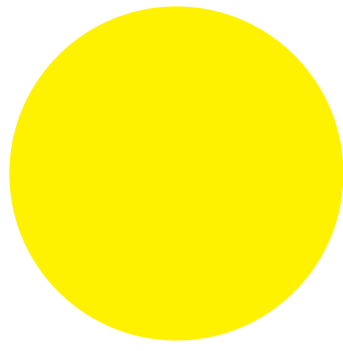


Stronger
India-Iran
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Chabahar
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SPECIAL ISSUE



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IranDailyWeb

Quake Hits Israel's War Cabinet

Three members
step down >



By **Abed Akbari**
Political analyst

**PERSPECTIVE
EXCLUSIVE**

and unease in a ceremony in honor of the Normandy landings, a pivotal operation in World War II. His subsequent television interview with French channels captured the attention of many experts, as the title he chose carried a weighty message. Macron's trepidation proved prescient as polls predicted a victory for the extreme right in the European Parliament elections.

However, as the final day of voting in these elections concluded and estimates showed a 30% win for the right-wing party "National Rally," led by Marine Le Pen, the French president took swift action. He announced snap elections, calling for the dissolution of parliament and scheduling new elections within the coming weeks—on June 30 and July 7, respectively. Macron's move reflected a sense of urgency and a desire to reshape the political landscape in the face of a surging right-wing tide.

The unexpected decision by Macron, unveiled on the evening of Sunday, June 9, came amid polls predicting a significant shift in the political landscape. The "Renaissance" party, led by Macron, was projected to secure only around 15% of the votes in the European Parliament elections, while the main opposition party, the Socialists, headed by Raphaël Glucksmann, was forecast to garner about 14% of the vote.

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"Europe has never faced a threat of this magnitude," Emmanuel Macron warned with grave concern



State of fear

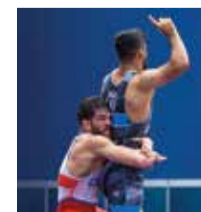
Macron's gov't rattled by far-right surge, parl. dissolution

Iran urges 'technical' talks with Kuwait on disputed gas field

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kana'ani dismissed on Monday Kuwait's one-sided stances about the joint Arash gas field, emphasizing that the repeat of such statements and claims have no legal value and would not entitle Kuwait to any right.

The only way to solve the issue is to return to technical talks to reach a sustainable agreement under good neighborliness and respect for common interests, the official noted, as reported by IRNA.

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Iran urges 'technical' talks with Kuwait on disputed gas field



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The only way to solve the issue is to return to technical talks to reach a sustainable agreement under good neighborliness and respect for common interests, the official noted, as reported by IRNA.

The spokesman underlined that Iran's strategic policies entail the settlement of regional problems on the basis of interaction with the neighbors, saying Tehran welcomes constructive initiatives for the enhancement of relations and multilateral cooperation.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry denounced the sections of a recent statement by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) of Ministers regarding the three Iranian islands, Iran's peaceful nuclear program, and the Arash oil and gas field.

Kana'ani slammed as "unconstructive and futile" certain contents of the PGCC statement issued at the conclusion of the 160th session of the PGCC Ministerial Council meeting in Doha.

The Arash gas field, also known as "Al-Durra" by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, was initially discovered by a Japanese oil company back in 1960. This field is shared between Iran and the neutral zone situated between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. According to the previously determined border limits, approximately 40% of the Arash field's oil and gas reserves lie within Iranian waters.

However, over the past decade, Kuwait, relying on seismic surveys conducted by Shell, has defined a new border line that places the entire Arash field within its Arab sector. Tehran does not accept this maritime border set by Kuwait.

Consequently, the disputes between Iran and Kuwait over their maritime boundaries have hindered the exploitation of this significant field. It is estimated that the shared field holds around 368 billion cubic meters of natural gas reserves and approximately 310 million barrels of oil reserves.

Iran's annual trade turnover hits \$180b: CBI



Iran's trade turnover reached \$180 billion in the previous Iranian year which ended on March 19, announced the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) for economic affairs. Mohammad Shirijian said that Iran exported about \$100 billion worth of goods from March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024, showing a three percent hike compared to a year earlier, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Shirijian added that \$80 billion worth of products were imported into the country last year, registering a 6.2 percent hike compared to a year before. According to official figures, the value of Iran's trade with its neighbors increased by 1.35 percent in the previous Iranian year to reach \$60.773 billion. Mohammad Rezvanifar, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has put the volume of non-oil trade with the neighboring countries at 95.924 million tons in the said period, which was 2.45 percent less than the figure for the preceding year. During the past year, Iran exported \$28.288 billion worth of goods to its neighbors, while importing commodities valued at \$32.485 billion. Iran's exports to neighboring countries decreased by 9.51 percent last year while the imports from neighboring countries increased by 13.17 percent. Rezvanifar named Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan as the top importers of Iranian goods among the neighboring countries, and the UAE, Turkey, Russia, Oman, and Pakistan as the main sources of imports.

Iran registers surge in electricity demand as temperature rises

In Iran, daily electricity consumption reached a stunning 67,387 megawatts (MW) on Saturday (June 9), marking a significant increase of 14,000 MW compared to the same date last year, as reported by Iran Grid Management Company (IGMC).

The scorching heat has led to a surge in the use of air conditioning units, resulting in a corresponding increase in electricity consumption, according to IRNA. Last year, on the same day, the country's electricity consumption stood at 53,480 MW. To address the growing demand for electricity during

the peak summer period, the Iranian Energy Ministry has devised several strategies with a focus on increasing electricity production and managing consumption effectively.

In response to the current challenges faced by Iran due to rising temperatures and decreased rainfall, the Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (Tavanir) has been working diligently to prevent energy shortages and blackouts.

Renewable energy is also playing a crucial role in Iran's energy sector, with the construction of various renewable power plants

across the country. In particular, Sistan and Baluchistan Province in southeastern Iran has been identified as a key area for renewable energy projects. Currently, there are plans to build a 780-megawatt plant in the region, alongside existing wind and geothermal energy projects.

