

What are possible scenarios behind alleged leaked documents on Israel's plans to attack Iran?

Decoding a Leak



▶ Page 3

'Targets ready' for future strikes, Iran FM warns as potential Israeli attack looms

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has issued a stark warning, stating that Iran has "identified all its targets" in the occupied territories and is prepared to retaliate against Israel in response to any military strike.

Araqchi's comments came during an interview with Turkish broadcaster NTV on Saturday, amid mounting Israeli threats of military action against Iran, particularly concerning its nuclear facilities.

"Any attack on Iran would cross a red line, and we will not leave it unanswered," Araqchi declared. He emphasized that Iran is fully prepared to respond to any aggressive actions, specifically pointing to a potential counterattack on identified targets in Israeli-controlled areas. "We have pinpointed all our targets there, and a similar attack will be carried out in response," he added. ▶ Page 2

Qalibaf upbraids Persian Gulf states for picking quarrels with Iran instead of focusing on Israel

TEHRAN – Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf strongly condemned the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for its recent accusations against Iran, urging the regional body to redirect its efforts toward halting Israeli aggression rather than making baseless claims.

Speaking at an open parliamentary session on Sunday, Qalibaf criticized the GCC for its stance on Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity, particularly regarding the disputed islands in the Persian Gulf. ▶ Page 3

Israel kills Iranian woman in Lebanon, Tehran vows retribution

TEHRAN – Iran has vowed to hold Israel accountable after the regime killed an Iranian woman and her Lebanese husband in northern Beirut, targeting the couple's car and then pursuing them with drones after they fled on foot.

Footage released by Israeli media on Saturday shows Masoumeh Karbasi and Reza Awadeh's car being struck repeatedly by drones on a highway in Jounieh, a predominantly Christian city north of Beirut. After three drone strikes, Awadeh, whom Hebrew media identified as a Hezbollah member, pulls over. He exits the car and rushes to the passenger side to help his wife escape. The drone continues its attack, relentlessly firing at the couple as they run hand-in-hand across a field adjacent to the highway.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman has said that Israel's latest attack in Lebanon is a "clear and simultaneous manifestation of terrorism and war crimes". ▶ Page 2

Iranian women make history in 2024 Canoe Polo World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's women's team qualified for the World Games 2025 to be held in Chengdu, China.

The 12th edition of the World Games are expected to be held in Chengdu, China from Aug. 7 to 17.

Team Melli came fourth in the 2024 Canoe Polo World Championships on Sunday and secured their place in the World Games. ▶ Page 3

Sohmor mayor among 3 martyred in Israeli strike on Baaloul

By Sondoss al-Assad

BEIRUT – Since the start of the Israeli full-scale war on Lebanon on September 23, the occupation army has been deliberately targeting all forms of basic life in all regions. There is no safe place in Lebanon. Everyone is targeted.

The occupation army is intensifying its raids targeting emergency, medical, industrial and agricultural facilities. The systematic firings are intended to eliminate all traces of life. It targets municipalities in a bid to displace more civilians and evacuate residential neighborhoods, some of which have turned into scorched lands.

On Saturday afternoon, October 19, 2024, a hostile Zionist raid targeted the town of Baaloul, in Western Bekaa. In the air raid, Hajj Haidar Shahla, the mayor of Sohmor, was martyred. He spared no effort since the beginning of the war to serve and secure safe housing for the displaced people in coordination with fellow mayors of the neighboring villages.

Hezbollah escalates missile attacks on Israel

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Sirens were sounding in Haifa and its surroundings including Krayot with multiple explosions heard in Haifa, Israeli media reported.

The Israeli army has said that the northern Galilee region of Israel (near the Lebanese border) alone has been subject to more than 140 rockets launched from southern Lebanon on Sunday.

Reports indicate this is one of the largest medium-range missile salvos launched simultaneously toward the depths of Israel.

Hezbollah announced it had carried out rocket attacks on Haifa, Safad and the Rosh Pina settlement southeast of Safad.

Sirens sounded in and around Safad following the missile fire from Lebanon.

Israel's Channel 12 reported at least 12 rockets were fired from Lebanon towards Haifa and its surroundings.

Casualties have been reported among Israelis while the Israeli army acknowledged dozens of its soldiers have been injured, the majority of them near the Lebanese border.

Beit Lahiya bloodshed: Palestinians pay the price for Arab and Western leaders' inaction

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Israel's weekend massacre of Palestinian people in the town of Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip has once again underscored the inaction of Arab and Western leaders in the face of the regime's appalling atrocities.

The Israeli army heavily bombarded residential buildings in Beit Lahiya overnight on Saturday and completely destroyed them.

Health officials in Gaza said on Sunday that 87 people were killed after the attack. They said dozens of others were injured.

Israel launched an offensive in northern Gaza more than two weeks ago and laid a siege on the area, cutting off access to essentials such as food, water and medicine.

▶ Page 5

Iran, Iraq to build border terminal along Shalamcheh-Basra railway

TEHRAN – Iran and Iraq railway officials, during a field visit to the Shalamcheh-Basra railway, met and held talks at Iran's Arvand Free Zone and agreed on building Shalamcheh border terminal along the Shalamcheh-Basra railway.

According to the agreement, in first phase, the necessary land was handed over to the Islamic Republic of Iran Railway (known as RAI) and it was decided that the contractor should quickly start the executive operations of the border terminal.

Iran and Iraq signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the construction of the Shalamcheh-Basra railway in 2012, which was not implemented. Three years later, another MOU was signed between Tehran and Baghdad for the construction of this railway, according to which, Iran undertook to design and build a bridge over the Arvand River, and the Iraqi side undertook to build a 32-kilometer railway from the Shalamcheh border to the Basra railway station on Iraqi soil.



© president.ir

Pezeshkian highlights export growth at ceremony marking National Export Day

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the critical role of traders and exporters in stabilizing and thriving the nation's economy during a ceremony commemorating National Export Day.

The president underscored the government's commitment to facilitating trade and

production by removing obstacles that hinder growth. "We must believe in the idea that our country thrives through proper interaction with traders and exporters," he stated, highlighting the importance of collaboration between the government and the business community.

The official also expressed his intention to engage with exporters during upcoming foreign trips, including participation in the BRICS summit. "We aim to pursue your requests and concerns," he noted, signaling a proactive approach to addressing the needs of the export sector.

TEHRAN PAPERS

Arab war instead of Israeli war

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

Shargh devoted its editorial to the position of the European Union regarding the three Iranian islands and said: The position of the EU regarding the "occupation" of the three islands by Iran has a clear message, and that is that the possible future conflict between Iran and Israel will turn into a war between the Arabs and Iran.

At a time when public opinion in the Arab and Muslim world has reacted positively to Iran's confrontation with Israel, the purpose behind the cooperation between the two unions is to destroy Iran's relations with the Arabs and weaken positive views about Iran.

Now, more than ever, the interests of all major countries and blocs are tied to the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf, especially as America, China, and Europe have focused on international trade and economy in the 21st century.

The economy is now linked with security and created a "security economy". We must be careful that the Iran-Israel conflict does not turn into an Iran-Arab conflict in the public opinion of Muslims.

Farhikhtegan: EU's radical stance on Iran's territorial integrity

In the joint meeting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union a communique was signed in which harsh statements were made against Iran. They demanded the end of Iran's "occupation" of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates, including Lesser and Greater Tunb islands and Abu Musa, and considered it a "violation of the sovereignty of the Emirates and the principles of the United Nations Charter".

This harsh statement, which will have a direct effect on the political relations of these countries with Iran, is the result of several factors including the increased tensions between Iran and the Zionist regime and the intensification of sanctions by the United States and some European countries against Iran.

For example, sanctions on Iran's airlines can be seen as one of the tools to put pressure on Iran to support the Zionist regime. Since, contrary to the threats, the Zionists cannot directly attack Iran and its nuclear facilities, the Europeans seek to weaken Iran in this way.

At the same time, the UAE is seeking to abuse the prevalent condition to achieve its long-sought goal and bring the issue of the three islands to the Security Council.

Jam-e-Jam: A big step against unilateralism

In a note, Jam-e-Jam addressed Iran's relations with Russia given the Zionist regime's hostility against the Islamic Republic coupled with the Western economic pressure on Tehran. It wrote: The Raisi helicopter crash delayed the completion of the initial agreements between the 13th government in Iran and Russia regarding the strategic cooperation between the two countries for months.

Upon the inauguration of Pezeshkian, the policy to deepen ties with neighbors and Eastern countries remained on the government's agenda. In recent years, Iran and Russia have succeeded in expanding their relations and finding a common view of international developments. Now we have to wait for Pezeshkian's upcoming trip to Moscow and his meeting with his Russian counterpart to sign the comprehensive cooperation agreement. The agreement is going to be signed in a situation in which West Asia is facing a flurry of dangers due to the crimes of the Zionist regime. By deepening relations with Moscow, Iran can send this message to the West and the Zionists that it is ready to face any situation even in the most difficult situations. Furthermore, it can organize a powerful bloc of its allies and move forward.

Ettelaat: Pezeshkian government facing sensitive situation

In an interview with Mehdi Motaharnia, an analyst on international issues, Ettelaat dealt with the sensitive conditions the Pezeshkian government is facing. It wrote: The Pezeshkian government is facing a difficult task to fulfill the demands sought by the general public. At the beginning of the work, Pezeshkian should defend the credibility and independence of the country in addition to the programs that were considered in advance.

Now that an agreement with the West is far from expected, the government must find a way to overcome the current situation so that the continued economic hardship won't create a gap between the society and the political system.

Therefore, the government will use its efforts to minimize the consequences of sanctions as much as possible through regional consultations and trade with the Persian Gulf and Central Asian countries. With the beginning of the 14th (sitting) government and the change of approach, a kind of hope had been formed in the society but given Netanyahu's radical approach, Iran is in an extremely dangerous situation.

2024 IONS Maritime Exercise concludes in Iran's southern waters



TEHRAN – The IONS 2024 joint naval exercise, concluded on Sunday with a grand naval parade showcasing the participating surface vessels.

The Iranian destroyer Jamaran served as the focal point of the display of maritime strength in the northern Indian Ocean, Rear Admiral Mustafa Tajeddini, spokesperson for the Iranian Navy, said while announcing the event's conclusion.

Vessels from the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Navy, as well as the navies of Russia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Pakistan, Qatar, and Bangladesh participated in the parade.

The IONS 2024 Joint Naval Exercise, also known as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise (IMEX) 2024, was organized by Iran in its southern maritime territory.

The exercise, which began on October 19, 2024, involved naval forces and observers from multiple IONS member states. The primary aim was to bolster sustainable collective security and promote multilateral cooperation within the region.

Military and naval representatives from the

participating countries toured Hormuz Island, engaging in strategic discussions. Delegates from Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Pakistan, Qatar, Oman, and Bangladesh visited the island in the Persian Gulf, exploring Iran's tourism and maritime infrastructure.

The purpose of this visit was to foster international collaboration and understanding of Iran's tourism potential. This visit is seen as a valuable opportunity to cultivate amicable relations and military partnerships among the nations involved. It is anticipated that the outcomes will enhance maritime security in the region.

Naval forces from Iran, Russia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Pakistan, Qatar, and Bangladesh participated in the joint drill

The meeting also provided a platform for these nations to enhance collaboration and coordination in protecting regional interests, while identifying potential avenues for future partnerships in maritime security.

Hormuz Island, situated in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, holds significant importance due to its geographical location and the passage of a large portion of the world's oil supply through the strait.

