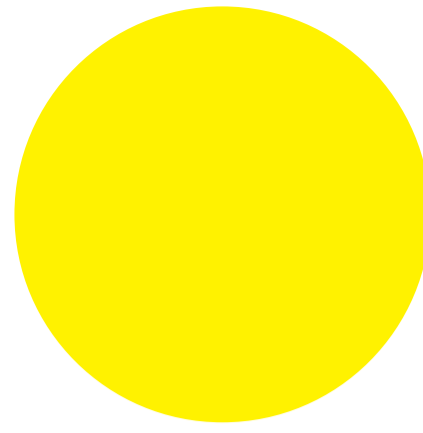


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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran-ECO seven-month trade tops \$10b



Economy Desk

IRNA - The trade between Iran and member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) topped \$10 billion during the first seven months of the current Iranian year (March 21-October 22). Over 14 million tons worth of goods, valued at \$10.2 billion, were exchanged between Iran and the nine ECO state members during the seven months to October 22, showing an 18 and 4.5 percent of hike in weight and value terms respectively compared to the same period of last year.

Tehran, Kabul to expand cooperation in transport, transit sectors

IRNA - Transportation officials from Iran and Afghanistan's caretaker government emphasized the need for broadening cooperation in the field of transport and transit.

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash and visiting deputy minister of transport and civil aviation of Afghanistan's caretaker government Hamidullah Saeed held talks in Tehran on Wednesday on the development and enhancement of cooperation between the air, road and rail sectors of the two countries.

Deputy minister discusses promotion of industrial ties in Cuba

TASNIM - Iranian Deputy Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Farshad Moqimi held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba Ricardo Cabrisas on the expansion of bilateral ties.

Moqimi, who also heads the Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), has traveled to Cuba on behalf of Iran's minister of industry, mine and trade to take part at 39th Havana International Trade Fair (FIHAV 2023).



Tehran, Dushanbe sign 18 MoUs

Raisi: Annual trade of \$500m with Tajikistan possible



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (r.) speaks in a press conference with his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon in the Dushanbe, Tajikistan on November 8, 2023.

● IRNA

Economy Desk

High ranking officials of Iran and Tajikistan signed 18 memorandums of understanding in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe on Wednesday. At the signing ceremony, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon signed a joint declaration on deepening strategic and long-term

bilateral relations, according to president.ir. Raisi's visit to Dushanbe was held at the official invitation of Rahmon.

The signed MoUs were in various economic, commercial, and industrial, transportation and transit, railways, energy, the establishment of the joint free zone, customs, cultural and scientific fields, modern

technologies, sports, crisis management, and counter-narcotics.

Speaking in a joint press conference with his Tajik counterpart, Raisi said that despite the threats and sanctions, Iran has made great progress in various fields, especially in the field of science and technology. Raisi noted that an initial target for reaching a \$500

million trade with Tajikistan is possible.

Iran enjoys very good capacities and experiences in the fields of energy, agriculture, industry and mines, as the country is ready to share the experiences with the people of Tajikistan, the Iranian president added.

Criticizing the level of bilateral trade ties, Raisi said economic cooperation be-

tween his country and the central Asian state of Tajikistan can definitely be more than the current figures.

Speaking to reporters before leaving Tehran, Raisi said the promotion of close relations with neighboring, Muslim and like-minded countries, such as the Central Asian states, constitutes a pillar of his administration's foreign policy.

Iran's saffron exports to hit \$400m: MP



By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadi

Staff writers

Iran is on the verge of registering \$400 million worth of saffron exports, announced an Iranian lawmaker adding that the figure indicates a 100-percent growth compared to the figure for preceding year. Talking to Iran Daily, Mohsen Zanganeh added that during the past two-three years, by following the policies of the Parliament and government, Iran raised the price of saffron in the international market.

"With the measures that were taken, including providing facilities to major buyers, removing export barriers and supportive policies of the Ministry of Agriculture, the country helped the producers of saffron and the price of the product has increased to \$1,200 per kilogram in target markets."

Today, saffron is among the products that are decided on in many Iranian president's visits, including to China, Russia, and South America, the MP said adding that the measures along with

setting up a working group on saffron have led to an increase in the export of the product.

Due to the country's trade barriers and the imposition of Western sanctions, currently part of Iran's saffron is exported through other countries with non-Iranian packaging, Zanganeh criticized noting that if the problem is resolved, the country's saffron export will double. Referring to the allocation of \$30 million to support the country's saffron production, he said of the figure is provided by some Iranian banks, so that if the price of saffron decreases, the government can buy the product from the farmer to prevent losses.

In the council for pricing and adoption of support policies for basic products, measures were taken to support saffron, he said stating that there has been no need for government involvement to support the product. "Due to climatic changes in the country and the some frost damages during the months of cultivation, as well as the overheating in some days, the country's production is a little bit less than last year."

Pointing out that about 85 percent of the country's saffron is exported, the MP said Iran has the first rank of saffron production in the world.

Despite the fact that other countries such as India, Afghanistan, China and even Qatar have gone towards increasing the production of saffron by cultivation in a greenhouse, but Iran is still the largest producer of saffron in the world, he explained. Saffron cultivation has been extended from the east of the country to the western regions, Zanganeh said adding that the production of saffron has started in the provinces of Hamedan, Kermanshah, Isfahan and some central provinces of Iran.

Fiber optic creates flourishing market for job opportunities, production

Economy Desk

Minister of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Isaa Zarepour, has emphasized the necessity to set up 20 million fiber optic connections in households and businesses. He highlighted that the initiative will generate a significant market for production and job opportunities.

One of the fundamental directions of Iran's current government is to support new technology-based firms (NTBFs), for which there is financial support from Iran National Innovation Fund (INIF), according to ISNA.

The Iran National Innovation Fund was established in 2011 in order to assist non-governmental institutions and companies in commercialization of innovations and inventions, as well as to make technical knowledge grow by providing financial support and services to new technology-based firms.

