

'Iran Will Not Hinder IAEA Inspections'

رومایی از مولد تمام بومی فرکانس رادیویی توان بالا

Nuclear chief affirms commitment to transparent nuclear advancements



The head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, unveils a domestically-made high-power radio frequency generator at a Tehran ceremony on December 14, 2024.

EXCLUSIVE

Turkey did not adhere to Doha agreement on Syria crisis

TEHRAN – The Turkish Foreign Minister has claimed that Turkey successfully persuaded Iran and Russia not to intervene militarily during the Syrian rebels' offensive which led to the downfall of President Bashar al-Assad's government in the early hours of December 8.

However, information obtained by the Tehran Times suggests that this assertion contradicts the terms agreed upon in Doha on December 7 between the foreign ministers of Turkey, Iran, and Russia.

In a recent interview with Turkey's NTV, Hakan Fidan stated: "The most important thing we had to do was to talk to the Russians and Iranians to ensure they would not enter the (Syria) equation with military force. We spoke with the Russians and Iranians, and they understood the issue."

New information obtained by the Tehran Times shows the December 7th summit held under the Astana platform in Doha saw Turkey agree to a framework enabling direct negotiations between the Syrian President and rebel forces, with Assad remaining in power. ▶ Page 2

Iranian president to attend D-8 summit in Cairo, reports say

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is set to visit Cairo this week to participate in the summit of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, one Iranian official told Middle East Eye on Saturday.

The summit aims to foster collaboration among member states on key economic and diplomatic issues while addressing pressing regional and global challenges.

According to the sources, President Pezeshkian is expected to hold a series of bilateral meetings with high-ranking officials from participating nations on the sidelines of the event. These discussions will likely focus on strengthening mutual ties and exploring avenues for greater economic and political cooperation.

On Thursday, the media reported that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will visit Egypt to attend the D-8 summit. Reports predict that a meeting between presidents of Iran and Turkey is probable with developments in Syria high on their agenda.

Armed factions led by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) rebels launched a surprise attack against Syria's northwestern Aleppo Province on November 27. The militants quickly advanced towards Damascus in the face of the Syrian army's refusal to resist. ▶ Page 2

'Trade with Iran, a key priority for EAEU'

TEHRAN- The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Minister of Trade Andrey Slepnev underscored the importance of the free trade agreement with Iran, citing the country's strategic position as a primary partner on the EAEU's southern borders and a key player in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INST).

In an interview with Izvestiia on Friday, Slepnev highlighted Iran's achievements in import substitution, technological development, and resilience against sanctions.

Addressing the status of the agreement, which was signed a year ago, Slepnev noted that the ratification process has been completed in four EAEU member states. We aim to finalize the agreement at the upcoming EAEU leaders' summit in Saint Petersburg at the end of December 2024, so it can take effect at the start of next year, he said.

Slepnev explained that by the end of 2024, 75 percent of the EAEU's trade will be conducted with countries in the south of the region, marking a decisive shift in the bloc's trade priorities. We have reoriented our trade focus from Western countries to the south, he stated. ▶ Page 4

Netanyahu is impudent beyond imagination

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN – Benjamin Netanyahu, a wanted war criminal, in a video message on Thursday comically tried to present his regime's savage war against the Gazans as the war of "civilization" against "barbarism".

"We're defending civilization against barbarism," he said in part of his video message intended to deceive the Iranian people.

A person is making such remarks that The Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant against him for "war crimes and crimes against humanity" in the Gaza Strip.

How can a person talk about civilization that the regime under his leadership has been committing horrible and unspeakable crimes against the 2.3 million Gazans for more than 14 months?

The magnitude of his army's crimes in Gaza has shocked the entire world through indiscriminate killings,

Will Israel misuse Syrian transformations to resume the Lebanon war?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON – Historical experience has revealed Syria's impact on the assessment and decision-making inside Israel given Syria's special geostrategic location.

And how it would affect Lebanon following the Israeli re-occupation of Syrian lands along with the summit of Jabal Shaykh (Mount Hermon), whose foothills end within the Lebanese borders, remains to be seen.

Undoubtedly, the recent ceasefire agreement has negatively affected Israel, prompting Netanyahu to reiterate that "the ceasefire agreement does not mean the cessation of the war."

According to Hebrew media, the Israeli Occupation Force (IOF) has dropped 1,800 bombs on more than 500 targets in Syria, in addition to destroying about 20 communications and electronic warfare sites,

Israel expands attacks on Syria

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hebrew media has revealed that the Israeli Air Force destroyed around 20 more military sites in Syria.

In a new wave of Israeli air raids carried out on Friday evening to Saturday morning, Syrian military bases, communications, and electronic warfare positions were among the sites attacked.

Reports coming out of Syria say Israeli warplanes also targeted weapons depots in the town of Mahajjah in the southern province of Daraa at dawn on Saturday.

Syrian monitoring groups have said the fresh Israeli strikes on Saturday morning targeted military sites in Damascus and its countryside, destroying a military research center. A second military station in the Barzeh neighborhood, north of Damascus, was also set ablaze.

The strikes also hit Al-Naseriyah military airport, located 17 kilometers north of Damascus countryside, according to monitoring groups.

Rebel ruse: Ulterior motives behind HTS condemnation of Syria aggression

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Clandestine ties between Israel and rebels that have brought down the Syrian government are coming under close scrutiny.

Armed groups led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) took over Damascus last Sunday and toppled president Bashar Assad.

The HTS is originally an offshoot of ISIL, also known as ISIS and Daesh in Arabic, and al-Qaeda terror organizations.

The HTS, previously referred to as the Nusra Front, underwent a rebranding in 2017 to alter public perception regarding its past actions.

Nonetheless, Israel's support for ISIL and al-Qaeda terrorists who fought against the Syrian government after the 2011 Arab Spring has fueled speculation about the regime's relations with the HTS.

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Iran's role in the geopolitical shift of West Asia

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The fall of Bashar al-Assad's government in Syria and the subsequent transformation of the country into a "failed state" — a fragmented territory torn by the actions of various internal groups and foreign powers such as Turkey, the United States, Qatar, and Israel— has dealt a blow to one of the strategic pillars of Axis of Resistance.

In recent days, the intensification of Israel's operational presence in Syria has highlighted a significant shift in its regional strategy. Israel's efforts to destroy defensive infrastructures and key strategic points, along with its army's ground incursions into Syrian territory—even beyond the occupied Golan Heights— reflect Tel Aviv's determination to establish a "new order" in West Asia. This advance marks a clear escalation in the region's geopolitical confrontation, posing a direct threat to the interests of the Axis of Resistance. ▶ Page 3



Cinéma Vérité underway in Tehran

TEHRAN- The 18th edition of Iran International Documentary Film Festival, known as Cinéma Vérité, is currently underway at Tehran's Charsu Cineplex.

Documentaries from various countries, including the Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Italy, Iraq, Palestine, Spain, and Chile, among others, are showcased in different sections of the festival.

The Documentary & Experimental Film Center (DEFC) is the organizer of the event, which will run until December 15. The festival tries to express the relationship between reality and truth through documentary films.

This year's edition of the festival has several sections including the national competition, the international competition, the Martyr Avini Award, "Gaza, Palestine, Resistance," commemoration ceremonies, and other programs on the sideline.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Is Iran depriving ill-wishers of inventing excuses about its nuclear work?

In a note, Arman-e-Emrooz discussed the agreement between Iran and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It wrote: The American newspaper Wall Street Journal claimed that Iran has agreed to additional safeguards measures by the IAEA. The new agreement between Iran and the IAEA includes frequent IAEA inspections of the Fordow facility and the appointment of several additional inspectors. This decision will make Iran to withstand any pressure. This agreement comes after the destructive action of the European troika and the United States that pushed for the passage of a resolution against Iran at the IAEA Board of Governors and Iran took a retaliatory measure to install more advanced centrifuges to add to its stockpile of uranium with a purity of 60%. Iranian authorities had warned their Western counterparts that any anti-Iran action from the West would be faced with a serious and practical response by Iran. Iran's decision has provoked some baseless accusations by Western diplomats about the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program.

Kayhan: Support to al-Julani by some pro-Western circles

In an article, Kayhan discussed the support for the HTS leader al-Julani by some Western-leaning Iranians and wrote: At the same time as the Zionist regime welcomed the occupation of Damascus by armed terrorist groups, some media and political circles in Iran pretended that the "people of Syria" are the frontrunners of changes. Mohammad al-Julani now pretends to be a freedom-loving and patriotic Syrian hero who has liberated the Syrian nation. Some Western-leaning Iranian media also highlight the same false image. If this wing was a fan of the Iranian nation or a supporter of the Syrian people, they should have been worried about proxy terrorist groups gaining power in the region. But this time they reacted in line with America and the Zionist regime. It should be noted that some of these elements demanded the revival of the outdated two-state approach (in occupied Palestinian lands). They showed that they are detached from Islamic or humane values. It seems they have no choice

but to purify and justify the crimes of the West.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Importance of advisory role instead of sending forces

In a commentary, Vatan-e-Emrooz dealt with the recent statements of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution about the developments in Syria. The paper said: The words of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution were raised in a situation as the West Asia region is facing numerous crises and interventions by foreign powers. In his remarks, the Leader of the Revolution predicted that the Syrian youth would rebel against the occupation of their land and predicted the spirit of resistance would be strengthened in the country. This shows that pressure and threats will fail to weaken the resistance front. Instead, they make resistance stronger and more inclusive.

