

# Arrest Warrant for Netanyahu Not Enough, Death Sentence Needed



## World must not stand silent as genocide becomes routine: Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister warns that the United Nations' failure to take decisive action against Israel's violations threatens to undermine the organization's credibility and could lead to the normalization of aggression.

Abbas Araghchi made the remarks during the 10th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) on Monday.

The session, convened to discuss the humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories, became a platform for Araghchi to denounce the international community's alarming complacency in the face of ongoing genocide and aggression by Israel.

Araghchi began by expressing Iran's grave concerns about the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza and beyond.

He argued that the 14-month-long genocide in Gaza is merely the latest chapter in Israel's systematic efforts to occupy Palestinian lands and enforce apartheid policies on the occupied population. He described these actions as part of a long-standing strategy to suppress Palestinian self-determination and sovereignty. ▶ Page 2

## Iran, Azerbaijan launch joint military drills in border region

TEHRAN – A joint military exercise, code-named "Aras Joint Exercise," has commenced between Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Ground Force and the Azeri Armed Forces.

The large-scale drill, involving special units and elite divisions from both nations, marks a substantial step in enhancing security cooperation and strengthening counter-terrorism efforts between Iran and Azerbaijan.

The four-day exercise, which began on Sunday, is taking place in the challenging high-terrain regions of Aslanduz County, situated within Iran's northwestern Ardabil province. Rapid reaction units from both the IRGC Ground Force and the Republic of Azerbaijan's military are actively participating in the collaborative maneuvers.

The current joint military exercises are a direct outgrowth of prior discussions between high-ranking military officials from both countries. On November 19, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, and Major General Farid Aliyev, an Azeri commander, met in Tehran for the fourth meeting of the Joint Commission on Military and Defense Cooperation. ▶ Page 2

## Digital Rial to be launched soon: CBI

TEHRAN – The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) intends to launch its digital currency, the Digital Rial, in the near future as part of a larger effort to modernize the country's banking system and improve international financial cooperation.

Mohammad Reza Farzin, the CBI governor, disclosed upcoming plans for the launch of the Digital Rial during the 11th Annual Conference on Modern Banking and Payment Systems, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Speaking at the event, Farzin described the conference as an opportunity to review policies and outline the future trajectory of the banking system.

"As the Governor, this platform allows me to evaluate strategies and set the course ahead. We will incorporate the insights shared here into our policymaking," he said.

Farzin highlighted the strengths and challenges of Iran's banking system, emphasizing its robust digital infrastructure. ▶ Page 4

## Netanyahu's hegemonic project entails war to preserve alleged 'national security'

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – Netanyahu's insistence on invading Rafah despite the Biden administration's geostrategic concerns and his admission that he decided to assassinate Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah demonstrates that the war he has waged in the region requires him to go beyond the permissible frameworks. This indicates a shift in the direction of Tel Aviv's ties with Washington.

Undoubtedly, Washington does not completely oppose Netanyahu's genocidal behavior, as it has provided many services to the occupying entity over the past decades, including withdrawing from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal; supporting the war on Yemen; supporting takfiri terrorist cells in Syria and Iraq; assassinating General Qassem Soleimani; recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the Israeli entity; approving Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights; etc. And prior to Operation Al-Aqsa Flood the Israeli entity sought to strengthen its relations with the Persian Gulf countries.

## The horrors of northern Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli regime continues to viciously attack northern Gaza showing no mercy to the civilian population, which its army has put under siege for almost 50 days now.

The regime's military is widely accused of implementing what has been described as the "Generals Plan".

This involves a complete siege of the population until Tel Aviv claims remnants of the armed wing of Hamas starve to death or surrender.

But in reality, critics accuse the Israeli government of starving the entire northern Gazan population to death.

UN experts say civilians who try to flee are targeted by Israeli snipers.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, every attempt by the UN to access besieged areas of North Gaza with food and health missions to support people remaining there was either denied or impeded by the Israeli military.

It also warned that the famine threshold has already been crossed. Amid the apocalyptic scenes emerging from northern Gaza's refugee camps, including Jabalia, Beit Lahia, and Beit Hanoun, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) has expanded its aerial and ground assault on civilians.

## Ceasefire or consequences: Israel's dilemma after Hezbollah's huge attacks

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Lebanon's Hezbollah has once again demonstrated its military prowess by firing a record number of missiles and other projectiles into Israel in the face of the regime's ongoing brutal aggression against the Mediterranean country.

The Israeli army admitted on Sunday that 340 missiles and drones had been launched from Lebanon.

In the wake of the missile barrage, sirens went off in Israel, forcing millions of people into shelters.

Hezbollah announced that it struck the Ashdod naval base in southern Israel "for the first time".

The resistance movement noted that it also carried out an operation against a "military target" in Tel Aviv using advanced missiles and strike drones.

Hezbollah further launched more than 50 attacks within the Lebanese borders on Israeli troops that were trying to advance inside the country's territory.

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## Over 150m tons of goods loaded, unloaded at Iranian ports

TEHRAN – Based on the latest data released by the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), some 155,429,115 tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at the country's ports in the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 – November 21).

As reported, during the mentioned eight months more than 18.299 million tons of oil products and over 34.835 million tons of non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports, while the loading of oil products in ports was reported to be 52.67 million tons, and the loading of non-oil goods was 49.62 million tons.

Totally, more than 53.134 million tons of oil- and non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports in the said eight months, and over 102.294 million tons of oil- and non-oil products were loaded. ▶ Page 4



(From left) Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, U.S. Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill at the Tehran Conference, December 1943.

## The Tehran Conference: a lingering wound on Iranian sovereignty

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – Iran boasts one of the world's oldest civilizations, its history stretching back millennia. In the modern era, however, the country has often been kept on the back foot, with the 20th century in particular marked by numerous instances of subjugation and national humiliation.

While Iran today asserts its independent sovereignty and projects military and security capabilities beyond its borders, this has not always

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Revival of negotiations

In a note, Arman-e-Melli discussed the revival of the negotiations and wrote: Now it seems that the situation is changing. The head of the new government in the U.S. is the same person who quit the JCPOA. Nevertheless, Tehran has declared that it will support negotiations with the U.S. if it meets Iran's interests. Tehran does not shun negotiations to protect its interests even with the United States. This time Iran is the pioneer in this regard. It seems the Europeans think they will practically be sidelined after the Trump administration starts its work on January 20. Therefore, they are trying to revive their mediation role between Iran and the United States in the Trump administration to create a new playing field for themselves in order not to fall behind the power distribution in the world in the future. Europe should not tie Ukraine to its relations with Iran more than this. Iran should also try to convince Europe that it has no benefit in the fight against Ukraine and has never supported the tension in Europe. These negotiations can be the basis of the new JCPOA, and the parties will not allow more tension in bilateral relations with continuous negotiations on a new nuclear deal.

Jam-e-Jam: Repeating false accusations against Iran

All signatories to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) have the right to use nuclear technology for human welfare to improve living standards and share technological know-how with other countries. However, countries with nuclear technology have formed a club for themselves and do not allow other countries to join. In addition, they do not fulfill their duty to provide nuclear technology to other countries and make false accusations against other countries like Iran in order to deprive them of the benefits of peaceful nuclear energy. We will not allow our right to civilian use of nuclear technology to be denied. The Islamic Republic of Iran is decisive in this regard, and ultimately the International Atomic Energy Agency must change its approach and not prevent us from enjoying this right by raising ambiguities about our nuclear program.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Why negotiation?!

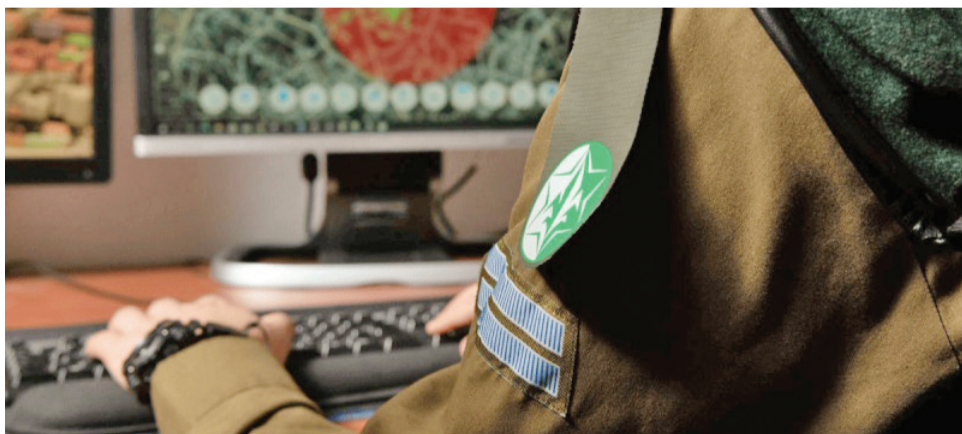
Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to the negotiations between Iran and the European troika that will start on Friday and said: It is

clear that in the current situation that less than a year is left for the expiration of the nuclear agreement, negotiations with Europe without the participation of the United States cannot be politically logical. Maybe due to the lack of political logic in the past years, and there is no trust in them. Currently, building nuclear weapons is not part of Iran's military doctrine. But the West should note that if wrong policies against Iran continue, the possibility of building nuclear arms cannot be ruled out. In fact, the approach the West has taken against Islamic Iran is not diplomatic. Rather they are forcing Iran to build nuclear weapons. In the process of negotiations that are supposed to be held after the resolution of the Board of Governors against Iran, the Iranian negotiators should not show weakness. They should enter the negotiation with strength. Either way, the negotiations will not produce results, and even if they reach an agreement, it will be to the detriment of Iran, just like the previous agreements.