According to INIF, 30 percent of companies are active in the field of communications and information technology. Creativity, innovation, and human resource play a vital role in this field.

It is essential to establish a dedicated mechanism for collaboration between the Iran National Innovation Fund and Noafarin Fund. The cooperation will support NTBFs in the field communications and information technology, Zarepour noted.

Noafarin Fund is one of the largest research and technology funds in the country to support active startups in the field of Information and Communication Technology. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is considered one of the significant infrastructural ministries, which plays a crucial role in the country's development path. INIF is prepared to serve as an extension of the ICT Ministry in the realm of technology and innovation advancement.



Valiasr Street: Tehran's historic thoroughfare and cultural haven



Valiasr Street
● REZA MOATARIAN/IRAN DAILY

Bagh Ferdows
● kojaro.com

City Theater
● fararu.com

Mausoleum of Imamzadeh Saleh
● marcocial.com

Tajrish Bazaar
● tehranpicture.ir



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

Valiasr Street, without a doubt, is one of Tehran's most renowned and ancient thoroughfares. Its bustling pedestrian paths and towering trees reaching towards the sky create an enchanting atmosphere that has made it a cherished hub for strolling in the capital city. On various occasions, it draws a multitude of pedestrians and tourists to its vibrant surroundings. Valiasr Street can be likened to iconic streets like Paris' Champs-Élysées or Barcelona's La Rambla, as they never fail to captivate the crowd and each section holds its own particular charm.

With a length of nearly 18 kilometers, Valiasr is the longest street in the Middle East, and one of the longest streets in the world. It connects Rah Ahan (Railway) Square in the south of the capital to Tajrish Square in the north of the city.

This route is so long and extensive that you can easily sense the weather changes along it, from the smoky and polluted air of the downtown area to the cooler climate and bluer skies of the relatively elevated areas of Shemiranat neighborhood.

Valiasr Street plays a significant role in dividing Tehran into its eastern and western halves. It is a circuit showcasing the dynamic historical, socio-cultural, and architectural changes of the capital. Traveling along Valiasr

Street offers a vivid portrayal of Tehran's rich tapestry, where you can witness the fusion of past and present, encompassing the city's diverse heritage and evolving urban landscape.

But the story of the beauties of Valiasr Street doesn't end here because there is a hidden tale behind the formation of each section of this street. These tales depict the vibrant life that has flourished within each part of the street, leaving behind enduring memories and lasting impressions.

Where history and charm collide

Located at the lowest point of Valiasr Street, Amirieh neighborhood is situated between Rah Ahan Square and Imam Khomeini Street in Tehran. This area, in fact, served as the initial core for the formation of Valiasr Street.

Amirieh neighborhood has a rich historical significance. In the past, it was renowned as one of the largest recreational hubs, with numerous aristocrats and elites choosing to reside there. This led to its elevated status and unique charm. It was in this very neighborhood that the people of Tehran first marveled at the sight of splendid and elegant horse carriages.

The reason behind the name of this neighborhood as Amirieh is due to the presence of Kamran Mirza's mansion. He was the third son of Nasseredin Shah (1831-1896 CE), a Qajar king.

During that period, he also built a garden and a mansion in the western part of Tehran, which were named Amirieh. Later on,

this place expanded further with the residence of courtiers and government officials. The total area of the Amirieh gardens was estimated to be over 700,000 square meters.

The majestic Marmar Palace stood at the intersection of Imam Khomeini Street and Valiasr Street, occupying the highest spot in the Amirieh neighborhood.

A Zoroastrian Temple, Ansari Bathhouse dating back 150 years, along with the magnificent Amir Bahador Mansion belonging to the minister of Mohammad Ali Shah Qajar (1872-1925 CE), are among the remarkable historical monuments that have endured in this area.

Valiasr cultural crossroad

The intersection of Valiasr and Enqelab streets is one of the most important and busiest parts of the capital, known as Valiasr Crossroads. It can be considered a hub of art and culture in Tehran, as on one side of it, along Valiasr-Enqelab pedestrian walkway, there are a wide range of bookstores, renowned publishing houses, and even street vendors engaged in the business of selling books.

On the south side of the intersection, a mesmerizing circular and cylindrical structure proudly stands, boasting its unique and captivating architecture. This enchanting masterpiece is the City Theater, a monument that has hosted the finest and most exquisite theatrical productions performed by renowned directors and talented actors of Iran

throughout the past few decades. This cherished venue has long served as a hub for gathering artists and theater lovers, nurturing their passion and creativity.

Once upon a time, in the not-so-distant past, there existed a place called Shahrdari Café in the location now famously known as Tehran City Theater. It was one of the most beloved gathering spots for the capital's residents during its time. They say that during the evenings, performers, circus artists, and magicians would come together here, entertaining the people and passersby with their talents.

Bagh Ferdows, a Qajar relic

On the northern stretch of Valiasr Street, where the intertwining plane trees reach the peak of their beauty and create a canopy over the street, lies Bagh Ferdows (Ferdows Garden), a relic from the Qajar era.

By the order of Mohammad Shah Qajar (1808-1848 CE), a palace was constructed for him near Tajrish. However, with his illness and death, the palace remained unfinished. Concurrently, with the construction of this palace, the courtiers also embarked on building gardens or summer residences in the vicinity. Among them was Hossein Ali Khan Moayer al-Mamalek, who established a garden that later became famous as Bagh Ferdows.

The magnificent Bagh Ferdows Mansion stands tall with its two-story structure, showcasing the exquisite Qajar architectural style. This architectural

gem captures attention with its distinctive design. The southern parts and terraces of the garden are adorned with seven precisely crafted, flat stone slabs. Each of these sections boasts a mesmerizing pool, adorned with multiple fountains.

Now the Iranian Cinema Museum is located in Bagh Ferdows. In this treasure trove, you will find photographs, documents and old cinema equipment belonging to the iconic figures of cinema, such as dubbing artists, filmmakers, as well as posters and other cinema-related items.