Javan: The West's endless rhetoric about Iran's nuclear program

In an analysis, Javan addressed unsubstantiated statements regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program. It said: IAEA chief Rafael Grossi has just said that Iran is preparing for significant enrichment of uranium to weapons grade. On Israel, he said, "On one side, the assumed presence of nuclear weapons looms in the background." Grossi's position about Israel's possession of nuclear arms has been welcomed by Iran. It was the first time the Agency's Director General made such acknowledgement and this is a significant step. On Iran's nuclear activities, he said, "On the other, the very real potential of nuclear proliferation is raising the stakes." He made such a claim despite the fact that Iran's nuclear activities are subject to most intrusive inspections. Grossi's position regarding Iran's nuclear activities has once again led to intensified rhetoric surrounding Iran's nuclear program. The European troika has declared in a letter to the UN Security Council that they are ready to activate the trigger mechanism if necessary. Even the Trump team, according to the Wall Street Journal, is considering options, including pre-emptive airstrikes, to prevent Iran from developing what they claim nuclear weapons by Iran.

Iranian president to attend D-8 summit in Cairo, reports say



From page 1 ► The D-8, formally established in 1997, brings together eight prominent Islamic developing countries: Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, and Nigeria. This organization represents a collective population of 1.2 billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$4.8 trillion, accounting for 4.5% of the world's GDP.

The D-8 has been recognized for its potential to play a pivotal role in shaping regional and global developments. By actively engaging in diplomatic and economic initiatives, the organization can act as a catalyst for oth-

er regional and international entities, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Arab League, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This capacity is particularly significant in addressing critical issues like the Gaza crisis and fostering unity among Islamic nations.

On December 2, Secretary-General of the D-8 Isiaka Abdulqadir travelled to Mashhad, northeastern Iran, to attend the 28th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member countries.

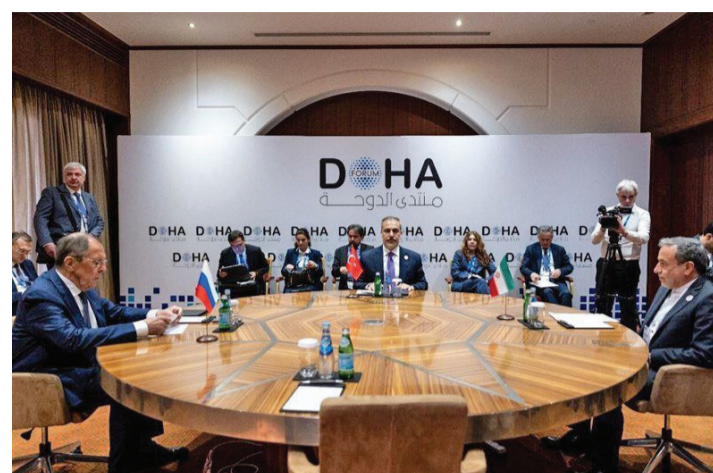
Turkey did not adhere to Doha agreement on Syria crisis

Tehran Times understands Fidan's statement on deal with Iran, Russia on Syria crisis is inaccurate

From page 1 ► "It was agreed that the Syrian conflict would be resolved through political means, with both the Assad government and the armed opposition entering into dialogue," a source involved in the Doha talks told the Tehran Times. "The agreement was signed by Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Yet, developments on the ground in Syria on Sunday, December 9, show that Turkey did not adhere to what it had signed."

Armed factions led by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) rebels launched a surprise attack against Syria's northwestern Aleppo Province on November 27. The militants quickly advanced towards Damascus in the face of the Syrian army's refusal to resist.

Reports and evidence show the HTS and its allied factions have



been receiving substantial financial and military support from Turkey, the United States, and Israel.

What does Turkey want in Syria?

Turkey has been a close ally of Western powers since the start of the Syrian crisis in 2011, a period characterized by escalating violence, instability, and the rise of Daesh (ISIS).

Turkey's early involvement in the Syrian conflict, ultimately suppressed by 2017 with the assistance of Iran and Russia, had significant negative consequences, most notably impacting the Turkish economy. Various factors that ensued the war, including the mass migration of Syrians into Turkey, brought the country soaring inflation and a collapsing

currency.

Experts and politicians have warned that the resurgence of terrorism in Syria poses a dangerous threat to neighboring regions, including Turkey. Ankara, however, appears focused on potential territorial gains in the Arab nation, seemingly disregarding analyses predicting more negative consequences for Turkey's economy and security.

During an address on Thursday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the former provinces of the Ottoman Empire should return to the country.

"I wonder what would have happened if the conditions had been different at the time when the First World War redefined the borders in our region? The cities that we call Aleppo, Idlib, Damascus, and Raqqa will become our provinces, like Antep, Hatay and Urfa!" Erdogan said.

Unmanned Qaher fighter jet successfully completes flight tests

TEHRAN – Iran has announced promising results from flight tests of an unmanned version of its domestically produced Qaher (Conqueror) stealth fighter jet, marking a significant advancement in the country's aviation and defense capabilities.

At the 12th Iran International Aerospace Exhibition (Iran Airshow 2024) held on Kish Island, General Afshin Khajefard, managing director of the Iran Aviation Industries Organization (IAIO), announced that the fighter jet has successfully completed its first flight tests.

This unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) project, developed by Iranian experts, represents a modification of the Qaher-313, a single-seat stealth fighter jet unveiled in February 2013, capable of short takeoff and landing.

General Khajefard also highlighted other IAIO initiatives, including the development of a new fleet of domestically produced jet trainers to ensure self-sufficiency in pilot training. This, he stated, is a key priority for the Defense Ministry in equipping the Armed Forces.

Furthermore, the General announced a project to produce a new combat helicopter for the Iranian naval forces, designed by Iranian experts and slated for public unveiling in the near future.

Iran capable of manufacturing commercial aircraft: Defense Ministry

The Ministry of Defense has announced that Iran has the scientific expertise and potential to become a leading producer of commercial and passenger aircraft.

Speaking at the 12th International Iran Airshow and Aerospace Exhibition, Brigadier General Reza Taleai-Nik, spokesperson for the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, highlighted the



event as a showcase of Iran's national and scientific capabilities, alongside those of participating countries.

"This exhibition reflects part of Iran's advancements in science and technology, as well as contributions from international participants," Taleai-Nik stated. He noted that the event brings together industrial organizations, research centers, and knowledge-based companies, alongside contributions from the Ministry of Defense and its affiliates.

According to Taleai-Nik, the participation of nations like China, Russia, Pakistan, and Malaysia underscores the growing synergy in the exchange of scientific and technological expertise within the aviation sector. "The aviation industry spans a diverse range of subsystems, including avionics, navigation, and electronics. This exhibition highlights scientific, technical, and production achievements in these fields," he explained.

He emphasized the strategic importance of the

aviation industry to Iran. "The presence of the Minister of Defense and other senior officials at the airshow demonstrates its significance. The country's Seventh Development Plan has identified aviation as a key priority for industrial growth and technological advancement," he said.

"Iran possesses the capability and potential to join the ranks of countries producing commercial and passenger aircraft. Much of the aviation industry is dual-purpose, with applications in both military and civilian sectors. Enhancing cooperation between private firms, the defense industry, and international partners is a top priority," Taleai-Nik stated.

On the development of passenger aircraft, Taleai-Nik explained that efforts are underway through the Aerospace Industries Organization but require increased government support and national collaboration. "The Ministry of Defense has prepared detailed proposals for advancing this sector at the national level," he concluded.

Dual threats of terrorism, foreign interventions target Syria: Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has underscored the severe challenges facing Syria, citing the dual threats of terrorism and foreign interventions as critical concerns for the region's stability.

Writing in the Lebanese daily Al-Akhbar on Saturday, Araghchi warned that Syria is at a crossroads, beset by threats that could have far-reaching implications for the West Asian region.

"Syria is facing a difficult test," Araghchi stated, emphasizing the growing danger posed by terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda and Daesh. He noted that these groups aim to turn Syria into a stronghold, exacerbating regional insecurity.

In addition to the terrorist threat, Araghchi pointed to what he described as "aggressions and military interventions" orchestrated by the Israeli regime, the United States, and their regional allies. These actions, he argued, constitute "strate-

gic miscalculations" with devastating consequences.

"The clear objective of these aggressions and interventions," he wrote, "is the systematic destruction of Syria's social structure, economic foundations, scientific achievements, and defensive capabilities."

Araghchi expressed concerns about the broader implications of Syria's turmoil, linking it to the ongoing struggles in the Levant and Palestine. "The Islamic world remains deeply worried about the future of the region given the dire circumstances facing these areas," he remarked.

He commended the resilience of Syrians and their neighbors in the face of such adversity. Referencing the people of Jabalia camp, who resisted extensive Zionist military assaults with limited resources, Araghchi praised their "admirable spirit and unwavering faith."

