

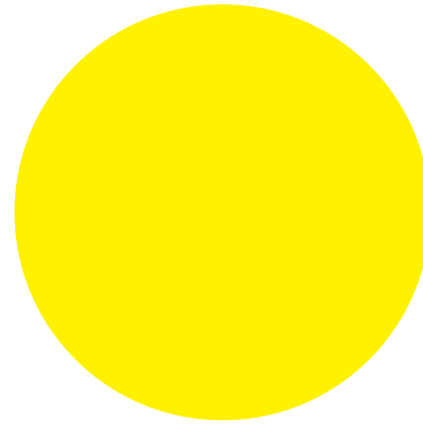
EXCLUSIVE



**Investment opportunities in Venezuela up for grabs for Iranian firms** 2 >



**Borrell: Spain, Ireland to recognize Palestinian state on May 21** 7 >



# Iran Daily



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7554 • Saturday, May 11, 2024 • Ordibehesht 22, 1403 • Dhu al-Qadah 2, 1445 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages

## Bibi's inevitable fate



By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

### OPINION

War is not sacred, life is sacred: This is not the slogan of the critics and opponents of war in Arab and European countries or American students,

but the slogan of Israeli residents who protested on Saturday night against the prolonged war and the current extremist cabinet's failure to free Israeli prisoners.

Seven months of war and genocide in the name of securing Israel have led to a moment where the opposition to war is also being voiced from within Israel. To reach a cease-fire has turned into a global demand for months. The greatest crime against humanity in the 21st century, which has so far led to the death of over 34,000 people, has left no room for any defense of the Israeli regime in the public opinion.

Now, the artificial taboos of the Zionists such as 'victimhood', 'invincibility', and 'sustainable security' have been shattered. Hamas is still standing, Israeli prisoners are still not free, the economy has suffered heavy losses, and if it weren't for the support of European and American allies, the situation in Israel could have been even more dire.

This is the record of a man who was supposed to bring political stability to this regime after years of political instability and internal fractious coalitions. Now, with the material and moral damages inflicted on the Israeli regime, Netanyahu is left with nothing but 'failure' and 'infamy'.

However, this is not the whole story. In recent days, whispers about the possibility of issuing a verdict to arrest the Israeli prime minister along with the minister of War and the Chief of Staff of the army on charges of war crimes have been heard from the International Criminal Court. Issuing such a verdict will disgrace Netanyahu internationally. Netanyahu is widely criticized both domestically and internationally. It is not surprising that, in addition to calling for an end to the war, critics and opponents at home and abroad are also demanding the resignation or dismissal of Netanyahu.

Recently, the Hebrew newspaper Haaretz wrote: Six months have passed since the war in Gaza, and since October 7, the situation in Israel worsens every day. We must end the war and bring back the captives, and Benjamin Netanyahu must go.

Political analyst Shimon Shafir from the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth has also declared: It is high time for us, the people, to remove this wicked cabinet led by Benjamin Netanyahu, who must be held responsible for his involvement in the October 7 disaster. Benny Gantz, a member of the Israeli cabinet, has called for early elections, stating: We must reach an agreement on holding elections in September, before the one-year anniversary of the war (Gaza). Hillary Clinton and William Hague, former foreign ministers of the United States and the United Kingdom, are among the figures who have deemed Netanyahu's departure necessary.

It seems that the leader of the Israeli cabinet has realized his inevitable fate. In the realm of power and politics, there is no place for him. When the war ends, he will not be seen as a hero but rather as a loser. It is unlikely that anyone will even gather in support of him on the streets of Tel Aviv. In addition to infamy, what awaits him may be expulsion from the political arena and perhaps even spending the rest of his life behind bars. The shadow of ongoing corruption cases still looms over him. Moreover, he and other high-ranking Israeli officials must prepare themselves to answer to investigative committees regarding the events of October 7, similar to what happened to Ehud Olmert, a former Prime Minister of Israel. Following Israel's failure in the 33-day war with Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006, an independent government inquiry commission known as the "Winograd Commission" identified Olmert as the main culprit of the war's failure. The result of this inquiry, along with the disgrace of the defeat, forced Olmert out of the political and power arena.

Netanyahu's resistance to cease-fire proposals should be seen more as concern for this inevitable fate. He knows that the end of the war will mark the end of his political life. However, it seems there is no escape from facing such a fate. Now, he has also become a liability for Israel's strategic ally, the United States.

# Iran Holds Parl. Runoff



Irans cast their vote at a polling station in Tehran during the parliamentary runoff elections on May 10, 2024.  
● HOSSEIN NAQIZADEH/IRAN DAILY



## Iran, world's top exporter of rosewater

Iran is ranked first in the world in the production and export of and rosewater. 2 >

## Rafah: Past the point of no return



SPECIAL ISSUE



## Iran gearing up in last-ditch quest for place in Paris

6 >



### Operation Eagle Claw 1980

A book by Justin W. Williamson  
Translated by Mohammad Memarian

The book recounts the unsuccessful attempt by the US Delta Force to rescue American captives following the takeover of the US embassy in Tehran by Iranian students. Marking the first American account of Operation Eagle Claw and the events in Iran's Tabas desert, this publication holds significant historical value. The author draws upon operation documents declassified in 1992 and interviews with some troops involved in the mission, detailing the operation's intricacies through the perspectives of the Americans themselves. The book offers a valuable resource for researchers and scholars seeking to understand the many aspects of the complex operation, including its failure.



To learn more and buy this book, visit the Iran Publications website at <https://ketab.inn.ir> or reach out to them by calling +982188941810.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Annual exports of goods, services to UK top £200m

The UK Department of Trade and Industry said the country's import of goods and services from Iran in 2023 exceeded £200 million, showing a 15.5 percent growth compared to a year earlier. According to the latest statistics of the department, the total value of the trade exchanges between Iran and the UK in 2022 topped £389 million, and the figure reached £423 million in 2023, registering an 8.7 percent growth compared to a year earlier. The United Kingdom exported £222 million worth of products to Iran in 2023, the report said, adding that this European country imported £201 million worth of goods and services from Iran in this timespan. The UK export of products to Iran in 2023 registered a 3.3 percent growth compared to a year earlier while the UK import of products from Iran registered a 15.5 percent hike, the report added. The UK exported £12.5 million of medical and pharmaceutical products to Iran in 2023 and imported £4.2 million of fresh fruits and vegetables from Iran in this period.

