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Two satellites sent into orbit with Russian launcher, defying decades of Western sanctions

Iran's Private Sector Joins Space Race

NAM condemns Israeli aggression against Iran as sovereignty violation

TEHRAN – The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) issued a statement condemning the actions of the Zionist regime, characterizing its aggressive assault on the Islamic Republic of Iran as a grave infringement on Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In a strong denunciation released on Monday night, the Movement highlighted that Israel's intentional aggression resulted in the tragic loss of four Iranian soldiers and a civilian.

The 121 member nations of the Non-Aligned Movement expressed their disapproval, emphasizing that the violation of Iraq's sovereignty, through the illegal use of its airspace by Israel to launch this aggression against Iran, is equally condemned.

In their statement, the Non-Aligned Movement conveyed profound solidarity with the Iranian people and government, extending condolences to the families of the victims.

They reiterated that Israel's actions constitute a breach of fundamental international law principles and contravene the United Nations Charter, particularly Article 2, Paragraph 4, which explicitly forbids the use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any nation. ▶ Page 2

U.S. election results irrelevant to Iran, FM says in TV interview

TEHRAN – While the world watched the U.S. election unfold, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi declared during an interview published on Monday that Tehran is indifferent to the outcome of the vote.

During the televised program, Araghchi asserted that Iran places little importance on the American presidential election and the identities of those elected, declaring, "The fundamental positions and strategies of our country will remain unaffected by these matters."

He further stated, "While we never compromise on our principles and ideals, our tactics may be adjusted."

In response to a question about his message to the Israeli regime, Araghchi stated that during his recent regional trips, he delivered a clear warning from Iran: "Do not test our resolve."

Emphasizing Iran's self-reliance, the Iranian Foreign Minister warned against underestimating the nation, asserting that Iran's capabilities are domestically developed and cannot be dismantled by a few failed missiles or bombs. ▶ Page 2

Is depriving Lebanon's displaced students of education negligence or systematic?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – A large percentage of Lebanese students have been directly affected by the US-led Israeli aggression on Lebanon's southern governorates, Bekaa and the southern suburbs of Beirut. However, the academic year has started in schools and universities despite calls by the public and academic circles to postpone classes.

According to a plan by Education Minister Abbas Al-Halabi in the caretaker government Najib Mikati, education in schools and high schools that are not used as shelters for the displaced people and are located in "safe" areas will be in-person.

Out of 620 schools, 505 are public schools and 54 are public vocational schools. In addition, some Lebanese universities and 50 private schools have been transformed into shelters for the displaced citizens.

Hezbollah bombs explosive factory near Haifa

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah continues to defend Lebanon's sovereignty from Israeli ground invasion while also widening offensive operations.

The movement targeted "an explosive materials factory in Hadera, south of Haifa, with a salvo of qualitative rockets". This marks the first time the factory has been struck.

Hezbollah targeted a gathering of "Israeli enemy army forces in the Doviv barracks with a rocket barrage".

Among its other operations on Tuesday, Hezbollah targeted a gathering of Israeli forces in the al-Ramtha site in the occupied Lebanese Kfar Shuba hills "with a barrage of qualitative missiles."

The Israeli army said that at least ten of its soldiers were injured in battles in southern Lebanon during the past 24 hours.

On Monday, Hezbollah targeted the Israeli "Meron Base for Aerial Operations Surveillance and Management" with missile salvos in three separate operations.

Facial feedback: Harris smiles, Trump scowls mirror stances on Israel

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- American people cast their ballots in the presidential and congressional elections prioritizing economic issues amidst the significant allocation of billions in US taxpayer dollars for military adventurism overseas.

Prior to the Election Day on Tuesday, Democratic candidate Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump made their final appeals to voters.

Vice President Harris, who ended her campaign in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, doubled down on the economy and outlined her plan to "build an economy where we bring down the cost of living".

Trump also vowed to lead the US to "new heights of glory" at an event in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The economy is a key issue for American voters facing challenges related to unemployment and inflation.

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Tehran honors late Hezbollah chief Nasrullah in memorial ceremony

TEHRAN – A memorial ceremony marking the fortieth day since the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan, along with a tribute to other martyrs of the Resistance Front, was held in Tehran on Tuesday afternoon.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the ceremony, accompanied by several high-profile figures. Among them were Brigadier General Ali Fadavi, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC); Mohammad Reza Aref, the First Vice President; Mohammad Jafar Montazeri, the Chief of the Supreme Court; and other notable officials.

Brigadier General Iraj Masjedi, Coordinating Deputy of the IRGC's Quds Force, addressed the reporters, underscoring the importance of the people's presence in affirming the martyrs' legacy. ▶ Page 2



Araghchi talks bilateral ties, regional tensions in visit to Pakistan

TEHRAN – During an official visit to Pakistan on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held talks with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to address recent developments in their countries' bilateral relations and discuss critical regional issues.

Prime Minister Sharif warmly welcomed Araghchi, highlighting the deep and historic bond between Pakistan and Iran. The leaders emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation and strengthening ties in light of the complex challenges facing the Middle East.

In their discussions, the two officials addressed a broad array of topics, including shared concerns over escalating conflicts in West Asia. Both expressed alarm over ongoing violence in Gaza and Lebanon and the continued hostilities attributed to Israel, stressing the need for coordinated responses to mitigate regional instability. ▶ Page 3

Project launched for constructing 110 National Housing Movement units in Bu Musa

TEHRAN – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh officially launched a project for the construction of 110 housing units under the framework of the National Housing Movement, in the southern Island of Bu Musa in Hormozgan Province.

The ceremony for the inauguration of the mentioned project was also attended by provincial officials and MPs, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The said project is the first phase of a larger plan based on which the National Land and Housing Organization is going to construct 480 affordable housing units on the island.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sadegh said: "We hope that such projects will encourage more population to reside in the national island."

Bu Musa is part of Iran's soil and it is a national island, she stressed. ▶ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

Harris or Trump, no difference for Iran

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

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to the American elections and its impact on Iran and wrote: These days the world is focused on the genocide and crimes of the Zionists in Gaza and the failures of this regime against the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement.

However, some media and political circles are determined to introduce today's American elections as an important development in the world, which will also affect Iran.

Every American government supports and partners with Israel in its crimes and considers Iran its biggest enemy.

Therefore, it can be well understood that Harris or Trump does not make any difference for Iran, and their nature is the same, especially since every person who is in the White House is obliged to advance the national security strategy of the United States.

Based on this approach, Iran, China, Russia, and North Korea are characterized as strategic threats to the U.S. Therefore, it is necessary to take steps to rely on internal assets, strengthen the resistance front, and promote cooperation with the neighbors and countries member to the Shanghai and BRICS blocs.

Sazandegi: Conditions ripe to put political and diplomatic pressure on Israel

In a commentary, Sazandegi discussed Iran's foreign policy approach. It wrote: Some analysts believe the best and most desirable approach in foreign policy in the current situation is the approach that has been on the agenda since the beginning of the 14th (sitting) government.

It should be noted that today Israel's status has been greatly degraded in Western public opinion. Even today, we see that pure support for Israel has become a political and moral costs for Western politicians.

In the international arena, the Israeli regime has faced unprecedented isolation and challenges and is officially accused of genocide, and its leaders are on the brink of facing criminal prosecution by the International Criminal Court. This is a new situation that the Iranian government can take advantage of politically and diplomatically.

The United Nations General Assembly meetings in the coming weeks are a good opportunity to take necessary measures in confronting Israel and trying to build a consensus against it.

Etemad: What will be the prospect of Iran-U.S. relations?

In an interview with political activist Mohammad Ali Abtahi, Etemad discussed the

issue of Iran-U.S. relations.

Abtahi said: Iran can establish a special relationship with the new American government to end regional tensions, lift sanctions, and ensure national interests.

But there are two views regarding the relationship between Iran and the United States; one view says that Iran, like other countries, should establish a relationship with America to convey its words, demands, and views, and reduce threats by the U.S. in line with its national interests.

There is another perspective that reflects the views of the Leader. It says no positive point has been noticed in dealing with the U.S. On the contrary, it says, Iran has come under more pressure from the U.S., Israel and the West.

Between these two perspectives, the view approved by the Leader is more feasible. For this reason, it is not expected that during the election of any of the two American presidential candidates, a fundamental change take place in the relations between Iran and the United States, which will at least lead to a bilateral relationship.

Establishing a relationship with the United States requires a strategic change in Iran's diplomatic doctrine, and there is no sign of this change yet.

Hamshahri: Both Harris and Trump seeking to curb Iran's power

In an interview with Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, an expert on American issues, Hamshahri discussed the impact of American election results on the situation in the region, Iran, and the Gaza-Lebanon war. He said: In the issue of Iran, both the Democratic and Republican candidates, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, are seeking to curb the power of Iran.

Trump will adopt a transactional approach toward Iran. His only concern is that Iran must not have nuclear weapons. There are two months left until the establishment of the new American government.

If during this time our defense doctrine changes and we go towards nuclear weapons, the story will be different.

If we continue this current policy, Trump will not have a serious challenge with us and may think of an agreement with Iran.

However, Kamala Harris's approach is different from Trump's and tries to curb Iran's power by going ahead with the Abraham Accords while maintaining the hope of negotiation (with Iran).

NAM condemns Israeli aggression against Iran as sovereignty violation

From page 1 ► The Non-Aligned Movement also reiterated its profound concern regarding the absence of accountability for the violations perpetrated by the Israeli regime against the populations of Palestine, Lebanon, and other countries in the region.

The statement also emphasized that the Israeli regime must accept its commitments, comply with international standards, and be held responsible for its blatant disregard for the United Nations Security Council, the International Court of Justice, and other international legal obligations.

In the early morning of October 26, 2024, the Israeli regime executed a series of military

airstrikes targeting various locations in Khuzestan, Ilam, and around Tehran. While Iran's air defense systems successfully intercepted a majority of the missiles, four Iranian military officers—Hamza Jahandideh, Mohammad Mehdi Shahrokhi, Sajjad Mansouri, and Mehdi Naqvi—lost their lives in the line of duty, demonstrating their commitment to national defense.

The Non-Aligned Movement is an assembly of 121 developing nations that do not officially align with or oppose any significant power bloc. Established in 1961, NAM arose as a reaction to the Cold War, addressing the necessity for developing countries to affirm their autonomy and sovereignty.

pave the way for progress, improved well-being for the Georgian people, and enhanced bilateral ties between Iran and Georgia, promoting regional cooperation.

The recent elections, held on October 26th, 2024, saw the ruling Georgian Dream Party, led by Bidzina Ivanishvili, secure a victory. The party, a center-left political organization, has been in power since 2012.

Pezeshkian congratulates Georgian PM on election success

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has extended his congratulations to Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze on the successful parliamentary elections held in the country.

Pezeshkian lauded the Georgian Dream Party's victory in the elections, seeing it as a testament to the Georgian people's will. He expressed confidence that the elections will

Tehran honors late Hezbollah chief Nasrullah in memorial ceremony

From page 1 ► “The turnout here sends a strong message that the path and ideals of the martyrs live on with determination,” he stated. His words reflected the unwavering resolve of those who view these fallen leaders as symbols of an enduring movement.

Masjedi emphasized Iran's stance against threats, notably from the Zionist regime.

He reiterated Iran's position, saying that if such entities pose a threat, “we will respond powerfully, and they should expect this.”