Ettelaat: Signs of change in Iran's foreign policy

In an interview with Hamidreza Jalaeipour, a reformist political activist, Ettelaat discussed possible negotiations between Iran and the United States. He said: In the deeper and more strategic cooperation of the Islamic Republic with Arab and Islamic countries like Saudi Arabia, it is enough to pay attention to the recent trips of Foreign Minister Araghchi. Also, during his visit to the United Nations, Pezeshkian defended the interaction with all world powers. On the other hand, we can point out the recent cooperation of the Islamic Republic with the authorities of Lebanon and Hezbollah and the declaration of Iran's readiness for new negotiations with the United States on various issues. It may be said that America and Europe are not yet ready to negotiate with the Islamic Republic, yet the important thing is that, unlike the past, Iran is ready for direct negotiations with America. What is obvious is that the sanctions and threats of America and Europe against Iran do not work, but increase the capacity of Iran's nuclear power. The solution to problems is negotiation, and Trump himself understands this a little bit. If Iran enters talks with America and Europe, then the Islamic Republic can better interact with China and Russia.

Israeli media details extent of intelligence failures after rabbi's alleged killing, blames Iran



TEHRAN – Following the alleged killing of an Israeli rabbi and reserve military officer in the United Arab Emirates, a Hebrew media report reveals that thousands of Israelis working for the regime are now considered to be at risk.

According to Israel Hayom, profiles of thousands of Israelis have been assembled by operatives looking for high-ranking military and security figures within the regime. The paper alleged the operatives work for Iran, without providing evidence.

The Israeli newspaper reports that the ongoing intelligence infiltration, sustained for more than ten years, covers a vast array of Israeli society some targets have already received direct communications from the operatives.

Israel Hayom notes that the targeting includes "current and former defense officials, academics, and scientists" who cooperate with the regime.

Security sources cited by the newspaper allege Iran has successfully exploited "vulnerabilities in databases, phones, and computers," gaining access to extensive personal information including passport data, identification numbers, residential addresses, and family details of

thousands of Israelis. Israel Hayom also highlighted Iran's alleged "successful large-scale recruitment" efforts within the occupied territories.

The intelligence infiltration's sophistication is evidenced by what the newspaper terms a "dual-track" approach, combining advanced cyber capabilities with human intelligence gathering.

The report was published after an Israeli Rabbi and reserve force was found dead in the UAE. Abu Dhabi says it has arrested three suspects involved in the killing without providing more details. The detainees are reportedly of Uzbek nationality.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office was quick to blame Iran for the incident. The Iranian Embassy in the UAE has categorically rejected any role in the alleged killing. There is no evidence pointing to Tehran's involvement either.

Israel's continuous intelligence failures

Israel's long talked-up intelligence services have been prone to multiple breaches and failures in recent years.

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

World must not stand silent as genocide becomes routine: Iran FM

From page 1 ▶ The Foreign Minister called for the establishment of a global coalition to hold Israel accountable for its actions in Gaza and Lebanon.

He emphasized that prosecuting and punishing Israeli leaders for their crimes is essential to ending the cycle of violence.

Araghchi also pointed to the complicity of Israel's supporters, particularly the United States, in enabling its actions through financial, political, and military aid.

Highlighting the International Criminal Court's (ICC) arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former War Minister Yoav Gallant, Araghchi described these measures as a necessary, albeit overdue, step toward justice.



He urged the global community to support the enforcement of these warrants and to intensify efforts to bring Israeli officials to trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Araghchi called on the United Nations Secretary-General to

provide regular updates to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the humanitarian crisis in Palestine.

He urged the UN to document violations of international law, including war crimes and genocide,

and submit them to relevant domestic courts and international tribunals. These efforts, he argued, are essential to counter Israel's impunity and uphold the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

In his closing remarks, Araghchi underscored the shared responsibility of nations to prevent further atrocities in Palestine and Lebanon.

Heading a delegation, Araghchi arrived in the Portuguese capital on Monday to attend the UNAOC Global Forum, which is scheduled to last till November 27 in the town of Cascais.

This forum will coincide with the 20th anniversary of the UNAOC with its theme focusing on "United in Peace: Restoring Trust, Reshaping the Future — Reflecting on Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity".

Iran, Azerbaijan launch joint military drills in border region

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The current joint military exercises are a direct outgrowth of prior discussions between high-ranking military officials from both countries.

On November 19, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, and Major General Farid Aliyev, an Azeri commander, met in Tehran for the fourth meeting of the Joint Commission on Military and Defense Cooperation.

During the meeting, General Ashtiani and General Aliyev engaged in comprehensive discussions concerning various aspects of military cooperation.

These discussions explored diverse avenues for strengthening the military relationship between Iran and Azerbaijan. General Ashtiani highlighted the significant and influential role of the Republic of Azerbaijan within Iran's foreign policy, emphasizing the direct impact of devel-



Commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) meet with Azerbaijan's military delegation in a border region ahead of the joint drill, on November 24th, 2024.

opments in the South Caucasus region on Iran's national security.

In response, General Aliyev advocated for closer cooperation between Baku and Tehran to ensure regional peace and stability, explicitly praising the ongoing joint military exercises as a prime example of the positive interaction and cooperation between the two countries.

Iran Navy showcases power beyond borders, Army chief lauds achievements

TEHRAN – In a statement highlighting the strategic importance of Iran's naval forces, Major General Seyed Abdolrahim Mousavi, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, praised the Navy for demonstrating the nation's capability, independence, and authority on the global stage.

During a visit to the Navy Headquarters to mark Navy Day on November 27, General Mousavi met with Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, the Commander of the Navy.

He commended the Navy's expanding presence in international waters and called for further efforts to strengthen this presence in line with protecting Iran's national interests.

General Mousavi highlighted the Navy's advancements in designing and producing cutting-edge surface and subsurface vessels equipped with missiles, drones, and radars.

These developments, achieved by Navy elites and the Ministry of Defense, underscore Iran's growing technological capabilities.

He also praised the Navy's role in fostering maritime diplomacy and cooperation with regional and international partners.

The commander emphasized the importance of continuing the Navy's rescue, training, and intelligence missions, describing these efforts as vital to Iran's strategic maritime operations.

Mousavi pointed to the deployment of more than 100 naval groups in counter-terrorism operations and numerous military exercises, including joint rescue and security drills, as critical to deepening Iran's strategic reach.

He stressed the importance of bolstering the Navy's presence

in sensitive regions to further enhance its role in safeguarding national security.

Highlighting recent accomplishments, General Mousavi praised the 86th flotilla for undertaking the longest and most extensive naval operation in the country's history.

These missions, he said, have brought significant honor to the Iranian people and the broader Islamic world, cementing Iran's position as a formidable maritime power.

For the first time in Iran's naval history, Iran's 86th flotilla, featuring the domestically manufactured Dena Destroyer and Makran forward base ship, returned on May 17, 2023 after completing the inaugural round-the-world mission.

Iran's naval strength fuels regional unity: top general

Marking Navy Day, Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, highlighted Iran's evolving deterrence capabilities in maritime defense, emphasizing their role in strengthening ties with Islamic nations and ensuring regional security.

In his message commemorating Navy Day, General Bagheri paid tribute to the legacy of the Peykan warship and its crew, whose heroism during the Iran-Iraq war remains a symbol of Iran's resilience.

Reflecting on 44 years of progress since that pivotal battle, Bagheri noted Iran's expanded and influential presence in national and international waters.

He praised the Navy's alignment with modern needs and its commitment to maritime sovereignty, as directed by the Leader.

UK might activate snapback mechanism against Iran, BBC reports



The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran showcases its latest achievements of its nuclear industry in Tehran on June 11, 2023.

TEHRAN – The UK Foreign Office says it is prepared to trigger snapback sanctions against Tehran in a move that reaffirms the West's continued hostilities against Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

The mechanism, outlined in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, allows for the reimposition of UN sanctions on Iran if it violates the terms of the agreement.

A spokesperson for the UK Foreign Office told the BBC: "We, alongside our international partners, continue to express serious concerns over Iran's nuclear activities. Through multiple diplomatic channels, including the United Nations and the quarterly meetings of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors, we are working tirelessly to de-escalate tensions and ensure compliance with global nuclear standards."

The statement was issued in response to reports of upcoming negotiations on Friday between Iran and the three European signatories of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)—France, Germany, and the UK.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed in 2015, was an agreement between Iran and the P5+1 nations aimed at curbing

Iran's nuclear program in return for the lifting of sanctions. However, the deal began unraveling in 2018 after the U.S., under President Trump, unilaterally withdrew and reimposed sanctions as part of a "maximum pressure" strategy. Iran initially continued to adhere to its JCPOA commitments despite Washington's exit, but by 2020, it started reducing compliance after European countries aligned with the U.S. in pressuring Tehran.

The UK Foreign Office spokesperson highlighted the UK's deep concern over Iran's alleged expanding uranium reserves.

"We are deeply concerned that Iran continues to increase its uranium stockpile, including highly enriched uranium that has no plausible civilian use," the spokesperson said.

Despite international concerns, Iran has consistently denied pursuing nuclear weapons.

Iranian officials maintain that their nuclear program is strictly for peaceful purposes, including energy production and medical applications.

On Thursday, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopted a resolution denouncing Iran for what it called a lack of cooperation.