A charming hub in northern Tehran

Tajrish Square is more than just the endpoint of the long Valiasr Street in Tehran. It's a captivating area nestled within Shemiranat, known for its moderate climate, picturesque gardens, and refreshing mountainous retreats. In the past, it served as a haven for kings and courtiers, who built splendid palaces and mansions in this enchanting locale. Today, it has transformed into a bustling hub of recreation and commerce, making it one of Tehran's prime destinations.

Many locals eagerly escape to its scenic mountains during their well-deserved weekend getaways.

In a not-so-distant past, the people of Tajrish used to speak in the Tati language, and even now, some locals are familiar with it. Currently, an old bazaar, a grand tekiyeh (a building where Shia Muslims gather to hold religious ceremonies), and the Mausoleum

of Imamzadeh Saleh are considered the sights to see in this area.

Imamzadeh Saleh: A sanctuary of worship and reverence

The mausoleum of Imamzadeh Saleh is one of the most famous Imamzadehs in Tehran. It is located next to Tajrish Square and at the beginning of Tajrish Bazaar. Throughout the year, especially during religious occasions, it hosts a large number of visitors from various places, with an estimated daily attendance of around 30,000 people. The building of the mausoleum has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

Vibrant heart of Tajrish

Tajrish Bazaar is one of the remaining historical bazaars in northern Tehran. Similar to other bazaars in Iran, it is built in a linear form, and its main axis extends from the Mausoleum of Imamzadeh Saleh to Tajrish Bridge. This covered market has been one of the oldest shopping centers in Shemiranat, and it still maintains its ancient structure. In the bustling bazaar, prepare to be amazed by the endless variety of traditional delights. From fragrant spice shops, enchanting herbalists, and tempting dried fruit stands to exquisite handicrafts, vibrant fabrics, fashionable rings, trendy clothing, stylish shoes, and so much more. And don't miss the captivating fruit and vegetable market nestled in the heart of Tajrish Bazaar, where visitors and shoppers are treated to a truly captivating experience.



Israel has acknowledged its possession of nuclear bombs: Iran's nuclear chief

Iran's nuclear chief called for global condemnation of recent remarks by an Israeli minister on the possibility of dropping an atomic bomb on Gaza, saying the comments substantiate the assumptions about the regime's possession of atomic bombs.

"Once again, an official with the Zionist regime has admitted to its possession of nuclear weapons. More importantly, he undermined the fundamental principles of the international law and the UN Charter by making threats against the oppressed and innocent people of Gaza," Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Wednesday.

He added, "Even though some countries have already denounced the remarks, it is high time international organizations, especially the

United Nations, broke their silence and took firm actions in the face of such audacity, which seriously jeopardizes international peace and security."

Eslami also urged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its director general, Rafael Grossi, to adopt an independent and firm approach within the framework of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, especially on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Iran's nuclear chief also called on the IAEA to condemn the Israeli minister's controversial remarks, which violate the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, and report to the United Nations Security Council on the fallout of Isra-

el's nuclear bombardment. Eslami's reaction came days after Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu said in an interview that dropping a nuclear bomb on the coastal territory was "one of the possibilities."

Asked about the fate of the Palestinian families in Gaza after nuking the strip, he said, "They can go to Ireland or deserts."

Eliyahu added that allowing any humanitarian aid into Gaza was wrong, claiming, "There is no such thing as uninvolved civilians in Gaza." He also went as far as calling the innocent civilian population in Gaza "Nazis."

Israel, which pursues a policy of deliberate ambiguity about its nuclear weapons, is estimated to harbor 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal, making it the sole possessor of non-conventional arms in West Asia.

The regime has, nevertheless, refused to either allow inspections of its military nuclear facilities or sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Iran's permanent ambassador to the UN also called on the international communi-

ty to push Israel to fully cooperate with the UN nuclear agency and dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

Amir Saeed Iravani, in a letter to the UN Security Council on Tuesday, described as a "matter of utmost concern" the Israeli threat of using nuclear weapons against the vulnerable and innocent civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Underlining that it was the second time in just two months that senior Israeli officials had resorted to the threat of using nuclear weapons, Iravani said the regime's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also made explicit threats regarding the use of such weapons against Iran in his address at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in September.

"The use or even the mere threat of nuclear weapons, irrespective of the circumstances or the responsible party, constitutes a flagrant violation not only of international law but also of the fundamental principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter," the Iranian envoy said.



Israel pressured by allies over plight of civilians in Gaza

Raisi calls on int'l community to impel Israel to end attacks, blockade

International Desk

Israel faced mounting pressure from some of its closest allies Wednesday over the plight of civilians in Gaza, as Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi also called on the international community to double down on efforts to halt the regime's attacks on the besieged strip.

In Gaza, thousands streamed on foot out of the enclave's north because of dwindling food and water and fear of approaching Israeli forces.

Over 70% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have already left their homes, but the number making their way south has enlarged recently as Israeli troops began the war inside Gaza City and the humanitarian situation grows increasingly dire.

The Group of Seven wealthy nations called Wednesday for the "unimpeded" delivery of food, water, medicine and fuel, and for "humanitarian pauses" in the fighting. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has left open the possibility of small pauses to deliver humanitarian aid, but has ruled out a broader ceasefire unless all hostages are freed.

Meanwhile, Americans have become more likely to describe Israel as an ally that shares US interests and values since the war began, but they're divided over whether Israel has gone too far in its response to Hamas' last attack, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The survey, which was conducted from November 2-6, also reveals skepticism among Democrats toward Israel, which could present a challenge for President Joe Biden as he tries to balance support for the country's defense and his party's shifting priorities.

The result is a rather muddled picture that presents few easy options for the White House as it keeps one eye on public opinion with an election year on the horizon.

