# THRANTI

Hezbollah Humiliates Israel For the first time Hezbollah hits deep inside Israel by targeting Haifa

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### Gaza after a year

Gaza, home to some 2.3 million people, bears little resemblance to what it was a year ago.

Israeli attacks have reduced entire neighborhoods to rubble, erased centuries-old mosques and churches and destroyed vital agricultural lands.

The scale of destruction in this small area of just 365sq km (141sq miles) is so immense that many residents cannot return home - and likely won't be able to for the foreseeable future.

Satellite images from Al Jazeera's digital investigation team, Sanad, reveal cratered terrain, scorched farmlands and the grey ruins of flattened buildings

#### Attacks on refugee camps

Jabalia, located in North Gaza, is the largest of the Gaza Strip's eight refugee camps.

The camp, established in 1948 after Zionist military forces displaced more than 750,000 Palestinians from their homes, covers an area of only 1.4sq km (0.54sq miles) and is among the most populous in the Strip.

The Israeli military has repeatedly hit the camp of some 116,000 registered refugees, with United States-made 2,000-pound bombs, killing hundreds of people. Page 5

## 'Modern Hitler': Iran raps Netanyahu's escalated violence in Gaza, Lebanon

TEHRAN – The Spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has vehemently denounced Israel's ongoing violence in Gaza and Lebanon, calling the regime's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the "modern Hitler" who's looking to ethnically cleanse Muslims.

On Monday, Ismail Bagaei condemned the regime's recent slaughter of Palestinians in a Gaza Mosque as well as its latest attacks in Lebanon which targeted residential buildings in southern Beirut. Baqaei emphasized, "Arms provided by the United States facilitate these atrocities."

The spokesman drew parallels between the assaults on religious sites, schools, mosques, and medical facilities in Palestine and Lebanon to the crimes perpetrated by Daesh, asserting that the massacre of innocent individuals and the devastation of civilian infrastructure are integral to both Zionist and Takfiri ideologies.

Baqaei asserted that the killing of the oppressed Palestinian population, who have been forced to seek refuge in religious and cultural centers, exemplifies blatant war crimes and crimes against humanity. ▶ Page 2

## Al-Aqsa Storm caused strategic shift in struggle against the occupation regime

#### By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - On the first anniversary of the al-Aqsa Storm Operation on October 7, 2023, the Palestinian resistance factions in Gaza have published a defiant joint statement vowing to continue the battle against the Israeli occupation.

The statement touches on the importance of the operation to shed light on the Palestinian cause, which many experts say had been ignored in global affairs.

This is despite the decades-long aggression, settlement expansion, and violation of international law across the occupied Palestinian territories.

That aggression has substantially increased over the past year, which the statement by the Palestinian resistance brands as a "Nazi-Zionist Occupation".

The statement read as follows: ▶ Page 5

## IRGC denies rumors of Quds commander's injury or martyrdom

TEHRAN - Dismissing rumors circulating in Israeli media about the health of Quds Force commander Brigadier General Esmaeil Qaani, General Iraj Masjedi, the deputy commander for coordination of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force, assured the public that Qaani is "safe and

Speaking at a cultural event in Tehran on Monday, Masjedi stated, "The IRGC Ouds Force commander is safe and healthy and doing his activities normally." He directly addressed the speculation that had emerged, which claimed Qaani had been either martyred or injured in Lebanon.

The Israeli regime's media outlets have been the source of these rumors, according to the IRGC official.

Also on Monday, Qaani delivered a message to an event commemorating the anniversary of Operation Al-Agsa Storm, hailing the Palestinians for their resolute resistance against the Israeli regime in the past year.

Rumors of Qaani's injury or possible martyrdom began circulating a couple of days after Israel was hit by barrages of Iranian missiles for its assassinations of top Resistance figures. ▶ Page 2

## Sunni clergy in Iran voice strong support for Operation True **Promise II**

TEHRAN - In a letter addressed to Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, more than 3,000 Sunni clerics in Iran have expressed their full support and appreciation for the recent missile strike targeting Israeli military bases.

The attack was carried out by Iran in response to the assassination of key regional figures, including Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and senior Iranian Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) commander General Abbas Nilforushan.

The clerics praised the Iranian armed forces for their decisive action, emphasizing the importance of the missile strike in boosting the morale of resistance forces committed to the liberation of Jerusalem (Quds). According to the letter, the operation not only demonstrated Iran's military capabilities but also reaffirmed the nation's support for the broader struggle against the Zionist Israeli regime.

The military operation, dubbed "Operation True Promise II," took place last Tuesday and saw a reported 90% of Iranian missiles successfully hit their intended targets. The strike was noted as a direct retaliation for Israel's actions, and it underscored Iran's resolve to respond forcefully to Israel's acts of aggression.

## Iranian parliament drafting 'Resistance pact' to bolster regional security

TEHRAN - The Iranian parliament is drafting a defense and security pact to be signed among "Resistance groups and their supporting countries", according to reports by Iranian media.

The proposed legislation seeks to create a common defense structure designed to counter external threats, particularly from the United States and Israel. According to the text of the proposal, all member countries or freedom movements will be required to provide comprehensive support—including military, economic, and political assistance should any member state come under attack from Israel or its allies.

Key clauses within the proposal stipulate that any freedom movements included in this pact must receive approval from Iran's Supreme National Security Council. ▶ Page 3

## Non-oil export increases 6.2% in Q2

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$12.3 billion in the second quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (June 22-September 22), registering a 6.2 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

According to the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade Ruhollah Latifi, the country's total non-oil trade stood at \$30.6 billion in Q2 which was also 9.2 percent more than the figure for last year's same period.

The Islamic Republic also imported \$18.3 billion of non-oil commodities in the summer, registering an 11.6-percent increase compared to the same three months last year.

The country's trade balance was negative \$6.0 billion in the three months mentioned, according to Latifi. ▶ Page 4



## Al-Aqsa Storm threatens Israel's 'illegitimate' identity: speaker

TEHRAN - Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bager Qalibaf said on Monday that Operation al-Aqsa Storm has endangered the 'illegitimate" identity of the Israeli occupation regime.

Qalibaf made the remarks in an address to the 7th International Conference on Solidarity with Palestinian Children and Adolescents in Tehran.

Israel had anticipated capturing Gaza within a few days, however, one year into the Al-Aqsa operation, it has failed to achieve its objectives, he pointed out.

## **POLITICS**

**OCTOBER 8, 2024** Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

## ·TEHRAN PAPERS-

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

### The first step to reduce unnecessary costs is to join FATF

In a note, Donya-e-Egtesad addressed the issue of the FATF and wrote: According to Abdolnaser Hemmati, the minister of economy, the President has ordered the necessary measures to be taken to remove limitations within the framework of national interests. A look at the political developments in the past months shows that the current government has a strong desire to review the preconditions of the Financial Action Task Force, while this action also has opponents. Considering that joining the FATF is not a decision made by the government alone, achieving such an agreement requires the cooperation of various legislative and executive institutions

According to experts, putting Iran on the FATF blacklist has made many countries, even countries that have a close political relationship with Iran, unable to maintain their financial relations with Iran. Iran's withdrawal from the FATF blacklist can be the first step for Iran to return to the "global economic village" and reduce unnecessary financial costs.

#### Iran: Construction of India-Middle East-**Europe Corridor**

To profit from the region, the West, including the United States, have placed economic dependence on the Zionist regimes. Among the things that are the basis of this dependence are the establishment of the corridor from India to Europe through Israel and increasing the Zionist regime's economic exchanges with the regional countries. One of America's goals in establishing this corridor is to circumvent Asian powers such as China, Russia, and Iran; and in the second step, to turn Israel into a vital passage for East-

Countries such as Iran, Iraq, and Turkey have been set aside and replaced by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and the Zionist regime. America is trying to replace this corridor with China's new Silk Road (One Belt, One Road) and it has spent a lot of money and energy in the region to advance the project. Iran can undermine this corridor through the capacities that it has. For example, Iran can immediately launch the Chabahar Corridor and the North-South and Russia and West-East corridors that end in Turkey and enter the regional trade corridor.

#### Kayhan: Importance of True Promise II

In an analysis, Kayhan discussed the importance of Operation True Promise II and the humiliation of Israel and America. It wrote: The importance and beauty of Operation True Promise II were not only penetration of missiles through the Iron Dome and all the defense levels of the Zionist regime but also in their regular penetration and hitting the specific goals. This historic military operation once again humiliated the Zionist regime and the United States in addition to intelligence and security humiliation. Biden and Netanyahu's humiliation was so evident that even after they found out that their threats were ineffective, they sought help from Putin. This operation, by neutralizing all plans of the Zionist regime, was a big failure for the United States, which is the architect of Israel's crimes, to the point that they admitted that "we were shocked"! Despite bringing warships and other military hardware to support Israel they could neither scare Iran nor stop Iran's attacks on

#### Manifestations of Islamic revolution's hard and soft power

Javan devoted its editorial to two recent important events in Iran and said: Over the past few days we had two "Days of God" when the will of the believers emerged by the grace of God and showed its strength. The first Day of God was realized with the firing of dozens of missiles, which both pushed back the Zionist regime and made the hearts of believers and the oppressed happy in the world. The most beautiful aspect of this move was the excited shout of Palestinian children in Gaza and the West Bank. The second Day of God was realized on Friday when an unimaginably large number of people took part in the Friday prayers led by the Leader of the Revolution. Listening to his sermons once again illustrated the deep relationship between the Leader and the Ummah. These show the true power of the Islamic Revolution, a power that is still standing despite the passage of nearly half a century. If we pay close attention to these two "Days of God," we can see that the first one is a manifestation of the hard power of the Islamic Revolution against the enemies, and the second one is a manifestation of the soft power and unique love between the Leader and his

### Hassan Salarieh reappointed as head of Iran's Space Agency

and Information Technology, Seyed Sattar and experts, as well as the full range of existing Hashemi, has reappointed Hassan Salarieh as the resources, including the dedicated and esteemed head of the Iranian Space Agency.

In a formal decree, Hashemi stated, "Considering your qualifications, commitment, experience, and expertise, you are appointed as head of the Iranian Space Agency." He further emphasized, "It is anticipated that, with reliance on Almighty God, adherence to ethical standards and divine principles, and following laws and regulations, you will pursue the objectives outlined in the vision document, the overarching policies of the system, and the seventh development plan law."

Hashemi continued, "While upholding the ethical charter of the Fourteenth Government's officials, you are expected to engage constructively with authorities and other institutions to implement government policies and safeguard the achievements of the Islamic Revolution, all aimed at advancing the nation's space industry

TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Communications by leveraging the expertise of specialists, elites, private knowledge-based sector.'

> Salarieh, who holds a PhD in mechanical engineering and serves as a professor of Technology at Sharif University, has also served as the director of the Space Research Center.

> Iran's space program, initiated in the late 1990s, aims to develop homegrown satellite technology. The country has successfully launched multiple satellites, including Sina-1, Rasad-1, and Zafar, which serve various functions including Earth observation, communication, and technological

> Iran's space advancements are particularly important as they have been achieved despite decades of debilitating sanctions by the West. Salarieh believes Iran should continue to develop its space program until it becomes one of the pillars of the industry in the region and the world.

## Iran issues travel warning for citizens in Lebanon amid ongoing Israeli aggressions

TEHRAN - The Iranian Embassy in Lebanon issued a warning notice to Iranian citizens on Monday, asking them to refrain from visiting the country due to rising military threats by the Israeli regime.

Mohammad Fereydouni, a senior consul in Beirut, stated that Iranians are discouraged from visiting Lebanon until further security notice due to the current conflict in the

Fereydouni also mentioned that the embassy has assisted some Iranians wishing to return to Iran from Lebanon.