# Arrest warrant for Netanyahu not enough, death sentence needed: Leader

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the arrest warrants issued for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former War Minister Yoav Gallant are not sufficient, rather the two should be sentenced to death for the heinous crimes they have committed against humanity.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks on Monday, during a meeting with thousands of volunteering Basij forces, while millions of other Basij members watched him live on TV.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution criticized the Zionist regime's actions in Palestine and Lebanon. He stated, "The stupid Zionists imagine that by bombarding people's homes, hospitals, and places where people are gathered, they're the victors. No, no one in the world considers that to be a victory."

Emphasizing that the enemy has not and will not be victorious in Gaza and Lebanon despite its egregious war crimes, the Leader added, "The arrest warrant issued for Netanyahu is not enough and a death sentence should be issued for him and the criminal leaders of the Zionist regime."

Ayatollah Khamenei deemed the Zionist regime's crimes in Gaza and Lebanon to have backfired on the perpetrators, leading to a strengthening and emboldening of the Resistance. He added that the brave young Palestinians and



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei meets with members of the Basij volunteer force in Tehran on November 25, 2024.

Lebanese, regardless of their social status or involvement in combat, find themselves under bombardment and the threat of death. "Consequently, they see no alternative but to fight and resist. Thus, these criminal fools are, in fact, unwittingly expanding the Resistance Front."

He underscored that the expansion of the Resistance Front is an absolute and inviolable necessity, emphasizing that however vast the Resistance Front is now, it will be several times bigger than this tomorrow.

In the continuation of his speech, the Leader enumerated the denial of nations' abilities and humiliating them as longstanding policies of the domineering powers. He added, "According to the verses in the Quran, Pharaoh belittled and

humiliated his people to ensure their obedience. However, Pharaoh was more noble than the current rulers of America and Europe; for not only do they humiliate their own people, but they also belittle other nations in order to plunder their resources and interests."

Ayatollah Khamenei described domestic agents of imperialism as complementary to the external pressures and psychological warfare of the oppressors.

He added, "Just as they did during the nationalization of the oil industry, these agents, in harmony with their masters, deny the history, identity, and capabilities of the nation to clear the way for the oppressors."

Speaking on Iran's Basij forces, the Leader considered the Basij ideology

to be a barrier breaker, stating that, "The self-belief stemming from the spirit of the Basij, neutralizes the very dangerous soft weapons of the domineering system, which aims to humiliate, render passive, and instill despair in the nation."

Undoubtedly, this spirit and the abilities arising from it will prevail over all the policies of the United States, the West, and the Zionist regime, both within the country and among the members of the Resistance Front."

The Leader emphasized: "A Basij member, with faith in their goal of establishing an Islamic society and civilization and implementing justice, moves forward without fear of death and with a desire for martyrdom. It is due to these qualities that Iranian Basijis are certain that they will ultimately eliminate the Zionist regime one day."

Ayatollah Khamenei concluded his remarks by stating that awareness of the plans that the U.S. has for countries in the region and standing firm against them is one of the factors that strengthen the Basij in the field of politics.

"The ideal scenario for the U.S. to secure its interests in the region involves either the establishment of 'despotism and dictatorship' or 'chaos and anarchism' in countries. Whichever of these two situations that arise in the country, is the enemy's doing, and the Basij must stand against it"

## Iran highlights plight of female Palestinians on Int'l Day to end violence against women



TEHRAN – The spokesperson for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in light of the "International Day for the Prohibition of Violence Against Women", urged the global community to advocate for the vulnerable Palestinian women and girls facing oppression from the occupying Zionist regime.

Esmail Baqaei, in a message shared on X on Monday, highlighted the significance of November 25 as a day designated to address violence against women. He emphasized the grave violence stemming from decades of harsh Israeli occupation and colonial atrocities in occupied Palestine.

The spokesperson underscored, "The scale and severity of violence against women and girls in Gaza are unprecedented and alarming, stating that tens of thousands have been killed or injured over the past year, with all mothers, women, and girls in Gaza subjected to violence."

Additionally, starvation and forced displacement are rampant issues."

A recent report published by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in November 2024, indicates that Israel's military aggression in Gaza has led to the deaths of at least 44,211 Palestinians since October 7, 2023. The report also asserts that women and children represent nearly 70% of those fatalities.

Women are particularly vulnerable to the effects of war. In Gaza, many women and girls are suffering from skin diseases due to inadequate sanitation.

Furthermore, UNRWA spokesperson Louise Wateridge reported that a significant number of women and girls detained by Israeli soldiers have been subjected to rape, with some deaths resulting from the severe torture inflicted during repeated assaults.

## The Tehran Conference: a lingering wound on Iranian sovereignty

From Page 1 ▶ From the collapse of the Afsharid dynasty in 1796 until the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran frequently faced periods of external vulnerability and diminished autonomy in the face of Western aggression.

One of the most glaring instances of Iran's autonomy, sovereignty, and integrity being violated occurred during World War II: the Tehran Conference, an event that continues to anger many Iranians to this day.

### Allied leaders get together in Tehran

Four years into World War II in November 1943, when the German army and its ally Italy (Axis powers) had been defeated on all fronts, leaders of the Allies consisting of American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister of the Soviet Union Joseph Stalin and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Winston Churchill decided to hold a meeting in the Iranian capital of Tehran to coordinate their war strategies and discuss the post-war era.

In Iran, the young Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had replaced his father Reza Shah, who had been sent into exile back in 1941 following the Anglo-Soviet invasion and partial occupation of his country.

### Iran had no idea about the summit

Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin came to Tehran without previously informing Iran about their plan, disregarding the country's sovereignty and its young ruler Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi. The Iranian government had been informed only a few days in advance without saying to Shah's Prime Minister Ali Soheili about the level of the visiting politicians.

It had been informed to the Iranian side that the U.S. and the U.K. officials were scheduled to go to Tehran by train from the south of the country which was under British occupation, but finally, they arrived for the three-day summit by plane on November 28 with their own troops in charge of their security.

It was claimed that the Tehran Conference (codenamed Eureka) had to remain secret because the Germans had vowed to assassinate the leaders of the three powers through their spies, a claim that later proved to be only speculation.

Those three leaders did not even bother to go to the Shah's palace in the north of Tehran from the Soviet Embassy in downtown the capital. Mohammad Reza had to go to the Embassy in person to be accepted into meetings with them.

Only the Soviet leader agreed to meet the Shah at his palace on his own terms. He had ordered

his guards to be in charge of the security during the visit to the Sa'dabad palace. Stalin was reported to have pressured the Shah to accept to keep in place or increase the influence of Soviet-affiliated political groups inside Iran.

It was Stalin who had offered Tehran, in the first place, to host his meeting with the two other leaders of the major powers due to Iran's geographical proximity to his country.

In his meetings with the leaders of those countries, the Shah demanded the residence of his father, who had been sent into exile, be moved to somewhere else from Mauritius. The three leaders accepted his request and later Reza Shah was transferred to Johannesburg in South Africa where he died.

### Tehran Summit's outcome

The Tehran Conference was not the only meeting of Allied leaders on the World War as they also held meetings in Cairo, Casablanca, and Yalta.

During the strategy Tehran Summit, the three leaders coordinated their military strategy against Germany and Japan and made a number of important decisions concern-

ing the post-World War II era. The most notable achievements of the Conference focused on the next phases of the war against the Axis powers in Europe and Asia.

The chief agreement reached at the Tehran Conference was on the opening of a "second front" in western Europe at the Soviet leader's request. With opening a new front, the Nazi Germany would have to pull military assets away from the Eastern Front with the Soviets.

### Shah tries to turn the summit into an event in his own favor

It was only four days later, when all the Allied leaders had left Tehran, that the conference hit Iranian newspapers headlines. Much to the Iranian people's dismay, Shah tried to display the event to consolidate his power inside.

On Iran, which Allied forces were partly occupying, they agreed on a declaration dated December 1, offering guarantees for the postwar independence and territorial integrity of the country and promising postwar economic assistance. However, soon after the war ended, both the U.K. and the Soviet Union leaders reneged on their promise to respect Iran's territorial integrity.

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

## Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin came to Tehran without previously informing Iran about their plan, disregarding the country's sovereignty and its young ruler Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi.

## Nemati aims high as Iran's Para archery head coach

TEHRAN – Iran's Para archery team has a new leader; Zahra Nemati, a legendary figure in the sport, has taken the helm as head coach. With her extensive experience and passion for the sport, Nemati is poised to inspire the next generation of Para archers.

In an interview with Tehran Times, Nemati shared her thoughts on the future of the national team.

**Tehran Times: Congratulations on your appointment as the head coach of the Iranian national Para archery team. It's truly inspiring to see you take on this new role. Could you tell us what motivated you to transition from being a world class athlete to a coach?**

Zahra Nemati: Thank you. I'm excited about this new chapter in my career. I've always felt a deep connection to the sport and wanted to give back. The opportunity to mentor and guide the next generation of Para archers was too good to pass up. I believe my experiences as an athlete can be invaluable to them.

**Coaching a team that has achieved so much under Milad Vaziri must be both exciting and challenging. What are some of the challenges you anticipate in this new role?**

It's true that the team has a rich history of success. While that's a great foundation, it also comes with its own set of expectations. Maintaining that level of excellence and inspiring the team to reach even greater heights will be demanding. However, I'm confident that with the right support and the athletes' dedication, we can achieve amazing things.

