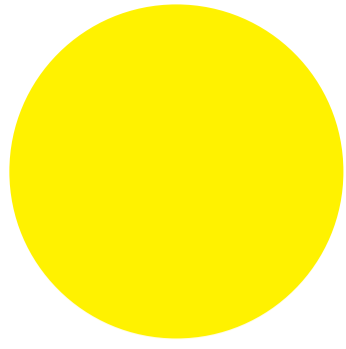


Iran hails French raid on MKO headquarters



7 >



# Iran Daily

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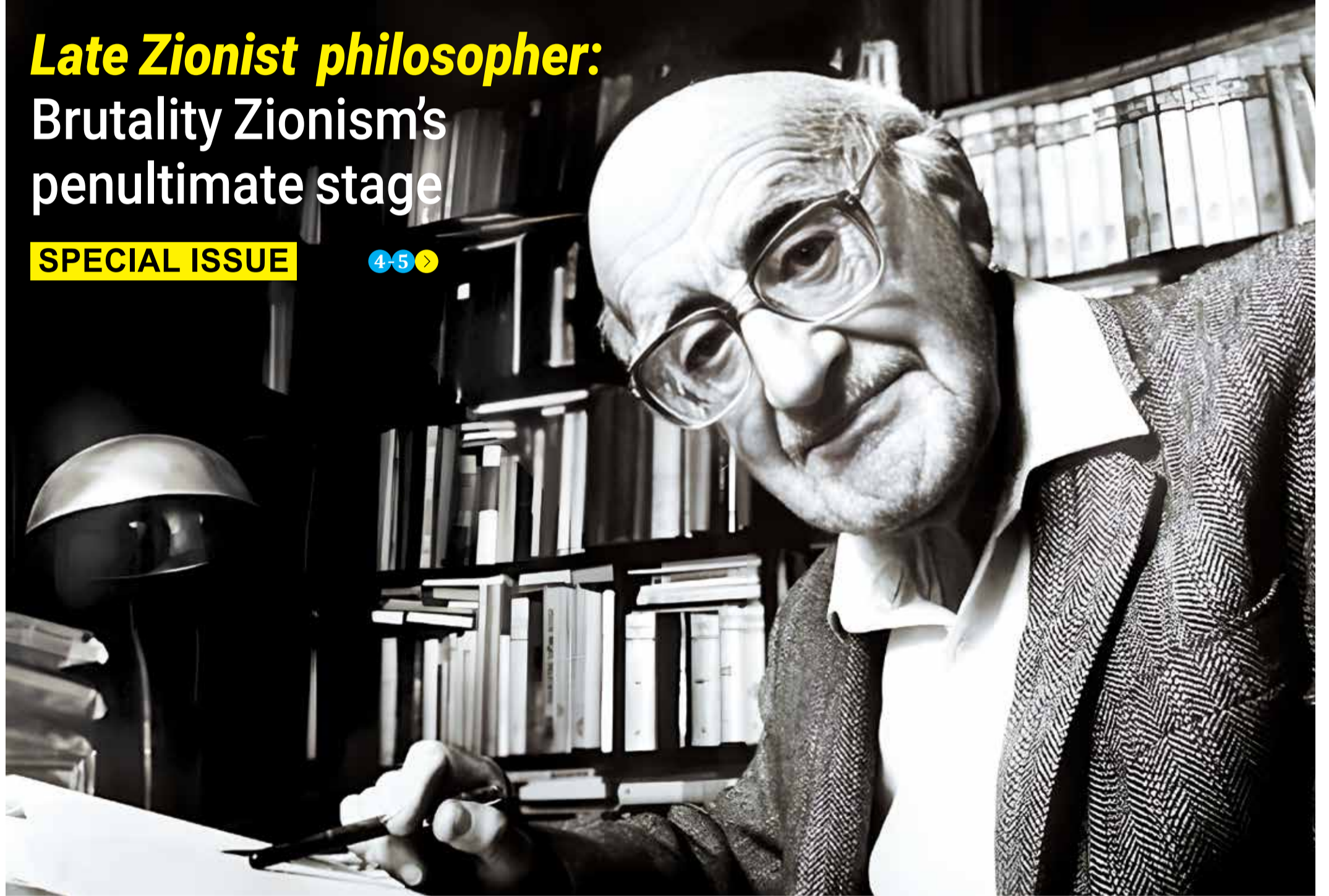
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## Energy cooperation with Moscow to continue: Owji



Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji held a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak and emphasized that the process of developing relations between Iran and Russia will continue in various fields.

Owji noted that during the late president Ebrahim Raisi's tenure, a good foundation was made in bilateral relations between Iran and Russia, Mehr News Agency reported.

He pointed to several phone calls between President of Russia Vladimir Putin and Acting President of Iran Mohammad Mokhbar, stressing that there is no doubt that the relations between Tehran and Moscow will strongly move forward.

Congratulating Russia Day, Owji expressed his satisfaction with the process of development of bilateral relations through the implementation of the agreements reached in the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the launch of a direct flight between Tehran and Grozny, the center of Russia's Chechnya Republic, he expressed hope that the cooperation will continue to strengthen the relations between the two countries along with the improvement of the level of relations.

Novak, for his part, emphasized Moscow's resolve to continue cooperation with Iran and to speed up the implementation of the agreements between the two countries.

He said that Russia is determined to continue the same path that was laid at the will of the Russian president and his late counterpart.

Novak added that Moscow and Tehran have close relations in all fields and this cooperation will be strengthened day by day.

Accelerating the process of completing the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), including the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway, for which the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding in 2023, was one of the topics discussed in the meeting.

Owji also held talks with Igor Levitin, a senior aide to Putin, and Sergei Tsivilev, Russia's Minister of Energy, during his visit to Moscow on Friday.

# Iran-Russia ties strategic, based on solid principles: Mokhber

Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber described the country's relations with Russia as strategic and founded upon unchanging principles.

Mokhber made the remarks on Thursday as he was speaking on the phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Press TV wrote.

"Complete implementation of all the agreements that have been clinched [between the two sides], including in the areas of trade, transit, and energy, forms the principal agenda of the bilateral ties," the Iranian official said.

The Islamic Republic was determined to implement those agreements, he reasserted.

Mokhber went on to review the process of the Islamic Republic's bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Russia, especially concerning the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), the BRICS group of emerging economies, and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

In this context, he laid emphasis on reinforcement of the legal bases of the Russo-Iranian cooperation.

Putin, for his part, considered the level of cooperation and the pace of expansion of economic relations between the two sides to be very favorable and satisfactory.

The Russian leader described the pending comprehensive cooperation agreement — a major deal that is expected to elevate relations between the two allied countries to a new level — as a proper legal basis for the expansion of mutual ties.

Putin likewise stressed that the full implementation of standing bilateral agreements, especially in the areas of transport and energy, would form the principal agenda of the bilateral ties.

The Russian president described the 2023 conclusion of a free trade agreement between Tehran and the EAEU as a proper basis for further development, enhancement, and dynamism of the Russo-Iranian trade.