49 journalists killed

As fighting in the Palestinian terri-

tory enters its second month, the Hamas-run Health Ministry in the strip said on Wednesday that the death toll from the war reached 10,569, among which were 4,324 children and 2,823 women, with more than 26,000 more wounded. Meanwhile, the intensified assaults on the Gaza Strip have killed 49 journalists since October 7, when the Hamas resistance group launched a full-scale attack against the occupied territory.

Two more Palestinian journalists fell victims to the attacks by Israeli forces on civilians in the besieged strip on Tuesday, bringing the total number of journalists killed to 49. The Gaza-based Government Media Office said in a statement on Tuesday that one of the journalists worked for local Al-Aqsa Radio, Anadolu Agency reported.

'Crimes against humanity'

According to an independent United Nations expert, a month of attacks on targets within the Gaza Strip have destroyed or damaged 45 percent of all housing units in the Palestinian territory.

The widespread and systematic bombardment of housing and civilian infrastructure in Gaza amounts to a war crime and a crime against humanity, Balakrishnan Rajagopal said on Wednesday.

The UN special rapporteur on the right to adequate housing stressed that systematic or widespread bombardment of housing, civilian objects and infrastructure are strictly prohibited under international law.

"Carrying out hostilities with the knowledge that they will systematically destroy and damage civilian housing and infrastructure, rendering an entire city – such as Gaza City – uninhabitable for civilians is a war crime," he said.

When such acts are "directed against a civilian population, they also amount to crimes against humanity," he said.

Rajagopal, an independent expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council but who does not speak on behalf of the United Nations, had previously coined the term "do-

micide" to refer to the systematic and widespread attacks on civilian housing and infrastructure that cause death and suffering. Domicide, he said, "is now being committed in Gaza."

More Palestinians fleeing

Around 1.5 million people have been displaced in Gaza amid the destruction and Israeli calls to evacuate the entire north of the territory, according to UN figures.

The pace of civilians fleeing the combat zone in northern Gaza has picked up as Israel's air and ground campaign there intensifies. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Wednesday that about 15,000 people fled on Tuesday, compared to 5,000 on Monday and 2,000 on Sunday.

The densely populated northern area of Gaza, specifically Gaza City and adjacent crowded urban refugee camps, are the focus of Israel's campaign to fight Hamas.

Also, in the occupied West Bank, more than 160 Palestinians have been killed in the violence and Israeli raids. More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed, most of them in the October 7 Hamas attack.

Out of medical supplies

As the healthcare system is "under severe strain," the International Committee of the Red Cross warned on Wednesday that doctors in Gaza are running out of medical supplies.

"In the last week, I've had to tell a father that his child has non-survivable burn injuries. We've had to treat young patients pulled out of the rubble after 48 hours," said the ICRC chief surgeon Tom Potokar, who is now working in the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis.

"We are really running out of things now, dressings, particularly for the burns. We are running out of anesthetic and analgesic drugs. The staff, both ourselves and the local staff here are getting very worn out. The living conditions are very basic. There's not much food.

... But of course, it's nothing compared to what the people here in Gaza are suffering at this moment," Potokar said.

Call for end of attacks

Speaking in a joint press conference with his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon, the Iranian president called on the international community to double down on efforts to "halt Israeli attacks on Gaza, saying the entire world is concerned about the situation in the small blockaded territory.

Raisi said that "all the conscientious people" are worried over the fate of the poor Palestinians in Gaza.

He described Palestine as the priority "issue of Islam as well as an issue of humanity," and everybody wants an immediate halt to attacks on Gaza and the end of genocide of people, including children in Palestine.

"The people of the world want the end of atrocities, the removal of the blockade, delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza and restoration of the rights of Palestinians," he said, calling on international organizations to hear the voice of the people and take serious action to stop Israel.

Hezbollah retaliation

On Wednesday, Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah claimed two attacks on Israeli infantry units in the areas of Shomera and Dovev which it said inflicted casualties on Israeli forces. There was no immediate confirmation of the casualties from the Israeli military.

Following the strikes, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency and an Associated Press journalist in south Lebanon reported heavy shelling in several border areas in Lebanon.

Hezbollah said in a statement that the attack on Dovev was in retaliation for Israeli forces targeting an ambulance in Lebanon. On Sunday, local Lebanese officials said an Israeli drone had struck near two ambulances on their way to pick up casualties from overnight strikes in southern Lebanon, wounding four paramedics.

Why is US target of global protests?



By Amirali Abolfath
Expert in US Affairs

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Since the beginning of the war and the criminal attacks of Israel on the people of Gaza, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hezbollah, as well as Palestinian resistance groups, have always addressed the United States and taken a position as if the main party in this war was the United States, not



● AFP

Israel. This position is based on the fact that Israel is not a significant power without US support. It has neither a large population nor a large territory. Economically, although it has some advantages in some industries, such as military and agriculture, it is not considered a large economy as a whole and is defined as a dependent economy.

Its regime, which is at the level of a moderate power, does not refrain from any action to reach its objectives. It does not implement UN resolutions, is building settlements against international law, is not committed to any peaceful plan, and has now undertaken genocide in Gaza in the past month. All these actions are carried out with Washington's support. As an example, Russia is considered a powerful country, and has the world's largest nuclear power plant, but after the attack on Ukraine, the Western world, led by the United States, put the greatest pressure on Russia. The same Western world and the United States have not only hushed up Israel's crimes in Gaza, but also supported it, as the US is opposed to the various global pressures for a ceasefire. In fact, the US is doing everything it can to support Israel. So if it were not for decades of US support, the Israel-Palestine conflict would not have lasted for 75 years.

It is natural for the United States to face protests and criticism. In the diplomatic sphere, we are also witnessing that the main destination of US Secretary of State's visits is Arab countries, which means that the Arabs also see the US as an influential side in the war between Israel and Hamas. Therefore, if a ceasefire is to be achieved, it must be agreed upon by both parties. But it is the US that is drafting the Security Council resolutions for a ceasefire, and its president goes to Tel Aviv in the midst of the war to support Israel and meet with Netanyahu and provide its regime with all the military weapons and equipment it needs.