## Iran-US three-month trade soars 103%



The US Bureau of Statistics said the value of the country's trade exchanges with Iran in the first three months of the current year (January to March) reached \$27.7 million, showing a 103% hike compared to last year's corresponding period. According to the report, the trade exchanges between Iran and the United States were \$13.6 million from January to March 2023. They reached \$61.2 million in 2023, showing an eight percent hike compared to a year earlier. The US export of products to Iran registered a 77% hike in the first quarter of 2024. The United States had exported over \$13.4 million of non-oil products to Iran in the first quarter of 2023. The US import of products from Iran rose from \$0.2 million in the first quarter of 2023 to \$3.9 million in the same period of the current year, showing a 20-fold hike, the report added.

## Investment opportunities in Venezuela up for grabs for Iranian firms

By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou  
Staff writers

The head of the Iran-Venezuela Joint Trade Committee said that there are great investment opportunities in Venezuela for Iranian investors. Amir Mehr-Pourian also told Iran Daily that the Venezuela enjoys a strategic position which can become Iran's economic, political and social strategic partner in Latin America. After the sanctions on Venezuela were lifted partially by the United States, the country got allowed to export more oil even to the United States. "Export of non-oil commodities to Europe and other countries helped a rise in the GDP of Venezuela as inflation decreased considerably." By keeping this trend, it is expected that Venezuela will find an eye-catching situation in terms of liquidity and economic growth in upcoming one or two years. He pointed to Venezuela as a country with very rich natural and mineral resources and explained: Now time is ripe for Iran to invest in the country, especially in the field of transformation industries, as the country can become a base for the re-export of Iranian products in the Latin American region.

"Due to its rich resources, Venezuela is the best place for Iran to invest in the Latin American region."

Latin American countries are a very suitable market for products such as clothes and home appliances, so our products could be welcomed there, but considering the distance between Iran and Latin America, shipment of finished goods to this country will increase the cost of the products, Mehr-Pourian said.

"In the past, we did not have a very successful experience in the field of selling finished products in Venezuelan market due to the distance, as Iran's Etka store there could not be as successful as expected," he not explaining that it takes 50 days to send goods to Venezuela, so it is not cost-effective to send some goods to the country. "If we want to export finished goods to Venezuela, they must be special and unique goods, as we can produce other goods in the Latin American state with Iranian technology. Iran's new technology-based firms (NTBFs) can help us in this field," the senior businessman noted. Iran enjoys the potential



to operate in the field of exporting technical engineering and medical services in Venezuela, as the Latin American country is in need in these fields. "Venezuela has rich mines and rich crude oil and has many gold, copper and urea mines, the country is one of the largest producers of wood in the world, and it can meet Iran's needs in the

field of many primary and raw goods, thus bringing economic benefits to Iran." If Iranian investors can be more active in the field of establishing transformation industries in Venezuela and send raw products of the country into final products with higher added value, it will be more profitable for Iran which leads to an increase in the economic

prosperity, he stated. "Iran enjoys considerable infrastructure in the field of main industries, as big Iranian companies such as Esfahan Steel Company and Mobarakeh Steel Company can invest in Venezuela and establish their regional branches there," Mehr-Pourian noted. The private sector of Iran has not been seriously ac-

tive in the Latin American country, as most of Iran's large state-run companies, such as Saipa and Iran Khodro, and Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company, have entered the Venezuelan market, but Iran's private sector has just started its activity in Venezuela which could be developed in the future, he concluded

## Tehran to host Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Cooperation Commission

Iran's minister of roads and urban development said the meeting of the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Cooperation Commission will be held in Tehran within the next weeks. Mehrdad Bazrpash, who heads the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, in a meeting with the chairman of the Iran-Turkey Parliamentary Friendship Group said Turkey is an important country in the region and has established good relations with the Islamic Republic in all areas, reported Tasnim News Agency. Given the policy taken by the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi

regarding the development of relations with the neighbors, Iran is determined to facilitate the trade exchanges between traders of the two countries, he said. Bazrpash noted that Iran and Turkey have forged extensive trade relations through the four border terminals of Sero, Razi, Bazargan and Kouzehrash. Considering the situation of the two countries in accessing European markets and high seas, the officials in Tehran and Ankara have targeted an annual \$30 billion trade, Iran's roads minister added. He went on to say that Turkey is a very safe route for Iran to access the Eu-

ropean markets, adding that the completion of the construction operation of the International East-West International Corridor and South-Northwest Corridor can create unique opportunities for the growth of transit. The chairman of the Iran-Turkey Parliamentary Friendship Group, for his part, highlighted Turkey's resolve to reach an annual \$30 billion trade with Iran and increase the number of tourists between the two countries from three million to five million people per year. Kayhan Turkmenoglu expressed hope that bilateral trade and economic relations would develop more than ever.



## Iran, world's top exporter of rosewater

Iran is ranked first in the world in the production and export of and rosewater and damask rosebuds, an official said. The total area of farms in Iran used for cultivating damask rose has increased from 19,000 hectares in 2017 to more than 30,000 hectares in 2023, Agriculture Ministry official Hossein Zeinali told IRNA. Iran exported \$2.6 million in damask rose petals and buds during the

previous Persian calendar year (ended March 19, 2024), registering a 51 and 24 percent hike in weight and value, respectively, compared to a year earlier, he added. Zeinali added that around 1.85 million tons of Iranian rosewater was exported last year, showing a 15.5 percent growth compared to a year before. The financial turnover of the damask rose and fragrant roses industry in the world is about

\$2.5 billion, he noted, estimating Iran's share at \$250 million. The official also stressed the need to acquire the experience of successful countries in the agricultural processing industries, obtaining flower essence, and growing different varieties of damask rose. The provinces of Isfahan, Kerman, Kermanshah, Fars and East Azarbaijan are the main producers of damask rose in Iran, he added.

# Persian influences into Silk Road's multicultural tapestry

The Silk Road, an ancient network of trade routes, not only facilitated the exchange of goods but also promoted unprecedented cultural, political, and technological interactions between diverse civilizations. This vast network, stretching from East Asia to the Mediterranean, served as a catalyst for the development and flourishing of many civilizations.