Israel kills Iranian woman in Lebanon, Tehran vows retribution

From page 1 ▶ "The Iranian lady and her Lebanese husband were brutally killed in a public area on a busy street." Esmail Baqaei said, adding, "Iran will employ all available resources to investigate the incident and hold the Zionist regime accountable for its actions."

The Iranian embassy in Lebanon also confirmed the death of Karbasi, urging international organizations to take prompt and effective measures to assist civilians.

The Iranian citizen was a mother of five children and had been living in Lebanon for years.

Israel's ongoing war in the besieged Gaza Strip which began a year ago has now spread to the surrounding areas including Lebanon.

After laying waste to much of Gaza and rendering large parts



Israeli drone shot at Masoumeh Karbasi and Reza Awadeh as they ran away into a field after their car got targeted on a Beirut highway

of it practically uninhabitable, the regime seems to be adamant about replicating its crimes in other parts of the region.

Israeli war jets have been

routinely targeting residential areas across Lebanon saying it aims to assassinate Hezbollah members. Almost 3,000 Lebanese citizens have been killed in the past three months in Israeli

strikes. Analysts and regional officials warn that the regime has crossed all redlines, leading West Asia into a full-on conflagration with international and lasting repercussions.

'Targets ready' for future strikes, Iran FM warns as potential Israeli attack looms

From page 1 ▶ Araqchi highlighted Iran's missile attack on October 1 against Israeli military, espionage, and intelligence sites as a key example of Tehran's willingness to strike back when provoked.

The operation, he said, came after Israeli forces assassinated prominent figures within the regional Resistance movement. According to Araqchi, 90 percent of the Iranian missiles launched during the operation successfully hit their intended targets, all of which were military, avoiding any civilian or economic locations.

Since October 2023, Israel has been engaged in intense military operations on two fronts—Gaza and Lebanon—which have so far resulted in over 42,500 casualties in Gaza and more than 2,400

in Lebanon. Israel has also targeted and killed several leaders of Resistance groups, including Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas. Despite Sinwar's assassination, Araqchi emphasized that Hamas remains resolute, with his death only strengthening the group's resolve and inspiring further commitment among Palestinian youth.

The Iranian diplomat went on to denounce the United States for its unwavering support of Israel, stating that without U.S. backing, Israel would not be able to sustain its military actions in Gaza and Lebanon. "If the Americans truly had the political will, they could stop these attacks," Araqchi said.

He also warned that if the conflict escalates into a broader war, the U.S. could find itself dragged



into the fight, an outcome Tehran does not desire.

Araqchi further cautioned that the ongoing violence could spread beyond Israel's borders, potentially engulfing the Persian Gulf region. Despite the escalating situation, he expressed hope for diplomatic solutions, stressing that "there is still a chance for diplomacy." However, he warned that it should not be left to the decisions of just one leader within the Israeli government.

Sinwar's dedication to Resistance delivered critical blow to Israel, says Iranian commander

TEHRAN – The commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters Rashid has praised Sinwar's leadership and declared that his efforts had escalated the resistance against Israel, delivering a significant blow to the regime's power.

In a message on Saturday, Major General Gholam Ali Rashid highlighted Sinwar's decades of struggle, noting his 20 years spent in Israeli captivity. "Martyr Sinwar, a heroic commander of the Resistance Front,

dedicated his life to fighting the criminal Zionist regime, and his ultimate reward was the honor of martyrdom," said Rashid.

Rashid emphasized Sinwar's strategic contributions to Hamas, especially his role in orchestrating the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, which he described as a historic and unprecedented blow to Israel. He noted that Sinwar's wisdom and deep understanding of the Zionist regime's strengths and weaknesses had made Hamas a more effective force.

He added that Sinwar's martyrdom would only embolden the anti-Israel movement, further weakening the regime.

Rashid concluded his statement by warning Israel and its allies that the martyrdom of leaders like Sinwar would intensify the struggle against them. He asserted that the growing resistance would continue to shake the foundations of oppression, and those responsible for the suffering in the region would eventually face the consequences of their actions,

leading to their ultimate defeat and displacement.

Sinwar was martyred in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza's Rafah city on Thursday. Hamas confirmed the assassination news on Friday which was first broke by the Israeli military on Thursday.

Before becoming Hamas' political leader, Sinwar served as the group's leader in Gaza for seven consecutive years. He spent 22 years in an Israeli prison before being released as part of a prisoner swap in 2011.

Tehran rejects claims of involvement in drone attack on Netanyahu's residence

TEHRAN – Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations has responded to claims surrounding a drone attack on the residence of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, distancing itself from the incident and attributing responsibility to the Lebanese Resistance group, Hezbollah.

Early Saturday morning, reports surfaced from Zionist sources about a drone explosion near Netanyahu's official residence. Later in the day, Netanyahu's office confirmed the attack, acknowledging that a drone had indeed hit the premises. Neither Netanyahu nor his wife



was home at the time, and no casualties were reported, according to a statement from his spokesperson.

As speculation grew regarding Iran's potential involvement in the incident, a reporter

from The Wall Street Journal reached out to Iran's UN mission for comment. In response, the Iranian delegation firmly denied any role in the drone strike. "We reject the baseless allegations made by the Zionist regime regarding Iran's involvement," the mission said.

The statement went on to clarify that the attack was carried out by Hezbollah, the Lebanese Resistance group with longstanding tensions with Israel. "We have already responded to the regime's previous crimes, and this action was taken by the Lebanese Hezbollah," the Iranian mission emphasized.

Hungary's ambassador summoned by Iran over EU-GCC statement on Persian Gulf islands

TEHRAN – The Hungarian ambassador to Iran, Giola Peto, was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry following a joint statement by the European Union (EU) and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that reiterated claims over three islands in the Persian Gulf, a move Iran strongly opposes.

Hungary, currently holding the rotating presidency of the European Union, was called upon by Iran's Political Deputy of Foreign Affairs to express the country's strong protest against the EU-GCC statement.

Iran has long maintained its sovereignty over the disputed

islands—Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb—while other regional actors, notably the United Arab Emirates, continue to challenge Iran's claims.

During the meeting, the Director General of the Western Europe Department at Iran's Foreign Ministry emphasized the importance of

adhering to international law and the United Nations Charter, particularly the principles of respecting territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

The Iranian official condemned the European Union's support for baseless and illegal claims against Iran's rightful ownership of the islands.

Pezeshkian to meet with Egyptian counterpart in Russia

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on the sidelines of the upcoming BRICS summit in Russia, Arab media reported. According to a report from Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, the two presidents will convene during the upcoming BRICS summit in Kazan, which is scheduled for October 22 to 24.

This high-level meeting comes at a time of escalating tensions in the region, particularly between Iran and the Zionist regime, as well as

ongoing conflicts in countries such as Lebanon and Gaza. With Iran playing an increasingly prominent role in West Asian affairs, the Pezeshkian-El-Sisi meeting may be an opportunity for the two presidents to discuss regional issues and explore potential areas of cooperation.

Diplomatic sources from Egypt indicated that a framework for discussion was established during the recent visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to Cairo. President Pezeshkian is expected to depart for Russia on Tuesday to

participate in the 16th BRICS and BRICS Plus summits. His agenda includes meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, as well as attendance at the main BRICS session.

This 16th BRICS summit follows Iran's recent admission into the group, which expanded earlier this year to include Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, and Ethiopia. Russia has assumed the rotating presidency of BRICS in 2024 and will finish hosting over 400 events by the end of the year.

What are possible scenarios behind alleged leaked documents on Israel's plans to attack Iran?

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – On Friday, a telegram channel released what it said were 'top secret' U.S. intelligence documents prepared by the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Agency. The leaked documents spun out Washington's assessment of the Israeli Air Force's alleged preparations to attack Iran.

According to the documents, the U.S. has been observing Israel prepare for what seems could be a major military operation against Iran. The documents indicate that since October 8, Washington has watched Israel move a significant number of advanced missiles to the Hatzertim Airbase south of the occupied territories. On October 15 and 16, the regime moved more weapons to the Ramot David and Ramon airbases. The Israeli Air Force also conducted a large-scale training exercise on October 15, involving multiple aircraft, including tankers and Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) which are essentially flying radar stations.

The telegram channel called 'Middle East Spectator' said it received the documents through an anonymous source on the same messaging app. The source refused to identify himself and claimed to work in the U.S. Department of Defense, the news aggregator explained. "We are independent journalists and are not tied to any government entity or organization. We are exercising our full and inalienable right of press freedom."

The telegram channel's report



quickly transformed into a global firestorm. Within hours, the story blazed across the front pages of major Western and Israeli news outlets, fueled by the flames of concern from intelligence agencies. CNN and Axios were the first to fan the flames, with Axios quoting U.S. intelligence officials as saying they were "extremely concerned" about the supposed leak. "A U.S. official told Axios that the alleged leak is extremely concerning," the outlet reported, echoing the sentiment of a senior Israeli official who confirmed the leak and its "serious" implications for the regime.

The first U.S. official to eventually address the matter was U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, who announced that the American government was conducting an investigation. "There's some serious allegations being made there," the Republican told CNN on Sunday. "The investigation's underway and I'll get a briefing on that in a couple of hours."

Johnson did not comment on the authenticity of the leaks, but the New

York Times has reported that officials acknowledged privately that the documents were authentic.

What do the leaks indicate?

Despite the gravity of the leaked classified documents, many experts believe their contents are unlikely to change the course of potential Israeli action against Iran. Since Iran launched a barrage of approximately 200 ballistic missiles at Israeli military and intelligence bases in the occupied territories 20 days ago, the regime's high-ranking officials have escalated their rhetoric, saying they will make Iran pay a 'painful' price.

While Iran's attack only targeted military sites, Israeli politicians have openly discussed a range of potential strikes, from targeting military bases to crippling oil production and even hitting nuclear facilities. This is the second time Iran has directly challenged Israel from its own soil, following a similar but less powerful attack in April.

Now, with Hezbollah adding to the

regime's woes by striking a Golani brigade camp and Prime Minister Netanyahu's residence, the pressure is on for Israel's next move. This decision carries monumental weight: Any potential strike against Iran could either bolster the regime's positions or as Iranian officials have warned, accelerate Israel's perceived decline, a trend that's become increasingly apparent over the past year.

So, while the leaked intelligence documents about Israel's response may not change the course of events, they do raise questions about the source of the leak.

If the source of the leak is indeed an individual within the Department of Defense, as the Telegram channel claims, it could signal a deep rift within the American government. This could indicate a significant group of military and security analysts who oppose the current policies of policymakers. Echoing concerns voiced by many experts, these individuals may be deeply worried about Washington's potential sleepwalk into disaster by failing to restrain Israel's actions in West Asia.

However, if a government entity is behind the leak, the implications become even more complex. Washington could be seeking to prevent a full-blown conflict by alerting Iran to Israel's potential attack. Alternatively, Israel may be deliberately spreading misinformation to confuse Iran. Or perhaps Tehran is deliberately leaking information, aiming to demonstrate its superior intelligence capabilities and discourage Israeli aggression.

Iran's high council for human rights denounces rampant Israeli aggression

TEHRAN – Iran's High Council for Human Rights has issued a strong condemnation of the Israeli regime's acts of terror, including the assassination and massacre of Palestinians and the Resistance leaders.

In a statement released on Sunday, the council highlighted that those who supply arms and provide financial and political support to the Israeli regime, particularly the United States and certain European

nations, share responsibility for these crimes.

The council referred to Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas leader who was martyred by Israeli forces in Gaza, as a hero and a symbol of Resistance, noting that he had spent 22 years imprisoned by Israel.

