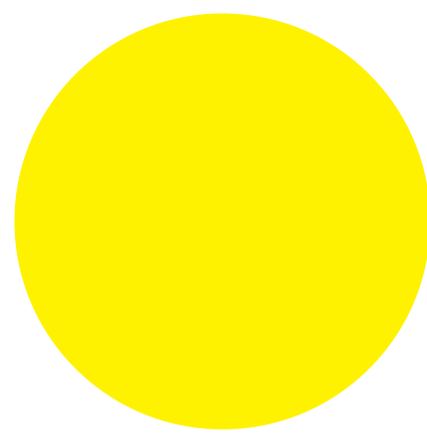


Azerbaijan allocates funds for construction of road to Iran 2 >



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Jews Against Israel



Iranian Jews hold an anti-Israel gathering in Tehran in support of Palestinians in Gaza on October 30, 2023.

M.SADEGH NIKGOSTAR/FARS



Majestic bridges of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province 3 >



Lackluster Persepolis, Sepahan held as Esteghlal remains on top 6 >



Family Doctor Program in Iran gaining momentum 7 >

EXCLUSIVE

Israel expands ground assault into Gaza 4-5 >



10% of Iranians to have 5G internet by 2025: Minister 2 >



Nearly 50,000 Chinese visitors arrive in Iran in seven months 8 >



Translation of two Iranian books unveiled at Istanbul Book Fair 8 >

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bishkek, Tehran to open joint investment office



24.KG – A joint investment office will be established by Kyrgyzstan and Iran per the corresponding memorandum that was signed at the 13th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, and Cultural Cooperation. Announcing the above, Minister of Economy of Kyrgyzstan Daniyar Amangeldiev noted that the joint investment office would finance self-sustaining projects in priority sectors of the economy of the Kyrgyz Republic. According to him, the initiative will help strengthen and develop deep, sustainable relations between the two countries.

Oil prices could hit 'uncharted waters'

DAILY SABAH – Oil prices could be pushed into "uncharted waters" if the violence between Israel and Palestine intensifies, which could result in increased food prices worldwide, the World Bank warned Monday. The World Bank's Commodity Markets Outlook found that while the effects on oil prices should be limited if the conflict doesn't widen, the outlook "would darken quickly if the conflict were to escalate".

Moscow keen on expanding trade ties with Tehran

IRNA – Director of the Federal Customs Service of Russia Ruslan Davydov expressed Russia's readiness to expand trade relations with Iran. Davydov made the remarks in a meeting with Foroud Asgari, the deputy head of the Iran Customs Administration for Customs Affairs on Monday. Increasing the tariff level for exchanges in the form of a Green Corridor between the two countries, following up on the final approval of the agreement of authorized economic operators (AEO), and the exchange of knowledge and experience between the experts are among the factors that would help facilitate trade between the two countries, Asgari said for his part.

10% of Iranians to have 5G internet by 2025: Minister

Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Communication and Information Technology (CIT) Issa Zarepour said that the current government has plans to provide access to 5G internet for 10% of the country's population by 2025. All those plans need certain groundworks, and the CIT Ministry is seriously following up on preparing them, Zarepour said at the IRAN-5G conference in the Iranian capital on Monday, IRNA reported. The provision of communication infrastructure for the development of 5G Internet is a necessity, the minister noted. Regarding some speculations about the 5G internet radiation and its health risks, the minister said its radiation is not different from the

previous generations.

He stressed that such radiation has always been at a lower level "in our country" compared to the world standards.

According to Iran's Seventh Five-Year Development Plan — which was recently submitted to the Parliament — all Iranian organizations should prepare separate plans for maximum use of new technologies such as the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence, the minister noted.

"Another great project that is being undertaken by the ministry is in the field of fiber optics, which will update the communication status in the country," Zarepour announced, adding that infrastructure will also be provided for the development of mobile internet in the country.



Agriculture minister:

Launching infrastructure projects on agenda

Economy Desk

Iranian Agriculture Minister Mohammad Ali Nikbakht emphasized the timely implementation of infrastructure projects, which were categorized into 10 groups in accordance with the announced comprehensive plan of the ministry, in a meeting with his deputies.

The projects include removing barriers to issuing land documents, planting one billion saplings, maintaining the stability of the chicken and red meat market, gaining self-sufficiency in the production of strategic products along with increasing the country's self-sufficiency in other products, developing greenhouse culti-

vation, reactivating closed units, managing the supply and demand of agricultural products market, IRNA reported. All the capacities of the ministry and its subsidiary bodies are dedicated to the fulfillment of the projects, said the minister, adding that their progress is being monitored.

A sum of 11.52 million tons of basic goods were unloaded in Iranian ports in the first seven months of the current Iranian year, according to data released by the Ports and Maritime Organization on Sunday. From March 21 to October 22, nearly 2.7 million tons of wheat were discharged in Iranian ports, while around 1.3 million tons of barley were unloaded during the period.



Bazrpash:

Iran-Turkey trade rises to \$13.4b

Iran's minister of roads and urban development said that the trade exchanges between Iran and Turkey have increased to over \$13.4 billion.

In his meeting with Turkey's Ambassador to Iran Hicabi Kirlangıç on Monday, Mehرداد Bazrpash stated that the two countries enjoy high potential to further enhance bilateral trade, Tasnim news agency reported.

Iran's roads minister said that the incumbent government attaches great importance to its relations with neighbors within the framework of the good neighborliness policy as the Republic of Turkey has a special position and importance for Tehran.

