

## U.S. cannot affect Iran's determination to respond to Israel: foreign ministry

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson has voiced strong opposition to the expanding U.S. military presence, which includes the deployment of B-52 bombers.

Esmail Baqaei made the remarks during the weekly press conference on Monday morning.

He took the opportunity to condemn the role of the United States in regional instability, calling on neighboring countries to rely on dialogue to resolve disputes rather than external military support.

According to Iran, such moves will not alter its resolve to counter Israeli aggression.

Baqaei emphasized Tehran's commitment to defending its sovereignty, indicating that all resources—both material and spiritual—are prepared to counter any threats.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Iran's communication with Arab states, suggesting plans for a more intensified and sophisticated military operation against Israel. This potential operation reportedly includes larger and more powerful warheads, involving both the Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), following an Israeli strike that killed four Iranian soldiers. ▶ Page 3

## What was the story behind the Iranian girl that walked the campus half-naked?

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – A recent incident at an Iranian university has sparked a social media frenzy, capturing the attention of people across Iran and beyond.

In an episode that was both tragic and revealing, a young woman was seen walking across campus in her underwear, visibly distressed.

Within hours, images and videos spread widely online, prompting a wave of reactions that quickly morphed from concern to political manipulation.

At the heart of this incident lies a deeply personal story. The woman, a mother of two, and recently divorced, had been grappling with significant emotional distress. Her ex-husband, devastated and worried, pleaded with the media and social media users to respect her privacy, fearing the impact of public exposure on her already fragile mental health. Yet, his pleas were disregarded, as some individuals shared the footage and opposition groups swiftly reframed the story, labeling her a symbol of "defiance against the Iranian government". ▶ Page 2



## President says Iran facing 'economic war', defends military program as defensive

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has labeled the ongoing Western pressure on Iran as an "economic war," stating that Iran's advanced military capabilities deter Washington and its allies from resorting to other forms of aggression.

Pezeshkian made the remarks during a Tehran speech on Monday.

Referring to Western sanctions, Pezeshkian said that Iran is facing an all-out "economic war, not a war of bombs and missiles."

He indicated that Iran has developed defensive projectiles, including missiles, to prevent entities such as the Israeli regime from targeting Iran in the same manner they have done with the Gaza Strip.

Pezeshkian praised the Palestinians in Gaza for their resilience in the face of Israeli atrocities over the past year, asserting, "Israel exhausted all efforts but could not compel Gazans to capitulate."

The President criticized Israel and Western powers for their double standards, accusing them of perpetuating "genocide and atrocities" while simultaneously advocating for human rights and international law. ▶ Page 2

## Iran, Iraq interior ministers talk border security in Tehran meeting

TEHRAN – On Monday, the interior ministers of Iran and Iraq convened at the Iranian Ministry of Interior to discuss the importance of border security.

During the meeting, Eskander Momeni expressed gratitude to his Iraqi counterpart, Amir al-Shammari, for taking part in the meeting and commended Iraq's position in denouncing the actions of the Zionist regime while supporting the people of Palestine and Lebanon.

The ministers highlighted the significance of a secure border in promoting regional stability, combating cross-border crime, and facilitating legitimate trade and movement of people. They agreed to explore joint initiatives and share best practices to achieve their common goals.

Momeni highlighted the significance of enhancing bilateral relations, particularly in the area of border security, noted the profound connections between the governments and peoples of both nations, and underscored the critical nature of collaborative efforts, such as cross-border cooperation and combating drug trafficking.

Iran's interior minister proposed organizing a meeting that would include ministers from regional countries to address security issues.

Furthermore, Momeni stressed the importance of implementing the security agreements established between the two nations through joint working groups. Additionally, the Iraqi Interior Minister reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and security cooperation with Iran.

## Facilitating genocide in Gaza marks another dark point in German history

By Narges Pakdel

TEHRAN – Feeling repentant for initiating the devastating Second World War and its cruel treatment of Jews known as the Holocaust during the war, Germany succeeded in repairing its damaged reputation.

It followed a balanced and wise foreign policy after the war. It also emerged as the most successful country in terms of economy in Europe.

People around the world, including Iran, were citing Germany as an example of a successful country in the world. Even at the height of the Cold War, West Germany had a relatively good relationship with the Soviet Union. ▶ Page 5

## Lebanese citizen kidnapped by commando force: Germany colludes with Israel

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – At dawn on Friday, November 1, 2024, an Israeli commando force landed on the coast of Batroun in northern Lebanon to kidnap Lebanese citizen Imad Amhaz from a chalet. The chalet management confirmed that Amhaz had rented it only about a month ago.

It is worth noting that Hezbollah has neither military nor security presence in Batroun. It is entirely under the authority of the Lebanese army and official security services. Besides, the US embassy in Lebanon moves freely in that maritime area under the pretext of evacuating its employees and soldiers. ▶ Page 5



## Israel expands Gaza genocide with UNRWA ban

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli parliament, also known as the Knesset, has banned UNRWA, the only effective humanitarian agency that was capable of distributing the trickle of aid entering the totally blockaded Gaza Strip.

The move means Tel Aviv is withdrawing from an agreement set up by the UN General Assembly in 1967 to allow UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, from operating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

A UNRWA spokesman said on Monday that Tel Aviv's ban on its operations would lead to the "collapse" of humanitarian work in the war-torn Gaza Strip. ▶ Page 5

## TEHRAN PAPERS

**Military incapable enemy resorts to psychological war**

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

In a note, Kayhan addressed the hybrid warfare that the enemy has launched against Iran. It wrote: Our country is facing two types of war; the first one is among the possibilities and is not definite, but the second one is a reality. In a war, military offensive and defense are very important, and preparations and initiatives should be constantly added and operations should be carried out at the right time. But the more important war is when the enemies try to disrupt the Islamic Republic's calculations through proxy networks and frighten the Iranian people with media (psychological, economic, and political) pressure, and turn the system's popular authority into a weakness. If the enemy had been capable of an effective military war, it would not have repeatedly threatened to attack in the past few decades, and it would not have looked helpless as Iran is becoming stronger day by day. The fact is that our country has become very powerful in manufacturing military equipment to the extent that the world's military powers are seeking to benefit from Iran's advanced weapons. In contrast to military threats, hybrid warfare is seriously pursued by the enemy and its plot actors.

**Vatan-e-Emrooz: The enemy is looking for an opportunity**

In an analysis, Vatan-e-Emrooz dealt with the enemy's techniques in hybrid warfare and said: Few people deny the link between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the resistance movements in the regional countries, but the enemies have well understood that as long as there is a strong official political actor like Iran, it is not easy to deal with the anti-imperialist movements that have turned West Asia into the most important political-security headache for America. Engaging Iran and removing the issue of war from the priorities of Iran's government is prominently on the agenda so that other groups get secluded. And by being in a strategic panic, they become inactive regarding their capabilities and possibilities. In the current situation, there is maximum popular support for the system's decision to deal with the Zionist regime's evils. This popular support has been targeted by the enemy in various ways, including instilling fear among the people, seeking to cause a rift in the society, etc. In fact, they seek to turn social issues and public dissatisfaction into security issues.

**IRGC commander, officer martyred in gyroplane crash in SE Iran**

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Ground Force has announced that two IRGC members lost their lives in a gyroplane accident in southeastern Iran on Monday.

The gyroplane, which was transporting Second Brigadier General Hamid Mazandarani and pilot Hamed Jandaghi, crashed near Sirkan in the southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province. The IRGC Ground Force extended its condolences to the families of the fallen and commended their commitment to national service.

A gyroplane, also known as an autogyro or gyrocopter, is a type of light aircraft that uses

an unpowered rotor for lift and a separate engine to provide forward thrust.