Alireza Parandeh Motlaq, deputy head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SATBA), highlighted the significant advantages of wind energy generation in Sistan and Baluchistan. With a 50-megawatt wind power plant already in-



stalled in the region, there is potential to not only meet the local electricity demands but also to export excess energy to neighbor-

ing countries like Pakistan. Overall, as Iran grapples with increasing electricity consumption during the summer months, efforts to

manage electricity usage effectively are crucial for ensuring a stable and reliable power supply for the country's growing needs.

Russia, Iran to jointly launch major transport projects: Putin's aide



A senior advisor to Russian President Vladimir Putin has expressed Moscow's willingness to carry out strategic projects with Tehran and promote cooperation in major transportation projects.

In a meeting with Ali Baqeri Kani, the caretaker foreign minister of Iran, on the sidelines of a ministerial meeting of the BRICS countries in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod on Monday, Igor Levitin said Moscow is determined to implement the previous agreements with Tehran, as reported by Tasnim News Agency. The aide to the Russian president said he will soon pay a visit to Iran to assess the implementation and completion of the joint strategic projects, including the International North-South Transport Corridor, a 7,200-km multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road route for moving freight between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.

Russia intends to connect the North-South corridor to the other corridors and prepare the ground for closer cooperation between Moscow and Tehran in the transportation sector, Levitin stated.

Chaired by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, the two-day ministerial meeting of BRICS is also attended by senior diplomats from the Friends of BRICS nations.

The ongoing event marks the first ministerial meeting of BRICS following the association's extension in 2023.

Date: 22/03/1403 - No.: 55/03/6892

INVITATION TO RENEWAL OF ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER
First Announcement
AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, affiliated to Ministry of Agriculture-Jihad of I.R of Iran, is considering the purchase of the below item of technical, through renewal of one step international tender.

	Name	PACKING	Quantity/ KG
1	Deltamethrin Tech Min 98.5 pct.	50 kg drums	1800

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Tuesday dated 11/6/2024 until Wednesday dated 19/6/2024 (6 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 33903978226350065000000000000008.

The bidders are requested to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Saturday dated 20/7/2024 (to the end of official working hours) to our security office located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on Sunday dated 21/7/2024 at 10:00 AM with the presence of bidder's representatives at our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, Fourth Alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

We would like to emphasize that the value of the bid bond amount must be only submitted by the bidders in bank guarantee as follows:

The value of the bid bond: € 4860 is equivalent to Iranian Rials 2218935060.

- The bid bond value should be in Euro or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the exchange rate of Telegraphic Transfer of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir, on 28/5/2024.
- The bidders are also permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial.
- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporq.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

Public relations and international affairs of agricultural support services company

Yasuj is full of natural wonders and landscapes



Yasuj Forest Park
● IRNA

Iranica Desk

The city of Yasuj in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, situated 1,870 meters above sea level on the slope of the Zagros Mountains, is a great destination for travelers from all across the country. With its ever-flowing Beshar and Mehrian rivers and oak forests, the city, which is home to the hospitable Lor people, ranks second in the country in terms of rainfall and snowfall. The most pristine natural sites have winding and unpaved roads, which create many challenges and difficulties for visitors; however, the tourism spots of Yasuj, located in the urban area, are easy destinations for travelers.

Forest Park

As a green area spanning over 1,000 hectares, Yasuj Forest Park is the largest of its kind in the southern part of the country. It is a distinctive natural attraction covered with oak and other local trees. Also known as Kuhestan Park, it is one of the most significant and well-known attractions of the city. The presence of numerous gazebos and hiking trails, as well as an asphalt road, has made the park a popular destination for those seeking recreation and exercise.

Coastal Park

The Coastal Park of Yasuj, located at the southern entrance of the city, is one of the most beautiful tourist sites in the region showcasing the interaction between humans and nature. Extending over an area of 14 hectares, the park which lies along the Beshar River hosts an amusement park that can create joyful moments for families and their children.

Waterfall Park

The Waterfall Park, located near the city center, with its abundant trees and amazing atmosphere,

creates an unforgettable memory in the minds of its visitors. Its pleasant weather, roaring rivers, fruit gardens, green pastures, and a beautiful waterfall have helped create a mesmerizing destination. With an area of eight hectares, each corner of the park manifests the traditional art and culture of the local people.

Mehrian Canyon

Mehrian village, situated between a river of the same name and Dena Mountain, with diverse trees such as oak, maple, plane, and wild grape, is another tourist destination near Yasuj. The flowing clear water in Mehrian Canyon, with a gentle slope along with the formation of charming waterfalls between thick trees, has helped create a captivating landscape in the area. Located on the road linking Yasuj to Oqlid, Mehrian Canyon is covered with green oak forests, walnut groves, and other unique scenes.

Ganjei Canyon

Approximately 10 kilometers from the northwestern border of Yasuj, there is an area with pleasant weather, a roaring river, and thick forests that attract a large number of tourists, especially during spring and winter. The canyon is located in a village of the same name where tall green trees provide shade over cool water springs. The songs of the birds, alongside the calming sounds of the wind and flowing water, refresh the souls of the visitors.

Souvenirs

Farshid Karimi, deputy head of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicraft Organization, mentioned that thanks to its pristine landscapes and abundant natural and artificial attractions, the city of Yasuj is a popular destination for many tourists, especially in the summer. He referred to mountain plants, traditional handicrafts, and food items like curd, cooking oil, and honey as the main souvenirs of Yasuj.



Coastal Park
● rahbal.com



Waterfall Park
● IRNA



Mehrian Canyon
● eligash.com

Ma'moureh Cemetery, a historical and cultural chronicle of Armenian presence in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province



● IRNA

Iranica Desk

The historical Ma'moureh Cemetery in Borujen, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, which was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2002, holds significant importance for artistic and stonemasonry research, as stated by archaeologist Khosrow Ahmadi in an interview with ISNA.

Discussing the history of Ma'moureh Cemetery, he noted that the presence of Armenians in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province dates back to the Safavid era. "A group of Armenians arrived in the region under the direction of Shah Abbas Safavid and resided there for approximately 350 years," he added. He further mentioned that following the settlement of Armenians in the area, schools, churches,

and cemeteries were established. The remaining structures provide valuable insight into the social, cultural, historical, and religious beliefs of the inhabitants for enthusiasts and researchers. Ahmadi highlighted the diverse stone inscriptions on the graves at Ma'moureh Cemetery, noting that the gravestones vary in size and design, with engraved patterns falling into five categories: botanical, ani-

mal, symbolic, objects, and tools. These engravings were tailored to depict the occupation, gender, and social status of the deceased individual.