Putin concluded his remarks by wishing the Iranian nation suc-

cess in the Islamic Republic's upcoming snap presidential

elections, which are slated to be held on June 28.

## Japan welcomes Iran's participation at Expo 2025



Japanese Ambassador to Iran Tamaki Tsukada said on Thursday that the Expo 2025 which will be held in the port city of Osaka, Japan, is an opportunity for Iranian-made products to be showcased as the event could help the promotion of Tehran-Tokyo ties.

In a meeting with business persons of the western Iranian province of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, the envoy was briefed on the potential of the province in various sectors and the local merchants voiced their demands.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Foreign Trade Organization (JETRO) have their offices in Iran, the ambassador said, adding, "I will talk to these two organizations on the requests of traders of the province." The Japanese envoy underlined that consultations and negotiations with Iran's Foreign Ministry and Iran International Exhibition Company on the participation of Iran in Osaka are underway and will be concluded by the end of June.

Expo 2025 will take place for six months during 2025, opening 13 April 2025 and closing 13 October 2025.

A total of 150 countries and 25 international organizations are expected to participate in the event.

## Russia halts dollar, euro trade on stock market after US sanctions

The Moscow Exchange (MOEX) has stopped trading in dollars and euros, a move prompted by a new round of US sanctions targeting Russia's financial institutions.

According to the Russian media citing the MOEX on Thursday, the suspension has affected foreign and precious metals trade but "derivatives market remains unaffected, with trade going on as usual." Russia's Central Bank elaborated on the matter in a separate statement, explaining that the official exchange rates for the two currencies will now rely on "bank records and information from digital over-the-counter trading."

Despite the suspension, companies and individuals have reportedly urged to continue buying and selling dollars and euros through Russian banks. Earlier on Wednesday, the US Treasury Department rolled out a new package of restric-

tions against Russia over the Ukraine war, targeting Moscow Exchange Group and its clearing agents, the National Clearing Centre (NCC) and the National Settlement Depository (NSD). US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen claimed that Russia has

fully transitioned into a "war economy" and is now "deeply isolated" from the international financial system.

Russian central bank, however, says the US move is aimed at disrupting the country's financial mechanisms.



## Israel faces increasing isolation over Gaza war crimes



By Syed Ali Hassan  
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

Over 140 countries have recognized Palestine as a state. The International Court of Justice has ordered Israel to cease its military actions, which Israel has ignored. Spain has filed a request with the court to join South Africa in a case against Israel for mass killings of Palestinians. According to global media reports, the United Nations, in its annual report, will release a list of countries and groups that have committed war crimes against chil-

dren during conflicts. Israel's ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, has expressed anger over the inclusion of Israel in this list. The list, expected to be published at the end of June, will also include the resistance movements of Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad to maintain a balance. The report focuses on violations of children's rights in war-torn areas.

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad are designated as "terrorist organizations" by the US and some EU countries. The war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has now entered its ninth month. According to the Health Ministry in Gaza, one in every 20 Palestin-

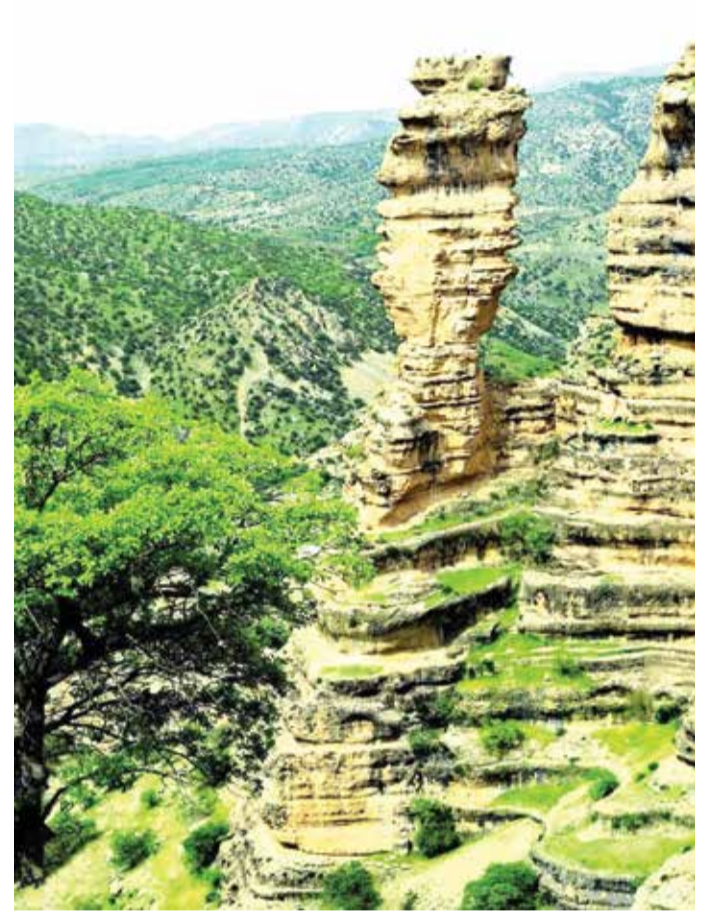
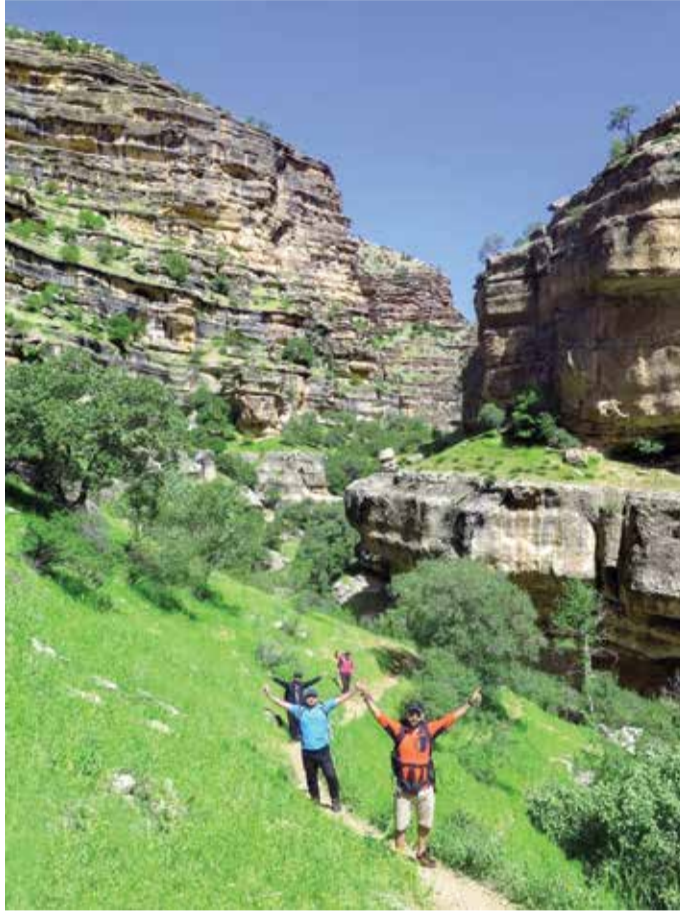
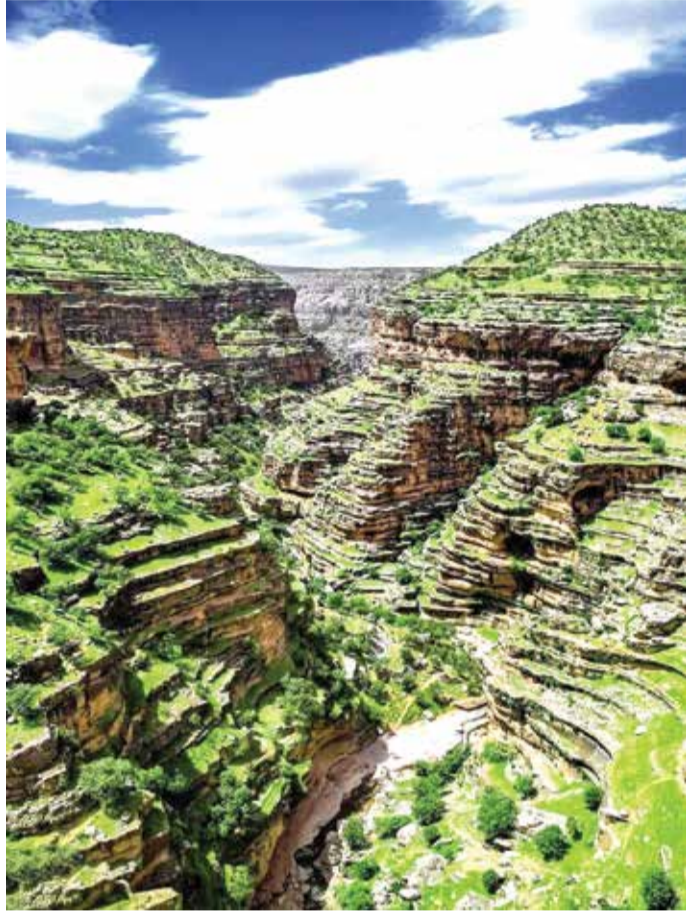
ians has been killed or injured by Israeli military actions, and most of Gaza's 2.4 million population have been displaced, searching for shelter and food. In Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's war cabinet is facing severe disagreements. Extremist Zionists in the cabinet are determined to eliminate every point of Palestinian resistance and oppose any ceasefire in the war. Benny Gantz, representing extremist Jews in the war cabinet, opposes a permanent ceasefire with Hamas and supports taking all necessary steps for the release of Israeli captives held by Hamas. These extremists have also made highly irresponsible