Second Brigadier General Hamid Mazandarani

**Iran, Egypt call for enhanced international efforts to halt Israeli crimes**

TEHRAN – The foreign ministers of Iran and Egypt have highlighted the necessity of enhancing international efforts to halt the actions of the Zionist regime against Gaza and Lebanon. In a telephone conversation on Monday with his Egyptian counterpart, the Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi discussed the security developments in the region.

According to reports from Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the two ministers called for a ceasefire to prevent escalating tensions and for immediate assistance to be provided to the homeless and displaced individuals in both regions.

During the phone discussion, Araghchi

articulated Iran's stance on the regional developments and the aggressive actions of the Zionist regime, which aim to broaden the conflict throughout the region and undermine peace, stability, and security.

Iran's foreign minister also reaffirmed its commitment to respond to any threats against its security and territorial integrity, asserting the right to legitimate defense.

Egypt's foreign minister Badr Abdel Aati, on his part, stressed the urgent need for decisive action from the international community to halt the regime's genocidal actions and called for a collective response from Islamic nations in this regard.

**President says Iran facing 'economic war', defends military program as defensive**

From page 1 ▶ Since October 2023, Israel's military actions in Gaza have resulted in the deaths of more than 43,000 Palestinians, predominantly women and children.

Israel's deadly military campaign in Gaza is supported by Western powers, especially the United States, and also European countries like Britain and Germany.

The United States and its European countries are being accused of complicity in the Gaza genocide, as they have been providing military, political, and diplomatic aid to the regime in the past year. No Israeli crime so far seems to have swayed Westerners in the untrammelled support of Zionism.



Commenting on the West's provision of chemical weapons to Saddam Hussein during the 1980s Iran-Iraq war, the Iranian President asserted, "You cowards have unleashed chemical bombs on our

people, killing women and children. Are you even human?"

Pezeshkian called out the hypocrisy of those accusing Iran of human rights violations, saying, "They criticize us for executing

someone who has taken many lives, while they engage in genocide and kill children!"

On October 28 after a lengthy trial, Iran's Judiciary executed Jamshid Sharmahd, the leader of a terrorist group responsible for many deadly attacks against the Iranian nation.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock criticized the execution of the terror ringleader as "inhumane" before ordering the closure of all Iranian consulates in Germany.

She has meanwhile been voicing Berlin's unwavering support for "Israel's security". The top diplomat recently labeled Israel's killing of Palestinian civilians as "legitimate".

**What was the story behind the Iranian girl that walked the campus half-naked?**

In the hands of opposition groups, the woman's vulnerable state was twisted into a powerful narrative, casting her as a "hero of freedom" in a supposed act of protest. This manipulation was both callous and dishonest. Rather than respecting her dignity and focusing on the mental health challenges she was facing, these groups saw an opportunity to fuel their anti-government agenda. The result was a portrayal that bore little resemblance to the actual circumstances, instead serving as a tool to amplify political tensions.

This recent incident echoes a pattern seen in past unrest in Iran, notably following the death of a young Iranian woman named Mahsa Amini in September 2022.

Her death, reported as a tragic medical event, quickly became a rallying cry for protests fueled by opposition narratives. Foreign intelligence agencies, according to Iranian officials, played a role in exacerbating the unrest, leading to prolonged instability, economic fluctuations, and significant loss of life.

Iran's government faced international scrutiny, with Western countries imposing sanctions under the pretext of human rights support, even as these countries engaged in questionable alliances and policies in West Asia, particularly now with the ongoing genocide of

innocent people in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

The incident involving the distressed woman at the university serves as a stark reminder of the dangers of misinformation and political opportunism.

This tactic of exploiting personal tragedies

**The tactic of exploiting personal tragedies for political gain has become a troubling feature of the Western political landscape**

for political gain has become a troubling feature of the global political landscape. By presenting the woman's distress as a political act, opposition factions tried to mislead the public, overshadowing genuine issues facing the nation.

In his book "Mirage of Shadows," Mehdi Mohammadi, an intelligence expert, introduces this trend of manipulation as a form of cognitive warfare, which is a sophisticated strategy

that seeks to exploit human vulnerabilities, distort perceptions, and erode public trust in established institutions. According to Mohammadi, Opposition groups used this narrative during the 2022 riots to inflame emotions, heighten polarization, and ultimately weaken public confidence in the government, something that was done again in the recent case.

With social media as a primary battleground, the influence of cognitive warfare in Iran is significant. Social platforms like Instagram and X (formerly Twitter), controlled by Western entities, are powerful tools for shaping narratives and public opinion. Most Iranian people are active on these platforms, making it easier for political groups to exploit sensational events and sow division.

The Iranian government faces a persistent challenge from opposition factions willing to distort reality to serve their goals. This ongoing manipulation not only harms individuals like the woman at the center of this incident but also threatens the nation's path to unity and progress. For Iran to advance, respect for truth, privacy, and human dignity must become the foundation of political discourse in mass media that advertise such ideas.

**Iran's space industry receives boost as private sector joins race**

TEHRAN – Two privately developed Iranian satellites are scheduled for launch on Tuesday, marking another step forward for Iran's burgeoning space program.

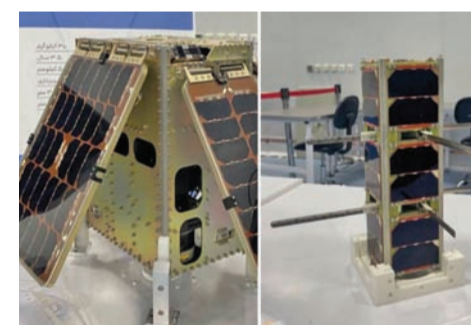
On Monday, Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali announced in a post on X that a Russian Soyuz launcher is set to launch two domestically-produced Iranian satellites, Kowsar and Hodhod, into space during the early hours of Tuesday.

Jalali additionally emphasized that the two satellites were conceived and produced by a team of young Iranian scientists at the Omid Faza knowledge-based company, with assistance from Iran's Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), and the Iranian embassy in Moscow.

The Ambassador also conveyed optimism that the satellite launch would mark a significant and resolute advancement in facilitating the involvement of Iran's private sector in the space industry.

Iran successfully attained the ability for orbital launches in 2009 and has made remarkable strides in its civilian space program, demonstrating resilience and innovation in the face of Western sanctions.

Iran stands as the ninth nation to



Kowsar and Hodhod satellites were developed by the private sector

successfully launch a domestically manufactured satellite into orbit using its own launch vehicle.

It is now recognized among the world's top ten countries capable of developing and launching satellites.

The launch of Kowsar and Hodhod marks a significant milestone, showcasing the first-ever participation of the Iranian private space sector in the nation's expanding space program and enhancing the achievements of government space initiatives.

Kowsar is a high-resolution imaging satellite, with its design process commencing in 2019. Weighing 30 kilograms, this

**Most terrorists involved in Taftan attack eliminated: commander**

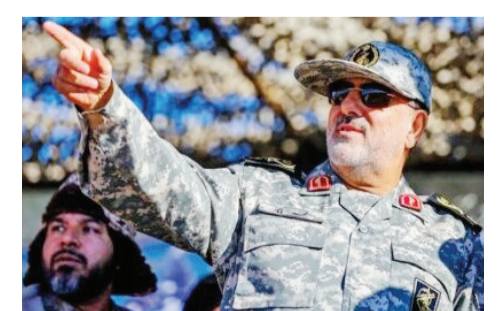
TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Ground Forces commander reported that most members of the terrorist circle involved in the Taftan attack were killed by drone strikes shortly after the incident.

During a meeting with prominent social figures in Sistan and Baluchestan province, Major General Mohammad Pakpour discussed the response to the Taftan terrorist attack, stating, "The primary figures and ring leader of the terrorist group were targeted with combat drones, resulting in casualties among them, with some either killed or injured, while others fled." The commander added, "The

rapid response of the IRGC underscores their dedication to ensuring security and stability in the region, simultaneously acting as a deterrent to other possible terrorist threats.