He added that any actions against Iran would not be met with restraint but with decisive action.

Mohammad Mokhber, former acting president and current aide to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, also shared his reflections on Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's life and legacy, describing him as an individual characterized by immense courage and resilience. “His life was a testament to bravery, persistence, and the spirit of Resistance,” Mokhber commented



on the sidelines of the event. He reassured that the martyrdom of such figures, though a significant loss, would not impede the Resistance Front's forward momentum.

In his address, Brigadier General Fadavi further highlighted Nasrallah's influence on the Resistance movement.

“As a cleric and leader, Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah pursued a journey of growth and enlightenment, making a profound impact on the training and morale of Resistance fighters,” he remarked. Fadavi reiterated that the Zionists

lack the strength to oppose the Resistance directly, often targeting civilians instead, which he said would inevitably be met with retribution.

The First Vice President, Mohammad Reza Aref, noted that Nasrallah's humility and sincere intentions had drawn widespread admiration, making him a deeply respected figure.

In his words, “The courage and purity of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah gave him immense appeal among people.”

“Despite facing relentless hostilities and sanctions, Martyr

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah held a special place among the Lebanese people, and this respect and popularity continued to grow with each passing day,” Aref said.

In a related event, international students and seminarians residing in Iran gathered at the Imam Khomeini Shrine, marking the fortieth day since the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

During the ceremony, Hojatoleslam Ramazani reflected on Nasrallah's character and contributions.

“I honor the memory of all Resistance fighters,” he said. “Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah embodied true faith in every aspect of his being.”

He reached a spiritual stature through personal struggle, and, through his collective efforts in the Resistance, became a central figure in this movement.”

Nasrallah was martyred during an Israeli airstrike on southern Beirut on September 27. The attacks also claimed the life of top IRGC commander Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan.

U.S. election results irrelevant to Iran, FM says in TV interview

From page 1 ► He underscored that Iran can continuously add to its capabilities, asserting that the Israeli regime is unable to “destroy” Iran's nuclear facilities in any fashion.

Araghchi noted that in recent years, particularly over the past year, the Israeli regime has made repeated attempts to trigger an all-out regional war, yet Iran has stood firm against these provocations. He stated, “We did not get trapped in their game; instead, we took charge and led the game ourselves.”

He characterized Iran's Operation True Promise I in April and True Promise II in early October as entirely defensive, during which the world observed Iran firing hundreds of ballistic missiles at sensitive military targets in Israel as a reaction to the regime's aggressive actions.

Araghchi emphasized that these measures were grounded in the country's right to legitimate defense as recognized by international law and the United Nations Charter.

“While Iran never compromises on its principles and ideals, its tactics may be adjusted based on enemy's actions”

“Iran is a great nation with thousands of years of historical and civilizational heritage,” he asserted, reinforcing the strength and

resilience of the nation.

Reflecting on the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the late leader of Hezbollah, Araghchi expressed, “When I first heard this news, I was thunderstruck. It was achingly somber.”

He also characterized the martyred leader of the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon as a “treasure” and noted, “He was a legend; some legends gain even more significance after they are gone, much like the martyred General Soleimani.”

Additionally, Araghchi mentioned that he conveyed to leaders during his recent visits to West Asian nations that Hezbollah is still a vital force, stressing that the organization's combat capabilities are strong and intact, along with its resilient social base.

Facing new realities: the future of Israel's security



By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The Israeli police and the internal intelligence agency Shin Bet have announced the arrest of a network of Israeli citizens suspected of spying for Iran.

According to the authorities, the detainees allegedly provided information about military bases and conducted surveillance on various prominent individuals in the country.

In a statement issued last Thursday, October 31, Israeli authorities noted that “Iran's efforts to recruit Israeli citizens continue to be neutralized.”

In this context, the detention of an Israeli couple was confirmed; they are accused of gathering information on critical infrastructure and military installations, as well as tracking a figure affiliated with the National Security Studies Institute in Tel Aviv.

Investigators maintain that the network had been active for approximately two years.

Israeli media reports indicate that the suspects photographed and collected data on various strategic facilities, including the defense headquarters in Tel Aviv, known as Kirya, as well as the Nevatim and Ramat David air bases.

This case adds to a series of

recent arrests related to espionage. About ten days ago, Israeli intelligence agencies reported the arrest of seven individuals in East al-Quds, accused of “collaborating with Iran in the planning of an assassination of an Israeli nuclear scientist” and carrying out acts of “sabotage” within the occupied territories.

The day before, authorities had arrested another seven individuals for alleged espionage on behalf of Iran, with supposed plans to assassinate scientists, mayors, security officials, and prominent Israeli figures.

At the end of September, Israeli security agencies reported the arrest of an Israeli citizen identified as Moti Maman, suspected of participating in an Iran-backed plan to target high-ranking officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Whether or not the recent espionage accusations are true, they highlight, on one hand, the vulnerabilities of Israeli security, and on the other, the advanced intelligence capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this regard, it is worth recalling, for example, the infiltration of the central server of the Israeli railway company, an attack that enabled the perpetrators to

extract information about infrastructures and publish images of the electrical equipment used in these facilities.

One operation that deserves highlighting is that of the hacker group known as “Moses' Staff,” which conducted a large-scale hack by publishing images of passports, identification documents, and other materials belonging to Israeli military personnel.

In addition, this group managed to infiltrate Israel's electrical grids, hack the country's alert system, and disseminate private images of high-ranking officials, such as Defense Minister Benny Gantz and former Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

Another critical moment that revealed a vulnerability in Israeli security was the hacking of the mobile phone of the head of the Mossad. Last September, the Israeli digital outlet Walla reported that a hacker group called “Open Hands” had gained access to the personal device of the intelligence agency's director.

This attack, attributed by Israel to Iran, was followed by the publication of a second series of images extracted from the Mossad chief's devices, marking an escalation in Iranian intrusion into the highest levels of Israeli security.

From a strategic perspective, recent events have highlighted the weaknesses in Israel's security, especially following the Hamas offensive known as Operation Al Aqsa Storm.

This was compounded by the Iranian attacks dubbed True Promise Operations I and II, which demonstrated that Israel's alleged qualitative superiority—the strategy of compensating for its limited resources through technological

and military advantages—was insufficient to prevent Iran from achieving its strategic objectives. Collectively, these incidents suggest that despite its advanced infrastructure and cutting-edge technology, Israel faces increasing challenges in safeguarding its most sensitive assets from external threats.

In this context, the coordinated actions of Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas have put Israel's security doctrine in jeopardy.

This strategy, based on a series of principles aimed at ensuring the stability and defense of the regime, has been challenged by the joint operations of these three key players in the so-called Axis of Resistance.

This front is further bolstered by the support of Yemen's Ansarullah and Iraqi militias aligned with Iranian interests.

The incursions and cyberattacks from this coalition have managed to weaken and undermine the strategic pillars upon which Israeli security doctrine rests, such as technological superiority, autonomous border defense, and the ability to anticipate external threats.

The combination of resources and tactics employed by these groups demonstrates a level of resilience and counterattack that Israel has not fully been able to counter, complicating its response capacity and reflecting a weakening of its defensive capabilities.

A key and fundamental example in Israel's security strategy is the principle of preserving the very existence of the state, which stands as a clear and central priority in its doctrine.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Two satellites sent into orbit with Russian launcher, defying decades of Western sanctions

Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Decades of crippling sanctions would likely deter most nations from pursuing complex, challenging, and often exclusive projects like a sophisticated space program.

But for Iranians, no amount of pressure from foreign entities can stop the nation from reaching for the stars.

In a landmark achievement for Iran's space industry on Tuesday, the country successfully launched its first privately-developed satellites, Kowsar and Hodhod, into orbit aboard a Russian Soyuz launcher. This marked the inaugural foray of the private sector into Iran's space exploration endeavors. Kowsar, a 30-kilogram high-resolution sensing satellite, is designed for a range of applications including agriculture, natural resource management, environmental monitoring, and disaster response.

Its impressive 3.45-meter resolution surpasses Iran's own target for satellite camera technology by 2025. With a lifespan of 3.5 years, Kowsar will orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometers, capturing six frames per second across a 15-kilometer range.

lometer range.

Hodhod, meanwhile, is a smaller communications satellite designed to enhance satellite-based communication networks and expand IoT connectivity.

This CubeSat will operate in a 500-kilometer orbit, providing communications solutions for remote and underserved regions.

Hodhod's mission will support precision agriculture, transportation, logistics, and environmental monitoring.

The CEO of the knowledge-based company behind the design and development of the satellites says it took his team 15 years of dedicated work to finally witness Hodhod and Kowsar successfully launched into orbit.

"This is only the beginning for us, we are only going forward from here," Faghih Imani said after personally assessing the launch of the two satellites in Russia. This success story is a continuation of Iran's impressive space journey.

Earlier this year, the country successfully launched the indigenous Mahda research satellite using the domestically produced Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite launch vehicle.

This bold move proved Iran's capability to develop its own launch vehicles, a crucial step towards self-reliance in space exploration.

The IRGC Aerospace Force also showcased its prowess last year by flawlessly launching the Soraya satellite into orbit in a record-breaking 11 minutes, using the domestically developed Qaem-100 SLV. This three-stage, solid-fuel rocket, a testament to Iranian engineering ingenuity, solidified the country's commitment to a self-sufficient space program.

Iran now stands proudly amongst the top 10 nations with the capability to design, build, and launch its own satellites.

In an interview on Tuesday, the head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) underscored the critical role of the private sector in advancing the country's space industry.

"Achieving significant goals in this field is unattainable without robust participation from private enterprises.

We believe that the private sector should enter this field in a competitive environment, considering market criteria."

The official noted that numerous

universities and research institutes have been pivotal in fostering activities within the space sector, setting the stage for private sector involvement.

"Many individuals working in knowledge-based companies originated from these academic and research environments."

The ISA chief further announced that Iran plans to launch an additional 5 to 7 satellites by the end of the Iranian calendar year (March 20), with both the government and private sector participating in this ambitious effort.

"With each launch, we inch closer to joining the ranks of space giants like Russia, China, and the United States."

With every launch, Iran sends a clear message to the world: its ambition in space is unyielding, and its resolve to overcome obstacles unbreakable.

This determination, coupled with a commitment to developing its own technologies, ensures that Iran's journey into the cosmos is a story still unfolding, full of potential and promise.

Araghchi talks bilateral ties, regional tensions in visit to Pakistan

From Page 1 ▶ Araghchi arrived in Pakistan on Monday evening as part of a diplomatic visit aimed at meeting top Pakistani officials.

'Precise response to Israeli aggression on Iran's agenda'

Araghchi issued a firm warning to Israel, pledging a "calculated and precise" response to the recent act of aggression that resulted in the deaths of five Iranians in late October.

The foreign minister's remarks were made during a joint press conference with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, aimed at highlighting regional security concerns and strengthening Iran-Pakistan ties.

Araghchi condemned the Israeli attack on October 26, which targeted military sites in Iran and led to the deaths of four Iranian servicemen and one civilian.

"While Iran does not seek to escalate tensions, we reserve our fundamental right to self-defense, as guaranteed by Article 50 of the United Nations Charter," Araghchi stated.

"We will respond to this aggression at the right time and in a calculated and precise way."

The Iranian foreign minister expressed gratitude to Pakistan for its solidarity, noting the strong condemnation of Israel's actions by Pakistani leaders, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "We deeply thank the government and people of Pakistan for standing firmly with us against this aggression," Araghchi said.

