



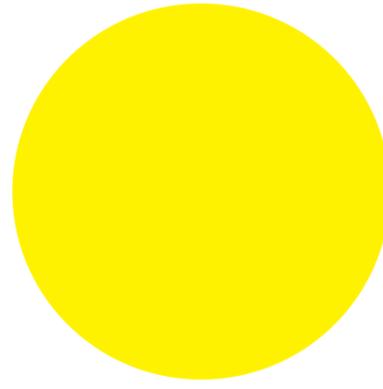
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# Iran Daily



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## A magnificent day in Iran



By Mehdi Fazaeli  
A member of the office for the preservation of Iranian Leader's works

### OPINION

It was a magnificent day, Sunday, February 11, the celebration of the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran across the country. It has always been emphasized that one of the most important aspects of the Islamic Revolution, both before and after the victory, was its popularity. Iran's Revolution has always been sustained by the participation of the people and, therefore, the stability and longevity of the Islamic Republic has always relied on the continual presence of the people in various arenas.

The significant turnout at the 45th anniversary event this year reflects the involvement of multiple generations in the rallies, showing their backing for the revolution and the Islamic Republic.

However, this does not mean that there are no shortcomings and criticisms. The public does not attribute the flaws and criticisms to the system and the Islamic Revolution. On the contrary, when we witness a series of sabotage and psychological and cognitive propaganda against the Islamic Republic, we understand that the primary aim of these campaigns is to demoralize people and depict the situation in Iran as grim.

Nevertheless, the presence of diverse generations, social classes, and preferences at the rally conveyed important messages to the world. The widespread participation in the event itself was the most significant message to the opponents of the Islamic Republic. On Sunday, despite some shortcomings and problems, the Iranian people emphasized their unwavering commitment to the Islamic Revolution.

Also, this year's rally was significant as it took place on the eve of two important elections: the 12th parliamentary elections, and elections for the Assembly of Experts. The strong presence in the rally indicates widespread participation in these elections.

During the Gaza war in the past months, with Israel's atrocities against the innocent people of Palestine continuing, the enemies of the Islamic Republic have threatened Iran.

Some opposition groups abroad have aligned themselves with these empty threats, claiming to represent the Iranian people against the Islamic Republic. However, the people demonstrated their support for the Islamic Republic on the streets of Iran yesterday, ridiculing all those threats and baseless claims. The widespread participation in the rally showed that all the threats and psychological operations against the country had no effect on the morale of the people. As long as the Islamic Republic has this popular support, it is invulnerable to any threats. Therefore, the streets of Iran were truly spectacular and meaningful yesterday.

# Iran Most Independent Country in World: Raisi

## Millions mark 45th anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi described Iran as the most independent country in the world, which makes its own decisions, and acts on its own.

He made the remarks in an address to a massive rally held in Tehran to mark the 45th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Millions of Iranians took to the streets across the country to celebrate the anniversary of the revolution. The rallies took place simultaneously in 1,400 cities and over 35,000 villages all over Iran.

During his speech, Raisi said that Iran is a country that is neither dependent on the East nor on the West, makes its own decisions, and acts on its own.

The Iranian president also called the Islamic Revolution's discourse as the superior discourse which carries a message of liberation and independence for nations

and a message of resistance and resilience against enemies.

President Raisi said that through the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian nation replaced humiliation with dignity and transmitted the message of independence.

Referring to Iran's achievements after the 1979 revolution, he said that Iran has been able to achieve self-sufficiency in many areas, something that benefits the country and the entire region.

"Iran made achievements in different sectors in light of self-belief and believing in the people and God," the president said.

"Thanks to the Islamic Revolution and the efforts of the young people of our country, today we are among the frontrunners in the medical, biotechnology and nanotechnology fields."

Raisi added that Iran ranks first in science production in the region and 15th in the world.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Crude refining capacity up 13%: Minister



Iran's daily oil refining capacity has increased from 2.1 million barrels in August 2021 to 2.37 million barrels, said Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji, adding that the figure indicates a 13 percent rise. In the previous government, there was no attention to the construction of refineries, he criticized, noting that the country will receive higher added value with the development of refineries and the production of more petroleum products, which also helps to bypass sanctions, IRNA reported.

In 2020, Iran's total oil and gas revenues hit \$7 billion, the minister said, adding that during the first 10 months of the current Iranian year, \$30 billion worth of oil, natural gas and gas condensates were sold.

## Iran is world's third-largest producer of fresh dates: Official

Iran is the third-largest producer of the fresh dates in the world, announced the chairman of the Iranian National Date Association. Mohsen Rashid Farrokhi said Iran exported \$270 million worth of fresh dates to foreign countries in the first 10 months of the current Iranian year (started March 21, 2023). Speaking to IRNA, he said that the largest number of species of dates in the world belongs to Iran.

Dates are mainly produced in the provinces of Khuzestan, Hormuzgan, Kerman, Bushehr, Fars and Sistan and Baluchestan, he noted.

Egypt is the first producer of dates in the world, producing 1.8 million tons per year, followed by Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Iran stands in the first rank in the world in terms of the variety of species of dates, Farrokhi noted.

Iran can export about 30 percent of its dates (350,000 tons), to the target countries, he added.

The country exports its dates to the Central Asian countries, Europe, and Russia, the official highlighted.

With the adoption of accurate export policies, Iran can export between \$600 million and \$700 million worth of the product overseas within the next one or two years, Farrokhi added.

## Non-oil trade with neighbors reaches \$50b in 10 months

The value of trade in non-oil goods between Iran and 15 neighboring states during the first 10 months of the current Iranian year (started on March 21, 2023) has reached \$50 billion, announced an official.

The value of trade exchanges between Iran and 15 neighboring states registered a 1.8 percent growth from March 21, 2023 to January 22, 2024, Rouhollah Latifi, said the spokesman for the trade promotion commission of Iran's House of Industry, Mine

and Trade, according to IRNA. He noted that more than 79 million tons of goods, valued at over \$49 billion, were exchanged between Iran and 15 neighboring states in the 10-month period.

In this timespan, Iran exported more than 60 million tons of goods, valued at over \$23 billion, to the neighboring states, Latifi added.

In return, Iran has imported more than 19 million tons of products, valued at over \$26 billion, between March 21, 2023 and January 22, 2024, showing a 53.4 and

57.2 percent growth in weight and value, respectively, compared to the same period last year.

Five countries, namely Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan were Iran's top five export target markets among neighboring states, he said.

Latifi stated that Iran has imported \$17 billion, \$6 billion, \$1.5 billion, \$778 million, and \$527 million worth of products from the UAE, Turkey, Russia, Oman and Pakistan, respectively.



## NIOC: Contracts worth \$14b to be signed, SP pressure-boosting project to start by end of winter



The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) managing director announced \$14 billion worth of contracts for developing oil and gas fields will be signed and a project for boosting pressure in the South Pars (SP) gas field will start by the end of this winter. Mohsen Khojastehmehr added several private-sector contractors will help carry out the pressure-boosting project in the joint South Pars field, Shana reported.

According to the official, production from the South Pars field, which accounts for 70

percent of Iran's gas output, has exceeded 700 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d).

"We are active in exploration, development, production, transmission, and export operations in almost all provinces of the country," continued the CEO of NIOC.

He underlined that a Maximum Efficient Rate (MER) strategy for the oil and gas industry is paid due attention in an effort to sustain production in the future. NIOC is currently producing one billion cubic meters per day (bcm/d), mainly used by

the household and commercial sectors and the rest by power plants and industries, Khojastehmehr said.