"For those still in Lebanon who wish to return to Iran or require consular services, they can visit the Iranian embassy in Beirut or give us a call" Fereydouni added.

After an increase in regional military tensions and the continuous bombing of southern Lebanon by the Israeli regime, many countries in the region, such as Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE, have asked their citizens not to travel to Lebanon.

## IRGC denies rumors of Quds commander's injury or martyrdom

TEHRAN - Dismissing rumors circulating in Israeli media about the health of Quds Force commander Brigadier General Esmaeil Qaani, General Iraj Masjedi, the deputy commander for coordination of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force, assured the public that Qaani is "safe and sound."

Speaking at a cultural event in Tehran on Monday, Masjedi stated, "The IRGC Quds Force commander is safe and healthy and doing his activities normally." He directly addressed the speculation that had emerged, which claimed Qaani had been either martyred or injured in Lebanon.

The Israeli regime's media outlets have been the source of these rumors, according to the IRGC official. Also on Monday, Qaani delivered a message to an event



commemorating the anniversary of Operation Al-Agsa Storm, hailing the Palestinians for their resolute resistance against the Israeli regime in the past year.

Rumors of Qaani's injury or possible martyrdom began circulating a couple of days after

Israel was hit by barrages of Iranian missiles for its assassinations of top Resistance figures.

Israel assassinated Hamas Political Chief Ismail Haniyeh in July and Hezbollah Secretary-General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah in September. The regime has Resistance figures in the past year, as it's been struggling to stand up to Palestinians, Lebanese, and Iranians in the battleground. Several Iranian military officials have also been martyred since last October, including multiple IRGC commanders and advisors.

Analysts believe Tel Aviv's only way of convincing the world that it's succeeding in its deadly military campaigns is by assassinating individuals, hence why it began to circulate rumors about the wellbeing of the Ouds Commander after receiving a heavy blow from Iran.

Qaani started leading the elite IRGC forces after Iran's anti-terror icon Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani was martyred during an American drone strike in Baghdad

## 'Modern Hitler': Iran raps Netanyahu's escalated violence in Gaza, Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ The Iranian diplomat urged the international community to take decisive action against Netanyahu, whom he referred to as the "modern-day Hitler," along with other leaders of the Zionist regime.

Bagaei warned that the destabilizing policies of the Zionist regime represent a significant threat to both regional and global peace and stability, cautioning that failure to address these crimes could result in severe repercussions for all nations in the region and beyond.

The Iranian spokesman called upon countries worldwide, particularly Muslim nations, to utilize all available resources to deliver humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza and Beirut and to combat the destabilizing actions of the Zionist regime.

## Australian ambassador to Tehran summoned over 'biased stance' on West Asia affairs



TEHRAN - The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Australian Ambassador to Tehran on Monday, to address his country's lack of partiality regarding the ongoing events in West Asia.

Iran summoned Ian McConville for discussions after a series of anti-Iran remarks and statements by the Australian government, which continues to show untrammeled support for

Israel since last year despite the regime's harrowing crimes in Gaza and

Last month, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned the Iranian Ambassador to Canberra's condolence message on the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's Secretary-General whom Israel killed with 85 tonnes of bomb. Australia also condemned Iran's October 1 operation against Israeli positions in the occupied territories, without addressing the Zionist moves that had elicited the military action.

During his meeting with McConville, the director general for the Asia-Pacific department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry expressed strong disapproval of the Australian government's "unjust" and "biased" stance on regional issues, particularly concerning the provocations of the Zionist regime that have heightened tensions. This includes the assassination of Hamas Leader, Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, Hezbollah secretary-general in Lebanon, and IRGC Qods Force high-ranking commander, General Abbas Nilforushan in Beirut.

Mahmoud Mohammadi criticized Australia's inconsistent approach to regional matters and its silence on the repeated aggressions perpetrated by the Zionist regime against Gaza and Mohammadi emphasized Iran's in-

herent right to legitimate self-defense in light of the ongoing violations of its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as attacks on Iranian citizens and interests.

He characterized the missile operations conducted by the Iranian armed forces as lawful and necessary actions aimed at protecting the national security of the Iranian populace and ensuring regional stability.

The Iranian diplomat underscored the urgent need for an immediate cessation of the genocide in Gaza and the aggressions by the occupying Zionist regime against Lebanon, urging Australia and other Western nations that support this regime to take responsible action.

Mohammadi highlighted that one-sided and partial approaches to regional issues, along with a self-serving interpretation of international laws and standards, do not aid in reducing tensions in the area; instead, they empower the aggressor.

In the meeting, the Australian ambassador discussed his government's alleged initiatives aimed at achieving a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, noting that he would communicate Iran's official protest to his government.

Ian McConville was appointed as the Australian ambassador to Iran in May 2024, as stated by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. McConville currently holds the position of head of the Embassy of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## Iran Navy set to unveil 'Taftan' destroyer soon

TEHRAN – Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, the construction of destroyers such as Jamaran, deputy Army chief for coordination, announced Damavand, Sahand, and Dena, we are now in the on Mondy that the highly anticipated "Taftan" process of integrating the Taftan destroyer into destroyer will soon be unveiled.

Admiral Sayyari remarked, "Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, we have achieved remarkable progress in the construction of a variety of naval assets, including submarines, destroyers, missile-launching vessels, both heavy and light support ships, as well as various types of boats, helicopters, hovercraft, and coastal missile systems. We have also made strides in drone and missile technologies."

He further noted, "Following the successful

the Navy in the near future.

Emphasizing the Navy's capabilities, Sayyari stated, "Today, the Iranian Navy is equipped with high-level competencies. We face no challenges in the construction of destroyers and are fully capable of manufacturing them, thanks to the skills and creativity of our personnel."

Iranian officials have consistently affirmed their commitment to bolstering military capabilities, with assurances that these enhancements are



Seyyed Ali Khamenei has repeatedly emphasized the importance of maintaining and expanding Iran's defense posture.

### Army chief warns Israel of Iran's 'stronger, more destructive' response to any mistake

TEHRAN - The chief commander of the Iranian Army has emphasized that any new aggression by the Zionist regime will be met with an even more powerful and destructive response than what Israel witnessed on October 1.

During a Monday interview with Iranian media, Major General Abdulrahim Mousavi remarked that although the Zionists claim to have significantly weakened Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Resistance movement continues to deliver heavy blows to the regime with more intensity. This trend is expected to continue, he added.

"Those responsible for harming the Axis of Resistance will undoubtedly face severe consequences, which will become evident soon," Mousavi pointed out.

the Israeli assassination of Hamas political bureau chief, Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah secretary-general, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC Ouds Force commander, Major General Abbas Nilforushan by launching approximately 200 ballistic missiles targeting the military and intelligence installations of the Zionist regime across the occupied Palestinian territories. Elsewhere during the interview, the commander remarked that should the Zionists engage in more criminal acts in response to Operation True Promise II, they would undoubtedly encounter a more formidable and devastating reply.

"We have consistently followed through on our commitments against

On October 1, Iran retaliated against the Israeli regime," the commander noted. Following Operation True Promise II on October 1, Israel bolstered its military presence along the Lebanese border and executed retaliatory strikes on Hezbollah positions in Lebanon. Additionally, some Israeli security officials issued warnings to Iran regarding potential retaliation against its infrastructure.

#### Pezeshkian endorsed Operation True Promise II

In separate remarks, Iran's government spokesperson reiterated that the nation will not waver in its commitment to national interests, cautioning the Zionist regime against carrying out new aggressions.

On Monday, Fatemeh Mohajerani

noted that Operation True Promise II was executed with the endorsement of President Pezeshkian, who leads the Supreme National Security Council, where the defense minister also plays a significant role. Mohajerani mentioned that for two months following the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, who was a guest of Iran and attended the inauguration of the Iranian president before being assassinated by the Zionist regime, the Iranian government exercised restraint in hopes of establishing a ceasefire in Gaza.

She underscored that the Islamic Republic will respond even more forcefully to Israel if the regime retaliates against Iran's counter-

## Iranian parliament drafting 'Resistance pact' to bolster regional security

TEHRAN - The Iranian parliament is drafting a defense and security pact to be signed among "Resistance groups and their supporting countries", according to reports by Iranian media.

The proposed legislation seeks to create a common defense structure designed to counter external threats, particularly from the United States and Israel.

According to the text of the proposal, all member countries or freedom movements will be required to provide comprehensive support-including military, economic, and political assistance—should any member state come under attack from Israel or its allies.

Kev clauses within the proposal stipulate that any freedom movements included in this pact must receive approval from Iran's Supreme National Security



Council. Additionally, the executive regulations for the pact, including the establishment of a secretariat and the delineation of responsibilities among various agencies, will also be overseen by

One of the most significant aspects of the proposal is the establishment of a joint military

headquarters intended to facilitate coordination between Iranian forces and Resistance groups.

The headquarters would serve as a central command for managing military operations and crisis response, reinforcing operational capabilities through planned joint military exercises.

The representative who in-

troduced the proposal to Iranian media emphasized that this pact aims not only to enhance military cooperation but also to bolster infrastructure development for Resistance groups.

Collaboration in building military bases and training centers is expected to improve readiness against potential threats.

As Israeli aggressions in the region persist, the formation of this defense structure could pave the way for greater stability and security among member coun-

If successfully implemented, it is believed that this alliance could significantly shift the balance of power in the region, presenting a formidable counterweight to Western influence seeking to wreak havoc in West Asia to Israel's benefit.

## Tehran, Cairo discuss regional developments amid efforts to restore ties



TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araqchi and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty engaged in a phone conversation today, focusing on the latest regional developments and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and Lebanon.

During their discussion, both ministers un-

derscored the urgent need for increased diplomatic efforts to halt the aggression of the Zionist regime against these regions.

They highlighted the importance of sending humanitarian aid to those affected by the conflict, particularly the growing number of

Aragchi, reflecting on his recent visit to Beirut, described the situation in Lebanon as favorable for Resistance forces.

He noted their preparedness to confront any potential ground attacks from Israel, emphasizing Iran's stance of readiness to respond firmly and proportionately to any provocations.

Despite the escalating tensions in the region, Araqchi reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not seek to escalate conflicts but is unafraid of war.

He assured that Iran would respond decisively to any new threats posed by Israel.

The conversation comes at a time when Iran and Egypt are actively working to restore diplomatic ties that have been strained since the 1980s.

The two countries share a commitment to regional stability and have expressed mutual interests in addressing issues such as terrorism and economic development.

## IRGC chief lauds Gen. Hajizadeh for receiving Order of Fat'h from Leader

TEHRAN - Major General Hossein Salami, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), praised Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh for being awarded the Fat'h Medal by Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The Fat'h Medal was presented to General Hajizadeh in recognition of his leadership and pivotal role in the Operation True Prom-

"This is a great and inspiring honor," Salami wrote. "I extend my sincere congratulations to this brave commander and loyal soldier of the Velayat. His excepdedication have earned him this en our nation's security. It marks prestigious award, which is a source of pride for all members of the IRGC."

"Receiving the Fat'h Medal from the hands of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in acknowledgment of your bold and wise leadership, brings immense pride to me and all IRGC members," Salami remarked in his statement.

He continued by emphasizing the broader implications of this award, stating that it will further strengthen the IRGC's resolve. "This blessed event only serves to bolster the iron will of the IRGC and all of Iran's armed forces in tional service and unwavering confronting enemies that threat-

a new chapter in enhancing our country's deterrent power, particularly in the fields of missile technology and aerospace defense," he said.

