

What was Germany doing under the cover of a language center in Iran?

Inside 'Goethe Tehran'

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Iranian police shutting down a branch of the German Language Institute (DSIT) in Tehran on August 20, 2024.

Settlers enforcing law of jungle in West Bank

By Narges Pakdel

TEHRAN – Israeli settlers in the West Bank have launched a campaign against aboriginal Palestinians that is very similar to the fight that one tribe launches against another in a culturally underdeveloped community or society.

Harassment, bullying, provocation, theft, burning houses and farmlands, sexual threats or assaults, cutting irrigation water, plundering belongings, forcing others to leave their place of residence, grabbing their lands, etc. are commonplace in such societies.

There are many examples clearly showing colonial settlers in the West Bank are behaving in this way, of course with a green light from extremist Israeli officials like Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich who live in settlements and the Like Party in general under the leadership of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

For example, settlers have attacked Palestinians in the east of the town of Sa'ir in the Hebron Governorate and stole 300 sheep, the Wafa news agency has reported.

Palestinian Authority's impotence: A recipe for Israeli military escalation

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel's largest military assault in the occupied West Bank in more than two decades has laid bare the impotence of the Palestinian Authority in countering the regime's acts of aggression.

On Wednesday, Israel launched coordinated raids across four areas in the northern West Bank namely Jenin, Nablus, Tubas and Tulkarem.

Jenin, which has been a hotbed of armed resistance against the Israeli occupation, remains the focus of the Israeli army's raids.

More than 20 people including children have been killed since the start of the offensive.

Israeli army bulldozers have ploughed into critical infrastructure, cutting off communications and resources from Palestinian cities, towns and refugee camps.

The regime has prevented ambulances from reaching those who have been wounded.

Resistance confronts Israeli war in West Bank

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Palestinian resistance factions are confronting attempts by the Israeli military to invade the occupied West Bank, specifically in Jenin and its refugee camp, where they are engaged in fierce clashes, using machine guns and explosive devices.

In the latest battlefield developments, armed clashes were renewed in the eastern neighborhood of Jenin after Israeli forces resumed their invasion on Saturday morning as part of an ongoing assault on the city and its camp.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in Jenin announced they were engaged in fierce clashes with Israeli occupation forces (IOF) on all combat fronts in the city.

The brigades stated they inflicted "direct casualties on the enemy" with the use of machine guns and explosive devices.

They also ambushed an Israeli foot patrol in the Jabriyat neighborhood of Jenin. Israeli media acknowledged the death of a soldier and the injury of others in the ambush.

Footage has circulated in Jabriyat of Israeli helicopters seen flying at low altitudes to evacuate the wounded.

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Iranian president to attend 16th BRICS summit in Russia following invitation from President Putin

TEHRAN– Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, along with a delegation, is set to attend the 16th BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, later this year.

The participation comes in response to an official invitation extended by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In preparation for the summit, Davoud Mirzakhani, Iran's Consul General in Kazan, held a meeting with Bakirov Gazinur, Assistant to the President of Tatarstan.

The two officials discussed the state of bilateral relations between Iran and Russia and coordinated details for the upcoming BRICS summit.

The 16th BRICS summit, scheduled for October 22–24, 2024, will see global leaders, including President Pezeshkian, gathering in Kazan to discuss economic cooperation, global development, and other critical issues. ► Page 2

China oil imports from Iran surge to 1.75m bpd: report

TEHRAN – China's imports of Iranian oil have reached a record of 1.75m barrels per day (bpd) in August, oilprice.com reported, citing data from Kpler.

As reported, the current figure has surpassed the previous peak of 1.66m bpd set in October 2023 and is almost 50 percent higher compared with 1.24m bpd last month.

Shipments into Rizhao and Dalian are significantly higher month on month, said Muyu Xu, an analyst with Kpler.

"Chinese teapots see refining margins slightly improving, they now have stronger motivation to ramp up production and therefore need more feedstock," she said.

Flows into Lanqiao/Rizhao and Dalian almost doubled compared to the previous month to 342k bpd and 132k bpd, respectively.

Oil from Iran has become the cheapest option for Chinese buyers, even more than Russia and more independent refiners are seeking barrels from the OPEC producer to boost their margins, said traders who participate in the market. Iranian Light was last offered at a discount of \$6.0 a barrel to ICE Brent, they added, compared with a discount of less than a dollar for comparable crude from Russia.

Importers registered in China's Shandong province were the biggest buyers of Iranian crude – masking as Malaysians – accounting for over 70 percent of the volume, according to customs data. Overall, eight Chinese regions including Liaoning and Henan took oil from the Southeast Asian nation, the most since October 2023. ► Page 4

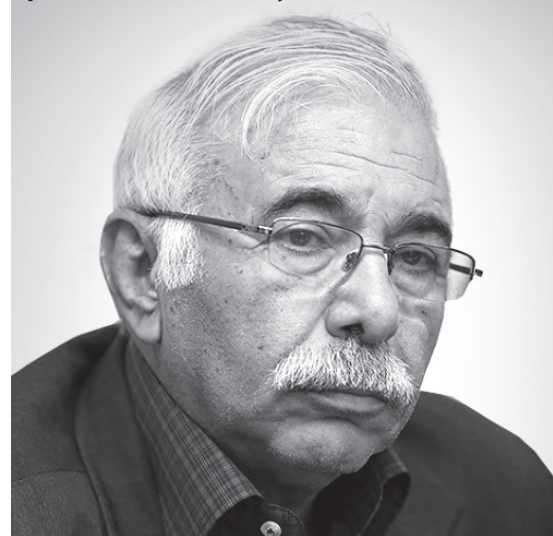
The escape path of a mini evil empire

By Zahra Akbari

TEHRAN- On August 17, 2024, The Wall Street Journal published an article titled "Israel's Approach to Iran May Be Getting Bolder" by Reuel Marc Gerecht and Mark Dubowitz. The following points will discuss the content of this article.

The primary reason for the publication of this note in the Wall Street Journal is likely this: despite the substantial support Israel receives from the West, it has a limited capacity to engage in conflict on multiple fronts. Consequently, it is essential to alleviate the pressure on this regime. In recent months, proponents of the Zionist regime have openly discussed aggressive actions, such as "cutting off the head of the snake" in reference to an attack on Iran. However, the discourse has shifted towards more pragmatic approaches, indicating that it is now time to consider more nuanced recommendations. ► Page 3

Poet, songwriter Mohamad Ali Bahmani passes away at 82 ► Page 8



Javanmardi takes gold in shooting

PARIS – Sareh Javanmardi of Iran claimed a gold medal in the P2 – Women's 10m air pistol SH1 of the 2024 Paralympic Games on Saturday.

She won the gold with a score of 236.8.

Turkey's Aysel Ozgan won the silver with 231.1 points and bronze medal went to Indian shooter Rubina Francis with 211.1.

It was Javanmardi's fifth medal in Paralympics as she had won a bronze medal in 2012 London in the 10m air pistol SH1 and two gold medals in Rio 2016 in the mixed 50m pistol SH1 and 10m air pistol SH1. She also claimed a gold medal in the 10m air pistol SH1 in 2020 Tokyo.

It was Iran's first gold medal in the 2024 Paralympic Games. Taekwondo athlete Zahra Rahimi and throwers Parastoo Habibi and Zafar Zaker had won three silver medals.



In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

TEHRAN PAPERS

Iran's definitive policy on JCPOA

In a note, Kayhan discussed the distortion of the Leader of the Revolution's words by the Western media and wrote: While the American side is not willing to provide a valid guarantee for lifting sanctions and the non-repetition of breach of agreement, the American media publishes its wish for renegotiation instead of the correct news. These media distorted the words of the Leader of the Revolution and pretended that he had issued permission for renegotiation. Just so American analysts know, it should be said that Iran does not confuse the field of military and security and deterrent power with the field of diplomacy. Iran's punishment for the terrorist acts of the Zionist regime is certain and will not lapse, even if it is supposed to interact with the West. Meanwhile, regarding the JCPOA issue, it is clear what the reason was for the deadlock of negotiations over the past six years, and the problem will be solved only by lifting the sanctions and providing a valid guarantee about the non-repetition of the disloyalty of 2018.

Arman-e-Melli: From the difficulty of revitalizing the JCPOA to the possibility of a new agreement

This newspaper discussed the difficulty of the way of Iran's Foreign Minister Araghchi. The paper said: Regarding relations with Europe, Araghchi declared the strengthening of interaction based on opportunities and mutual respect with Europe to secure the country's national interests. Regarding the sanctions, he said that we are following two strategies. It means neutralizing the sanctions and trying to remove them, and the issue of neutralizing the sanctions has a higher priority. But the most important issue in this government is the issue of revitalizing the nuclear agreement, which Araghchi has warned about the difficulty of it. The reason for that is the change in international conditions, such as the war in Ukraine, which has had a profound effect on the security prospect of Europe, the war in Gaza the attack of the Zionist regime, and the killings that took place there. Specifically, and according to many experts, the nuclear agreement or JCPOA cannot be revived and restored in its current form, and general changes must be made and updated, or this agreement ends and Iran and the Westerners think of new negotiations for a new agreement.

Israeli regime primary obstacle to Islamic world's stability: official

TEHRAN- The director general of the International Peace and Security Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry has stated that the Zionist regime represents the primary barrier to achieving stability and sustainable development within the Islamic world and the broader region.

Asadullah Eshragh-Jahromi commented during the 50th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

He emphasized that the destabilizing actions of the Israeli regime significantly hindered cooperation among Islamic nations.

The OIC's 50th session occurred on Thursday and Friday, focusing on the "Development of transport and communications infrastructure within the OIC framework, a key tool in the fight against poverty and insecurity."

Eshragh-Jahromi expressed profound concern and condemned the aggressive and inhumane actions perpetrated by the Zionist regime against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip over the past eleven months.

He also denounced the recent assassination of the Hamas leader in Tehran, urging the international community and the OIC to take a firm stance against war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, and to hold the Zionist regime accountable for its actions.

Additionally, the representative from the Islamic Republic highlighted the importance of addressing the underlying causes of insecurity and crises in West Asia, asserting that the regime's policies obstruct unity among OIC member states.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Grossi's fateful trip to Tehran

In a commentary, Arman-e-Emrooz discussed the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency and wrote: The reports of the IAEA show that the process of enriching Iran's uranium continues and the key differences with the International Atomic Energy Agency are still in place. The declaration of the details of the Agency's reports indicates that Iran's production of enriched uranium with a high degree of purity continues. In the last quarterly meeting of the Board of Governors, a resolution condemning nuclear activities was approved. According to the criteria of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran's uranium reserves are only 2 kg less than the amount needed to produce four nuclear bombs in case of further enrichment. What is important in the meantime is Grossi's trip to Tehran, which is not yet clear exactly when it will take place. A trip that can lead to an understanding if it has positive results.

Iran: The foreign policy regarding the Central Asia region must change

In an article, the Iran newspaper addressed the need for change in Iran's foreign policy towards Central Asia and wrote: What was stated in the plans of President Pezeshkian, in the field of foreign policy to some extent is paying attention to Iran's neighbors and its peripheral regions. It seems that the special view of Iran's foreign policy towards its neighboring region, i.e. Central Asia, is based on a realistic and active approach to the plans of the 14th government. There is no doubt in this fact that the Central Asia region, as one of Iran's peripheral regions, has very valuable and noteworthy capacities that should be seriously considered in Iran's neighborhood policy. The geographical proximity and closeness of Iran to this region and the proximity of the Central Asia region to the two great powers China and Russia are among the very noteworthy capacities for Iran's economic and commercial cooperation with the Central Asia region. But despite this, Iran has not yet been able to use these huge capacities effectively. Now, considering the coming of the 14th government in Iran and the adoption of a pragmatic and realistic approach towards Central Asia, a policy should be formulated and designed to correspond with the priorities and goals of the new Iranian government.

Eshragh-Jahromi also criticized the economic sanctions imposed on several developing countries, which violate international law, calling for their rejection by all nations.

