The number of martyrs in Gaza exceeds ten thousand

# +10,000

## They are not just number

TEHRAN- Israeli forces pounded northern Gaza with intense airstrikes overnight into Monday night as the Palestinian death toll from a month of fighting passed 10,000.

As Israeli troops have pushed into the dense confines of Gaza, an even bloodier phase is expected. According to Gaza's Health Ministry, around 10,022 Palestinians have been martyred so far.

Child casualties crossed 4,000 as Israeli raids expanded, Al Jazeera reported.

The Israeli military said late Sunday that it had cut off northern Gaza from the south, calling it a "significant stage" in the war. On Monday, it said that aircraft struck 450 targets overnight and ground troops took over a Hamas compound, ABC News reported.

On Sunday afternoon, an Israeli air strike hit several houses near a school at the Bureji refugee camp in central Gaza, killing at least 13 people, according to officials at Al-Agsa Hospital. It was the third refugee camp to be hit by Israeli air strikes in the past 24 hours. More than 50 Palestinians were killed in attacks on Gaza's al-Maghazi and Jabalia refugee camps, Al Jazeera said.

Arafat Abu Mashaia, a resident of the al-Maghazi camp, said the Israeli air strike flattened several multi-story homes where people forced out of other parts of Gaza were sheltering. "It was a true massacre," he said early on Sunday as he stood on the wreckage of destroyed homes. "All here are peaceful people. I challenge anyone who says there were resistance [fighters] here."

The camp, a built-up residential area, was located in the evacuation zone.

"These repeated air strikes on refugee camps in central and southern Gaza are the reason why people are not taking the Israeli announcement of guaranteeing safe corridors to travel to the south seriously," Al Jazeera's Hani Mahmoud said.

According to the United Nations, 1.5 million people are now internally displaced in Gaza out of a population of 2.3 million.

Food, medicine, fuel, and water are running low, and UN-run schools that have been turned into shelters, are beyond capacity, with many Palestinians sleeping on the streets outside. > Page 5

# Pressure on U.S. and Israel Must Intensify, Leader says



### Opinion: Atomic bomb can't Gaza's collapsing bring Israel back before October 7

#### By Mohammad Sarfi Editor-in-Chief

The number of martyrs of the crimes of the Israeli regime and the US in Gaza exceeded ten thousand persons on November 6. The Israelis have taken their crimes to the extreme and have no limit or boundary for their savagery. Zionist madness only victimizes defenseless and oppressed people because they are unable to confront resistance fighters. The real war will begin in the "Gaza metro" and Gaza resistance will have many surprises for the occupying army.

The occupying army relies on deadly weapons and advanced military technology, but if these weapons and technology had been lifesaving, they would have saved them from the storm of October 7th. On that historic Saturday, resistance fighters shattered all deadly obstacles on the way and for the first time tasted the liberation of their homeland, not only for the Palestinian nation but also for the Islamic Ummah. ▶ Page 5

## health sector

#### By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- Since the beginning of the war on Gaza, the Israeli military has shocked international bodies and organizations with its regular attacks on hospitals and

Adding to the revulsion, the world is watching on as Gaza's health sector faces different threats from the

While the Israeli attack on al Ahli Hospital on October 17, that killed and injured hundreds of civilians, made global headlines, the reality of the health situation on the ground is much more dangerous for Gaza's 2.3 million population.

Experts believe that by destroying the health sector amid a merciless bombing campaign, such as the October 30 Israeli bombing of al-Quds Hospital, Israeli leaders are trying to pressure the local Gaza population to turn against Hamas and other defenders of the land. It is a tactic that has proven to be a failure.

Israel is not only bombing hospitals and health centers but also the roads leading to them. > Page 5

#### Iran and Iraq demand ceasefire in Gaza

TEHRAN- At a joint press conference with the Iraqi premier on Monday,

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday that the Israeli regime, which is largely backed by the U.S. and several European nations, is committing "genocide" in Palestine, particularly against children.

"We believe that the Israeli bombardments against Gaza must be stopped as soon as possible and a ceasefire must be established." Raisi said at a joint press conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani who visited Tehran on Monday morning for talks with top Iranian officials on the situation in Gaza.

Raisi went on to underscore the need to send aid to the "oppressed" yet "powerful" people of Gaza as soon

The president added that Tehran cooperates with and supports any measure by the Muslim, regional and international countries aimed at deterring the Israeli regime and the U.S. from massacring the innocent people of Gaza. ▶ Page 2

## Iran calls for nuclear disarmament of Israel

TEHRAN – Iran has called on the United Nations Security Council to immediately move to dismantle Israel's nuclear weapons following dangerous remarks by an Israeli minister who called for nuking the Gaza

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the remarks in a post on the X platform, formerly

His post comes after Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu urged the Israeli government to drop a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip, one of the most densely populated areas of the world with a population of 2.3 million.

Speaking in an interview on Sunday, Eliyahu claimed that there were "no non-combatants" in the besieged strip and that using a nuclear bomb on the Palestinian enclave was one of the possibilities."

Amir Abdollahian said the remarks are indicative of Israel's failure.

"Israel's regime minister's statement to use atomic bomb shows the real defeat of the regime against the resistance," he said. ▶ Page 3

#### Free health insurance provided for 95,000 refugees

TEHRAN - Some 95,000 foreign nationals who hold legal residence permits and are suffering from hard-to-cure diseases receive free health insurance annually.

Their insurance contract will be renewed every year in the month of Esfand – the last Iranian calendar month ending on March 19, Fars quoted Jamshid Shayanfar, an official with the Health Insurance Organization of Iran, as saying.

He added, "The insurance premiums for these people are covered by the High Commissioner for Refugees, and the insurance premiums for about 60,000 citizens are paid to the health insurance organization based on the government budget."

Shayanfar went on to say that around 800,000 non-vulnerable nationals also have to pay their own insurance premiums; once they pay the insurance premium, they will enjoy health insurance services for a year. ▶ Page 7



## 'OBOR initiative to facilitate Iran, China economic development'

TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Abbas Aliabadi has said the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative is going to facilitate both Iran and China's economic development, IRNA reported.

Speaking in an Iran-China business forum held on the sidelines of the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE), Aliabadi said: "China's One Belt One Road initiative offers many opportunities to develop our country's infrastructure, such as ports, railways, etc., which can facilitate the economic development of the two countries." ▶ Page 4

## Iran's cereal production exceeds 21m tons in current crop year: FAO

TEHRAN - Cereal production in Iran reached 21.2 million tons in the current crop year, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s latest Crop Prospects and Food Situation report.

Based on the said report, the Islamic Republic's cereal production in the current crop year has increased by two percent compared to the previous year when the output was 20.6 million tons.

FAO has placed Iran in fourth place among the Asian nations in terms of the volume of cereal production.

According to the organization, Iran's wheat production, which stood at 13 million tons in the 2022 crop year, has increased by 500,000 tons to reach 13.5 million tons in the current year. ▶ Page 4

## -TEHRAN PAPERS-

### America's fear of a Gaza ceasefire

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

Kayhan discussed the claims of the American Hill magazine and wrote: This magazine says if the Israeli war on Gaza stops normalization between Iran and Saudi Arabia, then Iran will emerge victorious.

In fact, the magazine is seeking to blame Iran for the October 7 attack by the Hamas resistance group in the occupied territories near the Gaza Strip.

"If this war stops Israeli-Saudi normalization, then Iran wins" was the headline of the Hill article.

It also claimed that "Iran needed to start a war before the normalization reached fruition."

Without mentioning the public opinion in the Arab world toward Israel, part of the article says, "Iran's well-planned hegemonic ambitions to dominate the Middle East and chase the U.S. from the region will be thwarted if Arabs and Israelis find common ground."

The writer of the article wants to suggest that the worst thing for Israel and its main ally is not fighting the war but losing it. The writer wants to convey the idea that a ceasefire now will lead to more wars.

So far, Hamas has won the war. It launched a surprise attack on Israel and killed more than 1,300 Israelis. Through the attack, they have postponed the goal of peace between Israelis and Palestinians, destroyed any prospect of a moderate Palestinian leadership, blocked the normalization of relations between Israel and Arab states, and created a gap between the U.S. and its Arab allies.

#### Iran: Iran's six proposals to strengthen global

In a note, the Iran newspaper discussed the visit of the first vice president to China. It said: Mohammad Mokhber explained the new contexts and conditions of the global economy, such as sharing domestic opportunities with the rest of the world, supporting a comprehensive multilateral trade system to regulate international trade rules, maintaining the stability of industrial and supply chains of the world, creating international consumption center cities, developing e-commerce and creating modern logistics systems. These are six proposals to strengthen the new global trade. However, unilateralism threatens the flow of international trade: causes trade war between countries and leads to economic sanctions (which are literally economic terrorism), and creates obstacles to a globalized economy. The more countries become

active in different sectors and use their national currency in exchanges and commercial transactions, the impact of American sanctions will decrease because America relies on the power of the dollar to sanction countries.

#### Sobh-e-No: Economic opportunities for Iran

In an explanation, Sobh-e-No discussed the trip of the Taliban delegation to Tehran and said: This trip was carried out to improve the level of commercial and economic cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan and develop bilateral relations in the fields of trade, transportation, transit, investment and customs cooperation. In recent months, there have been repeated issues in the media such as a significant increase in the number of Afghan immigrants, water crisis, and security challenges. It seems that resolving an important part of these crises will depend on increasing economic relations and defining common interests with the ruling body in Afghanistan. The increase in the unemployment rate, increase in the number of immigrants, increase in crime, growth in drug production, and finally activation of radical groups in the border areas are among the inevitable consequences of the deterioration of the economic situation in Afghanistan, which can be controlled to a significant extent by increasing economic cooperation. On the other hand, if the border areas become a passage for extensive commercial exchanges and the people of the two countries benefit from it, the space for creating insecurity will surely disappear.

#### Shargh: Zelensky's baseless claims against

In an analysis, Shargh discussed Zelensky>s new claim against Iran. It wrote: The president of Ukraine, whose country is at war with Russia, said in part of his interview with NBC News that there is nothing new. This is a fire that has been burning between Israel and Palestine for a long time, and some people are busy making it burn more. I am sure that Russia is behind this and supports Hamas, and so does Iran. They should be blamed and pressure should increase on Iran and Russia. Zelensky>s claim against Iran is raised while Amir Abdollahian has recently emphasized in a television interview that the Islamic Republic of Iran has never welcomed war. Our efforts are focused on realizing the rights of the Palestinians and not expanding the war. Many efforts are being made in the region so that the scope of the war does not expand. Iran does not give orders to the resistance forces and they make independent decisions.

## The end of Opium

#### By Mohsen Eslam Zadeh

TEHRAN- The interim government of Afghanistan has taken effective measures to prevent the production of opium in the country. But that could bring about some economic challenges for the Taliban in the future.

On July 19 around 12 am local time, Taliban's forces arrived in an area full of farms in the Khash district, in the province of Badakhshan, while riding their Toyota cars.

According to new laws passed by Afghanistan's acting government, farmers are no longer allowed to cultivate cannabis and poppy.

Afghanistan's acting Deputy Minister of Interior for Counter Narcotics dispatched a number of soldiers to the vast poppy farms in Badakhshan from the capital Kabul to oversee the destruction of tens of acres land. These soldiers were divided into two groups, one led by Maulvi Shafiq and the other by Maulvi Shoja.

To prevent any major conflicts, the soldiers proceeded to notify the farmers about the destruction orders prior to taking action. But the farmers strongly objected to ceding their farms, which led to a heated discussion.

The Taliban commanders tried their best to explain the government's orders, warning the farmers that the soldiers were only trying to get rid of the farms where locals had illegally planted opium and Hashish.