In this context, Iran played a pivotal role, acting as a bridge between the East and the West. Its strategic geographic position fostered rich exchanges of ideas, arts, science, and beliefs, deeply embedding Persian influences into the Silk Road's multicultural tapestry, *surfiran.com* wrote.

The Silk Road emerged during the Han Dynasty around 130 BCE and remained in use until the 14th century, linking continents and shaping the course of history. It was not just a conduit for silk but a vast network carrying spices, textiles, precious stones, and much more. It facilitated the spread of knowledge, technology, and religious beliefs across continents, which had a profound impact on the civilizations it touched.



Imam Mosque, Isfahan



Bazaar of Tabriz



Tajrish Bazaar, Tehran



Vakil Bazaar, Shiraz



Imam Square, Isfahan

## Iran's unique position

Iran's strategic location at the heart of the Silk Road made it an essential corridor for traders and travelers. It enabled Persia to absorb diverse cultural elements and simultaneously transmit its rich heritage of art, literature, and learning to other parts of the world. Cities like Tehran, Isfahan, and Shiraz became melting pots of cultural and intellectual activity, influencing everything from architectural styles to culinary arts.

The influence of the Silk Road on Persian culture is evident in the luxurious Persian carpets, the grandeur of Islamic architecture, and the rich diversity of Persian cuisine, all of which continue to draw visitors and scholars to Iran.

## Key historical events

Several significant events have impacted the evolution of the Silk Road through Persia, shaping its legacy in global trade and cultural exchange. The Macedonian conquest, led by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BCE, significantly influenced the cultural landscape of Persia. This period introduced Hellenistic elements, which blended with the local Persian culture, enhancing the region's appeal as a cultural melting pot along the Silk Road. Moving forward, the Muslim conquests in the 7th century CE further transformed Persia's role on the Silk Road. These conquests expanded Islamic culture and political structures across Persia, integrating the region more deeply into the trade networks that spanned from the Mediterranean to the Far East. The stability provided by Islamic governance led to a resurgence in trade and the arts, underpinning Persia's golden age of science and literature.

Moreover, during the Mongol Empire in the 13th century, trade routes were revitalized under the Pax Mongolica, which ensured safe passage for traders across the vast Mongol territories. The Mongol period is noted for its significant contributions to the cultural and economic vitality of the Silk Road, bringing about a period of intense interaction and exchange.

## Major cities

Each city along Iran's segment of the Silk Road has played a unique role in the history and culture of the region. These cities not only served as commercial hubs but also as centers for cultural exchange, contributing significantly to the Persian legacy.

### Tabriz

Tabriz, historically known as a pivotal link between the East and West, has long been a melting pot of cultures, languages, and religions. Its strategic location made it one of the first stops for traders from Europe entering Asia, facilitating the exchange of goods and cultural values. The city's famous bazaar, a UNESCO World Heritage site, offers a glimpse into the bustling activity that has not waned for centuries.

### Tehran

The transformation of Tehran from a modest village to Iran's dynamic capital is a testament to its strategic importance on the Silk Road. It became especially significant in the 18th century, turning into a major trade hub and eventually the political heart of Iran. Today, Tehran's rich history is visible in its palaces and museums, juxtaposed with modern architecture and vibrant street life.

### Isfahan

Isfahan is often referred to as the jewel in Iran's historical and architectural crown. During the 16th century under Shah Abbas Safavid, it was one of the world's largest cities and an epicenter for cultural and economic vitality. The city's stunning Islamic architecture, vibrant bazaars, and famous bridges reflect its past importance as a crossroads for trade and diplomacy. Travelers can explore this heritage further through the Isfahan Travel Guide.

### Shiraz

Known for its poetic legacy and lush gardens, Shiraz has a deeply entrenched cultural significance in Iran. It was an important trading stop on the Silk Road, famed for its literary history and as the birthplace of ma-

ior Persian poets like Hafez and Sa'di, whose works capture the ethos of their times.

### Yazd

Yazd is celebrated as a living museum of Persian civilization. The city is known for its distinctive architecture of windcatchers and mud-brick homes designed to combat the harsh desert climate. A key site on the Silk Road due to its strategic location and ability to manage scarce water resources ingeniously, Yazd offers a unique glimpse into the ingenious urban planning of ancient Persia.

### Cultural heritage

Iran's Silk Road not only facilitated the exchange of goods but also allowed for the blending and celebration of various cultural heritages, profoundly influencing the region's art, architecture, and culinary traditions.

### Persian carpets

Persian carpets are renowned worldwide for their intricate designs, vibrant colors, and exceptional craftsmanship. Originating during the Sassanian period (224-651 CE), these carpets embody centuries of cultural traditions and artistic expression. Each carpet tells a story, with patterns that signify life, nature, and the beliefs of its weavers. For many, owning a Persian carpet means having a piece of Persian history and artistry that reflects the soul of the Silk Road.

### Architectural wonders

The architectural legacy of Iran along the Silk Road showcases some of the most spectacular constructions known to the ancient and modern world. Mosques with dazzling domes and intricate tile work, such as the Imam Mosque in Isfahan, serve as both places of worship and symbols of the Islamic Golden Age. Similarly, bazaars like those in Tehran and Tabriz are not just markets but social hubs where people have exchanged goods and ideas for centuries. Caravanserais, which dotted the Silk Road, provided rest and refuge for travelers and their

animals, acting as the precursor to modern hotels.

### Culinary delights

The Silk Road also introduced a variety of culinary delights to the world, with Persian cuisine taking center stage. Dishes such as *kebabs*, stews like *qormeh sabzi*, and rice dishes flavored with saffron showcase the rich, diverse flavors that can be traced back to ancient trade routes. Persian sweets, such as *baklava* and *faloodeh*, reflect the integration of ingredients like rose water and pistachios, brought from different lands. These culinary traditions offer a delicious insight into the historical exchanges that occurred along these ancient routes.

### Modern encounters with ancient traditions

Iran's rich history along the Silk Road is not confined to the past; it continues to thrive through the preservation of traditional crafts and the vibrant celebration of annual festivals. These cultural elements highlight how ancient practices are kept alive in modern times.