The organization's prompt reaction to the Taftan attack showcases its sophisticated capabilities in countering terrorism and protecting Iran's national interests."

Pakpour emphasized that this successful operation by the IRGC conveys a strong message that any efforts to jeopardize Iran's security will be confronted with a decisive and unwavering response, adding that 80% of the individuals involved in the Taftan attack have



so far been liquated.

On October 26, the so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group, known inside Iran as Jaish al-Zulm, ambushed a police convoy near Taftan in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province, taking the lives of 10 military personnel. The attack happened the same day Israel carried out airstrikes against Iran.



## PMO attracts nearly \$500m of investment in ports, maritime sector in H1



TEHRAN – Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said the organization has managed to attract 250 trillion rials (about \$500 million) of investment from the private sector in the country's ports and maritime sector during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20- September 21), an official with PMO said.

Referring to PMO's new approaches for attracting private sector investment in the country's ports and maritime sector, Hassan Yadollahi, director of economic affairs at PMO, said: "The Ports and Maritime Organization is following a new approach in attracting non-governmental investment in the country's ports, and considering the variety of projects in the mentioned sector and government's new policies regarding sea-oriented development, it is possible to make the best of the private sector capacities in this area."

According to Yadollahi, PMO has signed more than 500 investment contracts with the private sector, some of which have been terminated, and currently 364 investment contracts are effective in the commercial ports of the country.

Earlier in October, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei said the organization has put it on the agenda to attract more than \$1.2 billion of investment from the country's private sector in ports and maritime sector. According to Safaei, PMO has defined various projects to develop the country's ports and only in the infrastructure sector over 960 trillion rials (about \$1.9 billion) of investment projects have been defined and ready to be awarded to the private sector.

## RAI to cooperate with MAPNA to improve rail industry

TEHRAN – The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) has said the company is going to cooperate with MAPNA Group to develop the country's railway sector, Mehr News Agency reported.

During a visit to the MAPNA Locomotives Company on Monday, Jabar-Ali Zakeri said improving the rail sector in Iran requires cooperation among rail industry experts and scholars. "We will form new working groups in RAI and I hope we can make the best decisions by using the collective wisdom of RAI and MAPNA experts and see the effectiveness of these decisions in improving the performance of the railway industry," Zakeri said.



"We hope that the state of the country's railway fleet will improve with the joint measures taken in this regard, especially the supply and maintenance of locomotives," he added.

## Egg exports exceed 90,000 tons since late March

TEHRAN – Iran has exported more than 90,000 tons of eggs to target countries since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), Hamidreza Kashani, the chairman of Iran's Union of Egg-Laying Hen producers announced.

According to Kashani, Iranian eggs have been exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, some Persian Gulf Arab nations

and three African countries, IRNA reported.

The official put the country's egg production in the previous Iranian calendar month (September 22-October 21) at 113,000 tons, noting that production is expected to reach 116,000 tons this month (ends on November 21).

Kashani said Iran's egg export is expected to reach 135,000 tons by the end of the current Iranian year (late March 2025)

TEHRAN – Hamid Bovard, the head of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), appointed Mehran Makvandi as the new managing director of National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC), replacing Hamidreza Golpayegani in the position, Shana reported.

Makvandi previously served as NIDC's director of operation, engineering and technical services.

NIDC is a subsidiary of National Iranian Oil Company which was

founded in 1979 and is based in Ahwaz, southwestern Iran.

The company engages in the exploration, development, and drilling of oil and gas wells. It owns and operates drilling rigs and equipment for providing drilling services.

On November 1, Mohammad-Ali Beygzadeh, the director of research, technology and construction engineering at NIDC, said that the company has managed to indigenize

the knowledge for manufacturing 610 drilling equipment items in collaboration with domestic manufacturers and engineers over the past two years.

He said by localizing these items, more than 1.586 trillion rials (about \$3.172 million) has been saved for the company.

According to the official, the mentioned items were manufactured by 160 domestic companies including

# Iran's non-oil export to Afghanistan up 31% in H1

TEHRAN– The value of Iran's non-oil export to Afghanistan increased 31 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, Iran's commercial attaché to Afghanistan stated.

Hossein Roustaei said that the country has exported products worth \$17 billion to its neighbor during the six-month period.

He put the weight of exported goods at 2.523 million tons, with 28 percent growth, year on year.

Roustaei further announced that Iran has imported products worth over \$33 million from Afghanistan in the first half of the present year, rising 192 percent from the figure in the same period of time in the previous year.

He also said that the six-month import rose 598 percent in terms



of weight year on year.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil export to its 15 neighboring countries increased by 12 percent during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year, compared to the same period in the past year.

Mohammad Rezvaniyar said the

country exported 39 million tons of non-oil products valued at \$15.6 billion during the first six months of this year, registering four percent growth in weight year on year.

Iran's total non-oil trade with neighboring countries was 50 million tons worth \$32.6 billion in the mentioned six months.

According to Rezvaniyar, the Islamic Republic's non-oil trade

with neighboring countries increased by five percent in terms of weight and 15 percent in terms of value in H1 compared to the same period last year.

The country's imports from its neighbors in the said six months also showed an eight percent increase in weight and 18 percent in value compared to the first half of the previous year.

The United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, and the Russian Federation were the main trade partners of Iran among the neighboring countries in the mentioned six months, according to the IRICA head.

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely UAE, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

## TPO head to visit China International Import Exhibition



TEHRAN– Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Head Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi left Tehran for Shanghai to visit the China International Import Exhibition (CIIE).

The TPO head will visit the CIIE at the invitation of the minister of Commerce of China, and in order to examine the capacities and opportunities of trade and investment with China, the TPO portal reported on Monday.

During the visit of Dehghan Dehnavi to this exhibition, the country's needs in various sectors as well as the export potential of Iranian companies will be evaluated in order to develop exports.

Also, during this visit, in interaction with Chinese officials and companies, the existing obstacles in the path of Iranian companies' exports to this country will be examined and consultations will be held to resolve them.

The 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE), will be held in Shanghai from November 5 to 10, with the participation of many countries including Iran.

This edition of the CIIE is expected to attract participants from 152 countries, regions and international organizations, and is set to achieve a new record with 297 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders attending.

The China International Import Expo, the world's first national-level import-themed expo, is about to be held for the seventh consecutive year in Shanghai, with overseas enterprises gathering to take the pulse of the Chinese market, the China Daily reported.

The previous six editions saw nearly 2,500 new products, technologies and services make their debuts, with combined intended turnover reaching over \$420 billion.

The CIIE serves to showcase China's major opening-up measures and confidence, and to share China's new development opportunities with other countries. It has become a platform for high-level opening up and a public good for the whole world.

China has continued to roll out policies to spur foreign trade growth and attract foreign investment, cultivating new international competitive advantages and achieving mutual benefits with other countries.

On October 25, the country issued a guideline to promote the experience in aligning some

eligible free trade zones and the Hainan Free Trade Port with high-standard international economic and trade rules.

The eligible FTZs are in Shanghai, Guangdong, Tianjin, Fujian and Beijing. The pilot measures, which will be replicated in other FTZs or even nationwide, cover six aspects: trade in goods, trade in services, digital trade, personnel entry, business environment, and risk prevention and control.

China has built 22 pilot FTZs, covering coastal, inland and border areas, contributing about 20 percent of the country's total foreign investment and import-export volume. Foreign trade of the FTZs expanded by 11.99 percent year on year in the first three quarters of 2024.

Continuous efforts have been made to lower tariffs. In September, China announced it would give all the least developed countries having diplomatic relations with the country zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines starting from December 1 this year.

