

# Iran's Storm Looming

Israeli regime attacks Iran's soil ignoring warnings that any aggression would draw a harsh response [▶Page 3](#)

## 'Iran has no limits in defending its territorial integrity': Araghchi

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has emphasized the country's commitment to defending its interests, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, stating that Iran observes no limits in those regards.

The top diplomat made the remarks in an interview with Khamenei.ir, a website that belongs to the media office of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Sayyad Ali Khamenei.

The interview was published on Saturday after Israeli war jets fired missiles at military sites inside Iran. [▶Page 2](#)

■ **Global condemnation mounts against Israeli strikes on Iran as Western nations remain silent** [▶Page 3](#)

■ **Limited and ineffective: Israel's attacks on Iran under scrutiny** [▶Page 2](#)



## Transit of goods via Iran rises 42% in 7 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - The transit of commodities through Iran increased by 42 percent in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21) compared to the previous year's corresponding period, according to a report released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

As reported, 13.239 million tons of commodities was transited via the country in the seven-month period.

This significant increase in transit can indicate the improvement of the economic situation and increase in commercial activities in the transport sector.

The continuous trend of recent transit records via the country and the increasing interest of governments, traders, and those active in transport sectors from neighboring, regional, and extra-regional countries in the transit and logistics situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate the fruitfulness of the transformational approach of the government to the strategic issue of transit, with emphasis on the development of all-round economic relations with neighbors. [▶Page 4](#)

## 10 border guards killed in terror attack in SE Iran

TEHRAN - In a tragic incident on Saturday, 10 police officers and soldiers were killed during an armed clash with terrorists in Goharkuh, located in Taftan County, Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

The confrontation unfolded when a police patrol came under attack by unidentified gunmen, leading to intense fighting and the loss of multiple lives among the patrol personnel.

According to initial reports, the attack targeted both soldiers and members of the law enforcement team. The Sistan-Baluchestan Police released a statement confirming the incident.

The so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group, known inside Iran as Jaish al-Zulm, later claimed responsibility for the recent attack, which took place around 1,200 kilometers (746 miles) southeast of Tehran.

In response, the Iranian Minister of Interior Eskandar Mo'meni has called for an immediate and thorough investigation into the incident, instructing officials to examine the circumstances and broader implications of the attack. The ministry's statement expressed deep concern over the violence and emphasized the need to bring those responsible to justice, underscoring the government's commitment to maintaining security in the region.

The Sistan-Baluchestan province, which shares borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan, has seen multiple attacks targeting civilians and security forces in recent years.

Earlier in October, at least six people, including police officers, were killed in two separate attacks in the province. Additionally, on September 13, a terrorist attack claimed the lives of three Iranian border guards—an officer and two conscripts—in Sistan-Baluchestan.

### Harris and Trump: Two faces of American politics in West Asia

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - The upcoming U.S. presidential elections, scheduled for November 5, have sparked an intense competition between Donald J. Trump, the former Republican president, and Kamala Harris, the current Democratic vice president. Polls indicate a highly contested race in key states, where electoral votes will be crucial for the final outcome in the complex Electoral College system.

In the United States, voters do not directly elect the president. Instead, the Electoral College determines the final result of the elections. Thus, a candidate can win by securing a majority of electoral votes even if they do not achieve a majority of the popular vote. The Electoral College consists of 538 electors, with each state having a specific number of representatives based on its population. [▶Page 5](#)

### Hezbollah targets Tel Nof airbase near Tel Aviv

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Hezbollah continues to inflict heavy losses on the Israeli military almost one month after Tel Aviv attempted to invade Lebanon.

The Lebanese resistance repelled more ground offensive attempts on Saturday along the Lebanese border and targeted military sites, bases, troop gatherings, and settlements in northern Israel as well as regions deeper inside Israel.

For the first time, Hezbollah launched an aerial attack with a swarm of assault drones on the Tel Nof airbase, south of Tel Aviv, as part of its "Khaybar" operations.

According to a statement, the explosive drones deployed by Hezbollah against the Tel Nof airbase struck their targets "with precision" on Saturday morning. [▶Page 5](#)

### The puppeteers: Israel and US pulled strings to remove ICC judge

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel and its Western allies have been on pins and needles since the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) filed applications for arrest warrants against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant back in May this year.

In his May request for warrants, Karim Khan accused Netanyahu and Gallant of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

An ICC panel of judges was then tasked with considering the applications.

The decision to issue the arrest warrants have been delayed due to the pressure exerted by the Tel Aviv regime and its allies. [▶Page 5](#)



## Four Army personnel martyred while defending Iranian airspace

Four Army servicemen were martyred while repelling Israeli attacks on an Iranian military site during the early hours of Saturday. The servicemen were identified as Hamzeh Jahandideh; Mohammad Mehdi Shahrokhifar; Sajad Mansouri; and Mehdi Naqavi. Footages taken by citizens show Iran's air defense systems intercepted unidentified projectiles in the air. The invading Israeli jets targeted military positions in the provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam. The assaults caused limited damage. The General Headquarters of the Armed Forces said the air defense systems prevented the invading fighter jets from entering the Iranian airspace. They fired their projectile from Iraq.

## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Iran's important presence in BRICS

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

In a commentary, Sazandegi dealt with the importance of Iran's membership in BRICS in the current situation and wrote: BRICS is considered a pact among emerging economic powers.

The members can form a powerful bloc in the face of the West. The analysis of the presidents of China, Russia, and even Indians is that the transfer of power from the West to the East is inevitable.

Iran's presence at the (Kazan) summit was and is important from several aspects. First, because of regional developments and Israel's bellicosity. Israel attempts to drag Iran into a war. Naturally, Mr. Pezeshkian will use the capacity of the Kazan summit to counter Israel.

Secondly, Iran is trying to use the economic capacity of emerging economic countries such as Brazil, India, and of course, China to evade sanctions or neutralize them.

Of course, it is a difficult path, because each of these countries has extensive economic relations with the United States, and it is unlikely that they would abandon those interests. But Russia, which is considered an important member of BRICS, is trying to form a financial bloc against the West.

#### Arman-e-Emrooz: Israel's hidden war against Iran

In an interview with Abdolreza Faraji Rad, an expert on political affairs, Arman-e-Emrooz examined Israel's hidden war with Iran. He said: Evidence shows that the time of Israel's military adventure against Iran is near. [However, Israel launched limited attacks on some military sites in the provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam in the early hours of Saturday).

For this reason, it is possible to point out the regional trip of American Secretary of State Blinken, especially to Israel, where he went to check the magnitude and time of Israel's attack. Blinken's trip to Israel and then to Saudi Arabia and Qatar also has a diplomatic dimension, and it is probably related to an initiative for the next action against Iran.

Usually, America adopts a diplomatic strategy in such sensitive times to prevent the situation from getting out of control.

All the tricks of the last few days are about attacking Iran to create panic and disrupt the Iranian economy by increasing the prices of gold, foreign currency, and raising the inflation rate, which unfortunately succeeded.

Israel is pushing the Iranian government toward poverty and high inflation rate and launching a hidden psychological war by spreading rumors about a plan (by the

government) to increase petrol prices.

#### Kayhan: Increasing psyops by the enemy

In a note, Kayhan discussed the Zionist regime's threats against Iran and said: The Zionist regime's threat of military action against Iran is more of a psychological operation than it is based on facts.

Upon daily threat of immediate operations against Iran, the Zionists launched a significant psychological operation by repeating threats with the help of their media. Their effort is to keep Iran passive and away from the developments in the battlefields (in Gaza and Lebanon).

They think that in this way they can keep the Iranian authorities busy with purely defensive concerns and prevent them from playing a special role in the regional war.

Certainly, the Zionists have analyzed different scenarios in these few weeks, and each time they have become more certain that this time Iran's response to any military mistake by the Zionists could be more destructive, painful, and irreparable. Therefore, they want to drag the war to the media and launch psychological and economic war against Iran under the cover of military threats.

#### Javan: Iran neither surrenders nor seeks tension

Javan wrote in an article: It seems that the current asymmetrical warfare and occasional calculated attacks between Iran and Israel will continue.

Thanks to its committed forces in Lebanon, Iran is practically at war with Israel. Iran has long been proud of the advantages of its access to the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, and the Red Sea.

But Tehran is diplomatically trying to assure the world that it is not looking for the escalation of tensions. Iran or Israel could do an act that is difficult to reverse. They may drag the entire region into war.

That war does not help the long-term security of Israel and does not benefit the Iranian government; therefore, the option of a full-scale war between Iran and Israel is not on the table.

Once again, Iran has proven that it can withstand any possible blow and respond strongly through the forces it supports. The region and the world are afraid of the worst wars going on in Gaza and Lebanon.

But a wider conflict that directly puts Iran against Israel is a serious matter. Everyone in the region hopes that this will not become a reality.

## New Iranian ambassador to Denmark embarks on mission with focus on dialogue



TEHRAN – Iran's new ambassador to Denmark, Mohammad Reza Sajjadi, has begun his mission in Copenhagen, with a clear mandate from the Iranian Foreign Ministry to pursue a policy of "interaction and constructive dialogue" with Europe.

Prior to his departure, Sajjadi met with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, presenting a report on the mission site and outlining his vision for strengthening bilateral relations. Araghchi, in turn, emphasized the importance of fostering constructive engagement with Europe as a key component of Iran's foreign policy under the 14th government.

Sajjadi, a seasoned diplomat with extensive

experience, brings a wealth of knowledge to the role.

He has previously served in key positions including Assistant Director General of South Asia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to Geneva, Director General of International Political Affairs, and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Relations between Iran and Europe have been continuously festering in recent years, with the latter following in the footsteps of the United States in pressuring Iran and abandoning its commitments.

# 'Iran has no limits in defending its territorial integrity': Araghchi

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The top diplomat made the remarks in an interview with Khamenei.ir, a website that belongs to the media office of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Sayyad Ali Khamenei.

The interview was published on Saturday after Israeli war jets fired missiles at military sites inside Iran.

The full text of the interview is as follows:

**Minister Araghchi, you recently traveled to various regional countries, a tour that was praised by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. During these important meetings with regional leaders, what warnings did you deliver about potential cooperation with the Zionist regime against Iran, and in your view, what impact did these warnings have?**

On these trips, we presented Iran's definitive stance on regional issues, reaffirming Iran's commitment to self-defense and support for the Resistance Front. Iran remains steadfast

in its mission to support the Palestinian people and confront the Zionist regime, a path that has continued for nearly four decades without compromising Iran's determination. Iran's capability to defend itself, as well as its capacity for counter-retaliation against aggressors, was made clear.

We conveyed a message that testing Iran's resolve would be unwise and emphasized the importance of reducing tensions and fostering positive relations with neighbors.

We communicated that, while Iran is prepared for conflict, if necessary, it also values peace and has no desire for regional tensions. We clarified that Iran poses no threat to its neighbors in the Persian Gulf or beyond.

Iran's approach toward Israel and outside powers is distinct, but when it comes to neighbors, we are serious about diplomacy—a stance that started under the previous administration and continues today.

**What are Iran's limits when it comes to defending the nation's interests and territorial integrity? Can insincere calls for restraint temper Iran's response to aggressors?**

Our history shows that Iran has no limits

when it comes to self-defense. This was demonstrated during the eight-year war with Saddam's regime and in confronting U.S. hostilities over the years.

Despite sanctions and challenges, we have consistently defended our people. We will protect every inch of our land and stand firmly for the ideals of the Islamic Republic, as the world witnessed in Operations "True Promise 1 and 2," which Iran carried out with determination.

**Finally, Minister, what role did Operations True Promise 1 and 2 play in strengthening Iran's diplomatic power?**

Diplomacy fundamentally relies on domestic sources of strength. While diplomacy can itself generate power, it requires backing by national power components—military, economic, political, and ideological. Iranian diplomats rely on this internal strength, which includes defensive industries and armaments, to bolster Iran's stance internationally.

Operations like True Promise are a prime example of Iran's commitment to its defense, reinforcing our foreign policy and advancing Iran's diplomatic goals. These operations serve as a driving force for Iran's foreign policy, and, God willing, they will continue to do so.