The foreign minister criticized Israel's "barbaric crimes" and accused it of exploiting Syria's internal instability following the fall of the Assad government. He questioned the role of external powers, asking, "Who bears responsibility for Israel's violations of a nation already grappling with the collapse of one government and the emergence of another?"

Araghchi also condemned the rhetoric of regret and concern voiced by some regional states as "meaningless," arguing that these nations have failed to support the people of West Asia meaningfully. For over seven decades, he asserted, resistance has been the only viable response to Israel's aggression and the complicity of its global supporters.

As a path forward, Araghchi proposed holding free elections in Syria to resolve the crisis and restore national unity. "The solution lies in fostering coexistence and preserving



cohesion among the Syrian people through free and fair elections," he explained. These elections, he said, must reflect the will of all segments of Syrian society, allowing them to shape their nation's future and uphold its independence.

Araghchi concluded by calling for respect for the Syrian people's choices, emphasizing that only a political system born of inclusive, democratic processes can ensure lasting peace and dignity for the nation.

'Iran will not hinder IAEA inspections'

Nuclear chief affirms commitment to transparent nuclear advancements

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), assured reporters on Saturday that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will continue to have access to Iran's nuclear facilities under the framework of the Safeguards Agreement and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"We operate within the framework of the Safeguards Agreement, adhering precisely to their regulations—nothing more, nothing less," Eslami stated during the 25th International Research, Technology, and Tech-Market Exhibition in Tehran.

The nuclear chief reiterated that Iran has "not created and will not create any obstacles for the IAEA's inspections and access."

Commenting on Iran's approval of tougher safeguards measures by the IAEA, including increased inspections at the Fordow uranium enrichment facility, Eslami noted, "Our [nuclear] capacity is increasing, and it's only natural that the number of inspections should also increase."

Reuters reported on Friday that Iran has agreed to enhanced monitoring by the U.N. nuclear watchdog at its Fordow facility, where it claimed uranium enrichment "has approached weapons-grade levels."

According to the news agency, the IAEA's confidential report noted that Iran will increase the frequency and intensity of safeguards measures at the site and is cooperating with the implementation of new enhanced protocols.

Tehran recently decided to accelerate uranium enrichment and deploy new advanced cen-



Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), speaking at a ceremony on December 14, 2024, in Tehran.

trifuges after a November anti-Iran IAEA resolution.

The resolution, pushed by the U.S. and the European troika, accused Iran of non-cooperation under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a nuclear deal Washington officially left in 2018 and Europe began shunning the same year.

The resolution demanded a comprehensive report on Iran's nuclear activities by spring 2025.

Following the censure, Iran significantly sped up its production of highly enriched uranium by increasing the enrichment level of uranium feedstock from 5% to 20% At its Fordow facility. Its highest uranium enrichment level at other facilities is 60%.

Tehran had offered to slow enrichment if the resolution was dropped.

West obstructing Iran-IAEA cooperation

During a phone call with IAEA's Director-General Rafael Grossi this week, Iran's foreign minister reiterated that the resolution Europe passed at the

clear program in exchange for sanctions relief. However, the US withdrawal from the agreement in 2018 under President Trump reimposed sanctions, which European nations, despite remaining as official signatories to the deal, have been unable to mitigate.

Washington no longer retains the authority to trigger the mechanism following its exit from the pact. Iran argues that European signatories to the deal also lack the moral and legal justice to activate snapback as they have too failed to uphold their commitments.

Some Iranian officials have warned that if the E3 snap backs international sanctions, Tehran would consider leaving the NPT.

Unveiling Indigenous innovations

During the Saturday ceremony, Tehran showcased its technological prowess by unveiling a domestically-made high-power radio frequency generator.

Produced by the Nuclear Science and Technology Research Institute (NSTRI), the generator is essential for electron accelerators and meets critical needs in various sectors, including nuclear agriculture.

Commenting on the country's latest nuclear achievement, Eslami emphasized the AEOI's goal of generating 20,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity by 2042, underscoring the high efficiency and recyclability of nuclear power plants.

In recent years, Iran's nuclear industry has also expanded into pharmaceutical production, currently supplying 69 different specialized drugs, with research underway on an additional 20. These radiopharmaceuticals are particularly instrumental in cancer treatment.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Shahdab out of 2024 FIVB Club World Championship

TEHRAN – Iranian side Shahdab Yazd lost to Ciudad Voley of Argentina 3-1 (25-23, 25-25, 17-25, 25-18) on Saturday and failed to advance to the 2024 FIVB Club World Championship semifinals.

Shahdab had lost to Italian giants Trentino Itas and defeated Brazilian Sada Cruzeiro. Foolad Sirjan, another Iranian team, will play Sada Cruzeiro and Italian teams Cucine Lube Civitanova and Trentino Itas will lock horns with each other.

The 2024 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship is the 19th edition of the competition. It's being held in Uberlândia, Brazil, from Dec. 10 to 15.

unbeaten games in the Iranian team.

Time running out for Taremi to turn season around in Inter

TEHRAN – Iranian striker Mehdi Taremi is now several months into his time at Inter Milan, but still struggles to make a real impact.

The Milan-based newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport, via FCInterNews, has suggested that the Iranian player could run out of time to find his feet at the Nerazzurri.

Taremi joined Inter in July with major expectations on his shoulders.

The Nerazzurri signed the 32-year-old on a free transfer from Porto. But he had been a long-term target for the team well before them.

The hope was that Taremi would really beef up Inter's attacking option, giving them a striker who is more than just a backup for Lautaro Martinez and Marcus Thuram. However, that has not really been the case so far.

In Serie A, Inter coach Simone Inzaghi clearly does not view Taremi as a starter.

However, the Nerazzurri coach has given the Iranian international plenty of chances in Europe.

Taremi has started all six matches of Inter's Champions League to date this season. But the Iranian's performances have been a real mixed bag.

Taremi did well in a thankless job leading the line against Manchester City and Arsenal. However, he failed to score a goal.

Two assists and a goal from the penalty spot marked a performance against Red Star Belgrade that many hoped would be the turning point for Taremi at Inter.

However, in subsequent matches the 32-year-old has yet to score a goal.

There are still long months ahead in which Taremi will undoubtedly have opportunities to prove his worth.

But that will require a really turnaround in form from the Iranian. And if that does not come by the end of the season, Taremi could find his time is up at Inter.

Iran to meet Brazil in 2025 VNL opener

TEHRAN – Volleyball World has revealed the host cities, match schedules, and ticketing details for both the men's and women's 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL), promising an electrifying season in volleyball hotspots across the globe.

The women's action begins June 4-8 in Ottawa (Canada), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and Beijing (China). The men follow from June 11-15, starting in Quebec City (Canada), Rio, and Xi'an (China).

Iran will commence the tournament on June 11 with a match against hosts Brazil and face the U.S. and Slovenia in the coming days. Team Melli will also meet Ukraine on June 15.

Iran volleyball team will lock horns with hosts Serbia on June 25 in Belgrade in Week 2. The Persian will also play Argentina (27 June), Germany (28 June) and the Netherlands (June 29).

Iran will also play hosts Poland on July 16 in Gdansk in Week3. They face China (July 17), France (July 19) and Bulgaria (July 20).

Iran women fall in latest FIFA rankings

TEHRAN – Iran's women football team dropped three places to 67th in the FIFA rankings, released on Friday.

Iran's women's team lost to Jordan 2-1 in a friendly match held at the Petra Stadium in Madinat Al Hussein, Jordan in early December.

Japan continued to be the highest-ranked side in Asia while the U.S. national team maintained their dominance at the top of the rankings.

While the biggest climber in this round of rankings was Estonia, which moved up by eight positions, Laos suffered the biggest drop, falling down 16 places.

The next ranking will be published on March 6, 2025.

Persepolis captain Amiri to miss Sepahan match

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team midfielder Vahid Amiri will miss around four weeks after sustaining a foot injury.

Media reports suggest that the 36-year-old player has suffered an MCL sprain in his left knee and will be sidelined for at least four weeks.

Persepolis are scheduled to face Sepahan on Monday in Isfahan and it will be a vital match for the defending champions.

Sepahan sit second with 24 points, one point above Persepolis.

Amiri's absence will be a big blow to Persepolis.

Iran Club come third in 2024 CAVA Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran U19 volleyball team, known as Iran Club, defeated Club HDC of the Maldives 3-0 (25-21, 27-25, 27-25) to come third at the 2024 CAVA Men's Club Volleyball Championship.

Calicut Heroes of India and Help Nepal Sports Club will lock horns in each other in the final match.

Iran's Chadormalou were supposed to take part in the competition but withdrew and Iran U19 participated in the event instead.

The competition is being held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Iran drop three spots in FIBA ranking

TEHRAN – Iran basketball team moved down three places to 23rd in the latest FIBA World Ranking updates.

The newest rankings arrive with nine nations inside the Top 20 all enjoying notable climbs.

The U.S. continue to reign supreme in the FIBA World Ranking Boys, following their title wins at both youth events they participated in. The biggest mover in the Top 10 was Italy - jumping four spots to Number 4 in the world.

The biggest jump in the Top 20 belongs to New Zealand, who moved 12 spots to No. 15 after their historic fourth place at the FIBA U17 World Cup - tying for the country's best-ever result along with the Tall Blacks taking fourth at the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2002. New Zealand also finished second at the FIBA U18 Asia Cup 2024.