Addressing the Iranian people, Salami assured them that the IRGC, along with other armed forces, remains fully prepared to defend the country. He reiterated Iran's commit-

ment to the Resistance Front, particularly in Palestine and Lebanon, and vowed to decisively confront any malicious acts by the Zionist regime or the United States. "With the grace of God, we stand ready to crush any hostility



General Amir Ali Hajizadeh

with strength, determination, and clarity of purpose," he affirmed.

## Iran has readied 10 scenarios to respond to potential military action by Israel

TEHRAN - Informed sources within the Iranian military have revealed that the Armed Forces have prepared at least ten different response scenarios to counter any potential hostile action by the Israeli regime.

According to Tasnim news agency, these plans have been meticulously designed and arranged by specialized units within the military, and any of them could be employed if necessary.

These scenarios are constantly being updated and their existence underscores Iran's determination to respond forcefully to any aggression.

The sources emphasized that the response might not be a direct tit-for-tat retaliation, but

could be broader and more impactful, targeting different areas to maximize its effectiveness.

Highlighting Iran's strategic advantage, the sources pointed out the significant size disparity between Iran and the occupied territories, noting that Israel has a smaller landmass and fewer critical infrastructures. This, they claim, would allow Iran to inflict unprecedented damage on the Israeli regime in a retaliatory strike.

Furthermore, the sources warned that any country supporting Israel in any potential action would cross Iran's red lines and face

They also emphasized that several countries

have already declared they would not participate in any pro-Israel actions.

The revelations come amidst heightened tensions following Israel's recent assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary General Seyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC general Abbas Nilforoushan in September. In response, Iran launched over 200 ballistic missiles targeting Israeli military and intelligence bases across the occupied Palestinian territories on October 1.

While Israel has threatened retaliation, Iranian officials have consistently warned of a calculated, and harsh response to any new

## Vice president reaffirms Iran's resolve in face of external threats

TEHRAN - First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Reza Aref has declared that no external threat would deter the country from pursuing its strategic goals.

Speaking on Monday, Aref dismissed the notion that threats could sway Iran's leadership or undermine its progress.

"Threats are nothing more than a joke to us," Aref remarked. "Over the past 40 years, we have shown that no threat can force us to retreat from our plans or objectives. We will continue our path with unshakable

determination."

Aref's comments reflect Iran's longstanding stance of resistance against pressure from foreign adversaries, particularly in the face of mounting challenges. His words resonate with the country's broader narrative of defiance, as it continues to face international sanctions and geopolitical tensions.

Turning to the martyrdom of Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah, Aref expressed Iran's deep sorrow but emphasized that such losses

only strengthen the resolve of Abbas Nilforooshan. Resistance forces.

"We have experienced many heavy sorrows like this, but history shows that after each profound sorrow, a great victory and stronger unity emerge. This martyrdom will further reinforce the cohesion and unity among the fighters," he noted.

Nasrallah was martyred during an Israeli airstrike on southern Beirut on September 27. The attacks also claimed the life of top Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) commander Brigadier General

On October 1st, Iran carried out a retaliatory attack against the Israeli regime in response to the assassination of key regional figures.

The military operation, dubbed "Operation True Promise II," saw a reported 90% of Iranian missiles successfully hit their intended targets at the occupied territories. The strike was noted as a direct retaliation for Israel's actions, and it underscored Iran's resolve to respond forcefully to Israeli acts of aggression.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

### **Persepolis** dissatisfied with ex-goalie Beiranvand's punishment

TEHRAN - In a highly anticipated decision, Iran Football Federation's Disciplinary Committee has issued a ruling in the longrunning dispute between Persepolis FC and their former goalkeeper, Alireza Biranvand. The ruling, which has been met with widespread criticism, pertains to Biranvand's unilateral termination of his contract with Persepolis and subsequent move to Tractor.

Persepolis had filed a complaint against Beiranvand in June 2024, alleging a breach of contract. The committee's verdict has imposed a four-month suspension on Beiranvand from all football-related activities, both domestically and internationally. However, the suspension has been suspended for one year, meaning it will only be activated if Beiranvand commits a similar offense within the next 12 months!

The decision has raised eyebrows among legal experts and football fans alike. Critics argue that a suspended sentence is typically reserved for disciplinary offenses committed during a match, rather than for a contractual dispute. The federation's justification for the suspended sentence is that Beiranvand has a clean disciplinary record.

Persepolis has expressed dissatisfaction with the ruling, arguing that they have suffered significant financial losses as a result of Beiranvand's departure and that the suspended sentence is insufficient. The club has hinted at appealing the decision to FIFA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport

The Federation's decision to impose a suspended sentence has been seen as an attempt to appease both parties involved. However, the ruling is unlikely to satisfy Persepolis, who feel that they have been unfairly treated. The case has highlighted the challenges faced by Iranian football in enforcing contracts and protecting the interests of clubs.

The lengthy duration of the case, which spanned over three months, has also drawn criticism. Many have questioned the efficiency of the disciplinary committee and the transparency of the decision-making process.

### Iran squad named for Uzbekistan and Oatar matches

TEHRAN - Amir Ghalenoei has called up 27 players to Iran national team for two matches against Uzbekistan and Qatar in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification.

Team Melli are scheduled to play Uzbekistan on Oct. 10 in Tashkent and will host Qatar on Oct. 15 in Mashhad. Persepolis defender Hossein Kanaani missed the matches after suffering foot injury in match against Chadormalu in Iran

Iran and Uzbekistan are on six points, with the latter having defeated DPR Korea and Kyrgyzstan in their opening two matches while Team Melli were victorious against Kyrgyzstan and the United Arab Emirates in Group A.

#### Goalkeepers:

Alireza Beiranvand (Tractor), Payam Niazmand (Sepahan), Hossein Hosseini (Esteghlal)

#### Defenders:

Ali Nemati (Foolad), Shoja Khalilzadeh (Tractor), Mohammad Daneshgar (Sepahan), Mohammadamin Hazbavi (Sepahan), Mohammadmehdi Zare (Gol Gohar), Saleh Hardani (Sepahan), Aria Yousefi (Sepahan), Milad Mohammadi (Persepolis), Abolfazl Jalali (Esteghlal)

#### Midfielders:

Saeid Ezatollahi (Shabab Al Ahli), Mohammad Karimi (Sepahan), Mohammad Ghorbani (Orenburg), Saman Ghoddos (Al Ittihad Kalba), Omid Noorafkan (Malavan), Mohammadjavad Makhachkala), (Dinamo Hosseinnejad Mohammad Mohebbi (Rostov), Mehdi Torabi (Tractor), Mehdi Ghaedi (Al Ittihad Kalba),

Alireza Jahanbakhsh (?), Ali Gholizadeh (Lech Poznan), Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh (Tractor)

#### Strikers:

Mehdi Taremi (Inter Milan), Sardar Azmoun (Shabab Al Ahli), Shahriar Moghanlou (Al Ittihad Kalba)

### Azmoun, Ezatollahi score as Shabab Al Ahli defeat **Baniyas**

TEHRAN - Shabab Al Ahli continued its victories in the UAE Pro League by beating Baniyas 5-1 in Matchweek 5 of the competition.

Luca Milivojevic opened the scoring for the visiting team in the 34th minute and Youssoufou Niakate scored an own goal to make scoreboard 2-0 in the 50th minute.

Niakate pulled a goal back seven minutes later in the match held at the Baniyas Stadium.

Iranian forward Sardar Azmoun made it 3-1 in the 63rd minute and Munas Dabbur scored Shabab's fourth goal with three minutes remaining. Saeid Ezatollahi scored form penalty spot in the stoppage time.

Shabab Al Ahli moved to second place with 15 points out of five matches.

### Jahanbakhsh linked with Genoa: report

TEHRAN - Alireza Jahanbakhsh, the captain of the Iranian national football team, has reportedly reached an agreement with Serie A side Genoa.

Jahanbakhsh is without a club since parting ways with Eredivisie club Feyenoord.

The 31-year-old winger, who has been recently invited to Iran national football team for two matches against Uzbekistan and Qatar, traveled to Genoa to negotiate with the Italian club's officials.

Jahanbakhsh has previously played in Eredivisie sides NEC and AZ and English topflight Brighton&Hove Albion.

### **AFC** boots out **Mohun Bagan from Asian Champions** League

TEHRAN - The Asian Football Confederation n Monday announced that Indian Sune League club Mohun Bagan Super Giants were 'considered to have withdrawn from the AFC Champions League Two' tournament after they did not travel to Iran for their Group B match against Tractor FC on Oct. 2.

The Indian side security had announced that they would not travel to Tabriz amid political unrest and the security situation in Iran.

The Asian football body, however, penalized Bagan for not showing up for the match.

"In accordance with Article 5.2 of the AFC Champions League Two 2024-25 Competition Regulations (the "Competition Regulations"), the Asian Football Confederation confirms that India's Mohun Bagan Super Giant is considered to have withdrawn from the AFC Champions League Two competition after the club failed to report to Tabriz, Iran, for its AFC Champions League Two Group A fixture against Tractor FC on October 2, 2024," the AFC said in a statement.

Mohun Bagan had reportedly written to the AFC, explaining their players' unwillingness to travel to Iran and urging the governing body to reschedule the match or move it to a neutral venue."Consequently, all matches played by Mohun Bagan Super Giant are cancelled and considered null and void in accordance with Article 5.6 of the Competition Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt, no points and goals in the club's matches shall be taken into consideration when determining the final rankings in Group A pursuant to Article 8.3 of the Competition Regulations.

"The matter will now be referred to the relevant AFC Committee(s) as appropriate for their decision(s)," it added.

## **ECONOMY**



### Non-oil export increases 6.2% in Q2



From page 1 ▶ Iran had exported \$13.5 billion of non-oil goods in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar (started March 20), according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The country's export of non-oil commodities registered a 7.6 percent growth in Q1 compared to last year's corresponding period, Mohammad Rezvanifar said.

In that period, Iran imported \$14.3 billion worth of non-oil products into the country, indicating about 1.3 percent growth compared to the last year's corresponding period.

As announced by the IRICA head, the value of Iran's foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.17.8 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

According to Rezvanifar, the value of the Islamic Republic's trade with the partners in the previous year increased by 2.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

The official put the country's non-oil exports, excluding exports of electricity, crude oil, and techno-engineering services, at 136.4 million tons worth \$49.33 billion which shows a 9.82 percent rise in terms of tonnage and an 8.87 percent decline in terms of value.

Iran exported \$35.87 billion of crude oil, \$370 million of electricity, and \$1.293 billion of technical engineering services in the men-

Based on IRICA data, during this period, 48.8 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$19.4 billion were also exported, which shows a decrease of 11.32 percent and 28.59 percent in terms of weight and value, respec-

During this period, liquefied natural gas with \$3.9 billion, liquefied propane with \$3.62 billion, and bitumen-oil with \$2.19 billion were Iran's top exported items.

## Apple export stands at \$114m in 6 months



TEHRAN- Iran exported \$114 million of apples in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

As the IRICA has reported, the value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 26 percent during the first half of this year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

According to the IRICA report, the country exported 3.2 million tons of agricultural products worth \$1.7 billion in the first half of the current year, also indicating 20 percent rise in terms of weight, year on year.

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

As reported, agro-food products accounted for 12.8 percent of the country's total nonoil 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 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

## Iranian delegation visits China to explore avenues of fishery co-op

TEHRAN - A delegation of Iranian officials, experts and businesspeople has visited China to explore avenues of cooperation in the fishery industry between the two countries, Mehr Nes Agency reported.

During their visit, the delegation visited major fishery companies and holdings and held meetings with Chinese officials to discuss ways of expanding cooperation and technology transfer.