## Limited and ineffective: Israel's attacks on Iran under scrutiny

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – In the early hours of Saturday, several explosions were heard in Tehran, the capital of Iran. Various local media reported that residents in the western part of the city heard these blasts.

Iranian official sources indicated that military bases in the west and southwest of Tehran were targeted in an Israeli attack. Additionally, sounds related to air defense fire were reported.

A well-informed source revealed that Iranian air defenses successfully intercepted most of the projectiles used by Israel, although limited damage was recorded in certain areas.

These same sources confirmed that the Zionist regime carried out airstrikes on military sites in the Iranian provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam during the early hours of October 26.

So far, four soldiers, including Lieutenant Colonel Jahandideh and Sergeant Shahrokhsfar, have been identified as the casualties of the attack.

Israeli army spokesperson Daniel Hagar confirmed that Israel had targeted military objectives in Iran.

"In response to months of constant attacks from the Iranian regime against Israel, the Israeli army is now carrying out precise strikes against military targets in Iran," Hagar stated.

However, the issue with this Israeli narrative lies in its attempt to obscure reality and present itself as a victim, characterizing its actions as "a response to months of constant attacks."

This claim lacks basis when the situation is analyzed from a political perspective. It is essential to remember that Israel was responsible for initiating hostilities by bombing the Iranian consulate in Damascus, not to mention its genocidal campaign in Palestine and Lebanon.

The truth is that, regardless of the narrative Israel uses to justify its actions, neither the media nor Israeli politicians consider Saturday's attack a success, either militarily or politically. C

### Israel has shown it does not feel secure despite the full backing of the United States

channel 13, an Israeli media outlet, described the operation as "disappointing."

Yoni Ben Menachem, an Israeli analyst, acknowledged on his social media that the Iranians were mocking the Israeli action, particularly after the government and military officials promised a "decisive response" following Iran's launch of Operation True Promise II.

According to Al Mayadeen, Israeli media admitted that the attack was, in fact, a mere performance and failed to achieve any significant strategic objectives.

Avigdor Liberman, leader of the "Israel Our Home" party and former Defense Minister,

criticized Israel's "limited" attacks on Iran, warning that "the Iranians will not stop here."

Liberman emphasized that the Israeli government, rather than facing the real consequences of the situation, seems to have settled once again for "a spectacle and public relations, opting to buy silence instead of making clear and firm decisions."

From the perspective of deterrent capability, it is clear that Israel has failed to restore this capacity after being attacked with more than 200 Iranian missiles during Operation True Promise II.

After weeks of grandiose promises of revenge, which included threats to Iran's nuclear and oil facilities, the Israeli attack is perceived more as a confession of weakness than as a demonstration of regional power.

Israel conveys an impression of total mercilessness towards the weak and defenseless, such as the children in Gaza, while exhibiting sober calculation and restraint in the face of those who can respond decisively, like Iran.

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu aptly noted, Israel "only respects strength."

On the other hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly reiterated, both officially and through diplomatic channels, its readiness to respond to any Israeli aggression, reserving the right to do so.

Several analysts suggest that Iran's defensive capability is such that it can determine the level of damage it inflicts on its enemy.

If Iranian authorities decide to



carry out more decisive attacks against Israel, their military capacity is prepared for it.

Analysts like Foad Izadi warn that the death of the four Iranian soldiers could make an Iranian military response against Israeli territory inevitable.

While one of the shared strategic objectives between Israel and the United States is to weaken Iran by any means possible, this has not happened.

The comparison between the scale of the two military operations—the one launched by Israel and Operation True Promise II—evidences this reality.

For now, all indications suggest that Israel has emerged weakened from this operation, as it has shown that it does not feel secure, despite the backing of the United States, for a direct and large-scale confrontation with Iran.

## Iran's parliament says open to discuss return of Ariana, Zarkoh islands with UAE

TEHRAN – In response to ongoing territorial disputes in the Persian Gulf, the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian parliament has announced the formation of a specialized committee to oversee issues related to its disputed islands, including calls for the return of Ariana and Zarkoh, which are under the United Arab Emirates' administration.

on Saturday, Ebrahim Rezaee, spokesperson for the committee, outlined Iran's intent to solidify its position over Bu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb, which historically belonged to the country.

In a recent meeting with members of the National Security Commission, Commander Ali Reza Tangsiri of Iran's Navy provided a briefing on the current security and defense status of the Persian Gulf region, emphasizing Iran's fortified presence in response to what he described as foreign threats.

According to Rezaee, Commander Tangsiri assured the commission that Iran's naval



forces have established a robust defensive structure to protect against any attempts to undermine Iranian territory.

Rezaee emphasized that based on historical and legal evidence, these three islands have long belonged to Iran—a position, he noted, that international bodies, including the United Nations, have acknowledged.

"The three islands belong to Iran," Rezaee stated, "and international bodies confirm this with documented evidence."

In 1971, shortly before the British withdrawal

and the formal establishment of UAE, Iran regained control of these three islands, citing historical Persian claims in the region.

While reaffirming Iran's stance on Bu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb, Rezaee suggested there could be room for negotiation regarding two other islands in the region: Ariana and Zarkoh.

"We are open to discussing the return of Ariana and Zarkoh," he explained, describing these as historically Iranian islands currently under the United Arab Emirates' administration.

According to Rezaee, Ariana and Zarkoh were occupied by the British since 1921 and later handed over to the UAE, despite historical records showing their identification as Iranian territories.

Rezaee referred to early 20th-century British maps that identify these islands—and much of the Persian Gulf coastline—as belonging to Iran, making a case for Iran's legal ownership of both islands.

# Iran's storm looming

Israeli regime attacks Iran's soil ignoring warnings that any aggression would draw a harsh response

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – As the sun rose over Iran, citizens scoured their cities for signs of damage from Israel's early Saturday attacks. What they found was a visible absence of damage on the ground.

"I was jolted awake twice last night," said Ali, a young office worker, as he navigated the streets of central Tehran on his way to work. "The sounds were really loud, first around 2 am and then again around 5 am. I checked my phone and saw a video of Iranian air defense missiles intercepting something in the sky. I expected to see some damage when I left for work this morning, but there's nothing."

Ali, like many others in Tehran, was only aware of the confrontation with Israel due to the activation of Iran's air defense systems. Despite reports of attacks on locations in Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces, the bustling neighborhoods remained eerily untouched by any visible destruction.

"I'm actually a bit surprised by how limited the impact of the Israeli attacks was," said Ali. "They had been threatening us for weeks. I don't know if we're just that strong, or they're just that weak."

For Iran's military personnel, the night was more tough and challenging than it was for the citizens. The Iranian Army, the main force responsible for the nation's defense systems, announced the loss of four servicemen who were martyred defending against the strikes.

## How did Israel attack Iran?

Iranian authorities revealed details of the Israeli airstrikes on Saturday evening, stating that Israeli fighter jets launched an attack from Iraqi airspace, approximately 100 kilometers from the Iranian border.

According to the statement



A general view of Tehran after several explosions were heard in the Iranian capital on October 26, 2024.

released by the Iranian Armed Forces, the Israeli jets fired several long-range missiles equipped with cluster warheads at Iranian border radars. The majority of these missiles were intercepted by Iranian defense systems.

While the jets attempted to enter Iranian airspace, they were unsuccessful. The statement further reported that some Iranian border radars were damaged in the attack but are undergoing rapid repairs.

Israel itself has not published any details on the nature of its attacks. Israeli military spokesperson Daniel Hagari merely confirmed that military sites inside Iran were being targeted shortly after the attacks began.

He later claimed the attacks were "successful," without providing any evidence.

In photos released by Hebrew media, War Minister Yoav Gallant was seen standing in front of a TV screen displaying a picture from a 2021 Iranian oil refinery explosion while assessing the attacks. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared tired and disappointed in images showing high-ranking Israeli officials gathered in an underground shelter during the

early hours of Saturday.

The disconnect between the bravado of the initial announcement and the subdued mood captured in these images has further fueled speculation that Israel could not achieve what it had hoped for during its risky night against Iran.

While American news site Axios reported that Israel had originally planned a "limited" attack against Iran, analysts believe these reports are an attempt to salvage the regime's reputation following weeks of saber-rattling and a night of apparent failure.

"After weeks of psychological warfare and threats of a devastating, surprise attack targeting everything from nuclear facilities to oil infrastructure and even assassinations of officials, the Israeli operation ultimately amounted to mostly unsuccessful strikes on just a few military sites," said Ehsan Salehi, a West Asia analyst and CEO of a leading Iranian newspaper.

"The world watched as Iran successfully targeted Israeli assets and then effortlessly defended its own territory against the subsequent response. This outcome is undoubtedly a difficult pill for both the West and Israel to swallow."

Israel's attack on Iran came 25 days after a volley of approximately 200 Iranian ballistic missiles rained down on the occupied territories. The strikes sent Israelis scrambling for shelters for hours, and social media was flooded with footage of dozens of Iranian missiles successfully hitting targets within the occupied territories. This attack, dubbed "Operation True Promise II," marked the second direct strike against Israel by Iran. The first, "Operation True Promise," which occurred in April, went largely unanswered.

## What's next?

Iranian officials warned multiple times in the past weeks that any sort of attack against Iranian interests would elicit a harsher response from Tehran.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei who appeared in a large public gathering a few days after the execution of Operation True Promise II said during his public address that Iran would repeat similar operations against Israel if necessary.

"[Our response] will neither be hasty, nor delayed," the Leader announced. Analysts and the public seem to be more or less of the same mind as Ayatollah Khamenei.

"We shouldn't dismiss this attack simply because there wasn't widespread damage," said Ali Abdi, an expert on Israel. "Israel planned and executed a major operation."

The reason it failed was the strength of our defense systems. If the regime had achieved its objectives, there would have been a catastrophic impact on Iran."

The expert added that Israel has crossed a new redline with its attack, and needs to be held accountable for what it did. "They directly attacked our soil for the first time and killed four of our soldiers. They must face consequences for their actions, otherwise, attacks on Iran will occur again in the future."

## Global condemnation mounts against Israeli strikes on Iran as Western nations remain silent



A man films a general view of Tehran after several explosions were heard in the Iranian capital on October 26, 2024.

TEHRAN – Israel's early Saturday airstrikes on Iran have sparked an immediate backlash from numerous countries worldwide, though Western nations have yet to issue any direct criticism.

The strikes, which Iran reports were mostly intercepted by its air defenses, targeted military sites in Tehran, Ilam and Khuzestan provinces.

In a statement, Iran's Army confirmed that four of its soldiers lost their lives in the pre-dawn attacks.

On October 1, Iran responded to the Israeli assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforooshan by launching as many as 200 ballistic missiles toward the occupying regime's military and intelligence bases all over the occupied Palestinian territories.

Dubbed Operation True Promise II, the retaliatory strike dealt a severe blow to the illegal regime all the more ruinous than its prequel in April, with Tel Aviv

having so far declined to reveal the extent of loss it suffered despite vowing to respond on several occasions.

Saudi Arabia led the regional outcry, with its Foreign Ministry condemning the strikes as a violation of Iran's sovereignty and international law. Riyadh urged international action to prevent further escalation in the region.

Several nations, including Malaysia, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, issued statements condemning the strikes as severe threats to regional security. Malaysia criticized the attack as undermining stability, while Jordan called it a "dangerous escalation."

Lebanon's Foreign Ministry described it as a direct violation of Iran's sovereignty with implications for international security, calling on the United Nations to act.

The UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman echoed similar concerns. Qatar's Foreign Ministry expressed worry over potential "serious repercussions" and called for restraint, while Oman denounced Israel's actions as a

blatant breach of international law. The UAE expressed its deep concern over the continued escalation and its repercussions on security and stability in the region.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry also announced that it follows with grave concern the dangerous escalation of tensions in West Asia, most recently the Israeli attack on Iran.

"We condemn all actions that threaten the security and stability of the region," the Egyptian ministry added.

Neighboring Pakistan and Turkey also spoke out, with Pakistan's Prime Minister condemning the strikes and urging peaceful dialogue, and Turkey framing Israel's actions as a regional threat. Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif stated on Saturday that Pakistan stands with Iran and its neighbors in their pursuit of peace. He also called on all parties involved to exercise restraint to prevent further escalation.