### Lasting legacy of Silk Road in Iran

The Silk Road has left an indelible mark on Iran, weaving a rich tapestry of history, culture, and economic development that continues to influence the nation today. This legendary route has not only contributed to the cultural richness of Iran but has also played a pivotal role in connecting East and West. Iran's portion of the Silk Road is more than just a historical route; it's a testament to the country's resilience and its central role in the interchange of goods and ideas. The architectural marvels, the literary contributions, and the philosophical advancements that were facilitated by this ancient network are integral to understanding the historical context of modern Iran. These elements continue to attract scholars, tourists, and history enthusiasts to this day, seeking to explore the depths of Persian culture and its historical significance.



Qeysarieh Bazaar, Yazd

By Ghada Ageel  
Scholar

## OPINION

*If we listen to world leaders, we could be lulled into believing that Rafah has been a place of safety. But this city, nestled in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, has been on the threshold of terror since Israel launched its genocidal assault on October 7. The daily toll of genocide and destruction has been devastating even without a ground invasion.*

Six months ago, an Israeli air strike targeted the home of my relative Ayman in Rafah. It was October 21, and the whole family was at home preparing to celebrate the birthdays of his children Sham and Adam; Sham was turning nine and Adam three.

Ayman had gone upstairs to check if the water tank was filled when the bombs fell, killing his two children, two of his sisters-in-law, their five children, and four other relatives.

Ayman's wife, Dareen, was critically wounded in the attack. She was hanging clothes on the balcony when the rocket struck the building, hurling her to the other side of the street. When Ayman reached her, she was still breathing. She pleaded with him to rescue their baby girl.

As she was dying, Dareen was rushed to the hospital in a desperate bid to save their unborn child. Doctors fought valiantly, performing a caesarean section to bring to this cruel world a fragile baby.

Ayman named her Mecca, as they had agreed with Dareen. However, her mother's death and the lack of oxygen had already taken their toll. Mecca struggled for three days, her tiny body ravaged by convulsions. On the third day, she too passed away. All that was left of their family was a father with a broken heart and a date of birth and a date of departure seared into his soul.

Since October, many families in Rafah have met the horrific fate of Ayman's family. Israel's slaughter from the air never subsided, even as it ordered more than a million people in the north of the Gaza Strip to evacuate south.

Instead of safety, Palestinians who fled south found death once again raining on them. In a recent weekend, dozens were killed, most of them children.

On Friday, April 19, Israel bom-

# Rafah: Past the point of no return



Displaced Palestinians travel on a cart away from Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on May 7, 2024, following the IDF's evacuation order and ground invasion. AFP

barded Tal as-Sultan neighbourhood where the Radwan and Joudah families had sought shelter. Abdel-Fattah Radwan, his wife Najlaa Aweidah, and their three children Leen, Nadya, and Amer died. Also killed were Abdel-Fattah's sister, Rawan, and her five-year-old daughter Alaa. Hamza and Sama Zaqout were visiting the apartment to play with the other children. They also died.

On Saturday, April 20, Israeli bombs wiped out most of the Abdel Aal family: 15 children and their mothers Yasmeen, Sujoud, and Rasha as well as their grandmother Hamdeh. The loss was staggering — all the family children perished in an instant. The innocent lives of Sidra, Moham-

med, Layan, Yasser, Muhannad, Osama, Ismail, Ahmad, Sajida, Shahd, Abdullah, Yasser, Othman, Ismail, and Mahmoud were cut short in an instant. The place of safety became a graveyard in the blink of an eye.

The horror of this murder was etched on the faces of those who used their bare hands to search the rubble for the bodies of the children.

On the same Saturday, in the heart of Rafah, near al-Awda Mosque, Israeli bombardment killed Shukri Joudeh and his daughter Malak. His pregnant wife, Sabreen, was critically injured and taken to the hospital. A short time after arrival, she was pronounced dead, so the doctors made a desperate at-

tempt to save her unborn child, performing an emergency caesarean section. Miraculously, the baby was delivered alive. She only lived as an orphan in this world for a few days before passing away too.

My teacher Dr Akram Habeeb, an associate professor at the Islamic university in Gaza, which now lies in ruins after being targeted like all Gaza universities by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), penned a prayer born of desperation:

When will we stop counting our death toll?  
When will the church in Rome start to toll?  
When will Mercy be in your hearts for our death knell?  
When will you commence our

true tale to tell?

When will the Security Council have its will?

When will the world put out Gaza's hell?

When will the world stop seeing us as numbers on screens?

When will the criminals stop killing our children's dreams?

When will justice wear its crown to declare our cause?

When will the war on Gaza end, or even just, to pause?

The questions of Dr Habeeb echo the collective anguish of 2.2 million Palestinians experiencing genocide. Some 1.5 million of them are in Rafah with nowhere else to go.

The news that the United States government has provided the IDF with \$17bn more in military

aid to continue its genocide in Gaza has only deepened Palestinian despair.

And yet, there is a glimmer of hope: the campus protests taking place across the US, Europe, and other places. They demonstrate that the younger generations know the path of justice.

The need for an end to the genocide, accountability, and meaningful change has never been more pressing. It is imperative that good people everywhere keep the pressure so we can have a free Palestine and consign any perpetrators of genocide to the dustbin of history.

The article first appeared on Al Jazeera.

By Ziad Taleb  
Reporter

## PERSPECTIVE

*Displacement after displacement. That describes the reality facing thousands of Palestinian families in Gaza who took Rashid Street from Rafah to the centre of the Gaza Strip after receiving evacuation orders from Israeli authorities on Monday to move to Al-Mawasi, a coastal area of the besieged enclave.*

*Stranded, their homes demolished, loved ones killed, and repeatedly displaced on their land, they had sought refuge in Rafah in the far southern reaches of the Strip to escape death and destruction and to find a safe place that does not exist.*

## Journey into the unknown

Thousands of Gazan families flee Rafah

They are now heading along the coastal road again to an unknown fate with the start of military operations in the eastern areas of Rafah.

UN News's Ziad Taleb, who is in Gaza, spoke with several Palestinians who made the journey.

### 'Every hour we are displaced'

Sobhi Massoud shared his confusion at the new developments. The elderly man has been displaced several times after all his children were killed and his property was destroyed in Jabalia camp. He finally ended up in

the city of Rafah, which Israeli authorities have declared a safe zone.

But his suffering did not end there.

"Every day we are displaced. Every hour we are displaced," he said.

He explained that he had been forced to flee again to the Al-Mawasi area, which lacks the most basic necessities. He pointed to his cane on which he leaned.