Benefiting from having many cultural and religious commonalities and being located on the historical Silk Road, the two countries have played a leading, effective role in regional equations, he emphasized.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will visit Turkey in the near fu-

ture to participate in the 8th Meeting of the Iran-Turkey Supreme Council of Cooperation and explore avenues for enhancing mutual ties, Bazrpash added. Bazrpash also congratulated the National Day of Turkey to the government and noble nation of the neighboring country.



Azerbaijan allocates funds for construction of road to Iran

Economy Desk

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev signed a decree on measures related to the continuation of work on the construction of a new road from the Horadiz-Jabrayil-Zangilan-Aghband highway to Iran and a bridge

over the Aras River. In general, 14 million manat (\$8.2 million) will be allocated from the reserve fund of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan — provided for in the state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2023 — to the State Agency of Azerbaijan Automobile Roads in order to continue the construction projects, azernews.az reported.

The Ministry of Finance of Azerbaijan was instructed to provide financing in the amount specified in part one of this decree. In addition, the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan was instructed to resolve issues that may arise from this de-

cre.

On October 25, a senior Azerbaijani official said that his country is no longer interested in securing a land corridor through Armenia to the Azerbaijani enclave of Nakhichevan and will instead discuss the issue with its southern neighbor Iran. Routing a potential corridor through Iran, which borders both Armenia and Azerbaijan, could help reduce tensions around southern Armenia.

"Azerbaijan had no plans to seize Zangezur," Hikmet Hajiyev, a top foreign policy adviser to Aliyev, told Reuters, referring to the corridor that would link Azerbaijan proper to its enclave of Na-

khichevan.

"After the two sides failed to agree on its opening, the project has lost its attractiveness for us — we can do this with Iran instead," he said.

A groundbreaking ceremony marked on October 6, the beginning of construction for a road bridge and border-customs infrastructure near Aghband settlement in Azerbaijan's Zangilan district.

This momentous project is being undertaken as part of the memorandum of understanding "Between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the es-

tablishment of new communication ties between the East Zangazur region and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic through the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the Azerbaijani news agency APA said. Several high-ranking officials from both countries attended the ceremony, including Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister and Co-chair of the State Commission on Cooperation in the economic, trade, and humanitarian fields between Azerbaijan and Iran, Shahin Mustafayev, and Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Developments and Co-chair of the Commission on behalf of Iran, Mehرداد Bazrpash.



Majestic bridges of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province

Historical marvels spanning centuries of ingenuity and artistry

Iranica Desk

Throughout ancient history, Iranians were renowned for their remarkable qualities. They were fearless warriors, celebrated for their unparalleled bravery, and accomplished the feat of establishing the world's first empire. Additionally, they showcased their intellect as skilled engineers, leaving behind awe-inspiring architectural marvels like

resilient roads and enduring bridges that have stood the test of time for centuries. These incredible structures triumphed over earthquakes, floods, and wars. Their endurance surpassed the very governments that constructed them by hundreds of years. It's undeniable that Iranians possessed exceptional skills in building edifices, roads, and bridges. Today, you can find some of these invaluable ar-

chitectural marvels nestled within the scenic landscapes of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. Nestled amid towering mountains, seemingly touching the sky, and gracefully spanning untamed rivers stand 10 magnificent historical bridges. These remarkable structures serve as enduring legacies of the past inhabitants of this land. With origins dating back to various historical periods,

these bridges proudly showcase the ingenuity and expertise of Iranian engineers and artisans throughout different chapters of history. The historical bridges of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province are astonishing structures constructed using traditional construction materials and methods. These bridges are highly valuable in terms of architecture and engineering, representing the knowledge

and expertise of Iranian engineers throughout history. The bridges named Kheirabad, Berim, Qal'eh Dokhtar, and Pataveh are some of the most important historical landmarks in this province. Kheirabad Bridge, located in Gachsaran district, dates back to the Sassanid era. It's a fascinating glimpse into ancient history. Berim Bridge, situated in Basht, has its roots in pre-Islamic times. It's truly a testa-

ment to the past. The historical Qal'eh Dokhtar Bridge, located in the city of Kohgiluyeh, also takes us back to the Sassanid era. It's a blend of beauty and history. And let's not forget the collection of Pataveh historical bridges, another gem of this province. It consists of five magnificent bridges dating from the Sassanid to the Safavid periods. A true marvel to behold.



IRNA

Kheirabad Bridge

Kheirabad Bridge is strategically positioned adjacent to the road linking Gachsaran and Dehdasht. This historical bridge comprises two distinct components. The initial segment spans a length of six meters, while the subsequent segment measures 14 meters in length. It was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2001. This bridge represents a significant symbol that embodies the profound historical and cultural heritage of this province.



IRNA

Berim Bridge

Bridging the era before Islam, the Berim Bridge was constructed on the route connecting Khuzestan to Fars, over the Tang Shio River. The bridge has 13 arches and large column bases, reflecting the magnificence of ancient Persian civilization. This prominent site is located approximately eight kilometers east of Basht, in the vicinity of Cham Bolbol village, and about 90 kilometers from Yasuj, the capital of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province.

According to archaeological studies, the origins of Berim Bridge can be traced back to the Sassanid era, and potentially even to the Achaemenids. Serving as a vital transportation link, this bridge maintained its significance from the Sassanid period all the way through the Safavid era.

In recent years, a series of practical conservation initiatives have been implemented to safeguard the bridge. These endeavors have significantly bolstered the structural robustness of the bridge, fortifying it against the detrimental forces of nature.