It is pretty easy to get rid these plants as they can be rooted out without much labor. The Taliban soldiers with their big scythes and long sticks managed to eradicate every poppy and cannabis crop in no time.

After about four hours, the soldiers were



done with their mission, ready to head back to Kabul with a report on how the destruction had been carried out.

The Taliban had previously warned farmers about illegal actions and crimes.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reported on Sunday, November 5 that opium cultivation in Afghanistan decreased by 95% in 2023.

The report stated that opium cultivation in Afghanistan had decreased from 233,000 hectares to about 10,800 hectares.

Although the preventive actions of Taliban are admirable and herald well for the young generations of Afghanistan, the sheer objection of the Afghan farmers planting opium and their subsequent shock with the destruction of their farms show that the Taliban might have been able to solve one big challenge, but is likely to face new ones in the future. That's because lots of Afghans rely on the production of opium to make ends meet.

It seems that Afghanistan's economy has an uncertain future ahead.

We should wait and see what plans Afghanistan's rulers and international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Narcotic Drugs and Organized Crime have, in order to support Afghan farmers and introduce alternative options.

## Pressure on U.S. and Israel must intensify, Leader says

TEHRAN- The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seved Ali Khamenei, asserts that the Israeli attack on Gaza is being directly orchestrated by the United States and that the regime in Tel Aviv is the true loser of the onslaught against the beleaguered strip.

The Leader made the remarks on Monday during a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in Tehran.

The Leader stated that the Americans are unquestionably implicated in the Israeli regime's atrocities in Gaza.

"Since the very first days of the Zionist regime's attacks, all the evidence and indications show the direct involvement of the Americans in running the war," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei also stated that as the conflict continues, the motivations for the United States' direct involvement in spearheading Israel's crimes would become increasingly clear.

The Leader declared that without military and political support from the U.S., the Israeli regime would not be able to carry on with the war.

He added the Israeli regime is the "main loser" of the current conflict despite the slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza because it has failed to rebuild its damaged reputation and would never be able to do so.

Ayatollah Khamenei also praised the Iraqi government's "good and strong" attitude in support of the Palestinian people in Gaza, urging the Muslim world to increase political pressure on the U.S. and Israel to cease the slaughter of civilians in the besieged territory.

Iraq, as a key player in the region, could play a unique role in this respect, forming a new front in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Iran and Iraq, according to Ayatollah Khamenei, can play an effective role in this respect by increasing bilateral collaboration.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Leader complimented Tehran and Baghdad's economic and security cooperation and encouraged both parties to keep up the same rate of advancement.

#### "Collective revenge"

For his part, the prime minister Ayatollah Khamenei added that of Iraq declared that Hamas' Op-

eration Al-Aqsa Storm was a valiant endeavor that made the entire world's free people proud.

Sudani bemoaned the savage Israeli attacks in Gaza, calling it a "collective revenge" against the lo-

He maintained that the Iraqi government has made significant political strides to stop Israel's atrocities in Gaza and to provide food and medicine to its citizens.

Additionally, Sudani reaffirmed Iraq's unwavering commitment to fostering better ties with Iran and carrying out bilateral agreements.

In the midst of the Israeli war on Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas political bureau chief, met with Ayatollah Khamenei in Tehran.

The meeting in the middle of the war is highly important.

According to the Beirut-based TV channel Al Mayadeen, Osama Hamdan, the chief representative of Hamas in Lebanon and a member of its politburo, stated on Saturday that Haniyeh visited Tehran "a couple of days ago" and "met and talked with" Ayatollah Khamenei.

## Israel's menace to use nukes weakens TPNW: Iranian Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has criticized a Zionist regime's minister for his comments about the possibility of dropping an atomic bomb on Gaza, saying such a threat undermines the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Nasser Kanaani denounced comments by farright Israeli Minister Amichai Eliyahu, who suggested dropping atomic bombs on Gaza was a viable option against Hamas.

He added that such comments should be taken seriously in light of the atrocities of the Israeli regime with a large nuclear arsenal.

According to Jane's Defence Weekly, Israel is the sixth nuclear power in the world. The Janes has also said that Israel has 100 to 300 nuclear warheads, which is equal to England's nuclear warheads.

"We hope the United Nations would appropriately and immediately take care of this issue as a threat to international peace," he stressed.

When asked in a radio interview on Sunday whether the Israeli regime should drop atomic bombs on Gaza, Eliyahu said that is an option.

TPNW, which entered into force on 22 January 2021, prohibits member states from engaging in any activities related to nuclear weapons, including the use, threat of use, production, development, possession, and stationing of these weapons.

Elsewhere in the presser, Kanaani criticized some Western nations for unleashing the "barbaric Zionist regime", saying Westerners who claimed support for international peace now remain silent on the threat of Israel's use of nuclear weapons.

The spokesman went on to highlight that the Zionist regime's nuclear threat reveals the extent of its humiliation in the face of the Palestinian nation and indicates that Israel has no red lines and no respect for interna-

"This (Israeli) threat shows that the Zionist regime poses a real threat to international peace and security more than ever," he added.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

## Israel committing 'biggest genocide' of 21st century, Raisi tells Pope Francis

TEHRAN- Iran's president has strongly condemned the massacre of Palestinian women and children by the Israeli regime in its brutal attack on the besieged Gaza Strip, describing it as "the biggest genocide of the century."

Ebrahim Raisi made the remarks late on Sunday during a phone call with Pope Francis, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

"The horrendous and unprecedented crimes of the usurper Zionist regime in martyring nearly 10,000 people, including 4,000 children and 2,500 women in Gaza, is the biggest genocide of the century." Iran's pres-

He also slammed those countries that support Israel's crimes despite the global outcry against them, saying, "What response can the countries supporting this regime give to the people of the world in the face of such shocking crimes?"

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president described the Zionists' crimes against the oppressed women and children of Gaza, including its attacks on al-Mamadani Hospital and the Jabalia refugee camp, as clear examples of "crimes against humanity".

Raisi went on to stress, "The

bombing of the Gaza church and the destruction of this historical heritage of the Palestinian nation is an example of apartheid practices not only against Palestinian Muslims, but also against other divine religions, which was carried out with the support of the United States and a number of European countries."

The president went on to say that "supporting the oppressed people of Palestine is in accordance with the teachings of all Abrahamic religions, including Christianity."

The president also appreciated Pope Francis' stance on the need to establish an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Raisi then asked Pope Francis to remind Israel's Western supporters to speed up efforts to end the Israeli regime's crimes in Gaza.

He also called for intensified diplomatic efforts to immediately stop the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip and send humanitarian aid there.

Pope Francis, for his part, hailed the Iranian president's positions in support of the oppressed people of Palestine.

Underscoring the need to stop Israel's brutal attacks on Gaza and establish a ceasefire, the Pope said, "As the leader of the world's Catholics, I will do everything in my power to stop these attacks and prevent more women and children from becoming victims in Gaza."

Pope Francis made an urgent plea for a halt to the conflict in Gaza on Sunday, calling for humanitarian aid and help for those injured in order to ease the "very grave" situation, according to Reuters.

"I hope that all will be done to avoid the conflict from widening, that the injured will be rescued and aid will arrive to the population of Gaza, where the humanitarian situation is very grave," he said.

"Let's think about the children, all the children involved in this war, like in Ukraine and in other conflicts, their future is being killed," the Pope added.

Francis has already called for the creation of humanitarian corridors and has said a two-state solution was needed to put an end to the Israel-Hamas war.

Also, in a phone call with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre on Saturday night, Raisi emphasized that Hamas is the legitimate government of the Gaza Strip and that fighting the Palestinian resistance

movement is akin to fighting a war against democracy.

Raisi also praised Oslo's stance on the necessity of an instant stop to Israel's killing of civilians in Gaza and international efforts to break the siege on the coastal enclave and provide aid to its 2.3 million inhabitants.

In addition, he said that Iran is willing to work with the Norwegian Justice Ministry to look into the crimes that Israel has committed in Gaza, emphasizing that the regime's "war crimes" and Washington's backing for them should not go unpunished.

Raisi pointed out that the large arms and equipment transfers by the U.S. to the Zionist regime are to blame for the nearly 10,000 deaths in Gaza, including 4,000 children.

"The fact that a child is killed in Gaza almost every 10 minutes is horrible and a clear example of 'crime against humanity and genocide'. The disgusting silence of the U.S. and some European countries along with their armed support for the Zionist regime prove the West's double standards and its obvious partnership in the Zionists' crimes," he continued.

The head of Iran's government also criticized the failure of 180 UN resolutions to change Israel's behaviors.

#### Iran and Iraq demand ceasefire in Gaza

From page 1 • Raisi noted that Tehran and regime to carry out more acts of murder, he added. Baghdad share a common position on the Pales-

The Iranian president rejected as "sheer lie" the U.S. allegations about sending aid to Gaza and announcing a ceasefire in the war-stricken strip, saying such claims do not match the Americans' actions.

"Unfortunately, the U.S. provides arms, intelligence and financial aid to the Zionist regime to brutally kill the Palestinian people and it actually encourages the Israeli regime," he stressed.

Raisi also said that the U.S. vetoed a draft resolution proposed by Brazil to the United Nations Security Council for humanitarian pauses in the war on the blockaded Palestinian territory.

This would actually pave the way for the Israeli

The president emphasized that the U.S. and other countries that support Israel are complicit in all the regime's crimes.

Raisi added the battle of the resistance front against Israel and the defeat that it has inflicted on the regime have crumbled the Israeli regime.

He went on to say that Muslim nations and those regional and global countries that believe in God cannot justify their silence vis-à-vis the ongoing crimes against the Palestinian people.

#### "Organized genocide"

For his part, Sudani held the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and said that it was the outcome of Israel's years of criminal policies against the oppressed people of Palestine which included the killing of civilians, forced displacement, illegal settlement and the desecration of al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Israeli regime has held the Gazan people inside a prison for many years while the international community has failed to implement its commitments and obligations in practice regarding the crisis in Gaza, the prime minister added.

He emphasized that those who seek to prevent the spillover of the war must push the Israeli regime to stop its crime and "organized genocide" of Palestinians in Gaza.

Sudani said the sides that are carrying out acts of aggression against the people of Gazan must prevent a wider war in the region. The premier added that Iran and Iraq seek to adopt a close stance on ways to exert pressure on influential countries to stop the bombing of Gaza and the killing of the Palestinian people as soon as possible.

## Iran calls for nuclear disarmament of Israel

Frome Page 1 > The Iranian foreign minister added, "The UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency must take immediate and uninterrupted action to disarm this barbaric and apartheid regime. Tomorrow is late. Full responsibility for this genocide lies with the White House."

Eliyahu's blatantly genocidal remarks are in harmony with statements by other senior Israeli officials. Earlier, Israeli President Isaac Herzog said "the entire nation" in Gaza is responsible for the October 7 attack by the Palestinian resistance groups, implying that all the population of Gaza should be collectively punished. Also, Israeli War Minister Yoav Gallant went so far as to describe the people of Gaza as "human animals."

But while some Israelis criticized Eliyahu's remarks, no one in Israel or in the world reproached Herzog and Gallant for their catastrophic portrayal of the Palestinian people. This genocidal rhetoric has come literally into practice over the last month in Gaza, where Israel has been on a killing spree that claimed the lives of more than 10,000 civilians. The Israeli carnage has been so massive that the UN announced Monday that its staff fatalities broke a record.

"Scores of aid workers have been killed since October 7 including 88 UNRWA colleagues - the highest number of United Nations fatalities ever recorded in a single conflict." the UN said. More than 100 attacks against health care have been reported, according to the UN.

But Israel seems to be eager to take more Palestinian lives as part of their strategy to inflict high human costs in order to achieve deterrence vis-à-vis a stateless nation.

take effective actions for peace.