China also keeps rolling out policies to nurture fertile ground for foreign investors. The new edition of the national negative list for foreign investment took effect on Friday, scrapping the two remaining items in the manufacturing industry on the previous list.

The items on the latest negative list, specifying fields off-limits to foreign investors, have been further slashed to 29.

This fully demonstrates China's active willingness to expand mutual benefits and a clear attitude to supporting economic globalization, said Jin Xiandong, an official with the National Development and Reform Commission, adding that further efforts will be made to improve the level of foreign investment liberalization and facilitation, and to optimize service for foreign-invested enterprises.

Besides the manufacturing sector, China is also pushing forward broader and deeper opening up in the service sector.

China announced in September that it would allow the establishment of wholly foreign-owned hospitals in certain cities and regions, including Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Nanjing, Suzhou, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and throughout the island of Hainan.

In October, the country decided to allow foreign investors to operate wholly-owned businesses such as internet data centers and engage in online data processing and transaction processing in certain areas as part of a pilot program to expand opening up in value-added telecom services.

A total of 42,108 new foreign-invested firms were established across China in the first nine months of 2024, up 11.4 percent year on year. Notably, foreign direct investment inflows into medical equipment and instrument manufacturing surged 57.3 percent, while

inflows into computer and office device manufacturing grew by 29.2 percent during this period.

Opening up to the outside world is not just a matter of "opening the door," but, more importantly, is actively aligning with international economic and trade regulations as well as other high-standard rules, said Zhang Bin, deputy director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Zhang underlined the need to enhance synergy between the domestic and international markets as well as resources to constantly cultivate and consolidate new advantages in international economic cooperation and competition.

During a meeting between Chinese Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu and Dehghan Dehnavi on October 28, the Chinese envoy emphasized that his country is willing to strengthen trade ties with Iran in all fields.

The ambassador emphasized the importance of enhancing trade cooperation between Iran and China.

He highlighted the necessity of developing trade relations across all economic sectors and expressed China's willingness to strengthen trade exchanges with Iran in every field.

Dehghan Dehnavi, for his part, emphasized that trade cooperation between Iran and China is at its highest level, adding that the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran is keen to enhance and grow constructive trade relations between the two countries.

Additionally, he highlighted that Iran's membership in regional agreements like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will facilitate trade cooperation.

Dehnavi also underscored the importance of developing bilateral ties through international exhibitions, technology transfer, and commercial advancements in the industrial and mining sectors.

It is worth mentioning that Mohammad Aghajanolou, the head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMDR), was also present at the meeting and shared his insights on developing joint cooperation between Iran and China in the mining and mineral industries.

He emphasized the importance of transferring modern technologies from China to Iran, noting that this updated knowledge would enhance productivity in mining and enable the processing of mineral products with higher added value.

Moreover, he pointed out that sharing knowledge and experiences between mining experts and engineers from both countries could help improve skills and standards in the industry.

## NIDC's new managing director appointed

85 knowledge-based firms.

NIDC has also signed 90 deals with the country's universities and research centers for conducting research studies related to the drilling industry, he noted.

Earlier this year, Masoud Afshar, the deputy head of NIDC for drilling operations, announced that the company dug and completed the digging operations of 52 oil and gas wells in the first seven months of

the current Iranian year (March 20-October 21).

According to Afshar, 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.

# Facilitating genocide in Gaza marks another dark point in German history

From page 1 ▶ The jubilant breakdown of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent reunification of West and East Germany were recorded as great events of the late 20th century. Although these events happened due to the wise approach of the late Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the moderate policies of then West Germany were instrumental.

However, after 78 years Germany lost the direction and badly sided with the most hawkish government in the history of Israel that its crimes against civilian Palestinian people in Gaza have astonished the world.

Though Hamas first launched an attack on southern Israel, which its cause must first and foremost be sought in the decades-long apartheid policy against Palestinians, Germany's unstoppable delivery of arms to Israel, which has been committing indescribable crimes in Gaza for more than a year, is extremely unexpected, shocking, saddening and a source of great concern.



Regrettably, Germany is the second-largest arms supplier to Israel after the United States. In a report on July 19, 2024, DW reported that according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) 99% of arms imports for Israel between 2019 and 2023 came from the US (69%) and Germany (30%).

Officials in Berlin are well aware that Israel has badly

violated the principle of proportionality in the war on Gaza and has so far killed 37 people in Gaza for each person killed in the October 7 attack on Israel. This is just the tip of the iceberg. All the dimensions of the horrific crimes that bloodthirsty officials in Israel have been committing since October last year in the small territory of Gaza can never be clarified.

German officials are well

aware that Israel has been committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. Now, they are also seeing that Israel has started ethnic cleansing in northern Gaza. Officials in Berlin are not even listening to their own people in which a majority of them, 60 percent, oppose sending arms to Israel.

Germany regrets the Second World War and the Holocaust but now it is helping Israeli ultra-extremists who are now committing a Holocaust against the Gazan civilians.

On October 10, 2024, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced further arms deliveries to Israel during a debate in the country's parliament. "We have delivered arms and we will deliver arms," he made clear in his speech to German MPs, EuroNews reported.

By facilitating Israel's genocide in Gaza, Germany left another dark legacy in its history after nearly eight decades. The first dark point was in Europe and this one in the small strip of Gaza.

## Israeli forces in Lebanon and Gaza suffer deadliest month of 2024

Israel has recorded its worst month for military deaths this year amid continuing fierce fighting in southern Lebanon and northern Gaza.

At least 62 soldiers have been killed since the start of October, according to official figures, making this the deadliest month for the Israeli military since last December when 110 soldiers were killed at the height of its war against Hamas in Gaza.

It also marks a steep increase in recorded fatalities compared with recent months. Just nine deaths were recorded by the Israeli military in September, and 63 in total between June and August.

At least 35 Israeli soldiers have been killed in southern Lebanon or on the Lebanese border since Israel invaded its northern neighbor at the start of the month in an escalation of its war against Hezbollah. The Lebanese group has said it has killed more than 90 Israeli soldiers, although these figures are unverified.

At least 19 soldiers have also died this month in continuing fighting with Hamas in Gaza, where Israel is accused of carrying out a campaign of ethnic cleansing and extermination against Palestinians trapped in the north of the enclave.

The figures are based on official information published on the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs website listing a total of 780 military casualties including hundreds killed during the 7 October 2023 Hamas-led attacks in southern Israel.

It includes at least 365 soldiers listed as "fallen in combat" in Gaza, Lebanon and the occupied West Bank, as well as those killed in rocket attacks or other attacks within Israel, and others who died in road accidents. But many soldiers are identified only by their name, rank and unit with no further detail about the circumstances of their deaths.

New figures released this week by the Israeli military's rehabilitation department also appear to suggest a recent increase in the number of wounded soldiers requiring medical treatment. On Tuesday, it said it had received 910 soldiers wounded this month in Lebanon.

Information about casualties is tightly controlled in Israel where the media is subjected to strict military censorship. That has led some to question whether official figures may be under-reporting the real scale of losses suffered by Israeli forces in Gaza and Lebanon.

In an interview on Channel 12 on Monday, opposition leader Yair Lapid said that 890 soldiers had been killed and 11,000 injured since 7 October last year.

"There are limits to how much we accept the alternative facts," Lapid said.

Defending his own figures, although without citing a source, Lapid referred to Israeli hospitals where wounded soldiers are being treated: "If you have doubts about this figure go to Tel Hashomer, go to Ichilov, go to Rambam, go the rehabilitation departments."



Israeli soldiers carry the casket during the funeral for Israeli soldier Sergeant Yoav Agmon, killed in a Hezbollah drone attack, in Givat Ada on 15 October 2024 (John Wessels/AFP)

In its latest figures released on Tuesday, the Israeli military's rehabilitation department updated the total number of soldiers it said had received treatment since 7 October last year to about 12,000.