Since Israel and the United States recognize Hamas as a terrorist group, they are committed to destroying the group. So they are not willing to negotiate with Hamas for a ceasefire, because they think it means acknowledging Hamas. So against global pressures, they are playing with words, and instead of a ceasefire to end the war, they speak of a "friendly human ceasefire," which, in fact, has nothing to do with a ceasefire and an end to war.

Since the United States is Israel's primary supporter, it is the most influential side of the war and, therefore, ceasefire will only be achieved when the US wants it. Then Washington would convince Tel Aviv to accept the ceasefire.

My prediction is that with the rise of global protests around the world, especially in the West, and the increasing pressure of public opinion, the United States and Israel will be willing to talk to the Palestinians and accept a ceasefire. Many Western analysts have also told Israel that the goal of destroying Hamas is unattainable, and even if Hamas disappears, new groups or organizations will emerge stronger than Hamas.

Asian Cadet Junior & U21 Karate Championship: Iranians bag 18 medals on Day 2



Iranian girl Ghazal Fat'hi (2nd L) poses for a photo on the podium after winning the gold medal of the cadet kumite -47kg contests at the Asian Cadet Junior & U21 Championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on November 6, 2023.
● WKF

Sports Desk

Iranians collected 12 medals on the second day of the 21st Asian Cadet Junior & U21 Karate Championship to take the country's medal haul to 18 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. On Tuesday, the Iranian girls walked away with three precious golds in the junior kumite contests, with Yousef Nikravesh settling for the +76kg silver in the boys' event after a final loss to Hyoma Shimomura of Japan. Fatemeh Ja'farnejad came out on top against Thailand's Supichaya Teekwang for the ultimate prize of the -48kg weight class, while Hana Hosseinpour defeated Indonesian Almahyra Tilara Sandi to finish atop the -66kg contests. Zahra Rahimpour rounded

off a glittering day for Iran thanks to a 6-2 victory over Thai opponent Chanankan Khieokham in the +66kg final. Meanwhile, Matin Zare', representing the country in the male U21 event, and the Iranian female cadet and junior trio of Mobina Haddadzadeh, Sarina Dorri, and Sanza Mehri-Mahani took the kata silvers in their respective categories. Ghazal Fat'hi had won a first gold medal of Iran on the first day of the competitions, courtesy of a triumph over Japanese Miki Ito in the female cadet -47kg final. Ailin Bahari was also a silver medalist in Almaty, finishing second to Japan's Azusa Takata in the junior girls' kata final. More than 440 karatekas from 26 countries took part in the three-day event.

AFC Champions League: Knockout berth jeopardized after Persepolis held by Istiklol



Persepolis fullback Ali Nemati (L) challenges Istiklol's Amadoni Kamolov during a 1-1 draw in the AFC Champions League in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on November 7, 2023.
● AFC

Sports Desk

Persepolis will have a tough job on its hand to progress to the knockout round of the AFC Champions League after a 1-1 away draw against Istiklol in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Iranian international winger Mahdi Torabi gave Tehran Reds the lead with a sublime free-kick on the half-hour mark, only to see his strike canceled out by Ivorian Senin Sebai 16 minutes from normal time. Having been hit with a flu sweeping the squad in the buildup to the game, Persepolis clearly looked off the pace in the closing stages of the

contest, but will still be frustrated with the two points dropped, which could eventually cost the Iranian top-flight champion – finalist in 2018 and 2020 – a place in the last-16 of the Asian elite clubs competition. The result left Persepolis second in the Group E table with seven points – five adrift of Saudi side Al Nassr, which walked away with a 3-2 victory over Al Duhail in Al Rayyan to all but secure a top-spot finish in the group with two games to spare. In the absence of prolific Portuguese Cristiano Ronaldo, Brazilian Talisca bagged a hat-trick, with the host's Philippe Coutinho on the

scoresheet twice, as the visitors maintained their perfect start to the competition. With only three of the runner-up teams across the five West Zone groups qualifying to the knockout phase, Yahya Golmohammadi's men will face an uphill battle in the remaining two fixtures. Persepolis is fourth among the second-placed teams, standing behind Uzbekistan's Navbahor, which has 10 points in Group D, as well as fellow Persian Gulf Pro League club Sepahan and FC Nasaf, with both sides equal on seven points and enjoying a superior goal difference over the Reds.

Persepolis will take on Al Nassr in Riyadh in three weeks, before welcoming Al Duhail for the final day of the group fixtures on December 5. For now, the Iranian capital giant will have to shift focus to the domestic league action ahead of Sunday's highly-anticipated visit to Sepahan, as the Reds will be looking to end a run of three successive draws in all competitions. Beaten 3-2 by Malavan at home last time out in the Iranian league, Sepahan will step onto the pitch at the Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium fresh from Monday's 9-0 demolishing of AGMK in the AFC Champions League.

Saudi champions Al Ittihad sack former Spurs boss Nuno



● REUTERS

BBC – Saudi Pro League champions Al Ittihad have sacked former Tottenham manager Nuno Espírito Santo following a run of poor results. They have won six of 12 league games this season and suffered a 2-0 defeat by Air Force Club of Iraq in the Asian Champions League on Monday. Nuno, 49, took over at Al Ittihad in July 2022 after being sacked by Tottenham eight months earlier. Assistant coach Hassan Khalifa will take interim charge of the team.

Portuguese Nuno enjoyed a successful spell at Wolves from 2017 to 2021 but lasted just four months at Spurs before being replaced by Antonio Conte after losing five of 10 Premier League matches. The former Porto coach guided Jeddah-based Al Ittihad to the Saudi title last season, but there were reports of a difficult relationship with former Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema, who joined the club in June this year as part of the influx of stars into the league.