According to Mohammad-Ali Javadi, a government official who was a member of the mentioned delegation, this trip has provided new opportunities for the development of Iran's fishery industry.

Exploring investment opportunities, transferring knowledge and technology, and strengthening business relations were the main goals of the visit of Iranian delegation to China, Javadi said.

According to Javadi, all the field visits and meetings were focused on investment, transfer of knowledge and technology, and expansion of trade, and these issues were discussed in all meetings and negotia-

Upon arrival to China, the delegation held a meeting with Iranian ambassador to Beijing in which diplomatic and economic relations between Iran and China were dis-

They also met with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture of China, where the main issues of investment and cooperation mechanisms, such as the 25-year agreement between Iran and China, were discussed.

"In these meetings, issues related to technology transfer and China's progress in the field of aquaculture, were also discussed," Javadi said.

#### Vising China's fishery poles

The Iranian delegation then visited China's major port cities of Qingdao and Zhanjiang.

"China has two main poles in the field of aquaculture; Qingdao and Zhanjiang. We visited big companies such as Mingbo Fishing Tackle, Zhanjiang Guolian Aquatic Products Company and Evergreen Corporation in these two cities. Mingbo company has significant achievements in the field of Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) and this technology can be used in Iranian projects," Ja-

#### New investment, trade oppor-

According to Javadi, Gulian Company, which is one of the largest seafood production companies in China, announced its readiness to purchase Iranian fishery products.

The official said this company also operates in the field of cage aguaculture and shrimp farming and produces 200,000 tons of seafood annually, and most of its raw materials are supplied through imports.



"With successful experience in Egypt, Evergreen has the ability to invest and implement large fisheries projects in Iran and can participate in Iran's fisheries projects," Javadi said.

#### Specialized exhibitions; A window to expand business co-op

Javadi further mentioned visiting the seafood production exhibition in Guangzhou and said: "In this exhibition, the opportunity to learn about new technologies of aquaculture and explore cooperation opportunities was provided."

"We also had a meeting with the members of the Guangzhou Aquaculture Union, which is made up of 13 large companies that import fishery products. This union announced its readiness to import up to 100,000 tons of Iran's fishery products if the product is provided by Iran," he not-

During a meeting between Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnaser Hemmati and Chinese Minister of Finance Lan Fo'an, the two sides emphasized the implementation of the two countries' long-term strategic partnership

Hemmati met with Fo'an on the sidelines of the 9th ministerial meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) members in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on Septem-

In addition to the issues related to the cooperation of the two countries in AIIB, the two sides discussed the most important issues related to bilateral relations, especially the follow-up of the results of previous agreements.

Holding the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting in the new future was another topic discussed by the two officials.

In this meeting, the ministers of the two countries emphasized that Iran and China have put a more serious and deeper implementation of the comprehensive long-term strategic plan of the two countries on their agenda and will continue this path in the official interactions of the two countries until concrete practical achievements are reached.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021.

The document was signed between Iran's former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Back in December 2022, Iran and China finalized 16 memorandums of understanding (MOU) under the framework of the two countries' strategic 25-year agreement.

The MOUs were signed in an Iran-China comprehensive cooperation program summit which was held in Tehran on December 13 in the presence of Iran's former First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

The summit was focused on four areas explored by four committees between the two countries with the aim of paving the way for the implementation of the 25-year agreement.

Iran and China also signed 20 memoranda of understanding in the presence of the presidents of the two countries in Beijing in mid-February, 2023.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Iran's late President Ebrahim Raisi was on a three-day state visit to China starting February 14.

During President Raisi's visit to China, Tehran and Beijing signed a number of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of agriculture, trade, tourism, environmental protection, health, disaster relief, culture, and sports.

The documents include agreements in the field of transportation and industry worth \$12 billion and \$3.5 billion, respectively; the agreements cover various joint projects like the high-speed rail link between Tehran and Mashhad, and investment in the Imam Khomeini Airport

Investment in Iran's southeastern Mokran Coast and the purchase of Iranian oil were also mentioned in

Raisi's visit served as an example of the high level of mutual trust between China and Iran, as well as a milestone for bilateral ties.

Then in mid-July, 2023, the agreements signed between Iran and China during President Raisi's trip to Beijing in mid-February were turned into specified projects during the two countries' joint cooperation committee meeting, the Iranian finance and economic affairs minister

Then in early November last year, Iran's former Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said the 25-year strategic partnership plan between Iran and China had entered a new phase with new agreements being reached between various ministries of the two coun-

According to Khandouzi, the mentioned agreements had been reached between the two sides during the visit of Iran's delegation to the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE).

"Specific projects were defined between the government departments of the respective ministries of Iran and China, and agreements were reached on the details of the implementation of the mentioned projects," Khandouzi said.

Regarding the private sectors of the two countries, some Iranian companies operating in China and some large Chinese companies operating in Iran faced obstacles, which were discussed and resolved by the relevant authorities, he explained.

"We are going to witness a significant growth in economic cooperation and investment between the two sides with the implementation of these projects," the minister not-

And in late August this year, the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) called for the implementation of the Iran-China 25-year strategic agreement in a meeting with China's Ambassador to Tehran Cong

In the meeting, Samad Hassanzadeh emphasized the need to implement the provisions of the 25-year agreements between the two countries and said: "Iranian economic operators will be present at the China import exhibition that will be held in

Noting that Iran and China can cooperate in various fields, Hassanzadeh stated: "There are suitable areas for cooperation including maritime transport and economic and commercial infrastructure."

According to the ICCIMA head, Iran will have a strong presence at China's Import Exhibition which is going to be held in November, because this exhibition provides an opportunity for Iranian businessmen to get to know the possibilities and ways of cooperation with China.

Mentioning the beginning of the work of the 14th government in Iran and the changes that have occurred, Hassanzadeh said: "Iran's new president can add more depth to the economic and commercial relations between Iran and China. He has a special focus on international relations and believes that efforts should be made to implement all the provisions of the agreement between Iran and China."

## Steel products export hits \$2.9b in H1

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's steel products export stood at \$2.9 billion in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-Septemebr 22), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) report-

As reported, the country exported 5.7 million tons of steel products in the six-month period.

Steel products export in the first half of this year indicates 14 percent drop in value and 13 percent fall in weight, as compared to the first half of the previous year.

The World Steel Association (WSA) announced in its latest report that steel production in Iran during the first quarter of 2024 registered a 16.3 percent growth compared to the same period last year.

The report added that the volume of steel production in the world in the 3-month period has risen by 0.5 percent.

More than 469 million tons of steel was produced across the world in January-March 2024, 161.2 million tons of which was produced in March 2024.

Iran has produced 7.6 million tons of steel from January to March 2024, showing a 16.3 percent growth compared to the same period last year, according to Mehr news agency.

China, India, Japan, the US, Russia, South Korea, Germany, Turkey, Brazil and Iran were the world's top 10 steel producers in the first quarter of 2024.

Production of steel in Iran increased by 5.8 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), as compared to the preceding year, according to the ISPA.

According to the latest data released by the ISPA, the country's steel production reached 29.334 million tons in the previous year.

Of the mentioned amount, 18,452,000 tons were billet and bloom and 10,882,000 tons were slabs; Billet and bloom production increased by 9.2 percent and slab production increased by 0.7 percent in the previous year.

According to the ISPA data, the production of sponge iron also increased by 8.5 percent in the previous year in comparison to the figure for the preceding year.

Iran improved its global standing in steel production, becoming the ninth-largest producer in January 2024, according to new data released by the WSA.

The Islamic Republic produced 31.1 million tons of crude steel in 2023 to account for 58.4 percent of West Asia's total production in the mentioned year, according to the WSA.

The West Asian nations reviewed in the WSA report, including Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen, managed to produce 53.2 million tons of steel in 2023.

The country's steel production increased by 1.8 percent in 2023 as compared to the previous year, when the production stood at 30.6 million tons, based on the WSA data.

## Tehran, Kabul discuss investment opportunities in Chabahar port



TEHRAN - Ports and maritime officials of Iran and Afghanistan have met to discuss investment opportunities for the Afghan private sector in Iran's southeastern Chabahar Port, the portal of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) re-

In the meeting attended by the director deneral

of Ports and Maritime Department of Sistan-Baluchestan Province, the governor-general of the province, some MPs, and officials of Afghanistan Trade and Industry Ministry, the opportunities for cooperation and participation of the private sector of Afghanistan in Chabahar port were introduced

Qasem Askari-Nasab, the director general of the Ports and Maritime Department of Sistan-Baluchestan Province, welcomed the request of the Afghan government to invest in the Iranian port while introducing the commercial facilities and capacities of Chabahar's Shahid Beheshti port to the Afghan side.

"The Afghan side's investment in Chabahar port, in addition to the possibility of Afghanistan's access to open waters, will strengthen the economic relations between the two countries and develop

transit in the region." Askari-Nasab said.

Introducing new economic opportunities to increase trade relations between the investors of the two countries, he further proposed that the Afghan side invest in the construction of a multi-purpose terminal for goods and containers.

As Iran's only oceanic port on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar Port holds great significance for the country both politically and economically. The country has taken serious measures to develop this port in order to improve the country's mari-

The port consists of Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti terminals, each of which has five berth facilities. The port is located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province and is about 120 kilometers southwest of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, where the China-funded Gwadar port is situated.

## Motorcycle production up 6% in 6 months on year

TEHRAN - Motorcycle production in Iran increased six percent in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) compared to the same period

last year, according to the deputy torcycles were produced over the head of Iran's Motorcycle Manufacturers Association.

Majid Rezaei said 310,000 mo-

six-month period of the current year, while the production stood at 290,000 in the previous year's same period, IRIB reported.

Iran has 44 motorcycle manufacturing factories which provide permanent jobs to 16,000 people; over 80,000 people are also active in the industry, indirectly.

## Gaza after a year

Gaza, home to some 2.3 million people, bears little resemblance to what it was a year ago.

Israeli attacks have reduced entire neighborhoods to rubble, erased centuries-old mosques and churches and destroyed vital agricultural lands.

The scale of destruction in this small area of just 365sq km (141sq miles) is so immense that many residents cannot return home – and likely won't be able to for the foreseeable future.

Satellite images from Al Jazeera's digital investigation team, Sanad, reveal cratered terrain, scorched farmlands and the grey ruins of flattened buildings.

#### Attacks on refugee camps

Jabalia, located in North Gaza, is the largest of the Gaza Strip's eight refugee camps.

The camp, established in 1948 after Zionist military forces displaced more than 750,000 Palestinians from their homes, covers an area of only 1.4sq km (0.54sq miles) and is among the most populous in the Strip.



Palestinians inspect the damage at al-Shifa Hospital following a two-week Israeli offensive, on April 1, 2024 [Dawoud Abu Alkas/Reuters]

The Israeli military has repeatedly hit the camp of some 116,000 registered refugees, with United States-made 2,000-pound bombs, killing hundreds of people.

These bombs are among the largest and most destructive and can leave craters with a diameter greater than 40 feet (12 meters). a year of war

#### Attacks on mosques and churches

About three kilometers (1.9 miles) south of Jabalia is Gaza's Old City, home to some of the Middle East's oldest cultural heritage sites, dating back to the 5th century.

Among its notable landmarks are significant places of worship, including the Great Omari Mosque, known as Gaza's Great Mosque, and two of Gaza's prominent churches: St Philip the Evangelist Chapel and the Church of Saint Porphyrius.