Since the incumbent administration took office in August 2021, the company has made every effort to increase production, pointed out the deputy oil minister, adding that the country's oil output has increased 60 percent under the incumbent administration, tripling crude oil and gas condensate exports when compared to the figures in the previous government.

He said the exploration operations have helped discover seven oil and gas reservoirs and add 2.5 billion barrels of crude oil equivalent to the country's reserves.

Khojastehmehr also pointed to a \$21 billion investment for completing partly-finished projects and implementing new oil projects.

He described the exploitation of SP Phase 11 as a great achievement, referring to the inauguration of Phase 14 as another success of the domestic industry.

## Iran proposes to double tea imports from Sri Lanka

Iranian tea importers have proposed to double the quantity of tea they take from Sri Lanka under the tea-for-oil barter mechanism, from its current \$5 million to around \$10 million during the winter months, local media reported on Sunday, quoting Niraj de Mel, chairman of the Sri Lanka Tea Board (SLTB).

He said that Iran's winter season runs from December to March and there is always high demand for tea at that time, Xinhua reported.

He added that the Iranian New Year, celebrated in the third week of March, and Ramadan will also lead to a high demand for tea.

The chairman said that since the start of the tea-for-oil barter mechanism in August 2023, Iran has bought \$25 million worth of tea from Sri Lanka, as Sri Lanka intends to pay off \$240 million in 48 months.

He said the barter mechanism has been a great success and represents a significant development for Sri Lanka amid its current foreign exchange liquidity crisis.

Tea exports to Iran amounted to about \$125 million per year before falling to around \$70 million in 2022, the official said, adding that the internal demand for tea in Iran is about 100,000 tons per year.



## Tehran, Moscow sign long-term grain supply agreement



Iran and Russia have signed a long-term agreement for supply of grains from Russia to Iran.

The agreement was signed on Saturday on the sidelines of a meeting between Iranian and Russian deputy agriculture ministers in Moscow, IRNA reported. The deal allows Russia's Sberbank and VTB Bank to open letters of credit for supply of grains to Iran in the coming years.

The two banks became officially involved in grain supply arrangements between Iran and Russia in early 2023, when Iranian Central Bank authorities and Russian counterparts agreed on opening a line of credit worth 6.5 billion rubles (\$71.4 million).

The Agriculture Ministry delegations of Iran and Russia also signed an agreement on Saturday to facilitate the exports of fisheries and dairy products from Iran to Russia. The agreement was signed between Iranian and Russian veterinary chiefs Mojtaba Norouzi and Sergei Dankvert.

**Tender Notice No. Z/1402/19 Deadline Extension**

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces the extension deadline of Tenders No.Z/1402/19, "selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas Iran" till Monday, 26.Feb.2024 at 2:00 P.M.

All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 26.Feb.2024 at 2:00 P.M to the Transactions Commission department of Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in Shiraz road).

Bidders are invited to the Transactions Commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced on Tuesday ,27. Feb.2024 at 10:00 A.M. at the office of the Seller. Meanwhile interested bidders can find tender notice & documents on Golgohar website: [www.geg.ir](http://www.geg.ir).

Transactions Commission Dep. Of Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.

**GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.**

**Tender Notice No. Z/1402/20 Deadline Extension**

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces the extension deadline of Tenders No.Z/1402/20, "selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Shahid Rajaei Bandar Abbas Iran" till Monday, 26.Feb.2024 at 2:00 P.M.

All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 26.Feb.2024 at 2:00 P.M to the Transactions Commission department of Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in Shiraz road).

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Transactions Commission Dep. Of Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.

**GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.**

# Dezak Castle, a symbol of Bakhtiari heritage and grandeur



IRNA



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## Iranica Desk

Dezak Castle is situated in the southeast of Dezak village, serving as a prominent tourist attraction in Shahr-e Kord, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province. Revered as one of the oldest and most captivating historical castles in the region, it stands as a testament to the area's rich heritage. The province boasts several castles, each holding significant historical value. During the Constitutional Revolution and the conquest of Tehran, Dezak Castle played a pivotal role as one of the foremost strongholds of the Bakhtiari people.

This castle, mansion, and residential home have been passed down through generations of the Bakhtiari Ilkhans. Covering an area of 20,576 square meters, the castle was constructed by Amir Mofakham, an Iranian military and statesman of the Qajar period. Initially, the castle comprised a skeletal struc-

ture and a ground floor, later expanding to include a mansion, second floor, private quarters, and ornate elements.

Originally designed as a military fortress, this historical edifice, featuring two floors, evolved into a palace-like structure due to its intricate decorations and interior design. The first floor boasts an octagonal entrance at its center, leading to expansive courtyards on both sides. Four *ivans* (porticos) grace the northern and southern sides of the octagon. Notably, the entrance and northern *ivans* of the first-floor exhibit columns adorned with reed-shaped patterns, erected on wooden beams.

The *Sofreh-Khaneh* Hall is one of the important sections of the castle. It is adorned with beautiful gypsum decorations and features a fifty-square-meter carpet, which is said to be around ninety years old, and is one of the most valuable and exquisite Bakhtiari carpets in terms of texture and pattern. The upper

margins of the hall walls and around the main doors and entrance are adorned with plasterwork. Mythical paintings of angels, lions and hunting are seen in this hall.

The building's ceiling is made of wood and the domed doors are installed in a nested manner for each entrance, all made of twisted wire on walnut wood. The building is also noteworthy in terms of stonemasonry. The stone carvings are mostly placed on the walls of the water basin, fountains, columns, and also under the columns, all of which are said to have been done under the supervision of a famous stone carver.

## Mirror room

Next to the *sofreh-khaneh* there is a room known as the mirror room, referred to in Persian as *talar-e ayeneh*.

The mirror room is actually one of the eight surviving original rooms of this type in the region. This hall is one of the

exceptional and special sections of the castle. The ceiling and walls of the hall are adorned with magnificent mirrors. This room is built in a European style and bears resemblance to the mirrors of European palaces.

The mirror room features three-dimensional glass paintings. The paintings generally depict images of horseback riding, palaces, and royal buildings with European designs, floral and bird motifs, and their exteriors. In the mirror room, some framed photos of Bakhtiari nobles are installed. It is said that the mirror works of the building have been carried out by prominent Isfahani masters. Four mirror frames are designed on the east and west walls of *sofreh-khaneh*, which apparently have been added to the hall in later periods.

Two of the four towers of this structure are still standing. The foundations and main walls of the building have been meticulously designed to minimize

heat exchange, entirely covered with brick on the outer facade and embedded with mud bricks. The exterior facade has been whitewashed with a layer of gypsum.

This building features four conical towers with no military use, with two towers in the southern section intact and two towers in the northern section partially ruined. It was primarily constructed to exude grandeur and splendor and was used for storage and as a prison.

The external brick cover of the fortress is adorned with brick-working art, combined with glossy geometric tile work, creating beautiful patterns. The combination of brick and tile with various designs on the inscriptions is used.

In this way, two large and symmetrical inscriptions at the corner of the staircase inside the courtyard hold significant artistic value.

## Persian influence on Viennese collections in 19th century

During the 19th century the collection of objects from the Islamic world in Vienna increased and expanded due to various different factors. During the second half of the century travel became much cheaper and easier thanks to the development of new technologies like steamboats and trains.

At the same time, the art market became more international. The animosity between the Habsburgs and the Ottomans, that had dominated politics during the 16th, 17th and early 18th centuries, ceased after the last war in the late 1780s — a circumstance that eased trade. Relations were so good that the Ottoman Empire was even represented by Austria during the Congress of Vienna in 1814-8.