Turning his attention to the situation in Gaza, Araghchi criticized the global response

to the ongoing genocide by Israel against the Palestinian people.

He urged Muslim nations to work collectively to halt Israeli aggression and expressed hope that the upcoming meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) would produce meaningful actions to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians and Lebanese, particularly as the region approaches the hardships of winter.

Araghchi praised Pakistan for its longstanding support for Gaza and the Palestinian cause, stressing the need for collective action to end the crisis. "Despite the efforts of Muslim nations, the international community has failed to prevent Israel's continued aggression, which not only threatens regional stability but also undermines global security," he said.

In addition to discussing regional security, Araghchi emphasized Iran's commitment to strengthening its "brotherly and neighborly" relations with Pakistan.

Highlighting the countries' shared history, geographic proximity, and cultural ties, Araghchi expressed optimism about expanding cooperation in various sectors, including trade, energy, science, and tourism.

His visit, he noted, comes at the end of a regional tour intended to reinforce diplomatic and economic relations amid heightened geopolitical tensions.

"We aim to deepen cooperation across a broad range of fields with our Pakistani friends and review ways to address regional threats, particularly those posed by the Zionist regime," Araghchi said, underscoring the necessity

of unity against external threats and shared challenges.

In response to the pressing issue of terrorism, both Araghchi and Ishaq Dar stressed the importance of collaborative efforts to counter extremist threats in the region.

"Terrorism is a shared challenge, and Iran and Pakistan are actively working together to combat this menace," Dar said.

He emphasized the need for strengthened security and military cooperation to address terrorism, which has disrupted regional peace and stability. Araghchi echoed this sentiment, reiterating Iran's commitment to counter-terrorism partnerships with regional neighbors.

"Iran and Pakistan are united in addressing the regional threat of terrorism through multi-level collaboration, including security, military, and political channels," he said, adding that both countries are determined to maintain their efforts in this area.

Before the press conference, Araghchi held talks with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, to discuss Iran-Pakistan defense cooperation and security challenges along their shared border.

The Iranian foreign minister is also expected to meet with Pakistan's Prime Minister as high-ranking delegations from both nations hold discussions on advancing mutual interests.

With tensions mounting across the region, Araghchi's visit underscores Iran and Pakistan's commitment to deepening bilateral ties and coordinating responses to shared security threats.

Iranian expats condemn European ban on Iran Air in online petition

TEHRAN – Iranian expatriates living in Europe have launched an online petition to denounce the European Union and British government's recent ban on Iran Air. The petition, signed by hundreds of Iranian nationals, argues that the sanctions unfairly target ordinary citizens, making it difficult for them to visit family and friends in Iran.

The petition highlights the hardship caused by the embargo, stating that while alternative

travel options exist, they are inconvenient and burdensome, especially for the elderly and disabled.

It calls on European authorities to reconsider their stance and allow Iran Air to resume operations, emphasizing the needs of over a million passengers who rely on the airline for affordable travel.

The EU and the UK announced last month that they are restricting Iran Air's operation within European airspace in response to

Iran's alleged provision of missiles to Russia. Tehran has rejected the claims and asked Europe to provide evidence.

On Tuesday, Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, took to X to criticize Europe's decision, arguing that it unjustly affects both Iranian and non-Iranian passengers. He cited President Zelensky of Ukraine's recent statement that no Iranian missiles have been delivered to Russia.

"High time for the EU to end this

farce," he said.

"The targeting of ordinary Iranians based on thin air is immoral and plain wrong. It must be immediately reversed."

Iran was previously accused by the West of supplying drones to Russia for use in the Ukraine war, prompting new sanctions against the country. However, the West has yet to provide concrete evidence to support these allegations of Iranian involvement in the Ukraine conflict.

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SPORTS

Garrido not happy for Persepolis' performance

TEHRAN – Juan Carlos Garrido was not a happy man after his Persepolis FC side were not able to take maximum points from their AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25 tie against Al Gharafa, which left the Islamic Republic of Iran side sitting outside of the qualification spots at the halfway stage.

From allowing themselves to be pegged back so quickly after taking the lead to missing a multitude of chances in the closing period of the match, Garrido said there's much to do if his side are to avoid early elimination.

"It was a difficult game as both teams played openly with the motivation to win," said Garrido. "Both teams had good players on the field and it made us see good moves on the field."

"We controlled the game well in the first half. It is very difficult to restrain (Al Gharafa forward) Joselu, but we did it well, and I believe we were doing the right thing in the first half."

"When we scored our goal, which is the most important point of the game, we should have stopped the game so that nothing happened in the next 10 minutes, but we didn't do that."

"We lost the ball in front of our own goal and Al Gharafa scored. We should have calmed down the game. We had many opportunities in the final minutes but we could not score the second goal. I think we were better in those minutes."

Farshad Faraji put Persepolis ahead in the 53rd minute but Al Gharafa drew level just three minutes later, with Ahmed Al Ganehi making an immediate impact after coming off the bench.

Ali Alipour, Lucas Joao and Isa Alkadir all spurned opportunities late on as Persepolis remained winless after four matches.

Garrido will be hoping for better fortunes when Persepolis face Qatar's Al Rayyan SC on November 25.

Iran fourth in world beach soccer ranking

TEHRAN – Iran's men's beach soccer team sit in the fourth place of the world ranking released on Monday.

Following the results of international beach soccer competitions throughout the month of October, the Beach Soccer Worldwide National Teams ranking has seen changes.

Team Melli are the best Asian team in the ranking.

Brazil remained top in the ranking, followed by Italy and Portugal.

In the women's division, Spain lead the table, followed by Portugal and Poland.

Iran have won the AFC Beach Soccer Championship three times (2013, 2017, 2023) and also appeared in the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup seven times, reaching the quarterfinals on three occasions (2013, 2015, 2017), and finishing in third place twice (2017, 2024).

Shahdab Yazd complete signing of Javier Concepción

TEHRAN – Iranian volleyball club Shahdab Yazd have completed the signing of Cuban middle blocker Javier Concepción Rojas.

Concepción has most recently played at Russian club ASK Nizhny Novgorod.

Shahdab have hired the player to strengthen themselves for the 2024 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

Shahdab, Itas Trentino of Italy, Brazil's Sada Cruzeiro and Argentina's Ciudad Voley are in Pool B.

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

The 2024 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship will be the 19th edition of the

competition.

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

Al Hilal coach Jesus buoyant over beating Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Head coach Jorge Jesus was buoyant after seeing his side win their fourth consecutive match to stay top of the West Zone but stressed that it has not been easy for Al Hilal with the format introduced this year.

The Saudi Arabian giants defeated Iran's Esteghlal 3-0 in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite.

"There was an offensive distinction in the match, we achieved victory, and now we are working to recover to continue the competition," said the Portuguese.

"Although we conceded fewer goals last season than this season, we are facing teams with top-class players who are capable of making a difference"

"We are constantly working to improve all aspects of our game," Jesus added.

Freestyler Nokhodi suffers ACL injury

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Mohammad Nokhodi has suffered an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury.

He was injured in the match against Georgian Avtandil Kentchadze in the 2024 World Wrestling Championships in Tiarana, Albania last week.

Partial tear of his anterior cruciate ligament has been confirmed.

Nokhodi won a bronze medal in the competition after defeating Kota Takahashi of Japan 10-0 in the 79kg bronze medal match.

Esteghlal coach Mosimane optimistic about future

TEHRAN – Esteghlal head coach Pitso Mosimane, in admitting that Al Hilal were the better side, is hopeful that improvements will show in coming matches after he's able to spend a longer period with the team.

Esteghlal lost to Al Hilal 3-0 Monday night in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite.

"Today we saw the big differences between the two teams," said Mosimane. "We lost the services of three key players but it is not an excuse, we have to accept the result because we faced a great team."

"I am unlucky because a number of players are injured, it is true that it is part of the game, but it makes the job of any coach difficult," the South African coach added.

"I only had five training sessions and three matches with Esteghlal, and I feel that we have started to develop. I accepted the job knowing the problems surrounding the team" Mosimane concluded.

Tractor confident of taking win over Ravshan

TEHRAN – The AFC Champions League Two 2024-25 returns with Matchday Four action this week with teams either looking to reinforce their grip on knockout stage spots or revive their campaigns.

Iran's Tractor will confirm their knockout stage berth with victory over FC Ravshan.

The Tajikistan side have yet to open their account and Tractor will be confident of taking the win which will give the team a six-point lead over Qatar's Al Wakrah and assure the Iranian side of a top-two finish in Group A.

The match will be held at the Thani Bin Jassim Stadium in Doha Wednesday night.

Govt. tries to facilitate foreign trade: economy minister



Economy Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati (C) delivers speech at an ICCIMA meeting in Tehran on Tuesday, November 5.

TEHRAN - The 126th dialogue council of the government and the private sector was held in Tehran on Tuesday in which the country's recent economic issues were discussed and attendees shared their views.

The meeting was attended by senior officials including Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Abdolnaser Hemati, Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh, and Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh in the place of ICCIMA, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Speaking at the meeting, Hemmati mentioned some regulations that ban the exports of some agricultural products and said the government is trying to remove redundant regulations that are hindering exports.

"We cannot constantly change the country's

regulations. The exporters plan their activities based on certain schedules and the specifics of the target markets, and according to the president, hindering this process is not acceptable," the minister said.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's foreign trade reached \$99.7 billion during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21).

Mohammad Rezvanifar said that of the mentioned figure, \$60.2 billion was the value of the country's export, and \$39.5 billion was the worth of the import.

He put the value of non-oil export at \$32.5 billion, the oil export at \$27 billion, and technical-engineering export at \$700 million in the seven-month period.

Saying that the value of the country's non-oil export rose 15 percent in the first seven months of this year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the official put the weight of non-oil export at 88.7 million tons in the mentioned seven-month, with 11.48 percent growth, year on year. He further put the weight of the seven-month import at 21.7 million tons.

According to Rezvanifar, the average value of each ton of exported goods has increased by three percent to \$367 and the average worth of each ton of imported products has risen six percent to \$1,819 in the first seven months of this year, as compared to the same time span of the past year.

Iran attending China International Import Expo with 2 national pavilions

TEHRAN - Iran is attending China International Import Expo (CIIE) with two national pavilions with an area of 140 square meters and a commercial pavilion with an area of 1,700 square meters, in order to develop the export of Iran-made goods and services, IRNA reported.

As reported, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Head Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi has left Tehran for Shanghai to visit the exhibition.

During his visit, 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 China will be examined and consultations will be held to resolve them.

The newest edition of the China International Import Expo (CIIE), the world's first national-level exposition dedicated to imports, and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum opened on Tuesday in Shanghai, Xinhua reported.

Running from Nov. 5 to 10, the 7th CIIE has attracted 3,496 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions. It also sets a new record with 297 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders attending the event.

More than 400 new products, new technologies and new services are set to be unveiled during the expo, which experts believe is a strong indication of global companies' confidence in the Chinese market and their commitment to further development in China despite a sluggish global economic recovery.

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

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.

Japanese companies interested in Iran's energy sector: envoy

TEHRAN - Japanese Ambassador to Tehran Tamaki Tsukada has said Japanese companies are interested in cooperating with Iran in the energy sector especially in the hydrogen and ammoniac fields.

"Japanese companies are interested in participation in Iran's energy sector like overhaul of factories and energy equipment," Tsukada told Tasnim News Agency.