Zamalek want Pitso Mosimane: report

TEHRAN – Reports emerging from Egypt suggest that Pitso Mosimane, the current head coach of Iranian giants Esteghlal, have once again found himself on the wanted list of Egyptian club Zamalek.

The South African coach was appointed as Esteghlal coach in October as Javad Nekounam's replacement.

Under his leadership, Esteghlal advanced to the last 16 of the Hazfi Cup with a narrow 1-0 victory over Mes Kerman.

Mosimane has now managed five consecutive

Azerbaijan embassy in Iran resumes consular services



Azerbaijan's embassy in Tehran is set to fully restore its consular services as of Sunday, according to an earlier statement by the Azeri foreign ministry.

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the resumption of consular operations, confirming the embassy's commitment to providing ongoing services to Azeri citizens and other individuals requiring assistance. This latest development follows the embassy's reopening in July 2024 at a new location, a significant milestone after a period of closure triggered by a deadly incident.

In January 2023, an attack on the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran caused Baku to temporarily close its diplomatic mission and evacuate its staff. The Azerbaijani government characterized the incident as a "terrorist act," prompting heightened tensions between the two countries.

An investigation conducted by Iranian authorities showed personal and familial motives behind the attack. The gunman told police that he believed the embassy was concealing his wife from him. The man attacked the building while his children were waiting inside his car parked close to the embassy.

Iran's role in the geopolitical shift of West Asia

From Page 1 ▶ In addition, a forced demilitarization of Syria is being witnessed, under the direct intervention of Israel and the United States. According to international analysts, the goal of this strategy is to ensure that Syria lacks the weapons and military infrastructure capable of challenging Israel's interests in the region. The attacks are justified in the name of Israel's security and the fight against alleged terrorist threats, although many believe the true intention is to consolidate broader geopolitical control over the area.

In a later phase, the active participation of the United States and the European Union is expected in what is referred to as "state reconstruction" and "security sector reform" in Syria. This process will include the creation of a new Syrian army, trained and overseen by foreign forces. According to various sources, the primary mission of this new force will be to control the internal movements of the population and suppress any form of dissent that may arise against Israeli influence or Western presence in the region.

In this scenario, it is urgent for Iran to conduct a strategic review in order to halt, and even reverse, the Israeli offensive. The project of a "new order in West Asia," promoted by Israel, has made significant progress with the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government. However, according to several Iranian analysts, the ultimate victory still seems distant.

In this context, Iran could reverse the situation through the design and implementation of an appropriate strategy, as it did after the U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, when

the management of the regional security order shifted to the hands of the Axis of Resistance.

According to Iranian analysts, one of the key elements in this new strategic phase should be a shift in focus towards Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. While, in general terms, both nations have been part of the Western containment strategy, they could establish temporary tactical cooperation with Tehran to alter the current strategic equation in the region.

The analysts point out that Turkey's actions, as one of the key vertices of the power triangle in Western Asia alongside Iran and Saudi Arabia, have allowed Ankara to take the lead in recent years. During this transitional phase, Turkey has managed to surpass Saudi Arabia both politically and militarily. Moreover, it has alleviated one of its main security concerns in the region—the situation in Syria—enabling it to consolidate its influence and position within the region.

Iran could reverse the current situation as it did after the U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, when the management of the regional security order shifted to the hands of the Axis of Resistance

These sources emphasize that the current geopolitical context represents an opportunity to forge a model of cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh. This rapprochement could mark an unprecedented collaboration in the region, where Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates work together to manage Turkey's growing influence in West Asia. In this sense, a new phase is opening in the regional power dynamics, where traditional alliances could be challenged by strategic cooperation between actors who have so far been adversaries.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran hosting intl. branding, marketing exhibition



TEHRAN- The 20th edition of Iran's International Exhibition of Advertising, Branding,

Marketing, Export Chain and related Industries kicked off at the Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds on Friday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 150 domestic and foreign exhibitors are showcasing their latest products and services at this four-day exhibition.

Key themes of this event include advertising and branding, marketing, digital advertising, television, radio, print, environmental and interactive advertising, content marketing, social media, inbound marketing, printing and laser machines, design and printing services, as well as exhibition services and equipment.

Home appliance production sees 20% growth in 8 months yr/yr

TEHRAN- The Secretary-General of the National Association of Household Appliance Manufacturers of Iran announced a 20 percent growth in household appliance production during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 21) compared to the same period last year.

Domestic manufacturers have produced a total of 13.84 million large and small household appliances over the past eight months, demonstrating notable growth compared to the previous year. Omid Fazelinia told IRNA.

Highlighting the challenges faced by producers, Fazelinia emphasized the need for decisive action to overcome obstacles in the production sector to maintain and further this growth.

He pointed out that "Out of the \$7.0 billion financial turnover in the household appliance market, approximately \$1.5 to \$2.0 billion is the share of smuggled goods."

He noted that these unauthorized products are often more readily available to consumers in local markets than domestic alternatives.

Fazelinia explained that smuggled goods enter the country under the guise of cross-border trade laws, transit allowances, and border carrying, despite such laws being designated for specific border regions.

He also criticized the lack of oversight on online platforms, where smuggled household



appliances bearing well-known brand names are openly sold through certain websites and social media channels.

The Secretary-General expressed concern about the temporary nature of anti-smuggling campaigns, stating: Efforts must be made to create an unfavorable environment for smuggled goods. Domestic producers dedicate approximately 30 percent of production costs to expenses like taxes and after-sales services, whereas smugglers profit without paying import duties or taxes.

Fazelinia stressed the importance of eliminating the profitability of smuggled goods and criticized the practice of auctioning confiscated smuggled items through state-owned asset management organizations. He stated: "

This is happening despite the Supreme Leaders emphasis on the destruction of smuggled goods.

Daily gas injection into national network reaches 855 million cubic meters in winter



TEHRAN - The head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) announced that approximately 855 million cubic meters of natural gas are delivered daily to the national gas network during the winter.

In a televised interview on Friday evening regarding gas consumption management during the cold season, Saeed Tavakoli stated: "Although Iran possesses the world's second-largest gas reserves, this does not mean there is no energy imbalance.

Approximately 75 percent of the country's gas reserves are located in the southern regions, primarily offshore, which requires significant efforts to deliver gas to all parts of the country."

Highlighting that 72 percent of the country's energy mix consists of natural gas—a percentage unmatched globally, even in Russia—Tavakoli noted: "Natural gas constitutes 85 percent of the fuel used in power plants, with the remaining 15 percent comprising eight percent diesel and seven percent fuel oil."

He emphasized that despite various limitations, efforts have been made to ensure

gas supply continuity during winter, stating: "Nearly 855 million cubic meters of gas are prepared and delivered to the national network daily during the cold months."

Tavakoli, who also serves as Deputy Minister of Oil for Gas Affairs, predicted peak consumption levels of 690-700 million cubic meters in the coming week, with 82 percent of the demand attributed to residential, commercial, and small-scale industrial sectors.

He explained that most gas consumption in residential and commercial sectors is for heating purposes, adding: "When outdoor temperatures drop by just one degree, consumption in this sector rises by 25 million cubic meters—the equivalent of the output of one phase of the South Pars Gas Field."

Tavakoli outlined the gas distribution, noting that 34 percent of gas is annually supplied to power plants and another 34 percent supports industries, while 25 percent is consumed by the residential sector. He added that during peak winter consumption period, residential, commercial, and small-scale industrial demand disrupts this balance.

Emphasizing the need for fuel diversity in power plants, Tavakoli stated: "Based on regional planning, around 14 steam power plants across the country are capable of using fuel oil. However, aligning fuel oil delivery levels to meet demand remains a challenge."

He stressed the importance of addressing the energy imbalance through consumption management, energy efficiency, and production increases, stating: "Approximately 70-80 percent of residential gas consumption is for heating, with 13-17 percent used for water heating and 2-3 percent for cooking. Enhancing efficiency in these areas is essential."

'Trade with Iran, a key priority for EAEU'



national markets.

Trade between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has increased by 11 percent in the first nine months of 2024 compared to the same period last year, according to the union's press service.

This growth comes as Iran is set to be accepted as an observer member of the EAEU at the union's upcoming summit in December 2024.

According to the statement, Iran's exports to the EAEU member countries, namely Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia rose by nine percent in the first three quarters of the year, particularly driven by vegetables, fruits, and nuts, which showed an 11 percent increase compared to 2023.

The EAEU also reported that the most significant portion of exports from its member states to Iran consisted of agricultural products, which had increased by more than 10 percent year-on-year.

In addition, the Russian Ministry of Economic Development recently confirmed that Iran's application for observer status was approved during a meeting of EAEU deputy prime ministers in early December 2024, with final approval expected at the heads of state summit in the same month.

Dmitry Volvach, the Russian Deputy Minister of Economic Development, stated that Eurasian leaders will review and confirm Iran's status at the summit, a decision he predicts will lead to enhanced cooperation between Iran and the union.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized in a televised interview that Iran is on the verge of becoming an observer member of the EAEU. He stressed that this status would allow Iran to establish trade relations with EAEU member coun-

From page 1 ▶ Previously, the European Union accounted for over 40 percent of the EAEU's trade, with the Global South comprising less than half. Today, the share of European partners has fallen by about 2.5 times, while trade with the Global South continues to grow. By the end of 2024, we expect it to account for 75 percent of our trade turnover, Slepnev added.