Eshragh-Jahromi emphasized that U.S. sanctions undermine economic stability and pose a considerable obstacle to the development and availability of vital resources and technology for Islamic countries.

The Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) serves as a permanent entity within the OIC framework, comprising the foreign ministers from its 57 member states.

This Council ranks as the second-highest decision-making authority in the OIC and convenes annually to deliberate and resolve matters significant to the Muslim community.

The Council focuses on various issues, including political, economic, and social collaboration among OIC member states, while also fostering dialogue and partnerships with non-OIC countries and international organizations.

Before this session, the seventeenth session of the Council in 1992 led to the formation of the Al-Quds Committee, aimed at safeguarding the holy city of Jerusalem along with its Muslim and Christian sacred sites.

Additionally, during the twenty-seventh session in 2016, the OIC reiterated its dedication to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, emphasizing their entitlement to self-determination and independence, with East Jerusalem designated as their capital.

Iran FM holds talks with Jordan counterparts

TEHRAN- The foreign ministers of Iran and Jordan engaged in a telephone conversation where they addressed the state of bilateral relations and the recent developments in Palestine.

As reported by IRNA, Jordanian Foreign Minister extended his congratulations to Abbas Araghchi on his appointment as Iran's minister of foreign affairs, wishing him success in his new role.

During the discussion, the Jordanian foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, voiced his concerns regarding the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the escalating tensions in the West Bank. He underscored the urgent need to de-escalate the situation in both regions.



In response, Abbas Araghchi, the Iranian foreign minister, expressed gratitude for the congratulations and affirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to engage in constructive dialogue with Jordan on matters of bilateral

relations, as well as regional and international geopolitical challenges.

Araghchi highlighted, "Zionist regime is the primary instigator of tension and conflict in the region due to its ongoing aggressive actions."

He identified this regime as the most significant barrier to achieving a resolution to the conflict in Gaza and called for decisive action from the international community to halt the genocide perpetrated by the Zionists.

Araghchi also stressed the importance of delivering humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian populace, stating, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will support the agreement sought by the people and the Palestinian resistance."

Both parties reiterated the importance of ongoing consultations between their nations, viewing it as beneficial for both countries and the broader region.

Leader appoints Ali Baqeri Kani as member of Strategic Council on Foreign Relations



TEHRAN- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has named Ali Baqeri Kani as a member of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations (SCFR).

The announcement was made through an

official decree issued on Saturday.

Earlier this year, Baqeri Kani was appointed acting foreign minister after his predecessor, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, and the late President Ebrahim Raisi tragically lost their lives in a helicopter crash.

With the recent appointment of Abbas Araqchi as Iran's new foreign minister, who was previously a member of the SCFR, Baqeri Kani's inclusion in the council marks a continuation of experienced leadership in Iranian foreign policy.

The SCFR, established by Ayatollah Khamenei in June 2006, serves as a crucial advisory body

and think tank dedicated to shaping Iran's foreign relations strategy.

The council aims to explore new avenues in foreign policy, leverage the expertise of Iranian elites, and develop key indicators to fulfill the objectives of the Iran Outlook Plan.

The council is chaired by Kamal Kharrazi, a former foreign minister of Iran, who continues to lead the body in advising on major foreign policy decisions and expanding Iran's diplomatic horizons.

Baqeri Kani's appointment underscores the ongoing efforts to strengthen Iran's strategic approach to international relations.

U.S. source confirms Teheran Times scoop

TEHRAN- As Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to Mongolia on July 31, his focus was on events unfolding in West Asia.

Earlier, Israel had assassinated a senior Hamas leader in Tehran, and Iranian officials had threatened retaliation for the martyrdom of their close ally on

Iranian soil.

From the privacy of his plane, Blinken used a secure phone to speak with several foreign officials in the hours after the assassination.

He urged them to encourage Iran not to take any actions that could escalate the situation into a full-scale war with Israel.

Days later, one of the officials Blinken had spoken to, the Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, visited Tehran and called for "peace, stability and security" in the region.

On August 04, the Tehran Times published an exclusive tweet, confirming the messages but now the U.S. outlet, the New

York Times, acknowledged the matter.

"After meeting with Iran's acting FM @Bagheri_Kani, Ayman Safadi, Jordan's Foreign Minister, stated that he carries no message from Israel. He is correct. Safadi brought a repeated message from the U.S. officials."

Iranian president to attend 16th BRICS summit in Russia following invitation from President Putin

From page 1 ► Dmitry Peskov, the press secretary for President Putin, confirmed that the invitation was officially extended to President Pezeshkian, signaling Iran's ongoing engagement with the BRICS nations and its interest in further strengthening ties within this influential international forum.

The BRICS group, comprised of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, established in 2009, has emerged as a significant force shaping global economic discussions.

The founding countries of Brazil, Russia,

India, and China held the first summit in Yekaterinburg in 2009, with South Africa joining the bloc a year later.[3][4] Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates joined the organization on 1 January 2024.

Combined, the BRICS members encompass about 30% of the world's land surface and 45% of the global population.

South Africa has the largest economy in Africa whereas Brazil, Russia, India, and China are among the world's ten largest countries by population, area, and gross domestic product



(GDP) nominal and by purchasing power parity.

Russia took over the BRICS' year-long presidency on Jan. 1, 2024.

Defense Minister hails Khatam al-Anbia air defense on Defense Day

TEHRAN- The Iranian Minister of Defense extended his warmest wishes for the anniversary of the establishment of the Khatam Al-Anbia air defense base, which coincides with Iran's Defense Day.

Major General Aziz Nasir Zadeh's message is as follows: "I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the anniversary of [the establishment of] Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense,



TEHRAN- Iranian President extended his congratulations to both the president and the citizens of Uzbekistan on the occasion of their independence anniversary.

In his message to Uzbekistan's president,

which serves as a testament to the heroic efforts of the dedicated defenders of our nation's borders.

I wish you and your esteemed colleagues continued success as you operate on the front lines of Iran's defense capabilities, guided by the directives of the Leader of Islamic Revolution and under the watchful eye of the Awaited Imam from Almighty God."

The Khatam al-Anbiya Air

Defense Headquarters (PADAJA) functions as a military command under the Joint Staff of Iranian Army, tasked with coordinating and executing the air defense operations of both Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, while also enhancing the integrated command and control framework of Iran's air defense system.

PADAJA was founded in

1992, and its headquarters experienced a reorganization and enhancement on September 1, 2008.

This restructuring was initiated by an order from the commander-in-chief of the Iranian Armed Forces, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, aimed at protecting Iran's airspace from aerial threats.

This date has since been designated as Air Defense Day.

Iran-Uzbekistan ties to strengthen beyond imagination: Pezeshkian

Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Masoud Pezeshkian expressed his belief that the ties between Iran and Uzbekistan, founded on mutual respect, will be reinforced more than ever.

Pezeshkian emphasized that under the fourteenth administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, enhancing cooperation with neighboring and regional nations, particularly Uzbekistan, remains a key focus of foreign policy.

Uzbekistan observes its Independence Day annually on September 1, honoring the nation's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

This significant day features official ceremonies, parades, and various cultural activities across the country. The independence of Uzbekistan marked the beginning of a new era, as the country embarked on its path to creating a contemporary, sovereign state following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

What was Germany doing under the cover of a language center in Iran?

Inside ‘Goethe Tehran’

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN– A putative language school endorsed by the German embassy in Tehran funded underground entertainment, illicitly provided scholarships to students, and helped employ agents for the German government, according to information obtained by the Tehran Times.

Earlier this month, two branches of the German Language Institute (DSIT) were closed following orders from the Iranian judiciary. The Tehran Times has gathered information suggesting that the language school functioned as a covert operation for the German government to influence Iranian citizens and advance Germany's political agenda in Iran.

The Tehran Times understands that the DSIT spent half a million Euros annually to support music, film, and entertainment groups aiming to bypass the scrutiny of Iran's Ministry of Culture, which must review and certify all cultural content before it can be distributed. Much of the material funded by this supposed language institute conflicted with Iranian social and cultural values.

The money came from the Goethe-Institut, an organization officially financed by the German government that has over a hundred branches globally. While it presents itself as an independent entity dedicated to promoting the German language and culture, numerous reports indicate that the Goethe-Institut frequently functions as a political arm of the German government.

Although the DSIT asserts



that it has no connections to the Goethe-Institut, documents seized during the closure of two of its branches in Tehran reveal that the language school maintained regular communication with the organization and frequently received directives from its officials. The Tehran Times has reviewed multiple of these documents, as well as at least nine financial records indicating payments totaling tens of thousands of Euros to individuals not affiliated with the DSIT. The records were signed by the language school's CEO and the German ambassador to Tehran.

Furthermore, the DSIT illegally engaged with Iranian citizens by offering students scholarships for study at German universities, a practice unusual for an institute claiming to be merely teaching language. In numerous instances, the DSIT assisted students interested in relocating to Germany by helping them schedule appointments with the German embassy in Tehran. Evidence

indicates that these students were often recognized as elites in their professional or academic domains.

Certain individuals with whom the DSIT established close connections became involved in networks aimed at executing illegal activities or schemes that benefit German and Western interests. The Tehran Times may disclose more information on some of these networks in the future.

The Tehran Times has also learned that the DSIT lacked the required licenses to operate despite operating in Iran since 1995. This means the school evaded taxes on the income generated from its 10,000 annual students. According to information compiled by the Tehran Times, the DSIT held a financial balance of 400 billion Tomans in 2022.

‘Closure of software center and infiltration hub a bitter pill to swallow for Germany’

Germany, still grappling with its imperialist ambitions, struggles to accept that a dignified nation has

shut down its software center and infiltration hub. This is why it views the closure of DSIT as a retaliatory action in response to the shutdown of the Islamic Center Hamburg (IZH), a source familiar with the situation told the Tehran Times.

Last month, German police conducted an unannounced and unwarranted raid on 53 properties across the country linked to the Islamic Center Hamburg, Germany's oldest and leading Shia Muslim center. The move is believed to have been made under pressure from the Israeli lobby in the European country.

The Tehran Times has learned that German police verbally assaulted numerous employees of the IZH and its affiliated organizations. Reports indicate that officers even confiscated small change from the employees' pockets, and confronted their family members. German media claims the closure of DSIT was a tit-for-tat move for the ban of the IZH.

In the wake of the language school's closure, the German embassy in Tehran breached diplomatic protocols by sharing tweets from purported Iranian users on Instagram, who seemed to ridicule the closure of DSIT.

“What the German embassy fails to take into account is that at least in Iran, citizens have the freedom to express dissent when they disagree with government actions. That's while in Germany, individuals face immediate repercussions for speaking out against the government's backing of the Israeli regime, which is committing genocide in Gaza,” the source said.

have redefined the concept of “the people.” According to Western politicians and media, “the people” are those who act in ways that protect Western interests.

Anyone who opposes this view is not considered part of “the people” and is seen as lacking human rights, making their deaths seem unimportant. An example of this way of thinking is the authors' reference to the 1953 coup in Iran and the overthrow of the elected Prime Minister Dr. Mossadegh: “The natives, not the Americans, were the decisive and sometimes singular players.” Sorry, Mr. Writers, but the published CIA documents say otherwise!

At the end of the text it is written that: “No matter what happens, Americans ought to remember that, as in the Cold War, the struggle ends only when the evil empire falls.” Yes, no matter what happens, the struggle will end when the evil empire falls and the occupation of Palestine is over.



From Page 1 ▶ In this note, one of the authors, a former CIA Iranian target officer, recommends utilizing the capabilities of subversive groups associated with the Zionist regime to equip Iran's internal opposition. Referring to America's actions during the Cold War, the authors wrote: “Subvention in the form of foreign anticommunist labor unions, publications, intellectuals, civil-rights activists and journalists were more effective than most behind-the-Iron-Curtain

Iran denies allegations of military involvement in Ukraine, calls for peaceful resolution

TEHRAN– The Iranian Foreign Ministry has firmly rejected allegations that an Iranian military official is currently in Ukraine to train Russian forces, labeling the claims as completely unfounded.