Mentioning the long-lasting history of cooperation between the two countries and the negative impacts that the U.S. sanctions have had on the level of economic exchanges between the two countries, the ambassador said: "If the international conditions improve, I am sure that oil and energy companies in Japan will again show their interest in participating in the Iranian market."

The envoy estimated the current value of trade between the two countries at about \$100 million, noting that this figure is



significantly low considering the two sides' capacities and potential for expanding economic ties.

Also, in a meeting between Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh and Japan's ambassador to Tehran on October 29, the two sides stressed cooperation in transportation, infrastructure, and technology development.

Speaking in the meeting, Sadegh underlined Iran's geopolitical position as the link between East and West and said: "Japan can reach countries in the region,

including Central Asia and the Caucasus, through Iran."

She further noted that the two countries can expand their cooperation in areas such as intelligent transportation systems, safety, transportation infrastructure technologies, and smart and earthquake-resistant urban construction technologies.

The minister invited Japanese officials to visit Iran to get familiar with the capabilities and capacities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the country's unique bridges and tunnels, and

to discuss the areas for cooperation.

Another important issue discussed in this meeting was the need to establish direct flights between Iran and Japan, which was emphasized by both parties.

Sadegh also suggested that a meeting be held between the port officials of the two countries in order to examine the areas of cooperation in the field of maritime transportation.

The Japanese ambassador also pointed to the long-standing and historical relations between Iran and Japan and said: "The thousand-year history of the relationship between the two countries has provided a good basis for deepening joint cooperation in the field of human settlement, exchange of knowledge, technology and holding training courses."

He expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in this field and called for further development of such cooperation.

Capacity of Iran's renewable power plants exceeds 1,231 MW

TEHRAN - The capacity of Iran's renewable power plants has reached 1,231.06 megawatts (MW), based on the latest data released by Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA).

As IRNA reported, of the mentioned figure, the share of wind power plants is 29 percent with 376.3 MW and the share of solar power plants with 595.16 MW is 60 percent, according to the SATBA data for the end of the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (September 21).

Small hydropower plants account for 8.0 percent of the country's total renewable power with 103.73 MW.

Biomass power plants also have a two percent share with 22.13 MW, and the share of expansion turbine power plants with 9.6 MW is also one percent.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has taken serious measures to accelerate the growth and development of renewable energies in the country.

Diversification of financing models for renewable projects, increasing the ceiling of guaranteed electricity purchase, providing the possibility of buying and selling renewable



electricity in the green board of the Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and providing the possibility of exporting renewable electricity have been the most important measures taken for this purpose.

Iranian Energy Ministry has also put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of 2025.

In January 2022, the Energy Ministry and some of the country's private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the construction of new renewable power plants across the country.

Iran, Pakistan finalize free trade agreement

TEHRAN - Iran's Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak said a free trade agreement with Pakistan has been finalized and the list of commodity items subject to the agreement will be prepared and released in two months.

In a meeting between the Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh and Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu in Tehran in late June, the officials stressed the need for Iran and Pakistan to exercise barter trade and free trade to materialize a \$10 billion trade target.

During a meeting between Atabak and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan in mid-October, the two sides discussed trade ties between the two countries, with both agreeing that economic exchanges should be promoted further.

The two ministers met in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on the sidelines of the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

From page 1 ▶ In a related development, a bill with a double urgency motion has been submitted to the Islamic City Council of Tehran to name a

Atabak told IRNA that he and the Pakistani minister discussed trade ties between the two countries and agreed to hold further talks in order to explore ways to remove obstacles to the promotion of bilateral trade.

"Considering the historical and cultural commonalities of the two countries, we should take advantage of the strong potentials to expand trade exchanges between Iran and Pakistan," the minister stated.

He also said that he invited Kamal Khan to visit the Islamic Republic.

According to the official, the necessary measures will be taken to prepare an agreement to be signed between the two countries during the visit of the Pakistani minister to Iran.

He stated that the current amount of trade exchanges between the two countries is not acceptable from the point of view of both Iran and Pakistan, and considering the strong relations and common links of the two countries, the two sides are confident that they will be able to increase the volume of trade exchanges several times.

The Pakistani minister spoke

with IRNA as well. He described his talks with the Iranian minister as constructive, and said that visiting Iran is on agenda of his plans.

"We had good talks with my Iranian counterpart and reached constructive agreements, and we believe that there are many remaining tasks that the two countries are determined to pursue," he said.

In mid-July, the 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee of Iran and Pakistan opened in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan, where the two sides pursue the increase of bilateral trade to \$10 billion per annum.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, who attends the meeting online, announced that Iranian and Pakistani delegations are scheduled to discuss the mechanism to increase mutual trade.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's consul general in Quetta, Pakistan's consul general in Zahedan, and other senior officials of Sistan-Baluchestan province took part in the meeting.

Such joint meetings are held to pave the way for reviewing obstacles, removing barriers,

and developing trade and economic relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries.

The two sides make the necessary coordination to help improve trade and economic ties, exchange economic delegations, organize joint exhibitions, attract bilateral investment, and establish joint industrial centers and retail markets.

The head of the Pakistani delegation to the 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee said that Islamabad strongly supports the development of joint markets and investment, which can increase the level of trust between the two nations.

Irfan Javed added that Pakistan also calls for cooperation in the field of transportation because it can affect the livelihood of the people who are living in border regions.

The deputy coordinator of economic affairs of Sistan-Baluchestan governor's office said that Iran is keen on expanding trade exchanges with Pakistan.

Davoud Shahraki added that the relationship between the two countries is historic and long-standing.

Project launched for constructing 110 National Housing Movement units in Bu Musa

From page 1 ▶ In a related development, a bill with a double urgency motion has been submitted to the Islamic City Council of Tehran to name a

street in the northwest of the Iranian capital after the three southern islands.

The bill was presented to the City Council fol-

lowing the recent meddlesome statements by the European Union and the [Persian] Gulf Cooperation Council on the Iranian islands.

Facial feedback: Harris smiles, Trump scowls mirror stances on Israel

From page 1 ▶ The new US president's policies will undoubtedly impact both domestic and international relations. The White House race could also impact the Russia-Ukraine war. However, Washington's unwavering support for Israel and its enmity against regional resistance groups will remain unchanged.

The "ironclad" support provided by the administration of President Joe Biden to Israel had already overshadowed Tuesday's presidential elections.

Supporting savagery

Since Israel launched war on Gaza in October 2023, the United States has spent a record of at least \$17.9 billion on military aid to the regime. That's according to a report for Brown University's Costs of War project, published on October 7 this year on the anniversary of the regime's genocidal war on Gaza. The onslaught has so far claimed the lives of more than 43,000 Palestinians in Gaza.

No to war

Over the course of the Gaza war, huge anti-war protests have also been staged across the world, including in the United States.

American protesters have criticized the US government for spending their taxpayer money to feed the Israeli war machine. The demonstrators have demanded that Washington stop arming Tel Aviv and exert pressure on the regime to end the onslaught.



American voters are increasingly worried about the state of the economy while the US spends taxpayer money on military adventurism overseas.

Students also set up encampments across college campuses to express their frustration over US support for Israel's war on the Palestinians. But US police launched clampdowns and made mass arrests.

Besides, multiple American officials have resigned to voice their anger at their government's backing for the Gaza genocide.

Tariq Habash, an official at the Department of Education, was among those who resigned in January. Habash cited significant disillusionment with Biden in the Democratic base because of his unwillingness to hold Israel accountable for violations of international humanitarian law.

"Whoever replaces the President on the ticket needs to show voters that there will be a sub-



stantive shift in policy that ends the dehumanization of Palestinians and supports Palestinian human rights, international law, and peace," Habash said, according to a report released by The Intercept in July.

Veteran US diplomat Hala Rharrit also quit her job in opposition to the US's policy on the war in Gaza.

For 18 years, had Rharrit worked as a political officer in the US Department of State, and eventually as spokesperson for the government.

Rharrit has said that US talking points are "dehumanizing to the Palestinians" and neglect their plight. She has also blamed the US for destabilizing the region.

An American Air Force major who stepped down in June criticized the Democratic Party for ignoring the plight of Palestinians in Gaza.

"I'm still disheartened that the Democratic Party doesn't care about Palestinians and continues to offer unconditional support to Israel," Riley Livermore said.

Blasting brutality

In late February, an active-duty member of the American Air Force set himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C. to denounce Washington's support for Israel's brutal onslaught on Gaza.

A video posted on social media showed Aaron Bushnell walking up to the driveway of the Israeli embassy, setting his phone down on the ground, and pouring an unknown liquid from a bottle over himself. He then ignited it while yelling "Free Palestine" repeatedly.

The flames consumed Aaron's body and he finally fell to the ground.

The footage, that Aron livestreamed himself on Twitch, explained his reasons for the act of protest.

"My name is Aaron Bushnell, I am an active-duty member of the United States Air Force and I will no longer be complicit in genocide...I am about to engage in an extreme act of protest, but compared to what people have been experiencing in Palestine at the hands of their colonizers, it's not extreme at all. This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal."

The 25-year-old officer was taken to hospital in

a critical condition but died of his injuries.

On Tuesday, American voters also went to the polls to elect 34 US senators (out of 100) and all 435 members for the House of Representatives.

Presently, mainstream media have focused on the results of the US presidential election while Israel persists in massacring people in Gaza with American bombs.

Israel which expanded its war into Lebanon more than a month ago, has also killed a number of regional resistance leaders and multiple military commanders. Unsurprisingly, the United States has thrown its full weight behind such assassinations.

Irrespective of whether Trump or Harris takes the helm at the White House, the next president will continue to condone such killings.

The strategy of the next US president in backing Israel's barbarism will remain intact, but his or her approach may be different.

Trump is a businessman-turned-politician who exhibits erratic behavior and explicitly sides with Israel's expansionist agenda.



Amid the race for the White House, many Americans are fed up with their country's support for Israel's genocidal war on Gaza.

But Harris tries to launch a charm offensive with Palestinians in an attempt to appease opposition to Israel's brutalities and obscure Washington's ugly face behind her smiles.

Trump's frowns and Harris's smiles are based on the same scripts with different characters when it comes to dealing with Israel's fascist and apartheid nature.

from three directions. He said they torched dozens of olive trees, which he noted were hundreds of years old and therefore older than Israel itself.

Several Palestinians who tried to confront the attack were beaten by settlers and were wounded by rocks they threw.

Armed settlers also obstructed firemen from accessing the burning agricultural lands, causing the flames to spread widely.

An hour into the attack, the Israeli army stormed the village and arrested two young Palestinians under the pretext of confronting the settler attack.

In Qusra, south of Nablus, settlers flooded in under the protection of Israeli soldiers, forcing Palestinian inhabitants to leave and preventing farmers from picking olives, Wafa reported.

The olive harvest season in the West Bank has been subject to repeated attacks by settlers and Israeli forces. Several areas of Hebron have witnessed raids and attacks on olive pickers, with one case of attempted burglary of a car reported in Yatta.

Hours after the attack on al-Bireh, the Israeli army stormed the area and raided several homes, including Amr's house, and confiscated surveillance recordings.

"The army is trying to show us that it will investigate, but as with all attacks against Palestinians, nothing happens. Settlers don't enter the Palestinian areas without the cover of the Israeli army," Amr said.

