchs (1501-1736).

Qazvin was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

## New tourism route to take visitors to 14th-century educational complex

TEHRAN – A new tourism route is planned to be created surrounding the ruins of Rab'-e Rashidi, a 14th-century educational complex in East Azarbaijan, northwest Iran, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The route is designed to allow tourists to access different parts of the historical site, Ahmad Hamzehzadeh explained on Sunday.

The project is expected to be completed within three months, the official added.

Rab'-e Rashidi was established during the reign of Ghazan, a ruler of the Ilkhanid dynasty. It embraces a paper factory, a library, a hospital (Dar-al-Shafa), a Quranic center (Dar-al-Quran), residential facilities for teachers, students'



quarters, and a caravanserai amongst other facilities.

Situated in the northwestern city of Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbaijan, the complex includes several archaeological layers that date from Ilkhanid, Safavid, and Qajar eras, Ajorlou added.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and

UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295-1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

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



a place for visitors who want to experience the culture, cuisine, and hospitality of Iran.

### Call for International Notice

#### Tender No. 1401-02/116

Name of Tenderer Organization: Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)

Subject of two-stage tender: Supply of nodal storage equipment

#### Purchase of Storage Equipment for IRIB

**Deadline for receiving documents:** From the date of publication of the second announcement latest by the end of business hours on 01.03.1401 (Sunday, May 22, 2022).

**Place for receiving documents:** All stages of the tender ranging from receiving documents to submitting bids by bidders and reopening envelopes will be done through the portal of the government's electronic procurement system at: [www.setadiran.ir](http://www.setadiran.ir), and bidders are required to carry out the registration process if they have not registered before.

Bidders are cordially requested to register on the mentioned website address and receive an electronic signature certificate to participate in the tender.

**Tender deposit amount:** \$14,697 in the form of an extendable and irreversible bank guarantee.

**Deadline for delivery of the proposed envelope:** The images of the envelope contain guarantee letter (a) while envelope (b) contains the general documents and conditions and envelope (c) contains offer price that should be loaded at: [www.setadiran.ir](http://www.setadiran.ir) not later than 16:00 on Wednesday 1401/04/01 (June 22, 2022). Envelope "A", contains a physical guarantee and must be sent to the following address: Building No. 2, IRIB Organization, Jam-e Jam St., Vall-e-Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran, Media Development and Technology Deputyship, Technical Goods Purchase Affairs, Secretariat of Tenders Commission.

**Date of Tender and Place of Reading of Bids:** The opening date of envelopes A and B will be at 8:30 on Saturday, 1401/04/04 (June 25, 2022) in the office of the General Director of Finance and Administration of the Deputy for Development and Media Technology located in Tehran.

The second stage of opening the envelopes "c" will be done after presentation of expert opinion of the organization.

In order to participate in the tender, it is required to be ranked 3rd in the fields of production and presentation of non-mainframe computers and computer and telecommunication data networks.

The participant/bidder must have authorized license from the competent authorities to fulfil delegated affairs.

For more information, please call (021) 22166313.



# 230,000 foreign nationals vaccinated against measles

TEHRAN – The measles vaccination program has so far inoculated 230,000 foreign nationals, given the surge in the disease infection in the neighboring country, Mohsen Zahraei, head of the department of preventable diseases with vaccines of the Ministry of Health, said.

Concerns about the spread of measles in the country are growing as the Afghan population grows, so the measles vaccination operation for non-Iranian people, including Afghans, was put on the agenda and implemented, he noted.

Measles mostly infects children under the age of 10, and all families need to get their children vaccinated between the ages of 12 to 18 months, he said, adding that vaccination will be free of charge.

The measles vaccination program in Iran started in 1984 when 34 percent of the population was vaccinated in the first year and 90 to 95 percent of the population after 6 years. Also in 2003, 33 million people were vaccinated with a national program to eradicate measles in the country.

Then it was managed to minimize the measles incidence rate in three years and increase vaccination coverage to 95 to 98 percent. In 2019,



the World Health Organization approved the elimination of measles and rubella in Iran.

In the Eastern Mediterranean region, among the 22 countries, only three countries of Bahrain, Oman, and Iran, have succeeded in receiving this approval, which is a sign of health indicators promotion that plays an important role in tourist arrivals and the development process.

However, there is a measles outbreak in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.

“We have stepped up our efforts

to five percent of the patients,” Zahraei said on May 9.