On his social media platform X, Shehbaz Sharif posted, "Deeply concerned by the recent act of Israeli aggression against Iran. Such actions threaten regional peace and stability and violate sovereignty and international law."

Algeria and Iraq highlighted the international community's silence, warning of the consequences of unchecked aggression by Israel.

Additionally, the Palestinian Islamic Resistance movement Hamas along with Yemeni Resistance movement Ansarullah strongly denounced the Zionist regime's attack against the territorial integrity of the Islamic

Republic of Iran.

In a statement, Hamas lauded Iran's advanced air defense system's readiness against the Israeli aggression, saying that Israel's aggression is a clear violation of Iranian sovereignty and a target for regional security.

"We emphasize our support for Iran against the aggression of the Zionist regime and appreciate the courageous stances of the Iranian nation and its leaders in supporting the Palestinian nation," Hamas added.

The National Salvation Government of Yemen also criticized the Zionist regime's aggression against Iran, declaring its solidarity with the nation and government of Iran which have been targeted due to their positions in support of the Palestinian and Lebanese nations.

While much of West Asia condemned Israel's actions, Western countries remained largely silent on the incident, with France merely urging restraint and refraining from directly addressing the Israeli aggression.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer also called on Iran not to respond to a wave of Israeli strikes, urging restraint on all sides.

Repeating his previous claim about what Keir Starmer called Israel's right to defend itself against Iran's attack, he said, "I'm equally clear that we need to avoid further regional escalation and urge all sides to show restraint."

Iran should not respond," he said, speaking at a press conference in Samoa, where he has been attending a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Reuters reported.

# IRAN IN FOCUS

OCTOBER 27, 2024

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

SPORTS

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## Nima Andarz signs with La Liga's CD Leganes



Iranian right-back Nima Andarz has completed his move to newly promoted La Liga side CD Leganes.

The 18-year-old, who signed from FC Kia in Iran, has signed a four-year contract with the Spanish club until 2028.

Nima was a member of Iran side that featured at the 2023 FIFA U17 World Cup held in Indonesia.

Andarz began his journey with Leganes by training with the club's second team.

However, he recently suffered an injury during a training camp with the Iranian U17 team in Dubai. He is currently in recovery and undergoing individual training to regain his fitness.

## Iran beat Syria in 2025 AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran confirmed their spot in the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025 after a 1-0 win over Syria in Group A of the qualifiers on Friday.

Forward Mahan Alipour struck the only goal of the game in the 20th minute to seal the points.

Iran will meet Jordan on Sunday and could possibly see them advancing as one of the best five second-placed teams.

With DPR Korea having confirmed themselves as the group winners, both Syria and Iran - tied on three points - needed victory in the race to finish as the runners-up.

Syria face Hong Kong with neither in a position to overtake Iran due to their respective head-to-head records against the Central Asian side.

## Nassaji still winless in 2024-25 IPL

TEHRAN – Nassaji football team was held to a goalless draw against Esteghlal Khuzestan on Matchweek 8 of the 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL) Friday night. Nassaji, headed by Saket Elhami, has not won a single match over the past eight weeks.

Nassaji sits 15th in the 16-team table.

Zob Ahan, who had defeated Esteghlal 3-0 last week in Tehran, suffered a 2-0 home loss against Gol Gohar. Havadar lost to Chadormalu 1-0 in Tehran and Mes and Malavan shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw.

## Iran weightlifting legend Nassiri hospitalized

TEHRAN – Iran's weightlifting legend Mohammad Nassiri was hospitalized at a hospital in Tehran due to a brain stroke.

According to the weightlifting federation, he will be released on Thursday.

Nassiri competed at the 1964, 1968, 1972 and 1976 Olympics and won a gold, a silver and a bronze medal. He also won gold medals at the Asian Games in 1966, 1970 and 1974 and at the world championships in 1968-70 and 1973-74, placing second in 1972 and third in 1966, 1971 and 1976. Between 1966 and 1973 he set 15 ratified world records: 10 in clean and jerk, 3 in the press and 2 in the total. In 1995 he was inducted into the International Weightlifting Federation Hall of Fame.

Nasiri took up weightlifting aged 13. He mostly competed in the 56 kg category, but for the 1973 World Championships in Havana he lowered his body weight to 52 kg, and even shaved his head

for that. In Havana he set four world records within one day. He stayed in the 52 kg division for the rest of his career.

## Moghanlou scores as Kalba lose to Al Wahda

TEHRAN – Shahriyar Moghanlou scored an early goal against Al Wahda but Kalba lost 3-1 in the UAE Pro League Friday night.

Syrian Omar Khribin led his team to victory with a hat-trick at Al Nahyan Stadium.

The Iranian forward was on target in the eighth minute but Khribin leveled the score in the 32nd minute.

The Syrian was on target once again in the 38th minute and completed his hat-trick in the 60th minute.

He guided his team to 13 points, placing third in the competition standings.

Kalba's tally halted at seven points, securing the seventh spot in the league table.

## Esteghlal lose to Kheybar: IPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team lost to Kheybar 3-1 on Matchweek 9 of the 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL) on Saturday.

In the match held at the Takhti Stadium in Khorramabad, Mehrdad Ghanbari gave the host a lead in the 10th minute but Ramin Rezaeian equalized the match in the 55th minute.

Masoud Mohebbi made it 2-1 before the hour mark and Mohsen Sefid Choghaei was on target in the stoppage time. Esteghlal have recently hired South African coach Pitso Mosimane.

It was the Blues' fourth loss in eight matches.

## Hosseinnejad assists in draw against Akron Togliatti

TEHRAN – Makhachkala Dynamo and Tolyatti Akron played to a draw in the 13th round of the Russian Premier League (RPL) Championship.

The meeting in Kaspiysk at the Anzhi Arena stadium ended with a score of 1:1. Gamid Agalarov scored for the home team (68th minute), while Vladimir Khubulov scored for the visitors (90+3).

Dynamo with 12 points is in 11th place in the MIR RPL standings. Akron (13 points) is eighth.

In the next round, Dynamo will play away against St. Petersburg's Zenit on November 2. Akron will host Samara's Krylia Sovetov a day later.

## AFC Annual Awards Seoul 2023: Asia's best take centerstage

TEHRAN – The grandest celebration of the Continent's brightest takes place on Tuesday evening when the beautiful capital city of Seoul stages the 28th edition of the AFC Annual Awards.

One of the most eagerly anticipated highlights of the AFC calendar, the star-studded gala event will be hosted in Korea Republic for the first time and unfold at the magnificent Grand Peace Palace of the Kyung Hee University.

Asia's finest will be celebrated at the AFC Annual Awards Seoul 2023, which recognizes and honors the success stories from a spectacular season. Teams, players and fans can look back on the stunning AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 and impressive displays at the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023, as well as highlights from the AFC Champions League, AFC Cup, and various national team age-group tournaments.

The night will end on a dazzling note with presentations of the prestigious AFC Player of the Year accolades, where Yazan Al Naimat, Seol Young-woo and Akram Afif are the contenders in the Men's category, while the trio of Cortnee Vine, Kiko Seike and Kim Hye-ri are the frontrunners for the Women's equivalent.

## NIDC digs 52 oil, gas wells in 7 months

TEHRAN - National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) dug and completed the digging operations of 52 oil and gas wells during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), an official with the company said.

According to Masoud Afshar, the deputy head of NIDC for drilling operations, the drilled wells consisted of 12 development, and 40 workover ones, IRNA reported.

As reported, 39 of the drilled wells were in the operational zone of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), six wells were drilled in the fields under the supervision of the Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC), two wells were dug by Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), three in the fields under the operation of Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), and two wells were dug in fields developed by private contractors.

Since the beginning of this year, the drilling area of the wells has reached 65,806 meters, he said and added that the figure has increased by 18,342 meters compared to the previous year's same period.

NIDC owns 73 light, heavy, and super-heavy drilling rigs, of which currently 10 are in operation in various areas.

Earlier this year, NIDC Managing Director Hamidreza Golpayegani announced that the company dug and completed the digging operations of 195 oil and gas wells since the government of late President Raisi took office in August 2021.

Golpayegani said the wells were discovery wells, development-delineation wells, and workover wells.

The NIDC managing director declared the company's infrastructure improvement in line with the programs of the Oil Ministry as the most important achievement of NIDC in the past year.

Speaking at the company's annual board meeting, Golpayegani said NIDC's performance in various operational, technical, engineering, support, services, and headquarters departments has been significant and improved in the previous year compared to the preceding two years.

"According to the statistics of our planning department, the productivity index [of the company] reached 62 percent last year, while this figure was 48 percent in 1400," he said.

Pointing to the company's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, the official stated: "Although the past year's performance in all sectors shows growth and an upward trend, we should not be satisfied and try to get the company to an even better position this year."

Considering the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)'s strategies for strengthening the presence of domestic companies in the development of the country's oil fields, NIDC, as a major NIOC subsidiary, has been supporting such companies by lending them drilling rigs and other necessary equipment.

## 3,000 National Housing Movement units to be ready in Zanjan by next Mar.

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 3,000 National Housing Movement units will be ready to be handed over to the applicants in Zanjan province by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2025).

Jafar Qazvinian, the head of the province's Transport and Urban Development Department, said that based on the made planning, 4,100 National Housing Movement units have been already handed over to the applicants in the province.

As announced by the Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry, 2,336.7 hectares of land have been provided for the construction of National Housing Movement units across the country in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21).

As IRNA reported, 527 hectares of the mentioned figure were allocated in Tehran province, 150 hectares in East Azarbaijan province, 396 hectares allocated in Kermanshah province, and 1,260 hectares in Fars province.

In early September, Hamid Pour-Mohammadi, the head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), said that the National Housing Movement is the major development plan of the government.

As announced in late July by the former minister of transport and urban development, 2.6 million units of the National Housing Movement were under construction throughout the country.

Mehrdad Bazrpash said that these units in different models are being built in the country, some of them have been delivered and the rest are in different stages of progress.

The National Housing Movement is one of the major policies of the 13th government in the housing sector, and according to this policy, the construction of four million residential units is planned in four years.

It is one of the projects through which the government is trying to help low-income individuals in society become homeowners.

Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Hadi Abbasi-Asl has emphasized the acceleration in implementing the Housing Construction Leap Law to achieve the goals of the 13th government.

In late September 2023, Bazrpash announced the launching of a program for allocating free land (in the framework of the National Housing Movement) to young couples

in order to help them build houses.

The National Housing Movement to construct four million housing units in four years is one of the major plans of the current government in the housing sector.

According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages.

After the National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), the National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-income classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of the National Housing Movement began in February 2022.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by a former Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi.

Also, in July 2022, the minister inaugurated a project for the construction of the first group of affordable housing units for laborers under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

On September 10, 2023, 1,278 units of the National Housing Movement were handed over to the applicants in a ceremony attended by Aref Norouzi, the acting director of the Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini.

The mentioned units were delivered to the applicants in five provinces throughout the country.

The Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development to construct 100,000 units under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

According to Norouzi, the headquarters also completed and handed over 2,000 such units back in April, 2023.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the official said construction of the National Housing Movement units is underway by the Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini in 27 provinces.

Late President Ebrahim Raisi stated that the National Housing Movement is the flagship project of the 13th government to meet the needs of the people, and in addition to the Transport and Urban Development Ministry, all relevant organizations are also striving to achieve it.

# Transit of goods via Iran rises 42% in 7 months yr/yr

From page 1 ▶ As stated by the former Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehرداد Bazrpash, the "Iran Way" initiative made by the current Iranian government, lets the neighboring countries use Iran as a route or a solution that facilitates their access to international waters.

Iran Way initiative is the gateway to Iran's land of transit opportunities, the minister has underlined.

As previously announced by the Transport Ministry, 10.8 million tons of commodities were transited through the country in the Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20, 2023).



Iran is one of the countries with a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special

geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Considering its geographical

location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

Paying attention to upstream documents, especially the country's development plans, and the government's decision to develop transit, paying special attention to infrastructure development, reducing transit time, making it cheaper to cross Iran, and making more advantages over competitors, due to the short path for customers, can lead to facilitating the development of transit so that the country can reach the desired growth in this due.

## Copper cathode production increases 12% in H1



TEHRAN- Production of copper cathode in Iran rose 12 percent in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the new head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced.