The archaeologist elaborated that despite the name inscribed on the gravestone in the Armenian cemetery, the gender of the deceased can be deduced from the engraved patterns. He explained that angel and flower motifs were typically utilized for women, whereas symbols of the sun and human dignity were often engraved for men, based on their occupation, gender, and social standing.

Regarding the registration of 17 Armenian cemeteries on the National Heritage List, there are indications of Armenian presence in various parts of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province. However, due to the absence of distinct gravestones and incomplete information, these areas have not been designated as national heritages. Therefore, proactive measures must be taken in this regard.

Ahmadi noted that the gravestones in Ma'moureh Cemetery date back to the Qajar and Pahlavi periods, with inscriptions in Armenian and dates according to the Gregorian calendar.

The archaeologist emphasized the importance of raising awareness among the public to preserve the historical significance of Ma'moureh Cemetery. He clarified that no artifacts were buried with the deceased.

Another positive move toward strengthening Indian-Iranian bonds

New Delhi welcome to recognize Farsi among its classical languages



By Reza
Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writer

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, the external affairs minister of India, made a noteworthy announcement to enhance cultural ties by designating Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy.

This decision was highlighted during a press conference held jointly with late Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the Iranian counterpart, in January. Jaishankar, during his official visit to Tehran, emphasized the deep-rooted cultural, literary, and linguistic connections that exist between Iran and India.

"The government of India has decided to include Farsi as one of the nine classical languages of India in our New Education Policy," Jaishankar stated, highlighting the significance of recognizing Farsi's rich heritage within the Indian educational system.

Classical languages in India, also known as 'Shastriya Bhasha', encompass languages with ancient origins and rich, unique literary traditions.

In 2004, Tamil became the first language in India to be granted the prestigious status of a classical language. Subsequently, Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia also received

this recognition, solidifying their significance in the linguistic landscape of the country. Including a language in the roster of classical languages also signifies that the language is now available as an elective subject for students to choose as a secondary language in educational institutions.

Before the British colonized the Indian subcontinent, the Persian language served as the lingua franca of the region and was widely employed as the official language in North India. Following the implementation of the "divide and rule" strategy by the British, where Hindu and Muslim Indians were set against each other, efforts were made to encourage Western education among both groups. This resulted in a gradual detachment of Indians from their heritage, culture, and languages.

Farsi, also referred to as Persian, boasts a profound and captivating past as an ancient language. It is predominantly spoken in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and certain regions of Uzbekistan. With a remarkable number of over 100 million speakers across the globe, Farsi stands as one of the prominent languages worldwide, holding a prestigious position. Throughout history, several Muslim rulers in India, including Akbar and Jahangir, took the initiative to commission Farsi translations of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. However, Dara Shikoh went beyond this by personally undertaking the translation of the Upanishads into Farsi, with the assistance of his

experienced official, Chander Bhan. Additionally, numerous Farsi romances, such as "Leili and Majnun" and "Yusef and Zuleikha", were also translated into various Indian languages from Farsi, further enriching the cultural exchange between the two regions.

Several studies have indicated that the historical ties between Iran and India, particularly during the Safavid and Gurkani eras, have had a significant impact on the architectural culture and the creation of gardens in India. Iranian culture, literature, art, and architecture have influenced these aspects in India. As a result, the Taj Mahal can be seen as a prime example of Iranian architectural design manifested in the Indian subcontinent.

Experts suggest that just as scientific knowledge from India spread to the Arab world, languages from Arab and Farsi made their way to India, playing a role in the development of Hindustani languages such as Urdu and Hindi. The influence of Indo-Farsi or Indo-Persian culture flourished primarily during the 12th and 13th centuries, as a significant arrival of individuals from Central Asia or the Turkic region migrated to India. This convergence ultimately paved the way for the emergence of the Delhi Sultanate, marking the inception of the first Indo-Persian governance in the region.

It was highly admired by scholars that, during his trip to Tehran in January, Foreign Minister Jaishankar emphasized the significant value of the strong people-to-people connections



between the two countries, highlighting them as one of the greatest assets they share.

The Indian minister's emphasis on his country's commitment to leveraging Iran's strategic location for improved regional connectivity, particularly for accessing markets in Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Eurasia is valuable.

Along with expressing satisfaction with the comprehensive nature of his discussions in Iran, Jaishankar highlighted the frequent high-level interactions between the two countries. He also mentioned ongoing efforts to establish a "long-term cooperation framework" for the strategic Chabahar Port on the south-eastern coast of Iran.

The commitment to be complementary with boosting the cultural relations could push the two countries to a strategic level.





Potential of academic partnership between India, Iran

In a rapidly changing global landscape, collaboration and partnerships between nations have become increasingly important for economic and social development. Academic partnerships, in particular, play a crucial role in fostering innovation, research, as well as knowledge and technology exchange. India and Iran, two ancient civilizations with rich cultural heritage and strong academic traditions, have the potential to greatly benefit from closer collaboration in the field of education.

ITEC program

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program, initiated by the Government of India in 1964, has been instrumental in promoting technical cooperation and capacity building with partner countries. Iran has been a long-standing participant in the ITEC program, sending professionals and students to India for training in a wide range of areas, including agriculture, information technology, and



healthcare.

The ITEC program has played a significant role in strengthening ties between India and Iran by facilitating knowledge exchange, cultural understanding, and networking opportunities. By expanding and diversifying the scope of the ITEC program, both countries can leverage their respective strengths in academia to address common challenges and opportunities.

One area where India and Iran can benefit greatly from collaboration is in the field of science and technology. Both countries have a strong research base and a growing focus on innovation and entrepreneurship. By fostering academic partnerships in areas such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, renewable energy, and artificial intelligence, India and Iran can leverage their respective expertise to drive technological advancements and economic growth.