Measles is a highly contagious, serious disease caused by a virus. Before the introduction of the measles vaccine in 1963 and widespread vaccination, major epidemics occurred approximately every 2-3 years and measles caused an estimated 2.6 million deaths each year.

More than 140,000 people died from measles in 2018 – mostly children under the age of 5 years, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine.

Measles is caused by a virus in the paramyxovirus family and it is normally passed through direct contact and through the air. The virus infects the respiratory tract, then spreads throughout the body. Measles is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals.

In 2019, the World Health Organization approved the elimination of measles and rubella in Iran.

## Over 100 tons of drugs confiscated in 2 months

TEHRAN – A total of 100 tons of narcotics have been seized countrywide since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21), Majid Karimi, the chief of the Iranian anti-narcotics police, has announced.

Noting that last year, about 190 organizers and main elements of drug trafficking were identified and arrested at the eastern borders of the country, he added that since the beginning of this year, 7 drug smugglers have been apprehended.

Iran has achieved good results in narcotics seizure, as discovered 1,100 tons of drugs in 2021 and 230 tons in the first four months of 2022, he stated, IRIB reported.

### World record of narcotics seizure

Iran holds the record for narcotics confiscation in the world, Eskandar Momeni, the director of anti-narcotics police headquarters said in December 2021.

However, great achievements in the field of countermeasures have been gained, and the United Nations has officially announced that 90 percent of opium, 70 percent of morphine, and 20 percent of

world heroin have been discovered by Iran.

In the Iranian calendar year ended in March 2021, about 1,200 tons of drugs were discovered, which was the highest rate of discovery in the world.

According to figures released by the United Nations in 2000, Afghanistan produced about 200 tons of narcotics, but in 2018, it has grown to 9,500 tons.

In other words, the production of narcotics has increased fifty times, which has doubled the need for prevention efforts, he highlighted.

Despite the conditions caused by the coronavirus outbreak and the imposition of harsh sanctions against the country, fortunately, with the efforts of anti-narcotics police in 2020, drug detection increased by 41 percent.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, and 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking.

The UNODC has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.



The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

## Iran, Russia set up joint technology center

From page 1 ► products of knowledge-based companies”, “providing legal services for contracts”, “registration of patents and certificates required”, “technology tours for high-tech companies and Iranian specialists to facilitate presence in the Russian market” and “development of long-term research programs in priority areas” are among the activities of the center.

In this center, 17 projects have been identified by Iranian knowledge-based companies and 5 projects by Russian technology companies. Currently, 7 of these projects are in the contract stage for purchasing, transferring, and exporting technology, as well as

joint production in Iran, ISNA reported on Saturday.

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 technology 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, Iran'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

## E-motorbikes come to curb air pollution in metropolises

The first phase of electric motorcycles development project will be implemented aiming at reducing air pollution in Tehran and other metropolises, IRNA news agency reported.

Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said on Tuesday that electric motorcycles will be promoted in big cities in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

Through the first phase of the project, electric motorcycles will replace the regular ones used by the Ministry of Energy and state-run companies, he explained.

Ardakanian went on to say that, in addition to electric motorcycles being manufactured and marketed from now on, existing motorcycles will also change to use electricity sources.

## آغاز طرح برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با هدف کاهش آلودگی هوا

مرحله نخست طرح برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با هدف کاهش آلودگی هوای تهران و دیگر کلانشهرها آغاز می‌شود.

به گزارش ایرنا، رضا اردکانیان وزیر نیرو روز سه شنبه گفت برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با همکاری وزارت صنعت، معدن و تجارت انجام خواهد شد.

وی افزود: هدف این طرح در گام نخست، برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌های مورد استفاده وزارت نیرو و شرکت‌های دولتی است.

اردکانیان اضافه کرد بر این اساس علاوه بر اینکه از این پس موتورسیکلت برقی تولید و وارد بازار می‌شود، موتورسیکلت‌های موجود نیز برای مالکان آنها برقی می‌شوند.

## Raisi began ‘biggest turning point’ in curbing COVID-19: American think tank

TEHRAN - RAND institution, an American nonprofit global policy think tank, has reported that the biggest turning point in containing the coronavirus pandemic in Iran was when the country began accelerating the daily administration of vaccines last summer by the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi.

“Despite economic sanctions and vaccine politics, 67 percent of the Iranian population today is fully vaccinated against COVID-19,” the RAND wrote in a commentary titled “Iran: Challenges and Successes in COVID-19 Pandemic Response”, published on April 20.