Mohammad Aghajanjou said that 145,000

tons of copper cathode was produced in the six-month period of this year.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rods for the wire and cable industry.

Given the significance of mining sector in Iran, implementation of projects to develop different parts of this sector has been always a major program of the governments.

As a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in the country, IMIDRO is playing a significant part in this regard, and in line with its development role, it has defined a number of programs including supporting the contractors active in the mining exploration operation, upgrading the geographical information system (GIS) database based on international standards, exploration of hidden and deep resources using new

methods and training of required manpower.

Exploration and processing of rare minerals with special technologies, assistance in equipping and updating the drilling fleet with the help of Mining Investment Insurance Fund, planning to support and upgrade the scientific-technical level of exploration consultants, and conducting additional exploration operations in all existing mines for increasing the reserves tonnage are the other programs of IMIDRO in this due.

Involving the private sector in exploration activities is also an approach that the organization has included in exploration programs.

IMIDRO had also announced that considering the importance of exploration operation in the mining sector, IMIDRO was preparing a strategic five-year program for more focus on exploration activities.

## ICCIMA hosts meeting on Iran-Hungary trade opportunities

TEHRAN - Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has hosted a meeting to explore the trade opportunities of Iran and Hungary, the ICCIMA portal reported on Saturday.

The meeting was attended by officials from ICCIMA, Hungarian Embassy in Tehran and the Iranian Ambassador to Hungary as well as the representatives of some Iranian companies.

Speaking at the gathering, ICCIMA Deputy Head Hamed Asgari expressed dissatisfaction with the level of trade between the two countries, saying: "The trade balance between Iran and Hungary is not favorable. We export

about six to 10 million dollars [of commodities] to Hungary and import 30 million dollars from that country.

The economic capacity of the two countries is much more than that."

"The trade problems between Iran and Hungary should be diagnosed and the embassies of the two countries should provide operational solutions to solve them.

Of course, the sanctions have affected the trade volume," he said.

He further mentioned some challenges in the way of the two countries' trade development, noting: "The two sides should

establish banking relations and financial transfer, resolve transportation and logistics problems, facilitate efficient trade by accelerating customs processes and minimizing transaction costs, as well as the implementation of market access initiatives."

The official suggested that different specialized working groups should be created so that the companies of the two countries can work together in a specialized manner.

"The representatives of the chambers of commerce of the two countries should also be present in these working groups so that both sides reach practical solutions," Asgari noted.

Elsewhere in this meeting, Gabor Fulop, the deputy of the Hungarian embassy in Tehran, said that his country is interested in developing business relations with Iran, referring to the historical and cultural relations between the two countries.

"In five years, we went through various experiences such as the pandemic and economic crisis; There are still problems in the region.

But Iran and Hungary are two countries that each strive for peace, and this is a good platform for bilateral cooperation," he noted.

## Inflation rate falls 0.6%

TEHRAN - The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on October 21, which marks the end of the seventh Iranian calendar month Mehr, at 33.6 percent, falling 0.6 percent from the figure for the twelve-month ended to the sixth month.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 31.6 percent in the seventh month, which means families have paid an average of 31.6 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The point-to-point inflation rate rose 0.4 percent in the seventh month from the previous month.

In mid-June, the SCI announced that Iran's economy grew by 5.7 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), marking the highest growth since 2017.

In its latest report, the SCI said the growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) for the year ending in March 2024 at the constant prices of 2017 is equivalent to 5.7 percent of the total GDP and 3.4 percent of the GDP minus oil.

The field of activities of industries and mines group grew by 6.9 percent, the services group by 5.7 percent, and the agriculture group by 2.2 percent compared to the previous year.

In late February, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported the Iranian economic growth in 2023 to be 5.4 percent.

The head of Iran's Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) said the country's 5.4 percent economic growth in 2023 was the second-highest rate in the world.

IMF also increased its estimate of Iran's economic growth in 2024, citing a higher-than-expected surge in the country's oil production.

The IMF, in its report published on February 22, forecast a 3.7 percent economic growth for Iran in 2024 while the figure in its October prediction was 2.5 percent.

The IMF data showed that Iran's economic growth reached 5.4% in 2023 while the international agency had predicted a three percent growth for the country in the previous year.

Iran's oil and gas industry's development has a direct impact on the country's economic growth, as the effect was felt during the previous administration's term, when the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and reimposition of sanctions reduced Iran's oil production and exports and even led to negative gross domestic product (GDP) for a couple of years.

Meanwhile, the World Bank (WB), in its report, predicted that Iran's economy will grow 3.2 percent in 2024 and the inflation rate will decrease to 35.3 percent.

According to the estimate of the international body, Iran's economy experienced a five percent growth and a 40.7 percent inflation in 2023.

The bank has forecast that the growth of Iran's non-oil sector which was 3.8 percent last year will reach 3.0 percent in the current year.

Iran's oil sector, which experienced a significant growth of 17.1 percent in the previous year will also grow by 5.0 percent in the current year, Tasnim News Agency reported.

In addition, the World Bank has predicted that Iran's oil production this year will increase by 200,000 barrels compared to the previous year and will reach 3.2 million barrels per day.

It is expected that Iran's agricultural sector will grow only 0.9 percent this year, and the growth of the industry sector will reach 4.9 percent and the service sector will grow 2.6 percent.

Iran's inflation rate which was 40.7 percent in the previous year is also expected to fall to 35.3 percent in the current year.

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) reported in late June that Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) including oil grew 4.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

Based on the CBI data, the figure excluding oil increased by 3.6 percent.

According to the CBI Economic Accounts Department, GDP to the base price (fixed prices in 2016) in the 3rd quarter of the previous Iranian calendar year showed a 4.5 percent growth compared to the same period a year earlier.

In addition, the country's economic growth without oil included in the mentioned period reached 3.9 percent, the report added.

The study of the investment situation in various economic sectors (to the fixed prices in 2016) clarifies that the 'formation of the fixed gross capital' in the 3rd quarter of the last Iranian calendar year saw a 14.2 percent growth compared to the same period in the previous year.

The realization of 4.5 percent economic growth in the previous Iranian calendar year indicates the continuation of the growing trend of economic activities in the country.

# Hezbollah targets Tel Nof airbase near Tel Aviv

From page 1 ▶ The Tel Nof airbase was also subject to an attack by Iran on October 1 as part of a broader ballistic missile retaliatory operation against Israeli military bases.

In another major development, Hezbollah launched a missile salvo targeting the "Mishar base, the main intelligence headquarters for the northern region in Safed."

Two additional missile salvos targeted Krayot north of the city of Haifa on Saturday afternoon, following an earlier strike on the Kiryat Shmona settlement near the Lebanese border.

Hezbollah fighters also "targeted a gathering of Israeli enemy forces in the area of al-Musharifa in Ras Al-Naqoura with a rocket barrage."

In other operations, the Lebanese resistance shelled Israeli forces with missile barrages at deserted settlements in northern Israel while targeting two gatherings of Israeli occupation forces.

The first was in Rosh HaNikra and the second in the Shlomi settlement, both with missile salvos.



Israeli media: Hezbollah fired nearly 100 rockets into the north by Saturday afternoon

Also, inside Israeli territory, Hebrew media reported the launch of rockets from Lebanon towards the Western Galilee. Israeli Channel 12 reported on the sound of an explosion following sirens in Western Galilee amid fears of a drone infiltration.

Furthermore, firefighting teams are working to extinguish fires in at least four different areas that were caused by rockets

reported to have been fired from Lebanon.

Footage showed Israeli emergency services struggling to put out a large fire in the Yesod Ha-Ma'ala settlement due to rocket impacts believed to be from Lebanon.

Additionally, sirens sounded in around ten Israeli regions over concerns about drone infiltrations. Since Israel widely escalated

its aggression against Lebanon some two months ago with the aim of returning displaced settlers to the north, it has failed to achieve its mission so far.

On the other hand, Hezbollah has expanded its missile strikes on settlements in northern Israel and heavily targeting cities in Israel, including the industrial hub of Haifa.

On Saturday, Israel was again accused of bombing Lebanon indiscriminately under the false pretext of targeting Hezbollah weapons.

A video emerged on Saturday showing part of the destruction caused by Israeli raids on a neighborhood in the southern suburb of Beirut.

This is despite the fact that Hezbollah removed all of its weaponry from the southern suburb of Beirut following the 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon.

The measure was taken following an order by martyr Hezbollah Secretary-General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah.

## The puppeteers: Israel and US pulled strings to remove ICC judge

From page 1 ▶ Now, the abrupt removal of the panel's presiding judge appears to prolong Khan's request even further.

The ICC announced on Friday that Romanian judge Iulia Motoc has been replaced, citing medical grounds.

It did not elaborate or disclose further details, saying that "the personal medical situation of Judge Motoc is entitled to medical confidentiality."

Motoc was replaced by Beti Hohler, a Slovenian who was elected as a judge at the ICC in 2023.

Uterior motives lurking behind the replacement are now coming to the forefront.

Back in May, Netanyahu condemned the charges that were filed against him by Khan as a "disgrace" and vowed to continue the genocidal war in Gaza.

President Joe Biden, who has thrown his administration's full weight behind Israel's war on Gaza, also called Khan's move "outrageous".

Israel has openly shown a complete lack of respect for international organizations.

An investigation by the Guardian and the Israeli-based magazines +972 and Local Call revealed in May that Israel had run an almost decade-long secret "war" against the ICC. The probe said Israel deployed its intelligence agencies to surveil, hack, pressure, smear and allegedly threaten senior ICC staff in an



Netanyahu and Gallant stand accused of perpetrating war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza amid Washington's unwavering support.

effort to derail the court's inquiries.

It added that Israeli intelligence captured the communications of numerous officials of The Hague-based court, including Khan and his predecessor as prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, intercepting phone calls, messages, emails and documents.

Amid Motoc's removal on Friday, ICC officials accused the Israeli intelligence of waging a smear campaign against Khan.

This came after unrelated accusations surfaced that Khan tried for more than a year to coerce a female aide into a sexual relationship. Khan categorically denied the allega-

tions, saying there was "no truth to suggestions of misconduct."

Irrespective of the veracity of the accusations, it is crystal clear that Israel has no scruples about demonizing international organizations when they face pressure to bring the regime's atrocities to the fore.

Israel has slaughtered close to 43,000 Palestinians in Gaza since launching war on the territory in October last year.

Israel also continues to butcher Lebanese people under the pretext of targeting positions of the Hezbollah resistance movement.

The replacement of the ICC judge may let Netanyahu and other Israeli criminals off the hook for now.

But the dismissal sheds light on the pressure exerted by Israel's Western allies, in particular the United States, on the court to cover up the Netanyahu regime's crimes.

Washington has provided Tel Aviv with additional amounts of weapons during the course of the Gaza war. It has also shielded the regime at the United Nations Security Council through its veto power.

Currently, growing global anger at Israel's brutalities in Gaza and Lebanon will not only deepen the regime's isolation but also that of the US over its unwavering support for the apartheid entity.

## Harris and Trump: Two faces of American politics in West Asia

From page 1 ▶ Currently, seven states remain in contention, and victory in these "swing states" could determine the ultimate outcome of the elections. The candidate who manages to gather 270 electoral votes will be declared the winner.

One of these "swing states" is Michigan, home to over 300,000 residents of North African or Middle Eastern descent. Traditionally, these voters have leaned Democratic, but many are disenchanted with Harris's support for the Israeli genocide in Gaza and the destruction of Lebanon. National polls suggest that Arab Americans show a slight preference for Trump; others are increasingly supporting Jill Stein of the Green Party.

Recently, the New York Times, a media outlet considered close to the Democrats, reported that in over twenty interviews conducted last weekend with a variety of voters in Michigan, only two said they would vote for Kamala Harris. Bruno Maçães, a Portuguese international politics expert covering the U.S. elections for a British outlet, recounted in an article that in Dearborn, a city

where Arab Americans represent 55% of the population, one resident remarked, "No one I know is voting for her."

It is evident that the situation in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as tensions with Iran, are decisive factors for American voters. Regarding the stance on Israel, there appear to be no significant differences between Kamala Harris and Joe Biden. Both seem disconnected from the younger members of their party, who show a greater interest in the rights of Palestinians and Lebanese rather than the traditional unconditional support for Israel.