"He was ultimately martyred while fighting against the occupying regime, armed and ready," the statement remarked, referencing the final

moments of Sinwar's life, which were recorded by an Israeli drone in Rafah. The statement asserted that the apartheid Israeli regime and its leaders were mistaken in believing that the assassination of Resistance fighters would enable them to fulfill their malicious objectives in Gaza and Lebanon. Yahya Sinwar was assassinated in an Israeli drone strike October 16 in the Gaza Strip.

Qalibaf upbraids Persian Gulf states for picking quarrels with Iran instead of focusing on Israel



Despite official statements of support, Persian Gulf states have offered limited tangible assistance to Gazans in the face of the harrowing Israeli actions over the past year

From Page 1 ▶ The remarks came in response to allegations raised during a joint meeting between the European Union (EU) and the GCC in Brussels, where both parties questioned Iran's claims to the three Persian Gulf islands: Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb.

Qalibaf dismissed these claims as unfounded, stating that the GCC should be focusing its energy on more pressing issues, such as Israel's ongoing military campaigns in Gaza and Lebanon.

"The GCC should have directed its capacities toward stopping the Israeli regime's war machine rather than making baseless allegations against the Islamic Republic," Qalibaf told lawmakers. He emphasized that Iran's sovereignty over the islands is non-negotiable and that any challenge to this principle would be met with a firm response.

"The islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb are inseparable parts of Iran, and no one will dare to take action against

this inalienable right," he said.

Qalibaf also warned the EU against what he called "testing Iran's resolve" on matters of territorial integrity, accusing European nations of aligning themselves with Israeli interests. He claimed that the EU, once known for its independence, has now become an instrument for justifying Israeli war crimes in Gaza and Lebanon.

He further criticized the international community for its failure to address Israel's military aggression in the region, highlighting the devastating impact of Israeli operations on civilian populations.

"Instead of standing against Israel's crimes, some countries are attempting to divert attention by making unsubstantiated claims about Iran," he said.

The speaker's comments echoed a statement issued on Thursday by Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations, which rejected the

allegations made by the EU and GCC. The statement emphasized that Iran's historical claim to the islands is backed by extensive legal and geographical evidence, dating back centuries.

The dispute over the islands has been a longstanding issue, with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) repeatedly contesting Iran's sovereignty.

The islands fell under British control in 1921 but were returned to Iran on November 30, 1971, just before the formation of the UAE. Despite this, the UAE has continued to assert its false claims, leading to ongoing tensions in the region.

Qalibaf concluded by reaffirming Iran's commitment to defending its territorial integrity, warning that any attempts to undermine Iranian sovereignty would be met with a decisive response.

"Those who question our sovereignty over the islands would be wise not to test the will of the Iranian people," he said.

gional countries to strengthen its position.

During the meeting with Mohamed Ismail Darwish, the head of Hamas's Shura Council, Araqchi condemned the Israeli government's actions in Gaza, labeling them a disgrace to both Israel and its Western allies, particularly the United States. He accused these powers of providing "irresponsible and illegal support" to Israel, leading to the dire humanitarian situation in both Gaza and Lebanon.

Araqchi concluded by reaffirming Iran's unwavering support for Hamas, stating that the sacrifices made by Sinwar and other martyrs would fuel the Palestinian resistance and ultimately lead to liberation from Israeli occupation.

Hamas to remain a powerful force despite loss of Sinwar: Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has declared that the Palestinian Resistance group Hamas remains a powerful force, undeterred by the recent loss of its leader, Yahya Sinwar. Araqchi made these remarks while in Turkey, leading a diplomatic delegation to participate in the 3+3 South Caucasus Regional Cooperation Platform in Istanbul. On the sidelines of this event, he met with senior officials from Hamas on Saturday.

Speaking to the press following the meeting, Araqchi stated, "The martyrdom of Sinwar and others does not diminish the reality that Hamas is alive and remains a central player in Palestine, a fact that no one can ignore or eradicate."

The Iranian diplomat also took aim at Israel, asserting that despite a year of war on Gaza, the Israeli government has failed to achieve its objectives.

He highlighted that over 50,000 lives have been lost, countless homes destroyed, and numerous war crimes committed, yet Israel has made little headway in quelling Palestinian Resistance. Araqchi revealed that he held extensive discussions with members of the Hamas political bureau, covering a wide range of issues, including the ongoing war in Gaza and the possibility of ceasefire negotiations.

He stressed that Hamas "is more alive than ever" and plans to continue engaging with re-

OCTOBER 21, 2024

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Iran basketball coach Manolopoulos returns to Tehran

TEHRAN – Iran national basketball team head coach Sotirios Alex Manolopoulos returned to Tehran Saturday evening.

It was rumored that he was not going to return to Iran. The Greek coach was named Team Melli coach in August.

Iran prepare for the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup qualification, where they will play Kazakhstan on Nov. 22. According to Iran's basketball federation, women's team basketball coach Eleni Kapogianni will travel to Tehran next month.

Azmoun's goal among best goals of 2024 World Cup qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran forward Sardar Azmoun's goal is among the best goal of Matchdays 3 & 4 of the 2024 World Cup qualifiers.

After the conclusion of Matchdays Three and Four of the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26, the-afc.com looks back at some of the best goals from across the continent. From long-range screamers to fabulous team moves and acrobatic efforts, the goals flowed over the past two rounds of fixtures and now it's time for the fans to vote for their favorite.

One of Iran's star forwards equalized with a brilliant header when Omid Noorafkan's left-footed delivery into the box was met by an unmarked Sardar Azmoun who made finding the top corner look easy with his first goal of the third round. Azmoun once again was on target in the second half, helping Team Melli come from one goal behind to win the match 4-1.

Ghaedi nets brace against Al Bataeh in President Cup

TEHRAN – Ittihad Kalba achieved a 3-0 victory against Al Bataeh on Saturday in the Round of 16 of the President's Cup.

Mehdi Ghaedi scored for Kalba in the 59th at the Khalid bin Mohammed Stadium and was on target one again in the 85th minute.

Daniel Bessa also scored for Kalba in the 66th minute. Kalba's victory propels the team into the quarterfinals of the tournament. The UAE President's Cup, or simply the President Cup, is a football tournament between clubs in the UAE Pro League and the UAE First Division League. The winner qualifies for the AFC Champions League.

Azmoun scores as Shabab Al Ahli beat Dibba Al Hisn

TEHRAN – Iran international forward Sardar Azmoun scored against Dibba Al Hisn in the UAE President's Cup on Saturday.

In the match took place at Dibba Al Hisn Stadium in the Round of 16, Shabab Al Ahli defeated its host 2-0. Federico Cartabia scored in the 5th minute, followed by Azmoun's goal in the 9th minute.

The UAE President's Cup, or simply the President Cup, is a football tournament between clubs in the UAE Pro League and the UAE First Division League. The winner qualifies for the AFC Champions League.

Al Sadd, Persepolis to lock horn in ACL Elite

TEHRAN – Al Sadd SC will aim to continue their fine start when they welcome Persepolis to the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium for its AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25 tie on Monday.

Qatar's Al Sadd is on four points after two matches with Iran's Persepolis needing victory after having opened their campaign with a draw and a defeat.

Although Al Sadd did not appear in the knockout stage at the continental level in the last three editions of the AFC Champions League, they will head into the tie against Persepolis not having lost at the group stage in their past four matches.

A 2-0 defeat of Persepolis' domestic rivals Esteghlal on Matchday Two has boosted confidence and AFC Champions 2011 winners Al Sadd will be aiming for a second successive win to stay in the race for a spot in the Round of 16.

Persepolis are in desperate need of a win, with the two-time AFC Champions League runners-up having had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor after an opening match 1-0 defeat to Al Ahli Saudi FC.

The Iranian champions, however, have won four of their seven previous encounters against Al Sadd and will be hopeful of extending their record.

Sayyadmanesh converts penalty against Club Brugge

TEHRAN – Westerlo forward Allahyar Sayyadmanesh converted his penalty kick in Matchday 11 of the Jupiler Pro League against Club Brugge. On Saturday, Westerlo lost to Club Brugge 2-1 at the Het Kuipje.

Jorne Spileers scored an early goal for the visiting team and Hans Vanaked made it 2-0 in the 24th minute.

Iranian winger Sayyadmanesh pulled a goal back from the penalty spot in the 41st minute.

Brugge took an early lead after a goal from Spileers and halfway through the first half Vanaken doubled the score.

Club Brugge took an important victory and can confidently travel to San Siro for a duel against AC Milan!

Iranian women make history in 2024 Canoe Polo World Championships

From Page 1 ▶ Iran lost to the Netherlands 2-1 in the third-place match. New Zealand won the title after defeating Italy 6-1.

Iran's men's team defeated Australia 7-4 and came in 15th place. Defending champions Germany claimed the title with a 2-1 win over France in the final.

A total of 71 teams from 27 countries and all five continents took part in the tournament.

The 2025 World Games, commonly known as Chengdu 2025, is the 12th edition of the World Games, which includes sports and sporting disciplines that are not contested in the Olympic Games.

It is expected to be held from 7 to 17 August 2025 in Chengdu, Sichuan, China. This is the first edition to be held under the guidelines set by the strategy paper "Growth Beyond Excellence", the third edition to be held in Asia, and the first time for the nation to host the World Games.

Foolad, Shahdab discover fate in 2024 Volleyball Club World

TEHRAN – Iranian teams Foolad Sirjan and Shahdab Yazd discovered their opponents in the 2024 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

Foolad Sirjan are drawn in Pool A along with Brazil's Praia Clube, Italy's Cucine Lube and Egyptian Al Ahly.

Shahdab, Itas Trentino of Italy, Brazil's Sada Cruzeiro and Argentina's Ciudad Voley are in Pool B. The 2024 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship will be the 19th edition of the competition.

It will be held at the Sabiazinho Arena in Uberlandia, Brazil from Dec. 10 to 15.

'Iran ready to host TRACECA ministerial meeting'



Iranian Transport Minister Farzaneh Sadegh (R) and TRACECA Corridor Secretary General Assavbayev (2nd L) meet in Tehran on Saturday

TEHRAN – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh has expressed Iran's readiness for hosting the upcoming meeting of the TRACECA ministers which is due to be held in February 2025.

Sadegh made the remarks in a meeting with TRACECA Corridor Secretary General Assavbayev in Tehran on Saturday, IRNA reported.

During a two-day trip, Assavbayev traveled to Astara from the headquarters of the TRASICA secretariat in Baku and visited the railway and road lines of this route, and finally came to Tehran to discuss the preparations for holding the meeting of TRASICA ministers and transferring the chairmanship of the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission to Iran.

As reported, in the meeting with Assavbayev, the Iranian side presented the Islamic Republic's initiatives for the chairmanship of TRCECA, including increasing the cooperation of the member countries of TRASICA and promoting Iran's transit role in the region.

TRACECA corridor is involved in gradually developing trends of trade and economic development. Major traffic flows passing through a corridor formed on the one hand, in Western and Central Europe, and on the other – in Central and South-East Asia.

The attractiveness of TRACECA countries is confirmed by their interest in extending regional cooperation and development services.

After the completion of the Strategy implementation with the support of the European Union Technical Assistance projects the TRACECA countries are prepared to get down

to a new stage of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia corridor development.

TRACECA (acronym: Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia) is an international transport program involving the European Union and 12 member states of the Eastern European, Caucasus, and Central Asian region. The program aim is to strengthen economic relations, trade, and transport in the regions of the Black Sea basin, South Caucasus, and Central Asia. It has a permanent Secretariat, originally financed by the European Commission, in Baku, Azerbaijan, and a regional office in Odesa, Ukraine. Since 2009, the organization has been entirely financed by member countries.