Due to the geographic proximity of the Ottoman and Habsburg dominions, the largest quantity of objects from the Islamic world in Vienna, including, among other things, weapons and carpets, originated in the Ottoman Empire. Persia being farther away than the Ottoman Empire contributed fewer items to Viennese collections but most of the Persian goods in Vienna are of high artistic quality.

With the increasing number of institutions and collectors in the 19th century, many more objects than before could be acquired and integrated into the extant collections. Expeditions were outfitted and brought back both valuable knowledge and objects. Interests in foreign regions developed further and became

more scholarly at the same time. Especially during the so-called Viennese *Gründerzeit*, marked by a considerable economic boom, the fashion for collecting gained momentum.

Aristocratic, bourgeois and scientific collecting existed alongside imperial collecting on a much smaller scale for centuries but these collectors focused on more particular types of goods; a natural scientist, for instance, would likely collect naturalia, such as plants. The contents of these smaller collections were more ephemeral for they were more often victims of dispersion than the large princely collections. Many objects from the Persian world now present in Vienna's museums were part of these early private collections. By the 19th century some of them were integrated into the imperial collections. Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall (1774-1856), for instance, the famous Orientalist and historian who was also the first president of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, collected Arabic, Ottoman and Persian manuscripts that were integrated into the *Hofbibliothek*, today's National Library.

Following the rise of museums as public institutions in Vienna during the second half of the 19th century, private collectors were able to donate or sell their collections to these institutions and thus save them for posterity under their own name. For example, Kanonikus Franz Bock's (1823-1899) textile collection that included a considerable

number of mediaeval Persian textiles was sold to the Museum of Art and Industry.

Bock collected his vast textile collections largely by obtaining samples from church treasuries. Many museums had correspondents—often imperial diplomats, stationed all over the world—who provided information and occasionally also objects for the collections. The director of the Orientmuseum, Arthur von Scala (1845-1909), travelled to Istanbul and beyond for museum acquisitions.

The Museum of Ethnography and particularly the Museum für Kunst und Industrie house objects that were collected within the respective regions by gentlemen travellers, traders, amateur researchers, professionals, and also by museum curators.

Collecting objects from the Islamic world continued under imperial patronage as well. The emperor sought to create great museums and some archdukes were important patrons and protectors of museums. Archduke Rainer (1783-1853) presented the famous Egyptian papyrus collection to Emperor Franz Joseph I (ruled 1848-1916), who in turn donated it to the *Hofbibliothek*.

The same archduke was a major patron of the Museum für Kunst und Industrie and yet another archduke, Carl Ludwig (1833-1896), was the benefactor of the Orientmuseum (founded 1875). Both Crown Princes Rudolf (1858-

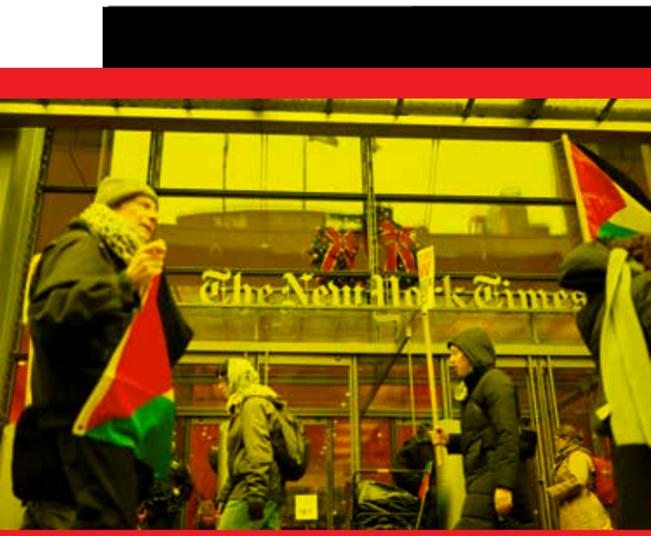


Museum für Kunst und Industrie

1889) and Franz Ferdinand (1863-1914) published reports on their respective trips to the Islamic world and beyond, the latter returning in 1894 with a considerable collection of naturalia and artificialia that were exhibited in the *Belvedere* and later largely integrated into the *Naturhistorische Museum*. With the objects he brought back, Crown Prince Rudolf created a private "oriental" room, consisting primarily of Ottoman objects—the remains of which are today exhibited in the *Hofmobiliendepot* (Furniture Museum). Important imperial and aristocratic donations augmented the re-

spective collections of the Museum für Kunst und Industrie (Museum of Art and Industry) and the *Orientalische Museum* (Oriental Museum)

In addition to that, the older objects continued to be recycled and used in the imperial household. According to Alois Riegl (1858-1905), partly worn-out kilims were used as saddlecloths and the valuable classical knotted carpets, today part of the Museum für Angewandte Kunst (Museum of Applied Arts), were housed in special storerooms in *Schönbrunn* castle, indicating that they were still held in high esteem.



# Gaza war coverage in major newspapers heavily favors Israel

By Adam Johnson & Othman Ali  
Researchers

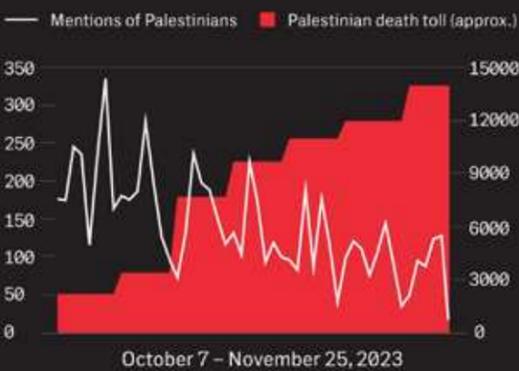
## ANALYSIS

The New York Times, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times's coverage of Israel's war on Gaza showed a consistent bias against Palestinians, according to an Intercept analysis of major media coverage. The print media outlets, which play an influential role in shaping US views of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, paid little attention to the unprecedented impact of Israel's siege and bombing campaign on both children and journalists in the Gaza Strip. Major US newspapers disproportionately emphasized Israeli deaths in the conflict; used emotive language to describe the killings of Israelis, but not Palestinians; and offered lopsided coverage of antisemitic acts in the US, while largely ignoring anti-Muslim racism in the wake of October 7. Pro-Palestinian activists have accused major publications of pro-Israel bias, with the New York Times seeing protests at its headquarters in Manhattan for its coverage of Gaza -- an accusation supported by our analysis.

The New York Times, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times's coverage of Israel's war on Gaza showed a consistent bias against Palestinians, according to an Intercept analysis of major media coverage.

### Disproportionate Coverage

Mentions of Palestinians declined as the death toll mounted.



### 'Slaughter' of Israelis, Not Palestinians

The terms "slaughter," "massacre," and "horrific" were disproportionately used to describe Israeli deaths.

