# TEHRAN TIMES

Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 46th year | No. 14895 | Tuesday | October 22, 2024 | Aban 1, 1403 | Rabi' al-Thani 18, 144



German police attacked anti-war protesters in Berlin at the weekend during a rally against Israel's carnage in Gaza and Lebanon.

#### Zionist aggression widens to target Hezbollah's social and economic structure

#### By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT - For the 29th consecutive day, the US-led Israeli aggression on Lebanon continued unabated.

After its failure on the ground and suffering losses, the occupation regime targeted the branches of the Al-Qard Al-Hassan Association in Beirut's southern suburbs, the South, and the Bekaa.

The Al-Qard Al-Hassan Association is a social financial group affiliated with Hezbollah. It was established following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and obtained an official license from the Lebanese Ministry of Interior in 1987. Its branches had reached 34 by 2023.

Some consider it a Hezbollah bank. However, Al-Qard Al-Hassan Association rejects this designation and says that it is a "solidarity association" seeking to help hundreds of thousands of Lebanese from different sects by providing "Qard Hassan," a Quranic term meaning an interest-free loan, focusing on supporting needy groups and providing loans to cover social and productive needs.

## Death as policy: Understanding necropolitics in Gaza and beyond

#### By Xavier Villar

MADRID – One way to analyze the situation in Palestine is through the concept of necropolitics, a term coined by philosopher Achille Mbembe. In a 2003 essay and his 2016 book Politiques de l'inimitié, Mbembe describes the formation of "death worlds"—spaces where thousands of people are subjected to conditions that reduce them to the status of "the living dead."

Necropolitics refers to a form of power that can kill through exceptionally brutal measures imposed on Palestinians and, more recently, on Lebanese people. Beyond the immediate loss of Palestinian lives, Israel's necropolitics operates on a broader timeline, normalizing extermination, expropriation, domination, and exploitation. This slow death manifests through induced starvation, the systematic destruction of Gaza's healthcare system, and the imposition of premature deaths. In addition, even worse conditions than death, such as brutal torture, exacerbate the suffering of Palestinians.

#### Hezbollah downs advanced Israeli drone

#### By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Hezbollah has announced that its air defense unit has shot down an Israeli Hermes 900 drone, which is believed to cost between 10 to 20 million dollars.

The operation on Monday was one of many staged by the resistance movement after Israeli warplanes indiscriminately bombed banks in Lebanon to paralyze the nation's economy.

The Israeli occupation regime launched more than a dozen airstrikes across different regions in Lebanon targeting al-Qard al-Hassan, a financial institution that was first set up in 1982 as a charitable foundation.

The bank-like institution has helped many Lebanese overcome financial hardship, as it hands out interest-free loans to all clients across Lebanon.

Israeli airstrikes struck targets it alleged were branches of al-Qard al-Hassan banks mostly in the cities of Nabatieh, Tyre as well as the southern suburbs of the capital Beirut.

Tehran

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### Osteoporosis screening program underway

TEHRAN – An osteoporosis screening program has started in the country and is being implemented by four universities in the first phase.

The program will be implemented in other parts of the country if the first phase is fruitful, IRNA quoted Fatemeh Hajivalizadeh, a health ministry official, as saying.

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. > Page 7



## Artistic exhibition on Gaza opens in

TEHRAN – An exhibition titled "Still; Storm" opened in Tehran on Monday evening at the House Gallery. It features works by 80 artists from five continents. The exhibition is organized in support of the Gaza Strip

It showcases the works of 47 artists from 23 countries including the UAE, Palestine, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Spain, Germany, US, Lebanon, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, the UK, and Uruguay. 33 Iranian artists are also exhibiting their works.

# Tehran urges regional mobilization to halt Israel's military actions in West Asia

TEHRAN – In a call for regional unity, Iran has stressed that West Asian countries are working together to mobilize public efforts aimed at stopping Israel's ongoing military offensives in Gaza and Lebanon.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei made these remarks during his weekly press conference on Monday, highlighting the escalating death tolls as Israel's military actions continue to devastate the region.

Since the beginning of Israel's two-front aggression in early October 2023, the death toll in Gaza has reached at least 42,603, with an additional 2,464 killed in Lebanon, according to local sources.

Baqaei noted that countries in the region, in collaboration with their allies, are working toward organizing public mobilization to counter Israel's killing machine and to protect the innocent lives being lost.

"The countries of the region, along with their partners, are trying to organize public mobilization against the killing of innocent people by the occupying regime," Baqaei stated. ▶ Page 3

## Details emerge on Pezeshkian's upcoming visit to Russia

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is set to embark on a three-day official visit to Kazan, Russia, to attend the 16th BRICS Summit, where key discussions on multilateralism and cooperation between emerging economies will take center stage.

The Deputy for Political Affairs of the Presidential Office, Mohammad Mehdi Sanaei, outlined the agenda for the trip in a message posted on social media today.

The summit, scheduled from October 22 to October 24, will be held in Kazan, the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan.

President Pezeshkian will join the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the core BRICS nations, alongside representatives from approximately 30 other countries and international organizations for the BRICS Plus dialogue.

According to Sanaei, this year's gathering will focus on "Strengthening Multilateralism," with additional discussions under the theme of "BRICS and the Global South." > Page 2

#### Closure of Hormuz Strait: potential response to US-Israel attacks

#### By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN – West Asia, a region perpetually teetering on the edge of conflict, has entered a new phase of heightened tension. The US-Israel axis, with its unwavering support from Western and Eastern allies, is fanning the flames of this escalation, pushing the region closer to a full-blown war.

The U.S., in its relentless pursuit of government change in Tehran, has implemented a series of crippling sanctions, and waged a campaign of diplomatic isolation, aiming to cripple Iran's economy and force it into submission. Israel, meanwhile, continues its aggressive expansionist policies in occupied Palestine, with the tacit approval and unwavering support of the U.S. and some other countries.

The recent escalation in tensions has taken a dangerous turn. The U.S. has deployed significant military forces and systems in the conflict region, engaging in provocative military maneuvers that are seen as a blatant attempt to intimidate and pressure Iran. Page 2

# **POLITICS**

OCTOBER 22, 2024
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

## TEHRAN PAPERS

## A deception operation or gaining trust

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

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the leak of American intelligence documents about Israel's response to Iran's legitimate retaliatory attacks on Israel's military and intelligence centers on October 1. It wrote: Assuming the leak of the intelligence is intentional, there is a possibility that the American president is seeking to gain Tehran's trust. The simultaneous deployment of the "THAAD" anti-missile system in the occupied territories and the leak of the document that the Zionist regime is exercising an attack on Iran can lead to a delay or even a change of the attack plan. In addition, there are only 15 days left until the U.S. presidential election, and the Democrats are doing all they can to prevent any crisis or event that could endanger their victory over Trump. Israel's possible attack on Iran and Iran's response to the Zionist regime is the most important scenario that can overshadow the upcoming American elections. Therefore, experts believe that the recent disclosure of information about Israel's plan to attack Iran can delay its occurrence.

## Siasat-e-Rooz: Which kind of peace does Europe talk about?

In a note, Siasat-e-Rooz addressed the nature of Europe's hidden agenda regarding Israel's war on Gaza and Lebanon. The paper said: The European Union has adopted some positions on developments in West Asia over the past few days. In West Asia, European leaders called Sinwar's killing an opportunity for a ceasefire. The European Council also claimed support for peace in the region and made charges against Iran. Also, the European Union adopted hostile behavior regarding Iran's territorial integrity in a meeting with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council. The positions and claims of American leaders including Biden and Harris regarding the time of the ceasefire should also be added to it.

Therefore, it should be said that the West's behavior in West Asia, especially in Lebanon and Gaza, shows that they are seeking to prolong the war and support the Zionist regime. On one hand, the Westerners emphasize that they are unwilling to stop sending weapons to the Zionist regime, and on the other, they talk about annihilating Hamas and disarming Hezbollah as the ultimate goal. Europe and America are still not saviors of peace but warmongers whose only plan is the continuation of the war and insecurity.

## Donya-e-Eqtesad: Increasing cooperation based on common vision

In an analysis, Donya-e-Eqtesad discussed the prospect of increasing cooperation between Iran and Russia and said: The recent statements of Pezeshkian are in the framework of the growing military cooperation between Iran and Russia, which is the result of foreign developments. Iran sees three geopolitical routes that connect the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and western China, and believes the West seeks to dominate all three regions. From Iran's point of view, Russia is an important bulwark against American hegemony. The Gaza war has also brought Iran and Russia closer together. America's failure to achieve a ceasefire has reinforced the perception that Washington cannot guarantee stability in the Middle East. For Russia, closer relations with Iran are necessary to increase pressure on America and create a practical united front against Washington. Despite occasional differences between Tehran and Moscow, such as the so-called Zanegzur corridor between Azerbaijan and Turkey, cooperation continues based on a common vision of the international system and a common understanding of mutual threats.

## Arman-e-Emrooz: Who has the last word in Middle East?

Arman-e-Emrooz dealt with the critical situation in the region and wrote: In recent days, in parallel with the increase in the possibility of an Israeli attack on targets in Iran, we are witnessing important events in the region, which are mostly related to the exchange of warning messages between Iran, America, and Israel. In the past few days, the American and British attacks on Yemen's Ansarullah have significantly made the situation tense. It seems that America wants to minimize its participation in Iran's response to Israel's attack and possibly in any possible regional war by striking Ansarullah's important targets. The drone attack on Netanyahu's house was also considered a crossing of Israel's red lines because it did not imagine that Hezbollah could hit the prime minister's house after passing through defense systems. It seems the drone attack was intended to send a message to the United States. Iran probably wanted to convey this message to America that it could send dozens or hundreds of drones of this type at the same time to American targets in the region in the event of a war.

# Details emerge on Pezeshkian's upcoming visit to Russia

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30 other countries and international organizations for the BRICS Plus dialogue.

According to Sanaei, this year's gathering will focus on "Strengthening Multilateralism," with additional discussions under the theme of "BRICS and the Global South."

During the summit, President Pezeshkian is expected to deliver three keynote addresses, emphasizing Iran's perspective on global economic cooperation and regional stability.

His speeches will touch on key issues of multilateral engagement and the importance of fostering stronger partnerships between develop-

ing countries.

President's visit will

focus on strengthening

multilateralism, with

additional discussions under

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Global South

Additionally, the president is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with the leaders of Russia, China, India, Egypt, and other participating nations to advance Iran's diplomatic and economic relations.