Speaking on the matter, foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani reiterated Iran's consistent stance against war, emphasizing the nation's commitment to peaceful conflict resolution.

He underscored that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always advocated for the cessation of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine, urging both sides to seek diplomatic solutions to their differences.

Kanaani also criticized the accusations, suggesting they were driven by specific political agendas aimed at misrepresenting Iran's position on the conflict.

He pointed out the contradictions in such claims, asserting that they are part of broader efforts to undermine Iran's principled opposition to the ongoing war.

His remarks came after Ukraine's prosecutor general said a case has been opened against a general of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on suspicion of aiding Russia in war and war crimes against Ukraine.

Andriy Kostin alleged that the investigation revealed that between July and August 2022, Russian military representatives reached an agreement with Iran on the purchase of Shahed-136 and Mohajer-6 attack drones, along with related equipment.

Iran has repeatedly and categorically refuted the accusation of involvement in the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Not trusting enemy is the most important advice of the Leader to government: MP

TEHRAN- A representative from the Iranian Parliament highlighted the importance of “not placing hope in the enemy” as a key piece of advice from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution to the government officials.

Mehdi Koochakzadeh, who represents the people of Tehran and serves on the Energy Committee of the Iranian Parliament, shared insights in an interview with ISNA regarding the Leader's remarks during the initial meeting with the president and the fourteenth government.

He emphasized, “Government officials should align their actions with the criteria that have qualified them for their positions,

as well as the commitments they have made in various forums.”

“They must follow the guidance and recommendations of the Leader and the principles of the wise revolution to ensure their conduct is sincere and free from hypocrisy,” he added.

Koochakzadeh stressed that any government official who disregards the Leader's recommendations, especially if such disregard is intentional, is undoubtedly acting hypocritically, and the public will respond accordingly.

Koochakzadeh noted, “All the Leader's

recommendations hold significant weight,” and pointed out that, given the advisors appointed in the government thus far, the Leader's advice against placing hope in the enemy may be deemed more critical than any other guidance provided to government officials.”

He underscored, “Many of the Leader's other recommendations are reflected in the commitments made by the president and the cabinet during their votes of confidence, and neglecting these could be seen as a violation of promises, potentially amounting to treason, which is unbecoming of the government.”

Persepolis earn first win in 2024/25 PGPL

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team registered their first win in the 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) after three matches on Friday.

Persepolis defeated Foolad 2-0 thanks to second half's goals from Oston Urunov and Vahid Amiri.

Persepolis had been held against Zob Ahan in Matchweek 1 and escaped a loss against Tractor last week.

Sepahan returned to top of the PGPL table with nine points out of three matches after edging past Shams Azar 1-0.

Nassaji suffered a 1-0 home loss against Gol Gohar and Malavan defeated Chadormalu 3-1 in Bandar Anzali.

Azmoun scores as Shabab Al Ahli beat Ajman

TEHRAN – Shabab Al Ahli defeated Ajman 2-1 in Matchweek 2 Of 2024-25 UAE Pro League on Friday.

Bogdan Pianic was on target for the visiting team in the 26th minute at the Ajman Stadium and Sardar Azmoun made it 2-0 in the 68th minute. Junior Flemmings reduced the deficit in the 72nd minute.

Shabab Al Ahli sit third with six points out of two matches.Al Nasr lead the table thanks to superior goal difference.

Thrower Habibi wins silver at 2024 Paralympic Games

PARIS – Iran's Parastoo Habibi claimed a silver medal in the Women's Club Throw - F32 of the 2024 Paralympic Games Friday night.

She finished in second place with a throw of 26.29 meters.

Goldmedalwentto Tunisian Maroualbrahmi with 29.00 meters and Brazilian Giovanna Boscolocame third with 26.01 meters.

Taekwondo athlete Zahra Rahimi had won a silver medal Thursday night.

Athletics at the 2024 Summer Paralympics take place at Stade de France in Paris.

Iran has sent 65 athletes in 10 sports to the Games.

Shot putter Zaker wins silver in 2024 Paralympics

PARIS – Zafar Zaker of Iran claimed a silver medal in the men's shot put F55 of the 2024 Paralympic Games Friday night.

Ruzhdi Ruzhdi of Bulgaria won the gold with a throw of 12.40 meters.

Silver medal went to Zaker with 11.88 meters and Poland's Lech Stoltman seized a bronze with 11.81 meters.

Taekwondo athlete Zahra Rahimi and club thrower Parastoo Habibi had previously won two silver medals.

Athletics at the 2024 Summer Paralympics take place at Stade de France in Paris.

Iran has sent 65 athletes in 10 sports to the Games.

Morteza Mehrzad goes for third gold medal at 2024 Paris Paralympics

PARIS - Morteza Mehrzad knows a thing or two about winning.

With two Paralympic gold medals to his

name already, the Iranian is the not-so-secret weapon of his country's men's sitting volleyball team and is aiming for a three-peat at the 2024 Paris Games.

At two meters, 46 centimeters (eight-foot-one-inch) tall, Mehrzad is the tallest Paralympian in history and the joint-second tallest man in the world.

The 36-year-old is a vital cog in Iran's successful men's sitting volleyball team, helping the team to back-to-back golds in Rio and then Tokyo.

But for one of the most dominant players in the sport, his route into competing wasn't the most orthodox.

He only started playing sitting volleyball for the national team six months before the Rio Games after being spotted on a TV program.

Mehrza was diagnosed with acromegaly at a young age – a condition causing excess growth hormone.

As a teenager, a pelvis fracture caused by a bicycle accident stopped his right leg from growing, making it shorter than his left and making it difficult to walk.

Ahead of the Paris Games, Mehrzad spoke of the impact sitting volleyball has had on his life, saying that he “turned limitations into opportunities.”

“I have always been called the ‘tall boy’ even before joining the national team or the Paralympic Games,” he told AFP after a training session at Iran's Sports Federation for the Disabled in Tehran.

“Playing sitting volleyball helped me a lot. The physique that I once considered as very bad has helped me in this game, and I could make good use of it.”

Sitting on the floor with his arms raised, Mehrzad reaches a height of over six feet, making him an invaluable asset on the volleyball court.

Iran football kick off preparation

TEHRAN – Iran's national football team kicked off their training camp in preparation for the crucial 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

The squad, assembled at the Olympic Hotel in Tehran, is set to face off against Kyrgyzstan and the United Arab Emirates in their opening matches.

Coach Amir Ghalenoei has selected a balanced squad that includes both domestic and foreign-based players.

Notably, Sepahan, one of Iran's top clubs, has contributed the most players to the national team.

The inclusion of star players like Mehdi Taremi, Sardar Azmoun, and Alireza Jahanbakhsh highlights Iran's ambition to qualify for the global tournament.

A unique aspect of this squad is the significant number of domestic players, indicating a growing emphasis on homegrown talent.

Ghalenoei's decision to call up a large contingent of Iranian Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) players reflects his belief in the capabilities of the domestic league.

The team's training regime will include a mix of physical conditioning and tactical drills, with a focus on improving the team's cohesion and attacking play.

As the countdown to the qualifiers begins, all eyes will be on Iran to see if they can secure a place in the 2026 World Cup.

Iran's opponents, Kyrgyzstan and the United Arab Emirates, will provide tough challenges. Both teams have shown improvement in recent years and will be eager to upset the more experienced Iranians.

The matches will be crucial for Iran's World Cup aspirations.

A strong start in the qualifying campaign will boost the team's confidence and increase their chances of reaching the final tournament.

Match Dates:

- Iran vs. Kyrgyzstan: Thursday, September 5, 2024
- Iran vs. United Arab Emirates: Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Iran's 5-month tuna export stands at \$14.6m

TEHRAN- As reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported tuna fishes valued at \$14.6 million in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

IRICA has reported that the value of Iran's fishery export increased by 24 percent during the first five months of the present year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

According to the IRICA report, the country exported 68,000 tons of fishery worth \$138 million in the five-month period of this year, also indicating 32 percent rise in terms of year on year.

Also as previously announced by the director general of the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture's Office of Quality Improvement, Processing, and Aquatic Market, the value of Iran's fishery export increased by over 30 percent during the first quarter of this Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Abbas Mokhtari said that the country exported 73,369 tons of fishery valued at \$121.4 million in the first quarter of this year, while the figure was 52,282 tons worth \$93.1 million in the same time span of the past year.

The official also announced that the quarterly fishery export indicates over 40 percent rise in terms of weight year on year.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has announced that Iran's fishery exports in the last Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) increased by three percent and exceeded \$310 million.

The IRICA said the weight of exported fishery products in the last Iranian fiscal year was 149,000 metric tons, which shows a 12 percent increase compared to the previous year.

During the last Iranian fiscal year, shrimp exports also reached \$98.5 million, accounting for 32 percent of the total export value among Iran's fishery products.

Russia, the United Arab Emirates, and China were the main destinations for Iran's exported shrimp during the mentioned period, showing a decrease of 26 percent in terms of value compared to the previous year.

According to the report, fisheries exports account for less than 70 percent of Iran's total exports, with the UAE, China, Russia, and Iraq being the largest markets for Iran's fishery products.

Iran imported 24,000 metric tons of fishery products worth \$72 million last year, indicating an increase of 121 percent in terms of weight and an increase of 113 percent in terms of value.

The growth and development of Iran's aquaculture industry has reached the point where the country has become a model for the countries of the region and the world.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) believes that Iran plays a responsible and central role in the fishing and aquaculture industry in the region, and for this reason, it can be considered a model for the countries of the region.

Now the world markets have become the target of the export of the country's fishery products, so that, the value of fishery exports also increased by 67 percent in the Iranian calendar year 1400 compared to the preceding year.

In addition to the executive role of the IFO, the role of research and knowledge-based activities in this field is very important, and the entry of young specialists and knowledge-based experts in various sectors of the fishery industry has made the sanctions ineffective.

In mid-April, the Head of Shrimp and Marine Aquatic Affairs of Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) Ghabad Mokarami said the country's fishery production is expected to reach 206,000

tons in the next two years.

"If we double the number of breeding pools in the next two years, we will reach more than 206,000 tons of fishery production, which is a significant number," Mokarami said.

In early April, a cooperation agreement was signed between 12 companies and groups of stakeholders in the field of fish farming to create a value chain for caged fish farming in the Caspian Sea region in northern Iran.

A total number of 12 influential companies and groups with a long history in various sectors of the industry, including the production of hatched eggs, baby fish nursery as the primary production input, health, nutritional and executive management of fish farms in cages, fish farms on land, export and trading of products, fishing unions and feed production factories, have agreed to create a value chain with a production capacity of 1,500 tons of fish by using all the country's hardware and software technologies to accelerate the development of the cage fish farming industry in the Northern waters of Iran.

The most important projects identified for the creation of this chain value include the completion of the technological equipment of the caged fish farm, including imaging, farm management software, etc., completion of the equipment and the optimization of the intermediate farms, including the nano-bubble, ozone, and filtration systems, and creation of the production-line of value-added products from fish waste to supply the raw materials of aquatic feed, concentrate production project to increase the safety of farmed fish by using medicinal plants to reduce the consumption of antibiotics, completing and equipping the processing unit including IQF machine, automatic processing, etc.

Design and construction of support float for caged fish breeding farm, completion of surveillance system equipment for breeding and nursery unit, implementation of the project for selection and production of Iranian triploid eggs, creation of a specialized feed production line for fishmeal, and supply of specialized vehicle for transporting fish are other projects to be implemented by the companies.

In a relevant development in March, a nanobubble generating machine was produced by one of the knowledge-based companies in Iran which improves productivity in fish farming ponds.

"Our knowledge based has produced nanobubble generators. These generators can dissolve oxygen and various other gases such as ozone in a nano form for disinfection and purifying wastewater," said Saeed Mokhberi, one of the researchers of the Iranian knowledge-based company.

"This product is used in both aquaculture and agriculture. In aquaculture, the machine will increase the population of cool-water fish species by 2-3 times, while it will reduce electricity consumption by 70 percent," he added.