	LAT	NYT	WAPO	TOTAL
Use of the word 'slaughter' in relation to Israelis and Palestinians killed	22 / 0	22 / 1	16 / 0	60 / 1
Use of the word 'horrific' in relation to Israelis and Palestinians killed	9 / 1	11 / 1	18 / 2	38 / 4
Use of the word 'massacre' in relation to Israelis and Palestinians killed	34 / 1	53 / 1	33 / 2	120 / 4

THE INTERCEPT

The open-source analysis focuses on the first six weeks of the conflict, from the October 7 Hamas-led attacks that killed 1,139 Israelis and foreign workers to November 24, the beginning of the weeklong "humanitarian truce" agreed to by both parties to facilitate hostage exchanges. During this period, 14,800 Palestinians, including more than 6,000 children, were killed by Israel's bombardment of Gaza. Today, the Palestinian death toll is over 27,000. The Intercept collected more than 1,000 articles from the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times about Israel's war on Gaza and tallied up the usages of certain key terms and the context in which they were used. The tallies reveal a gross imbalance in the

way Israelis and pro-Israel figures are covered versus Palestinians and pro-Palestinian voices — with usages that favor Israeli narratives over Palestinian ones. This anti-Palestinian bias in print media tracks with a similar survey of US cable news that the authors conducted two months ago for The Column that found an even wider disparity. The stakes for this routine devaluing of Palestinian lives couldn't be higher: As the death toll in Gaza mounts, entire cities are leveled and rendered uninhabitable for years, and whole family lines are wiped out, the US government has enormous influence as Israel's primary patron and weapons supplier. The media's presentation of the conflict means there are fewer

political downsides to lockstep support for Israel. Coverage from the first six weeks of the war paints a bleak picture of the Palestinian side, according to the analysis, one that stands to make humanizing Palestinians — and therefore arousing US sympathies — more difficult. To obtain this data, we searched for all articles that contained relevant words (such as "Palestinian," "Gaza," "Israeli," etc.) on all three news websites. We then parsed through every sentence in each article and tallied the count of certain terms. For this analysis, we omitted all editorial pieces and letters to the editor. Our survey of the coverage of the Gaza war in these three media outlets has four key findings.

### Lopsided coverage of deaths

In the New York Times, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times, the words "Israeli" or "Israel" appear more than "Palestinian" or vari-

ations thereof, even as Palestinian deaths far outpaced Israeli deaths. For every two Palestinian deaths, Palestinians are mentioned once.

For every Israeli death, Israelis are mentioned eight times — or a rate 16 times more per death than that of Palestinians.

### 'Slaughter' of Israelis, not Palestinians

Highly emotive terms for the killing of civilians like "slaughter," "massacre," and "horrific" were reserved almost exclusively for Israelis who were killed by Palestinians, rather than the other way around. (When the terms appeared in quotes rather than the editorial voice of the publication, they were omitted from the analysis.) The term "slaughter" was used by editors and reporters to describe the killing of Israelis versus Palestinians 60 to 1, and "massacre" was used to describe the killing of Israelis versus Palestinians 120 to 2. "Horrific" was used to describe the killing of Israelis versus Palestinians, 38 to 4. One typical headline from the New York Times, in a mid-November story about the October 7 attack, reads, "They Ran Into a Bomb Shelter for Safety. Instead, They Were Slaughtered." Compare this with the Times's most sympathetic profile of Palestinian deaths in Gaza from November 18: "The War Turns Gaza Into a 'Graveyard' for Children." Here "graveyard" is a quote from the United Na-

tions and the killing itself is in passive voice. In its own editorial voice, the Times story on deaths in Gaza uses no emotive terms comparable to the ones in its story about the October 7 attack. The Washington Post employed "massacre" several times in its reporting to describe October 7. "President Biden faces growing pressure from lawmakers in both parties to punish Iran after Hamas's massacre," one report from the Post says. A November 13 story from the paper about how Israel's siege and bombing had killed 1 in 200 Palestinians does not use the word "massacre" or "slaughter" once. The Palestinian dead have simply been "killed" or "died" — often in the passive voice.

Pro-Palestinian protesters holding banners and Palestinian flags gather outside the New York Times building to protest the newspaper's coverage of the Gaza war on November 9, 2023, in New York City, the US. ● FATI H AKTAS / ANADOLU



## Children and journalists

Only two headlines out of over 1,100 news articles in the study mention the word “children” related to Gazan children. In a notable exception, the New York Times ran a late-November front-page story on the historic pace of killings of Palestinian women and children, though the headline featured neither group.

Despite Israel’s war on Gaza being perhaps the deadliest war for children — almost entirely Palestinian — in modern history, there is scant mention of the word “children” and related terms in the headlines of articles surveyed by The Intercept.

Meanwhile, more than 6,000 children were reported killed by authorities in Gaza at the time of the truce, with the number topping 10,000 today.

While the war on Gaza has been one of the deadliest in modern history for journalists — overwhelmingly Palestinians — the word “journalists” and its iterations such as “reporters” and “photojournalists” only appear in nine headlines out of over 1,100 articles studied. Roughly 48 Palestinian reporters had been killed by Israeli bombardment at the time of the truce; today, the death toll for Palestinian journalists has topped 100. Only 4 of the 9 articles that contained the words

journalist/reporter were about Arab reporters.

The lack of coverage for the unprecedented killing of children and journalists, groups that typically elicit sympathy from Western media, is conspicuous. By way of comparison, more Palestinian children died in the first week of the Gaza bombing than during the first year of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, yet the New York Times, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times ran multiple personal, sympathetic stories highlighting the plight of children during the first six weeks of the Ukraine war.

The aforementioned front-page New York Times report and a Washington Post column are rare exceptions to the dearth of coverage about Palestinian children.

As with children, the New York Times, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times focused on the risks to journalists in the Ukraine war, running several articles detailing the hazards of reporting on the war in the first six weeks after Russia’s invasion. Six journalists were killed in the early days of the Ukraine war, compared to 48 killed in the first six weeks of Israel’s Gaza bombardment.

Asymmetry in how children are covered is qualitative as well as quantitative. On Octo-

ber 13, the Los Angeles Times ran an Associated Press report that said, “The Gaza Health Ministry said Friday that 1,799 people have been killed in the territory, including more than 580 under the age of 18 and 351 women. Hamas’s assault last Saturday killed more than 1,300 people in Israel, including women, children, and young music festivalgoers.” Notice that young Israelis are referred to as children, while young Palestinians are described as people under 18.

During discussions about the prisoner exchanges, this frequent refusal to refer to Palestinians as children was even more stark, with the New York Times referring in one case to “Israeli women and children” being exchanged for “Palestinian women and minors.” (Palestinian children are referred to as “children” later in the report when summarizing a human rights group’s findings.)

A Washington Post report from November 21 announcing the truce deal erased Palestinian women and children altogether: “President Biden said in a statement Tuesday night that a deal to release 50 women and children held hostage by Hamas in Gaza, in exchange for 150 Palestinian prisoners detained by Israel.” The brief did not mention Palestinian women and children at all.

## Coverage of hate in US

Similarly, when it comes to how the Gaza conflict translates to hate in the US, the major papers paid more attention to antisemitic attacks than to ones against Muslims. Overall, there was a disproportionate focus on racism toward Jewish people, versus racism targeting Muslims, Arabs, or those perceived

as such. During the period of The Intercept’s study, The New York Times, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times mentioned antisemitism more than Islamophobia (549 versus 79) — and this was before the “campus antisemitism” meta-controversy that was contrived by Republicans in Congress begin-

ning the week of December 5.

Despite many high-profile instances of both antisemitism and anti-Muslim racism during the survey period, 87 percent of mentions of discrimination were about antisemitism, versus 13 percent of mentions about Islamophobia, inclusive of related terms.

## When major newspapers fail

Overall, Israel’s killings in Gaza are not given proportionate coverage in either scope or emotional weight as the deaths of Israelis on October 7. These killings are mostly presented as arbitrarily high, abstract figures. Nor are the killings described using emotive language like “massacre,” “slaughter,” or “horrific.” Hamas’s killings of Israeli civilians are consistently portrayed as part of the group’s strategy, whereas Palestinian civilian killings are covered almost as if they were a series of one-off mistakes, made thousands of times, despite numerous points of evidence indicating Israel’s intent to harm civilians and civilian infrastructure.

The result is that the three major papers rarely gave Palestinians humanizing coverage. Despite this asymmetry, polls show shifting sympathy toward Palestinians and away from Israel among Democrats, with

massive generational splits driven, in part, by a stark difference in news sources. By and large, young people are being informed of the conflict from TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter, and older Americans are getting their news from print media and cable news.