Skilled professionals

Furthermore, collaboration in the field of higher education can help address the growing demand for skilled professionals in both countries. By sharing best practices in academic curriculum development, faculty training, and student exchange programs, India and Iran can enhance the quality of education and improve graduates' employability in a competitive global market.

Another area with tremendous potential for academic partnership between India and Iran is cultural exchange and language studies. Both countries boast rich cultural heritage and diverse linguistic traditions. By promoting academic collaborations in areas such as literature, history, and language studies, India and Iran can deepen their cultural understanding and foster cross-cultural dialogue.

The benefits of academic partnership between India and Iran are not limited to the academic domain alone. Collaborations in education can also facilitate people-to-people ties, promote tourism, and enhance

diplomatic relations between the two nations. By investing in academic exchanges, research partnerships, and joint academic initiatives, India and Iran can build a strong foundation for long-lasting cooperation and friendship.

Academic MoUs

In recent years, the governments of India and Iran have taken several initiatives to strengthen academic ties between the two countries. The signing of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between universities, research institutions, and educational bodies has paved the way for enhanced collaboration in areas such as joint research projects, faculty exchanges, and student scholarships.

Recently, Climate Change and Health Research Centre of Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) inks a pact with Edward and Cynthia Institute of Public Health (ECIPH), Mangaluru, India to promote academic and policy-based research centered around public health consequences of climate change and human health interactions.

The two institutions will be pursuing academic and policy-based initiatives wherein the health systems convergence and impact is ascertained pertaining to climate change risks in the region and also cascading risks around disaster management and sustainable development.

The cooperation will be further nurtured through joint research, policy briefs, seminars, exchange program for faculties, researchers, students and co-creation of knowledge products that influence and impact global health diplomacy and strengthen bilateral public health cooperation between Iran and India.

The MoU was signed on April 23 by Abbas Ostad Taqizadeh, dean of the center at TUMS and Edmond Fernandes, director of ECIPH.

In March 2023, Iranian and Indian officials in the field of publication and international book exhibitions signed an MoU.

The MoU was signed in the presence of the head of the National Book Union of India and the managing director of Iran Book and Literature House.

According to the MoU, publishers of Iran and India take part in the exhibitions of the two countries and will present their works, which will facilitate the cultural interactions between the two countries.

Other initiatives

Initiatives such as the India-Iran Joint Working Group on Education and the establishment of academic chairs and centers of excellence have provided platforms for sustained engagement and collaboration in the field of education. By leveraging these initiatives and building on existing partnerships, India and Iran can unlock the full potential of academic collaboration for mutual benefit.

As India and Iran look towards a brighter future of academic partnership, it is essential to address challenges and barriers that may hinder effective collaboration. Issues such as visa restrictions and bureaucratic hurdles can impede the flow of students, scholars, and researchers between the two countries. To overcome these challenges, both nations need to streamline visa processes, promote language training programs, and facilitate academic exchanges through joint programs and scholarships. By addressing these barriers and creating a conducive environment for academic partnership, India and Iran can maximize the potential of collaboration and unlock new opportunities for innovation and growth.

Stronger India-Iran relations with Chabahar development amid US sanctions threat

Despite the looming threat of US sanctions, both Tehran and New Delhi are steadfast in their commitment to the development project of Chabahar port, recognizing the significance of the oceanic port as a key trade gateway in the region.

Located on the southeastern coast of Iran, Chabahar port is strategically positioned to serve as a major hub for shipping and trade in the region. The port provides India with a vital link to Afghanistan and Central Asia, along with offering a shorter and more cost-effective route for trade and commerce.

For Iran, Chabahar port presents an opportunity to enhance its maritime trade capabilities and boost economic growth.

The Chabahar development project has been a focal point of collaboration between India and Iran, with both countries investing significant resources to expand and modernize the port infrastructure. The construction of new terminals, roads, and railway lines at Chabahar Port is expected to enhance connectivity and facilitate smoother trade flows between India, Iran, and other countries in the region.

Despite the US threat of sanctions, India and Iran have remained committed to the development of Chabahar, recognizing its potential to strengthen economic cooperation and bolster strategic interests. The project holds strategic importance for India as it provides access to landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia, reducing dependence on traditional trade routes through Pakistan.

Furthermore, Chabahar port offers India an alternative route for trade with Europe and Africa, diversifying its trade options and reducing reliance on congested transit routes. By investing in the development of Chabahar port, New Delhi aims to enhance its regional influence and expand its economic footprint in the strategically important region.



For Iran, the development of the port is a key component of its broader strategy to diversify its economy and reduce dependence on oil revenues. By expanding its maritime trade capabilities and attracting foreign investment through projects like Chabahar Port, Iran aims to boost economic growth and create new opportunities for trade and investment.

The US threat of sanctions on Iran has raised concerns about the future of the Chabahar port project, given the potential impact on foreign investment and trade activities in the region. However, both India and Iran remain committed to the project, viewing it as a crucial component of their respective economic development and strategic interests.

India has reiterated its support for the development of Chabahar port, highlighting the importance of the project for enhancing regional connectivity, promoting economic growth, and expanding trade opportunities. The Indian government has continued to invest in the project and explore avenues for further cooperation with Iran in order to realize the full potential of Chabahar port.

"Any entity, anyone considering business deals with Iran, they need to be aware of the potential risk that they are opening themselves up to and the potential risk of sanctions," US State Department spokesman Vedant Patel has told reporters.

Indian authorities, however, have downplayed the tensions, with Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar telling reporters that New Delhi would "communicate the benefits" of the deal to the US and urge countries not to "take a narrow view of it".

Despite the challenges posed by the US sanctions threat, India and Iran have demonstrated resilience and determination in advancing the development of Chabahar port. Both countries have reaffirmed their commitment to the project and are working together to overcome obstacles and ensure its successful implementation.

India has signed a 10-year agreement to develop and operate Iran's strategic Chabahar port. "It [the port] serves as a vital trade artery connecting India with Afghanistan and Central Asian Countries," India's Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, as New Delhi attempts to strengthen ties with an important Middle Eastern nation.

India Port Global Limited (IPGL) and the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran signed the long-term deal, which will allow New Delhi to upgrade and operate one terminal at Chabahar port over 10 years.