TRACECA was established in May 1993 in Brussels, upon the signing of a Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for the development of transport initiatives (including the establishment and development of a road corridor) between the EU member states, Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries.

The program supports the political and economic independence of former Soviet Union republics through enhancing their access to European and global markets through road, rail and sea. The objectives of TRACECA were underlined by the Baku Initiative of 2004, followed by a further ministerial conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 2006.

Iran officially joined TRACECA in 2009 after their request was accepted during a meeting held in Brussels.

In 1996, Mongolia was granted observer status.

In 2009, Lithuania was granted observer status.

In July 2016, Greece announced they are considering joining TRACECA activities as an observer. In March 2018, Greece was granted observer status during a meeting held in Yerevan.

TRACECA has five working groups: maritime transport, aviation, road and rail, transport security, and transport infrastructure. Amongst its specific projects, was the creation of a new bridge to replace and protect the heritage Red Bridge, located between Georgia and Azerbaijan.

In July 2023, it was announced for TRACECA to join the eTIR international system.

Over \$9.2b invested in water, wastewater projects

TEHRAN – Iran's National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company has managed to attract 4.6 quadrillion rials (over \$9.2 billion) of investment in the country's water and wastewater projects, an official with the company said.

According to Mohammad Tafazoli, the company has managed to implement and financed many projects in different ways, such as cross-selling, retention of title (ROT), build-operate-transfer (BOT), and build-own-operate (BOO) contracts.

TEDPIX falls nearly 20,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 19,959 points to 2,021,117 on Sunday, which is the second day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

In mid-September, the head of Iran Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) said the entity will take the necessary measures to ensure that the direct and indirect interests of the stock market are considered in next year's budget bill.

"We are taking special measures in relation to the budget bill and issues that directly or indirectly affect the capital market," Hojatollah Seyedi stated.

He has also said that improving the stock market's efficiency is the main priority of the SEO in the current government administration

"In the 14th government, our mission is to protect the rights and interests of shareholders, facilitate the formation of capital, and improve the efficiency of the market which is the priority of the SEO programs," Seyedi underlined.

"The capacities of the capital market are huge

and I believe that this market has room for a leap and now we are on the threshold of that leap," the official further noted.

"Now, in addition to great capital and capabilities of the companies, we have powerful workforces, investors and competent managers in the market, so there is no reason why our capital market should not develop and reach at least 300 to 400 billion dollars of gross domestic product," he added.

Emphasizing that big steps should be taken in this regard, the official continued: "I have decided to work to this end with high motivation to play a small role in the development of the country."

The head of the Securities and Exchange Organization pointed to the capital market as a regulatory and supervisory body and said: "In this regard, our mission is to protect the rights of shareholders, promote market efficiency and facilitate capital formation, which are connected to each other like the sides of a triangle. But the question is, which of these factors can be the driving force as a more independent variable?"

"The important variable is the improvement of market efficiency, that is, the formation of more capital, which, in addition to increasing capital, also preserves the rights of shareholders," he finally said.

Iran, China stress promoting trade ties, exchanging business delegations

TEHRAN – In a meeting between the head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Mahmoud Najafi-Arab and Cong Peiwu, the ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Iran, the two sides stressed promoting trade ties and the exchange of business delegations between the two countries.

In this meeting, which was also attended by China's commercial attaché and the secretary general of the TCCIMA, the two sides discussed the creation of a green line for obtaining visas for economic operators who are members of the TCCIMA, and the Chinese ambassador announced the readiness of this embassy to facilitate the process of issuing business visas.

As the TCCIMA portal reported, during the talks, Najafi-Arab referred to the activities of the China Affairs Office at the TCCIMA and the launch of the website of this chamber in Chinese and mentioned some of the common areas for economic cooperation between the private sector of the two countries.

According to the official, one of the obstacles in the way of the development of economic cooperation between the two sides is financial and banking problems for which the governments of the two countries must find a solution.

Najafi-Arab also pointed to the joint investment of the two countries in producing pharmaceutical raw materials in Iran as a win-win economic opportunity for the two countries and reminded that considering the cheap energy and raw materials in Iran, the production of these products in Iran can be attractive for the manufacturers of medicine in China, who have a large share in the trade of such products in the world.

Further in the meeting, Zong



TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi-Arab (L) and Chinese Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu

Pei Wu announced the readiness of the Chinese embassy to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the Tehran Chamber of Commerce in promoting cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries, introducing each other's market information and resolving cooperation disputes between the companies of both sides.

He stated that the President of China has recently announced and unveiled a part of China's economic reforms at an important summit in this country, and noted that new opportunities for economic cooperation between China and Iran can be seen in this regard.

During a meeting between the Chinese ambassador in Tehran and Iran's Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati at the place of the ministry on October 14, the Iranian official emphasized the importance of implementing the memorandums of understanding (MOUs) signed between Iran and China.

In this meeting, Hemmati followed up on the negotiations that took place during the BRICS Economic Ministers' Meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, stressing the importance of implementing the MOUs between the two countries.

He also considered the two countries' Joint Economic Committee as a suitable platform for negotiations on economic, trade, and investment cooperation, and welcomed the holding of the 19th Joint Economic Committee in Tehran.

Cong Peiwu, for his part, stated that Beijing aims to expedite the implementation of the MOUs and enhance practical cooperation to deepen relations between the two countries.

Both sides also highlighted the commitment of their statesmen to comprehensive development, expressing hope that consultations between senior officials of Iran and China will continue to expand bilateral relations.

In late September, Hemmati had also met and held talks with Chinese Minister of Finance Lan Fo'an, during which the two sides emphasized the implementation of the two countries' long-term strategic partnership plan.

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

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 MOUs 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.

Container operation rises 5% in Iran's ports in H1

TEHRAN- Based on the data released by Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry, the container operation has increased five percent in the ports of country during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

According to the mentioned data, 1,342,672 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of container goods have been unloaded and loaded in the country's ports in the first six months of this year, while the figure was 1,284,604 TEUs in the first six months of the previous year.

Based on the Transport Ministry's released data, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased by seven percent in the first six months of the present Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As reported, 81 million tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports in the first half of the current Iranian year while the figure was 76 million tons in the first half of the previous year.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support for ports and their development serious and vital.

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

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

Ports and Maritime Organization has put it on the agenda to attract 300 trillion rials (about \$600 million) of investment from the private sector in the country's ports by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late

March 2025).

As reported by the PMO portal, the mentioned investment is going to be used to develop the infrastructure and operational capacity of the country's ports.

Back in July, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei said over the past few years the organization has managed to attract nearly \$1.7 billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country's ports and maritime sector.

Speaking in a press conference, Safaei said some 620 trillion rials (about \$1.24 billion) of domestic investment and \$470 million of foreign investment have been attracted in the mentioned sectors.

"The attraction of this amount of private sector investment is significant compared to the total budget of the government in the sea and port sectors," he said.

According to the official, regarding foreign investment, PMO has signed contracts with five countries including India which has so far invested \$120 million in the port sector and \$250 million in the rail, roads, and infrastructure sectors.

Referring to the growth of maritime trade in the country, Safaei continued: "Maritime trade increased from 215 million tons in [the Iranian calendar year] 1401 (2022-2023) to 237 million tons last year (ended on March 19, 2024)."

"In the first quarter of the current year, 60 million tons of maritime trade was recorded, which shows a 10 percent growth compared to the same period last year, and even a 70 percent growth was recorded in some parts of the Caspian Sea," he added.

On September 30, Iran's Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said that the initial draft of the country's Maritime-oriented Development Plan has been prepared by the government.

The 14th government is determined to formulate and implement additional and more comprehensive plans and programs in the field of sea-oriented development," Aref stated.

The Vice President also congratulated the

World Maritime Day to the members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in a message published by IRNA.

"Since the beginning of human creation, the sea has always been the field of communication and the platform for development and civilization. Those countries that have access to the sea have the potential to become powerful in various regional and global arenas, as well as the ability to develop faster. In any country, having access to the sea is a great opportunity for progress and maintaining national interests," he said in his message.

Aref has also called on the Iranian authorities in charge of the country's maritime sector to strengthen logistics and corridor routes, facilitate entering new markets, use smart technologies, strengthen employment, create large and small-scale production units in ports and coastal areas, modernize the commercial fleet and port equipment as well as the railway and road lines, and train responsible and efficient workforces for sea-oriented development while preserving and safeguarding the marine environment in compliance with international regulations and conventions.

He also emphasized the necessity for the country's scholars and think tanks to help the government realize its plans for developing the maritime sector.

PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei also congratulated the World Maritime Day in a separate message.

In his message, Safaei mentioned the IMO's world maritime theme 2024 which is "Navigating the future: safety first!" and said: "The International Maritime Organization has once again emphasized providing safety and the necessity of maritime security by choosing the slogan "Navigating the future: safety first!" for 2024; since its formation, this organization has always expressed concerns about protecting the marine environment against pollution caused by shipping in the framework of the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution (MARPOL)"

Beit Lahiya bloodshed: Palestinians pay the price for Arab and Western leaders' inaction

From page 1 ▶ Israeli attacks have led to severed phone and internet access. Communication blackouts along with road obstructions have hampered rescue efforts in Beit Lahiya.

On Saturday, a Gaza health official told Al Jazeera that three partially functioning hospitals treating severely wounded patients and sheltering thousands of displaced Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza were out of service after coming under intense Israeli fire.

According to the Doha-based news channel, Israeli forces bombed al-Awda Hospital in Jabalia on Saturday and also shelled Kamal Adwan and the Indonesian hospitals in Beit Lahiya.

The UN humanitarian coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory, Muhannad Hadi, also said Saturday that the Indonesian Hospital "is no longer operational."

War of extermination

The Gaza Media Office condemned the Israeli assault on Beit Lahiya as "a horrific massacre".

It added, "The Israeli occu-



An Israeli airstrike on Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip has killed nearly 100 Palestinians.

(Ahmed/AFP/Getty Images)

pation army continues its clear campaign of ethnic cleansing, extermination, and genocide, this time in Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip."

Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya also denounced the Israeli massacre in Beit Lahiya.

"The Zionist occupation is carrying out a planned operation to uproot our people in northern

Gaza," he said.

The massacre in Beit Lahiya comes a week after the White House gave Israel one month to reverse course on sealing off the north or risk losing American military assistance.

But Israel continued its carnage in Gaza despite the US warning. The Beit Lahiya massacre has once again indicated that

such US warnings are only aimed at appeasing domestic opposition to Washington's unwavering support for Israel's war of genocide in Gaza.

Other Western countries such as Britain, Germany and France have also paid lip service and failed to take any practical measures to stop Israel's killing machine in Gaza.

Arab states have also kept mum about Israel's brutalities, in particular in northern Gaza over the past two weeks.

On October 12, the World Food Program stated that no food had entered northern Gaza since the start of the month

Aid officials also said on Saturday that they have seen no indications Israel is seeking to significantly increase aid to the area.

For now, as Israel is starving Palestinians in northern Gaza, the lack of action from Western and regional Arab states has emboldened the regime to continue its crimes against Palestinians with impunity.

Hezbollah escalates missile attacks on Israel Resistance movement fires huge medium-range missile salvos

From page 1 ▶ Hebrew media reported some 15 firefighting teams were busy on Sunday trying to extinguish fires in Safad, Amiad and Rosh Pinna following rocket launches from Lebanon.

Sirens also sounded in Haifa over fears of a drone infiltration. Israeli media reported a drone flying over Haifa and Krayot, once again evading Israeli air defense systems. Footage showed the drone had struck an area, the location of which has yet to be specified.