IRNA



IRNA

Qal'eh Dokhtar Bridge

The historical bridge of Qal'eh Dokhtar holds significant prominence as a notable tourist destination within the Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. Situated approximately 30 kilometers northwest of Dehdasht, this bridge gracefully spans across the Marun River, known for its abundant water supply in this region. Constructed by employing lime and sarooj, the bridge showcases a remarkable architec-



IRNA

tural design influenced by the Sassanid period. The Qal'eh Dokhtar Bridge

served as a crucial route for commercial caravans, tourists, and military forces. The Qal'eh Dokhtar Bridge, situated adjacent to a rustic village bearing the same name, stands as an esteemed cultural heritage of the Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province.

It is imperative that efforts be made to ensure its careful preservation. This meticulously crafted bridge gained recognition and was officially inscribed on Iran's National Heritage List in 2003.



IRNA

Pataveh historical bridges

Dena is a city situated in the northern and northeastern part of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. It boasts a multitude of undisturbed natural landscapes and historically significant sites. Among them are notable attractions such as Miamand Castle, Pataveh historical bridges, Deh Sheikh Cave, and Dena Mountain.

Pataveh historical bridges, located at a distance of 15 kilometers from Dena Mountain, held great importance due to their climatic and geographical characteristics. These bridges served as crucial passageways for caravans traveling to Tisfoon, Estakhr, Shush, Behbahan, and Isfahan. Consequently, a multitude of bridges were constructed in this region.

The Pataveh historical bridges comprise five significant bridges, all of which have succumbed to the devastating floods of Beshar River. To fulfill its mission, the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province has taken on the task of reconstructing the surviving bridge.

The oldest bridge that still stands among the revered collection of historical bridges in Pataveh is the esteemed Takht-e Shahneshin, commonly referred to as the Royal Bridge. Its origin can be traced back to the Sassanid period. Remarkably, this bridge showcases intricate signs and meticulously carved decorative stones, enhancing its visual allure and cultural significance.



IRNA



IRNA

Unlocking economic potential

These structures can be identified as noteworthy tourist attractions, drawing in a significant influx of visitors to the area. Consequently, this influx of tourists will play a pivot-

al role in fostering economic prosperity within the region. In order to achieve the objective, tourism infrastructure should be developed in proximity to these bridges. This

infrastructure encompasses roads, accommodations, hospitality centers, and additional tourism facilities. Tourism programs ought to be developed specifically for

these bridges, encompassing the organization of sightseeing tours, the hosting of vibrant festivals, as well as a myriad of other cultural and artistic events.

Jews Against Israel



Iranian Jews hold an anti-Israel gathering in Tehran in support of Palestinians in Gaza on October 30, 2023.
● ATTA KENARE/AFP

Israel expands ground assault into Gaza

Fears rise as airstrikes near crowded hospitals

International Desk

Israeli troops and tanks pushed deeper into Gaza on Monday, advancing on two sides of the territory's main city, as the UN and medical staff warned that airstrikes have hit closer to hospitals where tens of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter alongside thousands of wounded.

Videos circulating on social media showed an Israeli tank and bulldozer in central Gaza blocking the territory's main north-south highway, which the Israeli military earlier told Palestinians to use to escape the expanding ground offensive. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in the north would no longer be able to escape if the road is blocked since it's the only useable route south.

When asked whether forces had positioned on the road, Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said that "we expanded our operations" but would not comment on specific deployments.

Heavy fighting

On Monday, Israeli tanks advanced into the fringes of Gaza City, witnesses said, as it ramped up its war, in what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the "second stage" of the war ignited by Hamas' October 7 attack.

The Israeli military claimed it killed dozens of Hamas

fighters in hundreds of strikes. An Israeli military spokesperson told AFP that they have hit "more than 600 targets in the past 24 hours," up from 450 the previous day, with Hamas fighters also reporting "heavy fighting" in northern Gaza.

Hamas' military wing said its fighters clashed with Israeli troops who entered the

northwest Gaza Strip. Palestinian fighters have continued firing rockets into Israel, including toward its commercial hub, Tel Aviv.

Hospitals under growing threat

Meanwhile, crowded hospitals in northern Gaza came under

growing threat. Strikes hit near Gaza City's Shifa and Al Quds hospitals and the Indonesian and Turkish hospitals in northern Gaza in recent days, the UN and residents said Monday.

All 10 hospitals operating in northern Gaza have received evacuation orders, the UN's of-

fice for the coordination of humanitarian affairs said. Staffs have refused to leave, saying evacuation would mean death for patients on ventilators.

Tens of thousands of civilians are sheltering in Shifa Hospital, the territory's largest. Israel accuses Hamas of having a secret com-





International Desk

Iranian Jews held pro-Palestine rallies in several cities on Monday to condemn Israel's crimes against the people of Palestine in the Gaza Strip.

The protests, which were held in Isfahan, Tehran, Kermanshah, Kurdistan, Shiraz, and Yazd, demanded an immediate end to the violence and bloodshed in the occupied Palestinian territory. In the central city of Isfahan, protesters shouted slogans against the regime and its main supporter, the United States, to show their anger at the crimes committed by Israel, including the killing of civilians.

Since October 7, Israel has launched brutal strikes on the Gaza Strip in response to the Hamas' operation in the occupied territories, which claimed the lives of more than 1,400 people. Israeli attacks have also killed at least 8,300 Palestinians so far.