Earlier this month, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), said Iran's exports to Eurasian countries have grown by 2.5 times since the country signed a preferential trade agreement with the EAEU four years ago, highlighting the success of its trade policy.

Dehghan Dehnavi credited the exponential growth to reduced tariffs introduced through the agreements signed between the two sides.

Iran and EAEU also signed a free trade agreement on December 25, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Russia, aiming to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers and facilitate economic and trade interactions. Once fully implemented, 87 percent of tariff codes for commercial goods between Iran and EAEU member states will drop to zero.

Under President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration, Iran has emphasized strengthening ties with Eurasian countries to enhance access to global markets. This strategy has translated into tangible growth, with the latest figures from Iran's Customs Administration revealing a 16 percent rise in exports to EAEU nations in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 20). During this period, the export volume reached 2.2 million metric tons, reflecting a 35 percent year-on-year growth.

Iran also participated in the EAEU's annual meeting held on September 30 and October 1 in Yerevan, Armenia, with a high-level delegation comprising both public and private sector representatives. During the meeting, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref reiterated the country's commitment to expanding bilateral and multilateral economic relations with EAEU member states.

The success of the free trade agreement underscores Iran's strategy to integrate more deeply into the regional economy and strengthen its presence in inter-



TEHRAN- The deputy for Engineering and Infrastructure Development at the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) announced that the knowledge for production of 768 maritime parts and equipment has been indigenized by domestic companies with support from PMO.

Ali Fathi said 220 of the mentioned newly manufactured or first-time produced parts and equipment will be displayed at the 8th Exhibition of Transport, Logistics, and Related Industries, the PMO portal reported.

The event will take place from December 15 to 17 at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla in Tehran and will feature parts in three categories: port equipment, marine equipment, and telecommunications-electronics.

Fathi referred to the recent years' focus on resilient economy, domestic production support, and job creation initiatives endorsed by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, noting that PMO has been focusing developmental activities in four key areas including: maintenance of equipment, supply of port equip-

porters should be held regularly to lead to more interaction and solve traders' problems.

Referring to an agreement between the TCCIMA and the Trade Promotion Organization, the official added that the draft of the mentioned agreement has been prepared and will be provided to TPO in the near future.

This agreement aims to solve the major issues of exporters and reduce government interventions in the export sector, he noted.

The Eurasian Economic Union was established in 2015 at the initiative taken by the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and Belarus.

Afterward, the Republic of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan joined the Union.

Iran and EAEU reached a preferential trade agreement in 2018, based on which about 862 commodity items are currently subject to preferential tariffs.

The agreement came into effect on October 27, 2019.

Earlier this month, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak and Andrey Slepnev, the minister in charge of trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), discussed ways of expanding economic cooperation in a meeting on the sidelines of the Eurasian Business Forum in Armenia.

In the meeting, the Iranian side emphasized the need for establishing an insurance company under the Eurasian Economic Union to provide the necessary guarantees regarding Iran's technical and engineering exports to the region.

The two sides also discussed the increase in trade between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union and the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Another focal point of the negotiations was the unification of the standards of the member countries of the EAEU with Iran to facilitate exports to the union.

In this meeting, the Iranian industry minister invited Slepnev to visit the third round of the Eurasia Exhibition in Iran.

The 3rd Eurasian International Exhibition in Iran is scheduled to be held at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds from December 3 to 6.

The periodic economic forum of the Eurasian Union was held on September 30 and October 1 in Yerevan, Armenia, and Iran was the special guest of this meeting.

768 maritime parts, equipment domestically produced with PMO support

ment, supply of marine equipment, and supply of telecommunications and electronics parts.

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.

Rebel ruse: Ulterior motives behind HTS condemnation of Syria aggression

From page 1 ▶ Soon after the rebels seized the Syrian capital, Israel began a widespread bombing campaign pouncing the country's military facilities. The Israeli strikes are aimed at destroying Syria's military capabilities amid fears that they could potentially be used against the regime.

Israel also violated the 1974 agreement with Syria and deployed its ground troops into the Syrian territory. The Israeli military has seized control of a demilitarized buffer zone in the Golan Heights in Syria that was created as part of the accord. Its forces have occupied some regions inside Syria beyond the zone.

The HTS kept mum about the Israeli airstrikes and ground incursion into Syria for several days. But it ultimately had to react.

On Friday, Syria's transitional government that operates under the supervision of HTS leader Ahmed al-Sharaa – formerly known by his nom de guerre, Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, condemned Israel's "aggression" against Syria.

In a letter to the United Na-



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visits an Israeli military field hospital in the Golan Heights on February 18, 2014 that treats rebels wounded in fighting in Syria. (Kobi Gideon /GPO/FLASH90)

tions, the new transitional government described Israel's land grab in Syria as a "serious violation" of the 1974 armistice agreement.

The letter also rebuked Israel for conducting air raids across Syria.

"The Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest terms this Israeli aggression," it said.

Syria's current rulers have been under fire over their inac-

tion in the face of Israel's acts of aggression.

Presently, the statement seeks to alleviate public pressure on the HTS and the interim government under caretaker prime minister, Mohammed al-Bashir.

Besides, the HTS finally decided to react to Israel's acts of aggression in a bid to debunk claims about its links with the regime.

Furthermore, the statement's

issuance aims to redirect attention from the rebels' inaction regarding Israel's appropriation of land and its airstrikes in Syria.

HTS members, many of whom are former members of Al-Qaeda and ISIL, received support from Israel in the wake of the civil war in Syria that followed the Arab Spring.

Israeli media disclosed in 2014 that the Israeli military not only offered medical assistance to terrorists fighting in Syria but also maintained connections with them.

UN observers in the Golan Heights meticulously detailed instances of contact between Israeli troops and rebels, including Syrians being sent into Israel for medical treatment, and the transfer of items and containers, the Times of Israel reported in December 214, citing records maintained by the UN disengagement force in the Golan demilitarized zone.

The rebels are currently attempting to obscure their connections with Israel under the guise of a new name, as they anticipate an increase in anti-regime sentiment due to its aggressive actions in Syria.

Will Israel misuse Syrian transformations to resume the Lebanon war?

From page 1 ▶ which means that the Israeli enemy could use Syrian airspace "with extreme freedom and turn Syria into a springboard for launching attacks against Iran and its proxies," as they put it.

In parallel, the coup forces in Syria, led by HTS leader al-Julani, have not hidden their hostility to Hezbollah, while avoiding declaring their position on the Israeli aggression that has destroyed Syria's defensive capabilities.

Meanwhile, Abdul Jalil al-Saeed, former assistant to the Grand Mufti of Syria, told the Israeli website i24NEWS that he was optimistic about Syrian-Israeli relations. He added: "The leaders of the Axis of Resistance thought that October 7 would be like Noah's Ark, but it turned out to be the Titanic that sank them." Al-Saeed hoped the Israeli chan-

nel would be "a bridge to real peace between the two countries and attract the Syrian public. I hope to see your correspondent reporting from the heart of Damascus."

Some observers believe that this position will enhance Israel's opportunities to re-attack Lebanon, especially after Hezbollah's supply routes have been closed. Netanyahu himself has previously underscored his regime's priorities – after the Lebanon war – to confront the Iranian nuclear program along with rebuilding and rearming the Zionist army.

It is worth noting that US President-elect Donald Trump played a role in the ceasefire agreement. Therefore, any Israeli decision to resume the aggression – in the foreseeable future – will be purely American.

It is true that the enemy will continue to prevent Hezbollah from rebuilding and developing its capabilities without the need for direct military intervention in light of the unprecedented serious obstacles following transformations in Syria. In addition, the enemy estimates that Hezbollah's priorities will revolve around reconstruction at this stage. Hezbollah, nevertheless, and despite all the painful trials, has inflected and still retains great capabilities that allow it to threaten the heart of the occupied Palestinian lands.

In any case, in light of the ongoing shifts in the regional balance of power, Hezbollah needs to evaluate its own experience in the aftermath of the October 7 attack attacks, and how it can adapt and maintain defensive self-sufficiency.

Israel expands attacks on Syria



From page 1 ▶ The Israeli raids are said to have destroyed ballistic Scud missile warehouses and modern rocket launchers in the Qalamoun Mountains on the outskirts of Damascus, in addition to tunnels under the mentioned mountains.

The Israeli military has now reportedly destroyed Syria's air defense system, essentially allowing the regime to violate Syrian

airspace freely and transforming the Arab state into a launching pad for attacks against its enemies.

On Tuesday, Israeli military estimates suggested that "70 to 80 percent of the former Syrian Army's military capabilities had been destroyed."

Earlier, Israeli media reported that Israeli aircraft had dropped

1,800 bombs on over 500 targets in Syria in a very short timeframe.

Israeli media described the attacks as a systematic elimination of Syria's air force.