**Speaking of expectations, what are your specific goals for the team, especially considering the upcoming Para Asian Games and Paralympics?**

Our primary focus is on the 2026 Para Asian Games in Nagoya and the 2028 Paralympics in Los Angeles. I want to see our athletes not only compete but also shine on the global stage. We'll be working hard to improve their technical skills, mental strength, and overall performance.

**You've mentioned that the athletes' request for you to coach them was a motivating factor. Could you elaborate on that?**

Yes, it meant a lot to me that the athletes wanted me to be their coach and Iran Sports Federation for the Disabled trusted me. Their enthusiasm and support have been incredibly inspiring.

**Your achievements as an athlete have earned you international recognition. How does it feel to be recognized as one of the most influential athletes in the world by Andrew Parsons, the president of the International Paralympic Committee?**

It was a truly humbling experience to be recognized by Andrew Parsons. It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team. I hope to continue making a positive impact on the sport and inspire others to achieve their dreams.

## Iran U23 wheelchair basketball coach Soltani happy with bronze medal

TEHRAN – Iran head coach Behrouz Soltani is satisfied with the third-place position of the 2024 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) U23 Asia Oceania Championship.

Iran came third in the event took place in Bangkok, Thailand from Nov. 17 to 22.

Iran lost to Australia 71-48 and Japan 65-58 and defeated the Philippines 80-28, Saudi Arabia 76-24, Thailand 60-25 and India 71-20 and the Philippines 66-19.

The team also advanced to the 2025 IWBF Men's U23 World Championship along with champions Australia and runners-up Japan.

"We are satisfied with the position we earned in the competition because all players experienced their first ever international competition. Average age of our team was 17

years and it means our players have a bright future ahead of them," Soltani said in an interview with Tehran Times.

"We could have defeated Japan but our players lost focus and suffered defeat in the last minutes of the match. I hope they learned from the experience for the upcoming matches," he added.

"I think the competition was a good opportunity for our players and they succeeded to climb onto the podium in their first ever event. Undoubtedly, we will have a golden generation in the future.

"From now on, we have to prepare for the 2025 IWBF Men's U23 World Championship, which will be held in Rio, Brazil. We must continue our progress," Soltani concluded.

## Iran kumite runners-up at 2024 Karate World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran male kumite team lost to Egypt 3-0 in the 2024 Karate World Cup final Sunday night.

Iran had defeated Japan 3-0 win, positioning themselves to reclaim the title they last won in 2018.

Egypt also demonstrated their strength by defeating 2021 World champions Italy 3-1, securing a second consecutive final appearance and then made history by winning first-ever world title.

The African champions improved on their silver from Budapest, marking a significant milestone in the category.

Japan added another bronze to their collection with a 3-1 victory over Italy, ensuring a podium finish in all four categories.

The competition was held in Pamplona, Spain.

## Vahid Shamsaei remains in charge of Iran futsal team

TEHRAN – Iran's national futsal team, who were facing a potential coaching change after a disappointing performance at the 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Uzbekistan, will remain in charge of Team Melli.

The team, led by Vahid Shamsaei, suffered a shock 4-3 defeat to Morocco in the Round of 16, marking a premature exit from the tournament.

Following the unexpected elimination, the Iranian Football Federation's technical committee and futsal committee held several meetings to evaluate the team's performance and discuss future plans, including preparations for the 2028 Futsal World Cup.

Media reports suggest that the federation is going to part way with Shamsaei but the coach will continue as head coach.

Shamsaei took over as head coach in February 2021, succeeding Mohammad Nazemolsharieh. Despite leading the team to the final of the 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup in his first major tournament, Iran fell short against Japan, missing out on the continental title.

## AFC Champions League Two: Sepahan to meet Al Wehdat

TEHRAN – Victory for Al Wehdat football team against Sepahan will confirm the Jordanian side's knockout stage spot from 2024-25 AFC Champions League Two Group C with a match to spare.

Al Wehdat, who won 2-1 when the teams met in September, sit three points clear of UAE's Sharjah FC with Iran's Sepahan a further point adrift. UAE's Sharjah will host FC Istiklol, with the Tajikistan club yet to register a point on the board.

Sepahan and Al Wehdat match will be held at the Grand Hamad Stadium in Doha on Tuesday.

Sharjah will also meet Istiklol at the Sharjah Stadium in Sharjah.

## 281 idle industrial units revived in over 3 months



TEHRAN - In line with supporting production and employment, the government has revived 281 stagnant industrial units across the country since the government took office in August, IRNA reported.

In the past few years, the deactivation of production and industrial units due to problems such as lack of liquidity, debt to the banking system, and lack of suitable machinery has become one of the main problems of the country; Therefore, the revival of stagnant and semi-stagnant production and industrial units was placed on the agenda of the government, and in this direction, the national movement for the revival of such units was formed, and Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) paid special attention to solving the problems of

these units and reviving them.

As reported by the ISIPO, 1,811 idle units were revived in the country during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), creating 35,621 jobs.

Also, the production capacity of 3,267 units that were active with under 50 percent of their capacity was increased, and with this measure, 16,330 jobs were created.

As reported, 24 percent of the inactive and semi-active industrial units inside and outside the industrial parks and zones of the country were metal material production units and 21 percent were chemical production units.

Other revived production units were active in the food and beverage, cellulose, textile, electricity and electronics fields.

## Digital Rial to be launched soon: CBI

TEHRAN - The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) intends to launch its digital currency, the Digital Rial, in the near future as part of a larger effort to modernize the country's banking system and improve international financial cooperation.

Mohammad Reza Farzin, the CBI governor, disclosed upcoming plans for the launch of the Digital Rial during the 11th Annual Conference on Modern Banking and Payment Systems, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Speaking at the event, Farzin described the conference as an opportunity to review policies and outline the future trajectory of the banking system.

"As the Governor, this platform allows me to evaluate strategies and set the course ahead. We will incorporate the insights shared here into our policymaking," he said.

Farzin highlighted the strengths and challenges of Iran's banking system, emphasizing its robust digital infrastructure.

"Iran's Shetab payment network, with transactions processed in under two seconds, is among the most efficient in the region," he noted.

He confirmed the imminent operationalization of the Digital Rial, stressing the Central Bank's commitment to advancing modern banking practices.

"Developing innovative banking systems is a central bank's responsibility worldwide, and we are determined to fulfill this duty in Iran," Farzin added.

Addressing international banking interactions, Farzin acknowledged the challenges posed by sanctions but pointed to progress in alternative solutions.

"Sanctions remain a significant hurdle, but we've made notable strides in recent years," he said, citing the implementation of the "ACU-MIR" system.

This platform, designed for Asian financial cooperation, has been positioned as an alternative to SWIFT, enabling transactions with



countries such as India and Pakistan.

Farzin explained that the ACU-MIR system became fully operational on October 2 and has bolstered Iran's ability to manage sanctions effectively.

"We've replaced SWIFT with this platform and strengthened our ties with BRICS, which is shaping global trade with a strategic plan through 2025," he said, adding that the plan focuses on expanding the use of local currencies, creating opportunities for Iran to integrate into the system.

"China and Russia are already advancing in this direction, and we aim to settle transactions using BRICS currencies," Farzin noted. He also mentioned a cross-border settlement platform currently in its early stages, which could further facilitate international financial exchanges.

Regarding regional connectivity, Farzin detailed efforts to link Iran's payment network Shetab with Russia's MIR system.

"Recently, Shetab connected with Russia's MIR, and several banks are now operational on the system," he said.

While the rollout is still in its initial phases, he expressed optimism about its gradual expansion.

Future plans include enabling Russian tourists to use Iran's point-of-sale systems this winter and allowing Iranian tourists to access Russian POS services by early 2025.

## TEDPIX gains 57,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 57,930 points to 2,389,125 on Monday, which is the third day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock ex-

changes, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

# Trade via Sistan-Baluchestan hits 1.9m tons in 8 months

TEHRAN - Nearly 2.0 million tons of goods were traded through the customs terminals and border markets of Sistan-Baluchestan province during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20), according to a senior provincial official.

Ayoub Kord, the head of the Transport and Urban Development Department of Sistan-Baluchestan, announced on Sunday that a total of 1,998,553 tons of goods were traded through the customs terminals and border markets of the province during the first eight months of the current year.

Out of the mentioned figure, 973,920 tons were exported, 251,351 tons were imported, and



773,282 tons were designated for the transit of goods through the province's northern border terminals.

Kord noted that the primary exports included gas, bitu-

men, hydrocarbons, and cement, which were transported through the Milak and Mirjaveh border terminals.

The Mirjaveh border crossing is situated on the Iran-Pakistan

border, while the Milak Border Terminal is located near Helmand city, adjacent to Nimruz province in Afghanistan.

Sistan-Baluchestan has been a key part of Iran's efforts to fight the impacts of foreign sanctions through ramping up non-oil exports.

Increased port activities at Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalandari terminals in Chabahr, which is the only Iranian trade gateway on the oceans, have further boosted export opportunities in Sistan-Baluchestan.

That comes on top of the growing number of border markets in the province which facilitate exports of non-oil products to neighboring countries.

## Over 150m tons of goods loaded, unloaded at Iranian ports

TEHRAN - Based on the latest data released by the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), some 155,429,115 tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at the country's ports in the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20- November 21).

As reported, during the mentioned eight months more than 18.299 million tons of oil products and over 34.835 million tons of non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports, while the loading of oil products in ports was reported to be 52.67 million tons, and the loading of non-oil goods was 49.62 million tons.

Totally, more than 53.134 million tons of oil- and non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports in the said eight months, and over 102.294 million tons of oil- and non-oil products were loaded.