The demonstrators denounced the killing of Palestinian civilians as a war crime and called for an end to the genocide that is happening in Gaza. They also criticized Western countries, especially the US, which are supporting the regime, saying that these countries are complicit in the regime's massacre of the innocent people of Gaza.

The protesters underlined that Israel's actions contradict the teachings of Judaism and the Holy Torah.

The demonstrators in Isfahan also demanded an immediate ceasefire and the lifting of the blockade imposed by the Israeli regime on Gaza in order to be able to send medicine, food, and fuel to Palestinians.

A similar demonstration was also held in the western Iranian city of Kermanshah where the protesters called on the international community to help the people of Gaza who have been under Israel's attacks from the land, sea, and air in recent weeks.

Carrying placards reading "Don't commit crime

in the name of Judaism," they condemned Israel's killing of women, children, and defenseless people. The Jewish community in Iran's central city of Yazd gathered outside the city's synagogue to condemn Israeli crimes against Palestinians. The protestors expressed sympathy with the people of Gaza and urged the international community to stop these atrocities.

They also condemned the silence of many countries and international organizations over Israel's deadly strikes in the Palestinian territory.

Anti-Israel protests are happening in many cities across the world on a daily basis, and Jewish communities participate in such rallies to condemn the Israeli crimes and tell the world that the Israeli regime does not represent Judaism.

In Australia, a Jewish organization named Jews Against the Occupation in a statement called on their government to support a ceasefire in Gaza.

"We call on the Australian government to cease all military relationships with Israel until it lifts the brutal blockade on Gaza and releases Palestinian prisoners held indefinitely without charge or trial," the statement said.

Many Jewish Americans have also joined anti-Israel rallies held in the US in recent weeks.

On October 19, Jewish activists campaigned against Israel's bombardment and blockade of Gaza in Washington. Demonstrators — some of them waving Palestinian flags — accused Israel of preparing to commit genocide in Gaza in retaliation for the October 7 attacks by Hamas.

They protested against "Israel's ongoing oppression of Palestinians," according to Jewish Voice for Peace, the group that organized the demonstration.

"We shut down Congress to draw mass attention to the US complicity in Israel's ongoing oppression of Palestinians," the Jewish organization wrote on X.

mand post beneath the hospital but has not provided much evidence. Hamas denies the allegations.

Death toll

According to Gaza's Health Ministry, at least 8,306 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory since the start of the war.

The ministry added on Monday that at least 3,457 children were among the dead, as Israel continued to pound the Gaza Strip with air and artillery strikes.

Israel has warned that the territory's northern areas must be considered a war zone. Although huge numbers have left in recent weeks, tens of thousands are believed to be still in the zone.

'Catastrophic situation'

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has expressed concerns about the "catastrophic situation" of Palestinian children in the besieged strip.

In an interview with Al Jazeera TV channel on Sunday, UNICEF spokesperson Toby Fricker said the number of children killed in Gaza is catastrophic.

"The situation for children is horrific," he said, calling for the protection of Gaza hospitals from relentless Israeli airstrikes, the establishment of safe humanitarian corridors, and the continuous and sustainable delivery of humanitarian aid to the people in the coastal enclave. In another interview with France 24, Fricker said the scale of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is "staggering", adding: "Children don't want to drink water because it's so salty. They are suffering from dehydration, and the risk of disease is really very real."

Plea for cease-fire

Israel's expanded operations sparked new warnings from

leaders about the risk of broader regional conflict, as well as heightened calls from the UN for a humanitarian cease-fire to deliver desperately needed aid into Gaza.

The United Arab Emirates requested an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council for Monday as the council's Arab representative seeks a binding resolution, demanding that Israel accepts a humanitarian pause to the fighting in Gaza.

The World Health Organization's Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday pleaded with global leaders to unite for peace.

The WHO has called for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in the war between Israel and Hamas for the safe delivery of food, medical supplies, and other aid into the Gaza Strip.

Tedros said on X that he was making "a humble plea for cease-fire and peace".

'Humanitarian catastrophe'

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on Sunday he regretted that "instead of a critically needed humanitarian pause, supported by the international community, Israel has intensified its military operations".

"The world is witnessing a humanitarian catastrophe taking place before our eyes. More than 2 million people, with nowhere safe to go, are being denied the essentials for life — food, water, shelter, and medical care — while being subjected to relentless bombardment. I urge all those with responsibility to step back from the brink."

Since October 21, only 94 humanitarian aid trucks have been able to arrive in the strip through the Rafah crossing, but Israel has not allowed any fuel into Gaza, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent.

Iran in talks with Egypt

Expressing regret that a limited number of aid trucks have reached Gaza, the Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesperson said on Monday that his country has been in contact with Egypt to weigh plans for lifting the siege of the strip and supplying humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the enclave.

Nasser Kanaani said Iran has been holding negotiations with Egypt about the establishment of a corridor to send humanitarian supplies to Gaza.

Meanwhile, the Iranian foreign minister, in separate phone calls with his Saudi and Qatari counterparts, underlined the need for an immediate halt to Israel's indiscriminate strikes against the blockaded Palestinian territory.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Qatar's Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani urged the uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.

Earlier the same day, Amir-Abdollahian had a phone call with his Saudi counterpart Prince

Faisal bin Farhan, during which both sides called for collective regional and international action to immediately end Israel's attacks on Palestinian civilians. Meanwhile, Iran's top military commander said Palestinians decided to stand up against Israel and uphold their rights instead of giving in to their gradual death at the hands of the occupying regime.