Biased coverage in major newspapers and mainstream television news is impacting general perceptions of the war and directing viewers toward a warped view of the conflict. This has led to pro-Israel pundits and politicians blaming pro-Palestinian views on social media “misinformation”.

Analysis of both print media and cable news, however, makes it clear that, if any cohort of media consumers is getting a slanted picture, it’s those who get their news from established mass media in the US.

*The article first appeared on The Intercept.*



The term “slaughter” was used by editors and reporters to describe the killing of Israelis versus Palestinians 60 to 1, and “massacre” was used to describe the killing of Israelis versus Palestinians 120 to 2.



## CNN has ‘systemic, institutional’ pro-Israel bias: *Staffers*



By Shannon Thaler  
Reporter

### PERSPECTIVE

CNN is facing backlash from some of its own staffers who allege there is “a systemic and institutional bias within the network toward Israel,” according to a report. CNN’s daily news coverage of the Israel-Hamas war is guided by a strict set of directives that include restrictions on quoting Hamas and other Palestinian perspectives, according to UK news outlet The Guardian.

Meanwhile, staffers gripe that statements from the Israeli cabinet are taken at face value, according to the outlet, which cited accounts from six CNN newsrooms in the US and abroad, as well as internal memos and emails.

“We fundamentally reject the notion that our coverage of the aftermath of the October 7 attacks has been anything other than fair,” a CNN spokesperson said in a statement to The Post. “We have vigorously pursued voices from Gaza and the Palestinian perspective, in addition to Israeli voices, throughout the last four months, including from Hamas.”

However, CNN sources told The Guardian that the network hasn’t conducted any interviews with Hamas since October, adding that the network does not have a ban on such interviews.

“It is not journalism to say we won’t talk to someone because we don’t like what they do. CNN has talked to plenty of terrorists and America’s enemies over the years. We’ve interviewed Muammar Gaddafi. We’ve even interviewed Osama bin Laden,” one CNN staffer said.

In another example of the reported guardrails, CNN’s so-called Jerusalem bureau reviews every story the network broadcasts on live television and reports on its website on the Israel-Gaza war.

CNN’s Jerusalem bureau is subject to the same rules followed by the Israel Defense Forces’ Military Censor unit, The Intercept reported.

This IDF unit’s rules — which dictate subjects that are off-limits for news organizations and include information about captives and weapons captured by fighters in Gaza — have long guided CNN’s coverage under a long-standing policy at the Warner Bros. Discovery-owned network, according to The Intercept.

“Ultimately, CNN’s coverage of the Israel-Gaza war amounts to journalistic malpractice,” One unidentified CNN staffer told The Guardian.

Other staffers told the outlet that some journalists have avoided reporting on current events in the West Bank because they believe CNN will not allow them to tell the whole story.

Additional reporters believe senior editors are purposefully not assigning them to write stories on the war, The Guardian reported.

“It is clear that some who don’t belong are covering the war and some who do belong aren’t,” a CNN insider told the outlet.

CNN’s journalists also pointed a finger at its editor-in-chief and CEO Mark Thompson’s “tone,” which they say has something to do with the network’s pro-Israel skew.

Thompson — a veteran news executive who began at CNN on October 9 after leaving his post as chief of The New York Times — had been accused of bowing to pressure from the Israeli cabinet while serving as the director-general of the BBC more than a decade ago, when he yanked one of the British broadcasting giant’s most prominent correspondents from her post in Jerusalem in 2005, according to The Guardian.

He emailed his CNN workforce a two-page memo obtained by The Guardian that instructed reporters to note the historical context of Hamas’ attack by continuing “always to remind our audiences of the immediate cause of this current conflict, namely the Hamas attack and mass murder and kidnap of civilians”.

One staffer said in response to Thompson’s memo, according to The Guardian: “How else are editors going to read that other than as an instruction that no matter what the Israelis do, Hamas is ultimately to blame? Every action by Israel — dropping massive bombs that wipe out entire streets, its obliteration of whole families — the coverage ends up massaged to create a ‘they had it coming’ narrative.”

*The full article first appeared on the New York Post.*



## Pakdaman settles for World Cup saber silver



● GETTY IMAGES

### Sports Desk

Ali Pakdaman grabbed a men's saber silver at the Fencing World Cup in Tbilisi, a first individual medal for Iran in the competition in five years. Pakdaman enjoyed an impressive run in the Georgian capital, before suffering a 15-7 defeat against Hungarian world number two Aron Szilagyi in the final showpiece. Ranked seventh in the FIE Ranking, the Iranian overcame France's Maxence Lambert, Italian Giovanni Repetti, Colin Heathcock of the United States, and Hungary's Krisztian Rabb for a place in the semifinals. The pinnacle of the reigning Asian champion's campaign came against the host's Sandro Bazadze as the Iranian walked away with a 15-13 victory over the world No. 1 to progress to the final.

# Qalenoey to stay on as Iran manager and embark on 'rejuvenation' project

### Sports Desk

Amir Qalenoey will continue as the head coach of the Iranian national team despite a mixed reception to his side's AFC Asian Cup campaign.

Iran made it to the semifinals in Qatar before suffering a 3-2 defeat against the host, which went on to beat Jordan in Saturday's final showdown for a second successive crown in the Asian flagship international event.

Qalenoey overtook Portuguese Carlos Queiroz last March - 16 years after his previous 12-month spell - and will be tasked with steering Iran to the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Iran will be back in action in a double header against Turkmenistan in the second-round group phase of the Asian qualifiers in late March.

Qalenoey's side tops Group E with four points, thanks to a 4-0 victory over Hong Kong in mid-November, followed by a 2-2 away draw against Uzbekistan.

"The Football Federation of Iran welcomes the head coach's approach to rejuvenate the national team and has asked him to devise his future plans as soon as possible," Ehsan Osouli, the spokesman of the country's governing body of the sport, said in an interview with the federation's website on Friday.

Iran had the oldest squad at the Asian Cup and some of the team's senior members are expected to call time on their international careers after a sixth last-four heartbreak for the three-time champion in the tournament. The pinnacle of Iran's six-game run in Qatar came in the quarterfinals, when a dominant second-half display saw Team



Iran head coach Amir Qalenoey is pictured after the AFC Asian Cup last-four defeat against Qatar at the Al Thumama Stadium, Doha, Qatar, on February 7, 2024. ● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

Melli come back from behind to defeat the pretournament favorite Japan 2-1. With Saudi Arabia and Australia also missing out on a last-four spot and South Korea stunned by Jordan in the semifinals, the stage looked set for Iran to walk

away with the ultimate prize but the country's quest for the elusive crown will now extend beyond five decades. Qalenoey did a decent job in leading Iran to a top-spot finish in the group with maximum points - a feat only achieved by Qatar and

Iraq - though his team received criticism for the below-par performances in the 1-0 win against Hong Kong and the last-16 shootout victory over Syria, while some pundits questioned his gameplan, as well as the players' mindset, in the semifinal setback.

## SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE Invitation for one stage Bidding

Islamic Republic of Iran  
FARS Six Cities Sanitation Improvement Project  
Invitation for Procurement of:  
DESIGN, BUILD AND OPERATION OF NEYRIZ WASTE WATER  
TREATMENT PLANT

First Announcement

نوبت اول

IsDB Financing No. IRN-0107

The Government of Islamic Republic of Iran has received financing from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) towards the cost of the Fars Six Cities Sanitation Improvement Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contracts for Neyriz wastewater treatment plant. The Fars Water and Wastewater Company (FWWC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Procurement of: DESIGN, BUILD AND OPERATE NEYRIZ WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT as described in the following table:

No	City	Description of Package
1	NEYRIZ	Design, Build, Commissioning and Operation of Neyriz Wastewater Treatment Plant with capacity 9,400 M3/day

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures using Post-Qualification as specified in the IsDB's Guidelines for the Procurement of Goods, Works and Related Services under IsDB Project Financing (April 2019), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the guideline and Bidding Documents. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.18 -21 setting forth IsDB's policy on conflict of interest.

Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from the Fars Water & Wastewater Company (address below) as from the date of SPN Publication.

A complete set of the Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Applicants (a) on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 40,000,000 Iranian Rials for each package. The method of payment will be direct deposit to Account No. 0111930032008, Bank Saderat Iran, Payment ID No. 13132990014005, in the name of Fars Water and Wastewater Company. Applicants can get the Bidding documents from Fars Water and Wastewater Company upon receipt of the cash deposit as indicated above.

All bids accompanied by a bid security must be submitted in sealed envelopes, and delivered to the address below no later than 10:30 a.m. 21/April/2024 (02/02/1403).

The Bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. on 21/April /2024 (02/02/1403) in the presence of bidders' representatives, who choose to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

### The payment security to participate in the work process:

72,316,000,000 I.R.Rial (Seventy-two billion three hundred sixteen million Iranian Rials)

Address: Secretariat Office, First Floor, Fourth Street (Sobhani St.), West Ghoddousi Blv, Shahid Mottahari Square, Shiraz

Postal Code: 71868-98465

Tel: +98 (71) 38435167

Facsimile: +98 (71) 38435162

Email: [pmu.abfafars2023@gmail.com](mailto:pmu.abfafars2023@gmail.com)

Website: [www.abfa-fars.ir](http://www.abfa-fars.ir)

The Cost of advertising the SPN shall be borne by the successful bidder.

Fars Water and Wastewater Company (FWWC)



## آگهی تدارک خصوصی (فراخوان مناقصه یک مرحله‌ای)

جمهوری اسلامی ایران

پروژه بهسازی بهداشت ۶ شهر استان فارس

دعوت برای تدارک طراحی، ساخت و بهره‌برداری تصفیه خانه فاضلاب شهر نیریز

شماره اعتبار سرمایه بانک توسعه اسلامی: IRN-0107

دولت جمهوری اسلامی ایران اعتباری از بانک توسعه اسلامی (IsDB) جهت اجرای پروژه ارتقای بهداشت ۶ شهر استان فارس دریافت داشته و در نظر دارد بخشی از این اعتبار را به منظور پرداخت‌های قراردادهای احداث تصفیه‌خانه‌های فاضلاب شهرهای مربوطه به مصرف برساند. شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس هم اکنون از پیشنهادات لاک و مهر شده پیمانکاران واجد صلاحیت جهت تهیه طراحی، ساخت و بهره‌برداری تصفیه خانه فاضلاب شهر نیریز که در جدول زیر تشریح شده است، دعوت می‌کند.

ردیف	نام شهر	شرح کار
۱	نیریز	طراحی، ساخت و بهره‌برداری تصفیه خانه فاضلاب شهر نیریز به ظرفیت ۹۴۰۰ متر مکعب در شبانه روز

مناقصه از طریق فرآیند پس ارزیابی تعیین شده در دستورالعمل تأمین کالا و اجرای کار بانک توسعه اسلامی (آوریل ۲۰۱۹) برای مناقصه رقابتی داخلی (NCB) انجام خواهد شد و در دسترس تمامی پیمانکاران از شرکت‌های واجد شرایط بنحوی که در دستورالعمل بانک مذکور تعریف شده، می باشد. علاوه بر این، لطفاً به پاراگراف ۱۸-۲۱ که سیاست IsDB را در مورد تعارض منافع ارائه می‌دهد، مراجعه کنید. متقاضیان علاقه‌مند واجد شرایط می‌توانند برای بررسی و کسب اطلاعات بیشتر، اسناد مناقصه را در ساعات اداری از شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس به آدرس زیر از تاریخ انتشار آگهی دریافت نمایند. متقاضیان می‌توانند مجموعه‌ای کامل از اسناد مناقصه به زبان انگلیسی و فارسی (نسخه فارسی صرفاً جهت اطلاع) را با درخواست کتبی در مقابل پرداخت ۴۰/۰۰۰/۰۰۰ ریال (غیرقابل برگشت) برای هر بسته خریداری نمایند. نحوه پرداخت به صورت واریز مستقیم وجه به حساب شماره ۱۱۱۹۳۰۰۳۳۰۰۸ بانک صادرات به شناسه پرداخت ۱۳۱۳۲۹۹۰۱۴۰۰۵ به نام شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس می‌باشد. متقاضیان می‌توانند اسناد مناقصه را از شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس در قبال ارائه رسید پرداخت وجه یاد شده دریافت نمایند. کلیه پیشنهادات همراه با ضمانت‌نامه شرکت در مناقصه باید در پاکت‌های مهر و موم شده حداکثر تا ساعت ۱۰:۳۰ صبح روز دوم اردیبهشت ۱۴۰۳ (۲۱ آوریل ۲۰۲۴) به آدرس زیر تحویل داده شود.

پیشنهادات از ساعت ۱۰:۳۰ صبح روز دوم اردیبهشت ۱۴۰۳ (۲۱ آوریل ۲۰۲۴) با حضور نمایندگان که از طرف پیشنهاد دهندگان انتخاب می‌شوند، در آدرس زیر باز گشایی خواهند شد. پیشنهاداتی که دیرتر از زمان تعیین شده ارسال گردند، باز نشده عودت داده خواهد شد.

مبلغ تضمین برای شرکت در فرآیند اجرای کار: ۷۲,۳۱۶,۰۰۰,۰۰۰ ریال (هفتاد و دو میلیارد سیصد و شانزده میلیون ریال)

نشانی: شیراز - میدان مطهری - بلوار شهید قدوسی غربی، خیابان چهارم (سبحانی)، طبقه اول، دبیرخانه - کدپستی ۷۱۸۶۸-۹۸۴۶۵

تلفن: ۳۸۴۳۵۱۶۷۰۷۱

نمابر: ۳۸۴۳۵۱۶۲۰۷۱

پست الکترونیکی: [pmu.abfafars2023@gmail.com](mailto:pmu.abfafars2023@gmail.com) سایت الکترونیکی: [www.abfa-fars.ir](http://www.abfa-fars.ir)

هزینه انتشار آگهی به‌عهده برنده مناقصه خواهد بود.

شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس

# Assad: Israeli escalation a Western attempt to save regime

**International Desk**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said that Israeli escalation in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon is a Western-led attempt to get the regime out of the impasse and save it. Bashar al-Assad made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Damascus on Sunday. Assad said the Israeli regime and the West are currently at an impasse over the war in Gaza and that the Israeli escalation in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon is nothing but a Western-led attempt to get the illegal entity out of the impasse and save the regime. "It is our duty to stand to the utmost of our ability alongside the Palestinian people because what these people achieved during the recent Israeli aggression on Gaza has not been achieved since the Palestinian issue arose decades ago," the Syrian president said. Israel's onslaught on Gaza has so far killed more than 28,000 Palestinians since October 7, when the regime launched attacks on the Palestinian territory in response to Hamas's attack on the occupied territories. Amir-Abdollahian said Gaza is the "main issue" not only at the regional but also at the interna-

tional level. He said Syria is on the front line of supporting the Palestinians and their cause. Pointing to the Israeli regime's planned invasion of the southern city of Rafah in Gaza, Assad said, "The Zionist entity is not satisfied with the horrific number of crimes it has committed in the current campaign against Gaza, and over the past years of bloodshed, and therefore it is preparing to bring to a head its crimes in the city of Rafah, while the relevant international institutions stand by." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently said he had told troops to prepare for an offensive into Gaza's far-southern city of Rafah, crowded with displaced Palestinians. The United Nations, the European Union, the United States and Arab nations are warning Israel not to go ahead with the planned offensive, saying it would cause a humanitarian catastrophe. Hamas also said on Sunday that any Israeli ground offensive on Rafah will "blow up" the captive exchange negotiations.