Sanaei underscored the significance of Iran's participation in this summit, particularly at a time when regional and global dynamics are rapidly shifting.

"Iran's presence is critical in articulating its global stance and enhancing regional diplomacy, especially in the face of emerging geopolitical challenges," he said.

Sanaei also praised Russia's efforts in hosting this extensive summit despite facing significant

international sanctions.

"By organizing a broad range of BRICS and BRICS Plus events, Russia is demonstrating its resilience and continued leadership in the global arena," he said.

The Kazan summit is expected to feature more than 250 events covering diverse topics, from economic development to global governance and cooperation among emerging economies.

President Pezeshkian's participation follows an official invitation from Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Iranian leader will depart for Kazan on Tuesday.

# Iran may reassess nuclear policies if sites are attacked, source says

TEHRAN – With Israeli officials howling for revenge after Iran's October 1 missile strike on occupied territories, Iranian officials are contemplating a change in their nuclear policy should Israel dare to target the West Asian country's nuclear facilities, a source revealed to the Tasnim News Agency.

The source said any aggression against Iran would follow a crushing response. "Iran's finger is on the trigger, and a greater surprise awaits the Zionists," the source told Tasnim, emphasizing that even strikes on Iranian military sites will be met with a "decisive" response that will "exceed the expectations of the Zionists."

The source made it clear that Iran will not be bound by past responses, and will not hesitate to escalate if Israeli attacks target Iranian facilities or infrastructure. "This is a clear message for the Zionists," the source added, "and they will definitely understand its meaning."

If the Zionist regime's possible action targets Iran's nuclear sites, Iran will react and also reconsider its nuclear policies, the source added.

It is currently not possible to develop nuclear weapons in Iran, based on a religious decree by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei who has banned the manufacturing of any weapons of mass destruction.

The source concluded by emphasizing that Iran will act decisively, neither delaying nor rushing its response. "We will not merely punish the foolish," the source warned, "but ensure that they experience a greater surprise each time."

In October, Iran launched a barrage



As Tehran and Tel Aviv continue to spar, public calls are growing inside Iran for the development of nuclear weapons

of approximately 200 ballistic missiles at Israeli military and intelligence bases in the occupied territories

Iranian officials confirmed that at least 90% of the projectiles struck their targets. The extent of the attack has been met with censorship and suppression, with some journalists who reported on the event detained by Israeli forces.

One Jewish-American reporter based in New York, who was also detained, reported that Tel Aviv is obscuring the true consequences of Tehran's operation, which are far greater than what's being shared by Hebrew media. The October attack dubbed Operation True Promise II marked the second direct Iranian attack against Israeli positions in the occupied territories.

In April, Iran carried out a similar operation but on a less powerful scale, as it mainly used its oldertechnology drones to strike, as well as a handful of missiles.

Many Iranian officials have warned in recent weeks that the next potential Iranian attack against Israel will be far more powerful than

the first two.

Brigadier General Iraj Masjedi, the deputy coordinator of the IRGC Qods Force, said on Monday that Iran's armed forces are in full readiness to fend off any Israeli attacks.

The commander of the Iranian Army made similar remarks during a high-ranking meeting a day earlier, adding that the pursuing response from Tehran would be "devastating" and "shattering".

While the world has been warned of the potential for conflict, it seems that Israel has been steadily gearing up for a strike against Iran.

A Telegram channel leaked classified intelligence documents last week revealing a significant build-up of Israeli military forces, including the deployment of a large number of air-to-surface missiles to airbases.

The documents also revealed a mid-October rehearsal simulating the planned attack on Iran. These documents, prepared by the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Agency, raise serious questions about Washington's level of knowledge and

potential involvement in Israel's anti-

Tehran has already issued a public warning to Washington, cautioning it against involvement in any potential

Israeli aggression against Iran.

Last week, Iranian Foreign
Minister Abbas Araqchi made it
clear that if Israel attacks Iran with
U.S. support, Tehran will hold both
militaries accountable.

Araqchi's warning came after U.S. President Joe Biden, during a visit to Germany, revealed that he had been informed about the details of Israel's plans to attack Iran.

"Anybody with knowledge or understanding of 'how and when Israel was going to attack Iran', and/ or providing the means and backing for such folly, should logically be held accountable for any possible causality," Araqchi wrote on his X account.

While it's not clear whether the U.S. will directly aid Israel in attacking Iran, it seems that American politicians have already thought of ways to help the regime fend off airstrikes by Iran and the rest of the Axis of Resistance. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Monday that Washington has rushed its most advanced anti-missile system to the occupied territories and that the system is now "in place".

About 100 American soldiers have also been deployed to Israeli bases to operate the systems, Biden previously declared.

In the region, Araqchi has said all countries situated between Iran and the occupied territories have reassured him that they would not allow their soil to be used by Israel to harm Iran

## Closure of Hormuz Strait: potential response to US-Israel attacks



The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. Approximately 20% of the world's traded oil passes through the narrow and strategic waterway

From page **1** Is Israel, emboldened by U.S. support, has stepped up its attacks on Iranian interests, targeting both Iranian military facilities and civilian infrastructure in neighboring Syria, as well as intensifying its invasion of Lebanon and Gaza.

Iran, however, has not remained passive in the face of this aggression. The country has repeatedly warned that it will not tolerate any attack on its sovereignty and will respond with decisive force. Iran's military capabilities, including its advanced missile technology and its well-trained and experienced armed forces, are a deterrent to any potential aggression.

Iran's efforts to prevent a full-blown war in West Asia have so far been primarily diplomatic. The tireless diplomatic efforts of high-ranking officials within the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Minister himself, are seen as a final attempt to de-escalate tensions through diplomacy before resorting to more militaristic measures. However, the limits of diplomacy appear to be reaching their threshold, making a shift in approach inevitable.

In the absence of "an adult in the room" on the opposing side of the conflict, Iran is now eyeing other options on the table –not all of which involve military action.

The current situation has pushed Iran to consider more drastic measures. Amidst disturbing reports of the continued Israeli/American invasion of Lebanon and Gaza, KPLER, a data and analytics firm specializing in global trade intelligence, particularly in the energy and shipping markets, published a graph outlining changes in Iran's oil exports from its southern refineries.

According to the source, Iran has begun exporting oil from its facilities in "Jask", located on the shores of the Sea of Oman, outside the Persian Gulf region – a development that has largely gone unnoticed. This new strategy suggests that Iran is preparing for a potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz, emphasizing alternative facilities to maintain its oil exports in such a scenario.

In other words, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway for global oil transportation, seems to have been presented as a possible response to any U.S.-backed Israeli attack. This warning is not a hollow threat, but a calculated response to the escalating tensions and an attempt to deter further aggression.

The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow channel connecting the Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean, is a vital artery for global oil trade. Nearly 30% of the world's oil (20 million barrels a day) passes through this strategic chokepoint, making it a critical point of leverage for any country that controls it. Iran, with its strategic location overlooking the Strait, holds considerable power over this vital waterway.

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz would have significant consequences for the global economy. Oil prices would skyrocket, leading to a global economic downturn and widespread instability. The energy crisis would further exacerbate political tensions and create a volatile environment for international relations.

However, Iran's decision to contemplate such drastic action is not rooted in a desire to disrupt global trade. Instead, it's a powerful statement, a message of defiance against the relentless pressure and aggression it faces. Closing the Strait would be a way for Iran to hold responsible all those who are complicit in the ongoing Israeli atrocities against Palestinian, Lebanese, Yemeni, and Syrian civilians, atrocities that are facilitated and enabled by the unwavering support of the U.S. and some other allies.

The potential consequences of such a move are far-reaching. The global economy would suffer, with oil prices soaring and economies worldwide feeling the effects of a disruption to energy supplies, a scenario reminiscent of the 1970s energy crisis or even far beyond that. The geopolitical landscape would shift dramatically, with international relations strained and tensions escalating further.

Whether Iran chooses to follow through with this drastic measure remains uncertain. However, the very fact that it is being considered as a viable option speaks volumes about the escalating crisis and the devastating measures being contemplated to address it. The international community must act now to de-escalate the situation and find a diplomatic solution before the region is plunged into an all-out conflict.

A diplomatic solution, however, seems increasingly elusive. The U.S., driven by its own geopolitical ambitions and its unwavering loyalty to Israel, shows little inclination to de-escalate the situation. Instead, it continues to double down on its aggressive policies, further escalating tensions and pushing the region closer to the brink.

The Strait of Hormuz, once a vital artery for global trade, has become a powder keg, a symbol of the escalating tensions and the dangerous path the region is treading. It remains to be seen whether the international community will be able to step back from the precipice and find a peaceful resolution before the flames of war engulf West

### EU, UAE claims on Persian Gulf islands is baseless: Iranian official

TEHRAN- Iran's Guardian Council spokesperson dismissed the European Union and the United Arab Emirates' assertions concerning Iran's three islands as unfounded.

Hadi Tahan Nazif expressed his views on his account on the social media platform X, to address the ownership claims related to these territories, "Article 9 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that safeguarding the nation's independence and territorial integrity is a crucial responsibility of the Iranian government and its citizens."

"Iranians have consistently demonstrated their commitment to this vital issue. Everyone needs to understand that Iran's interests cannot be compromised, even with external backing," Tahan Nazif emphasized.

On Wednesday, October 17, a joint meeting took place in Brussels involving the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union.

The concluding statement from this meeting included unfounded allegations regarding Iran's territorial integrity, urging Iran to cease its oc-

cupation of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates—Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa—asserting that this occupation infringes upon the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates and contravenes the principles of the United Nations Charter.

As legal experts say when British colonial rule ended in the region in 1971, which included the three islands, the newly formed states such as the UAE and Bahrain rightfully transferred ownership of the islands to Iran, as all historical records affirm their Iranian heritage.

## Araqchi continues regional tour in **Bahrain and Kuwait**

TEHRAN - On Monday afternoon, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi departed for Bahrain as part of a series of high-level regional visits aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and addressing the evolving situation in West Asia.

Araqchi, accompanied by a senior delegation, left Tehran for Manama, the capital of Bahrain, as he continues his regional consultations.

The visit to Bahrain marks the tenth stop in Araqchi's ongoing diplomatic tour, which has already included trips to several key nations in the region. After his meetings in Bahrain, Araqchi is scheduled to visit Kuwait, further extending his diplomatic efforts.

During a press briefing earlier in the day, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Bagaei confirmed



the upcoming stops in Bahrain and Kuwait, highlighting the importance of these discussions in the context of growing regional challenges.