Speaking on Monday, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said that Israel's bombing campaign on the blockaded strip "has no military value" compared to the October 7 operation conducted by Palestinian resistance fighters against the occupying entity.

The Zionists "are the losers of the war even if they continue the bombing for one year," he stated.

No plans to send troops

US President Joe Biden also is facing pressure from within his own Democratic party to call for a cease-fire. Biden has strongly supported Israel's right to self-defense after the attack by

Hamas on 7 October.

Meanwhile, his Vice President Kamala Harris said that the US has "absolutely no intention" of sending American combat troops into Israel or Gaza amid fears over a wider regional conflict.

"We have absolutely no intention, nor do we have any plans, to send combat troops into Israel or Gaza, period," Harris said in an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday.

Harris, who has been included in briefings and phone calls on the Middle East crisis, closely stuck to the administration's approach: Supporting Israel's right to defend itself while also calling for the protection of civilians.

Casualties on both sides are expected to rise sharply if Israeli forces expand their ground operation and end up battling Palestinian fighters in dense residential areas.

AP, AFP, Reuters, Press TV, France 24, Al Jazeera, and Tasnim news agencies contributed to the report.

No pretty end in sight with threats of nukes



AFP



By Syed Ali Hassan

Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

The world is not just the United States of America or a few European countries. The world is much bigger than these countries. Yet, the support of the US and Europe has caused irreparable damage to human values.

The way the US, France, and Great Britain are standing behind Israel is a lesson for Muslim rulers. If the Arab sheikhs withdraw their capital from these countries, the US and the whole of Europe would be shaken to their core. But, unfortunately, this will not happen until the fire spreads to the homes of these sheikhs. Meanwhile, Tehran was among the only Muslim countries that warned if the Israeli aggression on Gaza does not stop, the United States would not be able to escape from the fire they ignited.

Such warnings are warranted since defense experts argue that if the Israeli occupation forces fully invade Gaza, it will lead to a catastrophic tragedy of unprecedented proportions. Israeli bombers are already targeting hospitals in Gaza and killing Palestinian women and children who had sought refuge in schools.

Israeli military experts argue that the attacks from the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah and the Yemeni Houthi movement cannot be effectively countered by the military forces of Israel and the US alone. Thus, they advise Tel Aviv to consider using nuclear weapons to ensure its survival.

This dangerous idea has been previously entertained by many Israeli leaders such as David Ben-Gurion, who was in office during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war when Israel was under indiscriminate attacks from the Golan Heights. However, the Arab army's aversion to using nuclear weapons shifted the tide of that war in Israel's favor.

It is common knowledge that Israel possesses a substantial arsenal of nuclear weapons, but it is crucial for Tel Aviv to remember that Islamabad is also a nuclear power with missiles capable of reaching Tel Aviv. This is a dangerous game that no one should play.



AFP

Taremi finds the net as Porto beats Vizela



Porto striker Mahdi Taremi celebrates after scoring from the spot during a 2-0 victory over FC Vizela in Liga Portugal in Caldas de Vizela, Portugal, on October 29, 2023.

● fcporto.pt

Sports Desk

Mahdi Taremi was on the scoresheet as Porto defeated FC Vizela 2-0 in Liga Portugal on Sunday. The Iranian international, whose double assists helped Porto to a 4-1 comeback victory over Antwerp in the Champions League in the mid-week, got the Dragons off the mark from the spot after Brazilian Evanilson was brought down in the box by the host center-back Bruno Wilson midway through the first half.

This was only a second goal in nine league outings – third in all competitions – this season for Porto striker, who was the leading marksman in the Portuguese top flight in the previous campaign with 22 strikes.

Canadian midfielder Stephen Eustáquio doubled the lead for the visiting side right before the interval, when his left-footed effort from inside the box found the top corner. The victory saw third-placed Porto move level on points with defending champion Benfica, which was held to a 1-1 home draw by Casa Pia on Saturday.

Persian Gulf Pro League roundup: Lackluster Persepolis, Sepahan held as Esteghlal remains on top

Sports Desk

Persepolis and Sepahan, the two unbeaten sides in the Persian Gulf Pro League this season, were held to frustrating away draws on Sunday – a major boost for Javad Nekounam's Esteghlal in what will likely be a three-horse race for the trophy until the end of the campaign.

Persepolis dropped points in the domestic league for only the second time since mid-March, playing to a goalless draw at Malavan FC, while Sepahan saw its perfect start to the Iranian top-flight season come to an end after sharing the spoils with Nassaji Mazandaran in a 1-1 stalemate.

Yahya Golmohammadi's side had the majority of the ball possession but failed to create any clear-cut chances and was lucky not to be punished on the counterattacks in the closing stages of the boring contest at the Sirous Qayeqran Stadium.

Iranian international keeper Alireza Beiranvand registered his 100th clean sheet over two spells in the Reds shirt since first joining the club in 2016, but the result means Esteghlal has a two-point lead over Persepolis on top of the table after an Arman Ramezani's first-half header had secured a 1-0 home victory over Iralco for the Tehran Blues on Friday. Having been deducted a point for breaching the Iranian Football Federation's financial rules, Persepolis has 16 points – two clear of Zob Ahan – with Mahdi Tartar's Malavan in fifth on 12 points.

In Qaemshahr's Vatan Stadium, Nassaji striker Mohammadreza Azadi bagged a fourth goal in nine outings



Nassaji striker Mohammadreza Azadi (9) scores during a 1-1 draw against Sepahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League at the Vatan Stadium, Qaemshahr, Iran, on October 29, 2023.