During the mentioned period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2,098,715 TEUs, which was 17 percent more than the 1,795,300 TEUs in the first eight months of the past year.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle.

This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in five years.

Ports and Maritime Organization has put it on the agenda to attract 300 trillion rials (about \$600 million) of investment from the private sector in the country's ports by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

As reported by the PMO portal, the mentioned investment is going to be used to develop the infrastructure and operational capacity of the country's ports.

Earlier this year, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei said over the past few years the organization has managed to attract nearly \$1.7

billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country's ports and maritime sector.

Speaking in a press conference on July 10, Safaei said some 620 trillion rials (about \$1.24 billion) of domestic investment and \$470 million of foreign investment have been attracted in the mentioned sectors.

"The attraction of this amount of private sector investment is significant compared to the total budget of the government in the sea and port sectors," he said.

According to the official, regarding the foreign investment, PMO has signed contracts with five countries including India which has so far invested \$120 million in the port sector and \$250 million in the rail, roads and infrastructure sector.

Referring to the growth of maritime trade in the country, Safaei continued: "Maritime trade increased from 215 million tons in [the Iranian calendar year] 1401 (2022-2023) to 237 million tons last year (ended on March 19, 2024)."

"In the first quarter of the current year, 60 million tons of maritime trade was recorded, which shows a 10 percent growth compared to the same period last year, and even a 70 percent growth was recorded in some ports of the Caspian Sea," he added.

## Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Committee to hold meeting in early Dec.



TEHRAN - Iran's capital Tehran is going to host the next meeting of the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Committee on December 9, an Iranian official with the Foreign Ministry said.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy

Seyyed Rasoul Mohajer made the remarks in an interview with IRIB on Sunday on the sidelines of a Meeting of the Foreign Economic Relations Coordination Council.

Emphasizing that Turkey is a very important trade partner for Iran, he added that trade between Iran and its neighbor exceeds \$12 billion annually.

"Unfortunately, a meeting of the joint commission between Iran and Turkey has not been held in the past three years. So, it was decided at a meeting of the Foreign Economic Relations Coordination Council that this commission meeting would be held in

Tehran on December 10," he said.

"In the next meeting of the Foreign Economic Relations Coordination Council, the issue of Iran's joint commissions with Sudan and Yemen will be discussed," Mohajer said.

The value of non-oil trade between Iran and Turkey stood at \$9.9 billion in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), the former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mohammad Rezvanifar said that Turkey was the second top trade partner of Iran among its

neighbors in the seven-month period.

As previously announced, Iran exported non-oil goods worth \$2.4 billion to Turkey in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 - September 22).

Turkey was the fourth export destination of Iran among its other neighbors during the six-month period.

Iran also imported commodities worth \$5.1 billion from Turkey, which made the country the third source of import for Iran in the first half of the year.

## Iran, Belarus discuss closer cooperation in mining sector

TEHRAN - Deputy Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Mohammad Reza Bahraman has stated that Iran and Belarus have significant potential for collaboration in supplying mining machinery.

Speaking during a meeting with Dimitry Kaltsov, Belarus' ambassador to Iran, on the sidelines of the 18th International Exhibition for Mines, Mining, Construction Machinery and Related Industries and Equipment (Iran CONMINE) in Tehran on Sunday, Bahraman emphasized that despite sanctions, the private sector is actively exploring all possible avenues to meet the country's needs.

Bahraman, also the chairman of Iran's House of Mines, welcomed deeper cooperation with Belarus, noting the nation's role as a key supplier of mining machinery to Iran. He also pointed to ongoing efforts to foster mining collaborations with other nations, including Saudi Arabia and Qatar, despite sanctions-related challenges.

Extending an invitation to Kaltsov to visit Iran's mines, Bahraman said that this visit would provide a firsthand understanding of Iranian mining capabilities. Kaltsov expressed enthusiasm, noting, "During my seven years in Iran, I haven't had such an experience, and I am eager to explore Iran's mining potential."

The Belarusian ambassador invited the Iran Chamber of Commerce and the House of Mines to participate in the upcoming Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Commission meeting scheduled for December 14. Kaltsov underlined Belarus' expertise in mining machinery production and its readiness to expand bilateral cooperation in the mining sector.

Bahraman concluded by stating, "We aim to ensure the presence of mining industry operators at the joint commission meeting. Such participation could significantly enhance private sector collaboration between the two nations."

## New IRICA head appointed

TEHRAN - Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati appointed Forud Asgari as the new head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), IRIB reported.

Asgari replaced Mohammad Rezvani-Far who was in the position since December 2022.

Developing and empowering customs human resources

with the aim of improving the efficiency of the customs system, expanding relations with international organizations and strengthening regional cooperation, and planning new meth-

ods to encourage private sector participation in the development of customs infrastructure has been announced as priorities for the new customs director's programs.



## Tehran museum to showcase Qajar-era underglaze pottery and Chinese imitation ceramics



TEHRAN – The Glassware and Ceramic Museum of Iran is set to host a specialized exhibition and meeting highlighting the Qajar-era art of underglaze pottery and Chinese imitation ceramics crafted by master artisans from Na'in of Iran's Isfahan province.

The event, which also features the unveiling of a historic manuscript titled History of Na'in, will begin on Sunday, December 1, with the exhibition running for one month, ISNA reported.

According to organizers, the opening day includes the specialized meeting, chaired by Zahra Mohammadian-Maghayer, with presentations by experts Navid Salehvand and Alireza Ebrahimi Jafari. The event is scheduled from 4:00 to 7:00 PM and invites art enthusiasts, archaeologists, and Iranian handicrafts aficionados to delve into the enduring legacy of these decorative arts, the report said.

### Artistic highlights

The exhibition showcases unique underglaze pottery and Chinese imitation ceramics, known for their white clay composition. The crafting process involves materials such as silica (flint), bentonite, kaolin, and Gel-e Sarshoor, a specific type of natural clay. It is said that Chinese imitation ceramics emulate the fine porcelain aesthetic but use local techniques and materials.

According to sources, underglaze painting, a significant feature of this art form, involves decorating ceramic or pottery pieces before

glazing. This method ensures durability, as the decorations are sealed under a transparent glaze and fired at high temperatures. While the technique limits the palette due to the high firing temperatures, it produces vivid and long-lasting designs. Notable examples include traditional blue-and-white porcelain and Iznik ceramics.

### Historical and cultural significance

The art of underglaze painting and Chinese imitation ceramics flourished in Na'in during the Qajar era, reflecting a blend of local innovation and influence from global ceramic traditions. The unveiling of the "History of Na'in" manuscript adds historical depth, shedding light on the cultural and artistic developments of the period.

The history of Na'in dates back to nearly 2000 years, which makes it one of the oldest continuously settled towns in the Iranian plateau.

Na'in lies 170 km north of Yazd and 140 km east of Isfahan. Like much of the Iranian plateau, it has a desert climate, with a maximum temperature of 41 °C in summer and a minimum of -9 °C in winter. In ancient times, the city was at the crossroads of a desert road connecting Tabas and Mashhad, and has been an important junction of converging trade routes since Sasanian times. Na'in was known for its pottery and textiles; Today it is best known for its fine hand-knotted carpets and hand-woven camel wool cloaks, which are made in the surrounding villages.

## Ministry of Cultural Heritage hosts exhibit of wooden crafts and ceramics



TEHRAN – The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has inaugurated its first weekly handicrafts exhibition following the conclusion of the National Handicrafts Exhibition.

The event, held in the Ministry's central atrium, showcases various artworks, including intricate wooden jewelry, relief carvings, and painted wooden and ceramic sculptures.

Artists from Tehran province have brought a selection of their works to display and sell at the venue, providing an opportunity for visitors to appreciate and acquire unique pieces, CHTN reported.

The exhibition opened earlier this week and will continue until the weekend at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, located on Tehran's Azadi Street, welcoming enthusiasts and art lovers.

The 37th National Handicrafts Exhibition brought together nationwide artisans, craftspeople, and nomadic artists to the Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds from November 13 to 16.

Earlier this month, the Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian officially issued the National Document for the Development of Handicrafts, as a pivotal step to bolster the country's traditional arts and crafts sector.

The document sets a comprehensive framework for revitalizing and promoting Iranian handicrafts on national and international stages, 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.

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".

# Archaeologists confirm Sassanid temple significance previously discovered in northeast Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have confirmed that a previously discovered site in Bazeh Hur, located approximately 70 km from Mashhad in Iran's Khorasan Razavi province, is one of the largest and most significant Sassanid fire temples in northeastern Iran.

The ruined structure is believed to correspond to the historical and religious accounts of the "Azar Barzin Mehr" fire temple, ISNA reported on Monday.

The discovery, was first made in 2022 by a team led by Iranian archaeologist Meysam Labbaf-Khaniki, who is an associate professor of archaeology at the University of Tehran. He oversaw the excavations that spanned seven archaeological seasons.

The Barzin Hur archaeological site covers 20 hectares and features a settlement, cemetery, and two religious architectural complexes. The site is particularly famous for a stone four-arched structure that dates back to the Sassanid era and was registered as a national heritage site in 1931.

Recent excavations have revealed that the fire temple re-



mained active into the early Islamic period before being destroyed by a catastrophic earthquake. In the latest phase of excavations, archaeologists uncovered vibrant wall paintings, intricate stucco carvings, and other decorative elements that shed light on pre-Islamic art and religious architecture in eastern Iran.