Before arriving in Bahrain, Aragchi had traveled to Turkey, where he engaged in talks with senior officials, focusing on the recent escalation of violence, particularly the conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon. Aragchi's broader regional tour has taken him to numerous countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Oman, Jordan, Egypt, and Turkey. His diplomatic efforts are part of Iran's initiative to mobilize international support in response to Israel's military actions in Gaza and Lebanon, which have claimed the lives of over 42,603 people in Gaza and more than 2,448 in Lebanon since the beginning of October 2023.

The escalating conflict, which has seen Israel carry out extensive operations against Palestinian Hamas leaders and other Resistance groups, remains a focal point of Aragchi's re-

Among those killed in recent Israeli airstrikes is Yahya Sinwar, a top leader of Hamas, underscoring the high stakes of the ongoing confrontation. As Aragchi continues his regional tour, the international community watches closely, hoping these diplomatic engagements might lead to de-escalation and a resolution to the growing humanitarian crisis.

## Tehran urges regional mobilization to halt Israel's military actions in West Asia

From Page 1 > He also reaffirmed Iran's openness to cooperating with any country willing to contribute to stopping Israel's aggression. Moreover, he reminded the international community—especially the signatories of the 1948 UN Genocide Convention—of their responsibilities under international human rights treaties to intervene in such atrocities.

#### 'Iran fully ready to respond to any act of aggression'

As Israel continues its military campaign in Gaza and Lebanon, it has also intensified its rhetoric against Iran, further heightening tensions in the region. In recent weeks, leaked U.S. intelligence documents have suggested that Israel may be planning a direct attack on Iran. Bagaei emphasized Iran's preparedness to defend itself against any potential aggression.

"Iran is fully ready to respond to any act warned. He further insisted that such actions

of aggression," he said, reaffirming that the Islamic Republic remains vigilant and will use all available resources to counter any threats from Israel. Bagaei emphasized that Iran's military capabilities are strong, and the nation remains committed to repelling the "evil Zionist regime."

#### Iran lodges complaint to UN over Israeli

Baghaei also announced that Iran has formally complained to the United Nations about Israel's threats to target its nuclear facilities. The spokesman condemned these threats as violations of international law, including UN resolutions, and urged the UN Security Council to

"Threats to attack nuclear sites are not only against UN resolutions but also pose a serious risk to international peace and security," Baqaei must be condemned and rejected by the global

#### 'Iran's territorial integrity undisputable'

Addressing recent claims by the European Union and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) regarding the Iranian islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, Bagaei firmly reiterated Iran's sovereignty over the islands.

"Iran has no doubts about its territorial integrity and sovereignty over the three islands," he stated, dismissing the claims as unfounded and reaffirming that Iran's position is based on well-established international principles that respect national sovereignty.

The three islands fell under British control in 1921 but on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces left the region and just two days before the UAE was to become an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored.

## Israel arrests seven settlers on suspicion of 'carrying out tasks' for Iran



TEHRAN - The Zionist regime's prosecutors have announced the arrest of seven Israelis on charges of espionage for Iran.

The suspects are accused of gathering sensitive information on Israeli military (IDF) sites and facilities at the behest of Iranian intelligence.

the seven individuals allegedly undertook various assignments, including photographing and collecting data on IDF bases and military

The suspects reportedly gathered intelligence on key locations such as the Nevatim and Ramat David airbases, the IDF's headquarters in Tel Aviv, Iron Dome missile defense batteries, and the Golani Brigade's training base, among other strategic sites. The alleged spies were said to have operated under the direct instruction of their Iranian handlers.

The group consists of individuals from Haifa and other northern towns, including a former soldier who had deserted his post and two minors, Israeli media outlets reported. These arrests have

According to the regime's Justice Ministry, raised serious concerns about the potential breach of military security and the extent of Iranian intelligence operations within Israeli borders.

> The Zionist regime's State Attorney's Office has indicated that indictments against the suspects are expected to be filed by Friday, with charges likely to include espionage and endangering national security.

> The case is seen as a troubling indication of Iran's ongoing efforts to infiltrate and gather intelligence on Israeli military capabilities.

> The Nevatim base was targeted in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) retaliatory missile strikes, dubbed Operation True Promise I and II, against the Israeli regime this year, while Ramat David was struck by the Lebanese Hezbollah Resistance movement on September 22.

## Resistance will produce more commanders like Sinwar: Iranian MP

TEHRAN – A member of Iran's parliament has stated that the assassination of Yahya Sinwar, a prominent commander of the Resistance and late leader of Hamas, will only embolden the movement against the Israeli regime.

Zahra Khodadadi, a representative in the Iranian parliament, declared, "The blood of Martyr Sinwar has fueled the resolve of the Resistance to eradicate the Zionist entity. With each commander who falls, another will emerge from within the ranks of the Resistance."

Khodadadi highlighted the ongoing Al-Aqsa Storm operation in the occupied Palestinian territories, which has spanned over a year and resulted in countless casualties among Israeli soldiers. Despite the relentless violence perpetrated by the Israeli regime, Khodadadi asserted that the spirit of Resistance has only intensified.

She refuted Israeli claims that Sinwar sought refuge in Gaza's tunnels out of fear, citing footage captured by the regime's drones that showed him bravely engaged in the battle, bearing wounds on his hands and legs. Khodadadi emphasized that Sinwar fought valiantly until the end, embodying the unwavering determination of the Resistance

Undeterred by Israeli aggression, Khodadadi denounced the U.S. and the West for their unwavering support of the occupying regime. She maintained that the assassination of commanders like Yahya Sinwar,

History shows that the elimination of leaders only serves to galvanize Resistance movements

Ismail Haniyeh, and Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah will not extinguish the flame of Resistance but will instead ignite it further. "History has shown,"

elimination of leaders only serves to galvanize the Resistance movement, with new commanders rising to take their place and carry on the struggle."

Khodadadi asserted. "that the

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

## Kuwait to transfer 36 Iranian prisoners back to Iran

has confirmed that the Arab state will be returning 36 Iranian prisoners to Iran soon.

On Sunday, Mohammad Toutounchi revealed that although the initial plan involved the extradition of 22 inmates, ongoing negotiations and collaboration with Kuwaiti authorities have successfully increased this figure to 36.

Toutounchi indicated that the transfer is anticipated to take place in the coming days, following the completion of necessary

TEHRAN - The Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait administrative processes.

Iranian diplomat expressed appreciation for the humanitarian efforts of Kuwaiti officials, emphasizing that this development signifies goodwill between the two nations and has the potential to strengthen bilateral relations.

"The extradition of the 36 Iranian prisoners from Kuwait to Iran is being facilitated by an extradition treaty established between the two countries.

This initiative has received backing from the

Iranian embassy in Kuwait, along with cooperation from Kuwaiti officials," the ambassador asserted.

Toutounchi remarked, "It is important to highlight that an agreement on judicial and legal cooperation regarding civil, commercial, and criminal matters was signed between Iran and Kuwait in 2004."

Earlier, on October 18, the deputy head of international affairs of the Iranian Judiciary announced the release of 17 Iranian prisoners in Georgia to continue serving their sentences in Iran.

# IRAN IN FOCUS

**OCTOBER 22, 2024** Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

#### Para taekwondo athlete Rahimi eyes bright future

TEHRAN - Iran's para taekwondo athlete Zahra Rahimi expressed her optimism about the

She won Iran's first silver medal in the 2024 Paralympic Games.

The 16-year-athlete lost to Mongolia's Ulambayar Surenjav 5-2 in the final match of k44-52kg.

Rahimi was the youngest member of Iran Paralympic delegation.

"I am not satisfied with silver medal because I could have won the gold. But it was my first Paralympics and I am optimistic about the future," Rahimi told Tehran Times.

"As you know, the Olympic competition is a very high-level competition but I did my best and it was satisfying, however I think I deserved to win gold," she added.

"I have a dream to wave Iran's flag in every competition and I am sure it will happen. I will do my best in the upcoming competitions to make my dream come true," Rahimi added.

"I am optimistic about the future and prepares for the Tashkent 2025 Asian Youth Para Games and Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games," she

#### Mosimane's duty bringing back Esteghlal's heydays

TEHRAN - Iran's football powerhouse, Esteghlal, are currently in a tumultuous period. Having finished as runners-up last season under Javad Nekounam, the club's recent form has been a stark contrast to their previous success. A series of poor results led to Nekounam's resignation, despite having personally assembled the squad. The club signed every player that the former head coach wanted, but the results were poor.

Esteghlal player Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh was appointed as interim manager, but his tenure has been marked by inconsistency. A narrow 2-1 victory over Havadar was followed by a heavy 3-0 home defeat to Zob Ahan, prompting the club to bring in an experienced South African coach Pitso Mosimane. Mosimane, who has been out of work since leaving Saudi Arabian club Abha, is tasked with turning the club's fortunes around.

Esteghlal are currently languishing in 11th place in the Persian Gulf Pro League and face a daunting task in the AFC Champions League Elite, where they will face Cristiano Ronaldo's

Bakhtiarizadeh will remain in charge for this crucial match before handing over the reins to

The club's management has also come under fire from the fans, with calls for the resignation of CEO Farshid Samiei and chairman Ahmad Shahriari.

Mosimane's appointment is seen as a gamble, but it remains to be seen whether he can salvage Esteghlal's season and restore the club to their former glory.

#### Iran football federation reluctant to continue with Shamsaei

TEHRAN - Football federation of Iran is reportedly reluctant to continue its cooperation with futsal head coach Vahid Shamsaei.

In September, Iran suffered a 4-3 loss against Morocco in the 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup and failed to advance to quarterfinals.

The media reports suggest that the federation's futsal committee is not going to extend Shamsaei's contract.

Iran's futsal team moved down two places to sixth in the world ranking list. Published in mid-October

#### Daghighi named Kheybar coach

TEHRAN - Saeid Daghighi was appointed as Kheybar football team head coach one day after he parted ways with Shams Azar.

The 38-year-old coach replaced Mohammad Reza Mohajeri in the Khorramabad-based team.

Brazilian coach Marco Aurelio da Cunha was interim coach of Kheybar in the previous weeks.

Under his leadership, Shams Azar sits 12th in the Iran Professional League (IPL) 16-team table. Rasoul Khatibi is reportedly a candidate to take charge of Shams Azar.