statements regarding the use of nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, China and Russia have expressed reservations about the US draft for a ceasefire in Gaza, and both have the power to veto any resolution in the UN Security Council. Algeria, the only Arab member of the Security Council, has also stated it is not ready to advance the draft immediately. Russia's suggestions include maintaining the ceasefire from the first phase while continuing negotiations for the second phase.

The US is seeking international support for its plan to end the eight-month-long war in Gaza through a resolution in the fifteen-member council, requiring

at least nine votes in favor and avoiding a veto from the US, France, the UK, China, or Russia. However, Ismail Haniyeh, head of Hamas' Political Bureau, has stated that Israel's increasing use of force against Gaza's people will not force them to accept a ceasefire agreement that does not consider Palestinian interests. In a statement on last Saturday, Haniyeh said Israel's belief that it could impose its terms through force is foolish. Israel's internal politics are complicating peace efforts and hindering resolutions that could lead to lasting peace, causing Tel Aviv to reject terms that could facilitate a sustainable peace.

# Magnificence of Shirez Canyon in western Iran



zerkir

## Iranica Desk

Shirez Canyon, situated at the border between Ilam and Lorestan Provinces in western Iran, is a truly remarkable destination to explore, boasting unique and stunning natural scenery. The most convenient access to this spectacular canyon is from Kuhdasht in Lorestan, establishing Shirez Canyon as one of the most beautiful attractions in the region.

If you have a penchant for exploring pristine and magnificent natural wonders, the rock formations in Shirez Canyon will undoubtedly enchant you. Nestled in the Zagros Mountain range, this area has a rich history spanning millions of years, and similar natural formations

are exceptionally rare to find in the world. The enduring forces of natural erosion have shaped the rocks into their current remarkable form, thus earning Shirez Canyon and similar areas the distinction of being some of the oldest natural museums on Earth.

Located 50 kilometers north of Kuhdasht, Shirez Canyon is surrounded by breathtaking natural landscapes. Situated amidst towering rocky mountains, the canyon resides within a deep valley where the presence of flowing water has enhanced the lushness of the entire area. The canyon spans approximately five kilometers, with its enclosing walls soaring from 150 to 200 meters in height above the valley floor.

Shirez Canyon stands out as a prominent natural wonder in Iran and globally, boasting stratified rock formations sculpted over countless years, with the geological park dating back millions of years. Nestled in the picturesque Zagros Mountains, this valley ranks among the most enchanting natural sites, drawing visitors and nature enthusiasts from all corners of the world. Traversing this canyon's path, hailed as one of Iran's most exquisite nature trails, unveils a labyrinth of winding valleys, each offering breathtaking natural panoramas. Shirez Waterfall captivates with its beauty amidst the meandering rock formations of the canyon. Adjacent to the sedimentary walls, this waterfall forms a magnificent

spectacle. Numerous smaller waterfalls dot the canyon, with the primary one known as the Parandegan (Birds) Waterfall owing to the avian presence in the surrounding nooks and crannies.

Erosion from rainfall and air-flow has intricately shaped the rock formations in Shirez Canyon over the passage of many years, resulting in their distinctive columnar structure.

Shirez Canyon boasts limited vegetation coverage, yet the favorable climate and perennial river flow have fostered the growth of oak, cherry, grape, and fig trees among the rocky terrain. Recognized for its exceptional natural and historical attributes, Shirez Canyon has earned a place on Iran's list of natural heritage

sites. Given its unique characteristics, this region holds the potential to be designated a UNESCO Global Geopark. Situated at an altitude of approximately 1100 meters above sea level, the canyon is considered one of Iran's colder regions.

When embarking on a visit to the canyon, it is crucial to equip oneself adequately for an adventurous exploration of pristine landscapes. Comfortable attire and suitable footwear are essential, tailored to the season of your visit. Given the water flow in Shirez Canyon, it's advisable to carry spare clothing to account for the possibility of getting wet. For those planning to trek in Shirez Canyon, ensuring you have all necessary camping gear is imperative. Access to water

and food within the canyon is limited, so it's vital to carry sufficient food supplies.