Chabahar port consists of two separate ports — Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti. India will operate a terminal in Shahid Beheshti, and as per the agreement, invest \$120m into equipping it. An additional \$250m loan credit facility for related projects in the port brings the contract's value to \$370m.

The two countries first started talks on the project back in 2003 but a barrage of US sanctions targeting Iran prevented any real developments. Tehran and New Delhi revived the talks again after Washington eased sanctions under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Polyák Imre & Varga János Memorial: Esmaeili recovers from bizarre defeat as Iran completes Olympic roster

Iranian Saeid Esmaeili (blue) is caught off guard by Cuban Luis Orta's throw during a Greco-Roman 67kg semifinal at the Polyák Imre & Varga János Memorial in Budapest, Hungary, on June 9, 2024.

UWW



Sports Desk

Young Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Saeid Esmaeili will have to take a lesson from his premature celebration against Cuban Luis Orta at the Polyák Imre & Varga János Memorial when participating at the Paris Olympics later in the summer.

There were more at stake than a UWW Ranking Series medal for six Iranians in Budapest as the outcome of the event settled the country's three remaining slots in the Games.

A former world under-20 gold medalist, Esmaeili was joined by fellow-Iranian Mohammadreza Gerai in the 67kg contests, with the latter – the reigning Olympic champion and a winner of three world medals since the Games in Tokyo – the clear favorite to punch his Paris ticket.

Gerai overcame minnow opponents from Tunisia and France to reach the semifinals before the latest episode of his decay in form since winning the 2021 world

title saw the Iranian suffer a 6-1 loss to world 63kg champion Leri Abuladze of Georgia.

Gerai's setback meant a victory over Orta, who won the gold in last year's world event, in the other last-four clash would have sealed the Olympic berth for Esmaeili.

The Asian champion dominated the first period to race to a 7-0 lead and was a single point away from a massive win, but the Cuban reduced the deficit to two after the break to stay in the contest.

Esmaeili still managed to defend his lead until the final three seconds and when Orta dropped his guard, seemingly accepting the defeat, the Iranian began walking toward his corner to celebrate with his coach.

However, in one of the most awkward scenes in recent history of the sport, Orta approached Esmaeili from behind before launching a four-point throw with 0.1 seconds left on the clock to win the bout.

Devastated by the defeat, Es-

maeili did a great job to come from behind and score a final-second takedown against Japanese Kyotaro Sogabe for a 6-5 win in the third-place battle, keeping his hopes for an Olympic spot alive.

Gerai, meanwhile, came out on top against Ecuador's Andres Montano to share the third podium with Esmaeili, as it all went down to a head-to-head between the two Iranians for a place in Paris.

According to the regulations of the Iranian selection process, Gerai needed one victory to secure his Olympic title defense, while Esmaeili had to win twice.

And it was Esmaeili who rose up to the occasion as he claimed back-to-back triumphs (6-0 and 6-4) against the Olympic champion to earn a well-deserved place in the Iranian six-man squad.

There was further misery for the Gerai brothers on Sunday as the elder of the two Mohammad-Ali also missed out on the Olympic 77kg slot.

The Iranian Wrestling Federation had confirmed prior to the tournament that Mohammad-Ali Gerai or Mohammadreza Mokhtari had to win the gold in Budapest to be given a chance against Amin Kavianejad, who had won the Olympic quota for the country in April's Asian qualifiers, for a Paris ticket.

Gerai fell to a 6-1 defeat against two-time world silver medalist Sanan Suleymanov of Azerbaijan in the quarterfinals, while Mokhtari could only manage to finish his campaign with a consolation bronze, meaning Kavianejad will head to Paris.

Mahdi Mohsennejad had secured the Iranian 60kg spot in Paris earlier in the competitions, despite a final loss to Georgian.

The result still proved to be enough for Mohsennejad, who had won the Olympic quota for Iran in last year's World Championships, as his domestic rival Amir-Reza Dehbozorgi finished behind him on the third podium. Esmaeili, Kavianejad, and

Mohsennejad will be joined by Alireza Mohmadi (87kg), Mohammad-Hadi Saravi (97kg), and Amin Mirzazadeh (130kg) in representing Iran in the summer extravaganza.

Mohmadi will be looking to build on his world 82kg silver when heading to Paris, with Saravi, a winner of one gold and two bronzes in the World Championships, hoping to improve on his Olympic bronze in Tokyo.

World champion Mirzazadeh, meanwhile, will be among the favorites for the superheavyweight glory in Paris – along with Cuban great Mijaín López, who will be chasing a fifth successive Olympic gold, and 13-time world and Olympic medalist Riza Kayaalp of Turkey.

Freestyle five

There were major doubts over Hassan Yazdani's fitness levels before the Budapest tournament as he made his long-awaited return to the wrestling mat just before the tournament after being side-

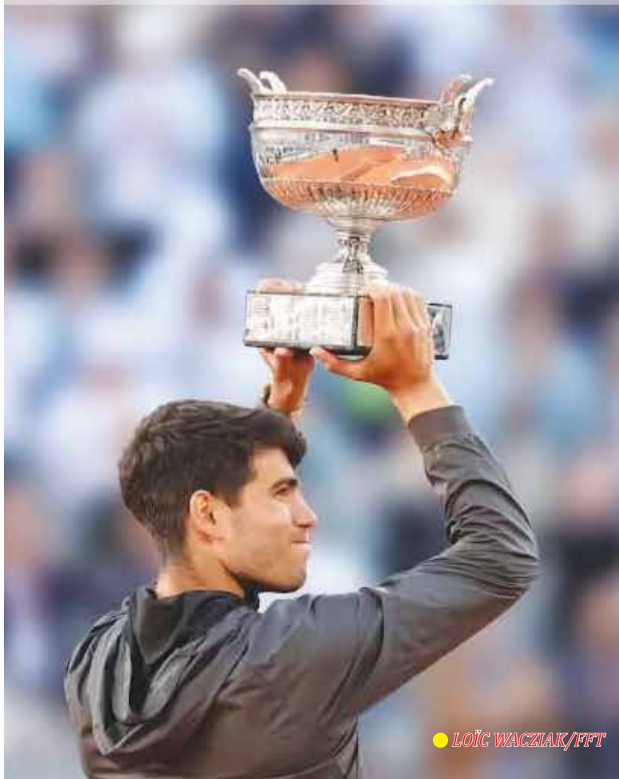
lined for eight months due to a surgery on his shoulder.