Hitting hospital: Israel killing doctors, patients



Medical sources in Gaza said on Tuesday that Israeli strikes against the besieged territory killed 70 Palestinians in a course of 24 hours.

More than two dozen Palestinians, including 13 children were killed in Israeli attacks in the town of Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza and many are still trapped under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

The director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza has shared a live video documenting Israel's bombardment of the medical facility.

Dr Hossam Abu Safiya's video captures the upper floor of the hospital being bombed by

Israeli forces with nurses and wounded patients fleeing as the bombardment intensifies.

"Patients and children run amid the Israeli occupation bombing the hospital and water tanks! As if the siege is not enough and patients and doctors must die of thirst," Abu Safiya wrote.

Kamal Adwan Hospital is the last functioning hospital in northern Gaza.

The Health Ministry in Gaza announced on Tuesday that the death toll from Israel's war in Gaza, which began in October last year, has reached approximately 43,400, with over 102,000 others injured.

Hezbollah bombs explosive factory near Haifa

From page 1 ▶ Hezbollah said it carried out 19 operations in total on Monday.

In a sign of Israeli failure to cut Hezbollah's support front for Gaza, the Lebanese resistance movement said all its operations are being waged "in support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and backing their courageous and honorable Resistance and in defense of Lebanon and its people."

The statement detailed "attempts by the Israeli enemy to advance along the Lebanese-Palestinian borders. The operations involved repelling enemy drones and warplanes, as well as targeting enemy military sites, bases, and settlements in northern and central occupied Palestine."

The statement goes on to say these attacks involved "drones targeting gatherings of Israeli enemy forces".

Hezbollah said some of the attacks came "in the framework of the warning issued by the Islamic Resistance to several northern settlements".

On Tuesday, Lebanon's National News Agency said that Israeli occupation forces

tried to infiltrate the southern border overnight from the direction of the town of Rmeish, the Khanouk Al-Kassara area.

The news agency reported that Hezbollah "confronted it, and the clash continued until dawn today, which forced the enemy to retreat after suffering heavy losses."

According to the Hebrew news outlet Yedioth Ahronoth, Tel Aviv has withdrawn several brigades from the Lebanese front over what it claims is a decision to reach a political solution.

The Israeli newspaper has reported that "against the background of an assessment by officials involved in the negotiations for a settlement with Lebanon predicting that an agreement may be reached within several weeks, the Israeli military has withdrawn several brigades from southern Lebanon 'to refresh.' The ground operation is expected to continue for at least several more weeks, as the military awaits a decision to be made by the political establishment."

As things stand, Israeli ground forces have been unable to take full control of a single village or town on the Lebanese border more than a month after waging a land invasion.

Is depriving Lebanon's displaced students of education negligence or systematic?

From page 1 ▶ Most public schools have been transformed into shelters for the displaced, whose number exceeds 1.5 million. All of them are grappling with a difficult situation due to poor living conditions, slow internet speed, and lack of electronic tablets for each family.

The obstacles to resuming education are not just administrative but mostly psychological and economic in light of the lack of requirement for distance education, especially since most teachers have fled their homes without their electronic devices. Their number is estimated at 18,792 teachers in the public schools and 16,798 in private schools.

According to educational specialists, it is not the right approach to resume the academic year in this way. They say it should have gone through preliminary stages that included training the educational staff on psychological support for students. Teachers themselves also needed psychological support to be able to perform their training tasks.

The sounds of Israeli warplanes and missiles are haunting Lebanese children; hence, these students need to be properly taken

care of to protect them from any psychological harm.

The situation in universities is no different; they have resumed in-person, electronic, and blended learning.

The Lebanese University, the only state-funded public university in Lebanon, will return to normalcy after locating professors, students, and employees, and each faculty will submit its proposals.

Al Maaref University, located in the heart of Beirut's southern suburbs, is a private university that has not yet started its academic year and is moving towards postponing teaching for the maximum possible period to assess the circumstances.

The rest of the private universities, including the American University of Beirut, the Jesuit University, the Lebanese American University, Beirut Arab University, the Holy Spirit University, and the Lebanese International University, have announced that they will follow blended learning, especially since the basic components of online education are available and have been followed since the outbreak of Covid 19.

Armed Israeli settlers torch Palestinian homes, cars and olive trees across the West Bank

Armed Israeli settlers launched a wave of attacks on Palestinian properties in several areas of the occupied West Bank overnight, torching homes, vehicles and olive trees.

More than 20 vehicles were targeted in the central West Bank city of al-Bireh on Sunday night, in what has been described online as a "pogrom", with most set ablaze and left smoldering wrecks.

Video footage posted online showed Palestinians attempting to put out fires enveloping buildings and cars, and roads left charred the morning after.

According to local news agency Wafa, the settlers opened fire at civil defense search-and-rescue workers attempting to extinguish the flames.

Settlers later set fire to a parking lot and scrawled offensive graffiti on walls in the nearby town of Deir Dibwan, east of Ramallah, before fleeing.

Mohammed Amr, a resident of the area, told Middle East Eye that he woke up at 3:15 am to odd noises near the building where he lives. Looking out the window, he saw a group of people pouring flammable material and burning vehicles.

"The settlers infiltrated from the Beit El settlement and came through the military checkpoint that separates it from the city of al-Bireh. Then they walked through the agricultural lands to reach the buildings adjacent to it, where I saw at least eight to ten settlers," he said.

According to Amr, the settlers attempted to storm a home, but Palestinian residents gathered to prevent them, so they withdrew to Beit El. "Our

situation is like all Palestinian cities that are exposed to settler terrorism," he said.

Al-Bireh Mayor Robin al-Khatib described the event as dangerous, especially since it is the first time that such a large number of vehicles was burned.

"The arrival of settlers to residential buildings and burning their surroundings is a dangerous indicator of the possibility of them reaching the heart of al-Bireh or Ramallah and carrying out larger attacks," he told MEE.

The Palestinian foreign ministry condemned the attack. In a post on X it blamed the "protection and immunity granted by the Israeli political leadership" and the "international failure to halt genocide" in Gaza for the aggression.

Hamas called for escalation against settlers, saying Palestinians should confront them with "all means of resistance" following the attack.

Settler attacks continued into Monday morning and were reported across the West Bank.

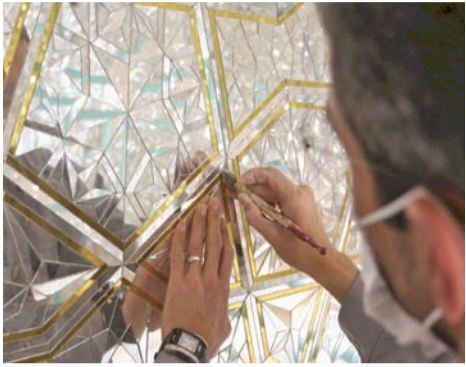
Olive groves attacked

A clip circulating online showed confrontations between settlers and Palestinians in the town of Burqa, northwest of Nablus.

A man in the video describes how Israelis burnt Palestinian land, olive trees and two houses, and said someone had been kidnapped by the settlers. Middle East Eye has been unable to confirm the claim.

Mahmoud Motan, a resident of Burqa, told MEE that a major settler attack targeted the village

Ayeneh-kari: an art of light and reflection



TEHRAN – Ayeneh-kari, the captivating Iranian art of embedding mirrored glass in plaster, transforms interiors into shimmering masterpieces.

This ancient craft, weaving geometric, floral, and calligraphic designs, not only enchants the eye but also preserves Iran's rich cultural heritage through its radiant, reflective beauty.

The art form is not only aesthetically captivating but also serves a practical purpose as a durable covering for interior spaces.

Safavid monarch Shah Abbas I revitalized the industry by inviting Venetian glassmakers to Iran, marking a significant turn in Persian decorative arts.

According to Iranica, Venetian glassmakers in the 15th century pioneered the production of small mirrors by cutting open blown glass cylinders, which were then polished and silvered. By 1507, they perfected a method using an amalgam of tin and mercury to coat sheets of glass, leading to the production of plate glass in the late 17th century. In contrast, Persian glassmaking had declined to the point of resmelting old glass, producing an inferior product. However, the Safavid monarch Shah Abbas I revitalized the industry by inviting Venetian glassmakers to Iran, marking a significant turn in Persian decorative arts.

During the Qajar period, Ayeneh-kari flourished as a prominent decorative element. Imported European mirrors, often rectangular with elaborate glass frames, were used as luxurious focal points or as complete mirrored revetments on facades. These mirrors were utilized to adorn facades that marked the transition from exterior to interior spaces, creating a dazzling interplay of light and reflections. An exemplary early instance of Ayeneh-kari can be

seen in the 17th-century Chehel Sotun Palace in Isfahan, showcasing the opulence and sophistication of this art form.

The Zand and Qajar periods witnessed a widespread adoption of mirror decoration in various architectural elements such as portals, overdoors, window frames, walls, ceilings, and columns. This technique was employed in pavilions, private houses, tea houses, royal buildings, shrines, and Zurkhanehs—traditional sports venues. Multiple mirrors with etched and painted glass frames provided the traditional rectangular units for facades, creating a harmonious blend of art and architecture.

In the Pahlavi period, Ayeneh-kari found its most notable expression in modern equivalents of traditional Iranian architectural elements such as talars (porches or halls) and iwans (rectangular vaulted spaces open on one side).

These structures incorporated mirrored glass to enhance their visual appeal, maintaining the legacy of Ayeneh-kari in contemporary architecture.

The process of Ayeneh-kari is meticulous and labor-intensive. Artists begin by designing the patterns, drawing inspiration from geometric shapes, floral motifs, and calligraphic scripts. Once the design is finalized, the mirrors are carefully cut into the required shapes and sizes.

These mirror pieces are then meticulously arranged and embedded into a layer of plaster applied to the surface. The precision required in placing each fragment ensures that the final result is a cohesive and dazzling mosaic of reflective glass.

It is important to consider that Ayeneh-kari is not just a decorative art; it embodies the cultural and historical heritage of Iran. The reflective surfaces created through this technique are symbolic, often associated with divine light and spiritual illumination. The interplay of light and reflection in Ayeneh-kari can transform a space, creating a sense of grandeur and serenity.

This art form has been used to adorn mosques, palaces, and mausoleums, imbuing these spaces with an ethereal quality.

Despite the passage of time, Ayeneh-kari continues to captivate and inspire. Modern interpretations of this traditional craft can be seen in contemporary Iranian architecture and interior design.

Today, the associated crafters are finding innovative ways to incorporate mirrored glass into modern spaces, blending tradition with modernity. The enduring appeal of Ayeneh-kari lies in its ability to create beauty through light and reflection, a testament to the ingenuity and artistic prowess of Iranian craftsmen.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Tikal National Park

Tikal National Park is located in Northern Guatemala's Petén Province within a large forest region often referred to as the Maya Forest, which extends into neighboring Mexico and Belize. Embedded within the much larger Maya Biosphere Reserve, exceeding two million hectares and contiguous with additional conservation areas, Tikal National Park is one of the few World Heritage properties inscribed according to both natural and cultural criteria for its extraordinary biodiversity and archaeological importance. It comprises 57,600 hectares of wetlands, savannah, tropical broadleaf and palm forests with thousands of architectural and artistic remains of the Mayan civilization from the Preclassic Period (600 BC) to the decline and eventual collapse of the urban center around 900 CE. The diverse ecosystems and habitats harbour a wide spectrum of neotropical fauna and flora. Five cats, including Jaguar and Puma, several species of monkeys and anteaters and more than 300 species of birds are among the notable wildlife. The forests comprise more than 200 tree species and over 2000 higher plants have been recorded across the diverse habitats.