"It's all gone," Mr. Massoud said. "This is the one thing that remains. I can't even find a mattress to sleep on."

### 'Fed up with life'

Abu Kamal al-Yaziji, who was displaced from Gaza City in the north, said what was happening in the enclave was unprecedented.

Directing his voice to the Israeli authorities, he said "this is not a self-defense operation; what you are doing is revenge."

He added that if he had the opportunity to sell his property even at half its value to send his children and grandchildren out of Gaza, he would have done so to secure their future.

"I am fed up with life. There is no life in Gaza," he said.

"Gaza has no future. The people of Gaza have never seen such suffering. What is happening now is something we have never seen nor felt nor will see again in our lifetimes."

### 'Gaza has nothing but God'

Young Mohammed Salah Rajab's journey began in the Zeitoun neighbourhood, then on to his sister's house in Khan Younis and then to the Hay al-Salam area in Rafah.

After the shelling of the past few days and being informed the need to evacuate along with other residents, he took refuge

in Deir Al-Balah, which is an area adjacent to Al-Mawasi. Mr. Rajab said he does not know what awaits him now.

"We don't know what our fate is," he said. "We expected the ceasefire deal would be reached, and we would go to Gaza City, but the opposite happened. Only God knows what will happen to us." The young Gazan hoped that his voice would reach the world outside.

"Gaza has nothing but God," he said.

The article first appeared on UN News.



Crowds of civilians line the streets of Rafah on May 7, 2024, as many rushed to flee parts of the city.   
 AFP

With a Gaza cease-fire in balance

# Netanyahu maneuvers to keep power



By Steven Erlanger  
Chief diplomatic  
correspondent for NYT

## OPINION

**Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, is known as a man who likes to play for time and postpone big decisions. But he may not be able to do that much longer.**

**Domestically, his coalition partners on the far right threaten to break up the cabinet if he agrees to a cease-fire and does not try to clear Hamas out of Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.**

**Militarily, the strategic logic is to complete the dismantling of Hamas by taking Rafah and controlling the border with Egypt. But diplomatically, his allies, especially the United States, are pushing him to agree on a cease-fire, and skip Rafah and the potential civilian casualties a large-scale operation would cause.**

**So, Netanyahu is now negotiating and maneuvering on several fronts at once, all of which have a significant effect on the conduct of the war and his own future as prime minister.**

His recent warnings to Palestinians in parts of Rafah to move to areas Israel has designated as safe, followed late Monday night by the Israeli military's seizure of the Gaza side of the Egyptian border, signaled to his far-right cabinet coalition, to Hamas, and to the Biden administration that he would continue to prioritize Israel's security interests. More importantly, Israel's more narrow war Cabinet, which includes senior opposition figures, backed those decisions.

The seizure of the Rafah crossing to Egypt, to try to complete Israel's security control of Gaza's borders, has, for now, avoided a large-scale and contentious military operation in Rafah itself, which is filled with displaced civilians. It may signal that Israel is preparing at long last to agree to at least a temporary cease-fire in Gaza, even as the outcome of those negotiations remains uncertain.

"Netanyahu is being pulled in various directions," with pressure mounting on him to respond, said

Daniel Kurtzer, a former US ambassador to Israel now at Princeton University.

Foremost is Netanyahu's desire to avoid new elections, which could mean loss of power and a renewal of the various court cases against him. "Political survival always ranks first in Netanyahu's calculations," Kurtzer said.

Then, there are the competing pressures on him from "extremists in his own coalition who want to continue the war," he said, and from the captives' families, who want the cabinet to prioritize a cease-fire and a release of more people seized in Israel during the Hamas-led October 7 attacks,

together his governing coalition, which has 64 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament, a narrow majority.

His far-right partners, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, together control 14 seats, and they have vowed to leave the cabinet if the prime minister makes too many concessions and agrees to a cease-fire in Gaza, leaving Hamas to claim victory. They have insisted, as Netanyahu has also done, that the military will move on Rafah.

Gadi Eisenkot, a former general and opposition member of the war Cabinet, accused the two men of "political blackmail" and of

It would also bring more captives home — not all of them, but some of the most vulnerable, as well as some who are dead and could be buried by their families. That could help diminish the anti-cabinet rallies often spearheaded by the families of the captives.

It would also go some way to pacify President Joe Biden, who could claim a diplomatic victory with a cease-fire, which would also allow much more humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza, allow more civilians to move to safer areas and even to the north, after they are screened by Israeli troops, and avoid a full-scale attack on Rafah.

nels under Rafah is strategically more important to Israel than the Hamas fighters left in Rafah.

Despite Egyptian denials of extensive smuggling into Gaza, Israeli officials believe that much of the extraordinary arsenal and the building supplies that Hamas accumulated in Gaza came through tunnels from Egypt.

Nitzan Nuriel, a reserve brigadier general and former director of the counterterrorism bureau of the Israeli National Security Council, worked with Netanyahu for several years. "Rafah is important not because of the four Hamas battalions that are still there," he said. "Rafah is im-

genuinely believes an operation in Rafah is central to Israel's overall goals — not merely in going after the remaining Hamas forces, but in cutting off their ability to re-supply via smuggling through the Egyptian border."

The military operation "also puts pressure on Hamas to relent on some of its more expansive demands in the cease-fire negotiations," Sachs said.

### Diplomatic concerns

Netanyahu is under enormous pressure diplomatically — from allies including the United States and Germany, from the United Nations, from the European Union, and from regional Sunni Arab states — to avoid a major operation in Rafah. They want him to allow in much more humanitarian aid to Gaza and agree to a deal with Hamas that could, at least, promise what the current draft text calls a "sustainable calm," rather than a permanent cease-fire.

But such a deal still would not resolve the fundamental divide between Israel and Hamas over how to conclude the conflict.

Hamas wants the war to end now, with the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Gaza and the release of all captives in exchange for a large number of Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

Israel wants to ensure that any cease-fire is temporary so that Hamas cannot claim victory and begin to restore its control over Gaza.

Still, after Hamas' most recent concessions, coupled with the Israeli military moves to control the Egyptian border, a cease-fire deal seems much more possible than before — perhaps even desirable for Netanyahu.