The remains of the largest and oldest mosque in Gaza, the Great Omari Mosque, also known as the Great Mosque of Gaza, are shown on April 6, 2024 [Dawoud Abo Alkas/ Anadolu Agency]

On December 8, Gaza's Great Omari Mosque suffered extensive damage in an Israeli air strike. Its 747-year-old library, once home to rare manuscripts including old copies of the Quran, was left in ruins.

In the past year, Gaza's Government Media Office has recorded the complete destruction of at least 611 mosques and the partial destruction of 214 mosques due to Israeli at-



Palestinians search for survivors after Israeli strikes on the Jabalia refugee camp, on October 31, 2023 [Anas al-Shareef/Reuters]

All three of Gaza's churches have been targeted and damaged by Israeli attacks.

The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Porphyrius, located less than 300 meters (984ft) from the Grand Omari Mosque, was hit by an Israeli missile on October 19, killing 17 people who were sheltering inside.

#### Attacks on schools and universities

Not far down the road from the Old City, in the heart of Gaza City's Remal neighborhood, is the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG).

IUG, together with al-Azhar University, are the two top universities in the Gaza Strip, providing higher education to tens of thousands of students each year.

While both universities have been targeted in previous wars, this latest war has left their campuses completely devastated.

The Geneva-based independent Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said that Israel systematically destroyed every university in Gaza in stages.

Of Gaza's 12 universities, none is left standing.

#### Attacks on hospitals

Still in Remal neighborhood is al-Shifa Hospital, the largest medical complex in the Strip and one of the first hospitals to come under attack.

On November 15, Israeli soldiers surrounded the medical complex where thousands of Palestinians were sheltering. Five months later in April, it came under a two-week siege that left the hospital in ruins and hundreds of people dead.

Several experts have argued that attacking hospitals – especially those treating critically ill patients and babies – could be a war crime as defined under international law.

Over the past year, at least 114 hospitals and clinics have been rendered inoperative, leaving many patients without access to essential medical services.

#### Splitting Gaza in half

In addition to the widespread destruction in Gaza, the boundaries of the enclave have also been shrunk by the creation of Israeli buffer zones.

The Gaza Strip has been pushed inward and a 1.5km-wide (0.93-mile) strip that runs 6.5km (four miles) across the middle in the Juhor ad-Dik area, known as the Netzarim Corridor.

Satellite imagery, taken between August 8 and 27, revealed Israeli troops fortifying the Netzarim Corridor - a six-kilometer-long (four-mile) road just south of Gaza City running east to west from the Israeli border to the Mediterranean Sea.

Military analysts have said that the carving is part of a ploy to reshape the Gaza Strip and fortify an Israeli military presence there.

#### Destruction of agricultural land

Further south, in central Gaza, lies Deir el-Balah, one of Gaza's main agricultural hubs, known for its cultivation of oranges, olives and, notably, dates.

The satellite images show the widespread destruction of farms, roads and homes in

eastern Maghazi in the center of Deir el-Balah.

Satellite images analyzed by Sanad reveal that more than half (60 percent) of Gaza's farmland - crucial for feeding Gaza's population of which 96 percent is food insecure, has been damaged or destroyed by Israeli attacks.

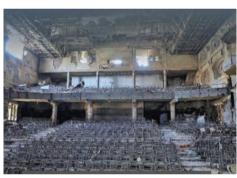
#### Two million forced from their homes

On October 13, ahead of an anticipated ground offensive, the Israeli army ordered the evacuation of all civilians living in Gaza City and in the north of the Gaza Strip.

At this point, Gaza was in its seventh day of a total blockade in which Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant stated, "No electricity, no food, no water, no gas – it's all closed."

With more than 80 percent of the Gaza Strip deemed unsafe for Palestinians, due to either being designated as a "no-go zone" by Israel or evacuation orders, humanitarian zones were the last bastion of safety for many. However, even these pockets of land have begun to shrink.

In search of safety, hundreds of thousands



A charred hall in the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG), on April 28, 2024 [Dawoud Abu Alkas/Reuters]

of Palestinians fled to al-Mawasi, a narrow strip of sandy terrain along Gaza's coast.

Despite being designated a humanitarian "safe zone" by Israel, it has conducted dozens of attacks there, killing hundreds and wounding many more there, highlighting the frightening reality that there is no safe place in Gaza.

#### Utter destruction

In just one year of war, the landscape of Gaza has altered almost unrecognizably.

According to satellite image analysis based on Sentinel-1 radar data by researchers Corey Scher of CUNY Graduate Center and Jamon Van Den Hoek of Oregon State University, almost 60 percent of Gaza has been damaged or destroyed including:

- \* 69.3 percent in North Gaza
- \* 73.9 percent in Gaza City
- \* 49.1 percent in Deir el-Balah
- \* 54.5 percent in Khan Younis
- \* 46.3 percent in Rafah

An estimated 75,000 tons of explosives have been dropped on Gaza with experts predicting it could take years to clear the debris amounting to more than 42 million tons, which is also rife with unexploded bombs.

## 10 Lebanese firefighters killed in Israeli airstrike

Lebanon's health ministry has announced that at least ten firefighters have been killed in an Israeli airstrike on a municipality building in southern Lebanon's Nabatiye Governorate, Press TV reported on Monday.

The health ministry said on Sunday that the Israeli forces targeted the firefighting station in the town of Baraachit in the Bint Jbeil District overnight as firefighters prepared to embark on a rescue mission.

In a statement, the ministry condemned the attack, stating, "The Israeli enemy has committed a new war crime against firefighters and paramedical personnel in southern Lebanon, demonstrating

unprecedented violence and inhumanity by targeting individuals carrying out purely humanitarian and rescue missions, far removed from what is required on the battlefield." The ministry added that the death toll may rise as more people were buried under the rubble of the Union of Municipalities building in Bint Jbeil, and search and rescue operations continued to find survivors trapped under the debris left from the Israeli attacks.

It said Israel's latest attacks bring the number of rescuers killed this year to 118, with more than 50 killed by Israeli airstrikes and artillery fire in just a week. For a fortnight, the Israeli regime forces have been conducting relentless airstrikes on what Tel Aviv claims to be the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement's stronghold in southern Lebanon, killing more than 2,000 people and injuring about 9,500 more.

The bombardment has forced 1.2 million to flee their homes, according to figures released by the Lebanese government. In response, Hezbollah fighters have conducted retaliatory strikes on positions in the Israeli-occupied lands.

Lebanese Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati has called on the members of the United Nations Security Council to take immediate action against Tel Aviv as the Israeli forces' bombardment of his country continues.

## INTERNATIONAL

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

## 5

### Hezbollah humiliates Israel

## For the first time Hezbollah hits deep inside Israel by targeting Haifa

#### By our staff writer

TEHRAN - The Hezbollah resistance movement launched a salvo of Fadi 1 missiles on Monday at the Israeli Karmal military base in Haifa, a major Mediterranean port.

Israel acknowledged that the missiles struck several areas in both Haifa and Tiberias. It also admitted that 12 people were injured several buildings were damaged.

The strike was the first in which Hezbollah hit cities deep inside the occupied territories.

Hezbollah said the attack was in response to the massacres of civilians by Israel, saying that "the Islamic Resistance will remain ready to defend Lebanon and its steadfast, oppressed people."

Hezbollah also said on Monday morning that it targeted a gathering of Israeli military vehicles and personnel at the Maroun al-Ras garden. Israel also admitted on Monday that it lost two military personnel as its army is making attempts to invade Lebanon.

Hezbollah also said it targeted areas north of Haifa in a second salvo of missiles later on Monday. Israel's military acknowledged that around 135 projectiles had entered Israeli territory on Monday as of 5 p.m. (1400 GMT).

Striking Haifa, Israel's third largest city, comes despite the fact that Hezbollah has lost notable figures, particularly its secretary general Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and top military commander Fouad Shokor among others.

Also, the strikes by Hezbollah just days after Israel committed back-to-back vicious terrorist moves in exploding pager and walkie talkies that

the Washington Post revealed on Saturday had been in the making for nine years.

These acts coupled with incessant massive airstrikes on southern Beirut and some other cities have failed to demoralize Hezbollah. On the contrary they have made Hezbollah who has about 100,000 combatants more determined to fight back.

Most probably the Zionist regime under the leadership of Netanyahu had the illusion that it had succeeded to make Hezbollah incapable of dealing serious blows to Israel. But resistance movements, including Hezbollah, are not dependent on individuals. Leading Professor John Mearsheimer from Chicago University firmly believes that Israel cannot liquidate Hezbollah.

Israel's only advantage against Hezbollah and Palestinians are just its advanced fighter jets, including F-35s, that are provided by Israel. The occupation regime is only professional in killing civilians with 2000-ton bunker busters also provided by the United States.

The strike in the heart of Israel shows that Hezbollah not only has not lost its integrity and coherence after the September malicious moves but it has extended the domain of its operations.

The attack on Haifa is a game changer that shows Hezbollah has changed its strategy.

Through its bloody war on Hezbollah Israel intended to return those who had fled from the northern occupied territories to their homes but the course of events shows that Israel should think of sheltering more settlers.

Israelis in the heart of occupied Palestine should tremble in fear though Hezbollah has so far refused to target civilians.

## Al-Aqsa Storm caused strategic shift in struggle against the occupation regime

## Resistance factions laud Palestinians' heroic and proud resilience against Israel's barbarism

From page 1 • "The Palestinian factions in the Gaza Strip held an important national meeting on the first anniversary of the Battle of the Flood of Al-Aqsa and the Holy Crossing on the glorious 7 of October, and in light of the war of genocide waged by the Nazi Zionist occupation against our Palestinian and Lebanese people and the peoples of our Arab and Islamic World.

The Zionist occupation continues to practice in its aggression against the Palestinian people the most heinous forms of killing, starvation, displacement, and systematic destruction of all aspects of life in Gaza. It continues settlement, continuous incursions, field assassinations, and settler rampages in the occupied West Bank. It continues to Judaize al-Quds (Jerusalem) and end the Palestinian presence in our eternal capital. It also changes the religious and geographical reality of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque through incursions. temporal and spatial control, and calls by the occupation leaders to establish a Jewish synagogue in it. It also practices racial discrimination against our people inside occupied Palestine, and torture, and fascist behavior against our free prisoners in the occupation prisons.

In light of this scene, we in the Palestinian factions emphasize the following:

1. We salute our heroic Palestinian people and their proud and lofty resistance, who, through their steadfastness and perseverance, have thwarted the occupation's plans and liquidation projects that target the Palestinian identity and existence. We also salute the souls of our righteous martyrs and free prisoners, and we wish a speedy recovery to our valiant wounded.

2. The blessed Battle of Al-Aqsa Flood on the glorious 7th of October brought about a strategic shift in the conflict with the Zionist occupation and revealed its truth to the entire world. It also came in the natural context of responding to the crimes of the criminal occupation against our Palestinian people and confronting the projects and plans of the Zionist occupation and its supporters. The resistance continues as a legitimate right to achieve freedom and establish a free Palestinian state with al-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital. We also reassure our people that the resistance, with all its wings, is in good condition and is in high and continuous coordination on all fronts and all axes of combat.

3. The Palestinian people are the only ones who have the right to self-determination for the day after the war, and this issue is discussed only at the Pales-

tinian table, and any ideas and attempts to create an alternative administration outside the national consensus and decision of the Palestinian people will be treated as if they were the Zionist occupation, and we highly value and appreciate the position of our people's national and living components that reject the occupation's projects and plans.

4. We affirm that there will be no agreement or deal unless our people's demands are met to stop the aggression, withdraw completely from the Gaza Strip, open the crossings, break the siege, rebuild, and achieve a serious prisoner exchange deal.