Tikal, a major Pre-Columbian political, eco-

nom and military center, is one of the most important archaeological complexes left by the Maya civilization. An inner urban zone of around 400 hectares contains the principal monumental architecture and monuments which include palaces, temples, ceremonial platforms, small and medium-sized residences, ball-game courts, terraces, roads, large and small squares. Many of the existing monuments preserve decorated surfaces, including stone carvings and mural paintings with hieroglyphic inscriptions, which illustrate the dynastic history of the city and its relationships with urban centres as far away as Teotihuacan and Calakmul in Mexico, Copan in Honduras or Caracol in Belize. A wider zone of key archaeological importance, around 1,200 hectares, covers residential areas and historic water reservoirs, today known as "aguadas". The extensive peripheral zone features more than 25 associated secondary sites, historically serving protective purposes and as check-points for trade routes. The peripheral areas also played a major role for agricultural production for the densely populated center.

(Source: UNESCO)

President Pezeshkian enacts national handicrafts development plan

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday officially issued the "National Document for the Development of Handicrafts," a pivotal step to bolster the country's traditional arts and crafts sector.

The document, approved during the 903rd session of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution on August 27, sets a comprehensive framework for revitalizing and promoting Iranian handicrafts on national and international stages.

The directive has been communicated to a wide range of governmental bodies, including the Ministries of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts; Economy; Foreign Affairs; Education; Agriculture; and Industry, among others. Key organizations like the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, the National Iranian Standards Organization, and various chambers of commerce will also play roles in the document's execution.

The national strategy underscores the role of handicrafts as a cultural pillar, aiming to preserve and modernize traditional Iranian crafts while enhancing their contribution to the national economy. According to the document's text, its objectives include increasing the share of handicrafts in the GDP, expanding domestic and international markets, and promoting the cultural identity embedded in these crafts.



The document also highlights the need for technological integration, urging adaptation to innovations such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the metaverse to ensure the sector remains competitive and relevant in a rapidly evolving global market.

The document also refers to a number of challenges and solutions on the path of its chosen goals. Despite its rich heritage and time-honored history, the handicrafts industry faces numerous challenges, including fragmented management, inadequate market access, and the absence of large-scale enterprises, part of its text reads.

The document, however, proposes a series of measures to address these issues, such as enhancing

educational frameworks, streamlining regulatory processes, and fostering investment in the sector.

When it comes to strategies and action plans, the document outlines several broad policies, including promoting a culture of handicraft consumption, developing competitive industries, and integrating modern technologies into production processes.

According to its text, practical steps include organizing training programs, facilitating exports, and establishing a national database for craft designs and artisans.

By implementing these measures, the government aims to elevate the status of handicrafts sector, ensuring its growth and sustainability in both local and global markets. This initiative, ac-

ording to experts, seeks to not only help preserve Iran's cultural heritage but also to contribute significantly to economic development and job creation.

Currently, a selection of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as "world cities of handicrafts".

Iranian handicrafts, whose know-how passed down from generation to generation, are a testament to the country's rich cultural heritage. In other words, they blend centuries of tradition with artistic excellence.

Each region in the ancient country is renowned for its unique crafts, reflecting local history, customs, and natural resources.

Persian carpets, perhaps the most famous of Iran's handicrafts, are globally celebrated for their intricate designs, vivid colors, and exceptional craftsmanship. These carpets often tell stories, combining geometric and floral patterns with motifs inspired by nature and Persian poetry.

Another notable craft is Persian pottery and ceramics, dating back thousands of years. Metalwork, including silver and copper engraving, is also a vital part of Iran's handicraft tradition. Additionally, Iranian miniature painting and marquetry (known as Khatam) showcase the country's expertise in fine, detailed artwork.

Cultural heritage is a pillar of unity: minister's message to intl. festival

TEHRAN – The Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, shared a message to mark the opening of the 3rd International Multimedia Festival of Cultural Heritage, emphasizing the profound connection between cultural heritage and national unity.

Salehi-Amiri began his message by highlighting that Iranian culture embodies the wisdom of its people in harmonizing with their environment, a recognition achieved through engagement with cultural heritage.

He described tangible and intangible cultural heritage as mirrors reflecting the material and spiritual values of this land.

Understanding and presenting this heritage require deep, immersive encounters that foster awareness and authenticity, the minister underlined.

He further noted that every brick of the Aqa Bozorg Mosque, every verse by Sadi, each note of traditional Iranian music, and every artifact in museums echo the foundations of Iranian culture. These cultural elements illuminate the best path for the nation's future.

He underlined that introducing Iran through its cultural heritage evokes the most authentic image of the country. "Iran's identity can be explored through the works of poets like Hafez, philosophers like Avicenna, traditions like Nowruz, and the architectural marvels of ancestors. Such cultural expressions serve as the



backbone of national unity, dispelling discord and fostering friendship and respect within the country."

Every brick of the Aqa Bozorg Mosque, every verse by Sadi, each note of traditional Iranian music, and every artifact in museums echo the foundations of Iranian culture, the tourism minister said.

Cultural heritage, according to Salehi-Amiri, acts as a bridge for dialogue and solidarity. It

transcends political boundaries, as seen in figures like Nizami Ganjavi or structures like Taq Kasra, which, though not within modern Iran's political geography, are integral to its cultural identity. This broader cultural concept of Iran facilitates international dialogue, contributing to global peace and friendship.

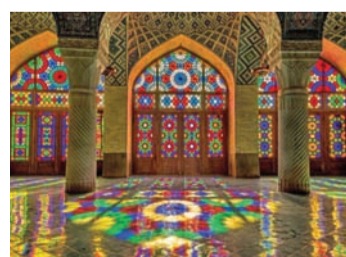
Salehi-Amiri also emphasized the importance of presenting cultural artifacts and elements accurately to uncover the hidden narratives they carry.

He highlighted the role of modern media and technologies in revealing the stories embedded in historical artifacts, thereby engaging the broader society with the rich depth of Iranian culture. "Cultural heritage, in this context, becomes an honest, unadulterated medium for conveying the essence of Iranian-Islamic culture."

In conclusion, the minister underscored the significance of the International Multimedia Festival of Cultural Heritage as a unique opportunity to present and appreciate this irreplaceable treasure from new perspectives. He expressed hope that the festival would strengthen national unity, present an authentic image of Islamic Iran to the global community, and enhance the communal responsibility for protecting Iran's cultural and historical heritage.

Organized by Fars province's cultural heritage department, the festival aims to deepen public engagement with cultural heritage through multimedia tools, fostering better preservation and community involvement.

Iran prepares to submit dossier for UNESCO recognition of historical mosques



TEHRAN – Iran is set to submit a comprehensive dossier to UNESCO for the global recognition of its historical mosques, with many of these architectural gems located in the province of Isfahan.

As mentioned by Isfahan's tourism chief, the submission is nearing completion and will soon be sent to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for evaluation.

The initiative to register Iran's mosques as World Heri-

tage sites began approximately two years ago, focusing on 34 mosques across 12 provinces, Amir Karamzadeh said on Monday.

"These mosques represent the evolution of Islamic architecture in Iran from its inception to the present day," the official said.

He said each of the selected mosques has undergone a thorough field study as part of a documentation project, ensuring a comprehensive portrayal of their historical and cultural significance before submission to UNESCO.

Earlier this year, Ali Darabi, the Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, announced that 30 historical mosques had been identified as eligible candidates for the UNESCO World Heritage list. During his visit to the Jameh Mosque of Saveh—one of the nominated mosques—

Darabi emphasized the meticulous nature of the evaluation process. He noted that UNESCO evaluators examine various criteria, including the architectural features of the mosques, their integration into local communities, and their preservation over time.

The Jameh Mosque of Saveh, for instance, showcases architectural elements from different historical eras, making it a strong contender for inclusion on the prestigious list, Darabi said.

The centuries-old mosque, like many other examples in the ancient country, is distinguished by its striking domes and minarets, which serve as iconic symbols of Islamic architecture. Notable examples of these architectural masterpieces include the Nasir Al-Molk Mosque in Shiraz, the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque in Isfahan, and

the Blue Mosque in Tabriz, to name a few.

The diverse architectural styles of Iranian mosques reflect regional variations, with intricate geometric designs, vibrant colors, and symbolic motifs that enhance their aesthetic appeal. Each mosque, or "masjed," serves not only as a place of worship but also as a cultural landmark, illustrating the rich heritage of Islamic art and architecture in Iran.

This initiative follows the successful registration of 54 caravanserais in Iran at the 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee last year, among other serial properties such as Persian Gardens and Persian Qanats, highlighting the country's ongoing efforts to preserve and promote its cultural heritage on a global stage.

Health ministry to launch rotavirus vaccination in weeks

TEHRAN – The health ministry is planning to kick off the nationwide implementation of the rotavirus vaccination program in three weeks, the deputy health minister has said.

Rotavirus is the most common cause of diarrhea in infants, under the age of one, and their hospitalization.

Rotavirus can cause severe watery diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and abdominal pain. Children who get rotavirus disease can become dehydrated and may need to be hospitalized.

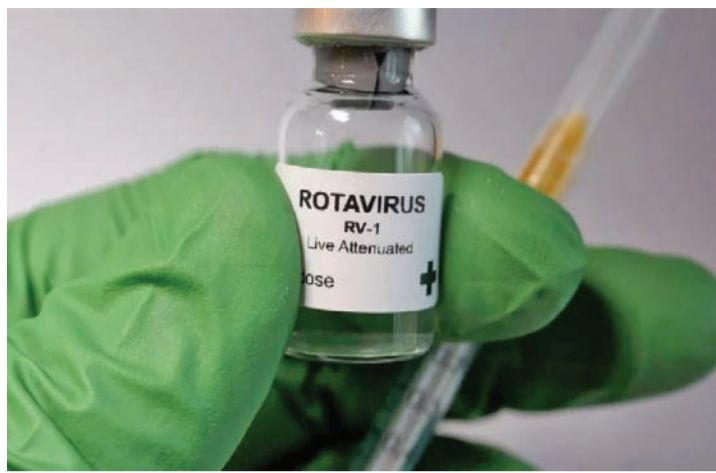
Annual rotavirus vaccination prevents the hospitalization of over 50,000 individuals. It will also prevent some 1,200 deaths caused by severe cases of diarrhea.

Rotavirus vaccination, currently being implemented in some pilot provinces, will soon be added to the national immunization program, ISNA quoted Alireza Raeisi as saying.

Babies can get three doses of vaccine at the 2nd, 4th, and 6th months of life. The vaccine is administered by putting drops in the child's mouth.

The national vaccination program against pneumococcal has already started nationwide.

The pneumococcal vaccine helps protect against some types of bacterial infections that can cause serious illnesses like meningitis (an infection in the brain and spinal cord) sepsis (a life-threatening reaction to an infection) pneumonia



(an infection in the lungs).

Pneumococcal vaccine can be injected when babies are 2, 4, and 12 months old.

The vaccination program against pneumococcal and rotavirus initially focused on tropical and southern regions of the country.

According to Pedram Pak-Aein, an official with the health ministry, the immunization initiative began in provinces that are most vulnerable to these diseases, IRNA reported.