Mokhberi mentioned removing the unpleasant smell of fish and improving the quality of farmed fish by making ponds healthier as another advantage of the machine, adding, "This generator will improve the conversion rate of food to protein, control the growth of bacteria and prevent diseases."

"In the aquaculture industry, the two problems of supplying oxygen to the water and the amount of nitrogen caused by the remaining food and fish waste emerge, which cause water pollution. This system is up to 85% efficient compared to the previous systems, whose efficiency was up to 18 percent."

of the Iranian private sector in the Gulfood Dubai and Indian Food Industry Exhibition (Foodex 2024) in order to introduce Iran's capabilities and capacities in this sector, along with familiarizing with the latest methods and global changes in the sector.

As ICCIMA reported, India's Foodex is scheduled to be held in late September and Dubai Gulfood will be held in late February 2025.

ICCIMA to facilitate Iranian food sector's participation in foreign exhibits

TEHRAN – Deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Food Industries Committee has said the chamber is taking the necessary measures to facilitate strong participation of Iranian food companies in foreign exhibitions.

Speaking in a meeting of the mentioned committee on Saturday, Rashid Azizpour said preparations are being made for the active participation

China oil imports from Iran surge to 1.75m bpd: report

TEHRAN – China's imports of Iranian oil have reached a record of 1.75m barrels per day (bpd) in August, oiprice.com reported, citing data from Kpler.

As reported, the current figure has surpassed the previous peak of 1.66m bpd set in October 2023 and is almost 50 percent higher compared with 1.24m bpd last month.

Shipments into Rizhao and Dalian are significantly higher month on month, said Muyu Xu, an analyst with Kpler

"Chinese teapots see refining margins slightly improving, they now have stronger motivation to ramp up production and therefore need more feedstock," she said.

Flows into Lanqiao/Rizhao and Dalian almost doubled compared to the previous month to 342k bpd and 132k bpd, respectively.

Oil from Iran has become the cheapest option for Chinese buyers, even more than Russia and more independent refiners are seeking barrels from the OPEC producer to boost their margins, said traders who participate in the market. Iranian Light was last offered at a discount of \$6.0 a barrel to ICE Brent, they added, compared with



a discount of less than a dollar for comparable crude from Russia.

Importers registered in China's Shandong province were the biggest buyers of Iranian crude – masking as Malaysian – accounting for over 70 percent of the volume, according to customs data. Overall, eight Chinese regions including Liaoning and Henan took oil from the Southeast Asian nation, the most since October 2023.

Earlier this month, Reuters reported that Iran has also been expanding its oil destination markets as the country is pushing to send more oil to the global markets in an attempt to neutralize Western sanctions.

Port, maritime services in Iran grows by 103%

TEHRAN – Director General of Planning, Development, and Resource Management at Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said a 103 percent growth has been recorded in maritime and port services as the country is taking new measures to boost maritime-oriented economy.

According to Mohammad-Hossein Allameh, PMO is directly involved in the development of the maritime economy and in this regard, the container capacity of the country's ports has increased to 7.8 million TEU, IRNA reported.

"With the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, communication with other countries is also on the agenda and we also plan to use the capacity of knowledge-based companies in meeting the needs of the country in the maritime sector," the official said.

Back in November 2023, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei said the organization was planning to attract 1.0 quadrillion rials (about \$1.968 billion) of investment in the country's ports to develop the maritime economy.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports

as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in the course of five years.

According to the PMO, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

Based on the data recently released by the PMO, container operation has increased four percent in the ports of country during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same

Value of 5-month apple exports hits \$111m

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's apple export reached \$111 million during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

As previously reported by the IRI-CA, the value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 33 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

According to the IRI-CA report, the country exported 2.657 million tons of agricultural products worth \$1.453 billion in the five-month period of this year, also indicating 22 percent rise in terms of weight year on year.

Also as previously announced by the IRI-CA, Iran exported about 2.226 million tons of agricultural products valued at \$1.18 billion in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), registering an increase of 32 percent in value year on year.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, the exports of the mentioned products also increased 22 per-

cent in terms of weight.

The value of Iran's exports of agricultural and foodstuff products increased by 22.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade has said.

According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian producers managed to export

about \$6.3 billion worth of the mentioned products in the said year.

As reported, agro-food products accounted for 12.8 percent of the country's total non-oil exports in the previous year.

Iraq was the top destination for Iran's agro-food products in the mentioned year importing \$1.986 billion worth of the said items. The Arab neighbor accounted for 31.5 percent of the total exports of food

oil to 17 countries, including those in Europe, according to Mehr News Agency.

In one new trade, the Golden Eagle tanker sailed near the port of Chittagong in Bangladesh earlier this year after receiving oil from another vessel that loaded it from Iran's Kharg Island according to available evidence based on shipping data, Claire Jungman, from U.S. advocacy group United Against Nuclear Iran, told Reuters.

The Golden Eagle offloaded parts of the cargo to smaller tankers in ship-to-ship transfer operations around Chittagong in April, said Jungman, whose organization tracks Iran-related tanker traffic via satellite data.

The shipment to Bangladesh was separately confirmed by another oil export tracking source.

An official with state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, which operates the country's main refinery, said it did not buy the cargo and it was difficult to establish who was the buyer.

The Golden Eagle's Liberia-based owner and manager listed in shipping databases could not be reached for comment.

period of time in the past year.

According to the mentioned data, 1,079,516 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of container goods have been unloaded and loaded in the country's ports in the first five months of this year, while the figure was 1,052,590 TEUs in the first five months of the previous year.

Based on the PMO's released data, some 94,284,476 tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at the country's ports in the first five months of the present year.

As reported, during the mentioned five months more than 10.964 million tons of oil products and over 21.291 million tons of non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports, while the loading of oil products in ports was reported to be 32.132 million tons, and the loading of non-oil goods was 29.896 million tons.

Totally, more than 32.255 million tons of oil- and non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports in the said five months, and over 62.029 million tons of oil- and non-oil products were loaded.

and agricultural products from Iran.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood in second place, importing \$751 million of the mentioned products, followed by Russia with \$521.5 million.

The value of Iran's total foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.17.8 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

Invitation to creditors (private joint stock)

The Iranian and French Automobile Company in liquidation (private joint stock) registration No: 95179 and national ID. No: 10101392440 (3 times)

For the implementation of Article 225 of the amendment to the Commercial Law, all the creditors of Iran and France Automobile Company (SIFA) in liquidation process with registration No: 95179 and national ID. No: 10101392440, whose liquidation notice was placed in the official Gazette of the country of Iran No: 22930 dated 1/Oct/2023, are invited to submit their supporting documents regarding their claims within a maximum period of 6 months from the date of publication of the first advertisement, to the liquidator, Mr. Mohammad Javad Piran with phone No: 09122651348 and at Domicile: legal deputy of Iran Khodro, Sarir Building, Tehran – Karaj high way kilometer 14, and postal code : 1495613311. It is obvious that the company and the liquidator are not responsible for any probable claims that is reflected to the company outside of the above period.

Mohammad Javad Piran

Liquidation manager of Iran and France

Automobile Company (private joint stock) in liquidation

Resistance confronts Israeli war in West Bank

Israeli military focus shifts to Jenin

From page 1 ▶ Additionally, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades set another ambush for an Israeli infantry unit in the Damaj neighborhood of Jenin, causing casualties among its members.

Reports from the West Bank said that at least one Israeli soldier was injured in the ambush, with his condition described as critical.

Reports indicate that Israeli forces “besieged a house in Damaj and shelled it with an Energa grenade,” while Israeli military helicopters heavily patrolled the neighborhood’s airspace as the IOF raided numerous homes.

Reports also said the IOF arrested Khalid al-Hassan, a member of the Legislative Council, from the Jabriyat neighborhood.

The al-Quds Brigades in Jenin announced that their fighters successfully detonated a pre-planted explosive device on a military vehicle in Jabriyat.

Israeli media said the Palestinian resistance had used rocket-propelled grenades against the IOF for the first time since the invasion of the northern West Bank began four days ago.

Armed clashes also erupted in the Mahyoub Street in the Jenin refugee camp, while Israeli forces besieged a house in the town of Kafr Dan eight kilometers west of the city. The sounds of loud gunfire were heard by reporters.

The al-Qassam Brigades con-



firmed that their fighters were defending Kafr Dan amid heavy armed confrontations with an Israeli military unit.

Meanwhile, the al-Mujahideen Brigades in Jenin stated that their fighters targeted Israeli military concentrations on Nabulus Street with two powerful explosive devices.

The IOF continues to besiege the Jenin government hospital, obstructing the work of medics and ambulances. The IOF has also conducted raids and destroyed a large number of homes in the city’s eastern neighborhood, according to journalists.

In al-Khalil, also known as Hebron, Israeli forces stormed the Jabal Abu Rumman area as the IOF set up military checkpoints along the road leading to Bethlehem, closing most of al-Khalil’s entrances.

Additionally, the IOF closed down the Ibrahimi Mosque in

al-Khalil and prevented Palestinians from entering it, while storming the Bab al-Zawiya area in the old city.

This comes after two operations targeted the illegal settlements of Gush Etzion and Karmeit Zsur near al-Khalil in the southern West Bank on Friday night, which included car bombings and clashes.

The spokesperson for the IOF acknowledged in a statement that “two security incidents occurred among the Gush Etzion Brigade,” where a car exploded in Gush Etzion to “lure the forces,” and “upon their arrival, a gunman opened fire, injuring two.”

The Israeli channel Makan confirmed that four Israelis were injured.

The Hebrew-language newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth, citing Israeli security agencies, revealed that “the perpetrators drove two cars on Route 60, with

one heading to the gas station in Gush Etzion and the other towards Karmeit Zsur.”

The Israeli Army radio confirmed that the commander of the Etzion Brigade was injured, noting that he is a senior officer with the rank of colonel, in the car bombing operation in Gush Etzion, along with another soldier.

Following this operation, the IOF imposed a siege on the al-Khalil governorate, announcing more reinforcements to the Karmeit Zsur settlement, along with the expansion of checkpoints and military sweeps in the area.

Late on Tuesday night, Israeli occupation forces staged wide-scale aggression on the West Bank, raiding and bombing Tulkarm, Tubas, Jenin, and Nablus.

Since Wednesday, the Palestinian resistance has continued to confront the IOF, which is currently invading Jenin and its refugee camp, in addition to a series of raids in areas of the southern and central West Bank.

On Thursday, Tel Aviv announced the end of its operations in Tubas and Tulkarm, leaving behind a trail of blood and destroyed properties and infrastructure.

Tulkarm’s Nur Shams refugee camp saw the most damage to residential buildings and the camp’s vital infrastructure.



an said an Israeli soldier exposed himself to her at a checkpoint on 17 August. The woman said she was crossing the checkpoint in the Tel Rumeida neighborhood when the soldier stopped her and instructed her to open her bag. After she complied, he took down part of his trousers and asked her: “Do you want it? Come and see.”

“Out of shock, I left the checkpoint and didn’t know what was happening, I felt as if someone had given me a slap,” she told Haaretz.

The act of savagery and indecency has risen to an extent that even

Israel’s domestic intelligence chief Ronen Bar wrote on August 22 to ministers warning that settlers in the West Bank were carrying out acts of “terror” against Palestinians and causing “indescribable damage” to Israel. He acknowledged that settlers have been emboldened by light-handed law enforcement.

In a report on its website, the BBC reported that settler harassment has forced Palestinians out of at least 18 villages in the West Bank in 10 months. The BBC also says extremist officials in Israel are happy with the land grab, believing it will prevent an independent Palestinian state from ever being created.

The way the settlers are behaving toward the West Bankers is a clear instance of modern barbarity by an ultra-Orthodox community of land grabbers against a helpless nation with the help and greenlight of Israeli rulers. In the midst of this barbarism the Western countries, whose claim of support for human rights has deafened the world, just express concern without taking any step.