**Talks in Lebanon**

Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with Assad came a day after he held talks with Lebanon's high-ranking officials in Beirut. During his visit, Amir-Abdollahian said peace will be restored to



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad (l) talks with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Damascus on February 11, 2024. SYRIAN PRESIDENCY TELEGRAM PAGE/AFP

West Asia if Israel stops its genocide in Gaza. In a joint press conference with his Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Bou Habib in Beirut, Amir-Abdollahian pointed to his "good" negotiations with the Lebanese officials on bilateral and regional issues, saying that Tehran and Beirut have always been against the expansion of war in the region and believe it is not a solution to the Palestinian issue. The Iranian foreign minister said Iran and the US have exchanged messages throughout Israel's four-month-old onslaught on Gaza, including about Hezbollah. He said Washington had asked Tehran to request that Hezbollah

"not to get widely, fully involved in this war against" Israel. Hezbollah has exchanged near-daily fire with Israeli military along the Lebanese border to support its Palestinians in Gaza, and has vowed to "fight to the end" should Israel launch a full-scale war on Lebanon. The Iranian official also held a separate meeting with the secretary general of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement Hassan Nasrallah. Nasrallah said he is confident that the Palestinian nation and resistance factions will eventually emerge victorious and the Israeli regime will suffer a humiliating defeat in the Gaza Strip.

# Iran most independent...

He said that the Islamic Revolution is racing forward following the periods of establishment, stabilization and development, and that it recognizes no obstacle in its path forward. "The enemy launched military, economic, media and psychological wars, and more recently, a hybrid war in order to stop the Iranian nation, but the people emerged victorious in all arenas and disappointed the enemy," he noted.

**Support for Palestine**

Ebrahim Raisi also has reaffirmed Iran's unwavering support for the Palestinian people, saying Palestine remains the number one issue of the Muslim world as the late founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeini said famously. Addressing a massive rally in the capital, Tehran, on the 45th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Raisi said Western powers tried very hard to dissuade Iran from supporting Palestine but failed miserably. "The Westerners tried hard to make Iran stop defending Palestine and the ideals of the Islamic Revolution, whether through war or economic blockade and sanctions, and repeatedly sent messages saying 'stop defending Palestine,'" he said. The president hastened to add that forty-five years after the victory of the revolution, it is

now proven that "the Islamic Republic and our visionary Imam" were right in saying that Palestine is the first issue of the Islamic world and that Al-Quds must be freed. He also advised people who want to know the West, the US and the Zionist regime to look at their ongoing crimes against humanity, war crimes and child-killings in Gaza. Raisi also accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza with the support of the United States and other Western countries. Since October 7, Israel has waged the genocidal war on Gaza after the Palestinian Hamas resistance group carried out a historic operation against the occupying entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people. So far, the regime has killed more than 28,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured over 67,600 others. Raisi demanded that the "bombing of Gaza should be stopped as soon as possible" and declared that "the death of the Zionist regime has come". He asked about Israel: "How can a regime that has violated 400 statements and resolutions of international organizations adhere to UN covenants?" "We believe that one of the important steps that should be taken is the expulsion of the Zionist regime from the United Nations."

**First Announcement**

## SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

### Invitation for one stage Bidding

Islamic Republic of Iran  
FARS Six Cities Sanitation Improvement Project  
Invitation for Procurement of:  
**DESIGN, BUILD, INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF FASA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**  
IsDB Financing No. IRN-0107

The Government of Islamic Republic of Iran has received financing from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) towards the cost of the Fars Six Cities Sanitation Improvement Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contracts for Fasa wastewater treatment plant. The Fars Water and Wastewater Company (FWWC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Procurement of: Design, Build, Installation And Operation Of Fasa Wastewater Treatment Plant as described in the following table:

No	City	Description of Package
1	FASA	Design, Build, Installation And Operation Of Fasa Wastewater Treatment Plant with capacity 20,000 M3/day

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures using Post-qualification as specified in the IsDB's Guidelines for the Procurement of Goods, Works and Related Services under IsDB Project Financing (April 2019), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the guideline and Bidding Documents. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.18 -21 setting forth IsDB's policy on conflict of interest. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from the Fars Water & Wastewater Company (address below) as from the date of SPN Publication. A complete set of the Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Applicants (a) on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 40,000,000 Iranian Rials for each package. The method of payment will be direct deposit to Account No. 0111930032008, Bank Saderat Iran, Payment ID No. 13132990014005, in the name of Fars Water and Wastewater Company. Applicants can get the Bidding documents from Fars Water and Wastewater Company upon receipt of the cash deposit as indicated above. All bids accompanied by a bid security must be submitted in sealed envelopes, and delivered to the address below no later than 10:30 a.m. 23/April/2024 (04/02/1403). The Bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. on 23/April/2024 (04/02/1403), in the presence of bidders' representatives, who choose to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. **The payment security to participate in the work process:** 93,589,000,000 Rials (Ninety-three billion five hundred eighty-nine million Iranian Rials) Address: Secretariat Office, First Floor, Fourth Street (Sobhani St.), West Ghoddousi Blv., Shahid Mottahari Square, Shiraz  
Postal Code: 71868-98465  
Tel: +98 (71) 38435167  
Facsimile: +98 (71) 38435162  
Email: pmu.abfafars2023@gmail.com  
Website: www.abfa-fars.ir  
The Cost of advertising the SPN shall be borne by the successful bidder.

**Fars Water and Wastewater Company (FWWC)**

**آگهی تدارک خصوصی**  
**(فراخوان مناقصه یک مرحله‌ای)**

جمهوری اسلامی ایران  
پروژه بهسازی بهداشت ۶ شهر استان فارس  
دعوت برای تدارک طراحی، ساخت، نصب تجهیزات و بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر فسا  
شماره اعتبار سرمایه بانک توسعه اسلامی: IRN-0107

**دولت جمهوری اسلامی ایران اعتباری از بانک توسعه اسلامی (IsDB) جهت اجرای پروژه ارتقای بهداشت ۶ شهر استان فارس دریافت داشته و در نظر دارد بخشی از این اعتبار را به منظور پرداخت‌های قراردادهای احداث تصفیه‌خانه‌های فاضلاب شهرهای مربوطه به مصرف برساند. شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس هم اکنون از پیشنهادات لک و مهر شده پیمانکاران واجد صلاحیت جهت تهیه طراحی، ساخت، نصب و بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر فسا که در جدول زیر تشریح شده است، دعوت می‌کند.**

ردیف	نام شهر	شرح کار
۱	فسا	طراحی، ساخت، نصب تجهیزات و بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر فسا به ظرفیت ۲۰۰۰۰ متر مکعب در شبانه‌روز

