

# Nothing less than genocide

**Social Desk** The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has thrust Gaza into a state of despair and reduced many parts of it to rubble. Since the beginning of Israel's retaliatory attack, triggered by Hamas's Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, Israeli forces have committed grave atrocities. They have been killing Palestinians indiscriminately through their relentless airstrikes, while amassing troops for a potential ground assault on Gaza. In the midst of all this, the voices of the people living in Gaza emerge as crucial narrators. They are the ones who are shedding light on the barbarism of Israel – something that they are enduring firsthand. Whilst the western mainstream media are acting out as Israel's propaganda machine, social media and parts of their users are proving crucial for the emergence of the truth. What Israel is doing in Gaza, backed by the US and Europe, is nothing less than genocide.



## Iran self-sufficient in treatment of eye disorders



IRNA

**Social Desk** The Secretary of the Ophthalmology Board of Iran's Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education affirmed that the country has achieved self-sufficiency in treating eye diseases and performing transplants. As a result, no patients are sent abroad for treatment. The Secretary further stated that timely diagnosis and treatment can cure approximately 80 percent of blindness cases. On Thursday, October 12, the World Sight Day was celebrated as a collaborative global effort by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, the World Health Organization, and several international non-governmental organizations. The primary objective of the initiative is to eliminate preventable blindness by 2020. Achieving this goal necessitates the active involvement of various organizations, including the United Nations, governments, eye and vision care institutions, health-care professionals, humanitarian institutions, and individuals who are willing to contribute to this joint action. According to the World Health Organization, World Sight Day serves as a platform to raise public awareness that 80 percent of blindness cases can be prevented or treated. It also emphasizes the need for governments, institutions, and other funding sources to invest in global prevention efforts, as the annual economic cost of preventing blindness worldwide is estimated at 28 billion dollars.

## Political views should not hinder return of Iranian expats



Iranian expatriates, regardless of their political views and leanings, should not feel concerned about returning to the country, especially if their political views "are not according to our wishes and likings", said an Iranian lawmaker. Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh told Iran Daily in an exclusive interview that the visit and reentry of all those who have Iranian blood in

their veins — even if they are a quarter or less Iranian — and consider themselves Iranian should be facilitated. He also made a special mention of Iranian artists living abroad, saying, "Artists whose art and actions have not undermined our national security will find that they are not blocked from returning to the country, just like some other Iranian artists who have returned." In July, the Iranian Parliament passed a bill, titled "Support for Iranians Abroad," aimed at encouraging and engaging Irani-

an expatriates to invest in the country's economy and facilitate their return. Nouri-Qezeljeh expressed hope that the bill will deepen the ties of the Iranian diaspora with their homeland. The bill proposes offering legal and e-government services, among many others, to this end. It also contains plans to identify and employ talented Iranian expats in academic institutions, foster their cooperation with Iranian knowledge-based companies, and encourage investment from abroad. One of the main goals of

the bill is to support Iranian elites living abroad and preserve their cultural ties with the homeland. The MP proposed that a special card, called the "Travel Card of Iranians," should be issued that, in the hands of expatriates, will allow them to visit or reenter the country with minimal legal formalities. "The more we try to facilitate the return of our expatriates, the more cultural and scientific interactions will be had with them and more investments can be attracted, which is why different institutions of the country

including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the economic sectors, and the universities and scientific societies have been tasked with different responsibilities," he maintained. Nouri-Qezeljeh stressed that even though Iranian expatriates are some of the country's greatest scientific and financial capitals, there is no doubt that "we should look at them as a human and an Iranian first." As such, the MP noted that there are major questions that should be diligently answered regardless of

the bill: "Why is the immigration rate increasing? Why should Iranians turn to immigration?" He stressed that the country should be in such a state that "no one will think of immigrating". So, he proposes that Iranian lawmakers and policy-makers should first try to stop everyone that is living inside the country from leaving and then, turn to the matter of facilitating the return of everyone who has left.