Settlers enforcing law of jungle in West Bank

From page 1 ▶ Ahmed al-Shalaldeh, a resident of Jurat al-Khail village, told Wafa that dozens of settlers in military uniforms assaulted residents, seized their phones, destroyed residential caravans and damaged water tanks, before stealing the sheep.

The law of the jungle is dominant in the West Bank. The wrongdoers are not held accountable for their behavior toward the Palestinians.

Saleh Hijazi, a policy coordinator who works to dismantle Israel’s settler-colonialism, military occupation, and apartheid, says Israel is a “settler colony” that is intent on “replacing Indigenous Palestinians with the colonial settlers”.

Hebron residents in the West Bank have also announced a surge in sexual harassment and humiliating treatment at checkpoints. According to testimonies reported by Haaretz, Israeli soldiers have increasingly been sexually harassing Palestinian women at checkpoints in the city of Hebron.

In one incident, a young Palestinian wom-

The West Bank: Israel’s other genocidal war in Palestine

On Wednesday, Israel launched a major military assault on the occupied West Bank. The Israeli army deployed hundreds of soldiers, armored vehicles, bulldozers, drones and fighter jets to try to destroy the armed resistance in the regions of Jenin, Tulkarem and Tubas.

At least 20 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces, and scores have been injured.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz has called on the Israeli army to force Palestinians to evacuate from the northern West Bank. The military has announced a “voluntary evacuation”.

This Israeli talk of forced expulsion masked under the humanitarian term “evacuation” is raising fears that the West Bank will follow the fate of Gaza in terms of massive destruction and displacement.

If this does take place, it would be a major escalation of the Israeli government’s strategy of gradual dispossession of Palestinians in the West Bank, which has been carried out directly through military means and settler attacks but also indirectly – through the purposeful degradation of all aspects of Palestinian life.

Over the past few years, the Israeli army has regularly carried out military raids in the West Bank, trying to destroy the rising armed resistance movement in the occupied territory, fuelled by popular anger against the Israeli occupation and especially the intensified Jewish settler activity and Israeli takeover of

Palestinian properties in occupied East Jerusalem and elsewhere.

The Israeli army has used these raids not only to kill resistance fighters and civilians but also to bulldoze any infrastructure that the attacked Palestinian communities may have in an act of collective punishment. According to the United Nations, the Israeli military has killed more than 600 Palestinians in the West Bank since October 7.

Violence is not carried out solely by the Israeli army. The Israeli government has empowered and encouraged Jewish settlers to attack Palestinian communities as well. This was the case before October 7, but since then, settler attacks have skyrocketed.

In the first 10 months of the war, the UN recorded 1,250 attacks by Jewish settlers; in 120 of them, Palestinians were killed or injured, and in 1,000 of them, Palestinian property was damaged. Settlers have also attacked Palestinian communities, expelling their residents from their own land and homes. More than 1,200 Palestinians have been forced out of their homes by Jewish settlers. More than 3,000 have been displaced by the Israeli army demolishing Palestinian homes.

But it is not just brutal force that Israel is using against the Palestinians in the West Bank. The Israeli authorities have weaponised all levers of colonial control they have over the occupied territory to make life impossible for

the Palestinian population. On a recent trip to the West Bank, I witnessed firsthand these brutal realities of Israel’s settler colonialism.

The Israeli government has long restricted mobility for Palestinians within the occupied West Bank, building “Jewish only” roads, segregation walls and checkpoints across the territory. Since October 7, it has accelerated building infrastructure on Palestinian land. This is evident on Road 60 in the stretch connecting Jerusalem to Jewish settlements in Hebron, where new road lanes are being constructed, even in areas where lanes were added just a year ago.

Since October 7, the movement of Palestinians between villages and towns has been further restricted. The number of Israeli checkpoints, roadblocks and gates has increased from about 200 in October to more than 790 by early June. Some roads connecting communities are only open for limited hours while flying checkpoints and roadblocks are set up at the whim of soldiers, often without any legitimate security justification.

So while Jewish settlements throughout the West Bank are well connected with roads and infrastructure, the areas where the Palestinian population lives are transformed into Bantustans disconnected from each other.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

WORLD HEADLINES

Irish protesters condemn Israeli aggression

People in the Irish capital held a massive demonstration on Saturday condemning Israeli aggression in Gaza and the West Bank.

The protest, organized by pro-Palestine groups and Irish political parties, saw participation from various Arab and Islamic communities, labor unions, and representatives from leftist parties. Thousands of supporters of the Palestinian cause joined the demonstration.

Protesters chanted against the occupation’s crimes and the genocidal war being waged against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank, demanding an immediate end to the bloodbath.

WHO: Health teams in Gaza must be protected

World Health Organization director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said polio vaccination teams in Gaza must be “protected and allowed to conduct the upcoming campaign in Gaza safely”.

“We urge all parties to ensure their protection, and that of health facilities and children,” Tedros said in a post on social media.

The WHO chief made his call in a week that saw four security staff with an aid convoy killed in an Israeli air strike and a vehicle with the UN’s World Food Program sprayed with Israeli bullets near a checkpoint.

UN expert warns against aiding ship carrying explosives to Israel

The UN special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory has praised Namibia for “rightfully denying” port access to a ship reportedly carrying explosives to Israel.

Francesca Albanese said on X she had received information that the Portuguese-flagged Kathrin is carrying eight containers of explosives that are “reportedly key components in the aircraft bombs and missiles that Israel is deploying against besieged Gaza”.

She warned that countries potentially helping the ship, risk breaching the Genocide Convention as well as a UN Human Rights Council resolution “mandating an arms embargo on Israel”.

Palestinian Authority’s impotence: A recipe for Israeli military escalation

From page 1 ▶ The Palestinian Authority and President Mahmoud Abbas, who has led the organization for nearly two decades, have frequently condemned Israeli raids in the West Bank but have fallen short of taking any practical action to bring an end to such attacks.

The PA has adopted an aggressive approach toward Palestinians who have challenged its leadership but remains totally inactive in the face of the Israeli aggression.

The Palestinian Authority’s security forces have previously attacked protesters in the West Bank angry at the policies adopted by Abbas toward Palestine and the Gaza war.

The PA is also accused of providing intelligence to Israel to crack down on Palestinians who have played an active role against the regime’s occupation of their lands.

The Palestinian Authority’s lack of decisive action has emboldened Israel to continue incursions into the West Bank. Israel views the organization as a paper tiger, incapable of defending its own interests and people.

Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, has been under mounting pressure over his position toward Al-Aqsa Storm, a surprise military operation carried out by Hamas in southern Israel on October 7.

In mid-October, Abbas said, “Hamas’s policies

Brazil blocks X after Musk ignores court orders

X began to go dark across Brazil on Saturday after the nation’s Supreme Court blocked the social network because its owner, Elon Musk, refused to comply with court orders to suspend certain accounts.

Alexandre de Moraes, a Brazilian Supreme Court justice, ordered Brazil’s telecom agency to block access to X across the nation of 200 million because the company lacked a physical presence in Brazil.

Musk closed X’s office in Brazil last week after Justice Moraes threatened arrests for ignoring his orders to remove X accounts that he said broke Brazilian laws.

Russia accuses Ukraine of deadly attack, demands international condemnation

The Russian Foreign Ministry announced on Saturday that five civilians were killed and 46 others injured in what it described as a Ukrainian attack on the Belgorod region, using cluster munitions, Anadolu reported.

The ministry condemned the attack, labeling it a “barbaric strike” that resulted in significant civilian casualties, including seven minors. One child is reported to be in serious condition following surgery, while two adults are being prepared for transport to Moscow for further treatment. The attack, which it said was carried out by a Czech-made multiple rocket launcher, also caused damage to houses and other civilian infrastructure in the region.

In response to the incident, the Russian Investigative Committee has opened a criminal case, with authorities vowing that those responsible will be “irrevocably punished in accordance with the law.” The ministry characterized the attack as a “pre-planned and carefully prepared terrorist act of intimidation” by Kyiv.

Moscow also criticized Western countries, accusing them of turning a blind eye to such “bloody atrocities” and supplying Ukraine with deadly weapons. The ministry called on the international community and relevant organizations to condemn the attack and distance themselves from what it described as the “Kyiv regime and its Western curators.”

and actions do not represent the Palestinian people, and the policies, programs and decisions of the (Palestine Liberation Organization) represent the Palestinian people as their sole legitimate representative.”

Abu Mazen’s statements infuriated Palestinians who have been subjected to decades of Israeli crimes. The comments also showed he is detached from reality as revelations by the US and Israeli intelligence communities have indicated that Hamas has become more popular since conducting the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation.

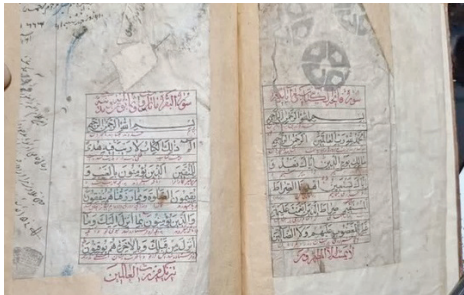
Palestinians also consider the Western-backed Ramallah organization as a toothless body in the face of its inaction amid Israel’s genocidal war in Gaza as well as a surge in the regime’s deadly attacks and settler violence in the West Bank.

Israel has massacred around 40,700 people in Gaza in a bid to pit Palestinians against Hamas. But its plot has backfired amid rising support for resistance.

Israel has painted a similar scenario in the West Bank which will prove futile.

Presently, Palestinians have woken up to the fact that only resistance, national unity and resilience will contribute to bringing an end to Israel’s decades-long occupation and atrocious crimes.

Rare copy of Holy Quran donated to Naqadeh Museum



TEHRAN – The Head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts office in Naqadeh announced the donation of a rare copy of the Holy Quran to the city's museum.

Hamzeh Pahlevani stated that the Quran, which experts have determined to be from the contemporary period, was donated by Behnaz Qarah-Naqadeh to the Naqadeh Museum.

Pahlevani added that the purpose of donating the Quran was to ensure better preservation and protection of that historical copy and to maintain the heritage and history of the city.

He further noted that historical artifacts donated by individuals to the museum are displayed with the donor's name.

Naqadeh is an ancient city located in West Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran.

Archaeological preservation efforts underway at Dastva, once the capital of Elymais kingdom



TEHRAN – Following recent archaeological work at Dastva, a national heritage site in southwest Iran, relevant authorities have announced new efforts to preserve, restore, and document the cultural artifacts discovered there.

Located some three kilometers southeast of Shushtar in Khuzestan province, Dastva is an ancient city that once served as the capital of the Elymais kingdom and has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List since 1968.

These preservation efforts, led by a team of expert conservators, include the restoration of various cultural artifacts and intricate plasterwork found in the tombs unearthed during past excavations at the site, ISNA reported on Friday.

The conservation work also involves the careful handling of plaster decorations from arches, as well as a range of ceramic vessels dating back to the Qajar era. Each of these items is currently being transferred to the site's restoration workshop under the close supervision of the archaeological

team, ensuring compliance with all necessary guidelines and protocols.

Earlier this month, a team of archaeologists launched a significant project aimed at defining and protecting the boundaries of the site, which dates back to the Parthian and Sassanian eras.

Over the past few decades, and particularly in recent years, various human activities have taken a heavy toll on Dastva. The construction and expansion of the Shushtar-Ahvaz road, the development of the Andisheh (Gavmishabad) township, large-scale land leveling for agriculture, and the creation of dirt roads have all caused significant damage.

Other destructive activities include digging for fishponds, converting agricultural land into garden villas, erecting power transmission poles, installing drainage channels and water pipes, and the dumping of waste and construction debris. Additionally, illegal excavations by looters, deforestation, erosion, and the seasonal growth of wild plants have further contributed to the site's deterioration.

The site was first excavated in 1968 by Ali Akbar Sarfaraz, who uncovered significant artifacts, including an Elymais tomb, Sassanian and Islamic pottery, and remnants of a Sassanian pottery kiln using test trenches.