In a statement on X, Al Ittihad said: "The club has announced the end of its contract with Portuguese coach Nuno Santo. "This decision comes after a comprehensive technical evaluation of the past phase during which he was in charge of coaching the first football team." Former Liverpool midfielder Fabinho and ex-Chelsea and Leicester player N'Golo Kante also play for Al Ittihad, who are sixth in the Saudi Pro League and will next play Abha on Friday.

We helped Milan win crazy game: PSG coach Luis Enrique

TRIBAL FOOTBALL – PSG coach Luis Enrique admitted frustration with the manner of their Champions League defeat at AC Milan. PSG had the lead through Milan Skriniar, but Milan fought back through Rafael Leao and Olivier Giroud to win 2-1. "I liked the way we played, as we scored the first goal and had many other opportunities," said Luis Enrique in his press conference. "The only problem is that we helped the game become crazy. It was meant to be a foot-

ball match, not tennis. It was just end to end, attack against attack. I did not like that." "Kylian Mbappé was clear on goal two or three times, so was Ousmane Dembele. After they took the lead, Milan clammed up in defence and it became very difficult. It was a pretty balanced game. "I saw two fairly similar teams. I prefer more control of the initiative, but it was more end to end." On the home barracking of goalkeeper Gigio Donnarumma, Enrique also said: "He has

a lot of experience, a strong character. "Football is passion, the fans showed what their position was. The atmosphere can only be like that when there was affection for a player. He had a great game." "It's a pity for us, because if we had won, we'd be practically qualified." Elsewhere in Group F, Newcastle's hopes of reaching the knockout stages were dented as they fell to a 2-0 defeat against Borussia Dortmund in Germany.



● FRANCO ARLAND/GETTY IMAGES

A conversation with Hamed Mortazavi, young Iranian innovator and winner of the 3rd IFIA INV Members Competition

Iranian medicine could save cancer patients



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

The 3rd IFIA INV Members Competition of the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA) this year was a success for Iran and Iranian researchers. Seyed Hamed Mortazavi, a young Iranian researcher working at Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, and a member of the IFIA innovators, presented his invention entitled "Sustainable Capsule for Cancer Prevention and Treatment for Target Cells" and won the gold medal in the field of medical technologies.

1500 inventors from more than 50 countries of the world participated in this global scientific event, and the young Iranian researcher was among the winners in the field of medical technologies. We have sat down with Seyed Hamed Mortazavi about the success of his anti-cancer drug.

Mr. Mortazavi, your invention is related to the treatment of cancer. Would you explain why you focused your research on cancer treatment?

For years, different types of cancer have been causing deaths in different parts of the world, especially in Iran, and according to predictions, this painful trajectory will continue in the coming years.

Suspecting cancer in a relative of mine was my initial motivation to start the research. Of course, years ago, one of our university professors said that the World Health Organization asked the world's researchers to focus their research on cancer treatment.

In our research, we were looking for a drug that has a therapeutic effect as well as a preventive effect. Therefore, we finally found a drug that both healthy people can use to prevent cancer and patients can use as a targeted drug.

Considering the available facilities, it was a difficult task. But we took advantage of all available facilities and the advice of professors and researchers and succeeded. This drug is effective in balancing the body's immune system and controls and destroys the disease by penetrating the cancer cells. The material we used is approved by standards of world pharmacology.

Before presenting it at the international competition in Switzerland, what stages did your invention go through in Iran?

An inventor must defend his work in international competitions and that invention must have international items or standards. In order to participate in these competitions, we had to first register our design in the country as a patent,

which is what we did. A universal invention must have innovative features and industrialization capabilities. Before this, I was a member of the IFIA, which has a representative in Iran, because I have 12 other patents in the field of medical technologies. Therefore, our work first got internal approvals and was registered as a patent, and then got permission to participate in international competitions.

IFIA was established in 1968 with the aim of supporting inventors. Every year, it organizes patenting events worldwide. This event is held in various fields, and this year the third edition was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The federation has a representative office in many countries and makes public calls for these competitions in all countries. Inventions are sent to the central office in Geneva and are judged by scientific and expert panels. Inventors participate in 13 different groups. There were participants from more than 50 countries.

How did the judges and competitors see your invention? Considering the various pressures against Iran in the past years, perhaps winning the first prize came as a surprise for them.

About 1500 inventors from different countries participated in this scientific event. It was a source of joy for the judges that an Iranian researcher was able to achieve this success and present an invention of this importance and compliance with international scientific standards. Our work was of interest to the judges in several ways. They said that the cost of discovering each effective substance for a cancer drug is \$600 million, and we should spend \$2 trillion on any

biological drug that we want to work on. Our medicine can be produced at much lower costs. In terms of the quality of work and competition with similar items, our invention was the focus of attention. Our invention, in addition to being able to be industrialized and exported, improved Iran's position in the fields of technology and medicine.