In statements, Hezbollah announced that it targeted a gathering of Israeli enemy forces at the Maale Golani barracks with a rocket barrage, as well as a gathering of "enemy forces in the Yiftah, Katzrin, Adamit, Shlomi and Ya'ara settlements with rocket barrages."

The Hezbollah resistance movement says it is not only waging military operations against Israeli targets in solidarity with Gaza but also in defense of Lebanon.

Israeli drones and fighter jets also launched around a dozen consecutive airstrikes on Beirut's southern suburb and its surrounding ar-



eas.

The Israeli airstrikes targeted residential buildings in the neighborhoods of Haret Hreik, Burj al-Barajneh, and Chouefat, leveling them to the ground.

Footage shows large-scale destruction caused by the Israeli air force around the al-Hassanien Mosque in Haret Hreik in the southern suburb of Beirut, also known as al-Dahieh.

On Sunday, the Lebanese army announced that three of its soldiers have been martyred by an Israeli strike on a vehicle in the south of Lebanon.

Hezbollah has also been targeting Israeli occupation forces (IOF) in the occupied Kfar Chouba and Shebaa Hills as they continue their attempts to invade from this area.

The attempts to invade from these locations have been going on for several days now, highlighting how the IOF's invasion efforts are still being aborted.

The Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth said with the increasing daily confrontations between the Israeli military and Hezbollah fighters, the IOF is acknowledging the strict military discipline and hierarchical structure of Hezbollah.

The newspaper added that Hezbollah is fighting at the border with only hundreds of fighters while keeping larger forces in reserve for a long-term battle.

Sohmor mayor among 3 martyred in Israeli strike on Baaloul

Israel deliberately targets civilians and civilian actors



Hajj Haidar Shahla



Hajj Hassan Shahla



Mahdi Menhem

From page 1 ▶ Hajj Haidar Shahla was also keen to immediately reopen the roads that the Israeli occupation army systematically cut off. He also took immediate steps to restore water and electricity to households even though the hostile MK drones and aircraft have not left the skies of Sohmor since October last year.

Despite the limited capacities of Sohmor municipality resulting from the economic woes facing Lebanon, Shaheed (Martyr) Hajj Haidar Shahla was keen to serve the people of Sohmor, focusing on development and educational services. During the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Hajj Haidar formed a crisis cell to secure health services for patients.

He also had a long record of generosity and caring for orphans and poor families. Days before being targeted, the Zionist regime shelled his home. His martyrdom and the shelling of his house revealed the lies by Washington that Israel just targets Hezbollah and its fighters.

Hajj Haidar Shahla also took various initiatives to secure the basic needs of the steadfast people in Sohmor and that is why the Zionists

assassinated him. However, his name will remain immortalized in the record of the victory makers in the town of Sohmor known as "the mother of martyrs". His name will be added to the list of his three martyred siblings.

Hajj Haidar Shahla was martyred with his cousin Hajj Hassan Shahla, an exemplary helpful man according to the people of Western Bekaa, especially the town where he was martyred, i.e. Baaloul.

For many years, Hajj Hassan Shahla built with his own hands and the hands of his skilled builders most of the stone walls there. He was martyred after days of exhaustion while trying to provide safe housing for the displaced.

Along with Hajj Haidar Shahla and Hajj Hassan Shahla, Mahdi Menhem was martyred too. He was the father of Ali Menhem, a civilian, who was killed during the first raid on Sohmor on September 23, 2023. The fourth martyr is a young man named Abdullah Dheeb. The only child of his family from the town of Qaraoun, Dheeb, a scout, was martyred while passing by.

As in Gaza, the occupation regime is adopting

a strategy of "restructuring the administrative dimension of the regions" by killing mayors, dignitaries, family representatives, and anyone responsible for any of the civil service sectors. In parallel, the Israeli occupation regime deliberately bombs municipal equipment and machinery to prevent them from providing urgent services.

In addition to killing mayors and employees of municipalities, as it did with the mayor of Nabatieh and his assistants, the raids deliberately target ambulances and food aid. These actions constitute war crimes according to international law that grants these civilian figures immunity from being targeted during wars.

These daily massacres reveal the savagery of the US-Zionist aggression, which seeks to paralyze all the components of normal life at an unprecedented pace, particularly residential neighborhoods, infrastructure projects, farms, industries, forests and orchards.

Saudi TV's new role: A mouthpiece for US and Israeli assassination campaigns

TEHRAN- The recent controversy ignited by a Saudi-owned television channel has spotlighted the animosity of certain Arab states towards the Palestinian resistance and their struggle against the Israeli occupation.

Last week, MBC Media Group aired a report in which it tried to demonize regional resistance leaders and military commanders who have been assassinated by Israel and the United States.

It described Hamas leaders Ismail Haniyeh and Yahya Sinwar along with Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who were assassinated by Israel this year, as well as Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, a veteran Iraqi resistance official, assassinated in a US drone strike in January 2020, as "faces of terrorism."

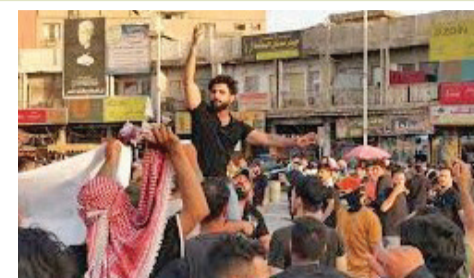
The offensive action provoked outrage among the Iraqi populace, leading them to demonstrate outside the Baghdad offices of the Saudi broadcaster.

Iraq's commission governing media said on Saturday that it would take steps to revoke MBC's license in the country.

It said in a statement that its duty was to "deter violators of national values and public morals" and that MBC had repeatedly violated the rules in "its assaults on the martyrs."

Saudi Arabia has attempted to distance itself from the insulting move. Its regulatory authority for media said it had referred "officials of a TV channel to investigation due to a news report that violates the Kingdom's media regulations and policy."

People in West Asia revere the Lebanese



Iraqi protesters stormed MBC's offices in Baghdad to vent their anger at the broadcaster's offensive move against regional resistance leaders and commanders.

and Palestinian resistance leaders for their indomitable spirit and struggle against Israel's decades-long atrocities.

General Soleimani is also widely esteemed in the region for helping the Iraqi and Syrian military forces to defeat the ISIL terrorist group.

Some Arab states including the UAE and Bahrain normalized ties with Israel in 2020. Saudi Arabia has not done so, yet its clandestine connections with the Tel Aviv regime are widely recognized.

Close relations between Arab states and Israel come as people in the Arab world are opposed to the normalization of ties with the regime. Their move has been condemned as a stab in the back of the Palestinian cause.

Presently, the MBC's report is in line with Israel's nefarious activities against regional resistance leaders and commanders. In fact, the Saudi-owned channel has condoned Israel's assassination campaigns and turned into the regime's mouthpiece.

Ryan Crocker: I foresee a very long insurgency by Hamas

The idea that ground invasion of Lebanon and occupation will make Galilee safer is 'delusional'

TEHRAN - Former US ambassador Ryan Crocker, a veteran diplomat known as "America's Lawrence of Arabia" for his deep understanding of the Middle East, tells Politico that the Israelis have forgotten their own recent history.

Crocker says what he most fears is Israeli overconfidence following the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

Crocker says Israel must now seize the chance for a ceasefire and free hostages, but history suggests Israel and its enemies won't take it.

Crocker spent nearly four decades representing America's interests in the Arab world, serving as U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Kuwait, as well as to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Now retired, Crocker believes the hostilities between Israel and Hamas and Hezbollah — as well as Iran — are nowhere near to ending. The death of Sinwar, which followed the assassination of Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah last month, will result mainly in the continuation of a guerrilla war unless the US and Israel work hard toward a cease-fire, Crocker tells the American magazine.

The current situation is all too similar to what happened four decades ago when the Israelis invaded Lebanon, Crocker says. "That invasion and the subsequent Israeli occupation created Hezbollah. This invasion is not going to end it." He adds: "One thing I've learned over years, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan, is that the concept of the defeat of an adversary only has meaning in the mind of that adversary. If that adversary feels defeated, he is defeated. If he doesn't, he's not."

On what the death of Yahya Sinwar signifies, he says organizations such as Hamas operate without direction from the leader. "I would not see much change on the battlefield itself. That said, we know that Hamas has lost its organized capability to a very large degree but that would be the case with or without Sinwar."

Crocker sees "greater residual capability on the part of Hezbollah." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the "balance of power" in the region has changed in Israel's favor. However, the former



veteran diplomat says, "I would say that's premature. Clearly Hezbollah fights on. Rockets are still flying across the border, as are drones. They're decentralized. Clearly Hamas as well as Hezbollah is decentralized. They're certainly ground down in terms of their capability of delivering anything like a meaningful response. But I foresee a very long insurgency by Hamas."

Crocker says, "It's a very different dynamic in the north (Lebanon). In a sense Netanyahu has set the bar very high, in that he's trying to stop the rocket fire in a definitive way so that 60,000 Israelis can go back home. Though all Hezbollah has to do is keep enough rockets crossing the border to make that difficult."

"Peace for Galilee"

"I was in Lebanon in 1982 when the Israelis invaded. They called their operation 'Peace for Galilee.' And 42 years later Lebanon is further from peace than it was in '82 when that invasion kicked off. That invasion and the subsequent Israeli occupation created Hezbollah. This invasion is not going to end it."

"No change in power equation"

In response to the Israeli assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31 which was followed by the assassinations of the Hezbollah leader and Iran's top military advisor to Lebanon in Beirut in a massive airstrike two months later, Iran fired 180 ballistic missiles at military and intelligence sites inside Israel on October 1. Since that date, Israel has been warning that it will retaliate.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Archaeological survey in northern Iran uncovers 4,000-year-old artifacts



cultural objects such as pottery shards and stone tools, offering valuable insights into the ancient cultural landscape of the Gorgan region.

Tepe Kafshgiri was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2004 under the number 11284. Mousavi explained that the encroachment of the modern village of Kafshgiri, along with ongoing construction and land-use requests from local residents, necessitated the survey to establish legal boundaries and safeguard the archaeological site.

"The objective of the project is to ensure that proper legal measures are in place to protect this heritage site, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts," Mousavi added.

Tepe Kafshgiri was initially identified in 1932 by Swedish archaeologist T.J. Arne, and later mapped during the 1980s by a Japanese archaeologist as part of the archaeological surveys of Gorgan.

When it comes to archaeology, Gorgan is well famed for being home to an ancient defensive barrier named ("The Great Wall of Gorgan") which stretched some 200 km in length and was built to prevent the invasion of the northern tribes.

TEHRAN - An archaeological survey aimed at defining the boundaries and proposing a protected zone for Tepe Kafshgiri, a historic hill in Gorgan county of Golestan province, has concluded under the supervision of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

Seyyed Meqdad Mousavi, head of the archaeological team, has announced the discovery of significant artifacts from the Middle and Late Bronze Age, dating back approximately 4,000 years, CHTN reported on Sunday.

Among the finds were remnants of pottery kilns, ovens, architectural structures, and

24 tourism projects planned in Hormozgan with \$4 million investment



and Larak.

The projects encompass a variety of initiatives, such as the construction of seaside tourism centers, tourist complexes, traditional teahouses, and eco-lodges, the report said.

Mohseni highlighted that the projects are expected to create over 150 direct and indirect jobs when they are implemented, contributing to the local economy.

He emphasized the potential of these tourism projects to act as catalysts for economic and social development, enhancing income levels and improving the quality of life in the region.

Situated on the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, Hormozgan is home to picturesque coasts, natural and historical landmarks, and bustling shopping centers always attracting tourists' attention to the southern province.