Labbaf-Khaniki emphasized the historical importance of the site, describing the fire temple as a critical element in understanding the social, political, and

cultural history of the Sassanid period. He also highlighted the discovery of Parthian to early Islamic pottery, which provides further insights into the continuity of cultural practices in the region.

Given the site's significance, Labbaf-Khaniki called for urgent preservation efforts to protect this invaluable historical heritage. The findings are expected to not only enhance understanding of Zoroastrian traditions but also enrich the broader narrative of Iran's architectural and cultur-

al history.

According to sources, Bazeh Hur had been studied by architect/archaeologist Ernst Herzfeld (1879–1948) and art historian/archaeologist Andre Godard (1881–1965) who wrote articles about the monument.

The Sassanid era (224 CE–651) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

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

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran — titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"— to its World Heritage list.

## Restoration of UNESCO-listed Ganjali Khan caravanserai in Kerman begins

TEHRAN – The restoration and revitalization of the historic Ganjali Khan caravanserai in Kerman, southern Iran, have officially commenced, marking a significant effort to preserve the UNESCO-listed site.

The caravanserai, registered in 2023 as part of the "Persian Caravanserai" serial property, is one of 54 Iranian caravanserais recognized for their historical, cultural, and architectural importance.

Funded through national allocations, the restoration project focuses on structural reinforcement, plastering, repair of intricate decorative paintings, brick flooring, and the restoration of damaged brick staircases.

As mentioned by the local tourism department, the efforts are aimed at helping preserve the unique artistic and architectural features of the caravanserai, which include exquisite tilework, ornate stucco, and vibrant mural paintings.

The Ganjali Khan caravanserai, a two-story four-iwan structure, was constructed in



the Safavid dynastic era as part of the larger Ganjali Khan complex. This 17th-century ensemble also includes a madrasa, mosque, hammam (public bathhouse), water reservoir, and a labyrinthine bazaar, all centered on a large public square in Kerman, southern Iran. The caravanserai now serves as a permanent handicrafts market, showcasing the rich artisanal heritage of the region.

Renowned for its striking interior and exterior tiling, intricate muqarnas, and elaborate decorative elements, the Ganjali Khan car-

avanserai exemplifies the ingenuity of Persian architecture. Its historical significance is further underscored by calligraphy inscriptions created by Alireza Abbasi, a celebrated Safavid-era calligrapher.

The inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage list highlights the broader significance of Iranian caravanserais, which served as essential hubs for travelers, merchants, and pilgrims traversing ancient trade and pilgrimage routes. These roadside inns provided food, water, and shelter while fostering cultural exchanges between people of diverse ethnicities, languages, and religions.

The "Persian Caravanserai" serial property spans multiple periods of Iranian history, from the Achaemenid era (559–330 BC) to the Qajar period (1794–1925), reflecting the enduring importance of caravanserais in facilitating travel and trade. This rich heritage offers insight into pre-industrial travel traditions and underscores the caravanserais' role in the exchange of ideas and human values over centuries.

## Uncovering secrets of ancient metallurgy in Masouleh region

TEHRAN – Experts believe that the Masouleh landscape in northern Iran is home to numerous metalworking sites, which reflect the region's rich metal and iron resources and the extensive historical knowledge of its people. "The region transitioned from single-stage iron smelting furnaces to more complex four-stage furnace systems, demonstrating an evolution in smelting techniques over time."

Iranian archaeologist Vali Jahani, who presides over Gilan province's cultural heritage department, has commented: "Iranian archaeologists, in collaboration with archaeometallurgists from the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, are conducting new research into previously discovered ancient metallurgical sites within Masouleh's core and buffer zones. These discoveries pertain to industrial activities related to the smelting of sponge iron and metalworking during the historic and the Islamic period."

According to Jahani, archaeological evidence shows that the Masouleh region was an important industrial town for the production of sponge iron and iron

tools, and the commercial and industrial city of Masouleh was formed in this region, influenced by these industrial activities from the Ilkhanate period.

Jahani added that in a recent field research, the National Museum of Iran, alongside the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, has made significant advances in the study of ancient metalworking within the Masouleh cultural landscape.

Fereidoun Biglari, Cultural Deputy of the National Museum of Iran and head of archaeological surveys in the Masouleh core and buffer zones explained that the region's landscape reveals two interconnected systems: one focused on transhumant pastoralism and the other on iron ore extraction and smelting. These systems likely combined to form a dynamic economy well-adapted to the area's rich pastures and abundant iron ore resources. Evidence from the region's highlands shows that seasonal pastoralism dates back at least 7,000 years.

Biglari further emphasized that archaeological findings point to significant pastoral activity during the Bronze and Iron

Ages, and this economic system continued to shape the region well into later periods. Over time, particularly during the historical and Islamic periods—especially the Ilkhanid era—iron ore exploitation and metal smelting became widespread. And the city of Masouleh has been shaped and developed by these industrial activities.

Ali Akbar Vahdati, another archaeologist involved in the project, highlighted the impact of metalworking on Masouleh's development:

"The substantial iron ore deposits surrounding Masouleh and numerous archaeological sites in the region, archaeological evidence of discovered kilns along with evidence of iron-working such as spongy iron slag, indicate widespread technological activity tied to iron ore extraction, sponge iron production, and iron artifact manufacturing. This activity was integral to the medieval Islamic economy in Masouleh and surrounding areas." He also noted that historical sources confirm that iron smelting, metalworking, and the production of iron products in the Masouleh have long been central

to the economy of region.

In the cultural landscape of Masouleh, a significant number of archaeological sites related to iron smelting and the development of this industry, especially the development of sponge iron smelting, can be observed and this is not limited to one site.

Abolfazl Ali, an archaeologist specializing in ancient metallurgy, further explored the technological advancements in iron production: "The Masouleh landscape is home to numerous metalworking sites, which reflect the region's rich metal and iron resources and the extensive historical knowledge of its people. The region transitioned from single-stage iron smelting furnaces to more complex four-stage furnace systems, demonstrating an evolution in smelting techniques over time."

He says: The growth of commercial and industrial activities in Masouleh should be examined due to its special geographical location and proximity to important historic cities such as Tabriz during the Safavid period and Soltaniyeh during the Ilkhanid period, and its connection axis with the Caucasus.

# Tehran, Havana to foster ties on women's rights, empowerment

TEHRAN –Zahra Behrouz-Azar, the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, and Teresa Amarelle Boue, the secretary general of the Cuban Women's Federation, have explored avenues to boost cooperation on women's rights and empower women against sanctions.

In an online meeting held on Sunday, Amarelle Boue lauded Iran's solidarity with Cuba and called for further expanding relations, particularly on empowering women.

Highlighting the Cuban nation's resistance, Amarelle Boue said Cuba will fight for the advancement of women in all fields despite all the economic problems caused by the sanctions. The official also noted that a national program for women has been placed on the agenda of the Cuban government.

Behrouz-Azar, for her part, said that "unilateral sanctions imposed against Iran and Cuba have had negative effects on different fields, particularly the human rights of women and children. However, the two nations have been able to make considerable changes by standing up to these sanctions."

The Iranian and Cuban officials agreed to exchange experiences related to their development programs and implementation of laws on wom-



en and family, dolat.ir reported.

The two sides also expressed optimism that signing a memorandum of understanding would provide new opportunities to expand ties between the two countries.

Behrouz-Azar also extended an invitation to the Cuban official to pay a visit to Iran to become familiar with the country's achievements in improving the status of women and empowering them.

## Iran aims to empower women

According to Behrouz-Azar, the current administration focuses on empowering women in social and economic areas, as well as improving their access to social services and facilities through implementing certain national programs.

"Iran has always focused on programs that empower women, particularly those who are heads of household, economically and socially. Actions taken by the country have always aimed to promote women's status by observing the principles of the constitution and Islamic teachings," Mehr news agency quoted Behrouz-Azar as saying.

She made the remarks while addressing the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand from November 19 to 21.

Referring to Iran's remarkable achievements in education, health, science, technology, and entrepreneurship, she underscored the prominent role of Iranian women in these fields.

The official further said the seventh National Development Plan has stressed the need to

overcome barriers to women's professional development. Accordingly, the current administration has put supporting women's entrepreneurship and home business growth on the agenda despite unfair sanctions.

On the second day of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference, Fakhr al-Sadat Fatemi, an advisor to the deputy vice president for women and family affairs, said Iran has always underscored the economic, cultural, social, and political empowerment of women as a key element in policy-making, legislation, and national planning.

She made the remarks while addressing a roundtable focusing on 'Advancing women's economic empowerment through employment, decent work, social protection, and entrepreneurship'.

To advance women's empowerment in different fields, Fatemi proposed three ways including training, empowering, acquiring skills, and developing opportunities for women's participation, as well as providing legal and executive support, Mehr news agency reported.

She went on to point out the programs that have been approved and implemented recently in the country include providing insurance for housewives and supporting female heads of households.

## Tehran hosts intl. symposium on traditional, complementary medicine

TEHRAN –The international symposium on the policy, legacy, and regulatory landscape of traditional and complementary medicine was held from November 21 to 23 in Tehran.

The symposium was held in person and online. By holding five specialized panels, the event served as a platform where experts from different Asian, European, American, and African countries discussed their views on traditional medicine.

Training and higher education in traditional and complementary medicine; integration of traditional and complementary medicine in the health care system; and laws and regulations in standardization and provision of traditional and natural products were among the main topics of the event.

The event provided a platform to boost communications, discuss, and share global experiences on traditional medicine laying the ground for integrating traditional and complementary medicine into the healthcare system, the health ministry website reported.