About 14 percent of these – around 1,680 soldiers – are classified as having moderate or serious injuries. About 43 percent – 5,200 soldiers – required treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder or other psychological issues, the department said.

Information about casualties is tightly controlled in Israel where the media is subjected to strict military censorship. That has led some to question whether official figures may be under-reporting the real scale of losses suffered by Israeli forces in Gaza and Lebanon.

### Widows and orphans

Meanwhile, news reports on the funerals of soldiers killed in Lebanon have focused public attention on the grieving of widows and orphans and led some to wonder whether popular support for Israel's wars may be shifting.

Writing in Haaretz on Monday, Amos Haral asked whether a rising death toll could "gradually change the public's view of the need to continue the war", as had happened following previous Israeli operations in Lebanon and Gaza.

Last Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was reported to have held a meeting of army officials and government ministers to discuss the possibility of a ceasefire in Lebanon.

One senior security official told the Ynet website that army chiefs already believe they are nearing the end of their operation in Lebanon.

"It's either an arrangement or a war of attrition and a security zone," the official was quoted as saying.

Israeli journalist Meron Rapoport told Middle East Eye that he believed that apparent shift in the army's position was based on its concerns that casualties would continue to increase as long as combat operations continued.

"If the army now says the war must end it is because of the dead," said Rapoport.

"They say it's to preserve the 'achievements' in Lebanon but in my opinion it's because of the fear of an increase in the number of casualties and an erosion of public support."

Israel has so far showed no sign of relenting in its bombing campaign of Lebanon which has killed about 3000 people in the past year and displaced more than one million.

Many remain deeply pessimistic about the prospect of any imminent end to the wider war, particularly in Gaza where more than 43,000 Palestinians have so far been killed, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

Abed Abu Shihada, a Palestinian writer and analyst based in Jaffa, pointed to the influence and presence within both Netanyahu's coalition government and the Israeli military of far-right parties and supporters of the settler movement which has declared its intention to build settlements in Gaza.

"For them this is a religious war and they speak in the language of doing God's mission," Abu Shihada told MEE.

"There are no serious voices to end the war. Israeli society is depressed but still they want to continue the fighting. They may approach an agreement with Lebanon, but not in Gaza. I don't see any scenario ending the war in Gaza, even if the price was high."

## Lebanese citizen kidnapped by commando force: Germany colludes with Israel

From page 1 ▶ The Israeli commando force included around 25 personnel wearing the uniform of a Lebanese security agency – as shown in CCTV footages – along with others in civilian clothes whose identities are unknown.

The Israeli media claimed that the kidnapped person was "an element of the naval force affiliated with Hezbollah who was working to transport weapons to Hezbollah from Syria to Lebanon by sea." But there is no confirmation of these allegations so far.

The Lebanese security forces said they found about 10 foreign number chips and a phone with a foreign passport in Amhaz's chalet. It also worked on analyzing the CCTV footages before it became clear that the enemy remotely deleted it.

Investigators assume that a part of the commando force was present in the area for reconnaissance and surveillance before carrying out the kidnapping.

Other sources indicate that the force infiltrated by a "Zodiac" across the sea. Then a larger naval cruiser took them outside Lebanese territorial waters, noting that the operation took about 4 minutes.

Najeeb Mikati, Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister, condemned the kidnapping. UNIFIL forces claimed they were conducting the necessary investigations in coordination with the Lebanese army.

The UNIFIL alleged that it had nothing to do with "facilitating any kidnapping operation or any violation of Lebanese sovereignty", warning that "spreading mis-

leading information and false rumors is irresponsible and exposes peacekeeping forces to danger."

Besides, Mikati asked Lebanon's Foreign Minister Abdullah Bou Habib to submit a complaint to the UN Security Council.

For his part, Minister of Public Works Ali Hamieh stated that the kidnapped citizen was studying at the Scientific and Marine Research Institute to train in driving commercial ships and yachts, and he wanted to apply to work with the naval force in the Lebanese army.

Observers questioned the role of the German Navy operating within UNIFIL, which monitors the territorial waters along the Lebanese coast, which exposes the complicity of the German force, especially after it shot down a drone belonging to Hezbollah on October 17.

Indeed, Hezbollah's legitimate weapon is the only means to guarantee Lebanon's sovereignty. In the border area with occupied Palestine, where Hezbollah is present, the Israelis have failed to advance, but in Batroun, where Hezbollah is not present, the enemy entered and returned without accountability or supervision.

If the international forces are unable to protect Lebanon and prevent the enemy from attacking it, within the framework of Resolution 1701, and if the official agencies are also unable to confront such breaches, experts wonder then how the arrogant West dares to demand the disarmament of Hezbollah.

## Israel expands Gaza genocide with UNRWA ban

From page 1 ▶ "If this law is implemented, it would be likely to cause the collapse of the international humanitarian operation in the Gaza Strip – an operation of which UNRWA is the backbone," Jonathan Fowler told AFP.

Since October 7, the Israeli regime has been targeting UNRWA while at the same time killing hundreds of its 13,000 UN personnel operating in Gaza.

In January, Tel Aviv used a false pretext that around a dozen UNRWA workers had ties to Hamas and were behind the October 7 attacks. The allegations were enough to convince the regime's staunchest allies in the Western world to cut ties with the UN agency.

The allegations turned out to be false claims fabricated by Israel. However, this did not prevent damage to the reputation of UNRWA.

Critics say the underlying cause behind Tel Aviv's opposition to UNRWA boils down to the fact that the regime is waging a genocide in Gaza and the UN Agency for Palestinian refugees stands in the way of implementing this genocide.

As part of this genocide, the regime had its eyes on dismantling UNRWA from day one and it slowly built a false case to demolish the image of this critical agency.

The government of the fascist Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has successfully implemented this after more than a year.

Israeli supporters claim that if Tel Aviv had sought to wage genocide in Gaza it would have done so already.

Experts point out that no atrocity, ethnic cleansing or genocide in the history of wars happened in 24 hours.

The build-up to ethnic cleansing or genocide is slow, hideous and evil.

For instance, Israel could not have gone on day one and bombed a field tent outside hospitals containing people on IV drips and burn them alive. Or, separate hundreds of thousands of men from women and children in Jabalia, northern Gaza.

But the government in Tel Aviv is doing exactly that after a year of bombing the tiny 360 square-kilometer Palestinian territory. And, it is doing so with impunity.

Apart from the death campaign or destroying the health sector in Gaza, which

has prevented Palestinians from receiving basic medical care, the occupation regime is also implementing a starvation campaign.

This is most notable in northern Gaza where no food has entered for more than a month.

Last week, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that Israel's newly approved law banning UNRWA from operating could lead to "devastating consequences for Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is unacceptable."

"The implementation of these laws would be detrimental to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for peace and security in the region as a whole," he said.

On Thursday, the United Nations agency for children, UNICEF, warned that any decision to ban UNRWA "will be deadly".

In a statement, UNICEF warned, "UNRWA is the main UN agency providing essential services and protection to Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and is the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza. As the Secretary-General has said, 'there is no alternative to UNRWA.'"

UNRWA is the only United Nations General Assembly-mandated agency to provide for Palestinian refugees. UNRWA runs a range of social services, with over 18,000 employees in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (al-Quds), providing health, education and other essential services for Palestinian refugees. No UN agency can take over this responsibility.

UNRWA is indispensable in delivering the urgent, life-saving assistance that 2.2 million people in Gaza urgently need. With the children of Gaza already facing one of the gravest humanitarian crises in recent history, if fully implemented, this decision will be deadly."

The reality is that the 2.3 million Palestinian population in Gaza, already starving and traumatized after being forcibly relocated on numerous occasions with no food or water, is going to suffer further.