Hormozgan borders Kerman to the north and northeast, Fars and Bushehr to the west and northwest, and is adjacent to Sistan-Baluchestan to the east.

TEHRAN - Hormozgan's tourism directorate has approved 24 projects to be developed across the southern Iranian province, backed by an estimated investment of about \$4 million.

The decision was made during the ninth meeting of the directorate's tourism investment technical committee, as announced by Mohammad Mohseni, the provincial tourism chief, IRIB reported on Sunday.

The approved projects will be developed in Bandar Abbas, Jask, Sirik, Bandar Lengeh, Parsian, Bastak, and the islands of Hormuz

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Plitvice Lakes National Park

Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia's largest national park covering almost 30,000 hectares, is situated in the lower elevations of the Dinarides in the central part of the country. Within a beautiful karst landscape dominated by a mix of forests and meadows, the magnificent Plitvice lake system stands out, fascinating scientists and visitors alike. Interconnected by many waterfalls and watercourses above and below ground, the lakes are grouped into the upper and lower lakes. The former are formed on dolomites, with mild relief, not so steep shores and enclosed by thick forests, whereas the latter, smaller and shallower, are situated in limestone canyon with partially steep shores.

The lake system is the result of millennia of ongoing geological and biochemical processes creating natural dams known as tufa barriers. These are formed by the deposition of calcium carbonate from the waters flowing through the property. In the case of the Plitvice lake system, this geochemical process of tufa formation interacts with living organisms, most im-

portantly mosses, algae and aquatic bacteria. The scale of the overall lake system and the natural barriers are an exceptional expression of the aesthetically stunning phenomenon, acknowledged since the late 19th century. Plitvice Lakes National Park area is mainly covered with very well preserved forests essential for the continuity of geochemical processes in water system (above and below ground), which include an area of 84 ha of old-growth forest of beech and fir.

Besides the striking landscape beauty and the processes that continue to shape the lakes, the park is also home to noteworthy biodiversity. The tufa barriers themselves provide habitat for diverse and highly specialized communities of non-vascular plants. Brown Bear, Grey Wolf and Lynx along with many rare species roam the forests, while the meadows are known for their rich flora.

(Source: UNESCO)

Standardization project for lighting and landscaping begins at Hafez mausoleum

TEHRAN - Fars province's tourism chief has announced the launch of a project aimed at standardizing the landscaping, lighting, and visitor signage at Hafez mausoleum, a historical and cultural site where the 14th-century Persian poet is laid to rest.

"The project aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal of this unique site," Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi said on Sunday on the sidelines of his visit to the cultural site, which is located in Shiraz, the capital of Fars province.

He noted that the initiative also serves as a pilot project for the standardization of other historical and cultural landmarks across the southern Iranian province.

"The tomb of Hafez, dedicated



to one of the greatest literary figures in Iran and the world, consistently draws admirers and enthusiasts from across the globe," Sabet-Eqlidi said.

"It is essential that the atmosphere of the site reflects the appropriate grandeur of such

an iconic figure. The beautification and standardization efforts are currently underway to meet this objective."

Better known as Hafezieh in Iran, the site is set in a charming orchard. Hafez's tomb is surmounted by an octagonal dome

supported by eight stone columns. The internal side of the tomb bears elaborate tilework.

Hafez poetry soaked in a deep sense of humanity echoes ranges of historical events, biographical descriptions, and details of life in his hometown, Shiraz. He is most famous for his Divan and among the many partial English translations of this work are those by Gertrude Bell and H. Wilberforce Clarke.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, night-ingles, 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.

Haj Agha Ali's house: a glimpse into Iran's architectural heritage

TEHRAN - Located near Rafsanjan in Kerman province, southern Iran, Haj Agha Ali's house stands as one of the largest and most striking adobe residences in Iran, attracting visitors with its grandeur and intricate design.

Constructed in the late Qajar era by Haj Agha Ali, also known as Zaeim-Allah Rafsanjani, a prosperous 19th-century merchant, the house reflects the wealth and social prominence of its owner. Trading goods across Iran and beyond with countries like China and India, Haj Agha Ali's thriving business enabled him to construct this extraordinary estate among several others.

The house, often likened to an adobe palace, exemplifies traditional Iranian desert architecture. Designed for seasonal use, each side of the central courtyard contains rooms and halls tailored to specific seasons. The house features exquisite interior plasterwork, while its exterior boasts symmetrical patterns of neatly arranged bricks.

Visitors also witness influences from Western architecture, which began to surface during the Qajar period, adding layers



of cultural fusion. Some people describe the building's style as a blend of Iranian, Roman, Greek, Indian, and European architectural elements.

Built with climate-sensitive principles, the structure maintains an introverted layout, enclosed by high stratigraphic walls. This "four seasons" house comprises 86 rooms, including the Haftdari, Panjdari, Sedari, and Pastoo, each offering distinct purposes. Seasonal spaces such as the spring house, au-

tumn room, winter room, and alcove demonstrate thoughtful architectural planning.

Beyond the house, the larger complex includes essential amenities of the time: a mosque, caravanserai, water storage with decorative brick and ceramic work, a bathhouse, and an ice house. These features transport visitors back to a bygone era of self-sustained living.

The soaring domes, elegant arches, intricate moldings, and towering pine trees within the complex make Haj Agha Ali's house a captivating destination for tourists.

The property offers not only an architectural masterpiece but also an opportunity to experience the legacy of a wealthy merchant's life during the Qajar era.

Kerman province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribal inhabitants. It is home to myriad historical sites and scenic landscapes, such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Jabalieh Dome, Ganjali Khan Bathhouse, Malek Jameh Mosque and Shahdad Desert to name a few.

Commentary book on Great Mongol Shahnameh to be unveiled in Tehran



TEHRAN - A Persian translation of a commentary book on the Great Ilkhanid Shahnameh, which is one of the oldest and most valuable illustrated manuscripts remaining from Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, is set to be unveiled in Tehran on Tuesday.

The Great Mongol Shahnameh also known as the Demotte Shahnameh or Great Ilkhanid Shahnameh was produced in the 14th century in the context of the Ilkhanid court ruling Persia as part of the Mongol Empire, about a century after their conquest.

The commentary's author, Abolala Soudavar, and its team of translators alongside some scholars and enthusiasts of Persian art and history have been

invited to attend the ceremony at the Malek National Library and Museum, Mehr reported.

Soudavar, a renowned scholar and collector, has chosen "Abu Sa'id's Shahnameh" as the title for his book, reflecting his belief that the original copy was commissioned for the Ilkhanid ruler Abu Sa'id Bahadur Khan.

The Great Ilkhanid Shahnameh is believed to be the oldest illustrated manuscript of the epic book of kings.

The newly translated work offers a detailed analysis and interpretation of the manuscript's 72 vividly colored illustrations, providing insights into its historical background and production process. This is the first time the book has been translated into Persian, making the text accessible to a wider audience in Iran.

Soudavar's contributions to the field of Persian art history are well recognized. His previous works include Art of the Persian Courts and The Aura of Kings:

Legitimacy and Divine Sanction in Iranian Kingship, both of which have been influential in the study of Iranian artistic traditions.

The Mongol invasions of the Islamic world began in 1221 with the conquest of eastern Iran. A more devastating wave of conquest, however, came with Genghis Khan's grandson Hulegu, when Mongol forces subjugated all of Iran and by 1258 had also taken Baghdad, thus bringing to an end the Abbasid caliphate (750-1258). Establishing rule over most of West Asia, including Iraq, Iran, Khurasan, the Caucasus, and parts of Asia Minor, Hulegu (r. 1256-65) assumed the title of "Il-Khan," meaning lesser Khan, subordinate to the Great Khan ruling in China. This branch of the Mongol dynasty, which became known as the Ilkhanids (1256-1353), centered its power in northwest Iran.

Although Mongol conquests initially brought devastation and affected the balance of artistic

production, in a short period of time, the control of most of Asia by the Mongols—the so-called Pax Mongolica—created an environment of tremendous cultural exchange. Following the conversion to Islam of Il-Khan Mahmud Ghazan (r. 1295-1304) in 1295 and the establishment of his active cultural policy in support of his new religion, Islamic art flourished once again. East Asian elements absorbed into the existing Perso-Islamic repertoire created a new artistic vocabulary, one that was emulated from Anatolia to India, profoundly affecting artistic production.

During the Ilkhanid period, the decorative arts—textiles, pottery, metalwork, jewelry, and manuscript illumination and illustration—further developed along established lines. The arts of the book, however, including illuminated and illustrated manuscripts of religious and secular texts, became a major focus of artistic production.

Only 10 countries have a 'climate reliable' outlook for snowsport events by 2040, WMO warns

Facing a long-time crisis in winter sports because of climate change, the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) teamed up with the United Nations weather agency on Thursday.

The initial five-year partnership between FIS and the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) aims to help national ski federations, venues and race organizers better understand weather forecasting to manage natural and artificial snow. An online meeting is set for 7 November.

The Switzerland-based organizations said in a joint statement "winter sports and tourism face a bleak future because of climate change" and warmer temperatures.

FIS said weather issues forced the cancellation of 26 of its 616 World Cups last season across disciplines including Alpine and cross-country skiing, snowboard park and pipe, freestyle skiing and ski jumping.

'The tip of the iceberg of climate change'

"Ruined winter vacations and canceled sports fixtures are - literally - the tip of the ice-

berg of climate change," WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo said in a statement.

Event organizers have long relied on using local water resources to make artificial snow for preparing courses and it is common to see broadcasts of races on a ribbon of white through brown and green forests and fields.

"The climate crisis is obviously far bigger than FIS, or sports, for that matter," its president Johan Eliasch said. "It is a genuine cross-roads for mankind."

(Source: euronews.com)

TEHRAN –The national bone health week is being observed in the country from October 19 to 25, aiming to raise public awareness on osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis is one of the most common chronic diseases and a socio-economic threat. With the aging of the population, it has become more prevalent worldwide.

The disease can lead to the destruction of bone tissues, loss of bone mass density as well as microstructure.

Known as a silent disease, it is not often detected until a fracture occurs.

In Iran, a high percentage of the country's elderly population is suffering from osteoporosis, the health ministry's website quoted the deputy health minister Alireza Raeisi as saying.

Fractures occur with little or even no force, like mild blows or falling from height. They affect the quality of life and lower overall health status. Health consequences include severe pain, disability, and loss of independence as well as an increase in mortality among the elderly, the official noted.

The health ministry is holding different programs to educate people on prevention, early detection, management, and treatment of the disease.

A public conference on osteoporosis and a seminar on osteoporosis updates are among the problems that will be held on



October 23rd and 24th, respectively.

Osteoporosis is one of the most common chronic diseases and a socio-economic threat.

The days of the week focus on the following topics.

Saturday, October 19, Osteoporosis and nutrition.

Sunday, October 20, Osteoporosis and physical activity.

Monday, October 21, Osteoporosis, vitamin D, and sunlight.

Tuesday, October 22, Osteoporosis, falls and fractures prevention.

Wednesday, October 23, Osteoporosis and timely diagnosis

Thursday, October 24, Osteoporosis and early treatment.

Friday, October 25, Osteoporosis and treatment follow-up.

World Osteoporosis Day, marked on October 20th each year, is a prime time to put the spotlight on osteoporosis.

Under the theme of 'Say no to fragile bones', this year's World Osteoporosis Day campaign will seek to put an end to the inertia surrounding bone health by urging people of all ages to value and protect their bones.

The following messages will be addressed to people of all ages, patients, healthcare professionals, and health authorities.

