



## From Namibia to Gaza Germany's Flirtation with Genocide Again

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.

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### 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 Esmail 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

### 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 Hajjivalzadeh, 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

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.





## 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-

estan's Ports and Maritime Department, said that 24 million tons of goods were loaded 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.

(See full text at [www.tehrantimes.com](http://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

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.

## Non-oil export from Ardebil 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 year.

(See full text at [www.tehrantimes.com](http://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 Iran.

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) reported.

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 at [www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.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 TRACECA 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 TRACECA 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 al-

lows 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 TRASICA secretariat in Baku and visited the railway and road lines of this route, and finally came to Tehran to discuss the preparations for holding the meeting of TRASICA ministers and transferring the chairmanship of the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission to Iran.

As reported, in the meeting with Assavbayev, the Iranian side presented the Islamic Republic's initiatives for the chairmanship of TRACECA, including increasing the cooperation of the member countries of TRASICA and pro-

moting Iran's transit role in the region.

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

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

After the completion of the Strategy implementation with the support of the European Union Technical Assistance projects the TRACECA countries are prepared to get down to a new stage of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia corridor development.

TRACECA (acronym: Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia) is an international transport program involving the European Union and 12 member states of the Eastern European, Caucasus, and Central Asian region.

(See full text at [www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com))

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

In line with its commitment to support economic actors and producers across the country, Bank Melli Iran has provided a total of 728,192 loans valued at 1,941,308 billion rials to various sectors of the economy during the first six months of the current Iranian year (started on March 20).

According to the public relations office of BMI, as part of the government's policies to support domestic producers, the

bank has issued 15,640 loans to the industrial and mining sector, totaling 803,929 billion rials.

The services sector, including credit card loans, received 590,095 loans worth 713,538 billion rials from Bank Melli Iran.

Additionally, 65,616 loans valued at 254,045 billion rials were granted to the trade sector.

Bank Melli Iran also issued 24,053 loans worth 63,468 billion rials to the agricultural sector and conversion industries

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 named "National Credit", which offers its customers loans up to 5 billion rials.

According to the bank's public relations office, clients may simply activate their account 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.

For the first step, customers can open a special account either online through the

application or in person at branches. Based on their account's average balance over a period of 1 to 12 months (as chosen by the customer), they can receive loans up to a maximum of 5 billion rials.

For loans up to 3 billion rials, only one guarantor is required, and for loans up to 5 billion rials, two guarantors are needed, with no need for a salary deduction certificate. Guarantor verification and credit assessment are carried out online through the BAAM

system. Once the documents are completed and the guarantor is approved, the loan will be deposited into the customer's account within three hours.

Customers can obtain it quickly, easily, and entirely online, with repayment installments over 1 to 5 years at an interest rate of 14%.

Bank Melli Iran continually strives to facilitate financial support for Iranian nationals by introducing new plans and "National Credit" is one of such loan offerings.

# 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.

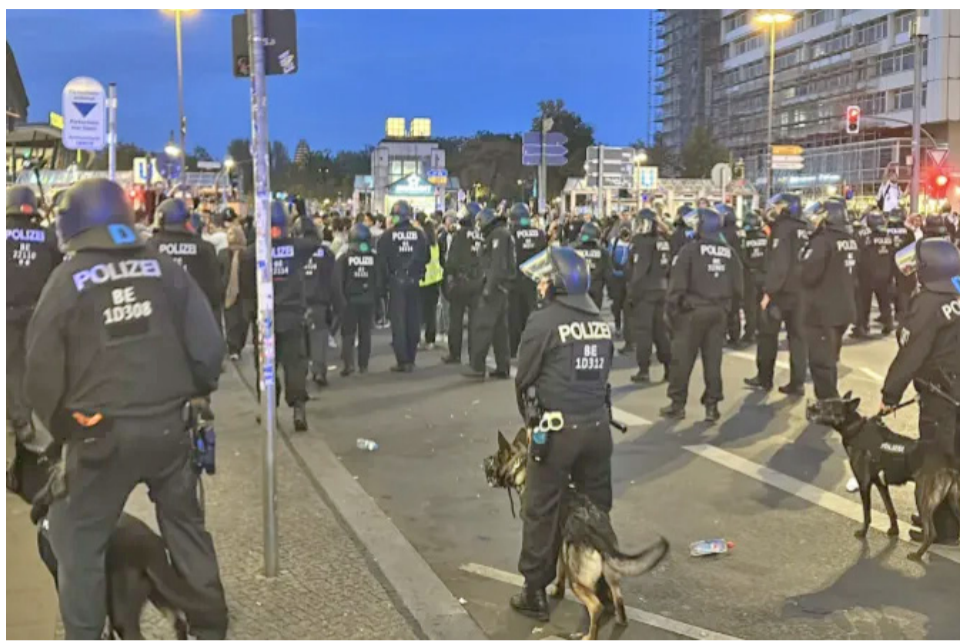
The death toll from Israel's ongoing onslaught on Lebanon that started more than a year ago has also topped 2,400, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