In this context, one can recall the statements of Halie Soifer, who served as Harris's national security advisor during her time as a senator. She stated in an article for Politico: "She and President Biden are in complete alignment regarding Israel. There is no difference between them."

Kamala Harris made her commitment to Israel's security and its right to "self-defense" clear during her speech at the Munich Security Conference in early 2024. At this forum, she also emphasized her stance on combat-

ing what she referred to as "Iranian aggression and its allies."

On the other hand, no significant changes to U.S. policy in the region are anticipated from Donald Trump if he wins the election, particularly concerning Iran. The former president takes pride in his withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement, known as the JCPOA, and constantly emphasizes that this action has increased economic pressure on Iran and weakened its influence. However, he makes these assertions without establishing clear objectives regarding the Iranian issue.

Several Iranian analysts point out that Trump might adopt a more aggressive stance toward Tehran. In terms of military presence, his cabinet could opt for a selective strategy, increasing troops and military bases in response to certain threats while withdrawing forces from areas where he does not perceive an imminent danger.

Trump's policy toward Syria and Iraq is likely to continue along the same lines as in the past, using these countries as tools to exert pressure on Iran. This could involve increasing mil-

itary presence in these nations, despite a reduction of forces in the Middle East, as well as establishing interactive relationships with parties opposed to Iranian interests within these countries. Additionally, Trump views Iran as the main enemy of the United States in the Middle East, so he is likely to select advisors with hardline views on the Islamic Republic. Although he sometimes speaks of a "great deal" with Tehran, his overall policy will be based on continuing maximum pressure on the Islamic Republic.

Regarding the situation in Gaza, Trump has announced that he will immediately end the war, although it remains unclear how he would do so. In a broader context, his approach is likely to focus on normalization agreements between Israel and Saudi Arabia, sidelining the Palestinians in any decisions about their future.

Concerning Persian Gulf Arab countries, during his first term, the UAE was one of the most solid pillars of the Abraham Accords.

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

## Health Ministry: Gaza death toll tops 42,900

The Health Ministry in Gaza said on Saturday that nearly 80 more Palestinians were killed in relentless Israeli attacks in the territory over the last two days, pushing up the overall death toll since October last year to 42,924.

Some 100,833 others have also been injured in the year-long, ongoing Israeli assault on Gaza, according to a ministry statement, Anadolu reported.

"The Israeli occupation has committed seven massacres of families in the last 48

hours, resulting in 77 deaths and 289 injuries," it said.

"Many people are still trapped under the rubble and on the roads, as rescuers are unable to reach them," the statement added.

The Israeli onslaught has displaced almost the entire population of the territory amid an ongoing blockade that has led to severe shortages of food, clean water, and medicine.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for its actions in Gaza.

## Israel leaves trail of destruction in north Gaza's last functioning hospital

Israeli forces have left a trail of destruction in Kamal Adwan Hospital, the last functioning medical facility in northern Gaza.

According to Al Jazeera, the male medical staff were detained, leaving patients with no one to treat them.

"This is the 14th time the hospital comes under Israeli fire," hospital spokesperson Hisham Sakani said. "Our doctors are now in Israeli detention, their families were killed."

Doctors say the attack also destroyed the oxygen station of the hospital, leading to the

deaths of two babies in the ICU.

"It is a catastrophic situation as patients and the wounded are left on the floor without any medical attention. We are facing grave dangers and here I am once again sending an SOS to the whole world. We pray to God almighty our plight comes to an end and Israeli massacres ceased," they said.

The doctors added, "The entire population north of Gaza Strip are now without any medical service after all the hospitals have been destroyed and forced out of operation."

## Gaza's civil defense unable to respond to emergency calls

The Palestinian Civil Defense in Gaza said it has been unable to respond to emergency calls from residents in northern Gaza's Jabalia, as the region continues to endure a siege that began more than three weeks ago.

"We are unable to respond to numerous pleas for help from homes that have been

targeted and burned by Israeli bombardment in Jabalia and Jabalia Nazla in northern Gaza," it said in a statement, Al Jazeera reported.

The statement added, "Civil Defense operations have been completely halted due to ongoing Israeli targeting and aggression in northern Gaza."

## The enemy will see, not just hear

By Batool Subeiti

BEIRUT - The Lebanese Islamic resistance's recent strikes have delivered multiple messages to the Israeli occupation entity. Whilst the resistance is fully capable of targeting settlers, it chooses not to. It maintains a careful balance.

It operates with patience and strategic foresight, responding according to its own timing, rather than reacting impulsively to the enemy's provocations. The resistance refuses to be drawn into actions dictated by the enemy, following a clear strategy based on careful evaluation of the situation.

The resistance has proven that if the enemy's aggressive actions continue, there will be no sense of security within its society. The entity that brings insecurity to the region through its attacks should be prepared to face insecurity when the resistance decides to act.

Netanyahu's strategy appears to be hinged on gearing the settlers and military to realize this is an existential war. What he doesn't realize is that the entity inherently wasn't created to bear this brunt. It is a society of luxury and not war.

Despite the lack of advanced aircraft or modern air force, the resistance has developed drones capable of performing precise and difficult missions, compensating for the technological gap. The necessity of the battlefield has driven innovation, resulting in the development of tools perfectly suited to the resistance's defense.

The Israeli occupation entity's claims of inflicting significant damage on the resistance by assassinating its leaders have been exposed as false. The entity fails to grasp the psychology of the resistance. It grows more determined under pressure. Its resolve hardens with every loss it suffers.

The entity is an exposed state operating above the ground, with its facilities open to devastating strikes. In contrast, the resistance operates as an underground force, with its assets difficult to detect. The impact

on the entity's society, economy, and stability—especially its financial and investment sectors—far outweighs any damage it could hope to inflict on the resistance's infrastructure.

The resistance's ability to target the heart of the entity, including critical areas like the capital and Gush Dan, would signal the collapse of the state's capabilities. This is especially following evacuations in the north and instability in the south. Each phase of the resistance's strategy unfolds according to a carefully concealed plan. As Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah stated: "You will see, not just hear." The stage of pain, as declared by Sheikh Naim Qassem, is imminent, with action speaking louder than words.

The entity has announced its goals in this war, yet it has failed to achieve them. Its aim to return settlers to the north remains unfulfilled, however, Netanyahu himself has been evacuated from his home at the center of the occupied territories. Lebanon signifies a repeat of the occupation entity's failures in Gaza all over again, except worse. Netanyahu has managed to rally more support for the continuation of this war, due to setting larger goals. However, these goals are far from attainable. Setting larger goals and not meeting them causes more disintegration and weakness inside the occupation entity.

It is the actions of the resistance, not the falsehoods promoted by the entity and its allies, dictating the course of events and the real substance. The resistance will not be lured into traps. It possesses advanced weapons and capabilities the enemy does not even know about. The strategy of lost security is something the entity cannot endure, whereas the resistance and its people are accustomed to living without security.

Former Israeli military intelligence chief Tamir Hayman recently stated "We are on the brink of disaster and failure in the absence of thinking about ending the Lebanon war."

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

## Permanent handicrafts market to open in Belad Shapur



TEHRAN- A permanent handicrafts marketplace will be launched in the Sassanid city of Belad Shapur, which is situated in Dehdasht, southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The traditional market within the historical texture of Dehdasht has been restored and is ready to be designated for the creation of a permanent handicrafts market, Seyyed Mojtaba Amirhosseini explained on Saturday.

He also emphasized that a budget of 200 billion rials (\$334,000) has been allocated for the establishment of the market.

Establishing such market aims at boosting production and job creation for handicraft artisans, he noted.

It will also enhance the economic prosperity of the people of the region, he added.

Despite all the destruction that took place in this historical city in different eras, with an area of more than 45 hectares, it is currently considered one of the largest historical structures in the country in terms of size and number of historical buildings. Inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1985, the ancient city of Belad Shapur is one of the top tourist sites in the province.

The city was built at the time of Shapur I, also known as Shapur the Great, (reigned 241 CE–272), the second king of the Sassanid Dynasty. Under his leadership, the empire stretched from Sogdiana and Iberia (Georgia) in the north to the Mazun region of Arabia in the south; in the east, it extended to the Indus River, and in the west to the upper Tigris and Euphrates rivers valleys.

Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs on abrupt limestone cliffs are widely deemed as characteristics and striking relics of the Sassanian art, top examples of which can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam, and Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran. In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region" -- to its World Heritage list.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province is known for its nomads and nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

## Restoration begins on historical cistern in Mayamey



TEHRAN- A restoration project has been commenced on a Qajar-era (1789-1925) Ab-Anbar (cistern) in the historical structure of the city of Mayamey in north-central Semnan province.

The project involves strengthening the historical structure as well as repairing the damaged part, Mayamey's tourism chief has said.

The project is being carried out in collaboration of Mayamey Municipality, Mojtaba Mohammadzadeh said on Saturday.

The cistern has been inscribed on the national heritage list, the official added.

The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or seasonal rainwater.

Such underground reservoirs or are parts of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding

mountains.

Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

The history of Semnan dates back to ancient Iran when the city was part of the Median Empire. At the time of the Achaemenid Empire of Persia, Semnan was a magnificent city. After the attack of Alexander, Semnan became famous as Koomeh. The great era of the prosperity of this city began after the advent of the Parthian Empire.

Due to its location, which was on the traffic center of the north, south, east, and west, Semnan had always been the subject of a struggle for power in the Sassanid period. In the Sassanid and post-Islamic periods, the city was the basis of central governments in the area.

## Chinese company Deep Blue Aerospace plans to start launching space tourists in 2027

The Chinese company Deep Blue Aerospace is getting into the space tourism business.

Deep Blue, which is based in the eastern province of Jiangsu, announced on Wednesday that it plans to start launching paying customers to suborbital space in 2027.

Tickets will cost 1.5 million RMB apiece -- about \$210,000 U.S. at current exchange rates. For that price, customers will get "much more than a brief weightlessness experience," Deep Blue wrote in a statement on Wednesday. "They will experience the vastness and

mystery of the universe and witness the magnificent landscape beyond the Earth. This journey will be an all-round, multi-sensory space journey that will be unforgettable for a lifetime."

That statement also features renders of Deep Blue's suborbital spaceflight system -- a reusable rocket-capsule combo akin to Blue Origin's New Shepard, which has conducted eight suborbital crewed flights to date, most recently on August 29.

(Source: Space.com)

# Persepolis birthplace of Iran's history, official says

TEHRAN- The Director of the World Heritage Site of Persepolis has described this cultural landmark as the birthplace of Iran's history—a heritage that all Iranians feel connected to.

On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of Persepolis's registration as a UNESCO World Heritage site, Alireza Askari Chaverdi remarked that the term 'Iran' embodies a complex philosophical concept deeply rooted in the historical culture of the land, fundamentally reliant on Persepolis, ISNA reported on Saturday.

He added that Persepolis is not merely an ancient artifact; it signifies the genesis of Iranian history. "All Iranians understand their existential philosophy in connection with Persepolis, as it embodies the epistemic system of the Iranian people," he noted.

Askari Chaverdi emphasized that Persepolis has not only intertwined the various ethnic groups of present-day Iran but has also served as a connecting thread for the territorial cohesion of Iran throughout ancient times.

This connection is invaluable, as it has sustained the cultural unity of Iran through the language of art across history.

He also highlighted that people from all corners of Iran today consider Persepolis to be their own, as they have a historical bond with it.

He stressed that all Iranians regard the preservation of their national culture as essential, with Persepolis giving meaning and significance to their ancient national identity.

He pointed out that the kinship ties of Greater Iran's cultural core with its neighboring regions to the east, west, north, and south shaped the cultural identity of the east in opposition to the west



during antiquity, and these connections played a significant role during the Islamic period within the eastern realm of Islam. Many countries in today's West Asia inherit remnants from Iran's ancient era, and a substantial portion of Iran's current cultural ties with these nations dates back to their historical dimensions within the Achaemenid Empire.

Askari Chaverdi recalled that during the Achaemenid period, over 30 provinces were incorporated into ancient Iran's realm. Although they culturally differed to some extent from the official cultural domain at the center of governance, the regime made efforts to enhance cultural convergence and proximity within its political structure by developing communicative capabilities and creating symbolic representations of its ideological roots.