5. We call on our people, our nation, and our resistance in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the occupied interior, and in all arenas and fronts, to escalate comprehensive resistance, especially armed resistance, and to engage more in the blessed Battle of the Flood of Al-Aqsa to stop the war of genocide, protect Al-Aqsa Mosque from temporal and spatial religious control, stop the Judaization of al-Quds (Jerusalem), curb the settlement barbarism, end racial discrimination against our people in the occupied interior, and stop the inhumane treatment of our free prisoners.

6. We call upon the peoples of our Arab and Islamic World, scholars, clerics, Arab tribes, unions, popular movements, parties and factions everywhere to take immediate and urgent action in all squares, cities and capitals and target the interests of the occupation and its supporters in revenge for the Palestinian and Lebanese blood, and to pressure to stop the war of genocide and to hold the Zionist occupation accountable for its crimes.

7. We call for holding a comprehensive national dialogue to complete the outcomes of the Moscow and Beijing meetings to achieve the aspirations of our people to liberate their land and establish the Palestinian state with al-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital.

8. We salute the heroes of our proud resistance in the cities and camps of the West Bank that are revolting against the Zionist aggression, tyranny and terrorism. We bless their heroic operations and call on them to continue escalating the resistance and making the occupation and its settler gangs pay the price for their crimes and aggression against our people. We also salute the fronts supporting our people who have registered their names on the bright side of history.

Mercy for the martyrs of our people and the Islamic World, speedy recovery for the wounded, freedom for the prisoners, and victory for our nation, people, and resistance."

## TOURISM



### **Qale Narin restoration breathes new** life into ancient stronghold



TEHRAN - A new phase of restoration work has begun on the centuries-old Qale Narin, which is a massive mud-brick fortress in the heart of Iran.

The structure is considered one of the oldest and most important historical sites within the boundaries of Nain in Yazd province.

According to the head of Nain's office for Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Mahmoud Madanian, the fortress dates back to the Parthian era.

After significant efforts by local authorities, ownership of the site was transferred to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in 2016. This allowed for the commencement of restoration and preservation efforts in 2018, with a focus on safeguarding this valuable and monumental historical landmark.

Madanian announced that the new phase of restoration work will focus on the fortification and stabilization of the towers and walls on the eastern and northern sides of the fortress.

Skilled restoration experts from the region are overseeing the project, he added.

Qale Narin, which spans approximately 2,500 square meters, was originally used as a citadel and administrative-military center before the Islamic era. The site is listed as a national heritage site under registration number 4177.

Since antiquity, mankind has assumed the need to fortify properties to survive in an ever-changing world of invasion and conquest. Commencing from simple earthworks and wooden walls, fortifications gradually evolved into complex, unconquerable, imposing citadels.

Those strongholds were normally erected and maintained along significant routes and cities, particularly at heights overlooking steep slopes or cliffs. Many of the fortifications of the ancient world were built using mud brick, often leaving them no more than mounds of dirt for today's archaeologists.

## **Armenian group visits** historical sites in northwest Iran



TEHRAN - A group of Armenian nationals recently visited historical and religious sites in West Azarbaijan province as part of a familiarization tour organized by the provincial Department of Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

The tour, held in conjunction with Iran's National Tourism Week, aimed to showcase the rich cultural and religious heritage of the region, a local official said on Monday. Reza Heidari stated that the Armenian tourists participated in religious ceremonies related to the Armenian community in the province. They also visited various historical landmarks, including churches and other cultural sites.

The attractions explored by the group included the Jameh Mosque of Urmia, St. Mary Church, the picturesque village of Gurchin Qaleh in Urmia, and a centuries-old bazaar.

Additionally, they visited the St. George Church in Haftvan as well as churches in the village of Mahlum and several historic churches of Khoy.

Heidari also noted that earlier this year, in September, a large number of Christians, particularly from Armenia, traveled to West Azarbaijan to attend the annual "Badarak" religious ceremony at the UNESCO-listed Qara Kelisa (St. Thaddeus Monastery) in Chaldoran.

These events have helped strengthen cultural and religious ties between Armenia and Iran, the official underlined.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Teppe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The provincial capital of Urmia, also spelled Orumiyeh, lies just west of Lake Urmia on a large fertile plain that yields grains, fruits, tobacco, and other crops. The population is mainly Azeri Turkish, with Kurdish, Assyrian Christian, and Armenian minorities. The remains of ancient settlements are scattered over the plain, as are traces of the ancient kingdom of Urartu.

The Azarbaijan region was home to several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

## Archaeological discovery in Shiraz may rewrite city's history

TEHRAN - A new archaeological discovery beneath a local park in Shiraz, the capital of Fars province in southern Iran, may push back the historical timeline of the ancient city by several thousand vears.

The stone tools were first discovered on a site, known as "Tall-e Badi," beneath layers of concrete and mosaic flooring during a park extension project, Mehr reported on Monday.

It was in February 2020 when an archaeology student, participating in the park's development project, accidentally found stone tools and reported them to his professor at the University of

After initial examinations, both the professor and renowned archaeologist Alireza Askari Chaverdi, who is currently the director of the Persepolis and Nagsh-e Rustam historical sites, confirmed the historical significance of the findings.

According to Houshang Esfandiaripour, a prominent archaeologist in Fars province, the stone tools have been found around an electrical grounding pit, at a depth of 1.5 meters, indicating they were near the top of the ancient hill. He believes these artifacts could led the archaeologists to a period older than



another archaeological site in

Esfandiaripour suggests that if deeper layers of the hill are excavated, there may be evidence of civilizations even older than previously thought, potentially pushing the history of Shiraz back by another two or three mil-

He compared the stone tools found in Tall-e Badi to those from the Bakun era, indicating that this site could predate Tall-e Pustchi, where similar artifacts were unearthed.

Efforts to have the site offi-

the 7,000-year-old Tell Pustchi, cially registered as a national heritage location have been unsuccessful. Despite its significance, the authorities have yet to recognize Tell Badi's historical value. Esfandiaripour expressed frustration over the lack of action, noting that less significant sites have received national rec-

> As mentioned by the archaeologists, the discovery holds the potential to offer a rare glimpse into Shiraz's ancient past, as much of the city's historical landscape has been lost to urban development.

Archaeologists are eager to

continue investigating the site, hoping it will yield evidence that could transform the historical narrative of Shiraz and the surrounding Fars region.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation.

It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital.

Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

The ancient city is also home to some magnificent historical gardens such as Bagh-e Narenjestan and Eram Garden, which are top tourist destinations both for domestic and international

## New restoration projects formulated for **UNESCO-listed mosque in Isfahan**

TEHRAN - The UNESCO-registered Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, also known as Atiq Mosque, is set to undergo further restoration and maintenance projects.

On Monday, Isfahan's tourism chief Amir Karamzadeh announced the allocation of governmental funding for three key restoration projects at the ancient mosque, CHTN

Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, with a history spanning over 1,280 years, holds the distinction of being the first mosque in the Islamic world to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, he said.

Karamzadeh added: "While significant restoration work has been carried out in recent years, particularly in 2023, the massive extent and ancient age of the mosque mean that further preservation efforts are still re-

In a recent meeting at the mosque's World Heritage Base, an estimated budget of 30 billion rials (some \$50,000) was approved for



three restoration initiatives, the official said.

These include the restoration of the dome above the Khorsravi Prayer Hall, improvements to the lighting system in the mosque's main courtyards, and the restoration and waterproofing of the roofs on the mosque's western side, Karamzadeh explained.

He said that technical experts are currently finalizing restoration plans, and the work is expected to commence in the coming days.

A masterpiece of Islamic architecture, the Jameh Mosque of Isfahan is one of Iran's

Egyptian archaeologists unveil ancient burial

most iconic historical and religious sites, attracting both worshippers and tourists.

Jameh Mosque of Isfahan has been a UNE-SCO World Heritage site since 2012, drawing visitors from around the globe to admire its artistic and architectural wonders.

UNESCO has it that the mosque can be seen as a stunning illustration of the evolution of mosque architecture over twelve centuries.

The complex, covering more than 20,000 square meters, is also the first Islamic building that adapted the four-courtyard layout of Sassanid palaces to Islamic religious archi-

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran.

Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined

### Glimpses of World Heritage sites: **Ngorongoro Conservation Area**

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area spans vast expanses of highland plains, savanna, savanna woodlands and forests.

The UNESCO-designated property embraces highland plains, savanna, savanna woodlands and forests, from the plains of the Serengeti National Park in the north-west, to the eastern arm of the Great Rift Valley.

The area was established in 1959 as a multiple land use area, with wildlife coexisting with semi-nomadic Maasai pastoralists practising traditional livestock grazing. It includes the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest caldera, and Olduvai Gorge, a 14km long deep ravine. The property has global importance for biodiversity conservation in view of the presence of globally threatened species such as the black Rhino, the density of wildlife inhabiting the Ngorongoro Crater and surrounding areas throughout the year, and the annual migration of wildebeest, zebra, Thompson's and Grant's gazelles and other ungulates into the northern plains.

The area has been subject to extensive archaeological research for over 80 years and has yielded a long sequence of evidence of human evolution and human-environment dynamics, collectively extending over a span of almost four million years to the early modern era.

(Source: UNESCO)



An Egyptian archaeological mission has uncovered the tomb of a governor's daughter dating

back to the 12th Dynasty of Ancient Egypt.

This significant discovery was made in the southern Governorate of Asyut, during excavations at the burial site of Khifai-Hapi, a governor who served under Pharaoh Senusret I, the second ruler of the 12th Dynasty in the Middle Kingdom, Prensa Latina, a partner of TV BRICS, reported.

Mohamed Ismail, tary-General of the Supreme insight into her health has been Council of Antiquities, highlighted the importance of the find,

stating that Khifai-Hapi's tomb is the largest non-royal burial site from that era. The discovery sheds new light on the social and political structure of the Middle

According to Ismail, the tomb contained the remains of Khifai-Hapi's daughter, Edi, who died before the age of 40 and is believed to have suffered from a congenital foot defect. This derived from preliminary studies of the remains.

Among the treasures found within the burial chamber were two intricately decorated wooden coffins, nested inside one another. Both were adorned with texts describing the journey to the afterlife, a key aspect of Ancient Egyptian beliefs.

Additionally, archaeologists uncovered wooden statues and canopic jars, which were traditionally used to store the internal organs of the deceased, emphasizing the cultural and ritual significance of the burial.

### Turkish ancient city Syedra in Antalya prepares for night tourism

The historical Syedra Ancient City, located in ments, stating: "After we complete work on Antalya's Alanya district, is making significant progress toward becoming a night tourism destination.

Ongoing excavations, led by associate professor Ertug Ergurer of Alanya Alaaddin Keykubat University, are set to allow nighttime visits to the ancient streets, theatre ruins and water cisterns.

Plans include lighting the city so that it remains open for tours until midnight, offering an extended opportunity for tourists to explore the ancient site.

Ergurer, who heads the excavation team, shared details about the project's advancethe welcome and walking areas, lighting will allow the site to be visited until midnight.."

The team has been working continuously to uncover the original structure of Syedra, which dates back to the ninth-century Roman period. Key areas uncovered so far include the 250-meter-long columned street, theatre and ancient bathhouses.

Local authorities have played a critical role in supporting the project. Alanya Mayor Osman Tarik Ozcelik, after visiting the site, praised the efforts to restore Syedra for future visitors.

"We are deeply committed to making Syedra a significant part of Alanya's cultural tourism,"

said Ozcelik, adding that his administration would continue to provide full backing for the restoration work.

The ancient city, positioned near the Sedre River, has uncovered impressive relics, including water systems, stairways, and passageways that connect the city's major streets. "With each excavation, we reveal more of Syedra's intricate network of alleys and stairways, which once connected the city's large roads," Ergurer explained.