Several western provinces of Iran experience cold and rainy weather for a significant portion of the year due to their proximity to the Zagros Mountain range. Consequently, visiting the canyon during autumn and winter, particularly during heavy rains, is not advisable due to the risk of flooding.

To witness the canyon's breathtaking beauty, the optimal times for visiting are spring and summer. Early spring offers cool weather and refreshing rain showers, while summer brings warmer temperatures. The Shirez River swells with the onset of spring and maintains a robust water flow throughout the summer.

## Mir Emad Museum showcasing masterpieces by renowned Iranian calligraphers

### Iranica Desk

The Sa'dabad Palace Museum in Tehran is renowned as one of the city's top attractions. Within this historical and cultural complex are various buildings, including the Mir Emad Calligraphy Museum, which showcases masterpieces by renowned Iranian calligraphers from different eras. The Mir Emad Museum, located within the Sa'dabad

Palace Complex, attracts many visitors annually.

The Mir Emad Museum is situated in the heart of Sa'dabad Palace, housed in a building within the complex that reflects the architectural styles of the late Qajar and early Pahlavi periods. Originating from the Constitutional Revolution in 1906, this era lasted until 1961.

The museum building features two floors and, following the

Islamic Revolution, was repurposed into a museum along with the rest of the Sa'dabad Complex, dedicated to exhibiting and safeguarding precious calligraphic artworks.

In 1997, the museum's name was revised, drawing inspiration from the acclaimed Iranian calligraphy master, Mir Emad Hasani Ghazvini, who lived in the seventeenth century. His renowned calligraphic works have gained

international recognition.

With 196 square meters of area, the first floor of the building has been established on a platform with a height of one and a half meters, equivalent to 1.5 square meters.

### Different sections

The Mir Emad Museum building is divided into two distinct sections. The first floor features works of pre-Islamic calligra-

phy and a selection of Islamic calligraphy. On the second floor, visitors can explore Islamic calligraphic pieces, decorative calligraphy, practical objects, and handwritten manuscripts.

### Objects

Calligraphy has been used as a decorative element on some items since the early centuries of Islam, as it held significant importance in the Islamic world.

Metal lines on candlesticks, tombstones, ceramic and glazed bowls, as well as parts of the mihrab, are some of the noteworthy objects displayed in this section of the museum.

### Manuscripts

Collections of handwritten manuscripts, including poems and books such as the Holy Quran and prayer books, are exhibited in this section of the museum.



kojara.com

# Ruin of Israel long been foreseen

**Late Zionist philosopher:** Brutality Zionism's penultimate stage

## PERSPECTIVE

"The national pride and euphoria that followed the Six-Day War are temporary and will bring us from proud, rising nationalism to extreme, messianic, ultranationalism. The third stage will be brutality and the final stage will be the end of Zionism." These are the words of no anti-Zionist, who are multiplying rapidly, but a self-proclaimed Zionist philosopher. However, Yeshayahu Leibowitz did not live long enough to see how far ahead of everyone else in Israel he was and how Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seemingly taking it upon himself to prove these predictions true.

Described as "the conscience of Israel" by no less an eminence than Sir Isaiah Berlin, he arguably always had the best interests of Jews at heart. But what makes Leibowitz stand out from everyone who fulfills this criterion is that he was also not afraid to speak up to politicians with no foresight and/or sense of humanity that failed to bring Israel back from the path of self-destruction.



Captured Egyptian soldiers (R) bound for a prisoner of war camp pass an Israeli troop convoy in the Sinai desert during the Six-Day War on June 8, 1967. **ROLLS PRESS/POPPERFOTO**

### What self-defense?

"Israel has a right to defend itself." It is a refrain frequently invoked to justify Israeli responses to attacks launched against its citizens by Palestinian fighters. Yet not every Israeli has accepted that truism. Indeed, if there is a single individual who best represents the challenge to such thinking it is the late Yeshayahu Leibowitz.

A fierce embodiment of the Socratic gadfly, Leibowitz (1903-1994) was unafraid to use strong language to criticize Israel's occupation of the Palestinian people and territories, which commenced in 1967. "The corruption characteristic of every colonial regime would also prevail in the

State of Israel," he said in his typically provocative style. For Leibowitz, the occupation meant that Israel forfeited its right to retaliate in self-defense, and he was ever vocal about this position. His outspokenness, eloquence, and polymathy helped establish him as Israel's premier public intellectual.

### A secular brand of Zionism

Yeshayahu Leibowitz was born in Riga, Latvia, in 1903 into a family of religious Jews. They were Zionists, adherents of the pan-national movement founded in Europe whose goal was to establish a sovereign state for the Jewish people in their historical homeland, namely, the land of Israel. A brilliant pupil, Leibowitz studied chemistry and philosophy at the University of Berlin, and then medicine in Koln and Heidelberg, before moving to Basel to finish his medical degree while the Nazis rose to power in Germany. In 1934, he immigrated to Palestine and took an appointment as a professor of biochemistry, and later neurophysiology, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he taught for nearly six decades. In addition to publishing numerous books and articles on everything from the history of science to the philosophy of Maimonides, he was the editor of the *Encyclopedia Hebraica*, and a frequent public speaker on Jewish thought, ethics, and philosophy.

Like his relatives, Leibowitz was a committed lifelong Zionist, yet he grew disillusioned by the use of Judaism as a political tool and as a justification for Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian territories. As an antidote, he developed his own secular brand of Zionism, which was simply "the endeavor to liberate Jews from being ruled by the Gentiles," as he wrote in his 1992 book *Judaism, Human Values, and the Jewish State*.

Leibowitz's positions were shaped by his understanding of Judaism as a religion of

praxis, i.e., a normative system of mitzvot, biblical commandments in the Torah observed by practicing Jews, not as a political ideology or a national identity. Contrary to recent interpretations of Zionism inflected with religious and messianic flavors that fail to realize it is "a purely political movement," Leibowitz challenged the notion that the Jewish people have a divine right to the land of Israel. He reminds us that even though there has been ideological yearning for return, "Judaism existed for 18 centuries without statehood and without territory."