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.

## 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 area.



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 Gobeiry 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](http://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](http://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](http://tehrantimes.com))



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.

## 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 initiative of Iran, and the ministry will register its intellectual property in the name of the Islamic Republic in international forums.

The administration intends to transform the health system approach from treatment-oriented to prevention-oriented.

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.

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

## 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 می‌کنند

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 غنی‌سازی 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 ذخیره‌گاه نادرترین 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.

## 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 Hajivalzadeh, 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.

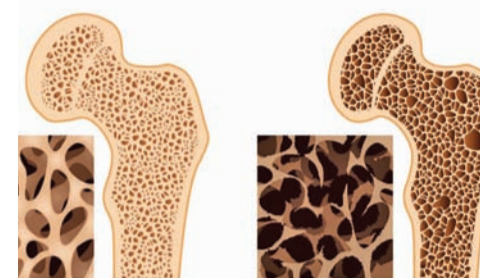
Known as a silent disease, it is not often detected until a fracture occurs.

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

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

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

A public conference on osteoporosis and a seminar on osteoporosis updates are among the problems that will be held on October 23rd and 24th, respectively.



Healthy bone

Osteoporosis

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

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

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

Our bone health is precious. Healthy bones are at the core of our well-being, mobility, and independence. People of all ages should protect their bone health by taking early action for osteoporosis prevention through bone-healthy nutrition, regular weight-bearing physical activity, and avoidance of negative lifestyle factors like smoking.

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

## 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.

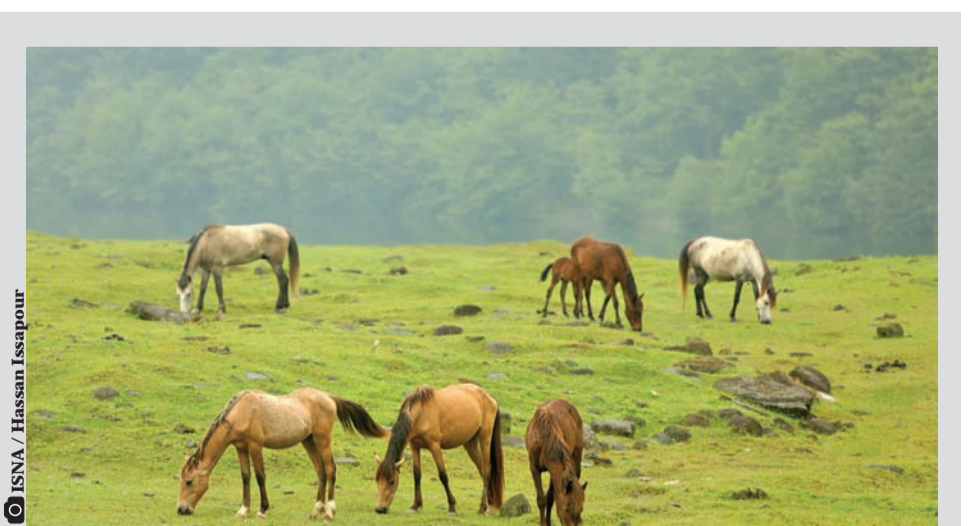
The reward was bestowed on him at the

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 event.



## 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.