These discoveries will soon allow visitors to experience an authentic tour of the city, further contributing to Alanya's cultural offerings.

(Source: Turkiye Today)



## **Invitation for Tender**

National Iranian Copper Industry Co. (NICICO) intends to hold a tender for "procurement of Rotary Blasthole drilling machines with a diameter of 9 7/8 &13 inches". In order to get more information, please refer to the official website of company as below:

https://en.nicico.com/

## Tehran, Minsk to deepen health collaboration

TEHRAN -Iran and Belarus have explored the potential to beef up cooperation in academic, pharmaceutical, and medical equipment sectors.

Belarusian ambassador to Iran, Dmitry Koltsov, in a meeting in Tehran on Sunday with Health Minister, Mohammad-Reza Zafargandi, said relations between the two countries can be further strengthened in the field of health.

The official expressed the Belarusian health minister's interest in paying a visit to Iran to promote ties with the country in the health

"The healthcare system in Iran has made great achievements, and Belarus is ready to sign a memorandum of understanding to expand collaboration with the country," Koltsov highlighted, the health ministry's website report-

Currently, a large number of Iranian students are studying in four medical universities in Belarus, the country is seeking to attract even more students, he noted.

Referring to Iran's self-sufficiency in manufacturing 98 percent of medicines needed by the country, he expressed his country's willingness to import Iranian-made medicines and medical tools.

Zafarqandi, for his part, welcomed the idea of developing ties between Iran and Belarus in the field of medicine, and proposed establishing a specialized working group to discuss ways for further boosting collaborations.

Highlighting the importance of observing standards and the quality of education, the health

of the Iranian Organ Donation Association, has

received the Unsung Hero Award of Women in

Transplantation Awards at the 30th Internation-

al Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS

2024) which took place in Istanbul from Septem-

The award is presented to a woman who has

The International society for Organ Donation

and Procurement (ISODP) is responsible for devel-

oping clinical guidelines and practices, promoting

educational programs, and ethical standards for

clinical care and scientific research, IRNA reported.

gress to share latest achievements and expertise

in donation and transplantation.

Rise in organ donation

added to the list.

Each year, a different country will host the con-

In Iran, some 25,000 people are on transplant

The number of organ donors in Iran increased

from 7.8 per million population (PMP) in the year

1399 (March 2020-March 2021) to 12.2 in the year

waiting list and each ten minute a new person is

had an extraordinary impact on Transplantation

through community services volunteering, men-

torship, or other community based activities.



Referring to the fact that ap-

proximately a thousand Iranian

students have been studying at

the Belarusian University since

last year, the official highlighted

Belarus is home to one of the larg-

est universities of medical scienc-

es, he proposed fostering cooper-

ation between the two universities

by preparing a draft agreement to

be signed later. The officials can

follow up on the educational is-

Farhad Gholami, Chancellor of

Mazandaran University of Medical

Sciences, for his part, welcomed

the idea and expressed optimism

for the development of ties in

medicine and paramedicine fields

to promote and excel the two uni-

versities in the fields of health and

prevention, treatment, and educa-

Iran's health system a role

In August 2023, former Health

Minister Bahram Einollahi said

Iran's health system is one of the

most successful models in the

sues via video calls.

minister said "Students can be exchanged once we are ensured of standards and the quality of education in other countries.'

"Last year, Abolfazl Bagerifard, an official with the health ministry, paid a visit to Belarus. Fortunately, the visit was fruitful. We are optimistic that periodical assessments by Iran will result in continuous improvement of medical universities in Belarus," Zafarqandi highlighted.

## Belarus interested in boosting

On September 15, Koltsov said Belarus is interested in boosting ties and cooperation with Iran in the fields of medicine, health, and

He said that cooperation between the two countries is progressing rapidly in various fields, and enhancing medical collaborations is a key focus of joint activ-

has always had an effective collaboration with the country, he added, IRNA reported.

The World Health Organization

He made the remarks in a meeting with ambassadors and representatives of international organizations in Tehran.

"Cooperation among countries for health development depends on their inter-sectoral interactions and collaborations.

After the coronavirus pandemic, health diplomacy has improved a lot. Health plays a key role in the diplomacy of countries because it is a common concern and pivotal point for all," IRNA quoted Einollahi as saying.

"The sustainable development of countries depends on the health issue. Therefore, promoting cooperation among nations in medical education, sharing new health technologies, developing health and treatment systems, supplying needed medicines and medical equipment, and securing fair access to health care services should be set as priorities for countries,"

He went on to say that based on international organizations and global standards, Iran's medical education has reached a good point.

Domestic knowledge-based companies have made the country self-sufficient to a great extent, he said, adding that advanced medical equipment and 95 percent of the needed medicines including six approved coronavirus vaccines have been supplied by knowledge-based companies which is a source of pride.

## TEHRAN TIMES IRCS, ICRC, IFRC discuss ways to

help war-affected Lebanese people

TEHRAN -Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), in a meeting with Faisal Mahboob, the project manager of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and Vincent Cassard, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran, underscored the need for ceasefire in Lebanon and opening a safe way to help the war victims.

Since September 23, the Israeli army has been launching an unprecedented, intensive air attack on Lebanon.

Referring to the conducted meetings with the officials of the Lebanese Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the official said, "Our efforts are directed towards supporting the people affected by war in Gaza and Lebanon," the IRCS website reported.

Clearly, residential areas in Lebanon are being targeted by Israel while delivering aid is not allowed, he noted.

They practically do not let medical centers operate; the Zionist regime has targeted 11 paramedics in the past 72 hours, as well as the ambulances as well as rescue teams of the Lebanese Red Cross which has made the country facing challenging situations.

Many are trapped under rubbles while Israel has restricted search and rescue, displaced Lebanese are forced to go to Syria, but they are targeted in the border areas, Kolivand

ICRC and IFRC must condemn these attacks, take practical actions, and stand against Israel hindering rescue efforts.

Lebanese people are subject to genocide, blockade, and hindrance of humanitarian aid, serious action must be taken before Lebanon turns into another Gaza.

Many essential items including food, medicines, and medical tools should be sent to Lebanon and the ICRC should find a way to settle war refugees.

Protecting civilians, preventing violations of international humanitarian law, dispatching humanitarian aid, negotiating to stop the war, communicating with the international community, helping immigrants, opening a safe route for delivering assistance, and transferring those injured to safe places should be put of agenda.

ICRC and IFRC should provide health services and treatment to wounded and displaced individuals, educate them about infectious diseases.

They should also provide mental and psychological support to conflict-affected individuals to increase resilience, and create co-



**OCTOBER 8, 2024** Straight Truth

ordination between the members of the IFRC and the IRCS present in the region.

Cassard, for his part, lauded the IRCS timely presence in Lebanon as well as its efforts saying that the society has provided a lot of help to Lebanese so far.

ICRC has long been in Lebanon making its best effort to provide help in emergencies and humanitarian crisis, said Cassard.

Negotiations to resolve conflicts are on the agenda and we are trying to alleviate the suffering of the conflict-affected Lebanese, he

During the meeting, Mehboob also commended the IRCS services and assistance provided to the people of Lebanon.

The official said the Federation issued an international call last year to receive more contributions.

The collected money during the period amounted 200 million Swiss francs, which is allocated to Lebanon, Syria and Gaza. Currently, red alert has been issued in Leb-

anon and providing humanitarian assistance to Lebanon is on the agenda. Mahboob pointed out that the situation in

Lebanon is dire and all facilities have been mobilized to help the people of the country. IFRCS and IRCS will enhance cooperation to

increase assistance to the Lebanese war victims. However, it requires an international effort and an immediate ceasefire is essential.

#### IRCS ready to provide assistance

Following ongoing Israeli attacks on Lebanon, the Iranian Red Crescent Society has set up a field hospital on the border of Lebanon and Syria.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said over 2,000 people have been killed in Israeli attacks on Lebanon, including 127 children and 261

The IRCS has also set up an emergency shelter for injured and displaced Lebanese people affected by the conflict, the IRCS website quoted Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the IRCS, as saying.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

## ties with Iran

The official made the remarks while paying a visit to Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences to become familiar with the university's medical, educational, and

Iran's Najafizadeh grabs Women in Transplantation Award TEHRAN -Katayoun Najafizadeh, the director 1401 (March 2022-March 2023).

> "In 1399, the number of organ donations in the country was 645, which reached 928 in 1400 and increased to 1,016 in 1401," Amir-Hesam Alirezaei, the head of the Health Ministry's Center for Transplantation and Disease Management, said.

> "Currently, 30 kidney transplant centers, 11 liver transplant centers, 3 lung transplant centers, 4 pancreas transplant centers, 18 bone marrow transplant centers, 22 procurement centers, and 35 transplant identification centers are active in the country," he explained.

> With 40,095 cases, kidney transplant has had the highest number of transplants in the country,

> Between 5,000 and 8,000 brain deaths occur annually in the country, he said, adding that 2,500 to 4,000 cases of brain deaths are eligible for organ transplantation, and there are 18,000 patients in need of receiving organs in the country. and more than 1,410 cases of organ donation were done last year, he concluded.

According to the Iranian Society of Organ Donation, there are two types of death in the medical world; Heart death (common death), which accounts for 99 percent of deaths worldwide, and brain death, which accounts for one percent of

There are over 25,000 patients in need of transplants on the waiting lists for various organs, but unfortunately, 7 to 10 of them die every day due to the lack of a transplanted organ, accounting for over 3,000 a year.

Organ donation is an altruistic decision that can be made by family members after brain death. Although many organizations and medical centers have implemented various interventions and training courses to increase satisfaction with organ donation, a lack of organs for donation is still a serious problem in the world.

#### Iran tops Asian countries in organ donation

Mehdi Shadnoush, former head of the Health Ministry's Center for Transplantation and Disease Management, announced in June 2020 that Iran is ranked first for organ donation among Asian countries.

"The country's organ donation rate is 14.34 per one million people," he noted.

In February 2019. Shadnoush said that the organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years, while Iran ranked 26 in organ donation in the world.

#### **ENGLISH IN USE**

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Iran to build desalination plants along Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman

The Department of Environment (DOE) is preparing a plan to deploy desalination plants on the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman in order to supply drinking water to the coastal

Ahmad Reza Lahijanzadeh, deputy chief of the marine environment of the DOE, announced that suitable areas that cause the least damage to the environment have been identified in Hor-

According to him, the project, which is to be carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy, will supply water for 17 drought-ridden provinces.

## برنامه ایران برای تامین آب شرب از طریق خلیج فارس و دریای عمان

سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست ایران در حال مطالعه طرحی برای استقرار آب شیرین کنها در سواحل خلیج فارس و دریای عمان به منظور تامین بخشی از آب شرب استان های ساحلی است. به گزارش ایرنا، احمد رضا لاهیجان زاده معاون محیط زیست دریایی سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست اعلام کرد مکانیابی در استان هرمزگان به پایان رسیده و محلهای مناسبی که کمترین آسیب را به محیط زیست وارد کند، در این استان مشخص شدهاند. به گفته او، این طرح که قرار است با همکاری وزارت نیرو انجام شود شامل ۱۷ استان خشک و بی آب می شود.

## Youth empowerment essential to creating resilient cities

#### By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN – Empowering youth and involving them in urban decision-making is essential for developing inclusive and resilient cities.

By focusing on the energy, creativity, and perspectives of youth, cities can work towards more sustainable and equitable development, ensuring a brighter future for all.

Every year, the first Monday of October is observed as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our habitats, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.

This year it falls on October 7, and it is celebrated under the theme 'Engaging youth to create a better urban future'.