The unprecedented Israeli aggression has also targeted various types of surface-to-air missile batteries, Syrian Air Force airports, and dozens of production facilities in Damascus, Homs, Tartus, Latakia, and Palmyra.

The attacks have destroyed significant military assets, including Scud missiles, cruise missiles, surface-to-sea missiles, surface-to-air missiles, surface-to-surface missiles, drones, fighter jets, attack helicopters, radars, tanks, aircraft hangars, missile launch platforms, firing positions, and more.

The aerial assaults have been accompanied by illegal ground incursions.

On Thursday night, Israeli

tanks advanced deep into Quneitra countryside, entering the town of Khan Arnabah, the largest town in the province.

The tanks temporarily entered an abandoned former military barracks before withdrawing, according to local sources.

Israeli war minister Yisrael Katz directed the military to prepare to remain stationed at the summit of Jabal al-Shaykh (Mount Hermon) throughout the winter months, claiming that "maintaining control over the mountain summit is of great security significance, and everything must be done to ensure the military's readiness there."

This comes after Israeli forces occupied Jabal al-Shaykh inside Syria, seized the buffer zone in the occupied Golan Heights, and advanced into the southern Damascus countryside.

The Israeli military measures all violate international law.

A Libya or Sudan outcome possible in Syria without clear roadmap: analysis

TEHRAN - In a commentary published on Dec. 9, a Middle East security expert at Princeton University says once the Syrian opposition gets rid of their common enemy "and the process of shaping the future begins, their differences will surface, and it remains uncertain how reconcilable these differences will be."

Seyed Hossein Mousavian notes, "Even if there are no internal disagreements among the opposition, their conflicts with the Kurds and Turkey's stance on this issue alone pose a major obstacle to establishing a consensus-based

order. This could keep Syria in a prolonged political and security crisis, similar to Libya and Sudan."

Following is the text of the article:

The Baathist system in Syria, after nearly 60 years of rule, has been overthrown and Bashar al-Assad has fled to Moscow.

Syria stood alongside Iran during its invasion by Saddam Hussein, and Iran, in turn, stood with the Syrian and Iraqi governments during the assault by the Islamic State (IS) group and al-Qaeda on Syria and Iraq from 2011 to 2017.

The alliance of Russia, Iran and the Axis of Resistance led to the defeat of militant groups and the preservation of the sovereignty of these two Arab countries.

However, at the same time, Assad's government had no alignment with democracy, and western and Arab leaders were fearful and angry about the extensive presence and influence of Iran and Russia in Syria. In any case, the overthrow of the Syrian political system has created a major shift in the region's geopolitics.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Hamas reiterates efforts to end Israeli aggression in Gaza

The Palestinian resistance group Hamas reaffirmed on Saturday its commitment to ending the ongoing Israeli offensive on Gaza, highlighting its significant efforts to engage positively with all initiatives aimed at halting the aggression, Anadolu Agency reports.

In a statement marking the 37th anniversary of its founding, Hamas emphasized its openness to "serious and genuine initiatives to stop the aggression and crimes of the

occupation against our people, while firmly adhering to the rights, principles, and aspirations of the Palestinian people."

In its statement, Hamas asserted that the Palestinian people have the "absolute right, capability, and free will to determine their future and organize their internal affairs independently," rejecting "any international or Zionist projects aiming to dictate Gaza's future in line with the occupation's interests."

Gaza death toll surpasses 44,900

At least 55 more Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, bringing the overall death toll since last October to 44,930, the Health Ministry in the enclave said on Saturday.

A ministry statement added that some 106,624 others were injured in the ongoing

assault.

"Israeli forces killed 55 people and injured 170 others in four massacres of families in the last 24 hours," the ministry said.

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

Israeli drone strike kills one person in south Lebanon

The Lebanese health ministry said an Israeli drone strike in the south of the country killed one person on Saturday.

"An Israeli enemy drone strike... killed one

person," in Marjayoun district, the ministry said in a statement.

The official National News Agency reported that a car had been targeted.

Netanyahu is impudent beyond imagination

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN - Benjamin Netanyahu, a wanted war criminal, in a video message on Thursday comically tried to present his regime's savage war against the Gazans as the war of "civilization" against "barbarism."

"We're defending civilization against barbarism," he said in part of his video message intended to deceive the Iranian people.

A person is making such remarks that The Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant against him for "war crimes and crimes against humanity" in the Gaza Strip.

How can a person talk about civilization that the regime under his leadership has been committing horrible and unspeakable crimes against the 2.3 million Gazans for more than 14 months?

The magnitude of his army's crimes in Gaza has shocked the entire world through indiscriminate killings, collective punishment and starvation but he is ludicrously trying to present his forces' barbaric acts as the war of civilization against barbarism. In other words, he is trying to present himself and his occupation army as civilized and the victims as barbaric.

The degree of his regime's crimes against the Gazans is so heart-breaking that even an active-duty member of the American Air Force, named Aaron Bushnell, set himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C. in February protesting the American complicity in the brutal war against Gazan civilians in Gaza.

It is ridiculous that a person who is committing genocide in Gaza talks about civilization. In sum, Netanyahu is impudent and shameless beyond imagination. Most probably, history has seen a few war criminals as brass as him.

South Korea's MPs vote to impeach president over martial law debacle



South Korea's parliament voted to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol on Saturday in an extraordinary rebuke that came about after his own ruling party turned on him following his refusal to resign over his short-lived martial law attempt, CNN reported.

It is the second time in less than a decade that a South Korean leader has faced impeachment proceedings in office and means Yoon is suspended from exercising his powers until the decision is finally adjudicated by the country's Constitutional Court.

Following the vote, Yoon conceded that he will "stop temporarily for now, but the journey to the future that I've walked past with the people for the past two years should not stop."

"I will not give up," he said in a statement

shared by the country's presidential office.

"With all the encouragement and support for me in mind, I will do my best until the last moment for the nation," he added.

The country's Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, who will serve as acting president under South Korean law, told reporters that he would "devote all my strength and effort to stable operation of state affairs."

The dramatic decision marks the culmination of a stunning political showdown after Yoon briefly declared martial law on December 3 and sent soldiers to parliament, where lawmakers fought past troops to enter the building and vote down the decree.

Yoon's gamble backfired spectacularly, galvanizing many in the vibrant Asian democracy to call for his removal.

Opposition parties tried impeaching him a week ago – but Yoon survived after members of his ruling People Power Party boycotted the vote, saying they hoped the president would voluntarily resign instead.

Yoon then doubled down – giving a defiant speech on Thursday in which he defended his martial law decision, lambasted the opposition, claimed he was trying to save the country and vowed to "fight until the last moment with the people."

Second-born children account for over one-third of live births

TEHRAN –More than 36.8 percent of the births in the first eight months of the current calendar year that started on March 20 were second-born children, according to the Civil Registration Organization.

A total of 665,903 births were registered in the country over the eight-month period.

First-born children accounted for 36 percent of the births. Over 36.8 percent, 18.7 percent, and 8.5 percent were related to second-born to fourth-born children, respectively, IRNA reported.

Out of registered births in the first eight months, 26,470 multiples were born in the country; 12,527 were twins, 445 were triplets, 19 were quadruplets, and one was higher-order multiple births.

Tehran, Khuzestan, and Khorasan Razavi provinces had the highest number of multiple births with 2,012, 1,100, and 1,094 cases respectively, ISNA reported.

Over 1m births registered in a year

According to the Civil Registration Organization, a total of 1,057,948 births were registered in the country in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2023–March 2024).

Second-born children with 405, 993 births accounted for the highest number of registered births.

Tehran province with 131,176 births and Semnan province with 6,907 births had the highest and lowest number of births, IRNA re-



ported.

Out of registered births, 51.8 percent were boys and 48.2 percent were girls.

According to the Organization, a total of 33,080 multiple births were registered in the country in the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year that ended on March 20, 2024.

Twins made up the majority of multiples born; 31,320 out of 33,080 registered multiple births were twins, and 1,686 births were triplets, IRNA reported.

Tehran province with 14.7 percent and Semnan province with 0.5 percent had the highest and lowest number of multiple births, respectively.

Last year, out of the registered multiple births in the first nine months, 28,148 were twins, 1,506 were triplets, 64 were quadruplets, and 10 were higher-order multiple births.

Some 34.6 percent of regis-

tered births were first-born children; 38.9 percent, 17.6 percent, 5.1 percent, and 2 percent were related to second-born to fifth-born children.

In the first nine months of the past Iranian calendar year, more boys than girls were born. Over 51.8 percent of babies born were boys and 48.2 percent were girls.

Youth population law stabilizes total fertility rate

Enacting the youth population law has stabilized the total fertility rate, slightly increasing the general fertility index over the past two years.

After experiencing seven years of decline by about 20 percent, the fertility rate is now stabilized at around 1.6, IRNA reported.

The total fertility rate has experienced a sharp decline since the Iranian calendar year 1394 (2015–2016) as the number of births reached 1.057 million in 1402 (2023–2024) from 1.570 million in 1394. However, since the Iranian

calendar year 1401 (March 2022–March 2023), the downward trend in fertility came to a halt.

The total fertility rate has lowered to 1.6 children per woman from about 2 children per woman.