The wrestling sensation, however, showed no signs of injury struggles in Budapest, cruising to the ultimate prize of the freestyle 86kg contests to remain on course for a history-making campaign in Paris, where a second Olympic gold will see him overtake taekwondo legend Hadi Saei as the most-decorated Iranian in the history of the Games.

Four Iranians had already been guaranteed participation in Paris. Amirhossein Zare' will be the hot favorite for the 125kg gold as he will be looking to round off a stellar three years in his career, having grabbed double world golds and a bronze, as well as the bronze in Tokyo.

Rahman Amouzad, a world 65kg champion in 2022, will be after a medal in his maiden Olympic presence, with two-time world bronze winner Younes Emami (74kg) and young prodigy Amir-Ali Azarpira (97kg) also eager for an impressive run in Paris.

Alcaraz enters all-surface elite with French Open triumph



REUTERS – Carlos Alcaraz made a grand entrance into the tennis history books as he claimed his maiden French Open title to become the youngest man to capture Grand Slams on all three surfaces with a see-saw five-set victory over German Alexander Zverev on Sunday.

The 6-3 2-6 5-7 6-1 6-2 win may not have been a classic, but the Spaniard showed that he belonged among the elite as he added a third Grand Slam crown to his impressive trophy cabinet that already has the 2022 U.S. Open and 2023 Wimbledon titles.

Alcaraz became the seventh man to win a major on hard, grass and clay courts, a feat that eluded some of the sport's greats, including American Pete Sampras, who boasts 14

major titles, but never won at Roland Garros.

At 21 years old, Alcaraz has played in three Grand Slam finals and won them all, while for comparison, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic were in their late 20s before they mastered the sport's slowest surface.

"Since I was little kid, I was running from school to put on the TV to watch this tournament. Now I am lifting the trophy in front of all of you," said Alcaraz, who was described by Zverev as a "Hall of Famer" in his speech.

Sunday's defeat prolonged Zverev's frustration at Grand Slams, with the German still chasing a first title despite reaching the last four eight times.

"I'll be back next year," Zverev promised.

'Unlucky moments'

In the first men's Roland Garros final not featuring any member of the Big Three – Rafael Nadal, Djokovic and Federer – in two decades, Alcaraz and Zverev failed to impress, their lack of consistency making for a disappointing display. "There was some unlucky moments. I heard that at 2-1 the second serve was out. From the Hawk Eye data I saw that. I break back there, I have break chances and then in the next service game, a fifth set can go the other way," Zverev said. "There's a difference whether you're down 3-1 in the fifth set or you're back to two-all.

"It's frustrating in the end, but it is what it is. Umpires make mistakes. They're also human and that's okay. But of course in

a situation like that, you wish there wouldn't be mistakes."

Zverev, who was bidding to become the first German man to win a singles Grand Slam since Boris Becker in 1996, saw his hopes slip away on the biggest stage yet again. Alcaraz broke once more before serving it out and clinching the title on his first match point.

"When you're playing a fifth set you have to give everything and you have to give your heart. In those moments, it's where the top players give their best tennis," Alcaraz said. "I wanted to be one of the best players in the world, so I have to give extra in those moments, I have to show the opponent that I'm fresh, like we're playing the first game of the match."

New accessions to BRICS bespeak its growing power: *Iran*

International Desk

Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani said joining of new members to the BRICS group of countries is a clear sign of its growing power in the world.

"BRICS has the largest population, the largest economy and the largest territory on the planet. Therefore, it should be the voice of the majority of the world's people who prefer a more democratic and multilateral world over the current chaotic one," Baqeri Kani told a BRICS ministerial meeting in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod on Monday.

BRICS has now turned into a successful model of "new cooperation" and "coalition of fast-growing economies" and has shown that it has a plan, initiative and multi-faceted programs to reform global governance and play a greater role in the world, the



Participants in the BRICS ministerial meeting in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod observe a minute of silence in memory of the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. **IRNA**

Iranian official added. He said that the reform of the international financial system based on the Bretton Woods should be the BRICS's priority as the international monetary system, Bretton Woods, has always acted as an obstacle for the progress

of independent and developing countries. Referring to the US abuse of countries' dependence on the dollar as a weapon, Baqeri Kani said that the BRICS member states should expedite measures to tap further into their national currencies

instead of the dollar in trade, use cryptocurrencies and establish new financial-banking structures, etc. The summit kicked off on Monday, with the participants observing a minute of silence in memory of the late Iranian President Ebrahim

Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, who lost their lives in a tragic helicopter accident last month. The BRICS group of fast-developing economies initially consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and

South Africa. This year, the group was expanded to include Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE and Ethiopia as new members. The bloc, which is often seen as an alternative to the Western economic and political hegemony, comprises almost

46 percent of the global population, 36 percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) and 25 percent of the global trade measured in terms of exports. Upon his arrival in Russia, Iran's acting foreign minister told reporters that, "BRICS is the biggest international economic and trade organization that operates outside the framework of Western unilateralism." "The presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this organization is indicative of the position and importance of our country in the multilateral [world] system," he added.

Quake hits Israel's war cabinet Three members step down

The ultimatum given by "Benny Gantz," the rival and member of "Benjamin Netanyahu's" war cabinet, expired. A month ago, Gantz threatened to leave the war cabinet if Netanyahu did not meet his conditions, and he fulfilled his promise.

Gantz, a major Netanyahu rival, former defense minister and leader of the center-right National Unity party, had set a deadline of June 8 for Netanyahu to choose, in his view, between "division and unity" and between "victory and disaster." Israel's war cabinet was formed after Hamas's October 7 operation in the occupied territories. Gantz listed six "strategic objectives," including ending Hamas's rule in Gaza and establishing a multinational civilian administration for the region. He asked Netanyahu to clarify how he intended to achieve these goals.

National Unity holds five posts in the emergency cabinet.