TEHRAN - The Iranian President's wife.

Jamileh Alamolhoda, has addressed the

spouses of 40 European leaders in a letter,

asking them to condemn the killing of innocent

Palestinian women and children in Gaza and

"As humans, we should be ashamed of what

is happening in our shared planet during these

bitter days. Preserving human values requires

the collective action of those who claim justice

and freedom and detest injustice and misery.

As powerful and influential women in Europe,

you should take appropriate actions to help

the oppressed women and innocent children of



used this strategy over the course of Israeli history. They targeted civilians almost in all their wars with Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and above all with the Palestinian people. But in all this, they miserably failed to achieve deterrence as resistance continued to rattle the Israeli regime to the core.

Their strategy is based on a simple idea: killing civilians en masse to put pressure on the enemy, whether it's the Egyptian, Jordanian, and Syrian armies or the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance groups.

And when they fail to succeed, they often dangle the possibility of using nuclear weapons. Eliyahu's inflammatory statement was not the first time the Israeli regime has threatened to use its illegal nuclear bombs.

Actually, this is the second time that senior Israeli officials have entertained the disastrous idea of using nuclear bombs. The first Israeli official who threatened to use the nuclear bomb was none other than Moshe Dayan, a veteran war criminal who served as the Israeli defense minister during the October 1973 war between Egypt and Israel.

Of historical note, Israel invaded

the Israeli nuclear arsenal remains a strategic threat to all countries of the region, especially Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Iran.

Israel has shown that its nuclear arsenal is ready to be used against civilians who are already stateless and besieged.

Over the last month, Israel used a wide range of "conventional" weapons - some of which are internationally prohibited such as white phosphorous bombsto wreak unbelievable havoc on civilians in Gaza all while laying strict siege on the enclave. Some military estimates say that the amount of ammunition Israel dropped on Gaza is equal to more than nuclear bombs. And the civilian casualties are already exceeding 10,000. So, if despite all this death and destruction, Israel feels it needs an actual nuclear bomb to completely destroy Gaza, then how it will feel when confronting a well-organized, fully armed army?

The 1973 war offers some hints.

It's no surprise that the Arab world fiercely reacted to Eliyahu's bombshell. Aside from official reactions, popular Egyptian night shows, for instance, extensively addressed the strategic threat posed by Israel's nuclear bombs. And the fact that these bombs are in possession of a bunch of extremists makes their threat even more dangerous and imminent.

With Israel insisting on targeting disregarding civilians and international law, the Israel nuclear threat is expected to further deepen discussions on security in the region. Some Israelis may argue that he made a slip of the tongue. It was actually a slip, but certainly a Freudian slip.

# IRAN IN FOCUS

**NOVEMBER 7, 2023** Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

#### Sardar Azmoun scores first goal for AS Roma

TEHRAN - Sardar Azmoun proved crucial to AS Roma's comeback win over Lecce by scoring his first goal for Jose Mourinho's side.

Stoppage-time goals by Azmoun and Romelu Lukaku earned AS Roma a dramatic 2-1 home win against Lecce in Serie A Sunday night, its fourth victory from five league games to cut the gap to the top four to four points.

In his post-match interview with DAZN, Azmoun didn't hide his emotions.

"We knew it was going to be difficult today, but we were focused until the end so as not to lose. We showed character, it's the right reward for our hard work."

"Scoring my first goal was an incredible moment. I've been waiting for this moment. I worked a lot to be ready tonight. I love this team and this city. My daughter was born here."

#### Persepolis looking for another win against Istiklol: **ACL Matchday 4**

TEHRAN - Persepolis FC will fancy their chances of another three points when they face FC Istiklol in Group E of the AFC Champions League™ 2023/24 on Tuesday.

The two-time AFC Champions League runners-up are on six points, five ahead of an Istiklol side who have struggled for form on the continental stage.

Istiklol impressed in their opening match, holding Qatar>s Al Duhail SC to a goalless draw but have found points hard to come by since.

A fighting performance against Al Nassr wasn>t enough as the Saudi Arabian side walked away with a 3-1 win while Persepolis were too strong when the sides met two weeks ago, with the Iranian champions triumphing 2-0.

Persepolis bounced back admirably after succumbing to a 2-0 defeat against Al Nassr.

They edged Al Duhail 1-0 in a tight encounter in Doha and showed their quality in the reverse fixture against Istiklol and will be determined to keep pace at the top with Al Nassr with another win.

#### Iran too strong for Thailand at IFCPF Asia Oceania **Championships**

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Thailand 5-0 in the International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF) Asia Oceania Championships on

A first-half hattrick to Moslem Mehrabian in the first half gave Iran a sturdy lead that they never looked like relinquishing. While Thailand showed a lot of fight, the world no.3 Iran were too strong in the end.

Amirmahdi Rahimabadi and Shamseddin Shahbazi scored two more goals for Iran to register a 5-0 win over Thailand.

Iran had defeated Japan and Australia in their previous matches.

Team Melli will play India on Wednesday.

#### Iran beach soccer team to participate in Senegal tournament

TEHRAN - Iran beach soccer team will participate at a four-team tournament in

Team Melli will take part in the tournament as part of preparation for the 2024 FIFA Beach

Iran have been drawn along with Spain, Tahiti and Argentina in Group B.

Ali Naderi's men will start the campaign with a match against Spain, slated for February 15 in Dubai, the UAE.

The Beach Soccer team will also meet Belarus in three friendly matches.

#### Sydney beat Bam Khatoon at 2023 **AFC Women's Club** Championship

TEHRAN - Australia's Sydney Football Club defeated Bam Khatoon FC of Iran 3-0 in Group B of the AFC Women's Club Championship 2023 at the Jar Stadium on Monday.

Sydney FC took a 2-0 lead going into the break as they kicked off their campaign on a positive

Sydney FC broke the deadlock in the first minute when Dos Santos' inswinging corner was met with a decisive header from Fiona Worts, leaving goalkeeper Zahra Khajavi rooted.

Khajavi kept her side in the game, fending off efforts from Dos Santos and Shay Hollman but the Iranian shot stopper, however, conceded another in the 42nd minute.

Captain Princess Ibini-Isei sent a wonderful through ball for Aideen Keen, who did well to evade her marker before striking a powerful shot into the roof of the net from inside the box.

Sydney FC dominated the second half and extended their lead just before the hour mark, courtesy of a fine run from Dos Santos on the right before cutting back for Worts to volley home from close range.

Bam Khatoon tried in vain to get back into the game but their efforts to reduce the deficit fell short as Sydney FC cruised to collect the

Bam Khatoon will be hoping to bounce back when they meet Korea Republic's Hyundai Steel Red Angels Women's FC on Thursday, while Sydney FC take on FC Nasaf of Uzbekistan.

#### Nassaji suffer home loss against **Navbahor in ACL Matchday 4**

Tehran - Navbahor kept the heat up at the top of Group D in the AFC Champions League 2023/24 on Monday with a convincing 3-1 win against Nassaji Mazandaran at the Azadi stadium.

The win took the Uzbekistan side to 10 points, level with Saudi Arabia>s Al Hilal SFC, who defeated Mumbai City 2-0.

It was the visitors who opened the scoring nonetheless after seven minutes of play, when the defense failed to clear properly, the wayward header dropped in Igor Gulban's path with the Uzbek defender lashing a first-time volley in exquisite fashion to make it 1-0.

Navbahor doubled their lead with 21 minutes on the clock with some route-one play, when full-back Ibrokhimkhalil Yuldashev saw Ostun Urunov's run and floated a long ball into his path, with the forward then making no mistake beating the keeper following a short run into the area before striking home.

Just two minutes had passed after the break when Uronov doubled his tally and added Navbahor's third in the most aesthetically skillful ways, when Jamshid Iskanderov sent a ball his way above the defense, and Uronov somehow managed to catch it in the air with the back of his heel, just about changing its direction goalwards.

After 68 minutes, the home side clawed one goal back through Azadi, who received Mohammedreza Abbasi's cross and promptly slotted home to, refusing to celebrate as his side pushed on in the final minute, the-afc.com

Navbahor will appreciate the push they got from the win, as they go head to head against Al Hilal SFC at the end of the month at home in a game that could define the group, while Nassaji Mazandaran will host Mumbai City FC at the same stadium.

Egypt in June 1967 and occupied The Israeli leaders have long the Sinai Peninsula, which led Egypt to wage a war of attrition with the occupying Israeli forces up until it succeeded in defeating Israel in October 1973, when Egypt, after much planning and preparation, caught the Israeli forces stationed in the Sinai off guard in the first Arab military victory over Israel.

> Facing huge loss and defeat, Dayan pushed then-Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir to use nuclear weapons against Egypt on the second day of the 1973 war. This was revealed for the first time by Arnon Azaryahu, who served as an aide to another minister in the wartime security cabinet, Israel Galili.

"Since the situation is very bad, it would be worthwhile, since we don't have a lot of time and a lot of options, that we prepare to show the nuclear option," Azaryahu quoted Dayan as saying at a meeting of top Israeli officials during the heady days of the 1973 war.

Following Eliyahu's remarks, Israeli officials sought to falsely portray the extremist minister as crazy who does not represent Israel's strategic thinking. While it's obvious that the Eliyahu bomb is not going to be dropped on Gaza,

> The president's wife added that no religion in the world sees the massacre of women and children as justifiable. She stated that Israel has acquired a "policy of fear and hatred" to reach its sinister goals in the occupied territories.

> "How a group [of people] can call themselves servants of God (Israel), but only spread the dominion of Satan through the policy of [fomenting] fear and hatred? Do we believe that the Almighty God would leave all these crimes without retribution?"

> Israel's relentless attacks against civilian sites in Gaza have so far failed to engender any criticism from the West.

#### Tehran criticizes IAEA double standards on Iran's nuclear program

Iranian first lady writes to wives of 40 European leaders on Gaza tragedy

Alamolhoda asked the spouses of the

European leaders how they could remain silent

in the face of the brutal killing of Palestinians.

She pointed out how depriving an impoverished

population of more than 2 million of water,

food, and fuel is against any ethical and legal

"Madams, please as selfless and

compassionate ladies ask your husbands

on behalf of the women, mothers, and

daughters of your land, to condemn the killing

of Palestinian children and women and take

urgent and effective measures to establish

peace. I hope you will receive divine rewards

for your humane efforts."

of Iran (AEOI) has condemned the double standards of the International Atomic Energy (IAEA), saying the body allows Western countries to politicize nuclear energy and use it as a political tool.

Gaza." she wrote in the letter.

"Nuclear technology is a scientific and technical matter, but it has been politicized in regards to Iran," noted Pezhman

He said that Iran is the country with the most comprehensive cooperation with the IAEA.

on Monday.

of Tehran on Saturday.

exports through Iran.

TEHRAN - Iran's Interior Minister Ahmad

Vahidi held talks with Abdul Ghani Baradar,

the Acting Deputy Prime Minister for

Economic Affairs of the Taliban government

Baradar is leading a high-ranking Taliban

He also met with Iranian Foreign Minister

According to Baradar's office, the two

sides discussed political and economic

relations, "effective" coordination between

their respective nations, water resource

management, transit agreements, and

enhancement of Afghanistan's imports and

Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Sunday.

delegation that arrived in the Iranian capital

TEHRAN - The deputy chief of But that hasn't stopped the inspections of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and the Atomic Energy Organization organization from pursuing more activities of the Israeli regime. Nagasaki by the U.S. and asked ways to impose restrictions on Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

> "Nuclear energy, according to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), belongs to everyone and any country can have peaceful nuclear activities. However, the IAEA imposes more restrictions and surveillance on our country,

He said, unlike Iran, Israel is not a signatory to the NTP, and that has allowed it to have as many nuclear warheads as it desires.