#### North Korea, Iran World Cup qualifier in Laos

TEHRAN - The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has confirmed on Monday that the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 26 Group A matches between DPR Korea and Iran will take place at the Lao National Stadium KM16, Vientiane, Laos (neutral venue).

The match between DPR Korea and Iran is scheduled for Nov. 14, while DPR Korea will also play Uzbekistan on Nov. 19 at the same stadium.

Team Melli, headed by Amir Ghalenoei, top Group A with 10 points and North Korea sit sixth with just two points.

#### Esteghlal determined to stop **Al Nassr**

TEHRAN - Esteghlal FC will be determined to stop a high riding Al Nassr Club when the two sides square off in the AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 on Tuesday.

They will, however, have to brush off their 3-0 defeat to Zob Ahan in the Iran Pro League on Friday while Al Nassr will head into the tie with a spring in their step after edging Al Shabab in the Saudi Pro League encounter.

Having opened their continental campaign with an impressive 3-0 defeat of Qatar's Al Gharafa, Esteghlal found themselves on the receiving end of a 2-0 loss to Al Sadd SC two weeks ago.

While the head-to-head between the two sides is one win each, three of their previous six meetings with teams from Saudi Arabia have ended in defeat.

Al Nassr, meanwhile, have discovered its form after a slow start and look well placed to challenge for honors on the domestic and continental fronts.

A 2-1 win against Al Rayyan last time out took the team to four points and having not lost in their previous nine meetings with Iranian clubs, it will be confident of another three points on Tuesday. The match will be held at the Rashid Stadium in Dubai.

#### Iran down Hong Kong in AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifier

Iran kicked off their bid for a place in the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025 with an impressive 7-1 win against Hong Kong in Group A of the Qualifiers on Monday.

Iran, the 2018 champions, quickly got into their groove and went ahead in the second minute through Omid Garachchomaghloo before Erfan Khodadadian doubled their lead 14

Hong Kong fought to pull a goal back through Yiu Tsz Leong in the 23rd minute but were unable to stop Iliya Ahmadimanesh from restoring Iran's two-goal lead nine minutes later.

The East Asian side battled admirably in the second half but Iran's persistent attacks proved too hot to handle as Garachchomaghloo shined with goals in the 50th, 88th and second minute of added time while Khodadadian netted in the 84th minute to seal the emphatic win.

# **ECONOMY**



#### Loading, unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port up 10.5% in H1

TEHRAN - As announced by a provincial official, the loading and unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port, in the southwestern Khuzestan province, increased by 10.5 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the first half of the past year.

Aboutaleb Geraylou, the head of Khuz-

and unloaded at this port during the mentioned six-month period. Of the mentioned figure, 13 million tons

was the amount of non-oil goods and 11 million tons was the oil products.

estan's Ports and Maritime Department, said

that 24 million tons of goods were loaded

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

#### Iron ore concentrate export stands at \$241m in 6 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported 3.246 million tons of iron ore concentrate worth \$241 million during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), according to the data released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

As ISPA reported, the country had exported 3.346 million tons of the product worth \$298 million in the first six months of the past year.

Iron ore concentrate export fell 19 percent

Non-oil export from Ardebil

in terms of value, and four percent in terms of weight, in six months, year on year.

Iron ore concentrate is an output product from processed iron ores that have been milled (crush, grind, magnetic separation, flotation) to separate deleterious elements and produce a high-quality product.

Iron ore concentrates are deep beneficiated iron ore products, used for sintering and blast furnace production, as well as pellet production.

# province increases 54%

TEHRAN- The value of non-oil exports from Ardebil province in the northwest of Iran increased by 54 percent during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Yasoub Nejad-Mohammad, the head of the province's Finance and Economic Affairs Department, said that 157,000 tons of non-oil goods worth \$80 million were exported from

the province in the six-month period, indicating also 42 percent rise in terms of weight year on year.

He also announced that 15,000 tons of non-oil commodities valued at \$105 million were imported to the province in the first half of the present year, with 73 percent growth in value and 57 percent rise in weight, year on

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

## Foreign investment approved in 3 months hits \$1.8b

TEHRAN- According to the Iranian Finance and Foreign Affairs Ministry, during three months since the 14th government's incumbency, 182 applications related to foreign investment have been reviewed and approved by the Foreign Investment Committee, and the value of the approved foreign investment plans in this three-month period has reached \$1.8 billion.

As the ministry reported, the 285th meeting of the foreign investment board and the third meeting in the 14th government was held under the chairmanship of Ali Fekri, the deputy finance and economic affairs minister and the head of the Organization for investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, and



with the presence of members of the foreign investment board.

In order to speed up and facilitate the process of issuing foreign investment permits, a meeting of the foreign investment committee is held in the mentioned organization every month.

During a conference titled Iran Investment Opportunities, which was held in late September prior to Iran Invest Expo, it was stated that 30 countries have announced their readiness to invest

In the Iran Investment Oppor-

tunities Conference, 107 representatives and investment delegations from 30 countries announced their readiness to invest in Iran, the Public Relations Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) re-

As reported, the event was held at Persian Gulf Hall of the Tehran Permanent International Fairground, participated by Mahmoud Bazari, the director-general of trade promotion office of the TPO, Mohammad-Reza Qaderi, the organizer of Iran Investment Opportunities Expo, some officials, and representatives of the Expo Strategic Council.

(See full text attehrantimes.com)

#### Iran's railway welcomes transport co-op with TRACECA members

TEHRAN - The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (IRIR), known as RAI, said his country welcomes cooperation with the TRACECA member countries in the field of transportation.

Jabbar-Ali Zakeri made the remarks in a meeting with TRACECA Corridor Secretary General Asset Assavbayev in Tehran.

Referring to the country's 7th national development plan to increase the amount of cargo transit, both by rail and road, he said: "We will welcome the transportation cooperation with TRASECA member countries."

The RAI head also mentioned Iran's freight transit capacities on rail and road routes, and stated. "Iran's railways now have a good relationship with a significant number of TRASE-CA member countries in the field of transportation, and we hope that this interaction with 13 other countries, increase day by day."

In this meeting, the secretary general of TRACECA also announced the interest of the members of this entity to use the capacity of Iran's corridors and said: "This capacity allows the member countries to increase the amount of their trade from Central Asia to Turkey through Iran."

Asset Assavbayev also met Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh during his stay in Tehran.

In the meeting, the Iranian minister expressed Iran's readiness for hosting the upcoming meeting of the TRACECA ministers which is due to be held in February 2025.

During a two-day trip, Assavbayev traveled to Astara from the headquarters of the TRA-SICA 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

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 ser-

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.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

# Bank Melli Iran cements support for economic actors, provides 728,192 loans worth 1,941,308 billion rials in H1

producers across the country, totaling 803,929 billion rials. Bank Melli Iran has provided a total of 728,192 loans valued at credit card loans, received sectors of the economy during billion rials from Bank Melli Iran. the first six months of the on March 20).

According to the public relations office of BMI, as part 24,053 loans worth 63,468 of the government's policies to billion rials to the agricultural support domestic producers, the sector and conversion industries

In line with its commitment to bank has issued 15,640 loans to support economic actors and the industrial and mining sector.

The services sector, including 1,941,308 billion rials to various 590,095 loans worth /13,538

Additionally, 65,616 loans current Iranian year (started valued at 254,045 billion rials were granted to the trade sector.

Bank Melli Iran also issued

during the same period.

Moreover, by the end of Shahrivar (Sep. 21), the export sector had received 1,689 billion rials from Bank Melli Iran.

It is worth noting that loan issuance to various economic sectors is accelerating in the second half of the year, allowing more economic actors to benefit from the facilities provided by Bank Melli Iran.



## Bank Melli Iran offers personal loans up to 5 billion rials

Bank Melli Iran has introduced a scheme application or in person at branches. Based system. Once the documents are completed customers loans up to 5 billion rials.

office, clients may simply activate their account maximum of 5 billion rials. in the Web-based application of BAAM to benefit from the moneylending plan. After completing the required documents, the loan will be accessible within three hours.

special account either online through the are carried out online through the BAAM is one of such loan offerings.

named "National Credit", which offers its on their account's average balance over a and the guarantor is approved, the loan will period of 1 to 12 months (as chosen by the be deposited into the customer's account According to the bank's public relations customer), they can receive loans up to a within three hours.

guarantor is required, and for loans up to 5 billion rials, two guarantors are needed, with

Customers can obtain it quickly, easily, and For loans up to 3 billion rials, only one entirely online, with repayment installments over 1 to 5 years at an interest rate of 14%.

Bank Melli Iran continually strives to facilitate no need for a salary deduction certificate. financial support for Iranian nationals by For the first step, customers can open a Guarantor verification and credit assessment introducing new plans and "National Credit"

# From Namibia to Gaza: Germany's flirtation with genocide again

#### By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Israel and its Western allies are desperately attempting to sweep the Tel Aviv regime's crimes in Lebanon and Gaza under the rug by spewing propaganda against regional resistance groups.

The Israeli army has assassinated multiple high-ranking Palestinian and Lebanese political and military officials since declaring war on Gaza in October last year.

The Israeli army said on Thursday that its forces killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah during a firefight on the ground.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sought to attribute responsibility for the ongoing genocidal war on Gaza to Sinwar. Netanyahu has suggested that Sinwar's demise would hasten the end of the war.

Netanyahu, known as Bibi, made similar comments when Israel assassinated Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Iran on July 31 and Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in Brirut on September 27



German FM remains under fire for suggesting Israel can kill civilians in Gaza to "defend itself".

But Bibi's mudslinging campaigns seem to have fallen flat amid persistent protests against the atrocities that Israel is perpetrating in Lebanon and Gaza.

#### Europe protests

Meanwhile, people took to the streets in several European countries at the weekend calling for an end to Israel's brutal wars in Gaza and Lebanon.



Germany perpetrated genocide in Namibia, while Israel is currently engaging in similar actions in Gaza.

Israel has slaughtered more than 42,600 Palestinians, including about 17,000 children in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

The death toll from Israel's ongoing onslaught on Lebanon that started more than a year ago has also topped 2,400, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

Israel and Hezbollah began trading fire a day after Israel declared war on Gaza. The regime also began a massive bombing campaign in Lebanon nearly a month ago.

Tens of thousands of people held rallies in towns and cities in Britain on Saturday. They denounced Israel's massacre of Palestinian people in Gaza and called for an end to the onslaught.

In London, protesters blamed the UK government for failing to halt the flow of weapons from Britain's arms firms to Israel

Similar rallies were organized in Belgium. People in Brussels demanded that their government push for a complete international military embargo against Israel.



