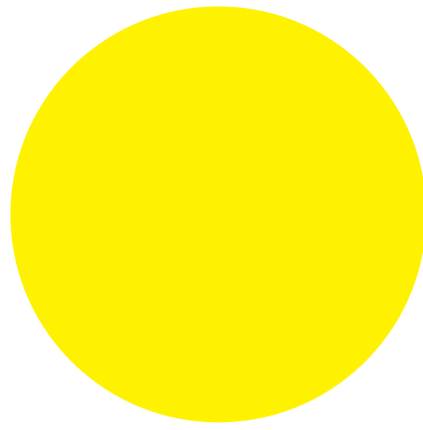




Iran achieves impressive blood donation rates despite challenges



Tehran Int'l Book Fair's significance not diminished by cyberspace: Official



Iran Daily

Iran, Iraq to extend gas deals for five years: Minister

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Fans of the Nation Alliance hold a rally in support of Kemal Kilicdaroglu, Turkey's opposition candidate, in the run-up to the Sunday presidential election, in Ankara on May 12, 2023. **PAYAM SANI/IRNA**

Turkey's fateful day

Iran can cooperate with both Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu

By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff Writer

EXCLUSIVE

Another page in the history of modern Turkey is being written. In one of its most pivotal elections, Turkish voters will either choose to see through the policies of Recep Tayyip Erdogan or part with him after he ruled the country for two decades. The competition has mainly been between the president himself, who heads the People's Alliance, and Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who heads the Nation Alliance, the country's six-party opposition coalition. Seeking to be re-elected for another term, Erdogan is backed by the People's Alliance, a political coalition between the

Justice and Development Party (AK Party), Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), BBP, Yeniden Refah Party, and HUDA PAR. Kilicdaroglu, the leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP), who now heads the six-party opposition coalition, is his main competitor. The opposition alliance led by the CHP includes the two splinter parties that broke off from the AKP — namely, the Future Party (GP) headed by former prime minister Ahmet Davutoglu and the Democracy and Progress Party (DEVA) headed by former minister of foreign affairs Ali Babacan. The Nation Alliance is also composed of the Turkish nationalist Good Party (İyiP), the Islamist Felicity Party (SP), and the center-right Democrat Party (DP).

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Iran calls for more economic interaction with Saudi Arabia

Economy Desk

Iran's economy minister suggested that the private sectors of Iran and Saudi Arabia should hold meetings in the coming months to consider commercial and investment opportunities as the fruits of the recent rapprochement between the two countries are bearing quicker than expected. Ehsan Khandouzi made the remarks in a meeting with his Saudi counterpart Mohammed al-Jadaan on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the Islamic Development Bank Group (ISDB) in the Saudi city of Jeddah. Khandouzi noted that no serious commercial ties be-

tween the private sectors of the two countries have been established so far. Referring to the economic relations between the public sectors, the Iranian minister also said that Tehran and Riyadh have not finalized any initial agreement in the fields of investment, customs, and trade so far. Therefore, he added, it is necessary to draft memorandums of understanding between the two sides in order to expand economic cooperation. Khandouzi also called for cooperation on the Hajj pilgrimage and the removal of obstacles in the way of trade relations, especially in the banking system and trans-

portation between the two countries. The Saudi minister also pointed out the problems and called for necessary measures to remove the obstacles facing the two countries. Referring to the various areas of cooperation between the two countries, the Saudi official underlined that their bilateral economic relations require a transparent mechanism for banking relations.

Tehran-Abu Dhabi ties

The Iranian minister also held a separate meeting with the UAE's Minister of State for Financial Affairs Mohamed bin Hadi Al Husaini in Jeddah.

Both sides agreed to take appropriate measures to conclude agreements on foreign investment and cut double taxation. The Emirati minister pointed to the positive impact of the resumption of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, especially on Tehran-Abu Dhabi trade relations. Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed on March 10 to resume their diplomatic relations and reopen their embassies and diplomatic missions after seven years of estrangement. The China-brokered agreement has had positive impacts on political and economic relations between the regional

countries. Khandouzi, for his part, said Iran is ready to cooperate in joint projects and investment in other countries. He also held a meeting with the Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank Group Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser. During the meeting, the minister pointed to the Iranian president's emphasis on strengthening joint cooperation with the bank and solving the problems facing the two sides on the path to cooperation. Khandouzi said that Iran, as one of the main shareholders of the bank, has taken the final steps to increase its share in order to support the institution.

Iran stands by Palestine both in 'words and action'

International Desk

Over the past two days, Iranian officials have expressed their steadfast commitment to the Palestinian youth, noting that Tehran, as always, will support them both in "words and action." Addressing a cultural ceremony in Iran's north-eastern city of Mashhad on Saturday, Brigadier General Esmaeil Qa'ani, commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), said that his unit will continue to provide support for the young Palestinian resistance forces and their

"strong heroic front" to the greatest extent possible, both in words and in practice. The commander stated that the support and concerted efforts will continue until the complete collapse of Israel. Paying tribute to the young Palestinian fighters for carrying out operations against the Israeli regime in the West Bank, which amounted to more than 30 operations a day at times, the Iranian commander said, "This is the outcome of the resistance front and the global Islamic mobilization."

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Navy overhauled Iranian fleet during circumnavigation



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Russia acknowledges retreat north of Bakhmut, Wagner boss calls it a 'rout'



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Qazvin's traditional gardens in danger of extinction



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Iranian men crowned at Asian Weightlifting Championships

Sports Desk

A total of eight medals — including double golds — saw Iran's men's team claim the top spot at the Asian Weightlifting Championships in Jinju, South Korea. Iran stood atop the table with 635 points, four points clear of second-placed Uzbekistan, with China in the third spot. On Saturday, Ayat Sharifi and Alireza Yousefi walked away with a couple of silver medals in the +109kg contest to help Iran win the first men's title

since 2017. Sharifi tallied 197kg for the snatch silver, while Yousefi stood on the second podium of the clean & jerk event with a best lift of 246kg. Armenian-born Bahraini weightlifter Gor Minasyan, a silver medalist at the 2016 Rio Olympics, dominated the super-heavyweight contests with a clean sweep of three golds — breaking the Asian snatch and total records in doing so. The pinnacle of Iran's campaign came in the 81kg weight

class, where Hossein Soltani bagged the C&J and total golds as well as the snatch silver. Meanwhile, Mir-Mostafa Javadi left the tournament with two bronzes (C&J and total) in the 89kg competitions. In the women's event, Fatemeh Keshavarz grabbed the C&J and total bronzes of the 64kg class to become only the second Iranian female weightlifter to win a medal in the Asian Championships — following Elham Hosseini, who collected three golds last year in Manama, Bahrain.



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