Despite UNRWA's limited operations in Gaza today, such as not being able to reach the north of the Strip for fear of death by the indiscriminate Israeli attacks, UNRWA will no longer be able to facilitate the small number of aid trucks entering the enclave.

## Nashtifan's Nowruz festival registered in Iran's national tourism calendar



TEHRAN – Nowruzgah of Nashtifan, a special annual festival held on the occasion of Nowruz, the Persian New Year, has been officially registered in Iran's national tourism calendar.

Hashem Seyfi, the acting governor of Khaf county, announced this development on Monday, emphasizing the festival's role in preserving and reviving ancient customs and traditions for future generations.

Nowruz, celebrated as the Persian New Year, is a vibrant cultural festival that highlights Iran's rich heritage. Seyfi noted that Khaf, with its deep historical and cultural roots, offers a wealth of traditions related to Nowruz, making the festival an excellent platform to showcase traditions passed down from generation to generation.

Also, Mahmoud Ba'aqideh, head of Khawaf's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts office, elaborated on the choice of a Nashtifan windmills' site as the festival's venue. The site's historical significance, its tentative UNESCO listing, proximity to eco-tourism facilities, and easy access for tourists were key factors in the selection.

The festival will feature symbolic enactments of traditional Nowruz rituals, including Shahnameh recitations, traditional music, local games, and a handicrafts exhibition. These activities aim to provide visitors with

an immersive cultural experience, Ba'aqideh explained.

Nowruz, recognized globally and listed as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO, is celebrated on March 21. The United Nations General Assembly officially recognized Nowruz as an international day in 2010, reflecting its significance beyond Iran's borders. The festival continues to be a vital aspect of Iranian culture, connecting people across generations and geographies.

### Nashtifan's windmills

The tiny village of Nashtifan is home to several windmills called Asbads by the locals, a centuries-old technique to harness wind power.

Made of clay, wood, and straw, those Asbads are perched on a cliff overlooking the village.

Asbad development took place due to strong and continuous 120-day winds, which annually sweeps through the east and southeast of the Iranian Plateau from late May to late September.

UNESCO says Asbad is a smart technique to grind grains, a technique which goes back to ancient times when the people living in the eastern parts of Iran, in an attempt to adapt themselves to nature and transform environmental obstacles into opportunities, managed to invent it.

## Multimedia Festival of Cultural Heritage to showcase works from 11 countries

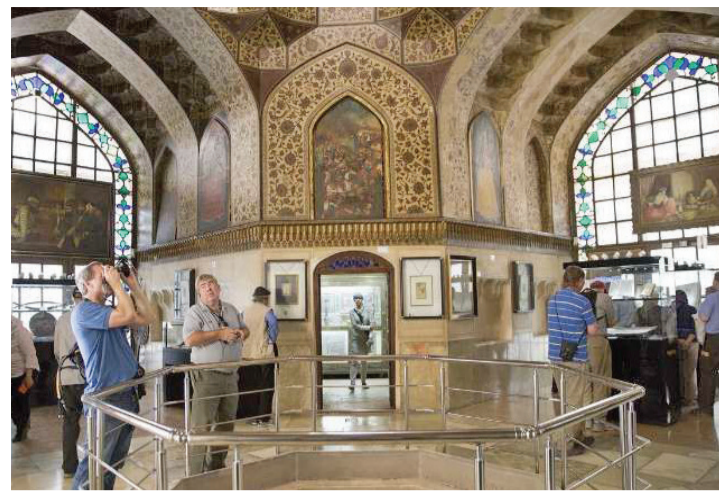
SHIRAZ – The 3rd International Multimedia Festival of Cultural Heritage is set to take place in Shiraz, featuring a wide variety of works from artists in 11 countries.

For the first time, the international section of the festival will showcase non-competitive entries from abroad, according to Alireza Tabesh, the festival's secretary.

In an interview with IRNA on Monday, Tabesh explained that the international section includes films, documentaries, and photographs, all of which will be open for free public viewing.

Among the highlights are a Serbian documentary about a journey to Iran, a presentation on the city of Tabriz from Turkey, a film about the renowned Persian poet Hafez Shirazi from Bosnia, and two documentaries on Iran produced by filmmakers from Russia and China.

Additionally, two co-produced documentaries, one by Iran and Italy, and the other by Iran and Tajikistan, will also be screened.



Moreover, the photography section of the festival will feature contributions from artists in Armenia, Spain, Russia, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, and China, displayed in a dedicated gallery.

According to organizers, the festival will consist of one international section and 13 national categories, including radio, television, music and poetry, cinema, digital heritage, innovation and experience, performing arts, photography, screenwriting,

documentaries, short films, future heritage custodians, and a special Shiraz Award.

Tabesh noted that the festival received a total of 4,451 submissions, with 40 winners to be selected in the national categories.

After previous editions in Yazd and Qazvin, Shiraz will host this year's festival, celebrating the rich cultural heritage from November 5 to 8.

Celebrated as the heartland

of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation. It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794. Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital.

Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists. The ancient city is also home to some magnificent historical gardens such as Bagh-e Narenjistan and Eram Garden, which are top tourist destinations both for domestic and international sightseers.

## Culinary festival to fundraise for war-torn people in Gaza, Lebanon

TEHRAN – Motaharabad, a village in Zarand county of Kerman province, is set to host a culinary festival dedicated to baking the largest-ever Komaj Sehen, a traditional pastry of the region.

The event aims to raise funds for the war-torn people of Gaza Strip and Lebanon, blending cultural heritage with humanitarian aid.

Mohammad Eslami, the head of the local Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts office, emphasized the significance of this event in promoting both cultural heritage and social responsibility. "The festival aims

to blend the rich culinary tradition of Zarand with a noble cause, making it a meaningful celebration," he stated during a planning meeting.

Deputy Governor of Zarand, Mohammad Izadi, highlighted the global resonance of this initiative. "This festival is not just about baking a large pastry; it is a demonstration of global solidarity against oppression and violence."

It is a testament to the widespread anger and grief over the atrocities faced by the people of Gaza and Lebanon by the Zionist

regime, he added.

Komaj Sehen, a cherished sweet from the Kerman region, is made by combining wheat sprout flour with regular wheat flour. The dough is filled with dates, nuts like walnuts, almonds, or pistachios, and seasoned with spices such as clove and fennel seeds. Despite lacking preservatives, this high-calorie pastry is known for its long shelf life and its ability to provide a sense of satiety when paired with milk.

The festival is scheduled for Friday, November 8.

## Iran, Georgia, and Armenia discuss easing border vehicle traffic

TEHRAN – The heads of the automobile associations of Iran, Georgia, and Armenia have held discussions aimed at simplifying cross-border vehicle travel among their countries.

The virtual meeting, which was held on Sunday, focused on facilitating the movement of travelers and tourists by utilizing the international customs document known as the "Carnet de Passages en Douane" (CPD), ISNA reported.

The discussions underscored the strategic importance of the North-South International Transport Corridor in boosting economic ties and enhancing tourism in the region. It also explored the technical aspects of this cooperation.

Mohammad-Hossein Soufi, CEO of Iran's Touring and Automobile Club, highlighted the club's successful experience in issuing CPDs for Iraqi and Armenian vehicles and expressed readiness to extend this service to Georgian vehicles.

During the meeting, participants commended the Iranian association's efforts to streamline international vehicle traffic in West Asia and the Caucasus region, the report said.

Among their remarks, the Georgian and Armenian automobile club directors proposed to hold follow-up discussions on the sidelines of the FIA General Assembly's annual meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, in December.

Currently, tourists and travelers from Turkey, the UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Iraq, and Armenia can use the CPD to make travel to Iran more accessible and cost-effective. The initiative is intended to cut down on intermediaries, reduce costs and waiting times at the border, and promote international road travel.