German police used dogs to disperse demonstrators who took to the streets of Berlin to condemn the ongoing Israeli carnage in Gaza and Lebanon.

In Germany, police used dogs to disperse demonstrators who came out in the capital, Berlin, to denounce the Israeli carnage in Gaza and Lebanon.

The demonstrators marched, chanting slogans such as "Freedom for Palestine."

German police demanded that the demonstrators break up their protest under the pretext of non-compliance with the laws and harming public security.

Officers resorted to violence against the protesters and made many arrests.

German cities have witnessed large protests against Israel's war on Gaza since October last year. Activists in Germany say police have become increasingly aggressive towards anti-war demonstrators posting videos on social media that appear to show officers beating protesters.

Nonetheless, comments made by German officials indicate that they have no scruples about abetting Israel's genocide in Gaza.

#### Whitewashing genocide

Addressing the German Parliament on October 14, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock suggested that Israel can kill civilians in Gaza to "defend itself".

"Self-defense means not only attacking terrorists but destroying them. When Hamas terrorists hide behind people, behind schools ... civilian places lose their protected status because terrorists abuse it," Baerbock said as she tried to justify Israel's massacres.

Her comments came the same day several people were burned alive due to Israeli attacks on a northern Gaza hospital and tent encampment.

The statements drew widespread condemnation. Hamas called Baerbock's comments "impudent" saying they "give cover to the occupation to commit more genocidal crimes."

"We express our deep disapproval of this statement, which reveals a Zionist mentality devoid of all human values and principles ... we call on the International Court of Justice to consider the statement of this German minister as additional evidence of her government's participation in the war of genocide," Hamas said.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad also came down on the German foreign minister.

"These statements represent a dangerous justification for targeting civilian sites under the pretext of the presence of armed elements in these sites, cover up the crimes of the occupation that targets civilians, and provide an immoral justification for indiscriminate attacks," the resistance movement said in a statement on October 16.

UN officials and world leaders from across the world also denounced Baerbock's statement.

But a German Foreign Ministry official doubled down on the foreign minister's position saying Berlin sees "no sign of genocide" in Gaza.

Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for its atrocities in Gaza.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has also issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Earlier this year, Nicaragua filed proceedings against Germany at the ICJ. It accused Germany of facilitating

Israel's genocide by supplying the regime's military with arms.

#### Germany's shameful legacy

Germany stood on the wrong side of history in the Second World War under Adolf Hitler. Again Berlin is repeating that mistake. Germany's support for Israel's genocide will go down in history and make an indelible impression on humanity which can never be removed.



People in Europe call for an arms embargo on Israel and an end to the regime's war in Gaza and Lebanon.

Germany has officially acknowledged committing genocide during its colonial occupation of Namibia.

German colonizers killed tens of thousands of Herero and Nama people there in early 20th century massacres.

For now, Germany and Israel currently share a significant similarity: both have been involved in acts of genocide.



Nicaragua filed proceedings against Germany at the ICJ in March accusing it of facilitating Israel's genocide.

Germany along with some other European countries, notably the UK, and France as well as the United States regard Israel as their close ally in West Asia despite the regime's barbarism in Gaza and Lebanon.

They have also attempted to silence voices of dissent to cover up their complicity in Israel's massacres.

Israel does not want to end the war on Gaza and Lebanon while Western countries are acting as mere apologists for the apartheid regime.

# INTERNATIONAL

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#### Ethnic cleansing on Israel's agenda

TEHRAN- An Israeli far-right minister has once more highlighted the apartheid and fascist characteristics of the regime.

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has urged Palestinians to "voluntarily" leave the Gaza Strip.

"We will encourage voluntary transfer of all Gazan citizens. We will offer them the opportunity to move to other countries because that land belongs to us," Ben-Gvir said.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has previously made similar remarks.

Israel currently stands accused of attempting to carry out an ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in northern Gaza. The Israeli army launched a brutal offensive in the north more than two weeks ago ordering people to leave the



It has prevented the entry of essentials such as food and continues to commit massacres there.

Since Israel launched war on Gaza on October last year, it has been accused of trying to forcibly transfer Palestinians to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

Israel withdrew its military and settlers from Gaza in 2005 after a nearly 40-year occupation.

#### Hezbollah downs advanced Israeli drone

From page 1 There are more than 30 branches of the bank across Lebanon, including 15 in the densely populated areas of central Beirut and its suburbs.

Despite Israeli claims that the banking institution has been used to boost Hezbollah's military, the bank itself has only served ordinary Lebanese.

"They struck empty buildings in residential neighborhoods and destroyed those surrounding neighborhoods. These weren't military centers or weapons caches," Ma'an Khalil, the mayor of Ghobeiry municipality in the southern suburbs of Beirut, told the Guardian

Following the Israeli war on Lebanon in July 2006, Hezbollah's martyr Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah issued a directive to remove anything related to Hezbollah's military from the suburbs of Beirut.

#### Qualitative rocket barrage

Within the framework of Hezbollah's Khaybar operations and "in response to the

targeting of civilians and the massacres committed by the Zionist enemy" the Lebanese resistance said it bombed the Samson base (a command supply center and regional supply unit) west of Lake Tabariyya with a qualitative rocket barrage.

Hezbollah also targeted a gathering of Israeli enemy forces at the Beria air defense missile base with a rocket barrage.

Other operations by the Lebanese resistance on Monday saw a gathering of Israeli soldiers targeted three times with missile barrages on the eastern outskirts of the town of Markaba "inflicting confirmed casualties".

Hezbollah says Israeli soldiers who tried to evacuate the wounded and dead soldiers near Markaba were also attacked.

The resistance movement targeted the Keila barracks in the occupied Syrian Golan with a rocket barrage and bombed site 2222 in Mount Hermon with a rocket salvo.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

# Death as policy: Understanding necropolitics in Gaza and beyond

From page 1 This creates a state of constant anticipation of death—what has been described as "worse than death" conditions. The colonized individual lives in expectation of degradation, humiliation, and murder. In this framework, the colonized subject is defined as a "living dead," stripped of sovereignty over their own body and life, as Mbembe explains. Their existence is akin to living in a torture chamber, where life itself feels worse than death. Similarly, to be colonized is to live in constant fear that one's body could be violated or seized by the colonizer.

This politics of death is not only directed at the living Palestinians (and now, Lebanese), but also extends to the deceased, who are denied the right to die as humans due to a prior dehumanization. Countless reports describe how Palestinian dead are hastily buried without proper funeral rites, often in mass graves. Even the buried are not spared, as Israeli forces have destroyed cemeteries, dug up graves, and confiscated bodies. Similar incidents have occurred in hospitals, where the bodies of deceased patients have been seized.

Necropolitics dictates who lives and who dies, seeking to manage populations by creating the conditions of life and death. In this context, even the dead are "managed," divided between those considered human enough to die and those denied even a "normal" death. The dehumanization is so extreme that "it is as if withholding death—denying the ability to die or ensuring they do not die—becomes an act of dehumanization in itself: Palestinians are not even considered human enough to die.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

#### Zionist aggression widens to target Hezbollah's social and economic structure

From page 1 Targeting the Al-Qard Al-Hassan Association is not to stop the funding of Hezbollah; the main goal is to exert political pressure and terrorize people. It also aims to destroy surrounding residential buildings as the association's branches have been emptied. There is no money or gold in them

The US Treasury describes the Al-Qard Al-Hassan Association as "Hezbollah's black bank". Between 2007 and 2016, it successively sanctioned it, accusing it of "illegally transferring funds" to Hezbollah. In the same context, it imposed sanctions on individuals it claimed were linked to Hezbollah and its financial institutions.

Following the economic problem in Lebanon in 2019, the association launched

humble loans especially to agricultural, small and handicraft projects, for a repayment period of up to 60 months. In December 2020, the association's accounts were hacked by a group calling itself "Spiders." The hackers were able to obtain recordings from cameras installed in the branches, lists of borrowers and depositors, and other details.

The institution among other Hezbollah service institutions will be rebuilt after the war, despite malicious moves by America, Israel and their mercenaries.

The Wall Street Journal quoted Israeli officials as saying that the goal of targeting the Al-Qard Al-Hassan Foundation is to weaken Hezbollah's relationship with its community.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

# **TOURISM**



### Jinn Chimney: a unique natural phenomenon in west central Iran



TEHRAN - Situated in Mahneshan county of Zanjan province, west-central Iran, the Jinn Chimney—known locally as Doodkesh-e Jinn—is an extraordinary natural formation that has become a popular tourist attraction.

In geology, such formations are referred to as "hoodoos," which are tall, thin spires of rock topped by a larger stone, resembling a mushroom-like shape. The structure gives the impression of a narrow minaret or chimney with a stone cap balanced on top.

These fascinating shapes are the result of prolonged erosion, where sedimentary rocks and softer layers are worn away, leaving tall pillars with varying thickness and height. Typically, a harder layer or rock sits atop the column, protecting the underlying structure from erosion. The unusual appearance of these formations has inspired locals to call them Jinn Chimneys or Elf Thrones, reflecting old beliefs that attributed such strange natural phenomena to supernatural beings like

While hoodoos are geological wonders found worldwide—most famously in the Bryce Canyon region of the United States, and also in Turkey, Serbia, Taiwan, and parts of the French Alps—Jinn Chimneys hold a distinct place in Iranian tourism.

Whether viewed as a geological curiosity or a mystical wonder, the Jinn Chimney in Mahneshan offers visitors a glimpse into the unique beauty shaped by nature over time.

#### Centuries-old bone circlet unearthed in Russia

A team of archaeologists has found a fragment of a bone circular while conducting excavations in Moscow. The relic is estimated to date from the end of the 18th to the beginning of the 19th century.

This discovery is unique for Moscow, as such artifacts have never been found before as cited by the official portal of the Mayor and Government of Moscow.

Specialists have already completed the restoration of the instrument, which includes a bone stem with a brass mount and a shackle connecting the parts, TV BRICS reported.

The circlet will be handed over to a cultural heritage museum as soon as the restoration of other found objects is completed.

Aleksey Emelyanov, head of the capital's Department of Cultural Heritage, noted that this circlet could have belonged to a student or engineer of the era of Paul I or Alexander I. He also added that such measuring tools have always been valuable and were treated

The history of the circular goes back to ancient times and this tool has been used since ancient times, including in Babylon and As-

In addition, during the excavations about 300 individual finds, including porcelain toys, dishes, lamps and interior figurines, belonging to the 18th and 19th centuries were found.