After a period of inactivity, archaeological work resumed under the leadership of Mahdi Rahbar in the 1980s, following the accidental discovery of part of a tomb ceiling in the Golarak area.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Fasil Ghebbi

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the fortress city of Fasil Ghebbi was the residence of the Ethiopian emperor Fasilides and his successors.

Surrounded by a 900-m-long wall, the city contains palaces, churches, monasteries and unique public and private buildings marked by Hindu and Arab influences, subsequently transformed by the Baroque style brought to Gondar by the Jesuit missionaries.

Fasil Ghebbi is located in the Amhara National Regional State, in the North Gondar Administrative Zone of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

According to UNESCO, the serial property consists of eight components. Within the Fasil Ghebbi palace compound are: the Castle of Emperor Fasilidas, the Castle of Emperor Iyasu, the Library of Tzadich Yohannes; the Chancellery of Tzadich Yohannes; the Castle of Emperor David, the Palace of Mentuab and Banqueting Hall of the Emperor Bekaffa. The remaining seven components are located in and around the city of Gondar: the Debre Berhan Selassie (Monastery and church); the Bath of Fasilidas; Kiddush Yohannes; Qusquam (Monastery and Church); Thermal Area; the Sosinora (also known as Maryam Ghemb); the Gorgora (Monastery and Church) and the Palace of Guzara.

Between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries, Ethiopian rulers moved their royal camps frequently. King Fasil (Fasilidas) settled in Gondar and established it as a permanent capital in 1636. Before its decline in the late eighteenth century, the royal court had developed from a camp into a fortified compound called Fasil Ghebbi, consisting of six

major building complexes and other ancillary buildings, surrounded by a wall 900 metres long, with twelve entrances and three bridges.

The fortress city functioned as the centre of the Ethiopian government until 1864. It has some twenty palaces, royal buildings, highly decorated churches, monasteries and unique public and private buildings, transformed by the Baroque style brought to Gondar by the Jesuit missionaries. The main castle has huge towers and looming battlemented walls, resembling a piece of medieval Europe transposed to Ethiopia. Beyond the confines of the city to the northwest by the Qaha River, there is a two-storey pavilion of a bathing palace associated with Emperor Fasilidas. The building is a two-storey battlemented structure situated within and on one side of a rectangular pool of water which was supplied by a canal from the nearby river. The bathing pavilion itself stands on pier arches and contains several rooms reached by a stone bridge, part of which could be raised for defence. Subsequent rulers, such as Iyasu the Great, continued building, improving the techniques and architectural style and expanded to the hills northwest of the city centre, in the area known as Qusquam.

Fasil Ghebbi and the other remains in Gondar city demonstrate a remarkable interface between internal and external cultures, with cultural elements related to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Ethiopian Jews and Muslims. This relationship is expressed not only through the architecture of the sites but also through the handicrafts, painting, literature and music that flourished in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

2nd phase of Mini World theme park inaugurated in western Iran

TEHRAN – The second phase of Mini World, a massive tourism and recreational project in Malayer, western Iran, has been officially inaugurated.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several travel insiders and local officials, including Mohsen Masoum Alizadeh, the provincial tourism chief, who highlighted the project's significance as a national mega-tourism endeavor, spanning an area of 48 hectares.

The Mini World features perfect replicas of many world-renowned historical sites and monuments. These include iconic structures such as Persepolis, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Veresk Bridge, the Acropolis, the Eiffel Tower, the Taj Mahal, the Si-o-se Pol bridge, the Great Pyramids of Giza, the Moai statues of Easter Island, and the tombs of Persian poets Hafez and Khayyam, as well as the mausoleum of Avicenna, Sun Palace, the Great Wall of China, the Gonbad-e Qabus tower, and many others, Alizadeh explained.

Some of these installations



have been completed, while others are currently under construction, CHTN reported on Saturday.

Alizadeh added that the park also showcases other notable attractions, such as Niagara Falls, Dolatabad Garden in Yazd (with its buildings and wind towers), the Quran Gate of Shiraz, the Garden of Celebrities featuring statues of famous Iranian and international figures, and monuments dedicated to martyred people.

He emphasized that Mini World

is a unique destination with great potential to impact tourism, offering an unparalleled showcase of architectural and cultural heritage from various nations and civilizations throughout history.

Salman Esmaili, the deputy governor-general of Hamadan province and Special Governor of Malayer, also highlighted the provincial government's support to complete the project. He praised the efforts of the city council and municipality for their successful endeavors in securing

funds to advance this massive tourism project.

Esmaili further stated that Malayer is uniquely recognized for its furniture, grapes, and wicker weaving, and stressed the need to focus on developing handicrafts and tourism industries while creating the necessary infrastructure to support these sectors.

Majid Faraji, the mayor of Malayer, remarked that there are currently 30 ongoing projects within the Mini World theme park, describing it as a significant tourism venture both domestically and internationally. He noted that the park is set to feature 138 iconic structures from Iran and around the world, with an overall budget of 13,500 billion rials (\$22.5 million) spent on the project so far, including the recently inaugurated second phase.

Faraji also mentioned that the construction of this mega-tourism project began in 2008, to promote culture by creating small replicas of historical landmarks from around the world.

Kerman shortlisted as candidate for D-8 tourism capital

TEHRAN – The city of Kerman, representing Iran, has been shortlisted as a candidate for the title of the tourism capital of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, a group of eight developing Islamic countries.

Kerman has submitted a comprehensive written proposal to be considered for the prestigious title, competing against other prominent cities such as Antalya in Turkey and Lahore in Pakistan, Kerman province's tourism chief said on Friday.

"Kerman has all the necessary attributes to represent Iran in this competition," Saeed Shahrokhi stated.

"With its robust tourism infrastructure, dedication to preserving cultural heritage, innovation in technology, emphasis on the safety and security of tourists, and its commitment to promoting and marketing tourism, Kerman is well-positioned to be the D-8 Tourism Capital."

The D-8 Organization, also known as the Developing-8, includes Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Pakistan.

The official further emphasized that the accurate, credible, and creative presentation of Kerman's abilities could significantly increase the city's chances of being selected. Shahrokhi also highlighted the importance of national, provincial, and private sector collaboration in achieving this recognition, expressing gratitude to the Kerman Chamber



of Commerce for its support in the process.

The final decision on the selection of the D-8 Tourism Capital is expected to be announced later this year.

Kerman is a vibrant testament to centuries of cultural fusion and heritage. Nestled in the country's southeastern part, Kerman has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribal inhabitants. This confluence of cultures has enriched the city with diverse traditions, architectural marvels, and a unique way of life that continues to captivate visitors today.

The city is home to numerous historical sites and scenic landscapes that offer an unforgettable journey through time. The Bazaar-e Sartasari, one of Iran's oldest and longest covered bazaars, is a bustling hub of commerce and culture where travelers can experience local crafts, textiles, and spices. The ancient Jabalieh Dome, a mysterious octagonal structure made of stone and gypsum,

Reassessment project at Tepe Sialk enters third phase

TEHRAN – The third phase of a reassessment project has commenced at Tepe Sialk, a treasured ancient site situated near Kashan in Isfahan province.

Authorized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, the excavation is co-led by Jebrael Nokandeh and Javad Hosseinzadeh Sadati, and is expected to continue until the end of September.

According to Mehr news agency, Nokandeh stated that the Sialk Reassessment Project is a long-term research initiative aimed at organizing and updating [previous] archaeological studies at the site.

The project was founded by the late Sadeq Malek Shahmirzadi, who supervised its first phase from 2001 to 2005. The second phase was led by Hassan Fazeli Nashli from 2008 to 2009. The third phase began in 2022 under the direction of Nokandeh and Hosseinzadeh Sadati, with the current season marking its third phase of work.

The ongoing phase is a collaborative effort involving the National Museum of Iran, the Archaeology Research Center of the country, and the Department of Archaeology at the University of Kashan. It aims to answer various research questions related to the central Iranian region, spanning from the Neolithic period to the early Achaemenid era. The project also seeks to improve conditions for displaying the site's archaeological findings to both Iranian and foreign visitors.

Nokandeh on Saturday explained that this season focuses on continuing last year's work and achieving a more in-depth under-



standing of the site's most recent layers.

Among the significant discoveries so far is an industrial workshop, approximately 8 meters long and 2 meters wide, likely linked to metalworking activities from the sixth Sialk period (about 2800 to 2600 years ago).

The workshop features a longitudinal wall on its western side and two transverse walls to the north and south. It appears to have lacked an eastern wall, and its roof was probably supported by wooden beams.

Evidence found on the workshop floor includes a small heat-affected pit (possibly a crucible placement), grinding stones, and ash, indicating its function as a metallurgical site. Additionally, a fragment of a bellows pipe was discovered among the eastern debris, further supporting the workshop's identified use.

Another notable find from this season is a collection of pottery from the Sialk IV period (5300 to 4900 years ago), comprising a large pottery jar, two bowls known as rimmed bowls, parts of a painted pottery cup, and a

portion of a jug. These items were located beneath structures from the Sialk VI period, and their context remains unclear, pending further investigation in future seasons.

Nokandeh expressed hope that the ongoing excavations will uncover new evidence regarding the final settlement phases at the significant Tepe Sialk site, potentially shedding light on the reasons behind the site's abandonment in the late Median period.

Situated halfway between Kashan and Fin in Isfahan province, Tapeh Sialk ("Sialk Hills") has yielded interesting pottery pieces, metal tools, and domestic implements made from stone, clay, and bone that date from as early as the 4th millennium BC.

In 2019, the Louvre museum hosted a worldwide gathering on Tapeh Sialk, which was attended by archaeologists from Germany, England, France, and Iran. According to the Louvre, the event was aimed to cast a new light on the ancient site some 80 years after its first excavation to lay an opportunity to present to the public the diversity of research and projects, as well as current issues of preservation and enhancement of the site.

As per the Louver, the oldest levels document the occupation of the Iranian plateau from the Neolithic to the Chalcolithic over more than two millennia. Then, around 3000 BC, the site was integrated into the vast cultural area called Proto-Elamite, during which specific writing appeared.

Warm weather, low rainfall forecast for fall

TEHRAN –According to numerical weather prediction modeling, the fall weather is forecast to be warmer than normal with low precipitation, Metrological Organization has reported.

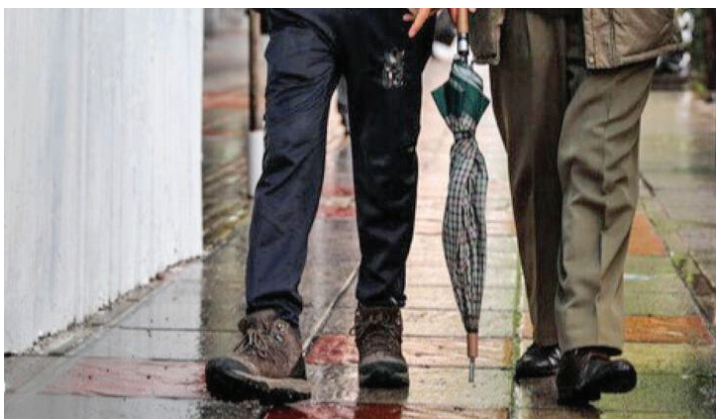
“During the past 13 months, the average temperature in each month has been the highest on record which is caused by extreme temperature anomalies,” ISNA quoted Ahad Vazifeh, an official with Metrological Organization, as saying.

The warm and cold phases of the Pacific Ocean affect the weather, but this indicator cannot be relied on this year because the transition from El Niño (warm phase) to La Niña (cold phase) is going on slowly, he added.

Most models indicate weak La Niña conditions from November to February. In this condition, indicators that change in the short term such as the North Atlantic Oscillation (Nao), and Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) become more effective and impact, he further noted.

Precipitations close to normal

In June, the head of the Metrological Organization said, “After four years of consecutive low precipitations, the amount of average rainfall is getting close to normal long-term figures.”



“Currently, the country is witnessing less than one millimeter, about 0.3 percent, short of long-term rainfall,” IRIB quoted Sahar Tajbakhsh as saying.