"It is essential to establish and implement policies, regulations, and legislations to be able to integrate traditional and complementary into the healthcare system," the health ministry's website quoted Arman Zargar, an advisor to the traditional medicine office at the Ministry of Health, as saying.

The symposium can help figure out the best strategies to address challenges in integrating



traditional medicine into the healthcare system, as well as ways to expand it, he further noted.

## Health maintenance, disease prevention

Iranian traditional medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

It is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Sauda). The concept of the four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

So far, about 30,000 plant species have been identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species which is more than the whole of species found in Europe.

## Persian medicine experts

Around 500 Persian medicine experts are providing health and medical treatment services across the country.

More than 1,000 general practitioners who have passed the Persian medicine courses approved by the health ministry are also offering services, Mehr news agency quoted Nafiseh Hosseini-Yekta, the director of the health ministry's Persian medicine office, as saying.

Currently, nine faculties of Persian medicine enroll students in the country's universities, she added.

Training Persian medicine experts has always been at the top of the Persian medicine office's agenda. Therefore, different skill courses have been developed and held under the supervision of the health ministry.

On January 7, Hosseini-Yekta said surveys show that more than 80 percent of people in the country intend to benefit from Iranian traditional medicine, ILNA reported.

Traditional medicine has its roots in the culture, customs, and traditions of Iranians and has always been of interest to them, the official highlighted.

With over five hundred graduates in the field and numerous research articles that have been published, the country has been able to improve its position by being ranked fourth in the production of science in the field of traditional medicine in the world, following China, India, and the United States.

## Earthquake and safety drill to be held in schools

TEHRAN –The 26th national earthquake and safety drill will be held on Wednesday in schools to raise students' preparedness and ensure their safety during earthquakes.

With a focus on students with special needs, the program also aims to teach students how to take proper actions in response to earthquakes in order to reduce casualties and damages in the aftermath of earthquakes, IRNA reported.

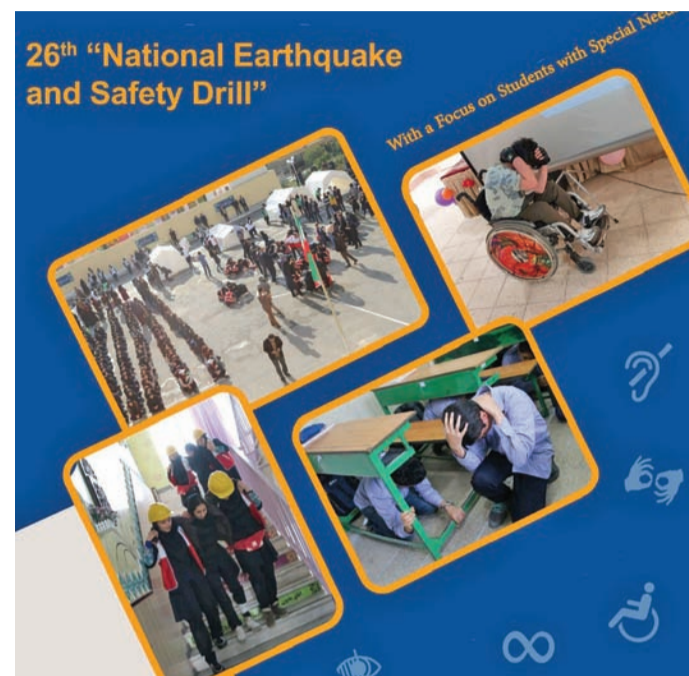
The International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology started organizing the drill nationwide 25 years ago. Since the Iranian year 1395 (2016–2017), the institute in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, and the Iranian Red Crescent Society has conducted the drill across the country.

The current approach known as 'safe school, resilient society' provides the necessary training to the students, teachers, as well as residents of adjacent neighborhoods. It utilizes the capacity of the schools as a base for emergency preparedness and crisis management in the neighborhood.

This year the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will also cooperate to conduct the earthquake drill in schools.

Iran is highly susceptible to seismic events, with earthquakes occurring frequently and resulting in severe humanitarian crises.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and



is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran but more than six percent of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes.

A total of 6,949 earthquakes were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2023 –March 2024) according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Most of the earthquakes happened respectively in the north-eastern Khorasan Razavi, south-eastern Kerman, north-western West Azarbaijan, and eastern South Khorasan provinces, ISNA reported.

Statistically, 2,268 earthquakes were less than 2 on the Richter scale; 3,685 were between 2 and 3; 796 were between 3 and 4; 181 were between 4 and 5; 22 were between 5 and 6; and 5 were between 6 and 7.

## Iranian delegate to attend Digital Tajikistan intl. Plus Forum

TEHRAN – A delegation of knowledge-based firms will participate in the first conference of innovation and digital technologies of Tajikistan, known as Digital Tajikistan intl. Plus Forum, which is scheduled to be held on November 25 in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan.

The event will serve as a platform for the knowledge-based companies to present their capabilities and achievements in the international arena, ISNA reported.

The event will host competitive participants from many countries to enter Tajikistan's economic and management infrastructure in the field of digital economy.

It will be an opportunity for the knowledge-based companies of the country to showcase their latest achievements in the field of information technology and an opportunity to become familiar with corresponding public and private companies.

Holding meetings with leading experts in the financial technology (fintech) industry, gaining access to the most advanced knowledge and technologies as well as providing an opportunity to learn the latest trends, create strong business relationships, and discover the latest technological developments in the fintech industry and innovations that are changing are among the main features of this technological event.

Delegates representing top management and experts from fintech companies and startups, Information Technology (IT) parks, the world's leading experts of the banking and payment industry, managers of retail networks, e-commerce, wholesale companies, shopping malls, research agencies, and consulting companies are going to attend the events.

## Impressed by Iranian knowledge-based products

In May, a delegation of businessmen and producers from Tajikistan paid a visit to Iran's

House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT), expressing that they were highly impressed by Iranian knowledge-based products.

The delegation attended the Iran Expo 2024 exhibition, which kicked off in Tehran, IRNA reported.

The products are of high quality and are compatible with Tajikistan's agricultural conditions.

More than 70 percent of the working population of Tajikistan works in the agricultural sector, but the worn-out tools and lack of modern planting and harvesting equipment have greatly hindered agricultural production in the country.

Tajikistan is a very promising market for Iranian agricultural tools and machinery.

The delegation looks to expand cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan to get more familiar with Iran's achievements and introduce Iran-made products and industrial capabilities.

## Boosting links in knowledge-based sector

On January 9, the former Vice President for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy, Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi, said a range of good opportunities are available for fostering science and technology-based cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan, particularly founding joint consortia for knowledge-based products and services.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Rustam Emomali, the chairman of the Tajikistan National Assembly and mayor of Dushanbe.

The scientific and research centers of the two countries provide the grounds for the development of collaboration, IRNA quoted Dehqani-Firouzabadi as saying.

"We are ready to expand the cooperation in the form of a comprehensive program, relying on young, educated, and expert human resources," he added.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## 56% of motorcycles running in only 5 provinces

Some 56 percent of the total motorcycles in the country are running in only five provinces, Ali Mohammadi, a senior traffic police official has said.

Of all 32.9 million vehicles in the country, motorcycles amount to 11.6 million, accounting for 35 percent of the total vehicles moving in the country, he stated.

According to the statistics, 56 percent of motorcycles are plying the roads in 5 provinces of Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, Fars and Khuzestan, he added.

There are 2 million motorcycles in Tehran, 1.3 million in Khorasan Razavi, 1.2 million in Isfahan, 916,000 in Fars, and 564,000 in Khuzestan, he also said.

## ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها در ۵ استان تردد دارند

رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: بنابر آمارها، ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها تنها در ۵ استان تردد می کنند. سرهنگ علی محمدی روز یکشنبه افزود: از ۳۲ میلیون و ۹۰۰ هزار دستگاه انواع وسایل نقلیه در کشور، ۱۱ میلیون و ۶۵۰ هزار دستگاه یعنی معادل ۳۵ درصد را موتورسیکلت ها شامل می شوند.

وی اظهار داشت: برابر آمارها تهران بزرگ، خراسان رضوی، اصفهان، فارس و خوزستان ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت های کشور را در خود جای داده اند.

رئیس مرکز شماره گذاری و تعویض پلاک پلیس راهور ناجا گفت: تهران بزرگ با حدود ۲ میلیون دستگاه موتورسیکلت، خراسان رضوی ۱.۳ میلیون دستگاه، اصفهان ۱.۲ میلیون دستگاه، فارس ۹۱۶ هزار دستگاه و خوزستان با ۵۶۴ هزار دستگاه موتورسیکلت بیشترین موتورسیکلت های کشور را به خود اختصاص دادند.



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Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

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

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*There are two kinds of people who are greedy and never satisfied:  
seekers of learning and lovers of the world.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:11:52 Evening: 17:12 Dawn: 5:24 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:52 (tomorrow)

## H. G. Wells' "The Island of Doctor Moreau" available in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian Translation of the 1896 science fiction novel "The Island of Doctor Moreau" by English author H. G. Wells has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Mahmoud Goudarzi has translated the book that has been published by Ofoq Publication in its series of "Ofoq Classics", Mehr reported.

The novel is set between 21 January 1887 to 5 January 1888. The text of the novel is the narration of Edward Prendick, a shipwrecked man rescued by a passing boat. He is left on the island home of Doctor Moreau, a mad scientist who creates human-like hybrid beings from animals via vivisection.

The novel deals with a number of themes, including pain and cruelty, moral responsibility, human identity, human interference with nature, and the effects of trauma. Wells described it as "an exercise in youthful blasphemy."