According to Civil Registration Organization's report, the total fertility rate in Iranian years 1396 (2017–2018), 1397 (2018–2019), 1398 (2019–2020), 1399 (2020–2021), and 1400 (2021–2022) were 2.09, 1.95, 1.74, 1.65, 1.61 per each woman, respectively.

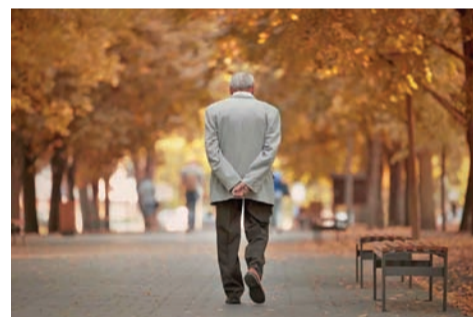
At best, Iran's population with a total fertility rate of 2.5 will reach 102,890,000 by the next seven years, IRIB quoted Mohammad-Javad Mahmoudi, an official with the Civil Registration Organization, as saying.

In May, Hasan Farshidi, an official with the health ministry, said two years after the implementation of the law on supporting families and the youth, investigations have shown that the health ministry has played a central role in the implementation of the law.

"Since the implementation of the law, the number of births among mothers aged 20 to 24 has notably increased," the official added.

The rate of mothers giving birth to three children increased from 16 percent in the Iranian year 1398 (March 2019–March 2020) to 18.97 percent in 1402 (March 2023–March 2024) and even the fourth childbirth increased from 5 percent to about 7 percent, Farshidi stated.

Population aging five times faster than population growth



TEHRAN –According to the latest census, the number of aged citizens in the country is growing by 3.62 percent which is five times faster than the total population growth rate, which is 1.24 percent.

In Iranian year 1385 (2006–2007), there were 5,121,043 men and women aged above 60. In 2015, 10 percent of the country's population was older than 60, ISNA quoted Mohammad-Javad Mahmoudi, an official with the National Institute for Population Research.

In the next 30 years, the population aged 60 years or older is projected to hold a 32 percent share of the whole population, that is, the elderly will account for one-third of Iran's population by 2050, the official noted.

Currently, men and women aged above 60 constitute some 11.5 percent of Iran's population, an official with the health ministry has

said.

For the time being, elderly women account for 52.3 percent of the total population, outnumbering men (47.7 percent), ISNA quoted Saber Jabbari as saying.

The aging of individuals signifies increased life expectancy. However, population aging demonstrates a shift in the distribution of a country's population towards older ages which is not a favorable indicator. In other words, the number of young people in society declines in comparison to the elderly population.

It is one of the most important challenges facing the country.

Despite offering incentives to encourage childbearing in line with youth population law, the desired growth in the youth population has not been accomplished yet.

"At best, Iran's population with a total fertility rate of 2.5 will reach 102,890,000 by the next seven years," IRIB quoted Mohammad-Javad Mahmoudi, an official with the Civil Registration Organization, as saying.

In the last two years, the fertility rate has stabilized around 1.6 which has intensified concerns over the decreasing trend in population growth in the coming years, and the probability of turning Iran into one of the oldest countries in the world, the official highlighted.

Aging with dignity

Commemorated on October 1st each year, the International Day of Older Persons recognizes the contributions of senior citizens, raises public awareness about the challenges associated with aging populations, and highlights the needs to be met.

Iran observes the day as part of National Elderly Week which is held from September 28 to October 4.

To address the issue of aging population, a national plan was designed with the aim of changing health-related behaviors in middle-aged people and focusing on preventing disabilities caused by common problems in the elderly.

This year, the national week's theme was 'active aging for everyone's tomorrow'.

It is forecast that old individuals outnumber the youth population, particularly in developing countries, in seven years. Hence population aging, as a global trend, is reshaping societies worldwide.

The number of older people (defined as those aged 65 years or older) tripled from around 260 million in 1980 to 761 million in 2021. Between 2021 and 2050, the global share of the older population is projected to increase from less than 10 percent to around 17 percent.

VP for women pays visit to Christian charity

TEHRAN –Zahra Behrouz-Azar, the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, paid a visit to Agouk Christian charity in Tehran on Saturday to become familiar with activities of the center toward empowering women and children.

Lauding the efforts of the center, the official stressed the significance of supporting charity centers to help them provide equal opportunities for individuals with specific disabilities to empower them, Mehr news agency quoted Behrouz-Azar as saying.

"The center not only supports disabled children and teenagers but also their families. It fosters the social development of women and families and enhances social involvement and responsibilities through promoting volunteer activities," she noted.

The center also focuses on boosting altruism and encouraging long-term donations.

Established in 1988, the center aims to support children and adults with physical and mental disabilities by utilizing specific educational and rehabilitation programs.

Agouk charity provides a variety of services including art and handicraft workshops, like painting on fabrics, embroidery, woodcraft, leather work, and making jewelry for disabled individuals. Their hand-made products are usually featured in an exhibition which is held annually and the earned income is used in the center.

The center also provides rehabilitation services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and psychological counseling to improve the physical and mental abilities of disabled people.

Women's economic, social empowerment
Addressing the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Con-

ference, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from November 19 to 21, Behrouz-Azar stated that 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.

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.

Addressing a roundtable focusing on 'Advancing women's economic empowerment through employment, decent work, social protection, and entrepreneurship', Fakhri al-Sadat Fatemi, an advisor to the deputy vice president for women and family affairs, for her part proposed three ways to advance women's empowerment in different fields, these ways include training, empowering, acquiring skills, and developing opportunities for women's participation, as well as providing legal and executive support, Mehr news agency reported.

Knowledge-based companies to attend Roplastica expo in Russia

TEHRAN – Supported by the Organization for Development of International Cooperation in Science, Iranian knowledge-based companies will participate in the 27th edition of the Roplastica exhibition which will be held in Moscow from January 21 to 24.

Roplastica is an international exhibition dedicated to the plastics and rubber industry. It serves as a platform for B2B business promotion, experience, and innovation exchange on current trends in the polymer industry.

The exhibition attracts leading companies, manufacturers, suppliers, and experts from around the world, showcasing the latest technologies, products, and solutions.

At the Roplastica exhibition, exhibitors and attendees can gain insights into the latest trends in the plastics and rubber sectors, establish business connections, and explore new commercial opportunities.

Machinery and equipment for the plastics and rubber industries, machinery and equipment for secondary processing and recycling of polymers, raw materials and auxiliaries, plastics and rubber products, services for the plastics and rubber industries, and additive manufacturing are among items that will be displayed.

Notable growth in knowledge-based companies

The significant and fast-paced growth in the number of knowledge-based companies with over 200 percent increase in their number just over the past year (March 2023 – March 2024), shows the solid foundation, dynamism, and growth of the country in innovation and technology and the productive atmosphere which have been made available in line with the goal of boosting domestic production with public participation.

The current administration underscores the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge-based companies. The number of companies, which was around 5,000 before the current administration took office in August 2021, has now reached 10,000 with a total value of two billion dollars.

The law on supporting knowledge-based companies and institutions, and commercializing innovations and inventions, was approved by the parliament in Iranian year 1389 (2010–2011), to achieve a knowledge-based economy.

Throughout these years, administrations have tried to boost infrastructure to support knowledge-based companies' growth.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iranian students snatch 4 medals at IOI 2018

Iranian students secured 4 colorful medals at the 30th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2018) which was held in Tsukuba, Japan, on September 1 to 8.

Iran's team finished in eleventh place claiming one gold medal, two silver medals, and one bronze medal, Mehdi Safarnejad, head of the Iranian delegation said.

This year, 341 students from 87 countries participated in the event.

Mohammad Mahdavi grabbed the gold medal, Keivan Rezaei and Mehrdad Saberi were the silver medal winners, and Seyed Mahdi Sadegh Shobeiri claimed the bronze medal, Fars reported on Saturday.

کسب ۴ مدال توسط تیم دانش آموزی ایران در المپیاد جهانی کامپیوتر

تیم چهار نفره دانش آموزان ایران موفق به کسب چهار مدال رنگارنگ در سی امین المپیاد جهانی کامپیوتر در ژاپن شد.

مهدی صفرنژاد سرپرست تیم اعزامی دانش آموزان المپیاد کشورمان به ژاپن، با اعلام این مطلب، افزود: تیم ایران از نظر کسب مدال، رتبه یازدهم این دوره از المپیاد را با کسب یک مدال طلا، ۲ نقره و یک برنز، تصاحب کرد.

در این مسابقات که از دهم شهریور ماه با حضور ۳۴۱ شرکت کننده از ۸۷ کشور در شهر سوکوبای ژاپن برگزار شد، محمدمهدوی به مدال طلا، کیوان رضایی نقره، مهرداد صابری نقره و سیدمهدی صادق شبیری به مدال برنز این مسابقات دست یافتند.



Farmers picking oranges in Savadkuh

With autumn nearing the end, farmers are busy picking oranges in Savadkuh, northern Mazandaran province.

Some two million tons of oranges are forecast to be harvested this year across the province.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Why should a human being boast? His beginning is a sticky embryo, and his end a terrible corpse. He can neither secure his subsistence, nor ward off death.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:00 Evening: 17:13 Dawn: 5:37 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:08 (tomorrow)

Bristol Palestine Film Festival finds reconciliation after last year's cancellations

The 14th edition of the Bristol Palestine Film Festival took place this year in the English city in the wake of last year's cancellation of two festival events by the Arnolfini arts center.