● MOSTAFA KAZEMI/ISNA

across all competitions, when his side-footed effort from close range on a Mohammadreza Abbasi's cross found the bottom corner three minutes after the break.

Sepahan fullback Ramin Rezaeian, whose brace led his team to a 3-1 win at AGMK in the AFC Champions League last week, showcased his impressive form of late with yet another assist, finding Mohammad Daneshgar on the near post before the center-back's thumping header drew the

visiting side level in the 67th minute.

Sepahan, also hit with a four-point deduction over the 'budget cap' violation, is fourth in the table – equal on points with Malavan – having a game in hand. Elsewhere, San'at Naft and Esteghlal Khuzestan finished 1-1 in Abadan on Saturday after Ahmad Shariatzadeh's 86th-minute equalizer canceled out Javad Aqaeipour's opener for the southern Blues in the first-half stoppage time. Esteghlal Khuzestan, winless

after eight matches, remains rock bottom with two points, with San'at just outside the relegation zone with a superior goal difference against Foolad Khuzestan.

Having enjoyed back-to-back wins under new manager Juan Ignacio Martinez, Foolad fell to a first defeat in the Spaniard's era after Pouria Sarabadani headed home the only goal of the match late in the first half to help newly-promoted Shams Azar pull off a second shock victory in six days, following last week's

3-2 triumph at Tractor. Shams Azar still had Alireza Jafarpour to thank for the maximum points as the young keeper denied Mohammad Abbaszadeh from the spot deep into stoppage time.

Golgozar and Havadar shared the points in a six-goal thriller in Sirjan. Saeed Saharkhizan's double and Spanish midfielder Roberto Torres's strike midway through the second half gave Golgozar the lead on three occasions, only to see Karim Eslami and Amin Qa-

seminejad, twice, salvage a draw for the away team.

In Isfahan, Zob Ahan bounced back from the home setback against Mes Rafsanjan last time out, beating Tractor 1-0 thanks to Fardin Yousefi's first-half strike. Mes, meanwhile, claimed successive wins in the league for the first time this season.

Days after celebrating his 40th birthday, Brazilian Luciano Pereira netted his first goal of the campaign on the hour mark to steer Mes to a 1-0 win at Paykan.

French football in new spiral of violence as Olympics loom



REUTERS – French football plunged into a new abyss of violence after the Olympique de Marseille v Olympique Lyonnais game was called off when the visitors' bus was pelted with stones and beer bottles, injuring Lyon coach Fabio Grosso on Sunday. Grosso sustained face injuries in another episode of fans brutality to rock Ligue 1, which two years ago was marred by several acts of violence and crowd troubles.

Since the incidents happened outside Marseille's Stade Velodrome, the French League (LFP) have no jurisdiction to sanction the home team. The incidents are a bad look for the LFP, who have been negotiating a TV rights deal for 2024-29, with the tender ending on Thursday, and made for embarrassing footage less

than a year before the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Some preliminary round Olympic matches will be played in Marseille, where violence erupted at the 1998 World Cup between England fans and French police.

"OL regrets that this type of situation recurs every year in Marseille and calls on the authorities to assess the seriousness and repetition of this type of incident before an even more serious tragedy occurs," Lyon said in a statement, with the club adding they would lodge a formal legal complaint. "What happened to Fabio Grosso is totally unacceptable," OM president Pablo Longoria said.

"This is something that cannot happen in football. Even if it happened outside of the stadium, it is unacceptable. I am angry

and appalled by the situation."

Sports minister Amelie Oudea-Castera said: "These unacceptable acts deny the very values of soccer and sport, and the perpetrators must all be found and severely punished.

Seven suspects had been arrested on Sunday night, the minister added. Sunday was not the first time that the away team bus has been targeted in Marseille, with previous incidents reported in 2016 and 2019.

It also came after fan trouble marred the 2021-2022 season.

That time Nice were docked two points and one of the players/fans suspended, after serious incidents during their game against Marseille when visiting players clashed with home fans

who pelted them with missiles and stormed on to the pitch.

The northern derby between RC Lens and Lille was also hit by crowd problems, with the start of the second half delayed after rival fans threw objects at each other before people ran on to the pitch, prompting riot police and stewards to intervene.

In that 2021-2022 season, there had also been crowd trouble in Montpellier, Angers, Marseille and St Etienne.



Lyon coach Fabio Grosso receives medical treatment after he was injured in an attack by Marseille fans on the visiting side's bus outside the Stade Velodrome, Marseille, France, on October 29, 2023.

● DAILY MAIL

Family Doctor Program in Iran gaining momentum



Social Desk
EXCLUSIVE

It's an ordinary day at the office of a specialist doctor in a major city in Iran. A quick glance around the room reveals many - perhaps even too many - patients patiently waiting for their turn.

However, the doctor is yet to arrive.

Despite having made prior examination appointments, these patients find themselves waiting, waiting, and waiting some more. Regardless of the doctor's skill or reputation, it is evident that the system in place is deeply flawed.

Every patient deserves not only access to high-quality healthcare, but also respect for their time, energy, and financial resources. It goes without saying that this one-sided system, which primarily benefits doctors in terms of revenue, fails to honor the patients' entitlement to a humanistic treatment. Regrettably, this has become the prevailing norm in our country, tarnishing the very profession that is meant to save lives.