The theme focuses on how the new generation can be engaged in planning their urban present and future through participatory processes and local leadership opportunities.

The world is rapidly urbanizing, and many urban residents are young people, especially in some countries in Africa and Asia. Currently, youth in the global South make up 70 per cent or more of cities.

By 2050, cities are projected to host approximately 70 per cent of the world's population, highlighting the pressing need for inclusive urban planning and sustainable development.

This event aims to address the challenges

and opportunities of rapid urbanization by focusing on the active involvement of young people in shaping sustainable cities and com-

Despite global efforts, the United Nations acknowledges persistent challenges in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the areas of poverty, inequality, and the looming threat of climate

These and other issues pose significant obstacles to the equitable growth and resilience of urban areas worldwide. Mobilizing support from all segments of society is crucial, with a particular emphasis on engaging the youth.

World Habitat Day presents a unique opportunity to celebrate the contributions of youth to sustainable urbanization, while addressing the challenges of rapid urban growth.

The Day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.

In 1985 the United Nations designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day.

The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

## EHRAN TUV



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**OCTOBER 8, 2024** 

#### **GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

When you get ill do not get nervous about it and try as much as possible to be hopeful. Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:52 Evening: 17:56 Dawn: 4:43 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:06 (tomorrow)

#### Ali Rahbari to conduct Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra

TEHRAN-Renowned Iranian conductor Ali Rahbari will conduct the season opening concert of the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra Denizbank Concerts, slated for October 11.

The orchestra will perform two pieces by the Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky at the upcoming concert, ISNA reported.

In this performance, the orchestra opens its 80th concert season. Under the baton of the distinguished conductor Rahbari, the orchestra will accompany the esteemed artist, Presidential Symphony Orchestra soloist Gülsin Onay, as she performs one of Tchaikovsky's most beloved works, the First Piano Concerto. The concert will continue with Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, a symbol of his defiance against fate, composed after a ten-year struggle to overcome life's hardships and personal anguish.

Rahbari, 76, embarked on his musical journey at the age of five, learning to play the violin. He graduated from the Vienna Academy of Music and Performing Arts in 1971, specializing in composition under the tutelage of Gottfried von Einem, and completed his conducting studies in 1974, guided by Hans Swarovsky. He is a laureate of international conducting competitions, securing the gold medal in Besançon, France (1977), and the silver medal in Geneva (1978).

He has conducted over 120 orchestras worldwide, including Orchestra della Svizzera Romanda, Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Orchestre National de France, French Chamber Orchestra, Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, and Prague Symphony Orchestra.

He has served as the principal guest conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, receiving the Dvořák Medal in 1985 for his collaboration with the ensemble, and also led the Belgrade Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, Belgian Radio and Television Orchestra (later becoming its principal conductor from 1988 to 1996).

Rahbari was the principal conductor of the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and the Virtuosi di Praga chamber orchestra. From 2000 to 2004 he was the chief conductor and musical director of

the Malaga Symphony Orchestra, Spain.

He has also had about 20 collaborations with the Mariinsky Orchestra at the Mariinsky Opera and Concert Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia. In July 2022, Rahbari made his debut at the Mariinsky Theater and since then, he has been a regular on the Mariinsky stage.

In 1997, Rahbari formed the Persian International Philharmonic Orchestra in Bregenz, Austria, by bringing together 60 Iranian musicians from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S. With this ensemble, he recorded Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade," Khachaturian's "Violin Concerto," and his own violin concerto, "Nohe Khan," and was later awarded by the Vienna Academy of Music and Performing Arts.

He has released over 250 compact discs, with his recordings of operas by Verdi and Puccini under his direction gaining particular popularity.

Gülsin Onay (born 12 September 1954) is a leading Turkish concert pianist of German descent, based in Cambridge, England.

Onay is acknowledged worldwide as the definitive interpreter of the music of Ahmed Adnan Saygun, the leading Turkish composer of the 20th century, whose works feature prominently in her concerts and recordings, and whose second Piano Concerto (which she premiered in Turkey and abroad) was dedicated to her.

Onay's international career has spanned 80 countries across all continents, from Venezuela to Japan. She has given concerts in the major musical centers of the world such as Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Berlin Philharmonic Hall, the Vienna Konzerthaus, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall and Wigmore Hall, the Salle Gaveau in Paris, the Washington DC National Gallery of Art, and the New York Miller Theater.

The Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1945 as the Istanbul Municipality City Orchestra. Since then, it has enjoyed brilliant years, performing with world-renowned, esteemed conductors, soloists, and artists, supported by meticulously crafted repertoires.

## Holocide cartoon contest to raise awareness of Gaza's humanitarian catastrophe

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- The third edition of the International Holocide Cartoon, Caricature and Poster Contest seeks artistic responses to ongoing tragedy in Gaza, Iranian cartoonist Masoud Shojai Tabatabai has said.

He made the remarks during a press conference held at Tehran's Art Bureau, on the first anniversary of Operation Al-Agsa Storm, which took place on

The devastating crisis in Gaza, which currently ranks among the world's most lethal regions, has prompted the announcement of the third International Holocide Cartoon, Caricature and Poster Contest, he said.

The region has witnessed skyrocketing hunger rates due to ongoing conflict, along with unprecedented casualties, including the highest numbers of deaths and injuries in a year, numerous child amputations, and the deaths of journalists, medical personnel, and first responders.

Heavy bombardments, severe air and water pollution, and the widespread use of chemical weapons-equivalent to the explosion of four atomic bombs have severely crippled both the environment and infrastructure of Gaza, he explained and added: "The United Nations estimates that recovery efforts will take over 15 years, even as makeshift camps for displaced persons continue to be targeted.

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, more than 42,000 individuals have been killed as a direct result of the Israeli military operations in Gaza since October 7 of last year, with a significant number of these casualties being women and

d International Holocide children. Injuries have surpassed to the heinous crime of genocide 100,000 since the onset of the

Described as "Holocide," the situation transcends mere genocide and Holocaust: it aims at the complete destruction of the social fabric and environment of Gaza, signifying an attempt to annihilate Palestinian identity entirely, he noted.

conflict."

Regarding the different sections of the event, Shojai Tabatabai explained that the competition will explore several pressing themes.

The first theme for the cartoon and poster sections is 'Holocide,' where participants are challenged to depict the catastrophic agenda pursued by the Israeli regime, which extends beyond the direct killings and represents a complete obliteration of Gaza's social and environmental frameworks. equating to the total annihilation of Palestine.

second theme is 'Genocide,' which calls attention submissions must not have

resulting from the Israeli regime's apartheid and racial discrimination policies against the Palestinian people. Lastly, the theme of 'Double Standards' addresses the contradiction of the U.S. government's professed support for Palestinian rights while simultaneously aiding Israel militarily and politically.

Caricature & Poster Contes

In the portrait section, artists are invited to create caricatures of notable Israeli figures, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Galant, and Minister of National Security Itamar Ben Gvir.

The International Court of Justice has labeled Netanyahu and Galant as war criminals, while Ben Gvir has a criminal indictment related to racism.

Artists participating in the competition must adhere to specific regulations. Each artist may submit up to five works per designated theme, and previously won an award.

Prizes for the competition include a Grand Prize of €5,000 along with a trophy and diploma for the best work in any category.

In the Cartoon, Caricature, and Poster sections, cash prizes will be awarded to the top three entries, along with special awards for notable works.

For each section, the firstplace winner will receive €3,000, the second-place winner €2,000, the third-place winner €1,000, and two special awards of €500

The deadline for submission is December 5, 2024. Participants whose works advance to the initial jury phase will receive an electronic attendance certificate, while winners will receive a printed version of the winner's

This competition aims to draw global attention to the ongoing crisis in Gaza and inspire artistic expressions of solidarity and advocacy for peace.

## Iranian video art "Sculpture" wins two awards at Chicago festival



TEHRAN-The Iranian video art "Sculpture" received two awards at the September edition of the Crown Point International Film Festival in Chicago, the U.S.

Written, directed, and composed by Ramin Hosseinpour, the work won the best short film director for Hosseinpour and the best short film editing for Ehsan Vaseghi at the latest edition of the festival.

The video art is about the life story of Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi and Shams Tabrizi.

During one of his journeys to Konya in

1244, he met the dervish Shams and was deeply influenced by him.

For months, the two men constantly interacted, and as a result, Rumi neglected his disciples and family, who could not tolerate the close relationship.

One night in 1247, Shams disappeared forever. This experience turned Rumi into a poet. The Divan of Shams (The Collected Poetry of Shams) is a true translation of his experiences into poetry.

Hosseinpour's video art has won several awards at various international festivals so

It recently won the awards for the best rock music video and best VFX: music video at the summer edition of Los Angeles Movie and Music Video Awards in the U.S.

Its previous achievements include the Best Composer Award at the 26th LA Sun Film Fest in Los Angeles, the award for Best Animated Music Video in the HALO International Film Festival in Saint-Petersburg, and the award for the best documentary script from the

King Film Awards 2023 in London among

Hosseinpour, 37, is a multi-talented international artist, professionally working in the international media.

He is an architect, conceptual artist, writer, director, producer, and composer.

He has won awards in more than 55 international festivals in Munich, Vancouver, Paris, Moscow, New York, Boden, Las Vegas, Rome, etc.

Crown Point International Film Festival (CPIFF) is a monthly and annual IMDb qualifying competition for filmmakers al over the world.

All categories are awarded monthly except Best of Fest awards (best of the year).

The festival seeks to promote and celebrate films and filmmakers from all around the world and be another step forward to the filmmakers' careers. It is all about encouraging filmmakers to cultivate

### Iranian documentary "Noqte" on screen at Zero Plus International Film Festival

TEHRAN- Last week, the 11th Zero Plus International Film Festival kicked off in Tyumen, Russia showcasing a remarkable array of cinematic talent with 87 films from 29 countries, including Iran, India, China, and Colombia.

The TV BRICS International Media Network serves as the festival's international information partner.

The festival commenced on September 30 at the Palace of Culture "Neftyanik," where attendees not only enjoyed enthralling film screenings but were also treated to a vibrant concert featuring a variety of singers, TV BRICS reported.

Among the featured films is the Iranian documentary "Nogte", directed by Amir Valinejad, which explores the rich history of calligraphy art.

"Noqte" delves into the rich history and intricate art of Iranian calligraphy, highlighting the importance of the 'noqte' (dot) as a fundamental element.

The documentary has already garnered acclaim, winning the XXXII International Film Forum Golden Knight award and being nominated for the XXI National Award Laurel Branch.

Produced in 2020 with support from the Ibn Sina Islamic Culture Research Foundation, the film aims to advance knowledge of Islamic culture, science, and philosophy among scholars and students.

The agenda of the Zero Plus International Film Festival is brimming with engaging workshops and interactive sessions designed to enrich the cinematic

Participants have the opportunity to take part in several educational projects, including a choreographic "Film Dance Workshop," a "Film Dubbing Workshop," performances, and additional film screenings.

Art enthusiasts can explore the exhibition "Three Worlds" and the interactive display "City of Cinema," allowing visitors to dive deep into the film production process.

A distinguished jury, comprising representatives from the film industry in Iran, Russia, India, South Africa, and other nations, is tasked with reviewing the international competition entries.

A highlight of the festival is the creative meetings and masterclasses led by these jury members, fostering an environment of learning and collaboration.

Additionally, the festival hosts the 7th International Forum on "Cinematic Pedagogy," bringing together educators, filmmakers, and cultural specialists from BRICS+ countries.

This forum focuses on the latest trends in the film industry and media education while promoting international cooperation and dialogue within these vital fields.