"Rotavirus vaccination program will target tropical, southern, and southeastern provinces, while pneumococcal vaccination will be extended to southern provinces as well.

The nationwide implementation of the vaccination program will commence as soon as needed pneumo-

coccal and rotavirus vaccines are provided," Pak-Aein further noted.

The vaccination program to combat pneumococcal and rotavirus kicked off in February after being missed from the immunization schedule for a decade.

The program was officially launched in the city of Bandar Khamir, southern Hormozgan province, IRNA reported.

On February 19, Pak-Aein said, "The vaccination program to combat pneumococcal has been added to the country's immunization program.

It will be implemented in several phases, with the priority given to underdeveloped areas."

Some 3.5 million doses of pneumococcal vaccine were imported. In the first phase, the vaccines were

distributed in deprived areas of the southern provinces of the country, the official explained.

In May, the vaccination program against rotavirus and pneumococcal went on to cover seven more provinces of the country namely Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan, North Khorasan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Bushehr, Khuzestan, and Ilam, IRNA reported.

In June, Farshad Hosseini, deputy health minister announced the pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccination program will cover the entire country soon. "People should not be concerned about the [probable negative effects of] vaccines. Fortunately, surveys and studies have shown that pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines do not have any severe complications," Farshidi stressed.

According to the head of the preventable diseases department of the Ministry of Health, Mohsen Zahraei, annual vaccination worldwide prevents the death of two and a half million children, which shows the very high effectiveness of vaccines

"We hope to be able to develop these two vaccines soon. Once the vaccines pass the quality control trials, and obtain the Food and Drug Organization approval, we will be able to use the domestic products in the national vaccination program, the official noted.

Some 2.5m hectares of SDS hotspots stabilized in 6 years

TEHRAN –According to the secretary of the national policymaking headquarters for dealing with sand and dust storms, 2.5 million hectares of sand dust storm hotspots in the country have been stabilized over the past six years.

The measure has been taken in cooperation with other organizations, particularly the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization.

SDS hotspots in 23 provinces of the country cover roughly 35 million hectares. They are responsible for generating dust across the country, ISNA quoted Ali-Mohammad Tahmasbi as saying.

"Khuzestan is one of the most important provinces where appropriate measures need to be taken to address the problem.

About 52 percent of the allocated budget for the fight against sand and dust storms is dedicated to Khuzestan province," the official noted.

Referring to the stabilization of 120,000 hectares of SDS hotspots in the southeast of the province as one of the significant measures of the national headquarters, Tahmasbi called it an example of successful cooperation and synergy between the administration and other institutions.

He further emphasized the significance of adopting measures based on the specific situation of any region such as the type of soil, climate, available water resources as well as scientific principles to achieve the desired results.

Utilizing experiences from implemented plans, their strengths and weaknesses, and the capacity of people, farmers, and ranchers can also help implement future plans more successfully, Tahmasbi added.

Previous measures

In the Iranian year 1397 (2018-2019), the national headquarters took action to identify the internal and external sources of SDSs and subsequently implemented action plans including the assessment of dust damages, establishment of notification guide-



lines, and other software tasks.

In 2022, Iran started consulting neighboring countries, and the head of the Department of Environment paid visits to Iraq, Syria, Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE.

In July 2022, Tehran played host to a conference of ministers and officials from 11 countries, aiming to boost cooperation for resolving extant environmental problems, especially sand and dust storms.

Environment ministers of Iraq, Armenia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Syria, and Qatar, as well as deputy ministers of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan along with delegations from Turkey and Uzbekistan, participated in the event which was held with the theme of "Environmental Cooperation for a Better Future."

Late President Ebrahim Raisi proposed the creation of a regional fund to deal with SDSs which was submitted to the United Nations later.

The International Conference on SDSs was held in Tehran on September 9-10, 2023, representatives of some 50 countries and 15 international organizations attended the conference.

The event was a further step towards the implementation of the environmental protection policies of Iran.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran to host 8th intl. congress on heart failure

TEHRAN –The 8th intl. congress on heart failure will be held from November 27 to 29 at Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences.

Heart failure happens when the heart cannot pump enough blood and oxygen to support other organs in the body. Heart failure is a serious condition, but it does not mean that the heart has stopped beating.

There is no cure for heart failure, but with the right treatment, a patient can still lead an enjoyable, meaningful, and productive life.

Supported by the World Heart Failure Society (WHFS), European Heart Failure Society, and the Szeged University of Hungary, the three-day event will bring together many national and international experts and specialists in internal medicine, cardiovascular surgery, anesthesia, as well as pharmacists, Borna news agency reported.

The congress aims to introduce modern approaches for the diagnosis and treatment of heart failure and highlight ways to prevent heart failure.

The most common symptoms of heart failure are shortness of breath, fatigue, leg swollen, and pulmonary edema (when the heart is not able to pump efficiently, blood can back up into the veins that take blood through the lungs).

Sadly, heart failure prevalence is increasing due to modern lifestyle, improper diet, and air pollution.

Delayed diagnosis will increase the economic burden of the disease on individuals as well as the health system.

The event will also raise awareness about the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, managing blood sugar, pressure, and fat, as well

as avoiding smoking.

Additionally, it encourages everyone to seek medical care promptly if they experience any symptoms of heart failure; the event highlights the pivotal role of nurses in heart failure management.

On the sidelines of the summit, an exhibition of the pharmaceutical equipment including diagnostic and therapeutic tools such as echocardiography, and angiography will be held.

International Congress on Cardiovascular Updates

The 24th International Congress on Cardiovascular Updates is scheduled to be held from September 17 to 20 in Tehran.

The Iranian Society of Atherosclerosis will host the congress.

The main objective of the congress is to showcase the latest diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic findings in cardiology, as well as the role of artificial intelligence in the treatment of heart diseases, Mehr news agency reported.

The event will host over 5,000 domestic and international attendees from North America, Italy, and Turkey.

Also, the congress serves as a platform to develop a communication network among researchers of various cardiovascular fields, as well as an opportunity to share and exchange theories and scientific experiences in the field.

Showcasing new pharmaceutical products, and the latest technologies as well as medical equipment, that play an effective role in speeding up the recovery of patients, are among other goals of the four-day congress.

So far, the Iranian Society of Atherosclerosis has worked toward achieving goals including scientific improvement of cardiologists, helping conduct broader medical research and education in fields of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

Heart diseases responsible for 40% of annual deaths in Iran

"Cardiovascular diseases, mainly heart attacks, account for 40 percent of annual death in the country. Car accidents, diabetes, and cancers are the next important risk factors among non-communicable diseases," ISNA quoted Kouroush Etemad, a health ministry official, as saying.

In addition to high blood pressure, low physical activity, unhealthy diet, smoking, and drinking alcohol are four risk factors for cardiovascular diseases.

Those aged 30 and older are suggested to go to health centers to be checked for probable high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart diseases.

A three-month, six-month, and one-year care plan will be arranged for those who visit health centers based on their age, family history, and overweight. This program helps to detect the disease earlier or control the risk factors in people.

Unfortunately, in our country, as in many other countries of the world, half of the people are unaware of their high blood pressure disease. Only 50 percent of those who are aware of their high blood pressure take medicine.

This means that in addition to informing people about their disease, we must also give the necessary recommendations regarding its control and treatment.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Lake Urmia salt particles contained by 80%

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million).

The major salt particle hotspots include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghān, Urmia, Choopanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation.

کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است. فرهاد سرخوش در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سپورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میاندوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند. طبق مصوبه دولت توسعه اراضی کشاورزی در حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه ممنوع است و با بررسی‌های انجام شده در حوضه آبریز دریاچه نیز هیچ توسعه‌ای انجام نشده است.

Police disband drug trafficking gang in Sistan-Baluchestan

TEHRAN –The anti-narcotics police managed to dismantle a drug trafficking gang in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province on Monday, Ahmad-Ali Goudarzi, Commander of the Border Police, has stated.

A total of 1,436 kilograms of narcotics were seized in the operation, IRNA quoted Goudarzi as saying.

Border guards arrested four and seized 829 kilograms of methamphetamine, 334 kilograms of opium, 240 kilograms of hashish, 33 kilograms of heroin, two hand-held wireless devices, six weapons, seven RPG bullets, and some other items, the official noted.

Narcotics seizures up by 21%

On December 30, 2023, Iraj Kakavand, the head of anti-narcotics police, said since the beginning of the current year, some 470 tons of narcotics have been seized from smugglers all over the country, Mehr News Agency reported.

"We are witnessing a 21-percent rise in seizures of narcotics originating from Afghanistan," he added.

A large number of smugglers have also been identified and arrested in this regard, Kakavand stressed.

In October, Kakavand, in a meeting with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) representative in Tehran, Alexander Fedulov, called it essential to support Iran in the fight against drug trafficking.

During the meeting, Fedulov said the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been committed to a serious and decisive fight against narcotics at the regional and global level, IIRB reported.

Iran has spent a huge sum of money fighting the war on drugs, and apart from that, many anti-narcotics forces have sacrificed their lives in this way. The high number of martyrs and injured shows Iran's serious determination to deal with this scourge, the UN official added.

"Considering the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking, the UNODC and the international community support of Iran should be proportionate to the activities and actions at the regional and global level"



"Flavor and color of fall" on display

The northeastern city of Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi province, is hosting the third edition of a festival titled "flavor and color of fall" aiming to display the beauties of autumn. The event will run until Friday.



NOVEMBER 6, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Live amongst people in such a manner that if you die they weep over you and if you are alive they crave for your company.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:23 Dawn: 5:07 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:32 (tomorrow)

“Heidegger And Nazism” published in Persian

TEHRAN- “Heidegger and Nazism” written by Chilean historian Victor Farias has recently been published in Persian.

Translated by Alborz Heidarpour, the book has been published by Markaz Publications in Tehran.

Originally published in French in 1987, Victor Farias’ “Heidegger and Nazism” has ignited intense debate across Europe.

This controversial work delves into the life and philosophy of Martin Heidegger, a pivotal figure in twentieth-century thought, uncovering the philosopher’s substantial ties to Nazism throughout his career.

Farias meticulously investigates Heidegger’s early alignment with National Socialism, challenging the assumption that he distanced himself from Hitler’s regime prior to World War II. After over a decade of archival research, Farias presents compelling evidence of Heidegger’s initial fervor for Hitler’s ideals and demonstrates how he later crafted a personal interpretation of National Socialism.

This ideology, at the core of Heidegger’s mature philosophical contributions, not only informed his tenure as rector at the University of Freiburg but also persisted throughout his life.

A key focus of Farias’ study is the allegation of Heidegger’s lifelong anti-Semitism. He reveals that Heidegger spoke positively of Hitler among colleagues and maintained a silence concerning Nazi atrocities, failing to recant his previous beliefs even after the war.

While Heidegger was once interpreted as naively accepting the Third Reich, Farias reframes him as the only major philosopher who unabashedly embraced Nazism—a stark embodiment of modernity’s “absolute evil.”

Farias’ investigation disrupts the established narrative surrounding Heidegger, raising critical inquiries about the connection between politics and philosophy.

The book interrogates the presumed

correlation between philosophical integrity and ethical virtue, compelling readers to grapple with the implications of Heidegger’s political affiliations on his philosophical legacy.

It suggests that Heidegger’s existential and hermeneutic approach might not only be indefensible but also alarmingly conducive to the kind of “principled” distortions favored by fascist ideology.