Our bone health is precious. Healthy bones are at the core of our well-being, mobility, and independence. People of all ages should protect their bone health by taking early action for osteoporosis prevention through bone-healthy

nutrition, regular weight-bearing physical activity, and avoidance of negative lifestyle factors like smoking.

Osteoporosis matters. Osteoporosis is a serious health threat with potentially devastating consequences. Recognizing individual risk factors, prioritizing bone health (as cardiovascular health), asking for osteoporosis screening or testing upon identification of risk factors, and adhering to any prescribed medication regimen: through these strategies, we can bridge the osteoporosis care gap, safeguarding our mobility and independence as we age.

Make bone health a healthcare policy priority. With up to 37 million fragility fractures occurring globally each year, osteoporosis poses an enormous human and health economic burden worldwide.

Health authorities must prioritize bone health in a number of ways, including by investing in post-fracture care services. These services ensure that every fracture patient aged above 50 who goes to a hospital with a broken bone is expertly assessed and treated for osteoporosis to prevent recurring and potentially life-threatening fractures.

Iranian university, Russian academy to enhance ties

TEHRAN – Allameh Tabataba'i University of Tehran and the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to boost scientific cooperation.

The main objective of the MOU is to promote and expand scientific cooperation between the two sides in the fields of humanities and social sciences, IRNA reported.

Exchanging scientific data, publications, documents, and books in educational, research, and technical areas, sharing articles to be published in relevant journals, publishing joint works, and facilitating participation in scientific activities are parts of the agreement.

It also involves organizing joint educational scientific courses, sharing information about international educational events that are going to be held at these institutes, exchanging professors, researchers, experts, and students to conduct collaborative research and educational plans, as well as participating in conferences, and educational workshops.

Joint science, technology committee

Following a recent agreement within the framework of the joint cooperation committee, Russia and Iran will establish a sub-committee for scientific and technological

cooperation, IRNA quoted Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of Russia Ayat Gatiyatov as saying in July.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mutual recognition of degrees

Iran and Russia are about to reach an agreement on mutually recognizing higher education degrees, Hadi Goudarzi, the counselor of the Iranian Embassy in the Russian Federation, has said.

Once the agreement is finalized, the governments of the two countries are expected to sign a document, TASS reported.

The document will cover the recognition of bachelor's, master's, postgraduate and doctoral diplomas.

"More than 90 percent of the agreement is ready, I think it will be signed at the level of the governments of Iran and Russia in the near future," TASS quoted Goudarzi as saying.

Moreover, Iran has just joined BRICS - comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa - starting academic and scientific cooperation with Russia within the BRICS framework.

"I think there will be a lot of meetings between us during this year where new treaties on scientific and practical cooperation within the BRICS framework can be proposed," Goudarzi added.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Existing vaccines are effective against mutated coronavirus: expert

The COVID-19 vaccines, which have been so far produced in the world are also effective on the mutated virus, so people who receive the vaccines will be protected against the new virus strain, Massoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said.

What raised concerns about the newly-produced vaccine was the ineffectiveness against the mutated virus, which fortunately studies show, the mutation of the virus and the chromosomal alteration are not enough to change its general nature, he explained.

According to Mardani, all British and European passengers are tested at the airport for a quick and PCR test.

واکسن کرونا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند

مسعود مردانی عضو ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا می گوید واکسن تولید و تایید شده در دنیا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند و افرادی که واکسن تایید شده را بزنند علیه این ویروس هم مصونیت پیدا می کنند.

مردانی روز سه شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: آنچه نگران آن هستیم این است که واکسن تولید شده برای کووید ۱۹ در دنیا نسبت به ویروس جهش یافته بی اثر باشد که خوشبختانه بررسی ها نشان می دهد، جهش ویروس و تغییر کرموزومی ویروس به قدری نیست که ماهیت کلی آن تغییر کند.

به گفته او، از همه مسافران انگلیس و اروپا در فرودگاه تست سریع و از موارد مشکوک تست دقیق تر «پی سی آر» گرفته و بررسی می شود.

National determination, collaborative plans essential for disaster risk reduction

TEHRAN –Reducing the risks posed by natural disasters and climate change requires national determination and collaborative plans, Alireza Raeisi, an official with the health ministry, has said.

The official stressed the significance of developing self-protection and community-based programs, IRNA reported.

Concerning the significance of empowering the next generation for a resilient future, the theme of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2024 highlighted the role of education in protecting and empowering children for a disaster-free future.

Disaster Risk Reduction Week kicked off on October 12 and concluded on October 18.

To protect children from disasters, countries need to consider their vulnerabilities and requirements when developing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. It is equally important to empower children and youth and provide them with the opportunity to contribute to disaster risk reduction.

The official reminded that in the seventh national development plan (2023-2027), the issue of reducing risks caused by natural disasters and increasing the resilience of the society has been emphasized.

To mitigate and manage the risk of accidents and disasters, the government is required to cooperate with relevant organizations. Adopting preventive measures and securing sustainable resources will boost the country's preparedness and ability to address potential risks by natural hazards.

According to the seventh national development plan, the government has to improve the resilience of hospitals, healthcare facilities as well as medical emergency centers in the next five years.

Artificial intelligence to help protect natural areas

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment plans to utilize systems based on artificial intelligence to help manage and protect natural areas across the country.

"Up to now, some 25 percent of the areas are being monitored using ordinary visual systems, but in the future, we will upgrade the systems by utilizing artificial intelligence, ISNA quoted Alireza Najimi, an official with the DOE, as saying.

Five new protected areas, measuring 230,000 hectares, have been created across the country, expanding the protected areas to 19.5 million hectares.

The protected areas under the supervision of the Department of Environment now account for 11.8 percent of the country's lands, IRNA reported.

The history of Iran's first protected areas dates back to 1967 when the proposal for the establishment of two national parks and 15 protected areas as the first protected sites in Iran was approved.

In 1976, there were more than 65 protected areas covering an area of 6.7 million hectares in the country, which has now extended to more than 300 areas with an area of 19.5 million hectares.

The first new protected area with an area of about 63,000 hectares is located in Gavkhoni Wetland with the aim of preventing any change in land use and protecting the vegetation as well as safeguarding the wetland and birds that are present at special times when the wetland is filled with water.

The second site with an area of about 11,000 hectares is Kalate and Tang-e Sorkh located in Fars province. The goal is to preserve the diverse vegetation and pristine wildlife there. It is one of the prohibited hunt-



In this regard, one of the strategies of the health ministry, as a top priority, is to integrate the disaster and accident risk management program into the national health and treatment network system.

National risk reduction week

Disaster Risk Reduction Week kicked off on October 12 and concluded on Friday, October 18.

Educating children will empower them to protect themselves and share what they have learned with their families and communities. Hence, each day of the week focuses on a specific topic.

Saturday, October 12, 'Empowering children and adolescents, and the role of schools in building resilience'

Sunday, October 13, 'Empowering children and adolescents; the role of the family in building resilience'

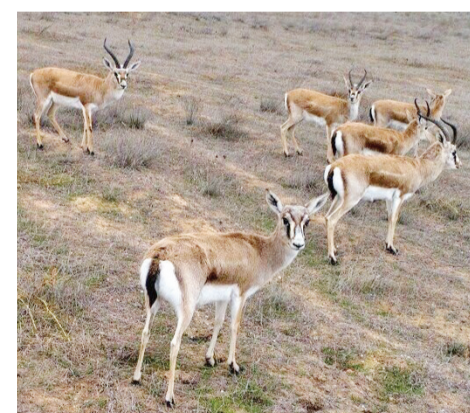
Monday, October 14, 'Empowering children and adolescents; community resilience'

Tuesday, October 15, 'Empowering children and adolescents; the role of social media in promoting resilience'

Wednesday, October 16, 'Empowering children and adolescents; the role of computer games in promoting resilience'

Thursday, October 17, 'Empowering children and adolescents to adapt to climate change and protect the environment'

Friday, October 18, 'Empowering children and adolescents; promoting the culture of preventing accidents and disasters'



ing zones.

Padena, measuring 30,000 hectares area in the city of Semirom in Isfahan province, is the third added area.

It can enhance the protection of the Dena National Park conservation, which is one of the most important protected areas in Zagros since wildlife moves between these two regions.

With good vegetation and abundant water sources, wildlife can be easily revived. This area was one of the free zones before.

The next area is located in the Kalate desert, covering about 126,000 hectares in the east of Isfahan around Khur and Biabanak. It is home to valuable species such as rams, ewes, gazellas, and Bustards.

The last area, about 200 hectares, is a national natural monument called 'Sheikh Mohammadlu' in Ardabil province. It contains a collection of fossil trees dating back to prehistoric geological periods.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

OCTOBER 21, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The faithful are tied in kindness and affection together like members of a body, one's pain and hardship affect the others.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon: 11:49 Evening: 17:39 Dawn: 4:53 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:17 (tomorrow)

Henrik Ibsen's "Ghosts" to be staged at Molavi Theater

TEHRAN-Molavi Theater Hall in Tehran will host the play "Ghosts," written by the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen from October 22.

Saeed Karimi will direct the play and the cast includes Peyman Mohseni, Maryam Hajzadeh, Hamidreza Farahani, Nesa Yousefi, and Abolfazl Salahshour, ILNA reported.

A drama in three acts, the play was published in 1881. It is an attack on conventional morality and on the results of hypocrisy. The plot follows the Alving family as they confront the dark secrets that are embedded in their past and present.

Ostensibly a discussion of congenital venereal disease, "Ghosts" also deals with the power of ingrained moral contamination to undermine the most determined idealism. Although the lecherous Captain Alving is in his grave, his ghost will not be laid to rest. The memorial that Helen, his conventionally-minded widow, has erected to his memory burns down even as his son Oswald goes insane from inherited syphilis and his illegitimate daughter slips inexorably toward her

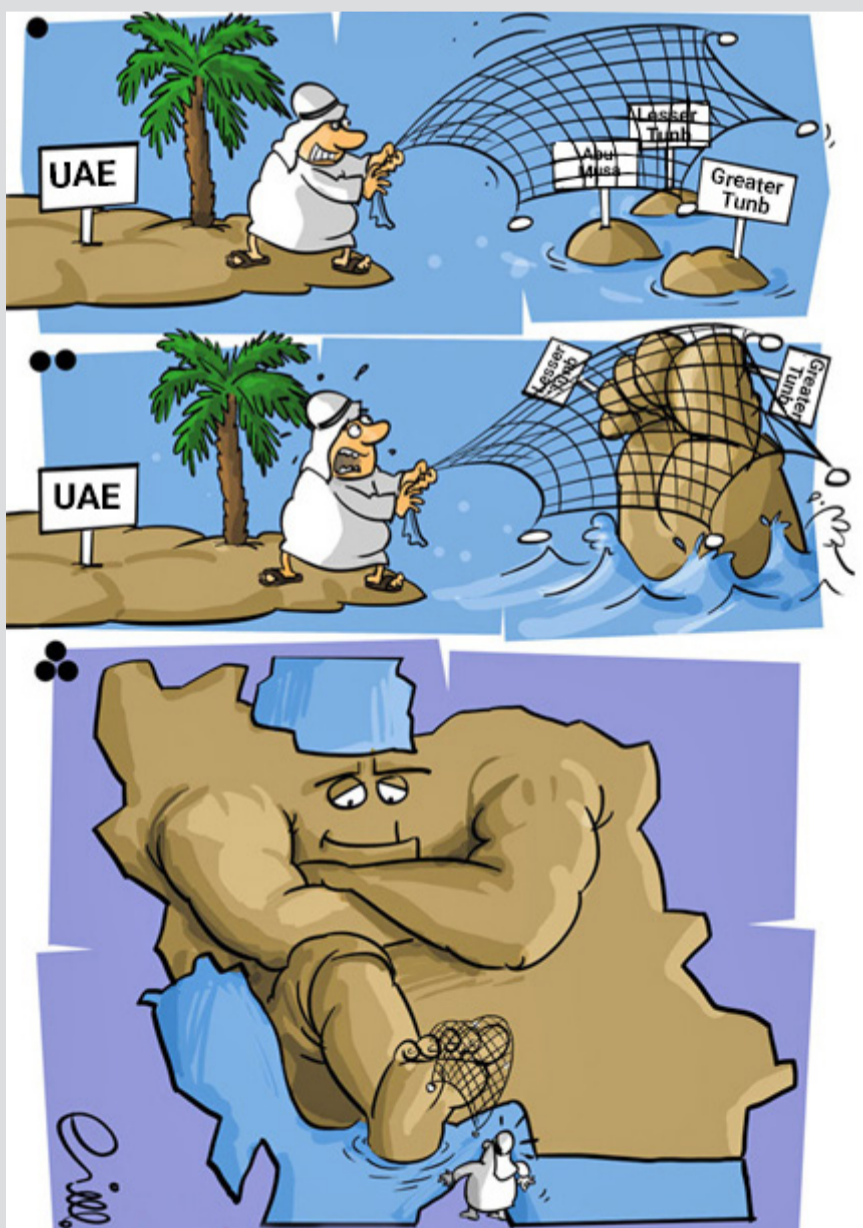
destiny in a brothel.

Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) was a major Norwegian playwright of the late 19th century who introduced to the European stage a new order of moral analysis that was placed against a severely realistic middle-class background and developed with economy of action, penetrating dialogue, and rigorous thought.

As one of the founders of modernism in theater, Ibsen is often referred to as "the father of realism" and the most influential playwright of the 19th century, as well as of one of the most influential playwrights in Western literature more generally. His major works include "Brand," "Peer Gynt," "Emperor and Galilean," "A Doll's House," "An Enemy of the People," "The Wild Duck," "Rosmersholm," "Hedda Gabler," "The Master Builder," and "When We Dead Awaken." Ibsen is the most frequently performed dramatist in the world after Shakespeare.

The play will remain on stage till November 8 at Molavi Theater Hall located at No. 16, 16th Azar St., Enqelab St.

Cartoon of Day



The Three Iranian Islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf
Cartoonist: Sajjad Jafari from Iran

Tehran to host intl. conference on digital games

TEHRAN- Tehran is set to host the 7th edition of an international conference on digital games on December 10 and 11.

Entitled "Digital Games Research: Trends, Technologies, and Applications", the event will be organized by Iran Computer and Video Games Foundation, in collaboration with the Research Center for Culture, Art, and Communication.

The conference aims to bolster knowledge and technology in the field of computer games, establish a scientific network among professionals, and provide a platform for researchers, scholars, students, and industry practitioners to exchange ideas and experiences.

Additionally, the event seeks to enhance scientific cooperation and develop the art, industry, and media related to computer games in Iran.

The conference will facilitate access for organizations, professionals, and investors to the findings of researchers and developers in the digital games ecosystem.

It will also highlight interdisciplinary areas and inter-agency needs that could further thrive this sector, while

offering opportunities for startups, governance entities, businesses, and cultural activists to leverage research networks and innovative ideas in the digital games domain.

Key themes of the conference include computer games, economic models, and business, covering topics such as marketing, the impact of sanctions on Iran's gaming industry, and challenges in game development. Other topics encompass technology, and innovations, discussing AI in gaming, cryptocurrency, emerging media technologies, and gamification. Additionally, the conference will explore gaming literacy, consumption patterns, women in gaming, and educational aspects of games.

The event will also include discussions on game diplomacy and policy-making, game design, and development experiences globally and in Iran.

Moreover, the Deputy for Research and Education of Iran Computer and Video Games Foundation announced that recent notable books and completed student theses on computer games will be recognized during this year's conference.



"The Old Bachelor" to premiere in UK at London Breeze Film Festival



Hamed Behdad (L) and Leila Hatami in a scene from "The Old Bachelor"

TEHRAN-The critically acclaimed Iranian feature film "The Old Bachelor" directed by Oktay Baraheni will have its UK premiere at the London Breeze Film Festival (LBFF), due to be held from October 23 to 27.

Released in 2024, the searing tragedy is Baraheni's second feature film after "Bridge of Sleep" (2016), which has become an international success, ISNA reported.

The movie has recently won the Best Film Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam in

the Netherlands, the World Cinema award at the Galway Film Fleadh in Ireland, and the Best Actor Award at the Transilvania International Film Festival in Romania for Hasan Poursheirazi for his towering performance as the family patriarch.

Baraheni's second feature is a gripping domestic saga about two middle-aged brothers (Hamed Behdad, Mohammad Valizadegan) who live with their bullying father (Poursheirazi). A man prone to rages and driven by chauvinism, the father's abusiveness found his second wife leaving him. Now he picks on his eldest son, while the younger sibling fantasizes about ways to end his father's life. When the man rents out the flat above to a young woman (Leila Hatami), with intentions of marrying her, the woman's attraction to the older son slowly pushes this profoundly damaged family to breaking point.

Exploring powerful themes of patriarchy, misogyny, love, violence and tragedy, this film is a masterclass in storytelling, through its gripping, nuanced dialogue, exquisite attention to detail and its development of tension, which simmers throughout the film until it reaches boiling point

in the final, explosive act.

If Baraheni's debut feature "Bridge of Sleep" drew inspiration from Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment," his sophomore feature channels the dark soul of Shakespeare's family tragedies.

A coruscating critique of patriarchy, like the best Iranian films, the power of "The Old Bachelor" lies in balancing the specificity of its locale with a wider, more universal commentary on any society where gender inequality exists, and patriarchy is accepted as the status quo.

A film director, writer, and producer, Baraheni, 50, is a graduate of the fine arts from York University in Toronto, Canada. His successful career includes several short films and a documentary about the well-known Iranian poet and writer Reza Baraheni (his father).

This year's edition of London Breeze Film Festival includes a gala opening film, an industry day, an immersive program of AR/VR/XR films, shorts programs, UK feature fiction and documentary premieres and previews, Impact Day, Youth and Family Day, and the awards ceremony.

"Tutankhamun: The Book of Shadows" comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of British author Nick Drake's novel "Tutankhamun: The Book of Shadows" has recently been published by Qoqnu Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Javad Seyyed Ashraf.

"Tutankhamun: The Book of Shadows" is the second installment in the Rahotep novel series, following the acclaimed "Nefertiti: The Book of the Dead" (2007) and preceding "Egypt: The Book of Chaos" (2011). This series is a masterful blend of historical fiction and intrigue, exploring the turbulent lives of key figures from Ancient Egypt.

In "Tutankhamun: The Book of Shadows," readers are immersed in the complex world of the young pharaoh, Tutankhamun, as he navigates the treacherous political landscape of his reign. Set against the backdrop of a fading empire, the novel captures the essence of a time rife with power struggles, family loyalty, and

the quest for stability amidst chaos.

The book delves into the tumultuous era of young Tutankhamun, the son of Pharaoh Akhenaten. At just eighteen, he inherits a once-mighty empire now teetering on the brink of chaos and intrigue. As he ascends the throne, Tutankhamun must navigate the treacherous waters of court politics, where his godfather Ay and the formidable General Horemheb are embroiled in a fierce power struggle. With the kingdom reeling from the turmoil initiated during his father's unorthodox reign, the young king is faced with the daunting task of restoring stability and reaffirming the legacy of the renowned royal dynasty.

Compounding the young monarch's challenges is Rahotep, the chief detective of the Thebes division. He grapples with his own concerns as his daughters mature in a world fraught with danger and instability. The streets of Thebes are rife with despair—poverty and un-

rest are giving way to escalating violence, and the pervasive corruption casts a dark shadow over the city. Amidst this turmoil, a part of society is witnessing a series of brutal and enigmatic incidents that threaten to spiral out of control.

When Rahotep receives a clandestine invitation to the esteemed halls of the Royal Palace, he finds it impossible to resist. What he uncovers there will not only alter the trajectory of his life but also put at risk the very foundations of his beliefs and the safety of his loved ones. As Tutankhamun strives to reclaim his empire and assert his authority, Rahotep's investigation intertwines with the king's destiny, leading them into a labyrinth of secrets and revelations that will forever change the landscape of Egypt. In a world where loyalty is fleeting and danger lurks at every turn, both must confront their deepest fears and fight for the future of their homeland.

Nick Drake, born in 1961, is a multifaceted British poet, playwright, screenwriter, librettist, and novelist.

Drake has held notable positions in the literary world, serving as the Literary Associate at the National Theatre, the Literary Manager at the Bush Theatre, and the Head of Development at Intermedia Films. He transitioned to full-time freelance writing in 2002 and has also taught creative writing at the Arvon Foundation and Goldsmiths' College.

His poetry includes works such as "From the Song Dynasty" and "Static," with "The Farewell Glacier," a poem and collection, published in 2012 following his participation in a Cape Farewell Arctic Expedition. His choral play "All the Angels" premiered in 2015 at the Sam Wanamaker Theatre.

In film, he wrote the screenplay for "Romulus, My Father," based on Raimond Gaita's autobiography.

IAF cinematheque to show Al Pacino's "Looking for Richard"

TEHRAN- The 1996 American documentary film "Looking for Richard" directed by the renowned actor Al Pacino will be screened at the cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran on Wednesday. The screening, set for 5 p.m., will be followed by a review session with Abbas Ghaffari as the host and theater instructor and critic Ramtin Shahbazi, ISNA reported.

Pacino's directorial debut explores William Shakespeare's lasting impact in pop culture, particularly the playwright's highly regarded "Richard III". The documentary includes on-the-street interviews with ordinary people and academic perspectives from Shakespearean scholars such as Barbara Everett. Actors such as Kenneth Branagh, Alec Baldwin, Kevin Spacey and Winona Ryder talk about preparing to play key scenes of "Richard III," which come staged with Pacino in the title role.

The film explores a broader examination of Shakespeare's continuing role and relevance in popular culture. Al Pacino won the Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directing - Documentaries. Pacino plays both himself and the title character Richard III. The film guides the audience through the play's plot and historical background. Pacino and several fellow actors, including Penelope Allen and Harris Yulin, act out scenes from the play.

In addition, the actors comment on their roles. Pacino also features other actors famous for performing Shakespeare, such as Vanessa Redgrave, John Gielgud, Derek Jacobi, James Earl Jones, and Kevin Kline. Al Pacino, 84, is considered one of the greatest and most influential actors of the 20th century. He has received numerous accolades including an Academy Award, two Tony Awards, and two Primetime Emmy Awards, achieving the Triple

Crown of Acting. He has also received four Golden Globe Awards, a BAFTA, two Screen Actors Guild Awards, and was honored with the Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2001, the AFI Life Achievement Award in 2007, the National Medal of Arts in 2011, and the Kennedy Center Honors in 2016.

Pacino went on to receive the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in "Scent of a Woman" (1992). His other Oscar-nominated roles were in "The Godfather" (1972), "Serpico" (1973), "The Godfather Part II" (1974), "Dog Day Afternoon" (1975), "...And Justice for All" (1979), "Dick Tracy" (1990), "Glengarry Glen Ross" (1992), and "The Irishman" (2019).

His other notable roles include "Scarface" (1983), "The Godfather Part III" (1990), "Carlito's Way" (1993), "Heat" (1995), "The Devil's Advocate" (1997), "Insomnia" (2002), "Ocean's Thirteen" (2007), and "House of Gucci" (2021) among others.