The Touring & Automobile Club is affiliated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts. Its tasks include facilitating the travel of owners of vehicles abroad or foreign tourists who are traveling to Iran in their own vehicles. The institution also helps develop tourism by establishing tourism information offices at home and abroad, as well as developing infrastructures and tourism services.

The CPD is a crucial international customs document that facilitates the temporary importation of private and commercial vehicles across borders, offering a guarantee for customs duties and taxes.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Cultural Landscape of the Bamiyan Valley

Enclosed between the high mountains of the Hindu Kush in the central highlands of Afghanistan, the Bamiyan Valley opens out into a large basin bordered to the north by a long, high stretch of rocky cliffs.


The Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley comprise a serial property consisting of eight separate sites within the Valley and its tributaries. Carved into the Bamiyan Cliffs are the two niches of the giant Buddha statues (55m and 38m high) destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, and numerous caves forming a large ensemble of Buddhist monasteries, chapels and sanctuaries along the foothills of the valley dating from the 3rd to the 5th century CE. In several of the caves and niches, often linked by galleries, there are remains of wall paintings and seated Buddha figures. In the valleys of the Bamiyan's tributaries are further groups of caves including the Kakrak Valley Caves, some 3km south-east of the Bamiyan Cliffs where among the more than one hundred caves dating from the 6th to 13th centuries are fragments of a 10m tall standing Buddha figure and a sanctuary with painted decorations from the Sasanian period. Along the Fuladi valley around 2km south-west of the Bamiyan Cliffs are the caves of Qouli-Akram and Lalai Ghami, also containing decorative features.

Punctuating the centre of the valley basin to the south

of the great cliff are the remains of the fortress of Shahr-i Ghulghulah. Dating from the 6th to 10th centuries CE, this marks the original settlement of Bamiyan as stopping place on the branch of the Silk Route, which linked China and India via ancient Bactria. Further to the east along the Bamiyan Valley are the remains of fortification walls and settlements, dating from the 6th to 8th centuries at Qallai Kaphari A and B and further east still (around 15km east of the Bamiyan Cliffs) at Shahr-i Zuhak, where the earlier remains are overlaid by developments of the 10th to 13th centuries under the rule of the Islamic Ghaznavid and Ghorid dynasties.

The Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley represent the artistic and religious developments which from the 1st to the 13th centuries characterised ancient Bactria, integrating various cultural influences into the Gandharan school of Buddhist art. The numerous Buddhist monastic ensembles and sanctuaries, as well as fortified structures from the Islamic period, testify to the interchange of Indian, Hellenistic, Roman, Sasanian and Islamic influences. The site is also testimony to recurring reactions to iconic art, the most recent being the internationally condemned deliberate destruction of the two standing Buddha statues in March 2001.

(Source: UNESCO)



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<b>Porosity:</b>	21 – 27 %
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<b>Specific Resistance:</b>	4.5 – 6.5 Ω <sup>cm</sup>
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<b>Young's Modules:</b>	7.8 – 11.8 GPa
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**Graphite Electrode Dimensions:**

<b>Electrode Diameter:</b>	450 mm
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**Nipple Specification:**

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*The elderly are the sources of mercy and divine blessing.*

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times > Noon: 11:48 Evening: 17:26 Dawn: 5:04 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:29 (tomorrow)

## Barbara Demick's book about living in Sarajevo during war published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "Logavina Street: Life and Death in a Sarajevo Neighborhood" written by Barbara Demick has been released in Iranian bookstores.

Sales Publication has recently published the book in 272 pages with a translation by Reza Namazi, Mehr reported.

Logavina Street was a microcosm of Sarajevo, a six-block-long history lesson. For four centuries, it existed as a quiet residential area in a charming city long known for its ethnic and religious tolerance.

On this street of 240 families, Muslims and Christians, Serbs and Croats lived easily together, unified by their common identity as Sarajevans. Then the war tore it all apart.

As she did in her groundbreaking work about North Korea "Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea," award-winning journalist Barbara Demick tells the story of the Bosnian War and the brutal and devastating three-and-a-half-year siege of Sarajevo through the lives of ordinary citizens, who struggle with hunger, poverty, sniper fire, and shellings.

Originally published in 1996, "Logavina Street" paints this misunderstood war and its effects in vivid strokes—at once epic and intimate—revealing the heroism, sorrow, resilience, and uncommon faith of its people.

In the book, meet a teenager whose parents were killed by a mortar shell in front of her, a dentist debating whether to emigrate to America, and a besotted husband separated from his wife by war, obsessing about her lipstick color.

Barbara Demick, 65, is an American journalist. She spent much of 1993 through 1995 on one street in the Bosnian capital with a front-row seat as a country was torn apart by ethnic warfare and a modern city was held under siege. She watched and recorded as

neighbors, Muslim, Serb and Croat, tried to keep their society intact against the forces of intolerance.

Demick grew up in Ridgewood, New Jersey. She attended Yale University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in economic history.

She was a correspondent for the Philadelphia Inquirer in Eastern Europe from 1993 to 1997. Along with photographer John Costello, she produced a series of articles that ran 1994-1996 following life on one Sarajevo street over the course of the war in Bosnia.

The series won the George Polk Award for international reporting, the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for international reporting and was a finalist for the Pulitzer in the features category. She was stationed in the Middle East for the newspaper between 1997 and 2001.

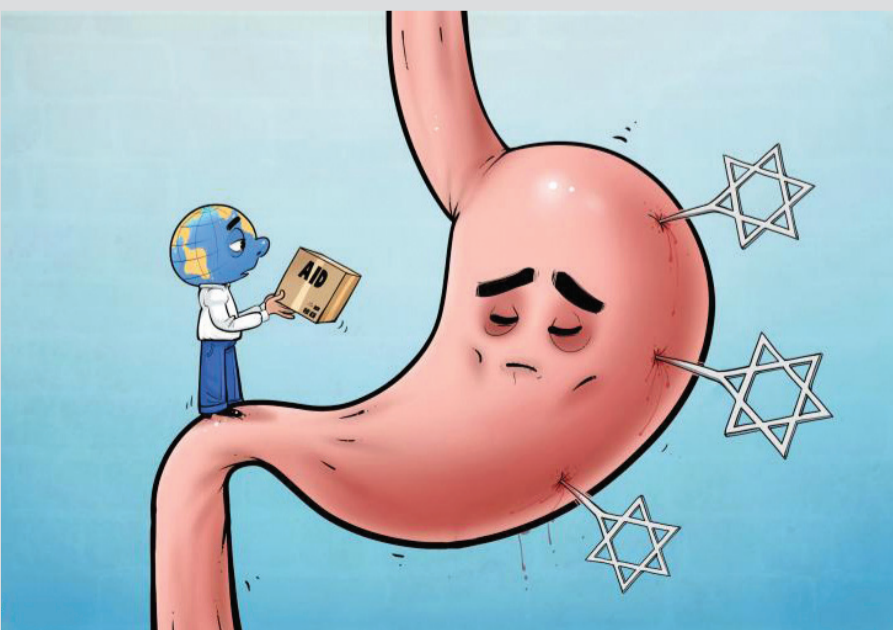
In 2001, Demick moved to the Los Angeles Times and became the newspaper's first bureau chief in Korea. Demick reported extensively on human rights in North Korea, interviewing large numbers of refugees in China and South Korea.

She focused on economic and social changes inside North Korea and on the situation of North Korean women sold into marriages in China. She wrote an extensive series of articles about life inside the North Korean city of Chongjin.

In 2006, her reports about North Korea won the Overseas Press Club's Joe and Laurie Dine Award for Human Rights Reporting and the Asia Society's Osborn Elliott Prize for Excellence in Asian Journalism.

Demick was a visiting professor at Princeton University in 2006-2007 teaching Coverage of Repressive Regimes through the Ferris Fellowship at the Council of the Humanities. She moved to Beijing for the Los Angeles Times in 2007 and became Beijing bureau chief in early 2009.