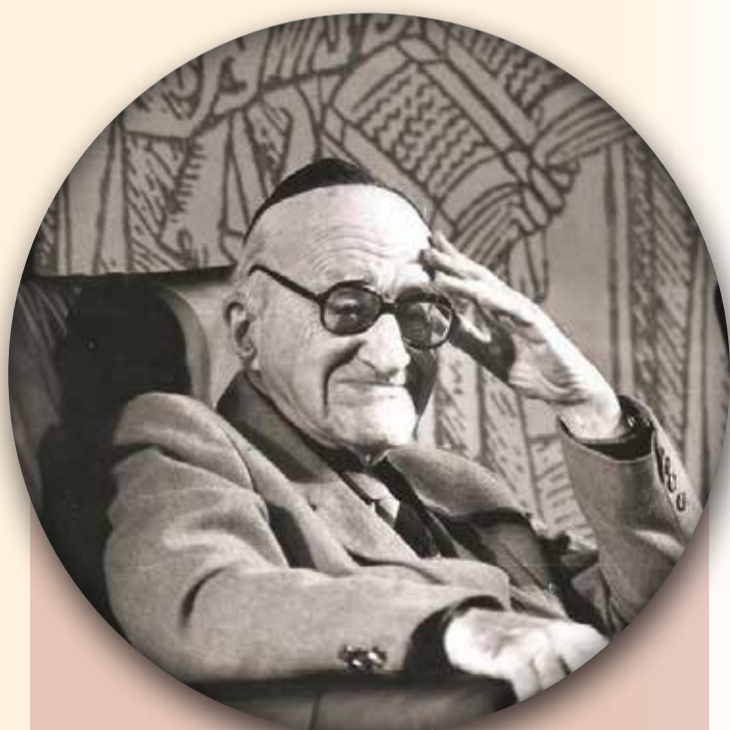
He moreover warned of the dangers of idolizing sovereignty and military power. Divinely sanctioned land claims were, for Leibowitz, tantamount to a form of tyranny, or as he called it, "Judeo-fascism". Unfazed by any backlash, Leibowitz condemned the invocation of messianism and the sanctification of military power. These, he said, amounted to "a modern incarnation of false prophecy" and "a prostitution of the Jewish religion". Since the nineteenth century, he maintained, Jewish people are no longer defined by Judaism, and there's nothing that Israel can do because "the crisis is not a political one" and "the state is not a repository of values". The occupation led to the erroneous belief that military force can be useful for solving political problems, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

After 1967, when Israel captured the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the so-called Six-Day War,

after fighting Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, Leibowitz warned about the heavy moral price Israel would pay for using sacred terminology to describe its victory. Ascribing religious significance to the state and hiding its aggression behind a facade of religious piety constitutes a form of idolatry, he argued, that leads to moral atrocities committed in the name of the state. On the massacre in the village of Qibya in 1953, Leibowitz wrote (translated by Moti Mizrahi from Hebrew):

"We must ask ourselves: where do these young people come from, who have no moral qualms about carrying out such atrocities, and who have the urge to carry out such acts of vengeance? These young people are not the rabble. Rather, they grew up on and were educated in the values of Zionism. They are the product of applying the religious language of the scared to social and national affairs. This practice is common in our education system and in our public advocacy."

In Leibowitz's schema, there can be no religious claim to the land of Israel because any such claim is based on a confusion "between the Jewish people as the bearer of Judaism and the sovereign state instituted by these people as its instrument". Moreover, Leibowitz denied that the Land of Israel was holy and that the Jews had a special right to it, writing that "the idea that a specific country or location has an intrinsic 'holiness' is an indubitably idolatrous idea" and that "talk of rights is pure nonsense. No nation has a right to any land."



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### From persecuted to persecutor

Though Leibowitz recognized the value of Israel being a sovereign state with supreme authority within its territory, he also warned of the danger that would come from elevating Israel's sovereignty above all else. "Sovereignty is a lofty and precious value for Israel," he said, "for it means that the Jewish people will not be subject to other nations. But elevating the power contained within statehood to a supreme value is a very major source of harm." From the perspective of the government of Israel, the 1967 War was a spectacular victory. Israel defeated the armies of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan in less than a week. It also captured the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Leibowitz did not celebrate the win. Instead, he articulated his prediction that Israel would now become the rodef (persecutor) rather than the nirdaf (persecuted) as the Jewish people were in the golah (diaspora) before the 1948 establishment of the state. "What happened in June 1967 transformed Israel," he said in an interview in 1985, "into an instrument for the violent domination of another people; this, I fear, may be the ruin of the state of Israel; Jews here may go the route of the white minority in South Africa." In other words, the day after that victory in 1967 Israel "decided" that it is now engaged in a war of conquest, rather than defense as evidenced by continuous settlement expansion. He even correctly predicted that there may come a day in this war of conquest when "the US may pressure Israel by cutting back aid." He explained in the same interview, lambasting those who think Israel will always be a strategic asset to the US regardless of its actions: "Remember Vietnam? Three American presidents ruined their political careers because of Vietnam. After a while, the American people could stand it no longer, and the US withdrew.

I think it might be the same for Israel; sooner or later, the American people will get tired of supporting our dirty policies. Why shouldn't they? We are mercenaries for America's interests, just as South Vietnam was a regional mercenary for the US. And all the aid we receive from the US is corrupting Israel's society and economy. We invested about \$4 billion in Sinai before we evacuated it, and the Lebanese war cost us about \$3 billion. These are the fruits of colonialism and imperialism." It is important to emphasize how radical Leibowitz's ideas were at the time — almost heretical. After all, European Jews were themselves victims of persecution and genocide only decades before. Leibowitz forced his fellow citizens — many of them concentration camp survivors and refugees — to question whether the trauma of the Holocaust justified the occupation of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, he warned of the negative consequences for both sides of the conflict. "Today, Jews have security everywhere except in the state of Israel," he said, long before the October 7 attack by the Palestinian resistance group Hamas. The occupation, Leibowitz predicted, would corrode Israel's social fabric. It will "bring about a catastrophe for the Jewish people as a whole; it will undermine the social structure that we have created in the state and cause the corruption of individuals, both Jew and Arab." The occupation would also hasten the destruction of democracy in Israel, where Jews enjoy rights and liberties, such as freedom of expression and movement, while in the occupied territories, Palestinians are denied those same freedoms. There can be no true democracy when people are deprived of their civil and political rights, Leibowitz argued. For that reason, he supported conscientious objectors and called on Israeli soldiers to refuse to serve in the occupied territories.



↑ Palestinians look at the aftermath of the Israeli strike on a UN-run school that killed more than 30 people, including 23 women and children, in the Nusseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip on June 6, 2024.  
● JEHAD ALSHRAFI/AP

### Long-term solution over conflict management

Leibowitz also advocated for what is known as a "two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is premised on the idea that just as the Jews cannot deny the existence of the Palestinians, the Palestinian people cannot deny the existence of the Jewish people. Both have a right to exist. He believes that the "great victory of 1967" was really a curse in disguise because it prompted some Israelis to think about depriving the Palestinian people of their rights. "(Golda Meir) claimed there was no Palestinian people, but the Palestinians consider themselves to be a people, and that is the decisive point. Most historians and sociologists deny the existence of a Jewish people, most historians and sociologists. However, we are not interested in the opinion of other people as to whether the Jewish people really exists. It's our business. The same goes for the Palestinians; it is not Israel's business to decide whether a Palestinian people exists or does not exist." In his book, *Judaism, Human Values, and the Jewish State* (1992), Leibowitz wrote, "Only one way out of this historically cre-