### Thousands protest against over-tourism in Canary Islands

Tourism is the main economic engine of the islands, but it has also priced locals out of the property market, and it is damaging the environment too.

Around 30,000 people took to the streets of the different cities and towns of the archipelago on Sunday under the banner "The Canary Islands have a limit."

In 2023 over 16 million tourists visited and it's likely that number will be higher when 2024 is over. Tourists spent more than 20 billion euros in 2023, but it comes at a price.

And whilst the protesters concede that tourism provides crucial jobs, they say most of them are low-skilled and badly paid.

As many properties are owned by second home-owners who don't live there all the time, buying a property to live in has become prohibitively expensive - and renting an affordable apartment has long been a strug-

Tourism grew by five percent last year and the protesters say it's too much, as the islands have become overcrowded. Many suggest the answer lies in attracting fewer, wealthier tourists as other countries have successfully done.

It affects biodiversity

Among the associations behind the latest protest was Ecologists in Action. It regrets the damage that mass tourism has done to the sensitive biodiversity of the Canary Islands, which has protected areas, endemic species and unique ecosystems resulting from its volcanic formation.

After a big protest in April protesters were hoping for new legislation to be passed by the islands' parliament, such as the introduction of a tourist tax, which is already being levied in Spain's Balearic Islands which suffer similar problems.

But, according to the protesters there have been no substantial legislative changes - and

In Maspalomas on Gran Canarias, one of the protesters, Eugenio Reyes, told local media that "everything remains the same."

"There has been no official contact nor has an observatory or space been created for civil society to listen to citizens, who have specific proposals," he said.

(Source: euronews)

#### Glimpses of World Heritage sites: **Los Glaciares National Park**

Los Glaciares National Park is located in the Southwest of Santa Cruz Province in the Argentine part of Patagonia. Comprised of a National Park and a National Reserve it has a total surface area of 600,000 hectares.

According to UNESCO, Los Glaciares owes its name to the numerous glaciers covering roughly half of the World Heritage property. Many of these glaciers are fed by the massive South Patagonian Ice Field, the most extensive South American relict of the glaciological processes of the Quaternary Period. In addition, there are impressive glaciers independent of the main ice field. The property therefore constitutes a massive freshwater

The Upsala, Onelli and Perito Moreno Glaciers calve into the icy and milky waters of the huge Lake Argentino, which is partly included in the property. The most striking sight is the famous Perito Moreno Glacier. This large glacier blocks a narrow channel formed by Lake Argentino thereby raising the water level temporarily. This in turn causes regular thunderous ruptures of the glacier tongue into the lake.

## Isfahan's ancient art of Ghalamzani gains international recognition

TEHRAN - The traditional art of Ghalamzani, the intricate craft of engraving beautiful designs on metals such as copper, brass, silver, and gold, has been recognized with an international Geographical Indication (GI). This prestigious recognition highlights Isfahan as the primary hub for this ancient craft.

Majd-al-Din Taj, the head of the Handicrafts Union of Isfahan, announced the news on Sunday, stating that this global registration is a major achievement for Isfahan's artisans.

He noted that one of the longstanding concerns of the region's craft community has been the efforts by other countries to claim certain traditional Iranian crafts and cultural assets as their own. Taj referenced similar disputes, such as with the game of Chogan (polo) and iconic figures like Rumi, an illustrious Persian poet of the 13th-century poet

"This recognition has been a priority for the Handicrafts Union of Isfahan," Taj explained. "We prepared and defended the necessary proposals, with financial support provided by the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce to cover the costs involved."

Taj elaborated on the process for GI registration, stating that a craft must first be recognized nationally with a geographical registration before being eligible for global recognition.

"In the past two and a half years, 20 handicraft fields from Isfahan province have received national geographical registra-

The union is now focused on pursuing international recognition for these crafts."

With the international GI for Ghalamzani, this ancient art joins other globally recognized crafts from Isfahan, including Minakari (enamel work), Qalamkar (block printing on fabric), and Kashi Haft-Rang (seven-colored tile-

This marks the fourth craft from Isfahan to achieve this sta-

Taj emphasized the significance of GI status for both artisans and the industry. "The first benefit is that it confirms the au-

thenticity of the craft, ensuring that it is indeed created by our talented artists in Isfahan and Iran," he said.

Taj added that the recognition also provides marketing and branding advantages, addressing a long-standing issue where countries like Turkey and some Persian Gulf states have sold Iranian handicrafts under their own

To further safeguard the authenticity of the artworks, the Handicrafts Union will provide artisans with hologram stickers to be affixed to recognized products. Additionally, the union's website will feature details about each registered craft, including the artist's name, further promoting the link between the craft and its origin in Isfahan.

GI is a name or sign used on products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g., a town or region).

The use of a geographical indication, as an indication of the product's source, is intended as a certification that the product possesses certain qualities, is made according to traditional methods, or enjoys a good reputation due to its geographical

Persian expertise for engraving metal objects

Ghalamzani is the splendid art of engraving superb designs on tion of the pattern drawing, the

various kinds of metals such as copper, brass, silver, and gold by the means of carving chisels.

It seems that the history of engraving has not been too far from the time when man discovered and used the metals.

The ancient samples are being kept in the National Museum of Iran and other ones across the globe, some dating 3000 years.

Isfahan has long been the main hub for ancient expertise, where artists make a range of gold and silver dishes stunningly decorated with animals and scenes of hunting.

A typical artist meticulously uses a chisel and hammer to carve out every detail to engrave vivid scenes.

Experts say the artistic movement of the engraver's hand and the harmonized blows of the hammer and engraving tool will be finally led to creating a unique

However, the material will be decorated and embellished after it has already been shaped by another talented artist using a hammer and anvil.

Modern-day metal dish preparation is occasionally handled by machinery due to the difficult work and advancing age of the

Following the artist's comple-

back of the piece is coated with tar and baked along with other materials. Next, the main lines of the design are traced using carv-

ing chisels.

From this point on, it may take the artist weeks or even months to complete the design, which was once just an idea in his head.

Every piece is meticulously made, requiring the artists to have a great deal of skill, talent, and patience.

Many materials and tools, including chisels, hammers, instruments made by hand, etc. are used by the artisans to emboss and engrave the most intricate and complex designs on different kinds of metals.

Various natural scenes, human and animal forms, floral and plant patterns, hunting grounds, etc. Some of the numerous beautiful images that have been meticulously hand-carved into various types of Ghalamzani pieces include and.

In addition to applying heat, other techniques used to create these works of art include the use of waxes, dyes, sanding, and polishing.

The beautiful Ghalamzani handicrafts come in the form of ornamental trays, plates, vases, pitchers, and other utensils.

#### Iranian-Italian cooperation spotlighted at Burnt City exhibit in Italy

TEHRAN - The University of Salento has recently held a cultural meeting in connection with an exhibition it hosted earlier this year on Iran's Burnt City, a UNESCO-listed site better known as Shahr-e Sukhteh locally.

The event was attended by the former Italian ambassador to Iran, Giuseppe Perrone, and several diplomats, archaeologists, and cultural heritage enthusiasts, Mehr reported on Monday.

During the meeting, an Iranian diplomat emphasized that the Burnt City project exemplifies one of the most significant forms of cooperation between the two countries. He noted that the discoveries at the site reflect ancient cultural and trade exchanges between Iran and other civilizations across

Former ambassador Perrone, known for his passion for Iranian culture, also praised the unique aspects of the Burnt City, underscoring its significance.

In addition, the Iranian archaeologist Seyyed Mansour Seyyed Sajjadi, who has led archaeological efforts at the Burnt City for many years, discussed the importance of the site and its discoveries.

He explained that collaboration between the University of Salento and Iranian archaeologists began in 2016, resulting in significant discoveries that have been shared internationally.

Then, he highlighted the title of the exhibition, "Shahr-e Sukhteh: When Myth Becomes History," and emphasized the importance of exhibitions that convey meaningful narratives rather than merely displaying objects.

"I don't agree with exhibitions that showcase only artifacts without context," Seyyed



Sajjadi remarked. "Visitors who aren't specialists may enjoy seeing the objects but won't fully understand how they were discovered or what they represent. In archaeology, excavation accounts for only 25% of the work; the remaining 75% lies in post-excavation research and analysis."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the archaeologist revealed that the idea of preparing the exhibition began three years ago, leading to the creation of 60 posters and 43 photographs. These visuals, accompanied by detailed explanations, were displayed to help visitors better understand the artifacts and the site. He added that Italian visitors were particularly fascinated by the environmental conditions of the Burnt City, as it offered insights into the ancient climate of the region.

The collaboration between the Iranian Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and the University of Salento was formalized in 2016 through an agreement.

In 2021, several books documenting the project's findings were published in multiple

Featuring 141 photographs, explanatory panels, and a reconstruction of the latest scientific findings, the exhibition offered an Italian preview of the research conducted on the Iranian UNESCO site.

The Burnt City in Persian—was first explored by an Italian archaeological mission between 1967 and 1978. Later, the archaeologist Seyyed Sajjadi conducted further exca-

Since 2016, cooperation between Iranian and Italian archaeologists has resumed through a new project led by Enrico Ascalone at the University of Salento.

Between the late 4th and 3rd millennium BC, the city was a major center for the processing and trade of semi-precious stones. particularly lapis lazuli and turquoise, but also alabaster, carnelian, jasper, steatite, and rock crystal.

Founded around 3200 BC, Burnt City was populated during four main periods up to 1800 BC. Previous rounds of excavations showed that its residents had great skills in weaving, and creating fine arts such as decorative objects, stone carving, and pottery

According to the UN cultural body, changes in watercourses and climate change led to the eventual abandonment of the city in the early second millennium.

The structures, burial grounds and large number of significant artifacts unearthed there and their well-preserved state due to the dry desert climate make this site a rich source of information regarding the emergence of complex societies and contacts between them in the third millennium BC.

Burnt City is situated in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, which was once a junction of Bronze-Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau.

## Intl. Congress on Cancer Genetics to be held

TEHRAN -The first International Congress on Cancer Genetics is going to be held virtually from October 22 to 24 in Tehran.

All cancers are genetic, DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is in every cell of our body. Each strand of DNA contains many genes. All cancers begin when DNA mutations, or changes, cause cells to divide and grow out of control.

However, it is different from hereditary cancer. Hereditary or family cancer means that family members are at risk of developing certain types of cancer.