This led to the implementation of “smart protocols,” which freed vaccinated Iranians to engage in a wide range of activities while placing restrictions on the unvaccinated before the country entered the sixth wave of the pandemic, it added.

Iran has faced an uphill battle since the first cases of COVID-19 were found in the country, although with limited resources Iran has also had its share of successes and innovations in combating the virus.

Iran was one of the nations that were hit the hardest—both regionally and globally—in the early days of the pandemic.

The first cases of coronavirus in Iran were announced in Qom City on February 19, 2020. Iran quickly became a pandemic hotspot, and flight restrictions were imposed on Iran by other countries.

To compound the pandemic burden, economic sanctions on Iran may have contributed to shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), intensive care beds, diagnostic equipment, ventilators, and COVID-19 diagnostic kits.

Iran is eager to defeat the coronavirus. To that end, Iranian officials continue to work with



WHO and other partners to strengthen the country's health system in diagnosing and treating patients with COVID-19.

Additionally, the country is increasingly emphasizing mass vaccination campaigns and pushing for booster shots to curtail future spikes.

Iran's response to the pandemic gradually improved over time. To mitigate staff shortages and burnout, medical specialists and nursing staff from other divisions of the Iranian health system, such as educational and research medical centers, were temporarily transferred to where they were needed most.

In addition, many retired or nonworking nurses and other healthcare specialists, as well as nonspecialist volunteers, rejoined the healthcare workforce.

Iran also leaned on innovation and technology on several fronts. Examples include the development of an online self-screening platform to control the massive influx of patients to medical centers; and the production of COVID-19 test kits for use in free government sites.

The nation also embraced a self-sufficient approach to curbing the spread of the virus such as manufacturing ventilators locally and producing PPE and COVID-19 vaccines domestically.

## Tribes in Iran

### Part 3

According to Estakhri, there were also thirty-three nomad tribes of Kurds (ahya' al-akrad) in Fars, who like the Arabs moved to different pastures in winter and summer, and that altogether they had 500,000 tents (Estakhri, pp. 114-15; Ebn Hawqal, pp. 270-71, tr., p. 267; Moqaddasi, p. 446).

A hundred years later, however, according to Ebn al-Balkhi (ca. 500/1107), the five Kurdish tribes of Fars no longer existed, all having been annihilated in wars against the Muslims (p. 168). It would appear that during this period they were largely replaced by Shabankara Kurdish tribes.

The latter also comprised five main groups, named Esma'ilian, Ramanian (cf. Ramiya in Estakhri's list, p. 114), Karzubian, Mas'udian, and Shakanian.

Outside of Fars, there are mentions of the presence of Kurds (the word being used in a broader sense than today and including Lor tribes) elsewhere in Iran and particularly in the western mountainous regions.

Ya'qubi (3rd/9th century) states in

his Boldan that there were Kurds at Saymara, Holvan, Kermanshah, and some of the villages of Isfahan (Boldan, pp. 269-70, 275). Mas'udi (Moruj III, pp. 253-54, ed. Pellat, II, sec. 1118) refers to Kurdish tribes called Shuhian (or Shahan) at Dinavar and Hamadan, and Majordan at Kankavar (Kangavar), and more tribes in the province of Jebal; Estakhri (pp. 87, 274) to Kurds in the vicinity of Takrit and Samarra and also in the deserts of Khorasan; Ebn Hawqal (pp. 215, 228, 336, 370, 443, 446, tr. Kramers, pp. 209, 223, 329, 362, 428-29, 432) to the Hadbaniya Kurds at Oshnoh (Oshnuya), to the Hamidiya, Lariya, Hadbaniya, and other Kurds at Shahrzur and Sohravard, to Kurds in the Andkhud (q.v.) district of Juzjan and the Qohestan district of Khorasan, and to Kurds in what is now Lorestan (most parts of which then belonged to Khuzestan but were later attached to districts of Jebal).

Yaqut (II, p. 575) mentions the Kurds of a small town named Dasht in the mountains between Erbil and Azerbaijan.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 15

New cases	368
New deaths	7
Total cases	7,228,051
Total deaths	141,224
New hospitalized patients	55
Patients in critical condition	737
Total recovered patients	7,020,835
Diagnostic tests conducted	51,771,715
Doses of vaccine injected	149,475,105



