

## Iran: US accusations aimed at justifying Persian Gulf presence

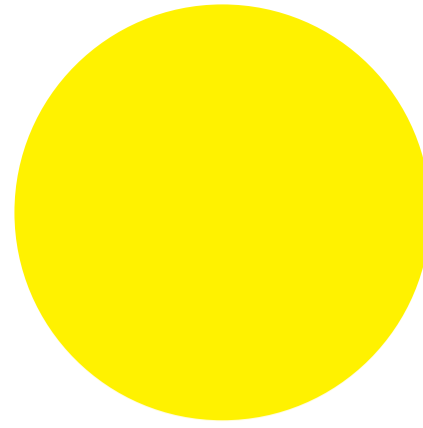


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## AI taking over the world: Should we be afraid?

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# Iran Daily

# Iran, EAEU to sign free trade zone deal by yearend

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The photograph shows a general view of the seventh day of the 34th Tehran International Book Fair, observed on May 16, 2023.

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# Iran received only 4% of water share from Hirmand River last year

## Major decisions to be held next week

### International Desk

Iran's special envoy on Afghanistan affairs said that last year, only 27 million cubic meters of Hirmand (River) water entered Iran, out of the 820 million cubic meters the country is entitled to. Hassan Kazemi Qomi expressed hope that the long-running dispute between the two neighbors over Iran's water rights from the Hirmand River (known as Helmand River in Afghanistan) will be settled this year, Press TV reported.

Speaking during a TV program on Monday, he urged the ruling government in Afghanistan to implement the 1973 Helmand River Treaty. "The Islamic Republic government departments, specifically the Foreign Ministry, are following up on the people's rights. I hope that this year, the issue will be resolved." The longest watercourse in Afghanistan, Helmand River rises in the Hindu Kush Mountains west of Kabul and flows in an arc southwest until it empties out

into the Hamoun wetlands, located in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province. Afghanistan has largely cut off Helmand's flow into Iran, endangering the lives of many Iranians who rely on the Hamoun wetlands for drinking water, agriculture, and fishing.

**Major decisions ahead** Iran's energy minister said the country is to make some important decisions with regard to securing its water rights from the Helmand River in Afghanistan. Ali Akbar Mehrabian said

that the decisions will be finalized at a Monday meeting where key government departments responsible for water rights issues will be represented, Mehr news agency wrote. "Some important decisions will be made in the meeting on how to solve the water problem in the east of the country," said Mehrabian. His statement came hours after Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi ordered the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Energy in Iran to pursue the case of water rights from Helmand, given

the significance of the issue for people living in the eastern part of the country. Authorities warned in January that Afghan refugees will be expelled from the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan if the region does not receive the water supply it is entitled to under the agreement. Reports have suggested that people in Sistan and Baluchestan may face acute water shortages in the upcoming months in the absence of water supply from Afghanistan.

## Trump cards of Erdogan, Kilicdaroglu for Turkish run-off



By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

The Turkish presidential elections, held on May 14, has progressed into a run-off, thereby unveiling a consequential juncture. In two weeks, voters will exercise their democratic right to place either Recep Tayyip Erdogan or Kemal Kilicdaroglu in the presidential palace. Given the gravity of the situation, Iran Daily has conducted an exclusive interview with Siamak

Kakaei, an expert specializing in Turkey's political landscape.

**IRAN DAILY:** The Turkish elections have received wide media coverage in the region and the world. Why did it get so much attention? **SIAMAK KAKAEI:** The presidential and parliamentary elections in Turkey hold immense significance for the nation and the wider region, as Turkey assumes an assertive role in regional affairs. [Page 3 >](#)

## Assyrian Church leader hails Iran's anti-Daesh fight



president.ir

The Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, Mar Awa III, has commended Iran's battle against the Daesh terrorist group to protect humanity and faith in Iraq and Syria. In a Monday meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi in Tehran, the Assyrian patriarch also hailed Iran's commitment to interfaith dialogue and respect for monotheistic religions. The presence of representatives of various religions in the structure of the Islamic establishment shows the Islamic Republic's high respect for monotheistic religions, he said, expressing hope that such affinity would be further improved. The Iranian president, for his part, said oppression

and cruelty against humanity in various parts of the world are emanating from the lack of morality and faith. Raeisi added that faith and morality are the key needs of the human society, which could solve many problems if applied correctly. The Iranian president pointed out that the Takfiri terrorists falsely claimed to be advocating religious values, while committing crimes in the region. The Catholicos-Patriarch of the East also held a separate meeting with Secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi. [Page 2 >](#)



## Cyclone Mocha death toll rises to 60 in Myanmar

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## Lorestan, land of antique bronzes

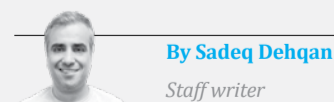
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## Iran eyeing Olympic success after Sabre World Cup bronze

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## TIBF, one of the largest book fairs in the world Facsimile of rare Masnavi unveiled in Tehran



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

### EXCLUSIVE

The director of the Organization of Libraries and Publications of Turkey commended the Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) as one of the most prominent events of its kind worldwide. He highlighted that the 34th edition featured larger pavilions and offered a broader array of

services to visitors. In an interview with Iran Daily, Nizar Kara revealed the unveiling of a printed version of a rare Masnavi manuscript, originally preserved at the Konya Museum in Turkey. This notable manuscript, based on the Persian version of the book, was printed in 1,000 copies for the first time, with two copies displayed at the current exhibition. [Page 8 >](#)

## Iran to enhance transport cooperation with UAE, Qatar

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash met with senior officials of the Persian Gulf countries during his visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), discussing closer ties and cooperation in the fields of transport and transit. The minister also voiced the country's readiness for cooperating with shipping, logistics, and forwarding companies in the United Arab Emirates, according to Tasnim news agency. Bazrpash, who also chairs the Iran-UAE Joint Chamber of Commerce, made the comment in Abu Dhabi on

Monday. He traveled to the United Arab Emirates to take part in the 17th International Middle East Rail Summit at the official invitation of the UAE's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei. The Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys high technical know-how and experiences in designing and constructing rail and transportation projects, he said, highlighting the country's export of technical and engineering services and participation of Iranian companies in constructing rail projects in regional countries. [Page 6 >](#)