The withdrawal of his party also means Gadi Eisenkot, an Israel Defense Forces general and war cabinet observer, and the minister without portfolio, Chili Tropper, are also stepping down.

Gantz is a political rival of Netanyahu and a former chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces. A month ago, Netanyahu explicitly stated he could not accept Gantz's conditions, especially as extreme members of his cabinet, like Defense Minister "Yoav Gallant," insisted that Netanyahu should not give in to Gantz. Faced with the choice between the collapse of the war cabinet by Gantz or the exit of his far-right allies from the cabinet, Netanyahu preferred to keep his extremist allies.

With the deadline passed, Gantz announced his res-

ignation at a press conference, stating that Netanyahu "prevents us from achieving true victory." He urged Netanyahu to hold elections as soon as possible and to form a national investigative committee. Gantz described his decision to leave the war cabinet as painful and called for elections this fall.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid defended Gantz's decision, stating that Gantz and Gadi Eisenkot's decision to leave Netanyahu's "failed cabinet" was correct. Lapid emphasized that it is time for a prudent cabinet to replace this extremist one, restore security, bring back the hostages, and regain our international standing. Former Defense Minister "Avigdor Lieberman," a former member of Netanyahu's cabinet and now the leader of the Yisrael Beiteinu party, called Gantz's resignation a good but overdue move.

Far right's election gains shake EU's traditional powers

Far-right parties rattled the traditional powers in the European Union with major gains in parliamentary seats, dealing an especially humiliating defeat to French President Emmanuel Macron, who called snap legislative elections.

The outcome of the elections showed the 27-nation bloc's parliament membership has clearly shifted to the right.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni more than doubled her party's seats in the assembly. And despite being hounded by a scandal involving candidates, the Alternative for Germany extreme right party still rallied enough seats to sweep past the slumping Social Democrats of Chancellor Olaf Scholz, AP reported. Sensing a threat from the far right, the Christian Dem-

ocrats of EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had already shifted further to the right on migration and climate ahead of the elections — and were rewarded by remaining by far the biggest group in the 720-seat European Parliament and de facto brokers of the ever-expanding powers of the legislature.

But the surge by nationalist

and populist parties across Europe will make it much harder for the assembly to approve legislation on issues ranging from climate change to agriculture policy for the next five years.

Undoubtedly however, the star on a stunning electoral night was the National Rally party of Marine Le Pen, which dominated the French polls to such an extent that Macron immediately dissolved the national parliament and called for new elections to start later this month.

Macron's gov't rattled ...

Voters from the Socialist camp have signaled their readiness for a leadership transition. Although Le Pen's far-right party seems poised for a historic win, currently, centrist and left-wing parties that align with the incumbent president collectively outnumber her party. This decision by Macron is a strategic move to rally support and counter the rising tide of the right-wing.

Le Pen's rising influence is undeniable, but the broader

trend toward right-wing parties in France is what truly underscores the urgency of the situation. This rapidly growing trend likely prompted the French president to announce, "with great concern," his swift decision to dissolve parliament and call for snap elections. Concerning the two mainstream parties, "Renaissance" (Macron) and Socialists (Glucksmann), which are projected to secure 15% and 14% of the vote, respectively, it's estimated that the left-wing party "Unyielding France"

will capture 3.8% of the vote, while the Green Party is expected to garner 5.2%. These figures highlight the shifting political landscape in France, with traditional parties facing challenges from both the right and the left. Around 360 million voters turned out on the final day of the European Parliament elections across 21 countries, including major players like Germany, France, Spain, and Poland. The four-day electoral process kicked off on Thursday in the Netherlands, wrapping

up voting in six countries. According to polls, the large, pro-EU parties are expected to retain their majority, but right-wing and nationalist parties will make gains, claiming more seats in the 720-member parliament. These elections mark the first time the European Parliament will convene without British representation following the UK's exit from the European Union. The timing of these elections is significant, as the European continent grapples with rising nationalist sentiments and deepening political divisions.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1403/07

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 140.000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 22. June.2024 to Golgohar office in Tehran (Fatemi Ave. opposite of Laleh hotel building No. 273). 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 at 09:00 A.M. on 22.June.2024 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
Fe	65.00	Min
FeO	1.0	Ave
P	0.05	Max
S	0.01	Max
SiO2	3.5	Max
Al2O3	0.7	Max
CaO	0.9	Max
MgO	2.5	Max
CCS (kg/p)	Ave 250	
8-16 mm%	Min 90	
-6 mm%	Ave 5	
A.I%	Max 3.8	
T.I%	Min 95	
Prosiy%	19-24	
Reducibility%	Min 90	

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Iran, Poland celebrate 550 years of diplomatic ties

Arts & Culture Desk

An international conference was held on June 9 to commemorate 550 years of diplomatic relations between Iran and Poland, highlighting the long-standing historical and cultural ties between the two nations.

The event took place at the University of Tehran, IRNA reported.

Maciej Fałkowski, Poland's ambassador to Iran, spoke at the conference, emphasizing the unique partnership between Iran and Poland throughout history. He noted that the relationship dates back to 1474, when Venetian merchant Am-

brogio Contarini delivered a letter from Shah Uzun Hasan to the Polish King Casimir IV Jagiellon.

The conference covered various topics, including the history of diplomatic relations, Iranian studies in Poland, Polish Iranologists, literary translations, and the examination of Persian manuscripts and historical documents.

Fałkowski highlighted the strong political and cultural relations between Iran and Poland during the 15th and 16th centuries, and briefly in the 20th century. He explained that both countries were regional powers that could ensure political order despite



challenges from neighboring states.

In the 16th century, Iran and Poland established significant commercial and cultural ties, leading to the creation of schools and research centers. Polish diplomats acted as intermediaries, facilitating political and philosophical dialogues between the two countries' leaders.

By the 19th century, interest in Iranian history, language, and culture flourished in Europe, particularly in Poland. This led to the establishment of new research centers in cooperation with universities in Lenin and Kraków. Polish artists drew inspira-

tion from Iranian culture, resulting in numerous academic studies, including dictionaries, translations of Persian poetry, and language research.