The congress mainly focuses on innovative methods for cancer prevention, detection, and treatment.

Research in the field of genetic assessment and the prediction of cancer occurrence will help prevent the rise in cancer cases in the country, reduce treatment expenses, promote public health, and extend life expectancy, as well.

Cancers account for more than 55 thousand deaths annually. Some 34 thousand deaths out of 122 thousand premature deaths (under 70 years of age) and 11 thousand deaths out of 85 thousand very premature deaths (under 50 years of age) are caused by various cancers.



Cancers are the leading cause of premature mortality in the country, according to the health ministry.

The latest national cancer census shows that the number of new cancer cases in Iran is expected to increase to 160,000 by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026), indicating an increase of 43 percent.

The first 10 most common cancers in Iran are breast, prostate, colon, stomach, lung, bladder, thyroid, uterus, brain, and spine cancers.

The most common cancers of Iranian women include breast, colon, thyroid, stomach, uterine, leukemia, ovary, brain and spine, lungs and esophagus.

Around 250,000 Iranians are now living with cancer. Half of cancers can be almost treated and the rest can be avoided.

#### Recent achievements

On January 20, the Iran University of Medical Sciences (IUMS) announced the development of a system based on artificial intelligence (AI) that can detect breast cancer with 94 percent accuracy, IRNA reported.

In Iran, breast cancer is the second-leading cause of death in women as around 30 percent of patients die each year, nearly as much as the world average.

Earlier detection of cancer increases the chance of successful treatment and survival.

Also, an Iranian knowledge-based company announced readiness to meet the needs of regional countries as well as North Africa for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. HPV is known to cause cervical cancer in women.

The product has been manufactured at a much lower price, 75 percent cheaper, compared to foreign samples.

Producing the HPV vaccine needs one of the most complicated technologies in the world, and Iran has been able to produce the vaccine domestically.

Once the vaccine proved its safety and effectiveness in increasing the antibody titer, it obtained the Food and Drug Organization's approval to enter the market in 2020.

In September 2023, an Iranian knowledge-based company succeeded in producing 'ibrutinib' which is used to treat various blood cancers, making the country the third producer of the medication in the world.

Now Iran, India, and China are the only three countries in the world that have the high-tech knowledge to produce ibrutinib and necessary raw material, IRNA reported.

# SOCIETY

OCTOBER 22,2024
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

# Osteoporosis screening program underway

TEHRAN – An osteoporosis screening program has started in the country and is being implemented by four universities in the first phase.

The program will be implemented in other parts of the country if the first phase is fruitful, IRNA quoted Fatemeh Hajivalizadeh, a health ministry official, as saying.

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 osteo-porosis, 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.





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 bonehealthy 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.

# Some 7,000 physicians participating in rural family physician program

TEHRAN –Approximately, 7,000 physicians are participating in the implementation of the Family Physician Program in rural areas, an official with the health insurance organization has said.

The rural family physician program started in 2005. Back then, it targeted villages and cities with a population of less than 20,000 individuals to make treatment referrals more concentrated and provide more convenient access to health services, ISNA quoted Masoud Mashayekhi as saying.

Highlighting that over 20 million Iranians are covered by the rural family physician program, Mashayekhi said medical, dental, mental, midwifery, nutrition, laboratory, pharmaceutical, and medical imaging services are being offered.

Over 7,000 physicians, 5,662 midwives, 1,893 dentists, and dental hygienists are providing services in 4,287 medical centers, he noted.

In the current Iranian year that began on March 20, the program has expanded to include mental health and nutrition experts to further address the needs of rural families.

Targeting almost 25,000,000 citizens residing in rural areas, Family Physician Program was piloted in two provinces of Fars and Mazandaran in 2005.

Periodic examinations and monitoring of people's health status, easy and round-the-clock access to basic services and primary care, and frequent visits to doctors are the characteristics of a family physician.

Based on the Family Physician Program, a physician and a midwife offer services in rural

areas, every 3,300 villagers have a physician and there is a midwife per 5,200 people in villages

The implementation of the Family Physician Program in urban areas began in June 2012 in Fars and Mazandaran provinces. Reducing out-of-pocket payments has been an important effect and benefit of the urban family physician program.

The Family Physician Program has made treatment referrals more concentrated and improved the interactions between doctors and healthcare providers.

In September 2023, former Health Minister Bahram Einollahi described the Family Physician Program as the most important priority of the ministry for the next two years.

"This program is a basic measure which, in case of being properly formed, will solve many problems of the health system," Einollahi said, IRNA reported.

In September 2023, Mohsen Barouni, an official with the Health Ministry said "The program has been implemented in 182 cities of the country covering more than 20 million Iranians," IRNA reported.

A total of 20,263,501 persons have been covered by the Family Physician Program, which constitutes 40 percent of the target population in cities.

Over 4300 healthcare workers have been recruited for the implementation of the program. So far, Family Physician Program has been implemented in three phases; in the first phase 59 cities were included in the program; in the second phase, it raised to 93 cities and now a total of 182 cities are covered by the program.

Barouni went on to say that the Family Physician Program has not yet been carried out in 66 cities of the country, they will join the program in the next stages.

#### Initiative of Iran

In February, Einollahi said the Family Physician Program will be registered in international forums as an initiative of Iran.

Based on the program, which started in the current calendar year ending on March 20, every Iranian will have an electronic health file, IRNA quoted Einollahi as saying.

"A healthcare provider regularly checks the

health of the family members and in case of getting sick, they will be referred to a family physician," he said. This way, he went on to say, when a person

is referred to medical centers, 95 percent of the costs will be covered by the ministry of health.

In fact, the Family Physician Program is an

its intellectual property in the name of the Islamic Republic in international forums.

The administration intends to transform the health system approach from treat-

initiative of Iran, and the ministry will register

Stating that the Family Physician Program is currently being implemented in 195 cities, Einollahi added that the program is an important achievement that will be implemented nationwide next year.

ment-oriented to prevention-oriented.

"Every individual will have a health file through which non-communicable diseases will be controlled."

# Iranian scholar grabs AFOMP 'Lifetime Achievement Award'

TEHRAN -Hossein Mozdarani, a faculty member of the medical science department at Tarbiat Modarres University, has won the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' from the Asia-Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (AFOMP).

The AFOMP Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented annually at the Asia-Oceania Conference on Medical Physics (AOCMP) to the medical physicist judged by AFOMP's Awards and Honors Committee (AHC) to have demonstrated a significant contribution to medical physics and communities in the AFOMP region.

Mozdarani has been chosen from over 40 nominees in recognition of his 30-year research and development of radio-biology in Iran and other countries in Asia Oceania region, Mehr news agency reported.

The reward was bestowed on him at the

closing ceremony of the 24th AOCMP and 22nd Southeast Asia Congress of Medical Physics (SEACOMP) held from October 10 to 13 in Penang, Malaysia.

AOCMP and SEACOMP are important annual events in medical physics in the region. The objective is to gather the medical physics and allied health professionals in the region to share knowledge, expertise, scientific discussions, cultural exchange and medical technologies updates.

This year, it was held under the theme of 'Revolutionizing Patient Care through Medical Physics'.

More than 500 participants from the professions of medical physics, biomedical engineering, radiology, radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, radiation protection, biophysics, radiobiology, and related fields attended the

#### **ENGLISH IN USE**

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

# Northern forests store 3.6bcm water annually in Iran

The forests of northern Iran storing 3.6 billion cubic meters of water play an important role in strengthening the aquifers.

Apart from physical care of natural resources, biological protection of these resources is also on the agenda of the Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), Abbas Ali Nobakht, deputy head of FRWMO, said on Wednesday.

In this regard, development, rehabilitation and enrichment operations in more than 232,000 hectares of rangeland, desert and forest lands of the country are underway, he added.

Referring to the northern forests of the country, especially Golestan province, as the reserves of the rarest plant species, Nobakht noted that the importance of these natural resources is so high that some European countries requested to receive seeds of plant species of northern Iran.

## جنگلهای شمال ایران سالانه ۳.۶ میلیارد متر مکعب آب ذخیره می کنند

جنگلهای شمال ایران با ذخیره سالانه سه میلیارد و ۶۰۰ میلیون متر مکعب آب نقش بسزایی در تقویت سفرههای زیرزمینی دارد. به گزارش ایرنا، عباسعلی نوبخت معاون سازمان جنگلها، مراتع و آبخیزداری روز چهارشنبه بیان کرد: در کنار مراقبتهای فیزیکی از منابع طبیعی، صیانت و حفاظت بیولوژیکی از این منابع نیز در دستور کار سازمان جنگلها قرار دارد که در این خصوص امسال عملیات توسعه، احیا و غنی سازی در بیش از ۲۳۲ هزار هکتار از اراضی مرتعی، بیابانی و جنگلی کشور در حال انجام است.

نوبخت با بیان اینکه جنگلهای شمال کشور بویژه استان گلستان ذخیره گاه نادر ترین گونههای گیاهی هستند، اضافه کرد: اهمیت عرصهها به حدی بالا است که برخی کشورهای اروپایی در مکاتبه با سازمان جنگلها خواستار دریافت بذر گونههای جنگلی شمال ایران هستند.



# Hyrcanian forest's unique diversity of flora and fauna

The UNESCO-registered Hyrcanian forest in northern Iran contains the most significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the perspective of science or conservation.

## TEHRAN TIMES



Tehrantimes79

#### www.tehrantimes.com

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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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895

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

**OCTOBER 22, 2024** 

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

I appreciate an old man's cautious opinion more than the valor of a young man.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:49

Evening: 17:39 Dawn: 4:53 (tomorrow)

Sunrise: 6:17 (tomorrow)

#### Iran participating in International **Belgrade Book Fair**

TEHRAN-Iran is participating in the 67th International Belgrade Book Fair, which kicked off on October 19 in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia.

Iran pavilion at the fair has been set up by the Iranian cultural attaché office in Serbia in collaboration with the Iran Book and Literature House. It showcases the latest works by Iranian publishers in Persian, English, and Serbian, IRNA reported. Four newly published works in Serbian by the cultural attaché office, supported by the Islamic Culture and Relation Organization, will be unveiled at a special session. The books include "Imam Reza (AS), the Wise Man of the House," "Divan of Hafez," Nour magazine about successful Iranian women, and "Contemporary Iranian Literature." The opening ceremony of the book fair was attended by Serbian Minister of Culture Srdjan Selakovic, Cuban Minister of Culture Alpidio Alonso Grau, and various ambassadors and cultural representatives, including Rashid Hassanpour, the Iranian Ambassador to Serbia, and Amir Pourpezeshk, Iran's cultural attaché in Serbia, along with numerous publishing professionals. Cuba is the guest of honor of the fair.