He stated that the most tangible aspects of unity, oneness, and monotheism reflected the relationship between religion and the secular in the ideological roots of Persepolis, where the diversity of cultures was integrated within the political and administrative structures of governance while preserving the customs of various nations.

Askari Chaverdi noted that the artistic and cultural reflections of Persepolis were institutional-

ized in the context of the people of the West Asia during the Achaemenid period, which subsequently ensured the continuity of Greater Iran's cultural cohesion in later eras. He added that the construction of Persepolis incorporated elements of ancient Middle Eastern art, establishing artistic methods rooted in the historical culture of the Achaemenid domain in a way that even today, not only the people of Iran but also the societies of ancient West Asia seek their connection to this cultural core represented by Persepolis.

He continued that this historical continuity during the Sassanid period and the Islamic era instilled the notions of independence, freedom-seeking, and legitimate power of historical Iran in the region and the world.

He emphasized that the concept of historical cultural Iran does not culminate into a singular topic; rather, it encompasses a collection of ideas which can be identified and understood in the spatial and cultural context of ancient Iran at Persepolis.

Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire, is celebrated as one of the most remarkable architectural achievements of the ancient world. Erected approximately 2,500 years ago, this UNESCO

World Heritage site exemplifies advanced stone carving and cutting techniques employed by ancient Persian craftsmen. The site is renowned for its vast palatial complexes, intricate bas-reliefs, and towering stone columns, each a testament to the extraordinary skill and artistry of its builders.

Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979, Persepolis symbolizes the wealth and power of the Achaemenid dynasty, as well as its artistic accomplishments.

Several grand structures, including the Apadana Palace and the Throne Hall, illustrate the grandeur of Persian architecture, showcasing the empire's ambition and sophistication.

The numerous stone monuments at Persepolis are significant not only for their historical importance but also for their role in highlighting ancient Persian innovations in stonework.

Visitors to Persepolis can marvel at detailed carvings depicting soldiers, dignitaries, and scenes of royal ceremonies, alongside elaborate decorative motifs that reflect the culture and values of the Achaemenid Empire. The artistry and craftsmanship displayed at this site have left a lasting legacy, inspiring generations of artists, architects, and historians.

Persepolis stands as a powerful reminder of a pivotal era in human history, capturing the essence of a civilization that made significant contributions to art, architecture, and governance.

Its enduring presence continues to captivate and educate those who seek to understand the complexities of the ancient world, ensuring that the legacy of the Achaemenid Empire remains alive for future generations.

## Malaga bans new short-term rentals as city struggles with mass tourism

Malaga, a popular destination in Spain's southern coast, is the latest city to impose strict regulations on new short-term tourist rentals. The city council announced the decision to ban new short-term rentals in 43 neighborhoods, aiming to address concerns over housing affordability and supply. Malaga's strategy reflects a broader trend in Spanish cities, including Barcelona, where local governments are cracking down on short-term rentals managed through platforms like Airbnb and Booking.com.

The decision by Malaga's city council comes amid resident protests over high rents and limited availability of long-term rentals.

As Mayor Francisco De la Torre highlighted, the tourism industry has drastically altered the local housing market, especially with the influx of digital nomads who see Malaga as an ideal remote work destination.

This surge in demand has driven up rents and encouraged property owners to favor short-term tourist rentals over long-term leases.

### Tourism boom and its impact on housing

Malaga's housing market has been affected by the high volume of tourists seeking short-term accommodations.

A recent study by the city council found that 65 percent of the city center's tourist accommodation is in short-term rentals, significantly impacting local housing dynamics.

The Bank of Spain further confirms this trend, indicating that Spain's rental demand has risen among low-income families and migrants, while property owners have been shifting towards lucrative short-term rentals.

While Malaga has about 14,000 hotel beds, there are approximately 40,000 beds available in short-term rentals.

De la Torre shared these statistics at a recent business event in Madrid, expressing his concerns over how short-term rentals are reshaping the city's housing landscape and straining available housing resources for residents.

### Designated neighborhoods and annual policy review

The ban on new short-term rentals specifically targets neighborhoods where short-term rentals make up more than eight percent of the housing stock.

These areas, which have higher rental rates and lower resident populations, are facing some of the most intense pressures from the tourism sector.

As per the council's announcement, the new restrictions will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they are effectively addressing the housing shortage and rental inflation in the city.

This crackdown on short-term rentals has been welcomed by residents concerned about affordability and accessibility.

With Malaga joining other Spanish cities in implementing stricter regulations, local governments are increasingly addressing the need to balance the benefits of tourism with the rights of residents.

### Proposed overnight tax on holiday rentals

To further manage the tourism sector's impact, Mayor De la Torre has proposed an overnight tax on holiday rentals.

This tax, which would be applied only to those staying in short-term rentals and not to hotel guests, aims to generate revenue for social housing initiatives.

However, implementing this tax requires national legislative reform, which De la Torre addressed in a letter to Spain's Tourism Minister Jordi Hereu.

If approved, the funds from this tax would go towards subsidizing social rents, providing relief for residents impacted by rising housing costs.

### Challenges and future actions

The restrictions are part of a broader response by Spanish cities to the challenges posed by tourism-driven housing demand.

In Barcelona, authorities plan to eliminate

short-term rental licenses by 2028 as part of a comprehensive approach to preserve housing for locals.

While Malaga's measures are less extensive, they reflect the growing sentiment across Spain against unchecked tourism growth and its consequences on the housing market.

As Malaga's tourism sector continues to grow, city officials are hopeful that these restrictions will help ease housing pressures for local residents.

The annual review of these policies will allow the city council to monitor the impact of the regulations and make adjustments as needed.

Meanwhile, cities across Europe will likely look to Malaga and Barcelona as models for managing the effects of tourism on housing, potentially implementing similar policies to balance the needs of residents with those of the tourism industry.

### Looking forward: balancing tourism and housing

The tourism industry remains a significant contributor to Malaga's economy, and city officials are keen on finding solutions that support both the sector and the local community. The new short-term rental ban is a proactive step toward fostering a sustainable balance between tourism growth and residents' needs for affordable housing.

As more cities take action to regulate short-term rentals, Malaga's efforts underscore the challenges faced by popular tourist destinations worldwide.

Striking a balance between encouraging tourism and protecting housing rights will require ongoing collaboration between local governments, tourism operators, and community advocates.

For now, Malaga's new policy offers a promising model for other cities facing similar pressures, as it takes a stand to ensure a livable environment for its residents.

(Source: Travel and Tour World)

# Iran advances in Environmental Performance Index

TEHRAN –The 2024 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) has ranked Iran 113 among 180 countries on climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality.

Compared to 2022, Iran's ranking (133) has climbed up by 20 places.

The 2024 EPI provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world. Using 58 performance indicators across 11 issue categories, the EPI ranks 180 countries on climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality.

These indicators provide a gauge at a national scale of how close countries are to established environmental policy targets.

The EPI offers a scorecard that highlights leaders and laggards in environmental performance and provides practical guidance for countries that aspire to move toward a sustainable future.

Iran's best rankings are in Marine protection stringency (first), Marine key biodiversity areas (KBA) protection (39), Fish stock status (17), Net carbon fluxes due to land cover change (10), Household solid fuels (42), and Waste recovery rate (50).

However, adjusted emissions growth rate for carbon dioxide (162), Lead exposure (156), NO2 exposure (150), Anthropogenic particulate matter (PM)2.5 exposure (140), and Terrestrial Biome protection (145) are among unsatisfactory indices.

Indicators that have had negative trend in 10 years include Adjusted emissions growth rate for black carbon (-64.1), Adjusted emissions growth rate for F-gases (-23.4),



Adjusted emissions growth rate for methane (-10.7), Regional marine trophic index (-30.4), Ozone exposure cropland (-28.3), Ozone exposure KBAs (-20.2), and Co exposure (-8.4).

EPI indicators provide a way to spot problems, set targets, track trends, understand outcomes, and identify best policy practices.

Going beyond the aggregate scores and drilling down into the data to analyze performance by issue category, policy objective, peer group, and country offers even greater value for policymakers.

This granular view and comparative perspective can assist in understanding the determinants of environmental progress and in refining policy choices.

## Iran's rich biodiversity

Iran is considered a crossroad between Asia, Africa, and Europe. This geographical situation has led to the climatic diversity of the country.

Despite the country's rich biodiversity, some species have been se-

verely damaged over the past years.

A total of 1036 vertebrate species are identified in the country. Out of 209 mammals, 560 birds, 242 reptiles, and 25 amphibians, around 75 species were included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List in 2022.

Bustards and Asiatic cheetahs are among critically endangered species, there are roughly 19 species of bustards and 25 species of cheetahs identified in the country.

Moreover, a total of 35 out of about 62 endangered species of birds are aquatic and water-side.

Some 8,000 plant species have been identified so far in the country, which, in terms of their diversity and number, equals 80 percent of the plant species of the European continent.

The diversity of plants in Iran is unique in West Asia to the extent that the country ranks second following Turkey. In addition to native plants, there are also some other species in the country known as endemic species which are much more

limited than native species. Out of 8,000 native species, some 1,800 are endemic. These species are found only in a certain geographical area.

Due to human activities, biodiversity has faced numerous threats, including habitat loss and fragmentation, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, invasive species, and climate change, which has led to the extinction of many species and the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.

Habitat destruction is of the main factors that affects the extinction of a species. Road construction, mining, overgrazing, and land use change greatly damage wildlife habitats and reduce population size and genetic diversity within a species.

Drought has resulted in decrease vegetation diversity and lack of food for herbivorous species.

Several measures can be taken to mitigate the impacts of climate change, particularly drought, on the destruction of plants, such as managing the exploitation of natural resources and preventing the destruction of ecosystems to prevent severe conditions and lessen pressures on plants.

Also, raising public awareness to protect nature is an important step that helps governments to preserve nature.

By improving local communities, private sectors, and individuals' roles in preserving wildlife along with the help of today's science and technology, we can make sure that ecosystems can thrive and plant and animal species can exist for future generations.

## Iran attends UNODC course on Controlling Measures against Drug Smuggling

TEHRAN –Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran has participated in a specialized training course on 'Controlling Measures against Drug Smuggling (Including at Airports)', held by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Moscow.

The ten-day course was organized in collaboration with the Domodedovo Institute of Advanced Training, which operates under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, from September 23 to October 3, the UN website announced in a press release on October 24.

UNODC has been actively present in the Islamic Republic of Iran since 1999 and considers Iran as one of the strategic partners for drug control and crime prevention in the region and has been supporting the country by providing technical assistance and skills improvement activities since its establishment.

UNODC Iran cooperates with the government of the Russian Federation, as a donor of its activities. The training was among a series of skills improvement events held in the Russian Federation and in the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the support of Russian professional instructors.

The comprehensive curriculum of this specialized training encompassed key elements of knowledge and practices in combating illicit drug trafficking and search techniques; modern possibilities for identifying individuals who smuggle narcotic drugs; and methods for concealing illicit items on road, rail, and air transport.

In addition to various lectures and classes envisaged under the curriculum of this training, practical visits, trainings, and demonstrations were foreseen for the members of the delegation, which significantly enriched the courses, and complemented the theoretical section.

In this training, the Iranian delegation also visited the Kazan railway station and Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow. To advance professional practical skills, participants were demonstrated with various sections of the airport and railway station, including passenger areas, customs check, luggage transfer, and canine unit.

In an opening message, Alexander Fedulov, the UNODC representative in Iran, hoped that this specialized training which was among a series of activities organized under generous funding of the Russian Federation, would be beneficial to participants and highlighted the importance of global cooperation in the fight against drugs.

The official also stated that due to its unique geographical location, Iran bears a great responsibility, and at the same time, it has shown great commitment to fight against drugs and crimes.

At the graduation ceremony, the certificates of the participants from the Islamic Republic of Iran were handed over by Mr. Skivterist, the Head of the Domodedovo Russian Institute of Advanced Training of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia.

He expressed readiness of the Institute to continue cooperation and sharing of professional knowledge with colleagues from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

UNODC Iran cooperation with academies from the Russian Federation lies under the UNODC Country Partnership Programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The advanced training, held in this institute was

made possible through support from the Russian Federation, and effective coordination extended to UNODC Iran by the Russian Embassy in Tehran.