According to available statistics, South Khorasan, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Yazd provinces have so far received more than 30 percent of the long-term rainfall in the current water year, she added.

Other provinces like Ardabil, Isfahan, Ilam, North Khorasan, Khuzestan, Qom, Kordestan, Kermanshah, Golestan, and Mazandaran have experienced between 2 up to 29 percent more than normal rains.

However, East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Alborz, Bushehr, Tehran, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Khorasan Razavi, Zanjan,

Semnan, Fars, Qazvin, Kerman, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Gilan, Markazi, and Hormozgan provinces have received between 1 and 30 percent less rainfall than normal.

Tehran, Semnan, and Qazvin provinces have received the lowest amount of precipitation.

Transition into La Niña or neutral conditions?

According to recent forecasts, there is the possibility of either neutral conditions or a transition into La Niña.

Concerning the fact that the cycle is currently moving from El Niño to La Niña, Sadeq Ziaiean, an official with national center for forecasting Iran metrological organization, said: “There is over 60 percent chance for neutral conditions and 38 per-

cent chance for experiencing La Niña in the country by August 20,” ISNA reported.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a climate phenomenon that has three parts El Niño, La Niña, and neutral phases.

El Niño and La Niña are opposite extremes of the ENSO, which refers to cyclical environmental conditions that occur across the Equatorial Pacific Ocean.

La Niña is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific, compared to El Niño, which is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific.

These changes are due to natural interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere. Sea surface temperature, rainfall, air pressure, and atmospheric and ocean circulation all influence each other.

Ziaiean pointed out that in addition to the ENSO, other cyclonic events such as Acetic Oscillation (AO), NAO, MJO, and the Indian Ocean bipolar affect Iran's atmospheric condition.

Under optimal conditions, when La Niña dominates, there is a 60 percent likelihood that the fall season in Iran begins later, and the probability of facing a dry year increases.

Iran, Russia to bolster nano-tech co-op

TEHRAN – Officials from Iran and Russia have discussed ways to expand interactions and cooperation in nano-technology between the institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Iran's nanotechnology headquarters.

During a meeting that was held in Ekaterinburg, Russia, on the sidelines of the second international conference on Materials Science and Nanotechnology, August 27-30, both parties agreed to enhance scientific cooperation through exchanging professors and students, carrying out joint scientific research projects, publishing scientific articles in the journals of each country, and holding short-term scientific courses to enhance knowledge in microelectronics, artificial intelligence, and materials genome fields, ISNA reported.

Also, the two sides decided to sign memorandums of understanding (MOUs) for each of the above-mentioned subjects.

Joint science, technology co-op

In July, Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of Russia Ayrat Gatiyatov stated, “Following a recent agreement within the framework of the joint cooperation committee, Russia and Iran will establish a sub-committee for scientific and technological cooperation.”

The official made the remarks in a meeting with the head of Iranian Islamic Seminaries Ayatollah Alireza Araf, and Iran's ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali on July 23, IRNA



reported.

‘Currently, we are coordinating the composition of the joint committee's membership, and Russia is scheduled to host the first session,’ Gatiyatov said.

He also announced Russia's full support of fostering research and educational ties with Iran.

Referring to the sixth meeting of the heads of top universities from Iran and Russia at Moscow State University last year, Gatiyatov stressed that these meetings have always yielded practical outcomes and resulted in the signing of memorandums of understanding.

He went on to say that currently, Iran and Russia are conducting 15 joint projects in fields like material sciences and biotechnology which are scheduled to last for three years, with budgets ranging from \$40,000 to \$70,000.

The official also highlighted the challenges faced by over eight thousand Iranian students in Russia, particularly those who major

in the field of medical science, 95 percent of whom face degree recognition issues.

Gatiyatov expressed optimism that authorities would facilitate the recognition and acknowledgment of their degrees soon.

Iran a global leader in nano-tech

Iran's achievements in nanotechnology are noteworthy. The increase in scientific publications and sales of nano products proves Iran's rise as a global leader in this field.

One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the impressive fourth place worldwide.

According to StatNano, a leading nanotechnology website, Iran has made great strides in the field of nanotechnology being ranked fourth in terms of nanotechnology publication.

This ranking proves the country's remarkable scientific development.

The nanotechnology sector is a prime example of success in Iran, an arena consisting of expert and program-oriented human resources with significant goals that shine like a jewel in the country's innovation and technology ecosystem.

With the support of talented academicians and knowledge-based companies, the nanotechnology sector has indigenized many technologies to solve the country's main challenges in various areas, including industry.

SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Third, fourth, fifth babies on the rise: official

TEHRAN –The number of families with third, fourth, fifth, and more children born in the Iranian year 1402 (March 2023 –March 2024) has increased compared to the previous two years, an official with the Civil Registration Organization has stated.

One effective factor was the provision of numerous incentives. However, in the past two years, the fertility rate revolved around 1.6, and all provinces of the country have experienced a reduction in fertility rate in recent years, ISNA quoted Mohammad-Javad Mahmoudi as saying.

The number of births in the country fell from 1,057,958, in the Iranian year 1394 (2015-2016) to 1,570, 219 in 1402, signifying a 32-percent decline in births. Compared to the year 1401 (2022-2023), the birth rate has experienced a 1.6 percent reduction, the official added.

In the past Iranian year, Tehran province with 131,176 births, and Semnan province with 6,907 births had the highest and lowest number of births, IRNA reported.

Out of registered births, 51.8 percent were boys and 48.2 percent were girls.

According to the Organization, a total of 33,080 multiple births were registered in the country in the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year that ended on March 20, 2024.

Twins made up the majority of multiples born; 31,320 out of 33,080 registered multiple births were twins, and 1,686 births were triplets, IRNA reported.

Tehran province with 14.7 percent and Semnan province with 0.5 percent had the highest and lowest number of multiple births, respectively.

Last year, out of the registered multiple births in the first nine months, 28,148 were twins, 1,506 were triplets, 64 were quadruplets, and 10 were higher-order multiple births.

Some 34.6 percent of registered births were first-born children; 38.9 percent, 17.6 percent, 5.1 percent, and 2 percent were related to second-born to fifth-born children.

Males outpace females

In the first nine months of the past Iranian calendar year, more boys than girls were born. Over 51.8 percent of babies born were boys and 48.2 percent were girls.

The ratio of male to female births in this period was 107.6 which shows a 0.6% growth compared to the same period last year (107), ISNA reported.

The ‘natural’ sex ratio at birth is around 103 to 107. This ratio gradually decreases in the following years due to the high death rate of the males. Around 20-25 years of age, this ratio is balanced and reaches 100.

The crude birth rate in the country for 9 months was equal to 8.12 per thousand population.

Also, Sistan-Baluchestan province and Gilan province with 9.27 per thousand population and 7.7 per thousand population had the highest and lowest crude birth rates.

Fertility rate should reach 2.5

In November 2023, an official with the Ministry of Health said that the total fertility rate should reach 2.5 from 1.66 before the closure of the demographic window in the next five years.

“The country is on the threshold of aging; to tackle this crisis, we must promote childbearing and youth population,” IRNA quoted Saber Jabbari as saying.

Over the last 30 years, the total fertility rate of the country has declined, but in the Iranian calendar year 1401 (March 2022–March 2023), the downward trend in fertility came to a halt, he added.

“Carrying out programs that are focusing on the youth population at the national level is a strategy to increase the total fertility rate,” Jabbari stressed.

Stating that the country's fertility rate rose from 1.65 in the year 1400 (March 2021 – March 2022) to 1.66 in 1401 (March 2022 – March 2023), the official noted, “According to the general policies of the Seventh National Development Plan (2023 – 2027), the replacement rate is 2.5 which is to be achieved in the next five years before the closure of the demographic window.”

Talking about modern methods of infertility treatment, he said all modern methods of infertility treatment are offered in the country.

In May 2023, Jabbari said that the number of families with four children or more has increased by 15 percent in the country.

He added that families with three children have also increased by 2.5 percent, IRNA reported.

The policy of having one or two children has changed in the society and the birth of a third child has been increasing, he highlighted.

A center in the Ministry of Health provides services in the field of care, education, and counseling, as well as facilitating successful and stable marriages, healthy fertility, and promoting natural childbirth, early diagnosis of infertility, and timely treatment, he pointed out.

The National Population Day is observed on May 19 to mark the date the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, announced general policies on population as per the Constitution.

Underscoring the significant role of the population in national authority, general population policies were announced to compensate for the decrease in population growth and fertility rate over the past years.

Keeping in mind the positive role of the population in the development of the country, it is necessary to make comprehensive plans for the economic, social, and cultural growth of the country in accordance with the population policies, the leader said.

It is also necessary to share the task among the relevant institutions and government bodies to take the necessary measures with accuracy, and strength, and then report the results of continuous monitoring of the implementation of policies.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

56% of motorcycles running in only 5 provinces

Some 56 percent of the total motorcycles in the country are running in only five provinces, Ali Mohammadi, a senior traffic police official has said.

Of all 32.9 million vehicles in the country, motorcycles amount to 11.6 million, accounting for 35 percent of the total vehicles moving in the country, he stated.

According to the statistics, 56 percent of motorcycles are plying the roads in 5 provinces of Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, Fars and Khuzestan, he added.

There are 2 million motorcycles in Tehran, 1.3 million in Khorasan Razavi, 1.2 million in Isfahan, 916,000 in Fars, and 564,000 in Khuzestan, he also said.

۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها در ۵ استان تردد دارند

رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: بنابر آمارها، ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها تنها در ۵ استان تردد می کنند.

سرهنگ علی محمدی روز یکشنبه افزود: از ۳۲ میلیون و ۹۰۰ هزار دستگاه انواع وسایل نقلیه در کشور، ۱۱ میلیون و ۶۵۰ هزار دستگاه یعنی معادل ۳۵ درصد را موتورسیکلت ها شامل می شوند. وی اظهار داشت: برابر آمارها تهران بزرگ، خراسان رضوی، اصفهان، فارس و خوزستان ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت های کشور را در خود جای داده اند.

رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: تهران بزرگ با حدود ۲ میلیون دستگاه موتورسیکلت، خراسان رضوی ۱.۳ میلیون دستگاه، اصفهان ۱.۲ میلیون دستگاه، فارس ۹۱۶ هزار دستگاه و خوزستان با ۵۶۴ هزار دستگاه موتورسیکلت بیشترین موتورسیکلت های کشور را به خود اختصاص دادند.



Rice harvest in Gilan province

Rice is one of the main crops in the northern province of Gilan. Some 300,000 farmers plant rice on approximately 238,000 hectares of land in the province. This year, the country is projected to produce 2.5 million tons of rice.



SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Time wears out bodies, renews hopes, brings death nearer and takes away aspirations. Whoever gets anything from the world lives in anxiety for holding it and whoever loses anything passes his days grieving over the loss.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:04 Evening: 18:50 Dawn: 4:10 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:37 (tomorrow)

Vancouver film festival to screen Iranian films



A scene from "Nietzschean Suicide"
by Payam Kordestani

TEHRAN- A lineup of five Iranian films will go on screen at the 42nd edition of Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF), which will be held at the Canadian city from September 26 to October 6.

"Terrestrial Verses", co-directed by Ali Asgari and Alireza Khatami, "Nietzschean Suicide" by Payam Kordestani and "Our Uniform" by Yeganeh Moghaddam are among the films competing at the festival.

In "Terrestrial Verses," people from all walks of life navigate the cultural and institutional constraints imposed on them by various social authorities, from school teachers to bureaucrats.

"Nietzschean Suicide" tells the story of a pharmacy owner, who attempts to delay the suicide of the only midwife in town until after his pregnant wife gives birth.

In "Our Uniform," an Iranian girl recalls school-age memories through the wrinkles and fabrics of her old uniform, quite literally.

Rather than using paper, canvas, or a digital medium, Moghaddam painted directly on the cloth used for making school uniforms to tell the story of a character who dreams of a better future.