In November 2023, the Arnolfini withdrew its offer to host a screening of Darin J Sallam's coming-of-age film "Farha" and a live poetry night headlined by rapper and activist Lowkey, saying the events could be "construed as political activity". The Bristol gallery was accused of censoring Palestinian voices and was subject to an artist-led boycott and demands for an explanation, particularly as Israel's war on Gaza had already claimed thousands of civilian lives, Middle East Eye reported. But this moment ended up being a catalyst for positive change. In May, the Arnolfini issued a public statement of apology and its CEO resigned.

After a mediation process, the festival announced it had reconciled with the venue, which had shown it was prepared to change and make amends. Festival curators told Middle East Eye that no restrictions were imposed on this year's programming.

Finishing on Friday, the festival began with "From Ground Zero," a collection of 22 short films made in Gaza over the last year of war, and continued with a weekend of events that included Palestinian singer Reem Kelani, whose most recent single, "If I Must Die", is set to the poem of the same name by the Palestinian writer and activist Refaat Alareer, who was killed in Gaza.

On the opening night, before the screening of "From Ground Zero," the Arnolfini's new CEO Suzanne Rolt addressed the room and affirmed the center's "determination to do better", revealing it had committed to long-term "cultural awareness training" with Palestinian social activist Sally Az-

zam, a festival trustee, in partnership with local charity Bridges for Communities.

"From Ground Zero" is an initiative launched by Palestinian film-maker Rashid Masharawi, who is from Gaza. He collected 22 short films from people in the besieged strip living under Israeli bombardment. The films, which were shot, edited and exported in the midst of the war, feature raw footage in mini documentary form as well as the inventive use of art, stop motion and poetry.

"It was really emotional to have the opening at the Arnolfini and to choose that specific film. It was a very deliberate decision. It had to be hard hitting," Sally Azzam said. "People were coming out in complete shock.

The audience didn't clap at the end, they just stayed sitting down until the lights went on."

"Nobody thought a year later we would be sitting at the Arnolfini, but when Bristol Artists for Palestine called off the boycott and we issued a statement, people trusted the festival's judgment," Azzam added. "Boycotting is an important tool, but when we see organizations making genuine efforts to change, we have to be open to working with them to move forward."

The following evening, Azzam cooked a beautifully presented meal for 100 people at the "food and film" pairing at Bristol's Palestine Museum.

While Israeli society attempts to culturally appropriate Palestinian cuisine and dishes, it felt relevant to come together to celebrate some specially prepared Arabic food, followed by stuffed dates.

During a time of deep collective grief, the dining experience was also a positive way to meet other allies in the community and to reject succumbing to hopelessness.

Cartoon of Day



War And Children

Cartoonist: Oguz Gurel from Turkey

Palestine World Prize for Literature receives submissions from 26 countries

TEHRAN- The 2nd edition of the Palestine World Prize for Literature has received submissions from 26 countries, the secretary of the event has announced.

A total of 345 book titles from 26 countries have been submitted to the prize's secretariat in Tehran, Mohsen Parviz said, Mehr reported on Saturday.

Regarding the selection process for the submitted works, Parviz explained that the award's scientific council approves judges who then review the submissions. "However, for the Palestine World Prize, we do not have a scientific council. Consequently, the Policy Council, responsible for major policies and scientific matters regarding the prize, serves in that capacity and appoints judges from various countries," he said.

Parviz noted that judges for the second edition of the award were selected from Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, Indonesia, India, and Iran. The initial review of submissions was conducted by two judges, and those that qualified for the next stage were subsequently discussed in a joint meeting with the head of the jury.

He elaborated, "The process has been consistent across all subcategories; judges provided their reasoning for selecting works based on technique and content.

The final decision was made collectively by the judges, the head of the jury, and the scientific secretary. Except for two categories with fewer submissions, five works were chosen for final evaluation and ranking."

Parviz emphasized that the primary languages of submitted works were Arabic and Persian, thus leveraging distinguished Ar-



abic-speaking scholars from various Arab countries for this task.

"While the majority of submissions were in Arabic and Persian, there were also entries in English, Urdu, Malay, French, and Spanish."

Continuing, he stated, "The judging sessions for this award were conducted remotely using new technologies, setting a suitable precedent for future years, as it proved to be an efficient and successful method."

Six judging groups were formed in six different categories: plays, memoirs, short stories, children's literature, poetry, and novels. The highest volume of submissions came from the novel category, which received 106 entries, while the play category had the fewest, with only nine submissions, he noted.

He further mentioned that final judges included professors from Iranian universities and language faculties. Additionally, the heads of Arab Writers Union in Syria and Algeria, Muhammad Al-Hourani

and Youssef Shakra, assisted in the final judging process.

Parviz affirmed that, despite the uncertainty surrounding which works will be selected, the mere focus on the theme of resistance and Palestine by writers and poets from various countries is of significant importance and a positive takeaway.

He expressed hope that through effective media promotion, the selected works could be translated into other languages and serve as advocates for the accurately and artistically rendered narratives defending the Palestinian people.

"Despite a smaller volume of submissions being reviewed over a longer period last time, the quality of works in this edition seems significantly higher," he remarked.

"Previous memoir submissions were also strong, but we are now witnessing a remarkable leap in the quality of novels and short stories. This advancement led

to some hesitation in eliminating certain works to reach a final verdict, largely influenced by the recent events surrounding the Al-Aqsa Storm."

"The impact of Palestinian heroism on writers and poets will undoubtedly yield even higher quality works in the coming years," he mentioned.

It has been decided that the closing ceremony of the second edition of the Palestine World Prize for Literature will be held on Monday in Baghdad, Iraq hosted by the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office, he concluded.

The Palestine World Prize for Literature was established in 2018 in Iran by a collective decision of cultural organizations, writers' unions, and publications from various countries.

This biennial award aims to recognize the best works published about Palestine. The first edition of this prize was held in 2022 in Beirut.

Book on life of Sacred Defense martyr's wife republished



contributing to the establishment of the IRGC in the region and serving on its council.

"Autumn Has Arrived" goes beyond a personal and familial narrative; it encapsulates many bittersweet realities of the Sacred Defense era. The book illustrates the intersection of love and war—a love that finds meaning amid conflict and a war that becomes bearable through love and faith. It tells the story of the couple as representatives of countless Iranian couples who, during the hardship of war, fought not only for personal survival but also for their nation and the spiritual values of their society.

Through a meticulous and humanistic lens, the author examines the challenging moments in the couple's lives—filled with longing, fear, and hope, yet always guided by strong faith and determination.

Back in October, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's commendation for the book was unveiled.

In his commendation, Ayatollah Khamenei described the work as featuring "beautiful and eloquent prose."

"Fiery love, steadfast determination, and genuine faith are depicted in the lives of these two young individuals, presented with beautiful and eloquent prose in this book," the Leader wrote in his commendation.

"This is one of those heartfelt narratives that leave me humbled and underscore the vast distance between myself and these true warriors," he stated.

In an interview with the Tehran Times in 2022, author Golestan Jafarian discussed the inspiration behind her book and the poignant story it

conveys.

"The process of writing this book began when I was given a series of prepared interviews to read and comment on, focusing on the life of a martyr's wife who lost her husband during the war at the young age of 24, already a mother of two sons," she explained. "She was one of those remarkable individuals who volunteered for military training.

During her training, her husband—who was both her instructor and ten years her senior—proposed to her, warning that accepting his proposal would mean coming to terms with the possibility of losing him in battle. This led me to question: despite her deep love for him, how did she accept his proposal? To uncover the truth, I traveled to Zanjan to speak with her directly."

Jafarian elaborated on her choice of title, saying, "I chose 'Autumn' because it symbolizes the season of significant events in their lives—her husband's birthday, his martyrdom, and their marriage."

She also pointed out that "We haven't truly addressed the complex circumstances surrounding the families of martyrs and the extent of their suffering. It's a failing on the part of writers, researchers, and experts like myself that these difficult narratives remain largely unknown to the public."

Additionally, Jafarian shared the challenges she faces in gathering and collecting wartime memoirs from soldiers, stating, "One major challenge is avoiding clichés, which is more difficult than it may seem. It took considerable time and effort for me to craft something both compelling and authentic."

Iranian short film "Before Heaven" wins at Karama Human Rights Film Festival

TEHRAN- The Iranian short film "Before Heaven" won an award at the 15th Karama Human Rights Film Festival, which was held in Amman, Jordan, from December 5 to 12.

Written and directed by Ahmad Haidaryan, "Before Heaven" received the Karama Feather Award for Best Short Fiction.

The six-minute flick shows children paintings on the wall of a house whose new owner has made a decision to paint all the walls.

The theme of this year's edition of the festival was justice. Karama Human Rights Film Festival views 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," the festival is dedicated to interrogating centuries of colonial, racial, and environmental injustice.

"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," the festival website wrote.

Showcasing global indie cinema since 2010, Karama HRRF is the first human rights film festival in the MENA region and the first international film festival in Jordan.