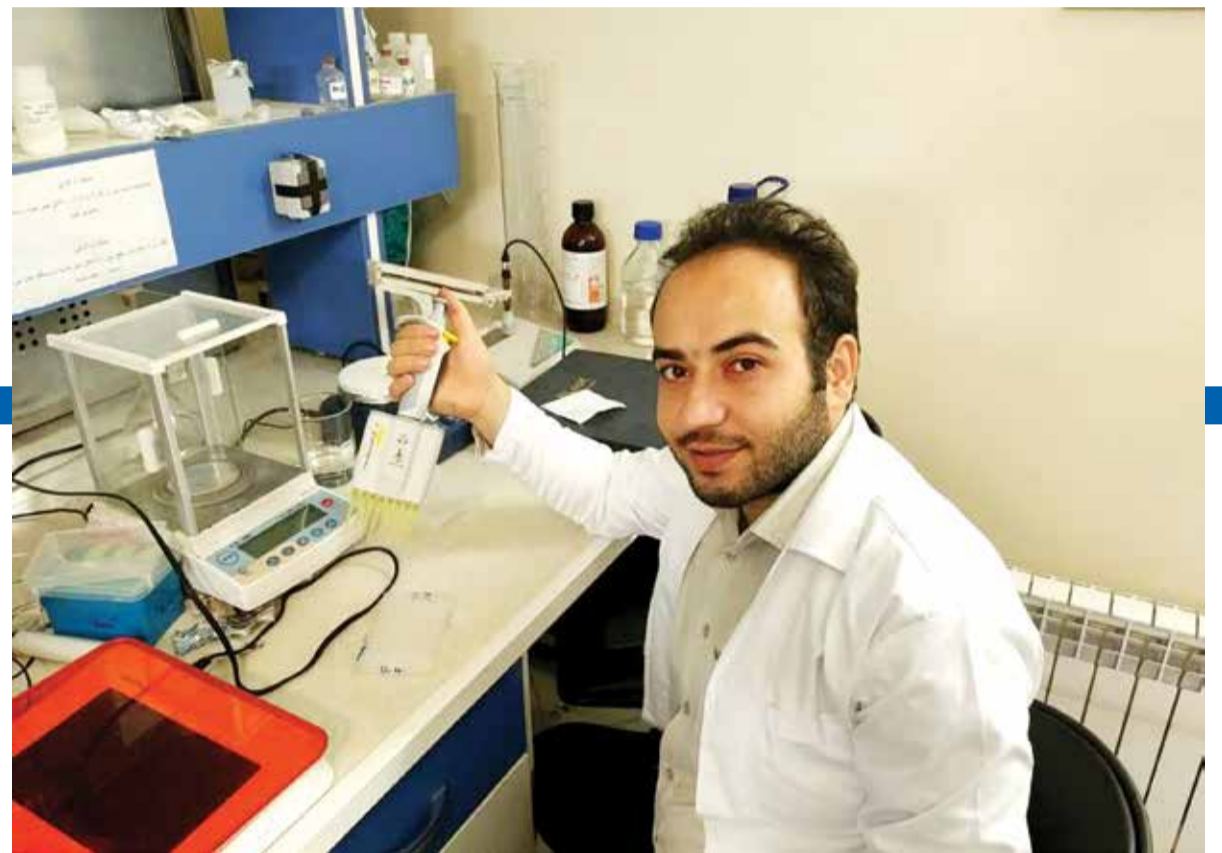
According to the support policies for Iranian scientists and researchers, the pharmaceutical industry of our country can become self-sufficient in the coming years. In our innovative plan, i.e. and anti-cancer drug, all the materials are completely Iranian, so there is no need to import raw materials from abroad, and in fact, it is immune to external pressures such as sanctions.

Please briefly explain what your invention drug is going to do for cancer treatment.

The beauty of this drug, which is approved by world pharmacology standards, is that it is derived from nature and has both preventive and curative properties. Healthy people can also use lower doses for prevention. But in the treatment process, the drug penetrates to the origin of cancer in a targeted manner and has the property of balancing the body's immune system. Eighty percent of cancer patients are malnourished, but this drug has an appetite-stimulating effect. It has effective antioxidant compounds and antineoplastic and anti-cancer compounds.

Does the fact that the drug has a targeted use mean that it does not have side effects? What about early tests, were they carried out?

Yes. After taking the drug, it detects a cancerous



tumor and penetrates the same cancerous cells in a targeted manner. Its property is anti-cancer, so it does not have any other function to have side effects, especially since its material is natural according to ancient Iranian medicine.

Laboratory tests have their own process, animal tests have been successfully performed and then tested on human patients. In the animal test, we used this drug along with the current pharmaceuticals and therapeutic drugs and we saw that it works very well. Due to its immune system balancing properties, this drug can even be used alongside other treatment methods. As in the next tests, we also prescribed this drug to patients who used chemotherapy and radiation therapy methods. The doctors were surprised by the performance of this medicine and the patients got results quickly without any side effects.

How many years have you been researching this project? In what centers has the research been done?

I own a pharmaceutical company and did the research privately. I signed contracts with specialized laboratories and they performed all kinds of necessary tests for me in accordance with scientific standards. After the experiments worked, I was able to patent the formulation. My project

started in 2012 and it took about 9 years until 2021 to be completed and participate in international competitions.

During the time you were working on this project, did you have contacts with research centers and researchers abroad?

Yes, I read many different books published in America and England and articles related to the field. There may be a large number of scientific and useful articles published about a disease that focus on different aspects. But these different data, when put together, can result in success in arriving at a formulation. I read many articles and benefited from the opinions of different professors and researchers inside and outside the country. Other researchers have worked hard in this field for years and have done useful research. But one person or a research team eventually discovers a method by putting these different data together. In 2021, I was sure of my own work and after patenting in Iran, I participated in the IFIA event and won the gold medal.

Have you been contacted by companies or scientific institutions for investment since winning the award?

I would like for Iranian people, and then all the people of the world to benefit from this



John J. Cabert
IFIA Vice President

Michael Steiner
Prof. Dr. Michael Steiner
IFIA Vice President

The beauty of this drug, which is according to the world pharmacology standards, is that it is derived from nature and has both preventive and curative properties.

invention. Therefore, I am ready to cooperate with scientific institutions or universities of medical sciences abroad for the production and use of this medicine. Therefore, if scientific and research institutes want to conduct new laboratory tests on this drug, I will definitely help them.

Investors have also expressed their desire to produce this medicine. But I want this drug to be produced as an Iranian brand so that, along with medical services for the whole world, it brings currency to my country. An advantage of this drug is its low cost compared to current drugs. Because its material is completely Iranian and available. It can also be attractive for insurance companies to easily insure the drug and make its use more accessible to people.

What is the stage of this drug now? Can we see it in the domestic or global drug market in the near future?

Due to the current policies and the support of domestic researchers and researchers, after the success at the IFIA event, this invention has received the special attention of the country's officials in the field of treatment. Many officials are happy about this national success. With this support and the fact that investors have also lined up, this drug will surely be available to people in the near future.