The festival will also screen "Razeh-del"

by Maryam Tafakori and "Rizoo" by Azadeh Navai.

"Razeh-del" tells the story of two schoolgirls in 1998, who sent a letter to Iran's first-ever women's newspaper.

While they waited to be published, they considered making an impossible film. Using citations and image intervention, "Razeh-del" journeys through parallel histories of war on images of women.

An Iran-U.S. joint film, "Rizoo" shows an eight-year-old girl named Rizoo who lives with her mother and grandmother in Tehran.

A lively, polite, and smart girl, she has recently moved back from California. But when she must take a class portrait, her world suddenly becomes very complicated.

VIFF is dedicated to engaging and empowering communities by fostering dialogue, providing education, and supporting local artists.

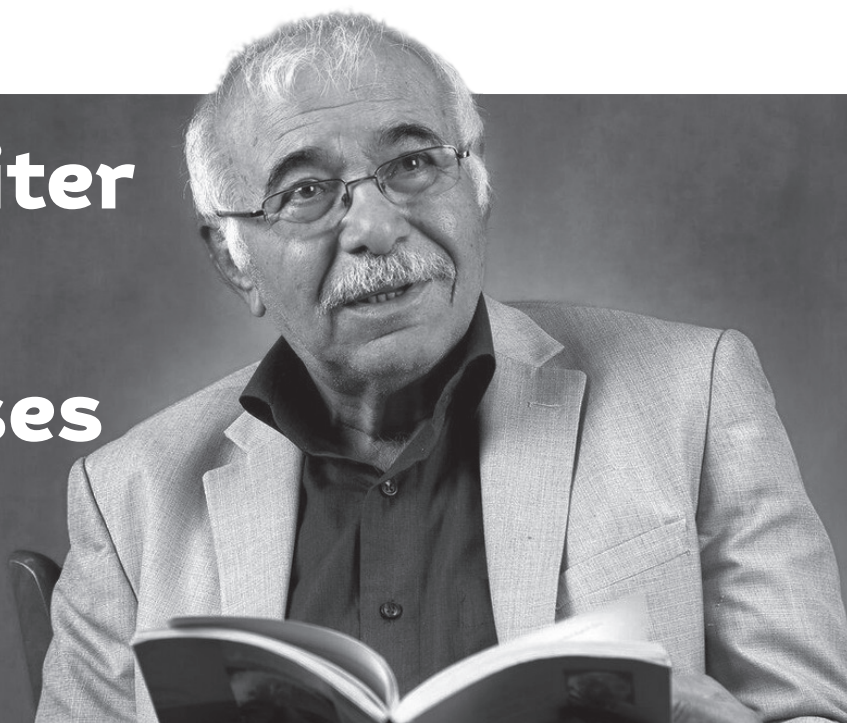
With decades of experience and innovative programming, VIFF has transformed into a highly regarded annual festival and a premier arthouse cinema.

Its robust festival and year-round initiatives feature over 1,500 screenings and events annually, establishing VIFF as the most dynamic cinematic force in the region.

In 2024, the festival will showcase around 130 feature films and 100 shorts, while also expanding its offerings to include talks, creative development opportunities, performances, and unique events that celebrate the richness of film and film culture.

Through these efforts, VIFF continues to inspire and connect audiences, nurturing a vibrant community around the art of cinema.

Poet, songwriter Mohamad Ali Bahmani passes away at 82



TEHRAN-Well-known Iranian poet and songwriter Mohamad Ali Bahmani passed away in Tehran on Friday after a stroke and deterioration of his physical condition.

Doctors did what they could do in the final moments to stabilize the condition of Bahmani through Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). However, their attempts were unsuccessful and the renowned poet died at 82, Honaronline reported.

Earlier in June, Bahmani was hospitalized in the ICU due to a stroke. Doctors had announced that the poet had lost his ability to speak. However, in the following

days, his health began to improve, and he regained his ability to speak. Unfortunately, the health of popular poet deteriorated again ten days ago after another brain hemorrhage, which led to his passing.

Born in 1942 in Dezful, Khuzestan Province, Bahmani wrote his first poem for his mother at age 10, and "Roshan Fekr" magazine published it in 1952. Bahmani started cooperation with National Iranian Radio in 1966 and presented the poetry page program in cooperation with the Persian Gulf Provincial Network.

He lived in Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan Province, since 1973 and

after the victory of Iran's Revolution, returned to Tehran. He left for Bandar Abbas again in 1984.

He was one of the most renowned poets and songwriters of this period and has collaborated with many musicians and singers, among them Naser Abdollahi, Homayoun Shajarian, and Alireza Ghorbani.

Bahmani was one of the most famous sonneteers in contemporary Persian literature and his emotional and attractive language has charmed many readers.

His syntax, the high frequency of his modern and common diction,

and the rich and pervasive music of his language are some of the causes which have made his poems charming and fascinating.

Moreover, Bahmani showed a remarkable ability to use the living and current language of the society and common people and displays an admirable skill in manipulating the images, emotions and music of this language in his poetry.

Bahmani's funeral procession will be held on Sunday in front of Tehran's Vahdat Hall and his body will be buried in Bandar Abbas.

Iranian short animation "In the Shadow of Cypress" wins two awards in Portland



TEHRAN-The Iranian short animated movie "In the Shadow of Cypress," co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani won two awards at the 12th Portland Festival of Cinema, Animation & Technology (PFCAT), held in the U.S. from August 21 to 25.

A production of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (known as Kanoon), the animated movie won two silver awards in the categories of Best 2D Animated Short and Best Score in a Short Animation, Kanoon website reported.

Made in 2023, "In the Shadow of Cypress" depicts a former captain suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder who lives with his daughter in a humble house located by the sea.

Together, they live isolated from the world and must confront the challenges of their situation. One morning, their lives change forever when an unforeseen event occurs.

The animation has so far grabbed three major

international awards from Academy Award-Qualifying Festivals.

Portland Festival of Cinema, Animation & Technology was founded in 2002 with the mission to find visionary films that often have been overlooked.

Formerly known as The International Festival of Cinema & Technology (IFCT), the festival rebranded in 2022 to reflect its new home in Portland.

PFCAT embraces cutting-edge technology and its role in modern filmmaking. In addition to 150+ film screenings in two theaters and the annual award ceremony, the festival includes various networking events, panel discussions, and screenings in the Kendall Planetarium.

"The Sun on the Brush" appears at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- Armenian writer Narek Mesropyan's book "The Sun on the Brush: The Story of Impressionist Painters" has recently been published in Persian.

Translated by Andranik Khachumian, the book has been published by Negah Publications in Tehran.

"The Sun on the Brush" explores the emergence of Impressionism in the mid-19th century, emphasizing the artist's momentary feelings and perceptions of a scene. This movement captivates audiences through the use of light and its reflections, short brush strokes on canvas, and the separation of colors.

Impressionism is both an innovative and revolutionary

artistic movement. Unlike the centuries-old traditions of well-known and unknown painters, Impressionist artists preferred to paint outdoors, capturing emotions and light on their canvases. This book details various periods of the lives, works, challenges, and hardships of Impressionist painters such as Manet, Degas, Monet, Renoir, Cézanne, Gauguin, and Van Gogh as they pursued their distinctive paths.

Impressionism, a pivotal moment in art history, transcended mere aesthetics. It was a rebellion against the academic art world that emphasized realism and historical subjects. Impressionists sought to capture the fleeting essence of the modern world, focusing on

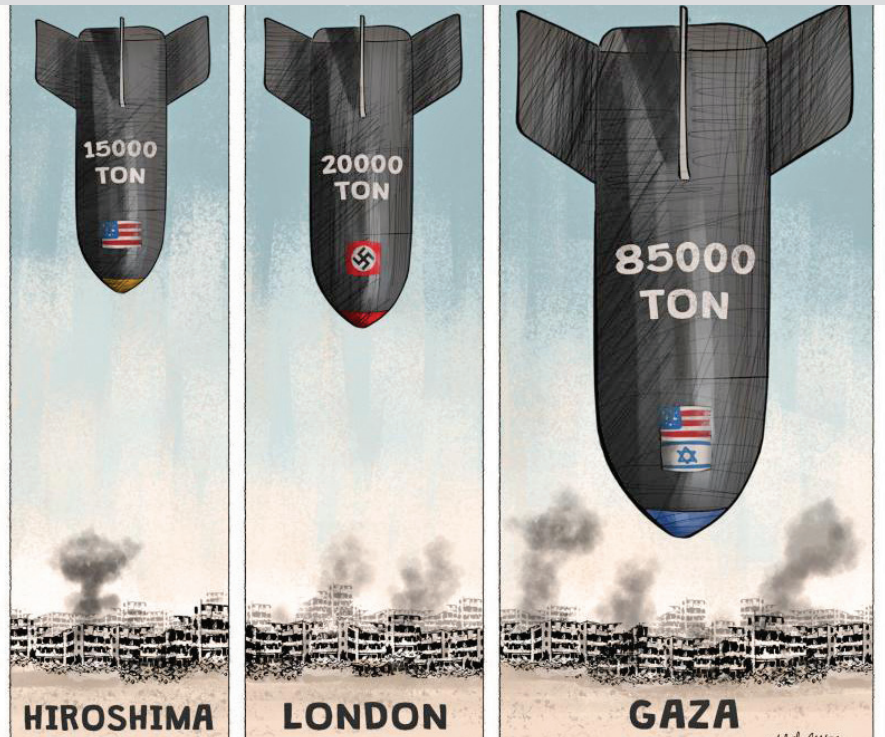


the play of light and color on everyday scenes. This pursuit led them to embrace "plein air" painting, setting up their easels outdoors to observe and depict the ephemeral effects of sunlight on landscapes, figures,

and urban scenes. The resulting works, characterized by broken brushstrokes, vibrant colors, and a sense of immediacy, were initially met with ridicule and rejection by the art establishment.

However, the movement's influence soon spread, captivating audiences with its freshness and emotional resonance. The Impressionists' revolutionary approach to color theory, where colors were juxtaposed rather than mixed on the palette, created a sense of vibrancy and depth that captivated viewers. The movement's legacy extends far beyond its original proponents, inspiring generations of artists and shaping our understanding of how art can capture the essence of human experience.

Cartoon of Day



85000 Tons of Bombs Dropped on Gaza
Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

First specialized Chinese library in Iran opens at University of Tehran

TEHRAN- The first specialized Chinese library in Iran was inaugurated on Wednesday at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the University of Tehran.

Hamed Vafaei, the head of the Confucius Institute at the University of Tehran and the key figure behind the establishment of the library, introduced the collection housed within the library. He highlighted the importance of the initiative, stating, "with the support of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the International Affairs Office of the University of Tehran, we have successfully established, for the first time in Iran, a comprehensive collection of original Chinese works covering diverse subjects related to China".

Vafaei elaborated that the library's collection includes 4,000 volumes of original Chinese texts, covering a wide range of topics such as language education, classical and contemporary literature,

history, philosophy, geography, and politics in China, Mehr reported.

He pointed out that the lack of primary sources has been a significant challenge for Chinese studies and related research in Iran. The establishment of such a library is a critical step toward overcoming this obstacle and offers hope for a brighter future in this academic field.

Farideh Alavi, Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Tehran, expressed her gratitude to the Confucius Institute for its role in establishing the library. She described the presence of this comprehensive reference collection as an honor for the University of Tehran.

Alavi emphasized the importance of the faculty as one of the few scientific centers in the country that not only focuses on language education but also on the direct study of the literature of major

world nations. She described the establishment of the library as a positive move toward a deeper, more direct understanding of Chinese language and culture.

Abdolmajid Eskandari, Director General of International Cooperation at the University of Tehran, likened the hundreds of reference books in the original Chinese language available at the university to a treasure that would pave the way for extensive research by scholars across various fields.

Also speaking at the event, an official with the Chinese Embassy in Iran praised the University of Tehran's efforts in advancing Chinese studies. The official remarked that the university is currently at the forefront of fundamental research and studies related to China in Iran, and the international achievements of its Chinese language and literature students stand as a testament to this success.