مناقصه از طریق فرآیند پس ارزیابی تعیین شده در «دستور العمل تأمین کالا و اجرای کار» بانک توسعه اسلامی (آوریل ۲۰۱۹) برای مناقصه رقابتی داخلی (NCB) انجام خواهد شد و در دسترس تمامی پیشنهاددهندگان از شرکت‌های واجد شرایط پنحوی که در دستور العمل بانک مذکور تعریف شده، می باشد. علاوه بر این، لظفاً به پاراگراف ۱۸-۱۱ که سیاست IsDB را در مورد تعارض منافع ارائه می‌دهد، مراجعه کنید. متقاضیان علاقه‌مند واجد شرایط می‌توانند برای بررسی و کسب اطلاعات بیشتر، اسناد مناقصه را در ساعات اداری از شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس به آدرس زیر از تاریخ انتشار آگهی دریافت نمایند. متقاضیان می‌توانند مجموعه‌ای کامل از اسناد مناقصه به زبان انگلیسی و فارسی (نسخه فارسی صرفاً جهت اطلاع) با درخواست کتبی در مقابل پرداخت ۴۰/۰۰۰/۰۰۰ ریال (غیر قابل برگشت) برای هر بسته خریداری نمایند. نحوه پرداخت به صورت واریز مستقیم وجه به حساب شماره ۰۱۱۹۳۰۰۳۲۰۰۸ بانک صادرات به شناسه پرداخت ۱۳۱۳۲۹۹۰۰۱۴۰۰۵ به نام شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس در قبال ارائه رسید پرداخت وجه یاد شده دریافت نمایند. کلیه پیشنهادات همراه با ضمانت‌نامه شرکت در مناقصه باید در پاکت‌های مهر و موم شده حداکثر تا ساعت ۱۰:۳۰ صبح روز ۴ اردیبهشت ۱۴۰۳ (۲۳ آوریل ۲۰۲۴) به آدرس زیر تحویل داده شود. پیشنهادها از ساعت ۱۰:۳۰ صبح روز چهارم اردیبهشت ۱۴۰۳ (۲۳ آوریل ۲۰۲۴) با حضور نمایندگان که از طرف پیشنهاددهندگان انتخاب می‌شوند، در آدرس زیر باز گشایی خواهند شد. پیشنهاداتی که دیرتر از زمان تعیین شده ارسال گردند، باز نشده عودت داده خواهد شد.

**مبلغ تضمین برای شرکت در فرآیند اجرای کار:**  
۹۳٬۵۸۹٬۰۰۰٬۰۰۰ ریال (نود و سه میلیارد و پانصد و هشتاد و نه میلیون ریال)

**نشانی:** شیراز- میدان مطهری- بلوار شهید قدوسی غربی- خیابان چهارم (سبحانی)، طبقه اول، دبیرخانه- کدپستی ۷۱۸۶۸-۹۸۴۶۵

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هزینه انتشار آگهی به‌عهده برنده مناقصه خواهد بود.

**شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس**

# Fajr music emphasizes non-political approach: *Festival president*

 **By Sadeq Dehqan**  
 Staff writer

The head of the 39th Fajr International Music Festival, Amirhossein Samiei, emphasized that many renowned global art festivals consider political motivations and considerations when inviting participants and selecting award-winning works. However, he highlighted that Fajr festivals maintain a non-political perspective on cultural subjects, aiming to prioritize expertise and meritocracy in their events. Speaking to Iran Daily reporter, Samiei stated that this year's Fajr International Music Festival aimed to provide a platform for diverse musical groups from around the world, promoting the participation of individuals from various ethnic backgrounds. Despite a positive response from international music groups, logistical constraints limited the festival's capacity to accommodate all interested foreign participants. Discussing the Barbados Award, presented to outstanding works and participants in the Competitive Section of the Fajr International Music Festival, Samiei

expressed that such credits could serve as a strong motivation for winners to continue their artistic endeavors. He emphasized that increased competition contributes to enhancing the festival's international fame. Amirabbas Setayeshgar, the head of the Iranian Music Society, highlighted the festival's rich history, spanning nearly four decades. He expressed hope for the continued success of Reza Mahdavi, the festival's secretary, in injecting his experienced and musical perspectives into the festival's organization. Setayeshgar underscored the importance of financial support, urging higher authorities to allocate more resources to the festival's budget. He stressed that increased financial backing would promote the quality and quantity of musical groups, ensuring the festival's future success on a broader scale. Regarding the participation of foreign music groups in the 39th Fajr International Music Festival, Setayeshgar mentioned the presence of groups from Armenia, the Netherlands, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Belgium, and Iraq. This year's festival will also feature piano recitals by groups from the Netherlands and Armenia, classical music performances by groups from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and a jazz fusion performance by a collaborative group from Belgium and Iraq. Afghanistan and



India will also showcase two national and traditional music groups. Highlighting the involvement of the head of the Union of Russian Composers and renowned German pianist

Moritz Ernst as jury members, Setayeshgar expressed optimism that the continued presence of such prominent figures would contribute to the international recognition of the festival.

Moritz Ernst as jury members, Setayeshgar expressed optimism that the continued presence of such prominent figures would contribute to the international recognition of the festival.

# Ten countries willing to produce joint films with Iran: *Khazaei*



Filmmakers from 10 countries, including Russia, Lebanon, China, Uzbekistan, India, Greece, Pakistan, Armenia, South Korea, and Turkey, have expressed their willingness to collaborate with Iran in joint cinematic productions, according

to Mohammad Khazaei, CEO of Cinema Organization of Iran. This announcement was made during the Press Conference on Regional Cinematic Authorities at the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran,

fajriff.com reported. Khazaei highlighted that these filmmakers have formally requested cooperation with Iran in the field of joint movie production. Last year, Iran has collaborated with various countries on 23 jointly made films. The professional cinematic facilities of Ghazali Cinema Town, Noor Cinema Town, and Holy Defense Cinema Town are suitable locations for future collaborative projects, he added. During the conference, Khazaei expressed hope for the execution of the recently-signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the FIFF in the near future. Representatives from Turkey, Russia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan were also present at the event.

The press conference included suggestions for expanding collaboration further, with Kemal Usal from Turkey proposing that Iran and Turkey screen jointly produced films in both countries. The international agreements were seen as laying the groundwork for such collaborations, providing opportunities for productions with substantial budgets. Participants from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, namely Mohammad Said Shohiyon and Akzhol Bekbolotov, expressed positive sentiments towards Iranian cinema. Shohiyon mentioned the hope and positivity conveyed by Iranian movies, while Bekbolotov shared ongoing efforts to formalize a cooperation document between Kyrgyzstan and Iran. In addition, the achievements of the

meeting of regional cinema heads in Tehran were discussed. Representatives from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey participated. The session outlined six key points for expanding multilateral cooperation in areas such as joint productions, facilitating screenings in regional countries, establishing a regional support fund for cinema professionals, promoting technological development, enhancing educational and research collaborations, and providing special support for regional works in festivals. These developments signal a growing interest and commitment among multiple countries to foster collaborative cinematic events with Iran, aiming to bridge cultural gaps and promote shared storytelling on the global stage.

 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
 Cartoonist



# Rare Asiatic cheetah seen in Touran National Park after three years

## Social Desk

A rare Asiatic cheetah named "Hiwa" has been spotted in Iran's Semnan Province after a three-year absence. According to Ali Akbar Qorbanloo, the head of Touran National Park (Part of Touran Biosphere Reserve), a female cheetah was seen in the Delbar region. During routine travels in the area, local residents informed Qorbanloo about the presence of the cheetah and he took immediate action and captured images of the rare fauna, ISNA reported. After submitting the photos to the provincial Department of Environment, a thorough examination and analysis of the body markings

revealed that the cheetah in question is the same female cub born in 2020. The last known sighting of the cheetah was in September 2020, and since then, she had escaped both human observers and other surveillance cameras.

He said, "Harb" gave birth to three cubs named "Hiwa," "Helya," and "Hanna" in her first recorded delivery, the provincial official noted. The cheetah appears to be in excellent physical health, marking a welcome return to the region.