Fałkowski also mentioned two significant historical events that cemented the bond between Iran and Poland: The collapse of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 18th century and the acceptance of 116,000 Polish refugees by Iran during World War II. The ambassador concluded by noting that the historical legacy of Iran-Poland relations has made the two countries unique partners and a source of strength for both nations.

Iranian researcher joins BRICS High-Level Expert Council for culture

Arts & Culture Desk

Hamid Nazarkhah Alisarai, an Iranian poet, writer, and folklore researcher, became an official member of the BRICS High-Level Expert Council.

Vadim Terekhin, poet and coordinator of the World Poetry Movement (WPM) in Asia, selected Alisarai for this prestigious role. Alisarai is currently pursuing a master's degree in Iranian Studies at the University of Gilan.

Alisarai's international accolades include chairing the jury for the second Literary Asia contest in Kazakhstan and Egypt, winning the Lucius Annaeus Seneca Award

from the Academy of Philosophical Arts and Sciences in Italy, and receiving honors from literary events in Tokyo and Kazakhstan.

His works have been published in various languages, including Persian, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Serbian, Russian, and English, across various literary journals in Iran, Europe, and the United States. The formation of the BRICS Writers Association was initiated at the first congress of the WPM in Colombia and Venezuela in 2023, spearheaded by Terekhin. Current members include writers from the UAE, Egypt, India, China, South Africa, Brazil, Iran, and



Russia. Since joining BRICS in early 2024, Iran has actively participated in the group's cultural, political, and economic events.

Iran, India to cooperate on Asian Cheetah conservation

Social Desk

Ali Salajegheh, the head of Iran's Department of the Environment (DoE), announced cooperation between Iran and India on Asian cheetah conservation.

Speaking during an interview with ISNA coinciding with Environment Week, Salajegheh highlighted the significance of environmental protection, emphasizing Iran's constitutional commitment to it.

"Three countries in the world have key environmental principles in their constitutions," Salajegheh noted. "All countries acknowledge Iran's Article 50 as one of the most progressive principles, reflecting the country's intellectual and scientific maturity." Salajegheh also mentioned India's keen interest in the Asian cheetah, with a minister proposing

scientific exchanges on the species within India. He expressed concerns about cheetah fatalities on transit roads, stating ongoing efforts to mitigate risks with fencing, lighting, and warning signs.

"We aim to secure wildlife passages in collaboration with the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development," he added. Regarding climate change impacts on species interaction, Salajegheh warned against ecological disruptions leading to disease outbreaks among animals.

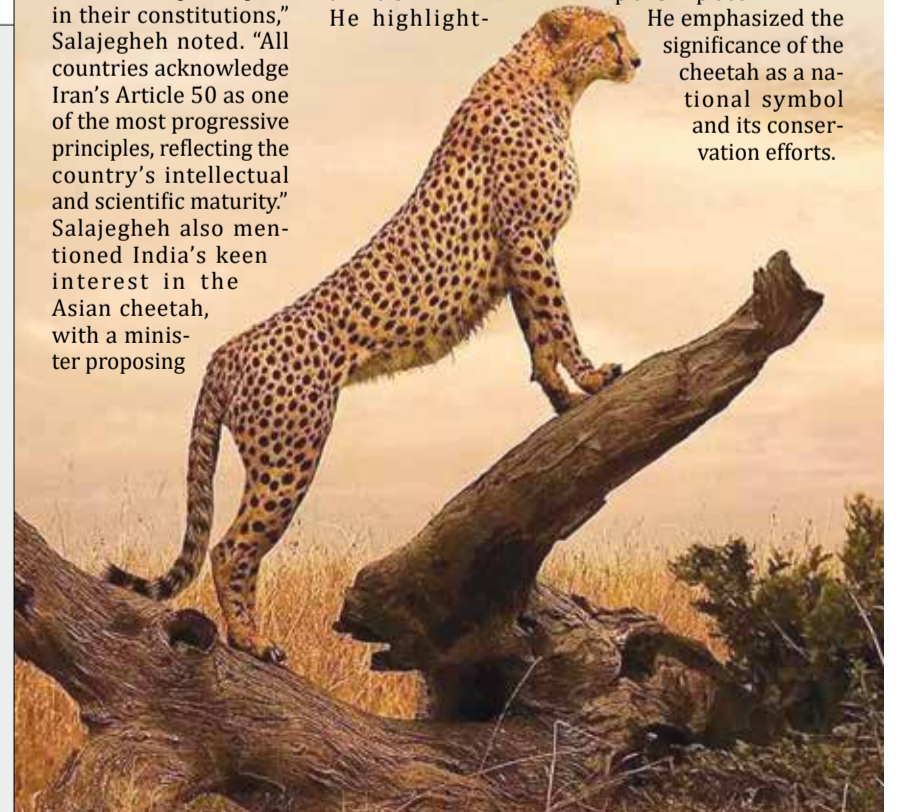
He highlighted

ed proactive measures nationwide to prevent such interactions, including nutritional provisions and veterinary care.

Concerning disease control, Salajegheh praised collaboration with the veterinary organization, noting a significant reduction in plague-infected livestock.

Regarding environmental conservation achievements, Salajegheh mentioned around 21 endangered animal species in Iran and comprehensive management plans in place.

He emphasized the significance of the cheetah as a national symbol and its conservation efforts.



Iranian documentary wins at US festival



Directed by Iranian filmmaker Gelareh Abbasi, the documentary 'Homa' received the Special Jury Award at the Accolade Global Film Competition in the United States.

Homa narrates the story of Homa Homavandi, a woman who works in a rehabilitation center and the problems and limitations she has in her life do not prevent her from having an active presence in the society.

Abbasi's film had also received an honorable mention from the Fusagasuga International Film Festival (FICFUSA) before.

Each year, Accolade grants annual Humanitarian Awards to filmmakers nominated by our judges for their dedicated service to social justice, humanitarian causes or environmental issues.

Sweden awards Iran's 'Parisan'



The Iranian film 'Parisan', directed by Kambiz Babaei, has won the Best International Feature Film award at the Swedish International Film Festival. The festival is being held from June 10 to June 13 in Stockholm. Recently, 'Parisan' also received multiple awards at the Kollywood Festival in India, including Best Director, Best Actor, and a Special Jury Award.