Perks of having a family doctor

Having a family doctor offers several benefits. First of all, one receives personalized care based on their specific needs and medical history. Also, family doctors provide continuity of care, ensuring consistent and comprehensive healthcare management, which greatly adds to the quality and depth of treatments received. Moreover, family doctors prioritize preventive medicine, focusing on proactive healthcare to prevent ill-

ness. This, in turn, reduces overall costs of healthcare for society, allowing resources to flow into other crucial sectors such as education. Family doctors offer a wide range of services, diagnose and treat common illnesses, and provide referrals when needed. The medical service referral system is a method of providing medical and health services in which patients must be referred to medical centers based on a hier-

archical structure, beginning with the family doctor. This feature of the program is the one that will eliminate the needless waiting at specialists' offices and hospital halls. Having a family doctor is cost-effective, accessible, and fosters trust and comfort. They serve as health advocates, guiding you through the healthcare system and empowering you to make informed decisions about your health.

Family doctors in Iran

The Family Doctor Program and referral system in Iran was planned for nationwide implementation around 20 years ago; however, it has yet to achieve its desired goals.

According to former Deputy Minister of Health Kamal Heidari, the primary reason for the non-implementation of the Family Doctor Program in Iran is the faulty referral system. Additionally, Heidari cited a lack of resources as another significant factor contributing to the delayed implementation of the program.

The Family Doctor Program in Iran was officially launched in 2005 as provisioned in the country's 4th

Development Plan. Initially, the program faced some challenges, leading to the decision to start it as a pilot and eventually expand it nationwide. However, the approach to health reform during Rouhani's first administration took a different direction. The Family Doctor Program, in the form of the health transformation plan, was initiated in cities with populations of less than 20,000. Sadly, the envisioned family doctor concept was never fully realized. "The implementation of this program in the provinces of Fars and Mazandaran has been ongoing for about nine years, with the intention

of addressing its shortcomings in other provinces," stated Heidari. According to Kamali, the family doctor program reduces the burden of diseases on the country.

"The implementation of this program can bring us closer to our goals in terms of health economics and equitable access to medical services. The rationalization of drug prescription and treatments is another advantage of the family medicine program."

Improved healthcare access, continuity of care, and preventive medicine are among the well-known benefits of family medicine practice.



Iran's healthcare system

Iran enjoys a powerful healthcare system with highly skilled medical staff and state-of-the-art equipment. Additionally, there is a certain level of widespread health insurance coverage. The presence of advanced mega-hospitals, extensive patient capacity, and numerous health centers scattered throughout the country are clear indicators of this strength. In fact, Iran's healthcare system is considered the best in the region.

Iran has also demonstrated significant potential in becoming a leading destination for health tourism, not only within

the region but also beyond. Furthermore, the country has embraced the realm of cyber medicine, offering several applications that facilitate its citizens' access to treatment and healthcare services.

However, despite these notable achievements, the aforementioned issue - crowded offices, clinics, and hospitals, in addition to long waiting times - continues to be a significant ordeal. It burdens patients and their families with unnecessary stress and unexpected financial troubles, and, therefore, acts as the system's Achilles' heel.

Wider implementation and continuous delays

On June 27, 2023, Hossein Farshidi, the then Deputy Minister of Health, announced, "The Family Doctor Program has entered the implementation phase in the country, and the government supports this program comprehensively."

According to him, the Family Doctor Program could transform the healthcare system and Iranian society.

"Some provinces have already declared their readiness to enter the second phase of the program. As we continue the implementation of the Family Doctor Program, which began in 59 cities across the country, we will witness its nationwide implementation," he said.

Farshidi emphasized that with the full implementation of the family medicine program, the programs of all health departments and organizations will undergo changes. He continued,

"We all need to approach the Family Doctor Program and the referral system with a new perspective. Therefore, there may be delays in implementing phase one of the program in certain parts of the country."

Family doctors to the rescue

But don't despair. Fortunately, family doctors can save us from such unpleasant conditions, and they are on their way - actually, some of them are already here. These white-coated rescuers can save us hours of needless waiting in specialists' offices or spare us the trouble of unnecessary hospitalizations. Having a family doctor comes with many perks, including personalized and continuous care, as well as a comprehensive and holistic approach to health and treatment. A family doctor is a primary care physician specializing in providing ongoing and comprehensive healthcare for families and individuals of all ages, genders, and medical conditions.



The rationalization of drug prescription and treatments is another advantage of the family medicine program.
● IRNA

Program's progress

According to the current Deputy Minister of Health, the family doctor program is currently being carried out in 95 cities, with healthcare teams from medical sciences universities participating in the program.

"The Ministry of Health considers nationwide implementation of the family doctor program as one of its most important priorities," said Saeed Karimi on October 29, 2023, according to IRNA.

He added that under the new program guidelines, one family medicine team, consisting of two healthcare workers and one doc-

tor, will be assigned to every three thousand people.

Karimi further explained that healthcare providers will deliver care services, and if a doctor is needed, patients will be referred to the family doctor at nearby centers until a doctor is recruited at the health center.

According to the Deputy Minister of Health, the Family Doctor Program and the referral system are among the five main goals of Iran's healthcare system.

He further noted that acceptable standards for family health and family doctors are being reviewed.

Tehran to display Latin American cartoons



ILNA - The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is set to unveil its latest exhibition, 'Latin American Cartoons and Caricatures,' offering a unique glimpse into the world of Latin American humor and satire.

The museum, which had temporarily closed its doors for preparations, will reopen to the public with this new exhibition starting on October 31, following an extensive effort to curate and present the works of Latin American artists from October 23.