"There is a double standard dealing with countries regarding nuclear issues. All of Iran>s nuclear activities are in the path of peace. But we are under intense inspections by the Agency. On the other hand, the regime has no commitments and there is no oversight," the AEOI

He also pointed to the atomic

why Washington has never been held accountable for its use of weapons of mass destruction. "Many Western countries began to develop nuclear weapons after those events," he said.

Shirmardi also underlined that Iran is planning to use nuclear energy to fulfill several of the country's needs. According to the official, Iran's nuclear technology will especially help the nation strengthen its capabilities in the fields of agriculture and medicine.

Iran, Afghanistan discuss ties in high-ranking meeting

Afghanistan. Since taking office, President Ebrahim

attaches great significance to its ties with

Afghanistan has been ruled by the Taliban since the U.S. hastily withdrew its forces from the country in August of 2021. It of American occupation.

Iran has repeatedly expressed willingness to work closely with the Taliban, while calling for an "inclusive" government in the warstricken country.

#### which is seeking peaceful nuclear energy to solve societal Shirmardi on Monday. problems." deputy director stressed. The nuclear official added

that there are absolutely no

#### to Iran with the aim of meeting and more than 5 million Afghan refugees and negotiating with Iranian economic officials in order to enhance trade and economic cooperation, develop bilateral relations, and explore more areas of cooperation in transit,

transportation, customs, and environment. The delegation, consisting of 30 Taliban officials, will also travel to other Iranian provinces and are due to be briefed on major economic projects of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This trip is taking place while according to the latest statistics, Iran>s share of the Afghan market amounts to 35%. Afghan investors also account for a considerable portion of foreign investments in Iran.

Iran has repeatedly voiced its support for Afghanistan's security and prosperity. The official and his protégé have traveled The country currently hosts a population of

Raisi's administration has emphasized the necessity of friendly and comprehensive relations with Iran's neighbors.

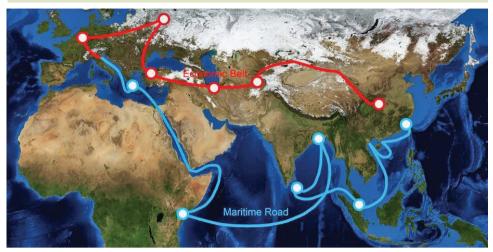
currently grapples with various security and humanitarian challenges, which are thought to be the results of more than two decades

Soccer World Cup.

## **ECONOMY**

NOVEMBER 7, 2023
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

# 'OBOR initiative to facilitate Iran, China economic development'



From page 1 Pointing out that fundamental measures should be taken to develop Iran-China trade, he noted: "In 2022, China's non-oil imports from Iran were 6.35 billion dollars, most of which were petrochemical products, mineral and metal products, medicine, agriculture, and fishery products"

"China's export to Iran was 9.44 billion dollars, most of which were electronic, electrical and power plant equipment, transportation, various industrial and metal goods and equipment, chemical products, plastic goods and products, and textiles," he added.

Iran has significant experiences and achievements in the field of petrochemical and refinery products and some knowledge-based products, which can be attractive to Chinese businessmen, the official said.

Pointing out that the relations between Iran and China have more opportunities to grow today than ever before, Aliabadi said the long-standing relations between Iran and China go back several centuries and have always been pursued in a positive atmosphere.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as the OBOR or the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road, is a development strategy adopted by the Chinese government involving infrastructure development and investments in 152 countries and international organizations in Europe, Asia, West Asia, Latin America and Africa.

"Belt" refers to the overland routes for road and rail transportation, called "the Silk Road Economic

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar

week (ended on Friday), Iran Mercantile

Exchange (IME) witnessed trade of 2,597,357

tons of commodities with a total trading value

of more than \$632 million on its physical market.

International Affairs Department, the exchange

saw on its metals and minerals trading floor

trade of 2,070,000 tons of commodities valued

On this floor the IME sold 1,275,998 tons of

cement, 362,000 tons of iron ore, 296,982 tons

of steel, 118,000 tons of sponge iron, 12,759 tons

of copper, 6,910 tons of aluminum, 885 tons of

zinc, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 175

tons of lead and 45 tons of precious metals

Based on this report, the IME witnessed on

both domestic and export rings of its oil and

petrochemical trading floor 514,423 tons of

Commodities traded on this floor included

184,461 tons of bitumen, 123,800 tons of

vacuum bottom, 103,620 tons of polymeric

products, 63,000 tons of lube cut, 31,067 tons

of chemicals, 7,437 tons of oil, 550 tons of sulfur,

450 tons of waterproofing materials and 280

The IME also traded within the same week

As previously reported, IME witnessed trade

of 13,344,275 tons of commodities with a total

commodities worth nearly \$252 million.

12,933 tons of goods on its side market.

tons of feedstocks.

at more than \$368 million.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and

at IME in a week

Belt"; whereas "road" refers to the sea routes, or the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

The Chinese government calls the initiative "a bid to enhance regional connectivity and embrace a brighter future". Some observers see it as a push for Chinese dominance in global affairs with a China-centered trading network.

China is one of Iran's main trade partners that has maintained strong trade ties with the Islamic Republic despite the strict U.S. sanctions.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021

The document was signed between Iran's former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Back in December 2022, Iran and China finalized 16 memorandums of understanding (MOU) under the framework of the two countries' strategic 25-year agreement.

The MOUs were signed in an Iran-China comprehensive cooperation program summit which was held in Tehran on December 13 in the presence of Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

The summit was focused on four areas explored by four committees between the two countries with the aim of paving the way for the implementation of the 25-year agreement.

Iran and China also signed 20 memoranda of understanding in the presence of the presidents of the two countries in Beijing in mid-February.

trading value of more than \$3 billion on its

physical market during the past Iranian calendar

month (ended on October 22), logging growths

of 11.6 percent in volume and 8.4 percent in value

of trades compared with the month before that.

trading floor trade of 11.306.756 tons of

commodities valued at nearly \$2 billion.

The exchange saw on its metals and minerals

On this floor the IME sold 6.074.037 tons of

cement, 2,552,000 tons of iron ore, 1,817,919

tons of steel, 825,000 tons of sponge iron,

36,635 tons of copper, 27,620 tons of aluminum,

3,475 tons of zinc, 2,975 tons of cast iron, 1,000

tons of molybdenum concentrate, 500 tons of

coke and 45 tons of precious metals concentrate.

It's worth noting that the IME also traded

Moreover, the exchange saw trade of

1,916,459 tons of commodities worth more than

\$991 million on both domestic and export rings

Items traded on this floor included 632,689

tons of bitumen, 519,200 tons of vacuum

bottom, 401,991 tons of polymeric products,

163,080 tons of lube cut, 158,650 tons of

chemicals, 27,870 tons of sulfur, 23,399 tons

of oil, 10,618 tons of petroleum products, 2,140

tons of waterproofing materials, 1,380 tons of

Last was the IME's side market on which the

feedstocks and 1,000 tons of slop wax.

exchange traded 121,158 tons of goods.

of its oil and petrochemical trading floor.

1,150 kg of saffron on its agricultural trading

# Iran's cereal production exceeds 21m tons in current crop year: FAO

From page 1 Rice production also reached 3.5 million tons in the current year, without any changes compared to the previous crop year.

FAO has put Iran's total cereal stocks at 12.1 million tons in the current year, registering a 100,000-ton increase compared to the previous year.

With this volume of stocks, Iran has ranked fourth in the world. China has been ranked first with 399 million tons of cereal stocks. India with 64 million tons and Turkey with 12.7 million tons have taken the second and third places respectively.

Back in May, FAO released a report in which Iran was ranked 43rd in the world in terms of food imports despite being the 17th most populous country in

the world.

The UN entity's statistics show that industrialized countries were the largest importers of food products in the world.

According to the organization, Iran currently stands among

the world's top producers of agricultural products.

According to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's exports of agricultural products increased by 10.14 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22).

Based on the IRICA data, Iranian farmers managed to export 2.169 million tons of the mentioned products valued at \$1.062 billion, registering a 7.7 percent decline in terms of weight.

As reported, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Russia were the top importers of Iranian agricultural products in the said five months.

During this period, Iran also imported 7.749 million tons of agricultural products worth \$4.346 billion, which shows a decrease of 6.17 percent in terms of weight and 19.34 percent in terms of value.

# IRISL head stresses need for expansion of commercial maritime fleet

TEHRAN – The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) has stressed the importance of the commercial maritime fleet for the country's economy, calling for the development of the mentioned fleet in the country, Maritime News Agency (MANA) reported.

"Considering the necessity of development in the shipping fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran, if the development of the maritime sector is not pursued, in the next ten years 70 percent of the country's international fleet will not be able to travel in the developed ports of the world," Mohammadreza Modares Khiabani said in a conference on Sunday.

He further said that the IRISL is one of the oldest companies in the field of maritime transportation in the country with a history of 56 years.

Earlier this month, the official said his company's net profit has increased significantly over the past four years.

Speaking at the IRISL annual assembly, Modares Khiabani said expanding and renewing

the fleet is the company's main priority in the coming years.

"Considering the average age of the fleet which is 18 years, it is necessary to modernize it, and for this reason, the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines has ordered the construction of four multi-purpose vessels to the "Sadra Neka" shipbuilding company in north of the country," the official said.

He put the approximate value of the contract for the construction of the mentioned vessels at \$55 million.

# Iran, Russia finalizing technical details of Rasht-Astara railway project



TEHRAN - Kheirollah Khademi, the managing director of Iran's Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC), has said 70 percent of the technical issues regarding the Rasht-Astara railway project has been discussed and finalized with Russia and the rest will also be finalized soon.

"An agreement has been signed with Russia so that this country will provide us with a government loan for the construction and completion of the Rasht-Astara railway; this agreement includes the general and private terms of the contract, the employer's requirements, the funding methods, and the project implementation schedule," Khademi told the news portal of the Iranian Transport Ministry.

The official also announced the signing of the executive blue prints of the railway and added: "After many technical and specialized meetings by the experts of the two countries, the railway's blue print was prepared with special amendments to increase the speed and capacity of the route."

Iran and Russia, both under harsh Western sanctions, on May 17 inked an agreement on the longstalled construction of a railway connecting the northern Iranian cities of Rasht and Astara. The railway is key to the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).

Spanning 162 km (100.6 miles), the railway is a crucial element of the INSTC. The corridor integrates road, rail, and sea transportation, facilitating the movement of goods between Russia and India via Iran.

Through a video link, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin addressed the ceremony in Tehran where the two countries' transport ministers signed the agreement.

Raisi thanked Putin and the Russian government for their involvement in the initiative and referred to it as an "important strategic step" in bilateral cooperation that will benefit all countries involved in the INSTC. Putin, for his part, called the occasion a "landmark moment for the entire global transport infrastructure."

According to this agreement, the Russian Federation will invest 1.6 billion euros in this railway route.

The deal came a day after the former Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Payman-Pak announced that Russia's second-biggest bank, VTB, had opened a representative office in Tehran.

Peyman-Pak said that the office,

which marks the first "direct presence" of a Russian bank in Iran, will be used for foreign currency transfers.

by the EU, UK, and the U.S. following the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in Feb. 2022. The railway deal has been hailed

State-owned VTB was sanctioned

by state officials and media in Iran as part of a significant future source of income.

Raisi's Deputy Chief of Staff for Political Affairs Mohammad Jamshidi has predicted that the earnings from the INTSC would be able to rival Iran's oil revenue. In this vein, the ISNA news agency on May 17 estimated annual revenue of \$20 billion from the Corridor.

Iran, Russia ink agreement on completing Rasht-Astara railway in mid-May

The Jam-e Jam newspaper described Iran as the "golden path of trade" in an article highlighting the potential benefits of the railway.