But Gaza residents are wary and mistrustful of Israeli statements. Mkhaimar Abusada is a Gaza political scientist whose university in the enclave, Al-Azhar, has been destroyed in the fighting. Now in Cairo with his family, Abusada said he is convinced that "no matter what the international community says, Netanyahu is going to go into Rafah."

Netanyahu "wants to keep his coalition government, to avoid early elections, to stay prime minister and not go to jail," he said. "I just hope he does it in a way that deals in a humane way with the Palestinian civilians."

But in the end, Abusada said, Netanyahu "and Israel cannot be victorious after this war, not with this much death and destruction, with all the Palestinian civilians and children dead."

The full article first appeared on *The New York Times*.



A person in prison clothes wears a mask depicting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a demonstration against the Israeli government in Tel Aviv on January 6, 2024.   
 ALEXANDRE MENECHINI/REUTERS

Externally, the pressure comes from Biden administration officials and some in Congress "who are losing patience over the humanitarian situation," he noted. They want a cease-fire and oppose a major onslaught on Rafah. Finally, there is "the real, continuing threat of escalation, especially from Hezbollah," he said.

Here is a closer look at the political, military, and diplomatic concerns Netanyahu confronts as he weighs his next steps.

### Political concerns

Netanyahu is desperate to hold

standing in the way of the return of at least some captives.

But new elections would almost certainly produce a new coalition without Ben-Gvir and Smotrich, so Netanyahu has some room to maneuver.

Agreeing to a form of temporary cease-fire in stages, as proposed in the current negotiations, could allow Israel to deal with what it says are the four Hamas battalions in and under Rafah at a much slower pace, over many weeks, especially now that the strip of Gaza along the Egyptian border has been seized.

"Netanyahu is in no hurry to end the war," said Daniel Levy, a former Israeli negotiator who now leads the US/Middle East Project, a nonprofit policy institute. "He doesn't want a cease-fire deal that threatens his coalition or his ability to continue the war after a pause. He wants to drag it all out because once the war is over, what is the excuse for not having new elections?"

### Military concerns

Israeli military officials and analysts emphasize that cutting off the smuggling of arms and equipment from Egypt through the tun-

portant because the message to the Palestinians who live in Gaza is that Hamas will not be able to control Gaza for good."

Otherwise, he said, Palestinians in Gaza would "stay afraid of Hamas and therefore will cooperate with Hamas."

Even a modest operation in Rafah "fits several of Netanyahu's goals simultaneously," said Natan Sachs, director of the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution.

Like many Israeli officials, including those who want a cease-fire deal now, Sachs said, "Netanyahu

# Iran gearing up in last-ditch quest for place in Paris

## Sports Desk

The volleyball contests of the Olympic Games in Paris might be some 10 weeks away but it is fair to say that Iran's adventure of the showdown with the best in the game is right around the corner.

As if the Asian powerhouse – yet to secure a place in Paris – needed more reasons to go all out for success in the upcoming Volleyball Nations League, the remaining tickets for the French capital will be on the line when the preliminary round of the annual event gets underway on May 21. With Germany, Brazil, Poland, Canada, USA, and Japan having already joined host France, and Egypt likely to take the African slot, only four Olympic quotas remain up for grabs, which will be decided through the FIVB Ranking by the end of the VNL preliminary round on June 23.

As it stands in the ranking, third-placed Italy, Argentina (sixth), Slovenia (seventh), and Serbia (ninth) are the favorites to head to Paris, with Iran lagging behind in the 15th place.

New Brazilian head coach Mauricio Motta Paes arrived in Tehran two weeks ago to embark on a new chapter for the Iranian national team, following a dreadful run under former coach Behrouz Ataei.

Ataei's side finished third from bottom in the VNL 16-team table last year and then failed to seal the Olympic berth in last October's qualification tournament in Rio de Janeiro, during which the Iranian stepped down from his role in the aftermath of a defeat against the Czech Republic.



Iranian players are seen in a training session in Tehran, Iran, on May 5, 2024.  
● SEPIDEH ABDOLLAHI/volleyball.ir

Iran will be back in the Brazilian city for Week 1 of the Nations League, starting with an encounter against Serbia in what could already be a crunch opener for both teams in their quest for the Paris ticket.

Reigning world champion Italy – stunned by Germany and Cuba in the Olympic qualifiers – is

second on the fixtures list, with Cuba and Argentina also coming Iran's way in Brazil.

"The first week of action will be like a world war for Iran, as we will face two of our direct opponents for the Olympic quota," prolific outside hitter Milad Ebadi-pour, who is back in the Iranian squad after a reported feud with

the former coach and some of his teammates last year, said during a training session.

The Iranian captain still remains "confident" ahead of the VNL campaign despite "tough circumstances in a last-ditch effort to clinch the Olympic spot."

"Some of us did not have much time to train with the rest of the

squad but we're not looking for excuses. We're all here for one goal and that is to make our people happy and proud," said the Ural Ufa player, who was among the late additions to the squad due to his club commitment. Paes, meanwhile, has had to cope with the absence of some key players in the opening days

of his new job. Middle-blockers Ali-Asghar Mojarrad and Ali Shafiei have been ruled out of the Nations League with injuries, while integral duo Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi and Amir Ghafour decided to withdraw from international duty.

Paes, however, shrugged off the veteran pair's decision in his first press conference in Iran, saying: "I don't think the absence of star players would make much of a difference as the important thing will be to build a decent squad. Many of these players were part of the team over the past two years but the results were still not good enough."

"It is important for all members of the squad to play with their hearts and if a player does not buy into our project, he would better be away from the team," added Paes.

"Everyone knows that Iran has top-notch players, especially in the age-group levels. The mission ahead of us is surely a daunting one but I feel optimistic about steering the team toward that goal," Paes said.

The VNL fixtures will come thick and fast in the coming weeks, as Paes's men will visit Fukuoka to take on the Pool 3 host Japan on June 4, before matches against Brazil, Bulgaria, and the VNL debutant Turkey in Week 2.

The final week of the preliminary round – starting June 18 in Manila – will see Iran play USA, the Netherlands, France, and Germany.

The top seven in the table after three rounds of fixtures will be joined by the VNL Finals host Poland in the quarterfinals in Lodz on June 27.