The opening ceremony will be attended by cultural figures, including Mohammad Khorasani Zadeh, the Director-General of Visual Arts and Acting Director of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Masoud Shojai-Tabatabai, the exhibition's curator, and Seyyed Amir Javid, the Deputy of the International Art Department.

Never-before-seen Monet painting heading to auction

REUTERS - A never-before-seen Claude Monet is expected to be a top lot at Christie's New York's upcoming 20th and 21st-century art auctions. It could fetch \$65 million, according to Max Carter, Vice Chairman of 20th and 21st-century art at Christie's New York.

"This Monet Aux Nymphes is one of these 80-inch grand panoramic, monumental canvases from the last 12 years of his life. This is from 1917 to 1919. And in this, in these dozen years, he focused on creating what was the greatest project of his career, which was, there were these panels and there eventually were in the L'Orangerie in Paris. And they're really his legacy to the 20th century. This specific example has never - not only is it never been at auction, it's never been exhibited publicly before. So this is a first." The auction will be held on November 7 and 9.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



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Nearly 50,000 Chinese visitors arrive in Iran in seven months

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has seen a remarkable increase in Chinese tourists, with nearly 50,000 of them arriving in the country during the first seven months of the current Iranian year (started March 21), according to Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, the deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

This increase in demand indicates the growing interest of Chinese travelers in exploring Iran as a tourist destination, IRNA wrote. Shalbafian made the announcement during a meeting of the Technical Committee on Tourism Cooperation between Iran and China, which was held at the Saadabad Palace in Tehran.

He emphasized that Iran has played host to a significant number of Chinese tourists over the past few months, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic. He also pointed out that although the number of flights to Iran is only half of what it was in 2019, having 50,000 visitors in seven months indicates the high demand among Chinese

tourists for visiting Iran. Shalbafian stated, "Certainly, the efforts made by the Chinese government to promote Iran as a top tourist destination have not been fruitless. I would like to express my gratitude to the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism as well as the Chinese Embassy in Iran for their collaboration in this regard."

Highlighting the importance of promoting tourism ties between the two countries, Shalbafian maintained, "Our duty is to facilitate a proper welcome for the guests of both nations." Lu Yingchuan, Chinese vice minister of Culture and Tourism, expressed his appreciation for the hospitality extended by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of Iran.

He emphasized the significance of strengthening tourism cooperation between the two countries and the need to expand the collaboration in various fields. Yingchuan said, "Iran and China, as two ancient civilizations, possess rich potential for cooperation. Tourism is currently undergoing development,



with numerous flights operating between Iran and China. Tourist tours between the two nations are returning to pre-pandemic levels." He further added, "Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS summit has opened up plenty of opportunities for bilateral cooperation in various

fields." Yingchuan emphasized the importance of the participation of the private sector in the development of tourism, particularly in rural and maritime tourism and leisure cruises. He stressed the need for developing smart tourism, highlighting the role of technology, digital tourism, and artificial intelligence.

The Chinese official also underscored the significance of green tourism, emphasizing energy conservation and environmental protection in the tourism industry as key areas of cooperation. Yingchuan expressed China's readiness to fully participate in strengthening tourism cooperation between the two nations.

Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, the deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts and Lu Yingchuan, Chinese vice minister of Culture and Tourism participate in the Technical Committee on Tourism Cooperation between Iran and China, held at Tehran's Saadabad Palace on October 29, 2023. ● CHTN

Highlights of Chinese arts, culture on view in Iran

The 'Highlights of Chinese Arts and Culture in Iran' exhibition opened at the Saadabad Palace in Tehran on October 29, featuring a stunning collection of 80 Chinese artworks.

The exhibition, inaugurated on Sunday, saw the presence of Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of Iran, and Lu Yingchuan, Chinese Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism.

According to IRNA, this exhibition marks the first display of these exquisite works of art in the Saadabad Palace, showcasing a rich tapestry of cultural heritage. The exhibited pieces

encompass a wide array of artistic mediums, from intricately crafted porcelain to semi-precious stones, satin fabrics, and silk threads, reflecting the artistic mastery of Chinese culture from the

17th to the 20th century. Among the historically significant pieces featured in this exhibition is a masterpiece known as "sgraffito," a decorative technique that dates back to the 19th cen-

tury. These works carry cultural significance, bridging the gap between ancient and contemporary Chinese heritage. The exhibition will run through November 5.



Translation of two Iranian books unveiled at Istanbul Book Fair

Two Turkish translations of Iranian children's books were unveiled at the Iranian booth at the 40th Istanbul Book Fair in a bid to foster cultural exchanges and literary engagements between the two nations. According to IRNA, on the second day of the book fair, the Turkish translations of two children's books, namely 'Penny and Sunny and the Fight against Global Warming' (a four-volume series) and 'Animals' Protest against Nik and Nika,' both written by Foroogh Toofan, were introduced at the Islamic Republic of Iran's booth. The author discussed the content of the books, saying: "Both books focus on environmental subjects and the fu-

ture. These books were translated into Turkish by Tahereh Safaritabar." Speaking on the importance of authoring books in the field of environmentalism and their translation into various languages, Toofan stated, "Given the significance of environmental issues and related matters, we should not overlook the role of publishers in translating and distributing these works in other countries." "We should not underestimate the importance of translating books into other languages. I hope that by translating Persian works, more books will become available to Turkish-speaking readers," she added. The 40th Istanbul Book Fair, welcom-

ing 998 publishers, runs from October 28 to November 5 and features an international section that will continue until October 31.