Meanwhile, the Tasnim News Agency said ahead of the deal that the "curse" that has so far stalled the railway project would be broken through "Russian partnership."

India, Iran, and Russia initially struck an accord in 2002 to forge the INSTC. The ambitious undertaking aims to create a new transit route linking India to Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Russia via Iran's southern and northern coastal regions.

The corridor is seen by Russia as a

potential rival to the Suez Canal, a far longer route for trade with northern Europe.

Iran has been a key player in the INSTC and stands to benefit greatly from its full realization. As reported by Amwaj.media, the Raisi government has seemingly banked significantly on transit becoming a top revenue generator. But Iran stands to gain from the project in more ways.

The operationalization of the corridor could mean improved relations between Iran and India, aligning New Delhi more closely with Tehran's regional interests.

A vital element of the INSTC, the Rasht-Astara railway project has been stalled for years due to costs, engineering, and logistical complications.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei stressed the importance of completing the stretch of railway in his July 2022 meeting with Putin in Tehran

VTB's new office in Tehran is part of Iran and Russia's ongoing efforts to connect their banking systems.

The two countries signed an agreement on January 29 to link their inter-bank messaging systems.

Due to Western sanctions, both countries have been cut off from SWIFT—a leading Belgium-based financial messaging service.

Both Iran and Russia are looking to reap the potential economic benefits of increased transit amid Western sanctions.

The Raisi government seeks to mitigate the adverse effects of sanctions through de-dollarization of trade and the establishment of direct banking and payment channels outside the international banking system.

## **TEDPIX** gains 14,000 points on Monday

Commodities worth over \$632m traded

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 14,143 points (0.7 percent) to 2,030,878 on Monday, which is the third day of the Iranian calendar

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

## Iran, China sign petchem co-op agreement

TEHRAN- Iran and China inked an agreement on petrochemical cooperation on Sunday.

Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) signed the agreement on the sidelines of the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE).

Iran holds a pavilion at the mentioned exhibition which is being held during November 5-10 at China's National Convention and Exhibition Center.

More than 50 Iranian companies and 250 Iranian business persons are taking part in this international exhibition.

As reported, Iran's First Vice President, Mohammad Mokhber, who has led the Iranian delegation attending this international event, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the exhibition on Sunday.

Addressing the event, Mokhber pointed to geographical advantages, natural resources and reserves, young manpower, climatic diversity, and technological achievements as Iran's five special capacities, and invited all countries to invest in Iran.

The CIIE, which is held annually, is a great platform to connect exporters with potential buyers and investors all around the world.

## Gaza's collapsing health sector

Hospitals crammed, bombed and doctors performing surgery without anesthesia

From page **1** ► The World Health Organization (WHO) says it has documented 102 attacks on health care centers in Gaza since October 7.

It is important to note that these attacks have occurred in very a small piece of land and have only been documented by WHO. The UN body says it has limited access to move around and make contact in the besieged territory, with the Israeli regime regularly cutting off internet and phone connections.

WHO said the attacks have resulted in the death of hundreds of patients with hundreds of others injured as well as damage to 39 facilities and 31 ambulances.

The casualties are a direct result of Israeli airstrikes. But other experts on the ground believe the casualty figure is much higher, especially when taking into account the regime's decision to block the entry of fuel into the Gaza Strip.

Fuel is essential for hospitals to operate. Without fuel, patients are left to die.

WHO's office in the Gaza Strip also stated that more than half the hospitals in Gaza City have come under fire and ten are not functioning.

"We're running out of words to describe the horror unfolding in Gaza," WHO chief Tedros added.

"Health care is not a target. WHO calls for the active protection of civilians and health care," it added.

The flow of vitally needed medical supplies and other aid into Gaza has been severely disrupted by the Israeli closure of the Rafah border crossing, which connects the territory with Egypt. Fuel has been literally prohibited by the Israeli leadership from entering

As hospital generators stop working because of a lack of fuel, doctors in Gaza explain this means the lights will go out, ventilators will stop working, premature babies will die and those having dialysis on a daily basis will die.

"This is frankly a humanitarian catastrophe beyond anything we have witnessed in recent history," one pediatrician at a Gaza hospital said in a TV interview.

He said he has seen photos of children with "dismembered limbs, mutilated bodies, burns to their faces," and there are "no drugs available to give them".

"They are almost better off dead, that's the reality," he said. "They are in absolute pain and agony."

The regime claims Hamas would take advantage of the aid that has been slowly dripping into the Gaza Strip, but even its staunchest ally, the United States, says it has seen no such evidence to back up the

Asked on the tiny amount of aid deliveries that have entered Gaza, U.S. special envoy David



Satterfield said the U.S. has seen no "interdiction or interference" by Hamas since supplies started flowing into the region again some two weeks ago.

The head of the UN's World Food Program (WFP), Cindy McCain, says the amount of aid entering Gaza is "nowhere near enough" to meet the "exponentially growing needs" of Palestinians.

McCain issued an urgent plea from the Rafah crossing for more aid to enter the region as supplies reach "dangerously low levels".

Such is the scale and devastation of the Israeli bombing; medical staff are requiring mental health services as they perform surgery without routine anesthesia.

Psychological first aid is being provided to medical teams in Gaza by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.

The organization recreational activities were being provided at the al-Quds Hospital to medics to "ease their psychological strain amid constant threats of being targeted".

Israeli evacuation orders for Palestinians to head south of the Gaza Strip are adding to the woes of the health sector. The Israeli orders are difficult in peacetime let alone during war.

It is "impossible" to carry out orders to move the thousands of patients as well as people sheltering at al-Quds hospital in Gaza to the south, an aid worker in the region said.

Muhammad Abu Musabih, the director of ambulance and emergency services and a spokesperson for the Palestine Red Crescent Society, said that trying to transfer ICU patients on ventilators along with children and pregnant women posed a challenge.

Describing the conditions at the hospital as "miserable", he also said the bombings in the surrounding area meant the infrastructure was "totally devastated along with the

"The situation in Gaza now is very complex in terms of reaching the injured and delivering them to the hospitals," he added.

Gaza's biggest hospital was forced to switch off one of its generators as its fuel supplies ran out, a doctor has said.

Dr Ghassan Abu-Sitta said staff at al Shifa Hospital were told they would need to shut down a

"We had to stop operating five hours before we usually stop

because the wards where we bought in our patients and took them back were dark," he said

"Basically, there was no way to maneuver the patients safely in and out of these wards."

With fuel in dire need, hospitals have already been forced to cease operations.

But even reaching a hospital has become a nightmare.

As Israeli warplanes bomb the Gaza Strip indiscriminately, transferring the injured survivors has proven to be another challenge with Palestinians forced to seek alternative ways.

A survivor of an Israeli strike on southern Gaza, where the regime said it was safe for Palestinians to travel, was carried to an ambulance by a bulldozer.

With the rubble piled high, it appeared the quickest way to bring her to safety.

Rescue workers dug through bricks and concrete to retrieve casualties after the destroyed a family home.

A humanitarian worker says Gaza is "in the last second of the eleventh hour".

In a TV interview, Deepmala Mahla, the vice president of humanitarian affairs at CARE, said every single minute in the region "is a matter of life and death".

Mahla also branded the level of aid that has so far been allowed into the enclave as "absolutely insufficient".

Thomas White, UNRWA's Gaza director, said in a video briefing that "now people are beyond looking for bread. It's looking for water". He also described Gaza as a "scene of death and destruction".

She echoed calls made by many humanitarian groups for an urgent ceasefire, warning there was "very little" time left.

"People are literally dying as we

Asked what is needed to happen right now, Mahla said water and electricity supplies needed to be fully reinstated, with families thirsty and hospitals "pretty much non-functioning".

The Palestinian Red Crescent (PRCS) strongly condemned the targeting of an ambulance convoy transporting the injured in Gaza last Thursday, saying it constitutes a "war crime".

It released a statement saying the leading ambulance belonging to the Gaza health ministry was first struck by a missile one kilometer from al Shifa Hospital.

One of its own ambulances was then hit two meters from the hospital gate as it went to unload the injured, the PRCS said, with that strike killing a number of civilians and injuring scores more.

It added that eight Red Crescent ambulances have been "rendered inoperable" since the start of the conflict, while four PRCS medics have been killed and 21 injured.

"PRCS emphasizes the deliberate targeting of medical teams constitutes a grave violation of the Geneva Conventions, a war crime, and that the parties to the four Geneva Conventions are legally bound to ensure the protection of medical teams and civilians under all circumstances," it said.

Israeli military acknowledged that it had identified and bombed the ambulances.

Gaza's health ministry also said that scores were killed and injured in the attack.

Footage showed the devastating aftermath of the air strike on the ambulance convoy near a hospital in Gaza City.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has acknowledged receiving a request from the Gaza health ministry to accompany ambulances. This is while the United Nations relief agency UNRWA said the situation in Gaza is now so dire that the average person there is living on two pieces of bread made from UN stockpiles.The agency supports around 90 bakeries across the region, which aim to supply 1.7m people with food.

But Thomas White, UNRWA's Gaza director, said in a video briefing that "now people are beyond looking for bread. It's looking for water".

He described Gaza as a "scene of death and destruction" where no place is safe.

**UN deputy Mideast coordinator** Lynn Hastings said just one of three water supply lines from Israel is now operational.

"Many people are relying on brackish or saline groundwater, if at all," she said.

She also added that dwindling fuel supplies mean backup generators, which hospitals, water desalination and food production facilities running, are "one by one grinding to a halt".

Some people in Gaza have resorted to using seawater to drink due to the lack of fresh water in the enclave.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

# «Pagan muy bien, buena

equipación y trabajo tranquilo»



# INTERNATIONAL

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

#### The number of martyrs in Gaza exceeds ten thousand



From page 1 Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu again rejected the idea of halting the offensive, ignoring appeals and protests across the world.

"There will be no ceasefire without the return of our hostages, we say this to both our enemies and our friends. We will continue until we beat them," Netanyahu told air and ground crews at the Ramon Air Force Base in southern Israel on Sunday.

Israel says it is targeting Hamas fighters Reuters reported.

and assets, accusing the group of using civilians as human shields. Critics say Israel's strikes are disproportionate, considering the large number of civilians killed.

This is while UN leaders are saying "enough is enough" and demanded a humanitarian ceasefire on Monday nearly a month into the war, as the enclave's health authorities said dozens more people were killed in overnight attacks by Israeli fighter jets and troops,

## Atomic bomb can't bring Israel back before October 7

From page **1** A minister of the Israeli regime recently threatened Gaza with a nuclear attack. Zionists have shown that they are unparalleled in committing crimes, and mentally and motivationally, it is not unlikely for them to carry out such a threat. Didn't America, as Israel's number one supporter, use an atomic bomb against the Japanese people in World War II?

Of course, it should be noted that until today, one month into the war, Israel has dropped an equivalent of two atomic bombs on the people of Gaza. So what the Israeli minister says is not just a threat, it has been put into action.

The genocide of the people of Gaza is currently taking place under the silence of the international community and the inaction of most leaders of Islamic countries. But even if the Israelis kill all the people of Gaza, the defeat of October 7th cannot be compensated. There are many indisputable reasons for this historic defeat, and it can and should be examined from

various perspectives. But in my opinion, the most important reason is that "Al-Aqsa Storm" proved to everyone for the first time that the destruction of the apartheid and illegitimate Israeli regime is not just a dream or an illusion, but achievable.

Breaking this long-standing and deeprooted taboo was a great and decisive action. Israel and its supporters had promoted such a perception among a large percentage of the Palestinian people and Islamic countries in recent decades that Israel is a reality with a powerful and invincible army that there is no solution other than compromising with it. This was the main reason that some Islamic countries normalized with Israel.