By contextualizing Heidegger’s work within the framework of his political beliefs, “Heidegger and Nazism” serves as a call to action for the philosophical community, urging a thorough reassessment of Heidegger’s influence.

It invites readers to reconsider what Heidegger’s life and thought imply about the nature of philosophical inquiry and its potential for complicity in moral failures. As a significant historical critique, this book reshapes the dialogue around one of philosophy’s most prominent yet contentious figures.

Victor Ernesto Farias Soto is a prominent historian known for his controversial book “Heidegger and Nazism.” He graduated from the Catholic University of Chile in 1961 and later pursued a doctorate in Philosophy in Freiburg, Germany, studying under figures like Martin Heidegger and Rainer Marten.

After returning to Chile in 1971, Farias fled to Germany following the 1973 coup against President Allende. He became a researcher and professor at the Free University of Berlin, where he worked until 2006.

In “Heidegger and Nazism,” Farias, a former student of Heidegger, argues that Heidegger’s philosophy possesses fascist elements.

His work reflects his German philosophical education and political alignment with the Chilean left, while also acknowledging Chile’s role as a refuge for Nazis after the war. The book gained significant international attention, being published in 14 countries.

Statue of Rumi unveiled in Tehran

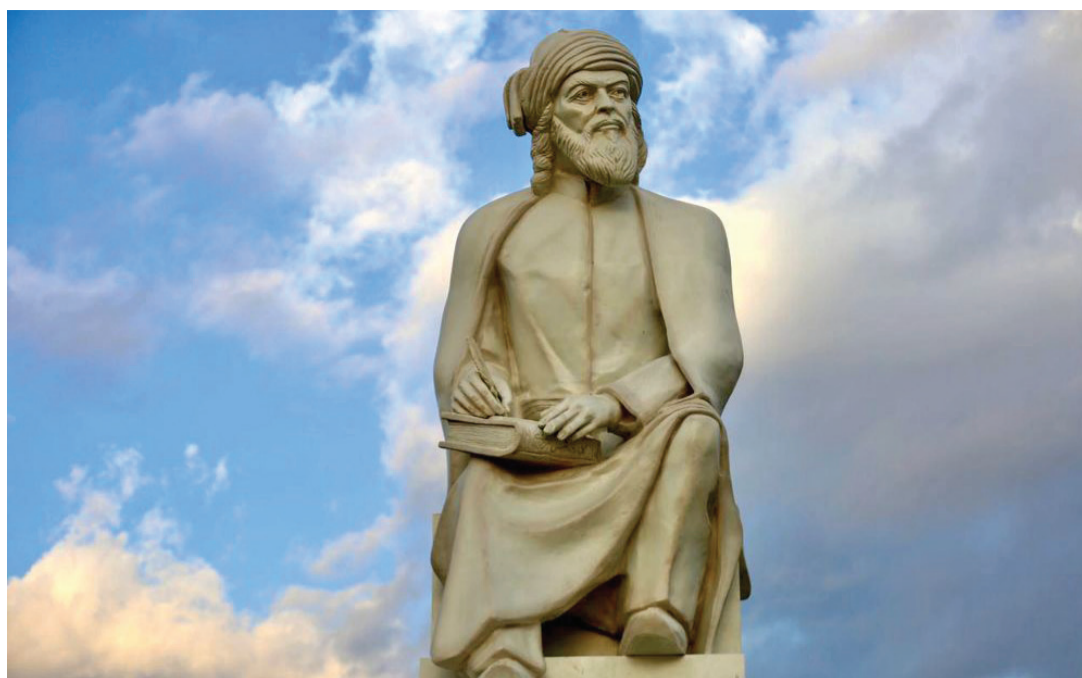
TEHRAN-At a ceremony attended by numerous senior cultural and municipal officials, as well as ambassadors from Tajikistan, Turkey, and Kazakhstan, and India’s cultural attaché in Iran, a statue of the Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi, created by sculptor Master Nader Qashqai, was unveiled in Mohammadiyeh Square in Tehran.

Mahmoud Shalouei, President of the Iranian Society of Cultural Works and Luminaries, stated in his speech that the Society has focused significantly on the construction and restoration of tombs and buildings related to Iranian and Persian-speaking luminaries since its inception, Honaronline reported.

“In recent years, with the Society’s efforts, support from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and backing from the Planning and Budget Organization, the initiative to refurbish monuments and create statues of these notable figures for urban spaces has been reintroduced,” he noted.

The Cultural Advisor to the Minister added that last year, the Society commissioned an impressive statue of the scholar Nezami, designed by artist Nader Qashqai, which was installed in Vanak Square, Tehran, during Nezami’s commemoration week.

Shalouei emphasized that the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, along with the Planning and Budget Organization, has provided significant financial support for the creation and installation of statues honoring Iranian cultural figures. The City Council and Tehran Municipality, with assistance from the Beautification Organization and District Twelve’s municipality, also contributed extensively to making this project a reality.



He concluded by announcing that, in the near future, in collaboration with Turkish cultural officials, grand ceremonies will be held in Iran and Turkey, specifically in the cities of Konya and Khoy, to honor Shams Tabrizi and Rumi.

During another part of the ceremony, Hamid Pourmohammadi, head of the National Planning and Budget Organization, expressed appreciation for the initiative by reciting poetry from Molana and honoring the memory of this wise mystic. Later in the ceremony, Mehdi Chamran, Chairman of the Tehran City Council, noted that installing and unveiling Rumi’s statue in one of Tehran’s bustling squares will have a notable cultural and aesthetic impact on the area, as the previous name and sculpture in the square did not offer a suitable or desirable appearance.

“With the support and cooperation of the Iranian Society of Cultural Works and Luminaries, the creation and unveiling of statues of prominent figures in

major squares and streets of the capital will proceed more rapidly, fostering a deeper connection between the people of Tehran and the illustrious figures of Iran-Islamic thought and culture.

Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi (1207 to 1273) is one of the most widely recognized and celebrated poets in the world. His works have been translated into multiple languages and continue to inspire readers globally. Rumi’s spiritual teachings and poetry have deeply influenced the entire Islamic world.

Rumi was born in present-day Afghanistan and later migrated to Konya, Turkey, where he lived most of his life and wrote the majority of his works.

As a result, the city of Konya became a vibrant center of Sufism, an Islamic mystical tradition, and a hub of intellectual and artistic activity. Rumi’s works were written mostly in Persian, but occasionally he also used Turkish, Arabic and Greek in his verse. His Masnavi, composed in Konya, is considered one of the

greatest poems of the Persian language.

His influence has transcended national borders and ethnic divisions: Iranians, Afghans, Tajiks, Turks, Kurds, Greeks, Central Asian Muslims, as well as Muslims of the Indian subcontinent have greatly appreciated his spiritual legacy for the past seven centuries.

His poetry influenced not only Persian literature, but also the literary traditions of the Ottoman Turkish, Chagatai, Pashto, Kurdish, Urdu, and Bengali languages.

Rumi’s works are widely read today in their original language across Greater Iran and the Persian-speaking world.

His poems have subsequently been translated into many of the world’s languages and transposed into various formats.

Rumi has been described as the “most popular poet,” is very popular in Turkey, Azerbaijan and South Asia, and has become the “best selling poet” in the United States.

Hamid Mowlana’s “The Decline of America” appears at Iranian bookstores



TEHRAN- The book “The Decline of America,” a selection of notes by Iranian-American author and academic Hamid Mowlana from the Kayhan newspaper from 1992 to 2011, has recently been published in Persian by Amir Kabir Publications in Tehran.

The book is a curated collection of Professor Mowlana’s writings in the conservative Kayhan newspaper and the progression of these notes, along with their publication dates,

allows readers to review the trajectory of America’s decline through his observations on the cultural, political, economic, military, and social aspects of the country. It also provides an opportunity to evaluate some of his forecasts and speculations mentioned in his articles against the current context.

“The Decline of America” is the third title in Mowlana’s “American Studies” series. In the previous two titles, “American Studies” and “The Ups and Downs of an Empire,” which have been republished five times since 2011, as well as in “The Decline of America,” first published in 2024, he articulates his analyses and perspectives on the current status and future of the U.S.

The book discusses the decline of the American empire as a major power. It says that this process has tangible, material, statistical, and physical causes, along with spiritual,

intangible, social, cultural, and psychological factors. The decline of America is primarily the result of the growth and proliferation of financial, economic, social, and moral corruption, fragmentation within society, its system, and among elites, as well as fear, greed, and ignorance. Erosion of trust and reduction of legitimacy, lack of confidence in the future, economic and class disparity, leadership crises, the bankruptcy of the two dominant political parties, and increasing racial, ethnic, and religious prejudices are among the vulnerable factors affecting the American system and society.

Throughout his life, Hamid Mowlana has consistently engaged in scholarly and research activities, enabling him to achieve the highest academic ranks at a young age in prestigious American universities, becoming a recognized and prominent figure in international social sciences and communications.

Cartoon of Day



American hypocrisy in the war on Gaza cartoonist: Ahmed Rahma from Turkey

6th International Biennial Book Cartoon Contest concludes

TEHRAN-The closing ceremony of the 6th edition of the International Biennial Book Cartoon Contest was held on Monday in the amphitheater of the Central Library at Tehran’s City Park, awarding the winners of various categories.

Over 2,000 works by 650 artists from 73 countries around the world were submitted to this year’s edition of the contest. Since 2011,

this festival has been held every two years consistently. The event celebrates the art of caricature, has no age restrictions, and is open to all languages, Borna reported.

Masoud Shojaei Tabatabai, the festival secretary, remarked that the presence of prominent artists at the festival reflects its continuity and significance as an international event. “This year’s festival has seen

considerable developments in both quality and quantity.

While 73 countries participated in the previous edition, artists from 74 countries joined this year,” he said.

He added that the involvement of distinguished judges is an important aspect of the festival, and this year, three artists from

different regions—China, Turkey, and Italy—participated as judges, with some respected figures from Iran also joining.

“The highest number of participants came from Iran. The task became more challenging with the addition of the “Amateur” and “Gaza” categories,” he noted and emphasized their duty to address Gaza in this festival as well.

Alice Birch’s “Anatomy of a Suicide” on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN-The play “Anatomy of a Suicide” by the British playwright Alice Birch is on stage at Divar Art Home in Tehran.

Originally written in 2017, the play won the 2018 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, the oldest and largest playwriting prize honoring women writing for the English-speaking theater.

The play follows three women,

Carol, Anna and Bonnie, who, through the course of the play, are revealed to be mother, daughter, and granddaughter. The three women’s stories play out simultaneously, while each exists in her own timeline.

At the start of the play, Carol has just been released from the hospital after trying to commit suicide, Anna is a heroin addict, and Bonnie is a doctor. Carol and Anna

are treated with electroconvulsive therapy. Carol commits suicide offstage. Anna electrocutes herself in the bath, while her infant daughter, Bonnie, sleeps in the next room. At the end of the play, Bonnie sells the family home.

Alice Birch, 38, is a British playwright and screenwriter. Birch has written several plays, including “Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again” for which she was awarded the George

Devine Award for Most Promising New Playwright.

Birch was also the screenwriter for the film “Lady Macbeth” and has written for such television shows as “Succession,” “Normal People,” and “Dead Ringers.”

“Anatomy of a Suicide” will remain on stage until November 10 at Divar Art Home, located at No. 72, Sepand St., Nejatollahi St.