**UNODC boosts Iran's capacity to prevent drug trafficking**

In August, a total of three X-ray Body Scanners crucial for efficiently identifying narcotic drugs concealed in the body or swallowed were installed in three international airports of the country, namely Imam Khomeini International Airport, Gorgan International Airport, and Ahvaz International Airport.

The UNODC in Iran procured and installed these devices with the aim of preventing the illegal trafficking of drugs through the air border of Iran, the UN website announced in a press release on August 7.

On August 4, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the Islamic Republic of Iran in an official ceremony handed over one X-ray Body Scanner.

The official event was organized at the Imam Khomeini International Airport, with the presence of representatives from UNODC Iran, the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ), and the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Office also provided pertinent specialized training for end users of each device, under the guidance and supervision of professional technical engineers.

Due to its geographic proximity to Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran serves as both a destination and a transit route for illicit drug trafficking, especially opioids and recently methamphetamine produced in Afghanistan. In response to this challenge, the UNODC Iran under its Sub-Program 1 "Border Management and Illicit Trafficking" continues to support, both technically and financially, the national drug control efforts, through the implementation of various activities.

Mahdi Javaheri, Director General of the International Relations Office of DCHQ, in his statements, expressed his gratitude to the UNODC for continuous support extended to the Iranian controlling entities and hoped the support will continue and increase in the future, considering the high demand for provision of controlling equipment, especially X-ray devices.

On July 24, UNODC in Iran handed over 4 drug identification devices, procured through generous support by the Japanese Government, in an official ceremony at the premises of the DCHQ in Tehran.

These devices which will be used for controlling a wide range of drugs trafficked, especially at the eastern borders of Iran with Afghanistan, have been procured under sub-program 1 of the UNODC Country Partnership Program (CPP) 2023-2026.

The government of Japan has been supporting UNODC Iran's activities on Drug Supply Reduction for many years.

The Ambassador of Japan in Iran, Tamaki Tsukada, has expressed his willingness to support trilateral cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNODC, and the government of Japan.

He also commented on the successful achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran and stated that the level of activities and seizures by Iran, at the frontline of the fight against drugs, is very impressive.

## Vaccination reduces Hepatitis B prevalence to some 1%

TEHRAN –Thanks to implementing a national vaccination program, the prevalence of hepatitis B has declined from 2.5 percent to approximately one percent in the country, an official with the health ministry has said.

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that attacks the liver and can cause both acute and chronic disease.

The acute disease can be treated without the need for medications. However, chronic infection usually puts people at high risk of death from cirrhosis and liver cancer.

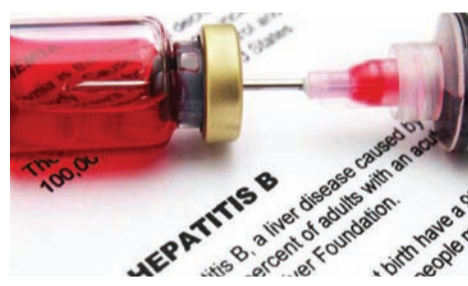
The best and most effective way to prevent Hepatitis B is to get vaccinated.

The vaccination program kicked off years ago targeting individuals under the age of 37, IRNA quoted Qobad Moradi as saying.

He made the remarks on the occasion of the national hepatitis awareness week, which is being observed in the country from October 22 to 28.

The week aims to enhance preventive measures by raising public awareness, screening as well as controlling viral hepatitis infections.

In March, Hossein Farshidi, the deputy health minister, said a national program to



control Hepatitis B will kick off on September 22, IRNA reported.

## Hepatitis C to be eliminated in 2 years

The ministry of health is planning to eradicate hepatitis C across the country within a period of 2 to 3 years.

If the necessary budget is provided, we will eliminate hepatitis within two to three years," ISNA quoted Shahnam Arshi, a health ministry official, as saying.

Universities of medical science have put the eradication of hepatitis C in the spotlight, he stressed.

An estimated 200,000 people in the country are infected with hepatitis C, Arshi noted, adding that the ministry has been importing

diagnosis kits for identifying patients.

In August 2023, Saeid Karimi, the deputy health minister, said that free treatment for hepatitis C is provided for patients in the country.

"We hope to eliminate hepatitis C from the country with insurance coverage and other efficient measures," IRNA quoted Karimi as saying.

"To be able to do so, many patients have been diagnosed and registered in the [treatment] systems," he added.

So far, some 600 patients under insurance coverage have been treated free of charge, he noted.

Iran is planning to provide free diagnosis and treatment services to people who are suffering from hepatitis and eradicate the disease by 2030.

Diagnosis of the disease under the health network is free for all, and treatment is also free for financially vulnerable families.

In the year 1400 (ended in March 2022), some 14,500 patients were treated and in the previous year (ended in March 2023), some 16,500 patients were treated in the country.

## ENGLISH IN USE

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## Families with multiple births to receive monthly allowances

In line with population growth policies, families with triplets or more will receive monthly allowances of up to 5 million rials (nearly \$120 at the official rate of 42,000 rials), head of Welfare Organization has announced.

The allowances would be paid when the children are born till the age of 6, IRNA quoted Vahid Ghobadi Dana as saying on Saturday.

Some 17,000 households with three or above births will receive the government support across the country, he stated.

He went on to say that since the Iranian calendar year 1393 (March 2014-March 2015) till 1397 (March 2018-March 2019), nearly 1.5 million births were registered in the country per year, 3 percent of which have been twins and 0.5 percent triplets or more.

## خانواده‌های دارای چندقلو کمک ماهانه معیشتی می‌گیرند

در راستای سیاست‌های افزایش جمعیت، به خانواده‌های دارای سه قلو به بالا ۵۰۰ هزار تومان به صورت ماهانه به عنوان کمک هزینه معیشتی پرداخت می‌شود.

به گزارش ایرنا، وحید قبادی دانا، رئیس سازمان بهزیستی روز جمعه با بیان این که کمک هزینه از ابتدای تولد تا ۶ سالگی پرداخت می‌شود، ادامه داد: تعداد خانواده‌های دارای فرزند سه قلو به بالا نیارمند کمک معیشتی دولت، ۱۷ هزار خانوار در کل کشور هستند.

قبادی دانا اظهار داشت از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۷ هر سال تقریباً یک میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار نفر تولد ثبت شد، و بیش از ۳ درصد این تولدها دوقلو به بالا و حدود نیم درصد از آن سه قلو به بالاتر بود.

## Climate change mitigation program on the agenda

TEHRAN –The Department of Environment (DOE) is planning to develop a program to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the country.

In line with the Seventh National Development Plan (2023-2027) that highlights the expansion of a green economy and low-carbon industry, enhancement of adaptability to climate change, and reduction of damages, the DOE has placed the development of a mitigating program on the agenda, ISNA quoted Shina Ansari, the head of the DOE, as saying.

"On the one hand, Iran is strongly affected by climate change, and on the other hand, it is among the top ten countries emitting greenhouse gases," Ansari noted.

The energy sector accounts for more than 86 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions, and the largest share of carbon dioxide emissions, 32 percent, comes from the power

plant sector, the official added.

The lack of comprehensive legal and executive regulations on climate change is one of the country's main problems. Once the laws are developed, the responsibilities of the executive and supervisory bodies of the DOE will be determined in the face of the climate change impacts, Ansari further noted.

She made the remarks on the occasion of the International Day against Climate Change, commemorated on October 24.

The day highlights the significance of raising awareness of climate change threats, taking actions to address its adverse effects, as well as boosting community resilience to climate change.

Climate change is a long-term atmospheric-oceanic phenomenon on a global scale, which is affected by factors such as solar as well as human activities.



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## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*One who imagines himself to be all-knowing will surely suffer on account of his ignorance.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon: 11:49 Evening: 17:37 Dawn: 4:55 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:19 (tomorrow)

## IAF cinematheque to show Hamid Samandarian's "The Visit"

TEHRAN-The recorded stage performance of the 1956 play "The Visit" written by the Swiss dramatist Friedrich Dürrenmatt, which was directed by the late Iranian stage director Hamid Samandarian in 2007, will be screened at the cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) on Wednesday.

The screening, set for 5 p.m., will be followed by a review session with Abbas Ghaffari as the host and theater critic Majid Kianian, Honaronline reported.

"The Visit" was translated into Persian by the celebrated director Samandarian, who also staged the play several times between 1972 and 2008.

The play is about a wealthy old woman, who returns to her hometown after 45 years to exact revenge on the man who betrayed her when she was young. She asks townspeople to kill the man and in exchange, she promises to provide enough money to revitalize the decrepit town.

Samandarian had called "The Visit" a thought-provoking comedy. "Dürrenmatt was labeled a melancholic writer in Germany, and some renowned analysts believe him to have been an author who was able to portray anti-human events without fear. When I was studying his works, I also found out that Dürrenmatt was very strict and daring, and he was candid when narrating the truth."

"One can hardly find the opportunities in life to apply all the hidden characteristics within oneself and this may happen only when forced by life. Dürrenmatt relentlessly depicted man perfectly in all possible situations and that is why some of his colleagues opposed his opinions and works," the director had noted.

"During my studies, I figured out that Dürrenmatt portrayed the most expressive form of evolution of mankind in his plays 'Play Strindberg', 'The Visit', 'The Marriage of Mr. Mississippi' and 'The Flat Tire'. In the eyes of Dürrenmatt, there was no absolute tragedy.

Society commits crimes and no one feels guilty – therefore, there is no tragedy in its absolute meaning – what is left over is only tragic laughter aroused by feelings of anger and unhappiness."

Hamid Samandarian (1931-2012) was an Iranian film and theater director and translator. He staged numerous dramas including "No Exit" by Jean-Paul Sartre, "Ghosts" by Henrik Ibsen, "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams, and "Marriage of Mr. Mississippi" by Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

Having established many acting and directing classes and workshops, Samandarian trained many Iranian actors and directors including; Ezzatolah Entezami, Reza Kianian, Golab Adineh, Mehdi Hashemi, Shahab Hosseini, Parviz Poorhosseini, and Ahmad Aghalou, among others.

Dürrenmatt (1921-1990) was a Swiss author and dramatist. He was a proponent of epic theater whose plays reflected the recent experiences of World War II.

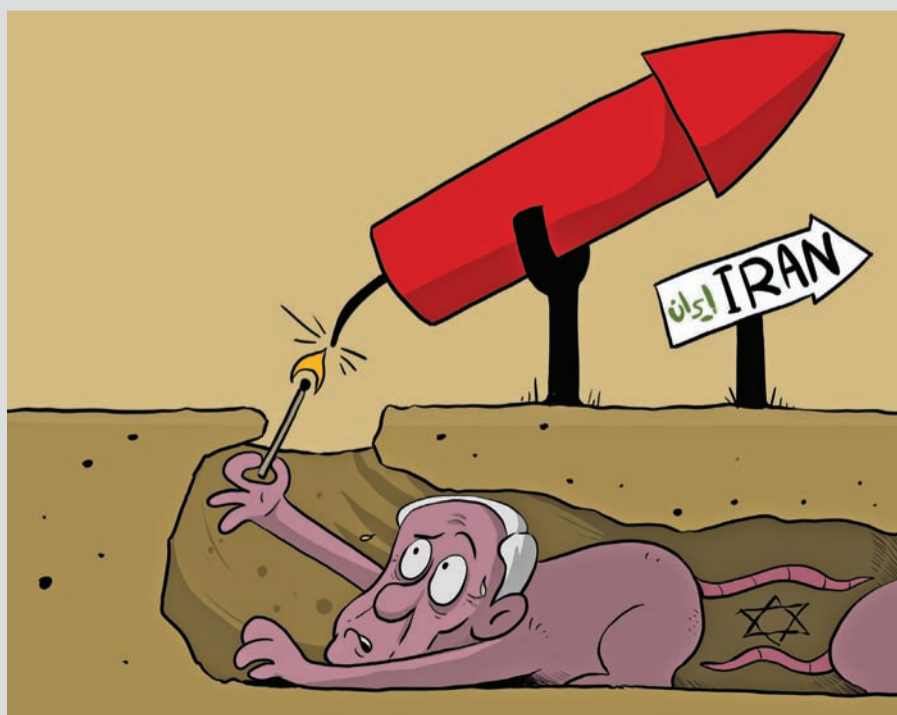
The politically active author's work included avant-garde dramas, philosophical crime novels, and macabre satire.