"The Island of Doctor Moreau" is a classic work of early science fiction and remains one of Wells' best-known books. The novel is the earliest depiction of the science fiction motif "uplift" in which a more advanced race intervenes in the evolution of an animal species to bring the latter to a higher level of intelligence. It has been adapted to film and other media on many occasions.

In the short essay "The Limits of Individual Plasticity" (1895), H.G. Wells expounded upon his firm belief that the events depicted in "The Island of Doctor Moreau" are entirely possible should such vivisection experiments ever be tested outside the confines of science fiction. Until recently, modern medicine has shown that non-human animals lack the necessary brain structure to emulate human faculties like speech. In addition, immune responses to foreign tissues make transplantation within one species very complicated, let alone between species. However, a team of researchers at Stanford University have successfully transplanted a cluster of living human brain



cells from a dish in the lab to the brain of a newborn rat to study neurological conditions such as autism, ADHD, and schizophrenia.

Herbert George Wells (1866-1946) was an English writer, prolific in many genres. He wrote more than 50 novels and dozens of short stories. His non-fiction output included works of social commentary, politics, history, popular science, satire, biography, and autobiography. Wells' science fiction novels are so well regarded that he has been called the "father of science fiction".

In addition to his fame as a writer, he was prominent in his lifetime as a forward-looking, even prophetic social critic who devoted his literary talents to the development of a progressive vision on a global scale. As a futurist, he wrote a number of utopian works and foresaw the advent of aircraft, tanks, space travel, nuclear weapons, satellite television and something resembling the World Wide Web. His science fiction imagined time travel, alien invasion, invisibility and biological engineering before these subjects were common in the genre.

His most notable science fiction works include "The Time Machine" (1895), which was his first novella, "The Island of Doctor Moreau" (1896), "The Invisible Man" (1897), "The War of the Worlds" (1898), the military science fiction "The War in the Air" (1907), and the dystopian "When the Sleeper Wakes" (1910).

## Cartoon of Day

### GAZA'S DOCTORS



Gaza's Doctors  
Cartoonist: Emad Hajjaj from Jordan

# Serbian translation of "Farangis" published in Serbia

TEHRAN- A Serbian translation of the memoirs of Iranian war heroine Farangis Heidarpour has recently been published in Serbia.

Translated by Nermin Hodzic and edited by Milica Antić, the book has been published by Agnosta Publications in collaboration with the Iranian Cultural Attaché in Sarajevo, Serbia, ISNA reported on Monday.

Written by Mahnaz Fattahi, "Farangis" is considered one of the significant works in the domain of resistance literature. The book chronicles the life of Farangis Heidarpour, an Iranian Kurdish heroine who confronted Iraqi soldiers after their village Evazin near the border between Iran and Iraq was invaded during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, and, despite facing immense hardships throughout eight years of conflict, never wavered in her resistance.

The Serbian publisher has introduced the book by stating: "This story is notable as it does not portray a woman merely as a victim, but instead as a fighter, the key to freedom and defense of the homeland. With her extraordinary strength, she withstands all limitations, dangers, fear, and the death brought about by war. It teaches us that an individual, if they believe strongly enough, can change the world."

In 2018, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei penned a commendation for the book.

"A significant and untold portion of the war stories can be observed



in the memoirs of this brave and devoted lady," Ayatollah Khamenei wrote.

"Brave lady Farangis has conversed with us with her strong spirit, the honest and kindly language of a villager, and the genuinely pleasant feelings of a woman. She has also shown us an unknown and important area of the imposed war geography in detail."

The Leader also praised Fattahi for her creative writing.

In an interview with the Tehran Times in 2022, Fattahi emphasized the importance of documenting women's wartime memories, asserting that while historical narratives have often focused on male

soldiers, women played a significant yet underrecognized role.

She pointed out that after the war, there was a consensus that it was essential to record these memories, but initially, men's experiences dominated the narrative. Women, who supported and contributed to the war effort in various ways, including serving as relief workers and even taking up arms like Farangis, remained largely unacknowledged in literary accounts.

Fattahi noted that while men's recollections tended toward dry, impersonal literature, women's stories brought a more nuanced and soulful perspective to the narrative of war. Addressing the audience for her book, she mentioned

that although it might be perceived as primarily targeting women, many men have engaged with the themes, indicating its broader appeal.

The process of capturing Farangis Heidarpour's memoirs inspired Fattahi, despite facing numerous obstacles in securing interviews and gathering documentation. Ultimately, her work strives to highlight the significant yet overlooked contributions of women during wartime.

"Farangis" was published in 2015 by Sureh-Mehr, a major publishing company affiliated with the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

## Iranian "Black Scarf" to be shown at Jordan's Karama Human Rights Film Festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian short film "Black Scarf" directed by Alireza Shah Hosseini will take part in the 15th Karama Human Rights Film Festival, slated to be held from December 5 to 15 in Jordan.

A production of 2024, the 15-minute film depicts the last work day of a teacher at a small deserted village, when his students ask for something which changes everything.

Alireza Shah Hosseini is a filmmaker, scriptwriter and CEO of the Shah Hossein Film Company. He has been making films for about 10 years. Although he has a master's degree in cinema, he started filmmaking experimentally

from his early youth. He was a student of double Academy winner Asghar Farhadi in filmmaking and scriptwriting masterclasses. He has made more than 15 films in various categories, including feature and short films.

Karama HRFF is the first human rights film festival in the Arab region and the first international film festival in Jordan. The theme of this year's edition of the festival is "justice".

According to the festival website, "we view films as powerful tools of resistance and as unwavering testimonies of resilience in the quest for justice, particularly for the Palestinian people. Under the bold banner 'Justice

for the Peoples of the Global South,' we are dedicated to interrogating centuries of colonial, racial, and environmental injustice".

"We call upon filmmakers to present films that champion justice for all: justice for the Global South, social justice, and environmental awareness. Amidst the challenges of our new era, where monopolies are further fortified with the powers of technology and AI, we re-assert that justice is the bedrock of human dignity, social equality, and land rights. Together, let us ignite a cinematic movement that strives for human dignity. We stand as witnesses and agents of change".

## Tehran's Homa Hall hosting "Waiting for Godot"

TEHRAN- An adaptation of Irish novelist and theater director Samuel Beckett's 1953 play "Waiting for Godot" is currently on stage at Tehran's Homa Hall.

Amir Hossein Javani is the director of the play, which will remain on stage until December 3.

Amir Mohammad Rafikhah, Saeid Ahmadi, Mohammad Hossein Qasemi and Mojtaba Bayat are the main members of the cast for the play.

"Waiting for Godot" was originally published in 1952 in French as "En attendant Godot". It was a true innovation in drama and the Theatre of the Absurd's first theatrical success.

"Waiting for Godot" consists of conversations between Vladimir and Estragon, who are waiting for the arrival of the mysterious Godot, who continually sends word that he will appear but who never does.

They encounter Lucky and Pozzo, they discuss their miseries and their lots in life, they consider hanging themselves, and yet they wait.

Often perceived as being tramps, Vladimir and Estragon are a pair of human beings who do not know why they were put on earth; they make the tenuous assumption that there must be some point to their existence, and they look to Godot for enlightenment. Because they hold out hope for meaning and direction, they acquire a kind of nobility that enables them to rise above their futile existence.

"Waiting for Godot" has become one of the most well-known and celebrated plays of the 20th century, earning critical acclaim for its unique approach to existential themes and its innovative use of language.

The play was first performed in

Paris in 1953 and was an instant success, winning the prestigious Prix de la Critique award for best play. The play's success quickly spread, with performances taking place all over Europe and eventually reaching the United States in 1956.

Over the years, "Waiting for Godot" has been performed in countless theatres around the world, with each new production offering its own interpretation of the play's complex themes and symbolism. The play's minimalist set, sparse dialogue, and absurdist humor have proven to be a challenging yet rewarding experience for actors, directors, and audiences alike.

"Waiting for Godot" has also been adapted into various forms of media, including a 2001 opera by composer Phillip Glass and a 2005 film adaptation directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg.

## IAF cinematheque to show "National Theatre Live: Good"

TEHRAN-The cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen the recorded stage performance of "National Theatre Live: Good" (2023) directed by Dominic Cooke on Wednesday.

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

"Good" written by C. P. Taylor is an undeniably important play. A story that needs to be told and never forgotten. The subject is dark and shocking.

As the world faces its Second World War, John Halder, a good, intelligent German professor, finds

himself pulled into a movement with unthinkable consequences.

The play demonstrates just how easily that can happen. And how easily someone can convince themselves that they are doing no wrong.

CP Taylor's script is magnificently performed by an exceptional cast. David Tennant plays John Halder who becomes embroiled with, and eventually a core part of, the Nazi party. Tennant is terrific! It's a treat to watch him perform on stage. Halder is not a likeable character; he's selfish as well as delusional. He's happy to burn books as long as he can keep his own copies, for example.

The women around Halder - his mother, wife

and lover - are all played exquisitely by Sharon Small. The wife and lover are thinly written and don't seem to have any motivation other than for Halder's affections. His mother is more developed; she's blind and living with dementia. Halder's experience of caring for her leads him to write a book on euthanasia that first brings him to the Nazi's attentions.

Cecil Philip Taylor (1929-1981) usually credited as C.P. Taylor, was a Scottish playwright. He wrote almost 80 plays during his 16 years as a professional playwright, including several for radio and television. He also made a number of documentary programs.