The resistance in Gaza shattered this false perception. Zionists know better than others about the consequences of this shattered myth. Even if the Israeli regime uses all the atomic bombs it has. its situation will not return to before

#### Blinken's diplomatic shuttle in West Asia yields no results

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken ended his trip to West Asia. During the trip, he tried to encourage the countries of the region to support the White House's plans to solve the

He tried to release the Israelis held captive by Hamas with the help of the regional countries. without putting pressure on Tel Aviv for a ceasefire or promising a release of Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

But what he heard from the diplomats in the region was that Israel must also liberate Palestinians held by Israel.

In the last step of his regional trip, Blinken visited Ankara and met with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan

Blinken met Fidan after a frantic weekend of travel that took him from Israel to Jordan, the occupied West Bank, Cyprus, and Iraq.

Both diplomats discussed several issues, particularly the Israeli war on Gaza and an exchange of prisoners between Hamas and

The US secretary of state has tried to convince Turkish officials to put more pressure on Hamas to make it release the captives, resources said, but the Turkish position was very clear on the matter. They said that the prisoner release should be mutual, in which Hamas would release captives and Israel also would free Palestinian prisoners.

Turkey also asked for an unconditional cease fire and said there should be an international mechanism to observe the ceasefire, which Ankara would be the guarantor for. Dozens of protesters gathered before

Turkey's Foreign Ministry where FM Fidan and Blinken were holding talks.

The protesters accused the US of complicity in the deaths of Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Earlier, police dispersed a group of students who marched toward the ministry chanting "Murderer Blinken, get out of Turkey". It was the second day of protests denouncing Blinken's visit to Turkey.

Israeli attacks on Gaza are continuing with air raids on two homes in central Gaza killing at least 45 Palestinians.

Almost 9,800 Palestinians have so far been killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7.

The UN says 88 UNRWA staff have been killed in Gaza, the "highest number" of "UN fatalities ever recorded in a single conflict". Israel has also continued raids in the

occupied West Bank, arresting about 50 people, including an adviser to the PA and Palestinian activist Ahed Tamimi.

## Mercenary fights alongside Israeli army in Gaza: El Mundo El Mundo, Spain's second-largest a week to fight in Gaza and that he was

newspaper, revealed on Friday that a Spanish mercenary has joined Israeli forces against Hamas fighters in Gaza.

"They pay very well, good equipment and quiet work," a self-described neo-Nazi Pedro Díaz Flores Corrales was quoted as saying.

The paper published a photo of him at a border checkpoint close to the Gaza Strip.

The mercenary became famous when the Russians announced his death in Ukraine. Moscow said Corrales was accused of cutting off the fingers of dead soldiers.

The paper said he gets paid 3900 euros

not hired directly by the Israeli army but through a third party.

El Mundo said that this time he did not join the fight on humanitarian grounds, as he did when Russia invaded Ukraine, but on this occasion the interest was, above all, financial. Corrales, 27, said he received a call from a former comrade in arms, an old contact who had already left for Israel and who made him an offer that he could not refuse.

"He offered me a job, good conditions, and he told me that they were looking for people with a good military record," he said.

## **TOURISM**



## Textile history museum inaugurated in Kashan



TEHRAN – On Monday, Kashan's first Persian textile history museum was inaugurated in the oasis Iranian city that is registered as a world city of traditional textiles.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Maryam Jalali Dehkordi, who serves as the deputy minister for handicrafts, along with several local officials, craftspeople, and tourism insiders, CHTN reported.

The museum has been set up in a historical house with 14 rooms that cover 600 square meters in area, the report said.

Kashan is situated on a route that connects Tehran to the giant destinations of Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd. Moreover, the ancient town is a gateway to many sights, stories, and surrounding attractive villages to discover. Amongst the highlights are the lavishly decorated houses of Brujerdi, Tabatabai, Ameri, and Abbasi.

The museum houses and displays more than hundreds of objects, including authentic textiles and local tools and equipment made by the ethnic communities, as well as a handicrafts sales exhibition.

The museum is intended to turn the spotlight on the process of making a textile, which starts with the raw material through the weaving stage and ends with the finished product, using life-sized wax figures.

According to organizers, visitors to the place have the opportunity to test their skills on the loom and touch on exhibits. Also on display are arrays of contemporary works based on traditional weaving and design techniques. Traditional costumes and fashion accessories used in ceremonies are on display as well.

Earlier this year, the World Crafts Council registered Kashan and Dezful on its list of global cities of handicrafts. "Dezful was registered as the world city of Kapu-weaving (or Kapubafi, a kind of coiled wicker using leaflets of palm trees) and Kashan as the world city of traditional textiles by the World Crafts Council," the tourism minister said.

As mentioned by Iranica, textile production in Iran dates back to the 10th millennium BC, and much of the output of Persia's weavers has rightly been hailed as masterworks.

Information on ancient Iranian textiles is somehow fragmentary and episodic, and relates to the ruling households, the military, divinities, and occasionally priests; depictions of women (even female goddesses) are rare.

In fact, our knowledge of dress in ancient Persia comes from pictorial depictions mainly on rock reliefs, metalwork (including coinage), seal impressions, and, from about the second century CE, wall paintings.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region

The Lake Ohrid region, a mixed World Heritage property covering c. 94,729 ha, was first inscribed for its nature conservation values in 1979 and for its cultural heritage values a year later. These inscriptions related to the part of the lake located in North Macedonia. The property was extended to include the rest of Lake Ohrid, located in Albania, in 2019.

Lake Ohrid is a superlative natural phenomenon, providing refuge for numerous endemic and relict freshwater species of flora and fauna dating from the tertiary period. As a deep and ancient lake of tectonic origin, Lake Ohrid has existed continuously for approximately two to three million years. Its oligotrophic waters conserve over 200 species of plants and animals unique to the lake, including algae, turbellarian flatworms, snails, crustaceans, and 17 endemic species of fish including two species of trout, as well as a rich birdlife.

Situated on the shores of Lake Ohrid, the town of Ohrid is one of the oldest human settlements in Europe. Built mostly between the 7th and 19th centuries, Ohrid is home to the oldest Slav monastery (dedicated to St. Pantelejmon) and more than 800 Byzantinestyle icons of worldwide fame dating from the 11th century to the end of the 14th century.

Ohrid's architecture represents the best preserved and most complete ensemble of ancient urban architecture in this part of Europe. Slav culture spread from Ohrid to other parts of Europe. Seven basilicas have thus far been discovered in archaeological excavations in the old part of Ohrid. These basilicas were built during the 4th, 5th, and beginning of the 6th centuries and contain architectural and decorative characteristics that indisputably point to a strong ascent and glory of Lychnidos, the former name of the town. The structure of the city nucleus is also enriched by a large number of archaeological sites, with an emphasis on early Christian basilicas, which are also known for their mosaic floors. Special emphasis regarding Ohrid's old urban architecture must be given to the town's masonry heritage. In particular, Ohrid's traditional local influence can be seen among its well-preserved late-Ottoman urban residential architecture dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. The limited space for construction activities has led to the formation of a very narrow network of

On the Lin Peninsula, in the west of the Lake, the Early Christian Lin church, founded in the mid-6th century, is related to the basilicas of Ohrid town in terms of its architectural form and decorative floor mosaics, and possibly also through liturgical links.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Saveh pomegranate festival gains national status

TEHRAN – A pomegranate harvest festival, which is annually held in Saveh, a central Iranian county famed for that treasured fruit, has gained a national status.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami unveiled the national certificate of recognition in a ceremony held to mark the registration in Saveh on Monday, ISNA reported

For millennia, the pomegranate has inspired deep reverence in the Persian culture, religion, art, and tradition. It often symbolizes abundance, blessings, and fertility.

Tens of guests from Iran and beyond have been invited to attend this year's festival held at Saveh Jameh Mosque from November 6 to 11, the report said.

According to local officials, the prestigious national label is expected to favor tourism development in Saveh and its surrounding villages.

The Pomegranate is native to Iran and eastward up to northern India. It is widely cultivated in most provinces of Iran, with different

colors, sizes, and flavors. It is impressive to see the variety of pomegranates in the country. The ancient land is well-known for the quality of pomegranates and is the largest exporter of pomegranates in the world.

Every autumn, many pomegranate growers across the ancient country hold festivals to thank God and celebrate the harvest season. Alongside the grape and the fig, the pomegranate has played an important role

throughout the Orient since the earliest times.

When it comes to Persian literature, the pomegranate (Anaar) is there bearing a metaphor or symbol. Some say pomegranates can be used to manifest a range of metaphors in Persian poetry due to their intense red color, round shape, and numerous seeds.

Ancient Iranians believed that the pomegranate was a sign of fertility due to its abundant seeds. It is a high pillar of festivities on Yalda Night. Narratives say the presence of pomegranates symbolizes blessings for a new life. The number of seeds scattered indicates how many children a young woman may give birth to!

By tradition, Zoroastrians offer pomegranates to their daughters and sons when they get married, wishing them fertility. Moreover, they used to burn pomegranate sticks during religious rites.

Around 2000 BC, the Lur ethnic communities living in the west of Iran created amazing crafts which are known as Luristan bronzes today, and on some of the Luristan bronze objects, the pomegranate tree is recognizable. Also, the pomegranate is seen in some basrelief carvings inside the UNESCO-designated Persepolis, which was once the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid kings. Moreover, some Sassanid bas-reliefs depict pomegranates as a symbol of fertility and productivity.

The pomegranate has long been one of the essential ingredients for Persian cuisine to bring a kind of balance, taste, and flavor.

# Centuries-old caravanserai, bathhouse to undergo restoration in southern Iran

TEHRAN – Restoration work is to begin on a centuries-old collection that includes a mudbrick caravanserai and a public bathhouse in

The stone walls and foundations of the two monuments will be strengthened and restored using traditional masonry, a local official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said.

Moreover, the work is intended to revive plasterwork and stucco decorations of the bathhouse in particular, Hadi Abbasi added.

Located in Kharameh county of Fars province, the caravanserai was constructed in the early Islamic epoch while the bathhouse dates back to the Safavid era (1501-1736), the official stated.

In the past, mosques, bazaars, houses, bathhouses, and subterranean cisterns constituted the main elements of each Iranian city

Caravanserais and bathhouses (Hammams) along with mosques offer a testimony to the then-rich circuits of traveling and trade in ancient Iran, providing shelter, hygiene, food, and water

for caravans, pilgrims, and other trekkers.

Old-age bathhouses can be found in every corner of Iran. However, they have lost their original function, since nearly all people have bathrooms in their homes as the result of a ubiquitous clash between traditionalism and modernism.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in ancient times. Nowadays, many bathhouses have been turned into popular destinations for tourists who admire their eye-catching decorations, vaulted ceilings, intricate tilework, mosaics, and wall paintings.

Earlier in September, a selection of 54 centuries-old roadside inns won a UNESCO label under the name: The Persian Caravanserai. The registration was made at the 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh, after carefully examining the proposed caravanserais located in 24 provinces across the country.

Caravanserai or caravansary is a compound

word combining "caravan" with "sara"; the former stands for a group of travelers and the latter means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them, with doors in the corners of the yard.

Traveling across the country, one may see crumbling caravanserais, many of which were abandoned for ages. In the Information Age, such guest houses have largely lost their current usage.

For many travelers, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a broad experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back to a forgotten age. Cozy chambers that are meticulously laid out around a vast courtyard may easily evoke spirits of the past. It's not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels are chewing hay! You can also conceive the idea of local architectural style and material in its heyday.

## Villages in Ilam adapted for rural tourism



TEHRAN – Following months of work, seven villages, situated in the lesser-known llam province, western Iran, have been modified for rural tourism.

"A selection of seven villages have recently been equipped for tourism based on criteria defined by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts," the provincial tourism chief said.