France to screen three Iranian animations



IRNA - Three short animated films 'Rainbow Fish,' directed by Farkhondeh Torabi, 'Shangool and Mangool,' by Torabi and 'LiLi Hozak' by late director Vajihollah Fard Moqaddam, are slated to be screened in the First Steps Towards the 3 Continents Section of the Three Continents Festival in Nantes, France, from November 27 to December 3.

The section is featuring a collection of films from Iran, Brazil, and Senegal this year for children aged three and above, as well as their families.

These films were produced in 1996, 1999, and 1992, respectively, and have once again garnered the attention of the organizers of the Three Continents Film Festival after many years. Explaining the selection of this animation collection from the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, it is said: "three stories full of tenderness and emotion with a family theme, where the heroes are made from fabric, wool, or cut paper. It presents a magical world inspired by Iranian traditions."

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Iranian cinemagoers set new record



Iranian film industry saw a new record in terms of the number of viewers on a single day, attracting 272,000 attendees to cinema halls on November 7. A total of 3,175 screenings were organized, generating box office revenue of \$142,000. According to IRNA, in recent months, the film industry in Iran has experienced a revival, drawing a large number of audiences back to the

cinemas. On November 7, the film with the highest number of viewer was Masoud Atyabi's comedy 'Hotel' that attracted 151,000 moviegoers, earning \$80,000. Iranian animation 'Smart Kid,' became the second most-watched film with 50,000 viewers, generating \$24,140 revenue in a single day. From October 24 onwards, each week has seen a steady increase in the number of moviegoers, though 'Fossil,' directed by Karim Amini, still remains among the top-selling movies. On November 7, this

successful comedy attracted an additional 24,000 viewers, adding \$12,200 to reach final revenue of \$5,600,000. 'Coconut 2,' though three months passed from its screening, continues to draw attention. This film attracted over 11,000 viewers on the given day, contributing \$5,540 to its box office. It appears that the Iranian box office favors comedies and children's films. However, two social films, 'Popular' and 'About Eight O'clock in the Morning,' began screening on November 8, aiming to positively impact box office revenues.

Ancient Persepolis under threat

Neglect, environmental challenges endangering Iran's heritage

Arts & Culture Desk

Persepolis, the historical marvel of ancient Persia, faces a worrying catastrophe as experts warn of environmental deterioration, official indifference, and illegal activities threatening its very existence. The iconic site, known as Takht-e Jamshid or Persepolis, has been the subject of concerns raised by environmentalists and cultural heritage preservationists for years, yet meaningful actions to protect it remain indefinable, while the factors worsening this crisis continue to increase. Persepolis, located in

Marvdasht, Fars Province, boasts a rich history dating back to the Achaemenid Empire. The threat of land subsidence and the potential collapse of ancient sites have attracted the attention of environmental experts for quite some time. Nevertheless, the situation has not improved, and several factors are now putting the historic site on the verge of collapse, as reported in an article published by the Persian language daily newspaper Ettela'at. Extensive drilling, both legal and illegal, coupled with uncontrolled groundwater consumption in tra-

ditional agriculture have pushed this invaluable heritage into a highly risky state. Unless immediate and effective measures are taken to address these critical issues, the world-renowned Persepolis could be at serious risk. The expansion of agriculture, particularly rice cultivation, and the drilling of new wells in Marvdasht region are harmful and unlawful activities that have not only gone unchecked but have also increased. Studies conducted by the University of Shiraz in various regions of Fars Province show land subsidence in some areas ranging



● IRNA

from 20 to 30 centimeters, and in others, a shocking 50 to 100 centimeters. This is an alarming trend. A crack measuring 200 meters in length, one meter in width, and one meter in depth, appeared in the area of Persepolis in recent years. Additionally, several relatively deep rifts emerged within 500 meters of Persepolis, further intensifying concerns and signaling the alarm for the potential expansion of these cracks and land subsidence, putting the ancient Persepolis at risk. Environmental experts, who have been warning about these subsidence issues and their destructive consequences for the Marvdasht region (home to Persepolis and Naqsh-e Rostam), insist that only through measures such as changing crop patterns,

preventing new well drilling, changing irrigation methods, and promoting water conservation can the land subsidence in this historic area be prevented. The worrying part is that there seems to be little to no commitment to save the land of Fars and its ancient treasures, which are a central part of Iran's cultural and historical identity. Reports of new well drilling in the Marvdasht area, even within the protective zone of Persepolis, only reinforce these claims. The expansion of rice farming in the region, not only unregulated but encouraged, makes the situation worse. The head of the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science at the University of Shiraz, Mohammad Ja'far Nazemosadat, emphasizes the need to declare certain

areas around the global heritage site of Persepolis off-limits for groundwater extraction and traditional agriculture. He asserts that uncontrolled groundwater extraction in Marvdasht region will lead to the destruction of the ancient sites in this area. In a conversation with Tasnim news agency, Nazemosadat highlighted the growing concern that, with time, climate conditions are reaching extreme levels, where the risk of either flooding or severe drought becomes more pronounced. For instance, in Shiraz, the temperature has increased by about two degrees Celsius compared to a century ago. He stresses that the current problem in Marvdasht region and many other plains in Fars is that in the

past, water was present close to the surface, and people even struggled with high water levels. However, over time, the water levels have withdrawn, in some areas reaching depths of several hundred meters. Nazemosadat expresses concern about the emerging water stress in the region and highlights the importance of implementing water management, particularly in the Persepolis area. He argues that the cultural heritage department and regional water authorities should collaborate to ensure that water remains specific to this geographical area and does not flow out to lower regions. Failure to do so may result in catastrophic and irreversible subsidence within the next decade. According to this report, Marvdasht, with its mountainous climate in Fars Province, is home to a large number of historical sites, including Pasargadae, Naqsh-e Rostam, the tombs of Ardeshir II and Ardeshir III, and many more ancient treasures. The urgency of the situation necessitates immediate attention and action to preserve this iconic piece of Iran's history. Neglecting Persepolis and its surrounding region not only endangers the tangible remains of a famous past, but also the cultural and

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