During the opening ceremony, both Selakovic and Grau visited the Iranian booth, where they were warmly welcomed by Hassanpour and Pourpezeshk.

In addition to Iran and Cuba, publishers from Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Italy, Congo, Morocco, Germany, Romania, Russia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Croatia, and Montenegro are present at the fair. In addition to the exhibition area, visitors can enjoy over 500 events held during the fair including conferences, round table discussions, guest author presentations, panel discussions, workshops, etc. The International Belgrade Book Fair, a literary event of the highest repute in the region, is organized this year under the slogan "The Word is Free," with the participation of more 400 direct exhibitors from Serbia and abroad. The fair aims at helping publishers, authors, booksellers, librarians, book distributors, multimedia companies, and other people in the business establish contacts, exchange experiences, make business deals, and start other forms of business and cultural cooperation. This year's edition of the fair will run until October 27.

#### Visually impaired cast takes center stage in "A Collar for a Dead Dog"

TEHRAN- The Baran Theater Ensemble is hosting audiences at Tehran's Shahrzad Theater Complex with their production "A Collar for a Dead Dog."Gholamreza Arabi is the director of the play, which is the 5th production by the Baran Theater Ensemble. Written by renowned Iranian playwright Mohammad Charmshir, the play is performed by 11 visually impaired actors.

The performance is showcasing elements of

Iranian theatrical style with live music, lasting 60 minutes. "A Collar for a Dead Dog" comes after 18 months of classes and rehearsals by the Baran theater group, focusing on acting methods that emphasize touch and hearing.

The production features a unique stage design, resulting from 11 years of research and activity by the group in this performance style.

The play will be on stage until November 16.

#### Cartoon of Day



Lebanese Drone Passes by An IDF Helicopter Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

## Leader's commendation for "Autumn Has Arrived" unveiled in Zanjan

TEHRAN- On Sunday, the unveiling ceremony of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's commendation for the book "Autumn Has Arrived" took place at the Khatam al-Anbia Mosque in Zanjan, coinciding with the sixteenth commemoration of literature on jihad and resistance.

In his commendation, Ayatollah Khamenei described the work as featuring "beautiful and eloquent prose."

"Fiery love, steadfast determination, and genuine faith are depicted in the lives of these two young individuals, presented with beautiful and eloquent prose in this book," the Leader wrote in his commendation.

"This is one of those heartfelt narratives that leave me humbled and underscore the vast distance between myself and these true warriors," he stated.

Authored by Golestan Jafarian, "Autumn Has Arrived" recounts the life of Fakhr al-Sadat Mousavi, the wife of Martyr Commander Ahmad Yousefi. Released in 2021 by Soore Mehr Publications, the book explores the experiences of both Fakhr al-Sadat Mousavi and Commander Ahmad Yousefi, who led the Engineering Battalion of the IRGC's Zanjan Corps. The narrative spans 240 pages, capturing their poignant journey.

Martyr Ahmad Yousefi was born in Zanjan in 1956. He married in 1980 and had two sons and a daughter. Yousefi served as a commander on the frontlines during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988) and played a significant role in revolutionary activities in Zanjan during the 1970s, helping to organize the largest rally in the city. Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he worked honorarily with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) for a year. He is remembered as one of Zanjan's key martyrs, contributing to the establishment of the IRGC in the region and serving on its council.

"Autumn Has Arrived" goes beyond a personal and familial narrative; it encapsulates many bittersweet realities of the Sacred Defense era. The book illustrates the intersection of love and war-a love that finds meaning amid conflict and a war that becomes bearable through love



and faith. It tells the story of the couple as representatives of countless Iranian couples who, during the hardship of war, fought not only for personal survival but also for their nation and the spiritual values of their society.

Through a meticulous and humanistic lens, the author examines the challenging moments in the couple's lives—filled with longing, fear, and hope, yet always guided by strong faith and

In an interview with the Tehran Times in 2022, author Golestan Jafarian discussed the inspiration behind her book and the poignant story it conveys. "The process of writing this book began when I was given a series of prepared interviews to read and comment on, focusing on the life of a martyr's wife who lost her husband during the war at the young age of 24, already a mother of two sons," she explained. "She was one of those remarkable individuals who volunteered for military training. During her training, her husband—who was both her instructor and ten years her senior—proposed to her, warning that accepting his proposal would mean coming to terms with the possibility of losing him in battle. This led me to question: despite her deep love for him, how did she accept his proposal? To uncover the truth, I traveled to Zanjan to speak with her directly."

Jafarian elaborated on her choice of title, saying, "I chose 'Autumn' because it symbolizes the season of significant events in their lives her husband's birthday, his martyrdom, and their marriage."

She also pointed out that "We haven't truly addressed the complex circumstances surrounding the families of martyrs and the extent of their suffering. It's a failing on the part of writers, researchers, and experts like myself that these difficult narratives remain largely unknown to the public."

Additionally, Jafarian shared the challenges she faces in gathering and collecting wartime memoirs from soldiers, stating, "One major challenge is avoiding clichés, which is more difficult than it may seem. It took considerable time and effort for me to craft something both compelling and authentic."

#### Nine nominees from Iran vying for Astrid **Lindgren Memorial Award 2025**

TEHRAN-Eight authors and illustrators and one reading promotion project from Iran have been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) 2025.

A total of 265 candidates from 72 countries and regions have been nominated for the 2025 award, including 81 candidates new from previous years.

The list includes authors and illustrators, as well as storytellers and reading promoters. The laureate will be announced on April 1,

The Iranian nominees for the world's largest award for children's and young adult literature include authors Houshang Moradi Kermani, Mohammad Mirkiani, Ahmad Akbarpour, and Navid Seyed-Ali-Akbar, illustrators Alireza Goldouzian, Ali Khodaee, and Hoda Hadadi, author /illustrator Reza Dalvand, and Read With Me Organization, Mehr reported.

The global award is given annually to a person or organization for their outstanding contribution to children's and young adult litera-

With a prize of five million Swedish kronor (about \$475,000), it is the largest award of its kind. Above all else, it highlights the importance of reading, today and for future generations.



Houshang Moradi Kermani, 80, is best known for children's and young adult fiction.

His best-known books are "The Tales of Majid," "The Boot," "The Water Urn," and "A Sweet Jam". Some of his books have been translated into English, German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Arabic, and Armenian, among oth-

Moreover, some of his books have been made into popular local movies and television shows.



Mohammad Mirkiani, 66, has written for all age groups. In his books he focuses on the history of Iran, Iranian-Islamic

culture, old Persian literature, tales, and colloquial literature.

He has also taught story writing courses in the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon). Some of Mirkiani's works have been turned into video and television products. He has also written the script of some TV series.



Ahmad Akbarpour, 54, is a novelist and author of short stories and children's books. A student of Reza Barahani and

Houshang Golshiri, he soon started writing fiction for adolescents, adopting a postmodern style of

His short novel "That Night's Train" (1999) received the Book of the Year award from Iran's Ministry of Culture. During his career, Akbarpour discussed such topics as fear, loneliness, and peace. In some of his works, he shows his disdain for the destructive impact of war on children. His children's anti-war book "Good Night Commander" and "That Night's Train," illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault, were published in English by Groundwood Books in the U.S and Canada in 2010 and 2012, respec-



Navid Seyed-Ali-Akbar, 41, is a writer, translator, and teacher of storytelling for children. He was a member of

the Board of directors of the Association of Writers for Children and Adolescents (2012-2014 and 2018 to 2020). He served as the literary reviewer for several children's magazines and is now the cultural director of Hoopa Publication.



Alireza Goldouzian, 49, is an internationally recognized artist who has illustrated numerous books in Iran, as well

as exhibiting his prize-winning children's book art around the world.



Ali Khodaee, 64, has illustrated several books. He has also designed books as an author and illustrator, most of

them are wordless and made by visual ideas. He is the recipient of many honors and awards in Iran, Japan, Serbia, and Egypt. Moreover Khodaee has served in the juries of several international festivals.



Hoda Hadadi, 47, is an internationally recognized, award-winning Iranian illustrator, author, and poet. Her

literary and visual works often feature the woman-nature relationship, where women are narrators and heroes of their daily lives. She is particularly known for her colorful collage technique, especially her use of transparent silk paper to depict light and shadow. Ho



Reza Dalvand, 35, is a member of Iranian Illustrators Society. He is the illustrator of dozens of books, including

"Where Is My House?" and "Mrs. Bibi's Elephant". His works have been showcased in many solo and group exhibitions in Iran, England, Japan, South Korea, Ukraine and several other countries.Read with Me is a reading promotion project in Iran which takes books and book-related activities to deprived children all over the country. Initiated by the Institute for Research on History of Children's Literature, the plan promotes the slogan "All children deserve to read quality books".

Few have done more for the right of children to a rich inner life than Astrid Lindgren. The creator of stories beloved the world over, she was a renewer of children's literature. She was also a steadfast humanist who made her voice heard in the public debate, speaking with moral conviction, with humor, and always with her focus on children and their future. Astrid Lindgren (1907-2002) was a Swedish writer of fiction and screenplays. She is best known for several children's book series including "Pippi Longstocking" and for the children's fantasy novels such as "The Brothers Lionheart".

Lindgren worked on the Children's Literature Editorial Board at the Rabén & Sjögren publishing house in Stockholm and wrote more than 30 books for children. In 2017, she was calculated to be the world's 18th most translated author. Lindgren had by 2010 sold roughly 167 million books worldwide. In 1994, she was awarded the Right Livelihood Award for her unique authorship dedicated to the rights of children and respect for their individuality. Her opposition to corporal punishment of children resulted in the world's first law on the matter in 1979, while her campaigning for animal welfare led to a new law, Lex Lindgren, in time for her 80th birthday. When, in 2002 at the age of 94, her voice finally fell silent, the Swedish Government decided to found an award to honor her memory and to promote interest in children's and young adult literature around the world.

Administered by the Swedish Arts Council, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is awarded to those who continue to work in her spirit: with imagination, bravery, respect and empathy, and maintaining the highest level of artistic excellence. The laureates are chosen by a twelve-member expert jury. The attention of the award leads to more translations and to more children having access to high-quality literature—entertaining, innovative, challenging, or complex.