"In addition to being agriculturally

important, the target villages of Ilam province are always frequented by tourists due to their proximity to natural and historical attractions," Farzad Sharifi said.

The official said 13 villages have been equipped for tourism over the past two years, saying we are intended to draw the attention of more travelers, generate jobs, and help empower local economies.

In recent years, rural tourism

has gained significant popularity, which requires meticulous plans to preserve and develop rural destinations, the official explained.

In terms of livelihood, agriculture, animal breeding, and handicrafts constitute the lion's share of income in Ilam villages, which can also be enriched through tourism revenues, Sharifi noted.

Rural tourism as well as agritourism and farm stays can be regarded as a win-win both for local communities and post-modern travelers who are tracking unique experiences. Sightseers may stay with a rural or nomadic family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

That tourism branch, most of all, sets the ground for economic development in rural areas by creating additional income and employment. It can also improve the social well-being in rural areas, for instance by stimulating

improvements in infrastructure, sanitation, and electricity networks.

As mentioned by The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), rural tourism is a type of activity in which a visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sightseeing. Such tourism also possesses characteristics such as low population density, a landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry, as well as traditional social structure and lifestyle.

The UN body aims to turn the spotlight on the "uniqueness" of each village to make tourism a means for further development in rural areas. "We want to recognize the uniqueness of each village and showcase the best initiatives to make tourism a means for a better future in rural areas. As we restart tourism, we work to ensure that we leave no one - and no village-behind," according to UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili.

#### It's time to limit how often we can travel abroad – 'carbon passports' may be the answer

The summer of 2023 has been very significant for the travel industry. By the end of July, international tourist arrivals globally reached 84% of pre-pandemic levels. In some European countries, such as France, Denmark and Ireland, tourism demand even surpassed its prepandemic level.

This may be great news economically, but there's concern that a return to the status quo is already showing dire environmental and social consequences.

The summer saw record-breaking heatwaves across many parts of the world. People were forced to flee wildfires in Greece and Hawaii, and extreme weather warnings were issued in many popular holiday destinations like Portugal, Spain and Turkey. Experts attributed these extreme conditions to climate change.

Tourism is part of the problem. The tourism sector generates around one-tenth of the greenhouse gas

emissions that are driving the climate crisis.

The negative impacts of tourism on the environment have become so severe that some are suggesting drastic changes to our travel habits are inevitable. In a report from 2023 that analyzed the future of sustainable travel, tour operator Intrepid Travel proposed that "carbon passports" will soon become a reality if the tourism industry hopes to survive.

What is a carbon passport?

The idea of a carbon passport centers on each traveler being assigned a yearly carbon allowance that they cannot exceed. These allowances can then "ration" travel

This concept may seem extreme. But the idea of personal carbon allowances is not new. A similar concept (called "personal carbon trading") was discussed in the House of Commons in 2008, before being shut down due to its perceived complexity and the possibility of public resistance.

The average annual carbon footprint for a person in the U.S. is 16 tones – one of the highest rates in the world. In the UK this figure sits at 11.7 tones, still more than five times the figure recommended by the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C.

Globally, the average annual carbon footprint of a person is closer to 4 tones. But, to have the best chance of preventing

temperature rise from overshooting 2°C, the average global carbon footprint needs to drop to under 2 tones by 2050. This figure equates to around two return flights between London and New York.

Intrepid Travel's report predicts that we will see carbon passports in action by 2040. However, several laws and restrictions have been put in place over the past year that suggest our travel habits may already be on the verge of change.

TEHRAN – Some 51.9 percent of babies born in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year that started March 21 were boys, outpacing girls with 48.1 percent.

According to the Civil Registration Organization, the ratio of male to female births in this period was 108, which shows a 0.9% growth compared to the same period last year (104), IRNA reported.

It is emphasized that the number of male births in the world is more than the number of female births. The 'natural' sex ratio at birth is around 103 to 107.

This ratio gradually decreases in the following years due to the high death rate of the males. Around 20-25 years of age, this ratio is balanced and reaches 100.

In the six-month period, 524,637 births were registered in the country.

Based on the statistics of the Civil Registration Organization, the average age of the mother at the first childbirth is 27.4 in the whole country in the six-month period.

# More boys than girls born in six months



The figure is 28.1 in urban areas and 24.4 in rural areas. The highest average age of mothers at first childbearing is in Tehran province, 30.3, and the lowest is in Sistan-Baluchestan province, 22.6.

Also, in the mentioned six months, 524,637 births were registered in the country; Tehran province with 66, 035 and Semnan province with 3,387 births hold the record for the highest and lowest number of births in the country.

#### Population growth policies

Paying attention to the law on supporting families and the youth will pave the way for the development of the country and will also reduce the population crises, but the accurate and timely implementation of the law requires willpower both from people and officials.

According to the national center for monitoring population policies, from 2001 to 2015, the number of births has been increasing in the country, but after 2015, the number of births started to decrease with an almost steep slope.

In 2020, the number of births in the country (1,114,000) decreased by more than 29 percent compared to 2015 (1,570,000), a

WHO is overseeing

the deployment

of cutting-edge

medical imaging

equipment to 65

public hospitals.

decrease of more than 450,000 births, which was unprecedented in the last few decades.

The number of births in the year 2021 (1,116,000) also shows an increase of about 2,000 compared to the year 2020.

Also, the rate of births from about 20 per thousand population in 2015 has reached its lowest level in the last 50 years with a significant decrease to 13.24 per thousand population in 2021.

The population growth rate reached 0.73 percent in 2020 and 0.68 percent in 2021 despite an increase of 2,000 births compared to 2020.

Estimates show that due to the slight increase in births last year compared to 2020, the population growth rate this year will also decrease.

Also, as long as the fertility rate is below the replacement level, it is expected that the country will face a further decrease in the population growth rate in the coming years.

In Iran, about 10.5 percent of the population was over 60 years old in 2020. In 2050, the population over 60 years is forecast to increase to 33 percent.

Also, about 7 percent of the population was over 65 years old in 2020. In 2030, the population over 65 years is forecast to increase to about 10 percent.

# SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 7, 2023
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

# Iran's achievements presented in 'Nano-tech for Society' meeting

TEHRAN -Achievements of the country in the field of nanotechnology were showcased to representatives of seven countries in a meeting titled 'Nano-tech for Society' which was held in Tehran on Sunday.

On the sidelines of the 14th International Nanotechnology Festival and Exhibition (Iran Nano 2023), the meeting was held by the diplomatic representatives of Venezuela, Cuba, Indonesia, Brazil, Tajikistan, Nicaragua, and Saudi Arabia, and the directors of the headquarters for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, ISNA reported.

"This meeting was attended by diplomatic representatives of different countries that have had a history of cooperation with Iran in the field of nanotechnology," ISNA quoted Afshin Ramzi, the director of the exhibition for international affairs, as saying.

"The purpose of this meeting is to familiarize the diplomatic representatives with our latest achievements and products in the field of nanotechnology, which are capable of being exported to these countries," he added.

Ramzi went on to say that a visit to the exhibition, based on the needs of the countries in different fields including agriculture, medicine, construction, environment, and water, was scheduled as another part of the meeting.

#### Iran Nano 2023

Trade delegations and knowledge-based companies from the seven above-mentioned countries have participated in the 14th International Nanotechnology Festival and Exhibition (Iran Nano 2023) which is being held in Tehran from November 4-7

For the time being, 358 companies are operating in the field of nanotechnology in the country and 1608 products and equipment

have received nanotechnology certificates.

The participants are showcasing their achievements in the fields of oil and energy, water and environment, agriculture, car, construction, textile, and advanced materials.

One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years, proving the country's scientific development, is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the world's fourth place.

Currently, nanotech products are produced and marketed in more than 15 industrial fields based on domestic technologies and are being exported to 49 countries from five continents.

Over the past year (ended March 20), the total sale of Iranian nanoproducts has been equal to 115 trillion rials (nearly \$425 million).

The expansion of nanotechnology export programs in recent years and the establishment of bases for exporting nanotechnology products to China, India, Indonesia, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq have provided the opportunity for the entry of Iranian nanotechnology goods, equipment, and services into global markets

Some 42 percent of the products in this field are related to construction, more than 17 percent to the field of oil, gas, and petrochemicals, 13 percent to the field of automobiles, and over 10 percent to the field of optoelectronics.

Iranian nanotechnology companies export their products, equipment, and services to 58 countries.

The exports increased by 53 percent in the Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022) compared to the preceding year, ISNA reported.

# WHO, World Bank collaborate on providing imaging services at Iranian hospitals



TEHRAN – The World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the World Bank and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME), is spearheading a transformative initiative to enhance healthcare access in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Under the Iran COVID-19 Emergency Response Project-Additional Financing (ICERPAF), WHO is overseeing the deployment of cutting-edge medical imaging equipment to 65 public hospitals spanning 31 provinces across the country.

As part of this endeavor, 42 magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines, 15 computed tomography (CT) scanners, and 14 angiography systems are being supplied to public hospitals, serving as a major milestone in the ongoing battle against COVID-19. This initiative is designed to strengthen the nation's

health infrastructure and cater to the surging demand for diagnostic and therapeutic services

WHO, in collaboration with the Economic Coordination Center of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, has successfully delivered 27 MRI machines to designated facilities as of 31 October 2023. An additional 814 devices will be distributed to 165 laboratories nationwide, reflecting the Organization's commitment to bolstering healthcare capabilities across the country.

Notably, WHO is meticulously monitoring the installation, training, and handover processes to ensure they adhere to the highest standards. To date, the handover process of 9 MRI machines has been successfully completed, and they are now poised to serve patients, with 5 more devices in the process of training and handover.

Furthermore, the project includes the delivery of advanced CT scanners. Two 256-slice CT scanners have been delivered to hospitals in Tehran and Mashhad. One of these machines has already been handed over and is ready for immediate use. Additionally, ten 128-slice CT scanners have been imported to the country, with 6 of them successfully installed, trained, and handed over to recipient hospitals. Four more devices are currently in the training process.

The initiative also addresses the urgent

need for angiography machines. By the end of October 2023, 6 angiography devices have been imported and are currently in the process of delivery to recipient hospitals, further expanding the diagnostic capabilities of the healthcare system.

The selection of the equipment was based on a comprehensive assessment, taking into account the increased demand for diagnostic devices during the COVID-19 pandemic, the depreciation of existing equipment, and

the complexities associated with COVID-related diseases. The chosen hospitals are primarily situated in urban areas, strategically positioned to serve a broad network of patients within a nationwide healthcare referral system.

The distribution of medical equipment to designated hospitals was prioritized based on post-COVID-19

epidemic needs, with a focus on underprivileged provinces, as well as the availability of specialized staff and expertise to operate the sophisticated equipment.

This groundbreaking initiative underscores the commitment of WHO, in collaboration with the World Bank and the Iranian government, to fortify the health infrastructure and ensure that all citizens have access to advanced diagnostic and therapeutic services. It represents a significant step forward in the ongoing battle against COVID-19 and in preparing for future health challenges.

# Free health insurance provided for 95,000 refugees

From page **1** Some 12,000 non-vulnerable nationals have already been covered by health insurance, he concluded.

#### Insurance services for foreign nationals

Foreign nationals in Iran have citizenship rights and are subject to many protections, and one of the services provided to them is insurance.

In recent years, the number of insured foreign nationals has increased by 15 percent. Most of the insured are nationals of Afghanistan and China.

The long-term protections granted to insured persons include the retirement pension and the work-related disability pension.

Paying compensation for sick days, paying compensation for pregnancy, paying compensation for disability, and paying allowances are among other insurance services.

Foreign nationals who work in Iranian sports clubs as head coaches, trainers, assistant coaches,

athletes, players, etc., are subject to compulsory insurance.