## Leverkusen deserve all the titles they can win, says Alonso



Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso (R) celebrates with his coaching staff after progressing to the Europa League final in BayArena, Leverkusen, Germany, on May 9, 2024.  
● THILO SCHMUELGEN/REUTERS

**REUTERS** – Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso says his team deserve all three titles available to them this season after they qualified for the Europa League final by overcoming AS Roma on Thursday.

Leverkusen, the Bundesliga champions who have also reached the May 25 German Cup final, played their 49th match without defeat in

all competitions, surpassing Benfica's long-standing European record set from 1963 to 1965.

They achieved the milestone after a late comeback from two goals down to secure a 2-2 draw at home to Roma, securing their spot in the May 22 final in Dublin by 4-2 on aggregate.

"We'll play two finals in a week as a result," Alonso said. "We showed

great character today after their second goal. I looked my players in the eye afterwards and saw that they wanted more.

"We still have the chance to win three titles. And my boys deserve all three titles."

Leverkusen had a slice of luck as Roma defender Gianluca Mancini deflected the ball into his own net in the 82nd minute.

Substitute Josip Stanic then scored the equaliser just before the final whistle to send Leverkusen into the record books and said it was among the biggest moments of his career.

"Definitely one of them. We knew what was at stake, we really wanted to get to the final and I think you could see that over 90 minutes today," said Croatia international Stanic.

"I don't think we would have cared in the end if we lost and still progressed because we really wanted to get to the final, but it's even nicer this way."

For Roma, the chance to make it into a second straight Europa League final after last season's defeat by Sevilla on penalties slipped away in the dying minutes of the match.

"When you manage to get it back from 2-0 down and go close to the miracle, knowing nobody has ever beaten them this season, it hurts to see us concede a goal like that. It hurts," Roma manager Daniele De Rossi told Sky Sports Italia.

## Mitchell stars as Cavaliers level tie against Celtics



Cavaliers' Donovan Mitchell (45) goes up for a basket during a victory over the Celtics in the NBA Eastern Conference semi-final series in Boston, MA, US, on May 9, 2024.  
● AFP

**BBC** – Donovan Mitchell scored a game-high 29 points as he helped the Cleveland Cavaliers level their NBA Eastern Conference semi-final series against the top-seeded Boston Celtics at one game apiece.

The Cavaliers fell behind in each of the first two quarters but Mitchell scored 23 points in the second half to lift the visiting Cavaliers to a 118-94 victory.

The shooting guard finished with eight assists and seven rebounds.

"Everybody did their job," Mitchell said. "We were extremely confident, even after game one. Understanding that we had some things we could adjust."

"Tonight we executed very well, but at the end of the day, it's one win. We'll continue to build upon it. Take care of business at home and protect home court."

Mitchell also scored a game-high 33 points in game one but Boston earned a 120-95 victory.

The Celtics, who are chasing a record 18th NBA championship, were led by Jayson Tatum, who had 25 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

Game three of the best-of-seven series moves to Cleveland tonight.

Elsewhere on Thursday, the Dallas Mavericks secured a 119-110 win against the Oklahoma City Thunder to even their Western Conference semi-final series at 1-1. Luka Doncic and PJ Washington scored 29 points apiece as the Mavericks hit 18 three-pointers, their highest total in the 2024 postseason.

Doncic, who was struggling with a knee injury, added 10 rebounds and seven assists. The Slovenian star limped through the fourth quarter after colliding with Oklahoma City's Cason Wallace.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points with 12 rebounds and eight assists for the Thunder. The series heads to Dallas for game three tonight.



Iranians vote at a polling station in Tehran during the parliamentary runoff elections on May 10, 2024.  
● HOSSEIN NAQIZADEH/IRAN DAILY

# Iran holds parl. runoff

**National Desk**  
Iranians had the chance to cast ballots for parliament again on Friday in regions where candidates failed to secure enough votes in

March. Candidates needed at least 20 percent of all valid votes in their constituency to be elected in the initial round. Friday's vote was to fill the

seats of 45 deputies, out of the 290 in parliament, in 15 of Iran's 31 provinces, including Tehran, officials said. In the capital, Tehran, 16 representatives will be

chosen from 32 candidates. Final results are expected on Monday, though counts in smaller constituencies are likely before that. Leader of the Islamic Rev-

olution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was among the first to cast a ballot as voting began. Ayatollah Khamenei said that every person, who wants Iran's progress, has a national duty to take part in the election. "The importance of the second round is not less than the first one, and God willing, our beloved people will all participate, vote and complete the parliament," the Leader added. "The more votes, the stronger the parliament is, and the stronger the parliament, the more opportunities to work in the country." The first round of the parliamentary election was held along with the Assembly of Experts vote on March 1, saw a turnout of 41 percent. Twenty-five million Iranians out of 61 million eligible voters took part in the elections. Back then, 245 candidates managed to pass the 20-percent threshold to win the ticket to the parliament. In the 2016 parliamentary elections, first-round turnout was above 61 percent, before falling to 42.57 percent in 2020 when elections took place during the Covid pandemic.

## Iran says it will change its nuclear doctrine if existence threatened



**International Desk**

Head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations Kamal Kharrazi said that Iran will have to change its nuclear doctrine if Israel threatens its existence. In an interview with Al Jazeera Television network, Kharrazi, a former foreign minister, emphasized that if Israel makes a mistake and attacks Iran's nuclear facilities, Tehran's level of deterrence will be different. "Two years ago, in an interview with Al Jazeera, I announced that Iran has the potential to produce a nuclear bomb; and today we still have that capacity, but we have no decision to produce a nuclear bomb," he said, IRNA reported. In April, in the middle of a tense standoff with Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear weapons, a senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps also said Israeli threats could prompt Iran to change its nuclear doctrine. Brigadier General Ahmad Haqhtalab, who is the commander of Iran's Nuclear Centers Protection and Security Corps, warned of potential revisions to Iran's nuclear policies if Israel continues to threaten attacks on its nuclear sites, Tasnim News Agency reported. "If Israel attempts to use the threat of attacking nuclear facilities to put pressure on Iran, a revision of the nuclear doctrine and a departure from the previously announced considerations is likely," stated the com-

mander. Haghtalab highlighted Israel's history of sabotage and terrorist acts against Iran's nuclear industry alongside its ongoing threats. Iran and Israel have long been arch enemies, but what was for decades a shadow war erupted into open confrontation on April 13, when Tehran launched about 300 missiles and drones against Israel in retaliation for an Israeli strike on its embassy compound in Damascus on April 1, which killed seven members of the Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. In response, Israel reportedly launched an attack on Iranian territory on April 19. On the same day, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said drones that sources say Israel fired at the central city of Isfahan caused no damage or casualties, in comments made to the envoys of Muslim nations in New York. The foreign minister said they were "more like toys that our children play with" than a serious threat. "The Zionist regime's media supporters, in a desperate effort, tried to make victory out of their defeat, while the downed mini-drones have not caused any damage or casualties," Amir-Abdollahian said. Kharrazi said it is not considered a military operation. The move was not against Iran's nuclear facilities, but they wanted to target only one of the military bases. If they attack Iran's nuclear facilities, Tehran's level of deterrence will be different.