Like the German expatriate writer Bertolt Brecht, Dürrenmatt explored the dramatic possibilities of epic theater. Next to Brecht, he has been called its "most original theorist."

Dürrenmatt, who was educated in Zürich and Bern, became a full-time writer in 1947. His technique was clearly influenced by Brecht, as in the use of parables and of actors who step out of their roles to act as narrators. Dürrenmatt's vision of the world as essentially absurd gave a comic flavor to his plays.

Writing on the theater in "Problems of the Theatre" (1955), he described the primary conflict in his tragicomedies as humanity's comic attempts to escape from the tragic fate inherent in the human condition.

## Cartoon of Day



The Zionist Attack on Iran!  
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

# Persian audiobook of Yahya Sinwar's "The Thorn and the Carnation" released

TEHRAN-An audiobook of the Persian translation of the novel by martyred Hamas Leader Yahya Sinwar "The Thorn and the Carnation" has been released.

Hassan Homai is the narrator of the book, which has been translated by Asma Khajezadeh. Iran Seda website provides access to the audiobook and enthusiasts can listen to it free of charge, Mehr reported.

While the audiobook is available online, the printed version of the book in Persian will soon be published by Ketabestan Marefat publication.

Written during Sinwar's lengthy incarceration in Israeli prisons, "The Thorn and the Carnation" offers an intimate portrayal of the struggle and endurance of Palestinian people.

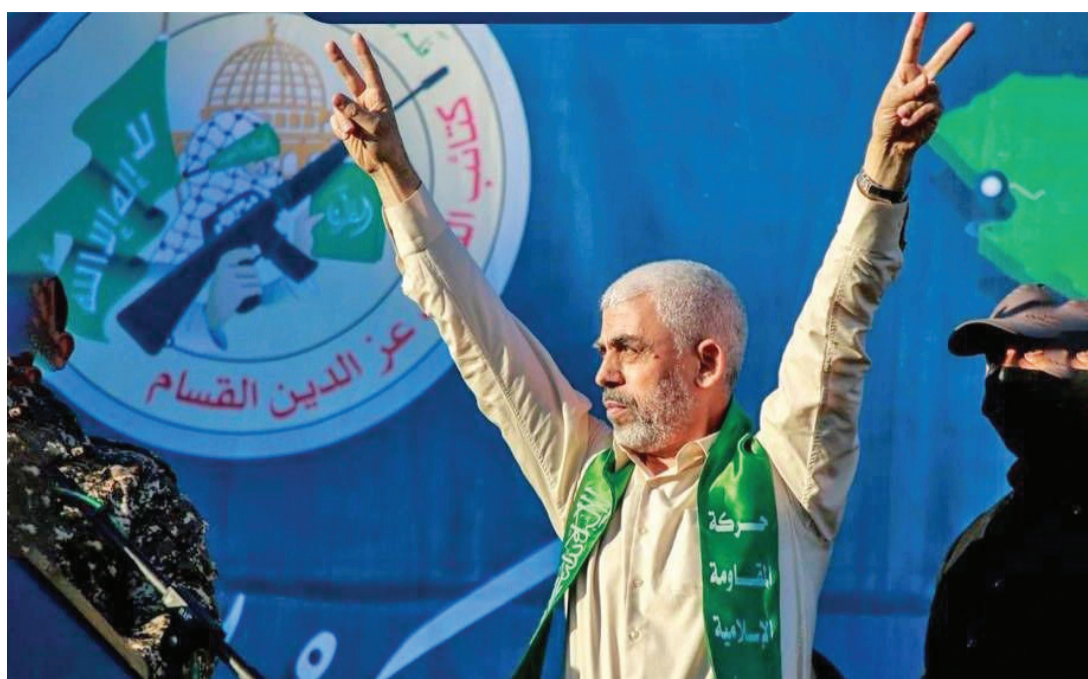
The book effectively blends fact and fiction to chronicle the Palestinian resistance from the aftermath of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, reflecting on themes of loss, perseverance, and hope amid the stark realities of occupation.

The novel opens with the heart-wrenching martyrdom of the protagonist's father and uncle, victims of Israeli soldiers. Sinwar's narrative skillfully sheds light on the psychological and emotional burdens borne by these families, utilizing rich imagery to depict the indomitable spirit of the Palestinian people. The protagonist's quest for justice represents a larger struggle—a fight not only against oppression but also for identity, dignity, and rights.

Among the book's most striking portrayals is the depiction of life in a Gaza prison, famously known as "the slaughterhouse." Sinwar describes harrowing scenes of torture and degradation, illustrating a system designed to break individuals rather than bodies.

Detainees are subjected to a variety of brutal tactics, including suffocation, beatings, and relentless psychological torment. Through these grim realities, Sinwar reveals the resilience that emerges in the darkest of times. Herein lies a poignant reminder of the human cost of conflict—a theme that reverberates throughout the narrative.

Sinwar's reflections resonate particularly when he exposes the conditions of administrative detention, where inmates are crammed into cramped quarters, deprived not only of freedom but also of basic human rights. In these



dire circumstances, hunger strikes become a desperate act of defiance; prisoners endure starvation to reclaim their dignity and to demand the fundamental rights that have been systematically denied to them. This depiction of suffering is not merely for dramatic effect—it serves as a testament to the strength and resolve of those who refuse to submit to a regime of oppression.

Moreover, the novel explores the insidious methods employed by the Israeli intelligence apparatus. Sinwar illustrates how the occupier infiltrates Palestinian communities, coercing individuals into becoming informants through threats or violence. This betrayal not only undermines the spirit of the resistance but also highlights the broader societal fractures caused by prolonged occupation. The tactical use of addiction and economic desperation serves not only as a control mechanism but as a grim narrative of exploitation that many Palestinians' faces.

Despite the pervasive violence and control, Sinwar emphasizes the unwavering commitment to education among Palestinians. During a time when Gaza lacked its own university, the Islamic University of Gaza emerged from the efforts of dedicated students who, against all odds, sought knowledge and empowerment. Among them is the character Ibrahim, modelled on Palestine Liberation Organization members and Hamas's founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. Ibrahim transforms from a student activist into a builder, demonstrating the unyielding determination of the youth to rise above occupation and claim their future. The institution

becomes a symbol of resistance itself—a bastion of hope amidst the rubble of despair, where camaraderie is galvanized through both academic and political struggles.

Sinwar's narrative is imbued with a profound sense of longing—a yearning for freedom encapsulated in the symbolism of carnations. These delicate flowers, often associated with fleeting moments of joy, stand juxtaposed against a backdrop of enduring hardship. The contrasting imagery serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience embedded within the Palestinian spirit, as individuals grapple with personal and collective trauma while clinging to the hope for liberation.

Notably, Sinwar does not shy away from the complexities of the Palestinian political landscape. He delves into themes of betrayal and conflict within resistance factions, capturing the intricate dynamics of cooperation and division among various Palestinian groups. The importance of unity in the face of a common adversary emerges as a critical theme, revealing that, despite their differences, Palestinians are bound by a shared desire for justice and self-determination.

Sinwar's literary prowess transcends mere political narrative, offering an intimate and humanizing portrayal of life under occupation. By focusing on individual stories of suffering and resilience, he connects with readers on an emotional level, allowing them to grasp the depth of the Palestinian experience beyond the headlines.

Sinwar's insights, garnered from

personal experience and a diligent study of Israeli strategies, infuse depth into the narrative, making it a compelling blend of history, pain, and hope.

In July, Yahya Sinwar ascended to the leadership of Hamas as its political chief following the assassination of his predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh, in an Israeli strike in Tehran. Haniyeh had been actively engaging in international diplomacy aimed at achieving a ceasefire in Gaza since the onset of increased tensions on October 7, 2023. Sinwar is recognized as the architect of the 7 October attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

Born in Khan Younis, Gaza, Sinwar earned a BA in Arabic Studies from the Islamic University of Gaza. An early member of Hamas, established by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in 1987, he became immersed in anti-occupation activism during his university years. Throughout the 1980s, he faced multiple imprisonments, ultimately being sentenced to four life terms in 1988 for his alleged involvement in attacks against Israeli forces.

During his incarceration, Sinwar mastered Hebrew and translated banned autobiographies of former Shin Bet leaders, indicating a commitment to education and preparation for future leadership. Released in 2011 as part of a prisoner exchange deal for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, Sinwar quickly rose through Hamas ranks. In 2021, he was re-elected and played a significant role in the Al-Quds Sword war. On Thursday, Israel announced its claim to have killed Sinwar, a statement that was confirmed by Hamas the following day.

## Amman exhibition displays Gazan artists' memories, hopes, screams

A powerful exhibition titled "Under Fire" presents the work of four Gaza-based artists: Basil Maqousi, Majed Shala, Raed Issa, and Sohail Salem, at Darat al-Funun, a home for the arts and artists from the Arab world, in Amman, Jordan.

Despite heavy bombardments, these artists never stopped drawing. Their works, salvaged from the wreckage of war, testify to the ongoing genocidal war they are enduring, Jordan Times reported.

The display, which began on October 15, embodies Gaza's resilience, showcasing artworks that arrived in Jordan through Egypt, passing through the Rafah border just before its closure. Using limited resources, such as tea, hibiscus, charcoal, ink, spices, and scraps of paper, the artists transform everyday materials into testimonies of survival.

"These are not paintings made for galleries," says Basil Maqousi, in his showcased notes. "They are shards of our bodies, scattered like shrapnel with each moment of bombardment." Maqousi's series, "Faces from My Homeland," employs hibiscus ink and pomegranate juice on medicine packaging – art supplies he had to improvise after fleeing his home under heavy fire. "I made these pieces on stomach medicine packages, which people here need as they suffer from hunger and anxiety. This is the reality of Gaza."

The emotional depth of Maqousi's words

resonates throughout the showcase. "These paintings are our screams, their compositions formed with our blood.

They are the smiles of our children, now gone. If I am not standing among you," then I am a martyr in my final art residency." His words carry the weight of the uncertain future faced by artists in Gaza.

Majed Shala, another artist in the showcase, reflects on the emotional paralysis that struck him when the war began. "At first, I could not create at all, feeling paralyzed by fear," he confesses. "But as the suffering deepened, I forced myself to retrain my hand to draw." Shala's works document scenes of displacement that mirror the memories of the 1948 Nakba, having lost both his home and two art studios to bombings.

Shala now works with scraps of paper and watercolor, unable to bear the thought of creating on large canvases, only to see them destroyed again. "I cannot face the possibility of losing more. I have already lost so much, my two studios and a lifetime of work."

"There is no room left for love, culture, or education," Shala writes. "Even hope and art are held captive. We wait, endlessly, for something, anything." His sketches, carried to Darat al-Funun in the form of notebooks and loose pages, are deeply personal chronicles of exile. Their rawness evokes both the past and present, serving as a bridge between memory and the

harsh realities of today.

For Sohail Salem, sketching became a way to document both external events and his own emotional landscape.

Using UNRWA school notebooks, Salem captures the scenes of war: men being taken to detention centers, children wandering aimlessly, and families crammed into tents. But his journals also reflect fleeting moments of hope. "These sketches are pieces of my heart and soul," Salem writes, relieved that his journals made it safely to Amman.

Salem explains that he uses only minimal color, favoring lines that allow him greater freedom. "Color distracts me, while the line gives me space to work," he shared.

The lined pages of the notebooks add sculptural depth to the drawings, their folds and ink stains chronicling not only the war but the artist's journey through it.

Raed Issa's artworks, also displayed in the showcase, reveal the trauma of displacement. "We are not alright," he writes. "Our children ask questions we cannot answer. Bombs erase entire neighborhoods, memories vanish, and brides mourn weddings that never happened."

Issa's sketches, now showcased in Amman, remind viewers that the war in Gaza is not a distant conflict but a lived experience. His words and artworks resonate with a universal longing for safety, peace, and connection – emotions that transcend borders and cultures.