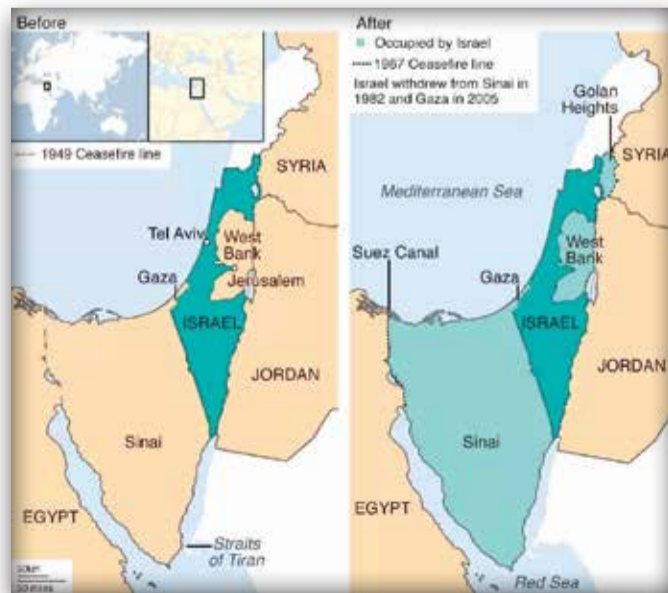
ated impasse is feasible in the present situation, even if neither side recognizes it as just nor finds it really acceptable: partition of the country between the two peoples," recognizing that a two-state solution requires an unconditional withdrawal from occupied lands. After the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993, Israel, under the leadership of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, came close to implementing a two-state solution with the backing of the Clinton Administration. But extremists sabotaged the effort. These days, a two-state solution seems like a distant, fading memory. In 2005, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu resigned in protest at the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip. Since then, right-wing governments — including the current one headed yet again by Netanyahu — have focused more on managing the conflict than on finding a long-term resolution to it through peace negotiations. Although they both supported a two-state

solution, Rabin and Leibowitz were hardly political allies. In 1993, when Leibowitz was set to receive the prestigious Israel Prize, the highest honor the government can bestow, Rabin — who was army chief of staff during the Six-Day War — threatened to boycott the ceremony should organizers proceed with such plans. Rabin objected to the philosopher's persistent call for conscientious objection to military service in the occupied territories. Leibowitz withdrew his nomination but remained a fierce social critic. In early 2023, a group of Israeli reservists announced their refusal to serve in protest of a proposed controversial judicial overhaul led by the religious-nationalist and messianic factions of Netanyahu's government. In an interview for 60 Minutes, members of the organization Ahim La'neshek (Brothers in Arms), called the overhaul "an existential threat" to Israel, echoing the same dire warnings Leibowitz sounded decades ago.

↑ The article was compiled using resources from JSTOR archives.



↑ Israeli protestors carry a large banner that reads "Biden Save Them From Netanyahu" as they call for the Israeli cabinet to press ahead with a deal to release captives held by Hamas and hold early elections, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on June 1, 2024.  
● SHUTTERSTOCK



↑ The map on the left shows territories occupied by Israel before the Six-Day War in 1967, while the map on the right shows territories occupied by Israel after the war.  
● BBC



↑ Smoke and flames rise over a destroyed building following Israeli attacks on al-Bureij Camp in Deir al-Bureij, Gaza.  
● ALI JADALLAH/ANADOLU



## Osmar leaves Persepolis as a gentleman hero



By Amirhadi Arsalanpour  
Staff writer

His appointment to the job drew scrutiny from the best part of the Persepolis supporters and ex-players, but less than five months on, interim coach Osmar Loss Vieira leaves the Reds bench with a concrete place in the club faithful's hearts. The Brazilian brought weeks of speculation over his future to an end by announcing through his Instagram page that he will not

extend his journey in the Iranian top flight as he wishes to stay close to his family in his home country. When former coach Yahya Golmohammadi, to whom the Brazilian had worked as a number two for a season and a half, stepped down from his role in January, the fans hoped the decision would prove as a blessing in disguise. Persepolis had managed only three victories in Golmohammadi's final 11 games in charge - including a home defeat against Al Duhaail which saw the Tehran gi-

ant crash out of the AFC Champions League group stage, and the inept performances and shallow squad hardly offered any hopes of winning a silverware for the supporters, whose team started the season as the defending league and cup champion. With Branko Ivankovic, then with Oman in the AFC Asian Cup, approaching the end of his contract in the Persian Gulf country, Persepolis fans yearned for the Croatian - widely regarded as the architect of the Reds' domestic dominance in recent years - making a dramatic return to the club.

Osmar remained in charge of the training sessions during the winter break, while club chairman Reza Darvish flew to Doha to lure Ivankovic, to no avail, though, as he made it clear that he has no intention of working in club football and ended up as the new China manager. Other names were brought up in the media for the Persepolis role, before Osmar was named as the caretaker for the rest of the campaign, in what seemed to be desperate move to save the Reds' season. "Osmar has a decent knowledge

of the team, the opponents, and the competitions, while enjoying a friendly relationship with the players. He also played his part in helping Persepolis win a league and cup double last season," the club's statement read after his appointment, though it did little to ease the pressure from the fans, who were expecting a more high-profile face on the bench in chasing a seventh league crown in eight years. Osmar, who had worked as a first-team assistant and academy coach in Brazil for the best part of his career, began his Persepolis reign

with a frustrating 1-0 away loss to Iralco, adding to the questions over his managerial prowess. However, a 2-0 home victory over Tractor, as well as the winter signing of Issa Alekasir, Uzbek winger Oston Urunov, and Qatari fullback Abdelkarim Hassan, turned the tide for the Reds, who went on to win 12 games in the following unbeaten 14 to eventually beat archrival Esteghlal to the league trophy, though the impressive run was disrupted by a Hazfi Cup shootout defeat against Iralco, in which Osmar's team relinquished a two-goal league twice. The pinnacle of Osmar's time on the bench came in late May, when Persepolis pulled off the most sensational of comebacks in the history of the Iranian Pro League, overcoming a three-goal halftime deficit to win 4-3 right at the death - a result coupled with Esteghlal's goalless draw at Nassaji which helped Persepolis move atop the table for the first time in the season with two games to spare. Many still believe Persepolis's change in fortunes was down to the club's busy transfer activity in January rather than Osmar's tactical acumen but few can argue against his behavioral approach keeping the club on the right track toward success. The Brazilian's gentleness on and off the touchline was the exact opposite of the one displayed by his Esteghlal counterpart Javad Nekounam, who, for all the credit he received for the spot-on tactics, was deemed responsible for his own downfall because of the controversial press conferences he delivered throughout the season, during which the Blues boss constantly hit out at the club hierarchy, referees, and the Iranian football governing body for hindering his side's title charge. Osmar's virtue was perhaps most embodied in the title celebrations by the end of the final game against Mes Rafsanjan, where he wore a T-shirt bearing a picture of him and Golmohammadi alongside each other to pay tribute to his predecessor.

● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

## Iranians collect five wushu medals in BRICS Games

### Sports Desk

The first day of the wushu contests at the BRICS Games 2024 saw the Iranians grab five taolu medals - including double silvers - in Kazan, Russia. Shahin Banitalebi took the men's nandaou silver with 9.83 points,

while Abolfazl Qarebaghi tallied 9.52 for the qianshu bronze. In the women's event, Marjan Karimi finished her campaign with a silver thanks to a 9.68-point performance in the taijijian showdown. Zahra Jalili and Nazanin Bardar added a couple of bronzes to

the country's medal count, finishing third in the women's daoshu and nanquan contests respectively.

● Iran's Marjan Karimi (L) poses with her taolu silver in the wushu competitions of the BRICS Games in Kazan, Russia, on June 13, 2024.  
● bricskazan2024.games



● MNA

## Iran's Rasouli wins discus gold in Asian Throwing Championships

### Sports Desk

Iran's Hossein Rasouli claimed the men's discus throw gold at the Asian Throwing Championships in South Korea. A gold medalist in last year's

Asian Games, Rasouli registered a best throw of 59.05m for the ultimate prize, finishing above athletes from Qatar and China. Rasouli had tallied 62.04m when he beat fellow-Iranian

Ehsan Haddadi - a former Olympic silver medalist - to the top spot in Hangzhou last October, bringing an end to the legendary thrower's 17-year dominance in the continental showdown.

# Iran: US should stop arming Israel to bring about cease-fire in Gaza



Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein (R) and Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani attend a joint press conference in Baghdad, Iraq on June 13, 2024. **AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/AFP**

**International Desk**

Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani said if the United States is determined to help end the "bloodshed" in Gaza, it should stop providing the Israeli regime with military aid. The US cannot lead a polit-

ical initiative with a peaceful image while providing the Israeli regime with the most advanced weapons, the Iranian official said in a joint press conference with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein in Baghdad. The US President Joe Biden has unveiled a multi-phased cease-fire

plan for the Gaza war, which has been supported by the United Nations Security Council. This comes despite the fact that the US has been providing the regime with arms, and time and again supported Tel Aviv in the international bodies since the beginning of Israel's

brutal war on Gaza in October last year. Only two US military sales to Israel have been made public. But US media have reported that Biden's administration has quietly made more than 100 military sales to Israel. The US is the biggest arms supplier to Israel, providing

an estimated 68% of the regime's foreign-sourced weapons. During the press conference on Thursday, Iran's acting foreign minister underlined that the genocide in the Gaza Strip should end as soon as possible, saying that cooperation of regional and Muslim countries can be helpful in this regard. Israel waged its bloody Gaza offensive on October 7, 2023 after the Palestinian resistance group Hamas carried out its historic operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for the regime's intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people. So far, the regime has killed more than 37,200 Palestinians, mostly women and children, in the Gaza Strip.

**War on Lebanon**

During a separate press conference with Iraqi National Security Adviser Qasim al-Araji, Bagheri Kani cautioned Israel against waging a war on Lebanon, saying any such aggression is like going to "hell with no return."

"Lebanon will be hell with no return for the Zionists, and if they are wise, they will not try Lebanon again," Bagheri Kani said. Israel's "unbelievable defeats" began in Lebanon in 2000 and 2006, he added, referring to the two wars between fighters of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement and the Israeli military. The top Iranian diplomat said the balance of power has changed since October 7, when the Hamas carried out the surprise operation against the occupying entity. "The Zionists want to return conditions to those before October 7 by killing the people of Gaza, but to no avail," he said. Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging deadly fire since early October, shortly after latter launched a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip following the Hamas operation. The reprisal attacks were shifted up several gears on Tuesday after Israel killed a senior Hezbollah commander in a strike on the southern Lebanese town of Jwaya.

## Iran hails French raid on MKO headquarters



Iran's top human rights official hailed an attack by French police on the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist group's main headquarters in a Paris suburb, saying there will be "no safe place for terrorists." In a post on X on Thursday, Kazem Gharibabadi, who serves as head of the Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights, said the Islamic Republic welcomed the raid by the French police on MKO's main headquarters in the Paris suburb of Saint-Ouen-l'Aumône that led to the sealing of the premises and the detention of at least three members of the group, Press TV reported.

"We welcome the attack of the French police on the main headquarters of the MKO terrorist group, thorough inspection of the headquarters, the arrest of three members of the faction and the sealing of this headquarters. This operation was monitored live by Iran," he said. "Iran will leave no safe place for terrorists," Gharibabadi asserted. Iran's Tasnim news agency reported that France's security forces on Wednesday raided the headquarters of the MKO - also known as the so-called People's Mujahedin of Iran (MEK) - and detained three of its members. The raid occurred at a site housing MKO's TV studio, the report said, adding that the group had to substitute live programming with archival content for several hours. According to the report, security forces also seized a cache of weapons hidden in the headquarters, suggesting the persistent engagement in terrorist and criminal activities by this group. The MKO terrorist group is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Iranian civilians during the past four decades. Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist attacks over the past four decades, about 12,000 have fallen victim to the MKO's acts of terror. Iran has brought a huge case against more than a hundred members of the terrorist cult. The notorious group sided with Saddam Hussein during Iraq's war with Iran in the 1980s but fell out of favor with Baghdad after he was toppled by a US-led invasion in 2003.

# Election fever to grip Iran as debates loom

By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

**OPINION**

Iran is bracing for a critical presidential election in less than two weeks. Election competitions are heating up among six hopefuls - Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Masoud Pezeshkian, Saeed Jalili, Mostafa Pourmohammadi, Amir Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi, and Alireza Zakani, whose qualifications were reviewed and consequently approved by the Guardian Council, the body overseeing the electoral process. The country will vote for a new president on

June 28. The election was called after President Ebrahim Raisi was killed along with seven of his companions in a helicopter crash in the northwest of Iran on May 19. With the expansion of Internet access among the public, it appears that discussions, canvassing, and opinions on elections and candidates' plans are now more focused in the virtual space. The campaigns also feature live, televised debates on the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), which are then shared on social media by the public, finding their ways into family gatherings, trade groups, and public spaces like the metro and city streets. It is anticipated

that political sensitivities and emotions surrounding the elections will peak with the start of televised election debates. Five live, televised debates on the IRIB are set to begin as of June 17. However, one important factor that will definitely play a role in the election results is the voter turnout. In the previous presidential election, the voter turnout rate was close to 49%, which means it was the first presidential election with a turnout below 50%. However, in the upcoming election, it is predicted that voter turnout will exceed 50%. This prediction is supported by a survey conducted by the Iranian Students Polling Agency (ISPA). According

to the survey carried out on June 8 and 9 before the final candidates were announced, 44.4% of citizens stated that they will definitely participate in the elections, and 7.3% said they are likely to participate. Abdollah Moradi, the director general of the Interior Ministry's Office of political affairs, also mentioned that the survey's results indicate that public interest in the upcoming presidential race will surpass the previous one on June 18, 2021. In contrast to the previous term, no political party has boycotted the upcoming polls and all factions have their own exclusive candidates in the June 28 vote.