Also, foreign journalists in Iran can be covered by social security services without obtaining a work permit by submitting a confirmation from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

According to the law, people who have worked in hard and harmful jobs for at least 20 consecutive years and 25 alternate years can apply for a pension without an age requirement.

Male insured with at least 60 years of age and 10 years of insurance premium payment, or at least 50 years of age and 30 years of insurance premium payment, and female insured with at least 55 years of age and 10 years of insurance premium payment, or at least 45 years of age and 30 years of insurance premium payment can apply for a pension.

Up to 2,188 foreign nationals residing in Iran are currently receiving pensions from social security funds, ISNA reported.

#### **ENGLISH IN USE**

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# Lake Urmia salt particles contained by %80'

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

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million). The major salt particle hotspots include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghan, Urmia, Choopanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation.

#### کنترل۸۰٪ ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترا شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچهها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل میشود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان

وی خاطرنشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سپورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میاندوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شدهاند.



## An ideal place for a family outing

Families are enjoying the beautiful landscape and scenery as well as the refreshing air at Bisheh waterfall, southwestern Lorestan province.

The area is an ideal place for families to spend free time and have fun together.

## EHRAN TIM



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**NOVEMBER 7, 2023** 

#### GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

In the morning, charity is due on every joint bone of the body of every one of you. Every utterance of Allah's glorification (i.e. saying Subhan Allah) is an act of charity, and two rakath prayers which one performs in the forenoon is equal to all this (in reward).

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:23 Dawn: 5:07 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:33 (tomorrow)

#### Art exhibition dedicated to Gaza's children opens in Tehran

TEHRAN -An art exhibition dedicated to the children of Gaza was inaugurated in Tehran's Azadi tower on Monday.

Entitled "Children in Israel's Fire", the exhibition showcases 34 pieces of posters, paintings, and calligraphy works, ISNA reported on Monday.

The exhibition features artworks by various artists, including Nazanin Mansouri, Fatemeh Shahsavan, Elham Mohammadi, Fatemeh Kiani, Ali Pirani, Zeinab Pirani, Nesa Ahmadi Doost, Somayyeh Noruzi, Leila Lotfizadeh, Banafsheh Arab, Erfan Rasuli, and Zahra Hosseini.

The exhibition, which highlights the crimes of the Zionist regime against the people of Palestine, especially against the children of Gaza in recent events, will run until November 18.

The artworks aim to denounce these atrocities and recognize the perseverance of the children and their significant role in the path of resistance that leads to victory over Quds.

UNICEF has recently announced that children and families in Gaza are caught in a catastrophic

Thousands of children have reportedly been killed and thousands more injured.Children and families in Gaza have been cut off from water, food, fuel, medicine, and other essentials, including safe access to hospitals, following escalating

UNICEF has also called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and for unrestricted humanitarian access to allow aid to reach children and families in need, save lives and prevent further suffering.

The cost to children and their communities of the escalating violence will be borne out for generations to come. Children are dying at an alarming rate and being denied their basic rights. Civilians must be protected – children particularly - and all efforts must be made to spare them in all

### Music plays vital role in defending Palestine's people, Iranian musician says

play a crucial role in defending the oppressed people of Palestine, Iranian musician has said.

The effective use of music, being a language understood by all, holds great potential in bringing about positive change and safeguarding the vulnerable population of Palestine, IRNA quoted Hadi Arazm as saying on Monday.

Music has the power to unite people from different backgrounds and cultures, and its ability to transcend language barriers makes it an effective tool for both promoting revolution and resolving conflicts, he explained.

Music has played a significant role in many revolutions around the world, particularly during the Iran-Iraq War, where music helped boost the morale of Iranian soldiers fighting against foreign aggression, he added.

He emphasized the responsibility of artists

He also praised the recent actions of many artists in support of the Palestinian cause, although he also criticized the silence of some, indifference. He stressed the duty of artists to defend the values of the revolution and oppressed

began his career in music in the late 1970s, focusing mainly on revolutionary music. He uses his scientific approach to harmonizing hymns and has been part of the Symphony Orchestra of the Iranian Broadcasting Organization as a violinist since the early 1980s. Many of his works are held in the archive of Iranian radio.

TEHRAN -The universal language of music could to use their talent in advancing the defense of oppressed peoples, particularly in light of the crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the Palestinian people.

> suggesting that they need treatment for their peoples, wherever they may be. Born in 1948 in Bandar Anzali Hadi Arazm

## Game script writing event for youth to make debut in Iran

#### By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN - Iran is set to host the Baazista Game Script Writing National Event for the first time in various provinces across the country in February, 2024, the organizers have announced.

The event is exclusively designed for young participants, and will take place in Tehran, Gilan, Qazvin, Fars, Khorasan Razavi, Yazd, and Isfahan provinces. announced festival secretary Mohammadreza Emamgoli during a press conference at Tehran's Art Bureau on Monday.

With themes related to Iranian identity, the Islamic revolution and the Sacred Defense, as well as sections about Shahnameh myths, scientists, national heroes, and martyrs, religious issues, and colonial history, the event aims to develop participants' problemsolving and conflict resolution skills through games, he added.

actual games."

For his part, Masoud Hassanlu,

an official with the Vice Presidency

for Science and Technology stated

that the Baazista event will

prioritize emerging entertainment

formats such as escape rooms,

environmental games, and board

"Cinema might be a family-

friendly option, but it lacks

interactivity," he explained, adding

that environmental games and

escape rooms provide a platform

Hassanlu emphasized the

importance of developing game

scripting as a sustainable business,

and said that soft technologies

can also be used to address

social issues in the community,

such as the environment. Persian

language loss, national identity,

"Our identity has grown with

and other social challenges.

that families need.

"Games and playing is the arm of upbringing and experiencing new worlds is possible through games."

Emamqoli emphasized the importance of game script writing as a creative and educational activity for Iranian youth. He stated that the event aims to promote cultural values and national identity while providing an opportunity for young people to engage in a fun and stimulating

Participants will be divided into different age categories and will be required to create game scripts that reflect the themes of the event, he said and added: "The winning scripts will be selected by a panel of judges and will be considered for development into forms over time from storytelling to writing and the narration of filmmakers," he said.

"Today, game designers have also become integral to shaping our cultural fabric through their narratives and as technological advancements have become indispensable in our era. storvtelling that was once limited to traditional media is now advancing and expanding with gaming concepts."

In current age, gaming and game design are crucial in addressing social issues and building identity," he elaborated.

He emphasized that navigating a modern society that demands sophisticated policymaking and game design expertise has become increasingly complex.

Communities that have grown up with gaming have become highly responsive to game-based stories and has taken various processes, ultimately identifying

game design as a model for policymaking, he added.

problem-solving infrastructure is not established in childhood, non-elite individuals may lack essential problemsolving capabilities, he noted.

"Incorporating gaming as a valuable tool in education for children and young adults is both necessary and achievable. Therefore, Baazista's efforts are commendable for placing a focus on this important aspect. A brighter, more effective future for our country can be anticipated with Baazista at the forefront," he

The selected games of the event will enter the production phase. This event is organized in partnership with the Qazvin and Tehran Art Bureaus, the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ministry, the Ministry of Education, and the Municipality

## "The Ferryman" comes to Iranian bookstores



TEHRAN -A Persian translation of American has recently been published by Tandis Publications

The book has been translated into Persian by Mohammad Javadi.

"The Ferryman" tells the story of a group of

survivors on a hidden island utopia—where the truth isn't what it seems.

Founded by the mysterious genius known as the Designer, the archipelago of Prospera lies hidden from the horrors of a deteriorating outside world. In this island paradise, Prospera's lucky citizens enjoy long, fulfilling lives until the monitors embedded in their forearms, meant to measure their physical health and psychological well-being, fall below 10 percent. Then they retire themselves, embarking on a ferry ride to the island known as the Nursery, where their failing bodies are renewed, their memories are wiped clean, and they are readied to restart life afresh.

Proctor Bennett, of the Department of Social Contracts, has a satisfying career as a ferryman, gently shepherding people through the retirement process—and, when necessary, enforcing it. But all is not well with Proctor. For one thing, he's been dreaming—which is supposed to be impossible in Prospera. For another, his monitor percentage has begun to drop alarmingly fast. And then comes the day he is summoned to retire his own father, who gives him a disturbing and cryptic message before being wrestled onto the ferry.

Meanwhile, something is stirring. The Support Staff, ordinary men and women who provide the

labor to keep Prospera running, have begun to question their place in the social order. Unrest is building, and there are rumors spreading of a resistance group-known as "Arrivalists"-who may be fomenting revolution.

Soon Proctor finds himself questioning everything he once believed, entangled with a much bigger cause than he realized—and on a desperate mission to uncover the truth.

Justin Cronin is a renowned American author best known for his critically acclaimed "The Passage" trilogy.

Cronin has published several novels and short stories over the years, but it is his "The Passage" trilogy that earned him widespread recognition. This post-apocalyptic vampire series, published between 2010 and 2016, has been translated into 37 languages and sold millions of copies

The series was likened to Stephen King's "The Stand" and loved for its intricate plot, strong character development, and vivid worldbuilding. In addition to "The Passage," Cronin has also written "Mary and O'Neil," which won the PEN/Hemingway Award, and "The Summer Guest," which was a New York Times bestseller.

#### Palestinian artist's digital embroidery illustrates Cartoon of Day Gaza death toll



Gaza genocide Cartoonist: Ramli Badrudin from Indonisia

Palestinian cross-stitch embroidery known as tatriz has long been a medium for storytelling. Now, a London-based artist is using the traditional craft to digitally visualize the death toll in Gaza under Israel's bombardment of the Palestinian enclave over the last three weeks.

According to Hyperallergic website, Maya Amer, a Palestinian motion graphics designer and illustrator, shared a moving animation on social media in which over 8,000 multicolored stitches represent children, adults, and unidentified people reportedly killed by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip since the Hamas attacks on October 7.

"These are little boys and girls; these are men and women, and these are bodies so maimed no one recognized them," a text in the video reads. "Remember us as people of culture and history. Remember us as people with names and families.'

As of November 1, the Gaza Health Ministry reports that Israel's relentless airstrikes and deadly siege have killed more than 8,500 people living in the region, as well as internally displaced an estimated 1.4 million people. Another 2,000 people are reported missing, presumably caught under the rubble of destroyed buildings and infrastructure. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also reports that Israeli forces and settlers have killed 123 Palestinians, including 34 children, living in the West Bank. The Hamas militant group reportedly killed over 1,300 Israelis and took at least 200 people hostages in its attack on October 7.

Amer told Hyperallergic that

growing up, she would watch her grandmother and aunts practice the ancient cross-stitch, like many other Palestinian women have done for centuries.

Although she said she doesn't personally embroider — she said she lacks the patience she found tatriz to be a helpful tool to unpack numbers that are sometimes difficult to visualize, like the mounting death count in Gaza. The pattern she used for her motion graphic, she said, was inspired after visiting a traditional Palestinian embroidery and textile exhibit in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

"The pattern I worked on is one from Gaza," Amer explained, adding that the chest panel "necklace" design was frequently featured on traditional Palestinian dresses (thobes) in lieu of jewelry. In addition to thobes, the embroidery was also frequently used on handkerchiefs, pillow covers, and other decorative objects.

For those interested in trying their hand at the intricate embroidery, Amer also shared a link to the pattern.

"I wish I could do more as an illustrator, but I've seen people make great visuals to represent abstract terms we have trouble grasping, and making things visual can really get the message through and be memorable," Amer

"If I can say something to anyone in a creative field of any kind, it's to use your platform to educate people and spread facts," Amer continued. "It's a great way to document these unimaginable events for years to come so we never forget."