## Cartoon of Day



Famine in Gaza

cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Germany

# Iran's "Melody" wins award at Izmir film festival

TEHRAN- Iranian director Behrouz Sebt Rasoul's movie "Melody" has won an award at the 4th edition of Izmir International Film and Music Festival.

At the closing ceremony of the event held on Sunday, the film earned its musician, Foad Samiei, the Best Original Score Award.

"Melody" tells the story of a young musician girl, Melody, who is determined to compose a heartfelt piece for children battling cancer, using the recorded sounds of thirty different birds, despite the presence of hunters in the area.

She returns to her home village in order to capture the beautiful sounds of the birds and receives assistance from the speechless caretaker of her family's house, Mango.

After discovering a mere twenty birds, Mango reveals to her that the location of the remaining birds is known only to the wise village singer, who has been driven away from the village by the bird hunters. Melody embarks on a journey to locate both him and the missing birds.

Set in a stunning natural backdrop, the story unfolds amidst the enchanting beauty of the surroundings.

A co-production between Iran and Tajikistan, the film stars Iranian actor Diman Zandi, Alireza



Ostadi and Meghdad Esлами from Iran as well as Safar Haqdofov and Zulfiya Sadikova from Tajikistan.

In October, Tajikistan officially submitted "Melody" for consideration in the Best International Feature Film category at the 2025 Oscars. This submission represents Tajikistan's first entry in 19 years and stands as its third submission overall.

"Melody" premiered internationally at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on November 24,

2023. The film is produced by Sebt Rasoul's Tehran-based Nama Film Company in collaboration with the state-owned Tajikistan broadcaster Safina.

Dreamlab Films, the France-based international distributor under Iranian film expert Nasrin Mirshab, is handling the international sales and distribution of "Melody".

The film has garnered significant recognition on the international stage, participating in several prestigious film festivals. It was showcased in the 21st Chennai International Film

Festival in India in 2023. Following this, "Melody" was selected for the competitive section of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival in Iran in February, and the 24th Keswick Film Festival in London in March.

At the 23rd ImagineIndia Film Festival in Madrid, Spain, the film achieved remarkable success, winning several awards including Best Director of Photography, Best Music Design, and Best Original Music. Additionally, it received a nomination for Best Actress and Best Sound Design at the same festival.

## Ali Ghamasari to stand for Iran's territorial integrity through performances on Persian Gulf islands



TEHRAN- Iranian composer and tar virtuoso Ali Ghamasari is set to bring his Iranian Tar Project to the Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Ghamasari aims to underscore the significance of Iran's territorial integrity by performing on these three islands, Mehr reported on Monday.

Ghamasari explained that the process of obtaining the necessary permits for this endeavor took approximately one week, and everything has now been coordinated for the project, the report added.

"The Iranian Tar Project is rooted in the people's sentiments and is not affiliated with any specific institution. It operates without any financial backing. The project has emerged as a platform for the voices of the people," he said.

"Throughout history, negligence and passivity have led to the separation of significant portions of Iranian territory. This has been particularly poignant for those who have tasted the bitter fruits of history and recognize that losing part of Iran—notwithstanding the era in which this occurs—is an affront to the

identity of Iranians," he added. "I believe no Iranian, whether residing domestically or abroad, finds satisfaction in the fragmentation of their homeland."

"The Iranian Tar Project aims to be the voice of the public concerning the three islands and their concerns over Iran's territorial integrity," he explained.

Ghamasari expressed confidence in the power of independent music to convey the people's message across borders, asserting that music serves as a peaceful medium for sharing their voice with the world.

Regarding artists' responsibilities towards the nation's territorial integrity, Ghamasari emphasized that today's artists must go beyond focusing solely on their art; they need to possess historical awareness and contextual understanding.

He also noted that his journey with the Iranian Tar Project has deepened his love for Iran and reinforced his commitment to its territorial boundaries.

Ghamasari, accompanied by two cameramen from Shiraz, will spend two days recording pieces in the three islands, all without financial support from any institution. During this trip, he plans to perform and sing a piece that reflects his love for his homeland.

A tar, setar, divan player, and composer, Ghamasari, 41, began his music education at the Iranian Conservatory of Music and continued his studies in music at the Faculty of Fine Arts, the University of Tehran. He is a Professor of Persian Music Theory at the University of Tehran.

Ghamasari founded the band Sarmad at

the age of 18. Afterwards, he established the Hamnavazan-e Hesar Ensemble and the Iranian String Quartet. At the age of 22, he gained fame by composing the album Naghsh-e Khoyal with Homayoun Shajarian. Since then, he has composed over 15 albums, collaborating with several traditional singers such as Alireza Ghorbani, Mohammad Motamedi, and Vahid Taj.

He has performed in many countries, including France, Morocco, Spain, the U.S., the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Russia, and Canada.

On October 17, a joint meeting was held in Brussels featuring the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union. The final statement from this gathering included unfounded claims regarding Iran's territorial integrity, calling on Iran to end its alleged occupation of the three islands—Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa—that are claimed by the United Arab Emirates. The statement asserted that this occupation violates the sovereignty of the UAE and contravenes the principles outlined in the United Nations Charter.

Legal experts indicate that when British colonial rule ended in the region in 1971, the newly established nations, including the UAE and Bahrain, rightfully transferred ownership of the islands to Iran, as all historical records affirm their Iranian heritage.

Following the EU's support for baseless claims regarding the three Persian Gulf islands, a widespread wave of solidarity for these islands has emerged among artists, social media activists, and various segments of society.

## Tehran gallery displays photos of Doulab Catholic Cemetery

TEHRAN- Hamidreza Zeinali, a filmmaker, photographer, and university lecturer, is showcasing his latest photos of Doulab Catholic Cemetery in an exhibition underway at Tehran's Barg Gallery.

Entitled "Hidden Magnificence", the series featuring the gravestones of the cemetery has adopted a performative and artistic approach to photography, with the primary aim of drawing attention from both the public and officials to protect and preserve the urban heritage of Tehran and Iran.

This collection was photographed in the winter of 2023 and the spring of 2024, and

following coordinated efforts, the exhibition is planned to be held in Isfahan and Vank Cathedral followed by an exhibition in Yerevan, Armenia.

The exhibition will be running until November 8 at the gallery located at No.13 Jamali St., off Vafamanesh Ave., in Heravi Square.

Doulab Cemetery, located in the eastern suburbs of Tehran, is a significant historical site and one of the region's most important Christian cemeteries. It is divided into five distinct sections: Armenian Apostolic, Eastern Orthodox (including Russians, Georgians, and Greeks), Roman Catholic, Armenian Catholic,

and Assyrian (encompassing the Assyrian Church of the East, Chaldean Catholic, and Protestant communities).

The Roman Catholic Cemetery has its roots in the mid-19th century. In 1855, Louis Andre Ernest Cloquet, a personal physician to Nasser al-Din Shah, was buried in a field that would become the burial ground for Catholics in Tehran. Cloquet's tomb, marked by a small brick cupola, remains a notable feature of the cemetery today.

The Lazarists, who first arrived in Tehran in 1862, became responsible for the cemetery and tended to the 87 Catholics living in the city at the time. By

1886, Joseph Désiré Tholozan, a French officer, purchased the land, facilitating its use by the growing Catholic community. The cemetery expanded for various communities, notably when the Polish Embassy purchased part of the land in 1942 to bury many Polish soldiers and civilians who died upon their arrival in Iran.

In 2000, Doulab Cemetery was designated as a national cultural heritage site. The complex, now covering about 76,000 square meters, stands as a testament to the diverse nationalities and communities that have contributed to its history. Notable burials include figures from various fields, reflecting the cemetery's rich legacy.