## Borrell: Spain, Ireland to recognize Palestinian state on May 21

**International Desk**  
Spain, Ireland and other European Union member countries plan to recognize a Palestinian state on May 21, the EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, said late on Thursday ahead of an expected UN vote on Friday on a Palestinian bid to become a full member. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said in March that Spain and Ireland, along with Slovenia and Malta, had agreed to take the first steps toward recognition of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, seeing a two-state solution as essential for lasting peace. Asked on local Spanish radio station RNE if May 21 was when Spain, Ireland and other EU countries would recognize a Palestinian state,

Borrell said yes, mentioning Slovenia as well. "This is a symbolic act of a political nature. More than a state, it recognizes the will for that state to exist," he said, adding that Belgium and other countries would probably follow. Previously, Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares had said the decision on recognition had been made, although he did not give a date. International calls for a cease-fire and permanent end to Palestinian-Israeli conflict have grown along with the death toll from Israel's offensive in Gaza since Oct. 7. On Friday the United Nations General Assembly was to back a Palestinian bid to become a full UN member by recognizing it as qualified to join and sending the applica-

tion back to the UN Security Council to "reconsider the matter favorably." Ireland's national broadcaster RTE said on Thursday that Spain, Ireland, Slovenia and Malta had been waiting for the UN vote and were considering a joint recognition on May 21. Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob said earlier this week his country would recognize Palestine's statehood by mid-June. Since 1988, 139 out of 193 UN member states have recognized Palestinian statehood. Meanwhile, Spanish universities expressed willingness Thursday to suspend ties with any Israeli educational institution that failed to express "a clear commitment

to peace" as the war rages in Gaza. Student protests have gathered pace across Western Europe in recent weeks with protesters demanding an end to the Gaza bloodshed and to cut ties with Israel, taking their cue from demonstrations that have swept US campuses. In a statement, the university chancellors' governing board (CRUE) denounced the violence and threw its support behind the protests that have recently popped on Spanish campuses. Demanding an immediate

end to Israel's actions in Gaza, they pledged "to review ties and if necessary, suspend collaboration with Israeli universities and research centers that haven't expressed a firm commitment to peace and respect for international humanitarian law." The Gaza war, which began on October 7, has sparked a wave of pro-Palestinian protests that have rocked US campuses for weeks in an intensity not seen for decades, with the movement then spreading to cities in Europe and even Australia.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



**Tender Notice**  
**No. Z/1403/03**  
**Deadline Extension**

Hereby **Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.** announces selling and export 140,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: [www.geg.ir](http://www.geg.ir). All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 10:00 A.M. on 18. May.2024 to Golgohar office in Tehran (Fatemi Ave. opposite of Laleh hotel building No. 273). Bidders are invited to the mentioned address of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 10:00 A.M. on 18 May.2024 at the office of the Seller.

**GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.**

**Tender Notice**  
**No. Z/1403/04**  
**Deadline Extension**

Hereby **Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.** announces selling and export 10,000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.5) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: [www.geg.ir](http://www.geg.ir). All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 10:00 A.M. on 18. May.2024 to Golgohar office in Tehran (Fatemi Ave. opposite of Laleh hotel building No. 273). Bidders are invited to the mentioned address of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 10:00 A.M. on 18 May.2024 at the office of the Seller.

**GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.**

- License Holder
- ICPI Caretaker
- Managing Director
- Editor-in-chief
- Int'l & National Desk
- Economy Desk
- Sports Desk
- Iranica Desk
- Arts & Culture Desk

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)  
 Ehsan Salehi  
 Ali Kakadezfuli  
 Mostafa Shirmohammadi  
 Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi,  
 Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollaei Mozaffari  
 Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, Sadeq Dehqan  
 Amirhadi Arsalanpour  
 Leila Imeni  
 Hamideh Hosseini

- Editorial Dept. Tel
- Address
- ICPI Publisher
- Advertising Dept. Tel/Email
- Website
- Email
- Printing House

+98 21 84711171  
 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran  
 +98 21 88548892-5  
 +98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com  
 www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir  
 irandaily@icpi.ir  
 Iran Cultural & Press Institute



[irandaily.ir](http://irandaily.ir) | [newspaper.irandaily.ir](http://newspaper.irandaily.ir) | [IranDailyWeb](http://IranDailyWeb)

Vol. 7554 ● Saturday, May 11, 2024 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages



**Provincial tour**  
 Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi waves back to the crowd of people who welcomed him to their city during his 15th round of provincial visits on May 9, 2024.  
 ● MOHAMMAD MOHSENZADEH/MIZAN



**Book fair on 2nd day**  
 Visitors peruse books on display at the 35th Tehran International Book Fair at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla on May 10, 2024.  
 ● HASSAN SHIVANI/IRNA



**Orange blossom festival**  
 The 10th National Orange Blossom Festival is held in Langroud, North Iran, on May 10, 2024.  
 ● MOJTABA MOHAMMADI/IRNA



**Girls' celebration**  
 National Girl's Day (May 8) is celebrated in a ceremony attended by hundreds of girls in Tehran, Iran, on May 9, 2024.  
 ● MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN MOVAHEDINEJAD/TASNIM



**Motocross competitions**  
 A biker flies through the air at a national motocross competition in Ahvaz, Southwest Iran.  
 ● ALIREZA MOHAMMADI/ISNA



**Revival of a dying lake**  
 People rejoice at the sight of a relatively revived Lake Urmia, Northwest Iran, during spring.  
 ● HADI BOROUMANDNEJAD/TASNIM