Based on past experiences, whenever the competition among political groups in the elections was tougher, the people's participation rate was higher. The campaign processes of the candidates and their feedback in the media and social networks suggest that it is currently unpredictable which candidate will ultimately win the elections. However, it seems that Qalibaf, Pezeshkian, and Jalili have respectively secured the first to third positions in the polls, while Qazizadeh Hashemi, Purmohammadi, and Zakani are placed with a gap in the fourth to sixth ranks. These ranks are subject to change until the election day, given the fact that the

election debates have yet to begin. Although the five candidates boast different "political tastes," they linguistically belong to the Conservative political faction, and there is a possibility that some of them may withdraw in favor of others. Pezeshkian, however, is the only candidate of Reformists (led by former president Mohammad Khatami) who also enjoys the support of the Moderate reformist movement (led by former president Hassan Rouhani). As the temperature is undergoing a rise until June 28, the political sphere in Iran, along with the election debates and competitions, is warming up even more.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Tehran, Baku hold first joint military drill

**International Desk**

Iran and Azerbaijan on Thursday held their first joint military drill in Iran's northwestern province of West Azarbaijan as the two neighboring countries eye further promotion of bilateral relations in a wide range of spheres. The one-day military exercise was aimed at countering terrorism and ensuring the lasting security of the Aras River, which straddles the two

countries' common border and is subject to possible attacks by terrorist groups. Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force for Operations Brigadier General Karim Cheshak said the exercise involved one battalion comprising the two countries' special and rapid reaction forces. Cheshak said the drill consisted of four operational stages, including reconnaissance operations involving drones and he-

licopters, military patrol operations and ambush operations. He added that the drill's most important message was to ensure regional peace and stability. This followed an agreement reached in October last year between military officials from both countries to hold a joint naval exercise in the Caspian Sea, and discussions on expanding military cooperation between the naval forces of the neighboring countries.

# Iranian projects win big at RIBA International Awards

## Jadgal Elementary School and Jahad Metro Plaza among winners



The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) announced 22 winners in its

International Awards for Excellence, including two projects from Iran. The Jadgal Elementary School by DAAZ Office in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan and the Jahad Metro Plaza by KA Architecture Studio in Tehran were awarded for their innovative designs and community impact, wrote the British magazine Architecture Today. Each winning project, all striving for innovation and better built environment, is now in the running for the fourth RIBA International Prize, to be announced in November. Launched in 2015, the

bi-annual awards program celebrates projects that demonstrate visionary thinking, originality, and excellence of execution. The Jadgal Elementary School features a circular walled site with naturally ventilated classrooms surrounding a central playground, which also serves as a community space. To achieve an earthquake-resisting structure, the building was made column-free, raised with polystyrene panels, galvanized iron profiles, and reinforced concrete. In Tehran, the Jahad Metro Plaza has transformed a subway station entrance into a local landmark and

social public space. The design includes mesh arches clad in 300,000 bricks made from local soil, creating a sculptural, welcoming and low-budget environment, according to Wallpaper newsletter. "Supporting and working with architects and practices around the globe to promote excellence in architecture is central to RIBA's purpose," said RIBA President Muyiwa Oki. Simon Henley, Chair of the RIBA Awards Group, added that each winning project makes an exceptional contribution to its local area and demonstrates a stimulating architectural re-



sponse to RIBA's stringent social, environmental, and design values.

## Brazilian painter: Zionist lobbies control global art scene

### Arts & Culture Desk

Brazilian painter João Abido Galvão, who is holding an art exhibition in Tehran, believes that Zionist lobbies control the global art scene. Galvão, known for his anti-imperialist stance, shared his views during an interview at the opening of his exhibition 'The Sovereignty of Art Revolution and the Sovereignty of Revolutionary Art' at Tehran's Holy Defense Museum on June 11. The exhibition features nine of Galvão's paintings, all created on fabric, and centers around the interplay between art and revolution. The artworks reflect the emerging anti-imperialist forces in today's world, illustrating how history repeats itself with art and revolution intertwined, Tasnim News Agency wrote.

Walking through the exhibition, visitors see large-scale fabric paintings characterized by the fusion of contrasting colors. Each piece typically employs two to three colors, symbolizing the connection and conflict between them. The exhibition, running through June 24, features 20 pieces of fabric art critiquing imperialism and Zionism. Galvão explained that his art transcends traditional Western art classifications. "Imperialist countries have fabricated art movements, but my work doesn't fit into those categories," he said. He emphasized the resurgence of ancient civilizations like Iran and China, suggesting that these cultures are reclaiming their place in history. Regarding his choice of fabric over canvas, Galvão cited the

desire to break conventions and the practical aspect of transporting his works from Brazil to Iran. "Fabric allows for the freedom I seek in my art," he noted. In a previous exhibition in Moscow, Galvão's style remained consistent, but he highlighted that his works for the Tehran exhibition were created specifically for the museum. He believes that an artist's emotions and expressions are in constant flux, resulting in evolving styles in future exhibitions. Galvão also discussed the challenges he faces as an independent artist in Brazil, attributing the restrictions to the influence of Zionist lobbies. "Many countries, including Brazil, are heavily influenced by these lobbies, making it difficult for free and independent artists to thrive," he said.



He praised Iran for its role in supporting the resistance movement, both in words and actions. "The key to freedom for the

resistance lies in the unity of countries advocating for it. Imperialism is collapsing, and the future belongs to the resistance," Galvão concluded.

## Iran drowning death drops 62% last year: Report

### Social Desk

The Relief & Rescue Organization of the Red Crescent announced a 62% decrease in drowning fatalities for the last Iranian year ending on March 19, 2024. Babak Mahmoudi emphasized that last year the Red Crescent mobilized all necessary equipment and personnel to the Caspian Sea coastal provinces, resulting in a significant decrease in drowning incidents, ILNA wrote. Over the past five years, more

than 5,000 coastal rescue operations have been conducted, with over 3,000 of them being successful, the official said. Most fatalities occurred during evenings and nights or in remote areas outside designated safe zones, he added. Mahmoudi also pointed out that many drowning incidents

happen due to ignoring warning signs or unfamiliarity with the local geography and marine conditions by visitors from other provinces.



## Austria to pay tribute to Persian language instructors

The first appreciation event for Persian language instructors in Austria will be held on June 20, organized by the Cultural Center of Iran in Austria. The event will honor both Iranian and non-Iranian Persian language teachers. It will also feature a symposium to explore opportunities for expanding the Persian language in Austria. Given that Persian is a carrier of rich Iranian-Islamic culture, the role of Persian teachers in promoting this culture is significant. For several decades, teachers have been instructing Persian in universities, public schools, and

institutions, graduating many students. Some of these graduates now work as researchers, translators, or experts in Austrian government and non-governmental organizations. Additionally, Iranian and Persian-speaking families living in Austria often enroll their children in Persian language classes to maintain their linguistic heritage alongside the local language. The event will also welcome Austrian Orientalists, Iranologists, and cultural officials who have supported the expansion of the Persian language in Austria.

