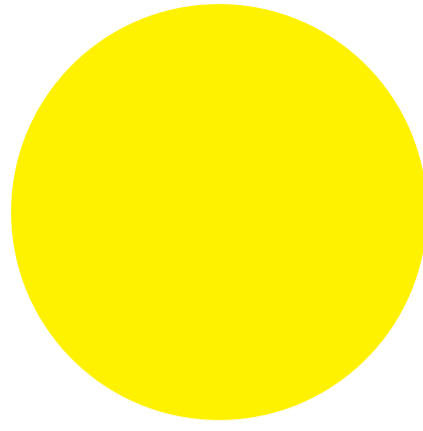


Leader calls for coalition among nations opposed to US bullying 4 >



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Mass Murder Machine

Israel using AI to deliberately target more civilians in Gaza

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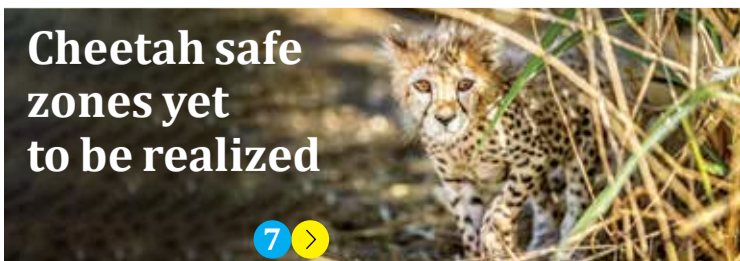
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Mourners watch as Palestinian infant Yazan Hams is buried with 12 other members of the same family who were killed in an Israeli air strike on a residential building in Rafah, at a cemetery in the southern Gaza Strip city, early on December 4, 2023.
● Mahmud HAMS/AFP



Israeli forces enter southern Gaza

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Cheetah safe zones yet to be realized



7 >

War with Iran would be disastrous for US

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Iran to produce power from gas pressure boosters



Economy Desk

Iran has started the project of electricity generation from the exhaust system of gas turbines, with the aim of optimal use of existing resources along with increasing the efficiency of gas pressure boosting facilities.

Samad Rahimi, the manager of the gas pressure boosting facility project at the Iran Gas Engineering and Development Company, announced the above, adding that there are about 80 gas pressure boosting facilities in Iran, most of which use four turbines, Shana reported. "Currently, we see the waste of a large amount of thermal energy from the exhaust system of turbines in the facilities, which can be converted into electricity using new technologies," he added.

The project will be undertaken using two technologies for different climates, Rahimi said, explaining that one technology is for facilities that have access to water, while the other technology is for stations that are located in regions with water shortages.



Tehran, Astana to raise annual bilateral trade to \$3b

Economy Desk

Kazakh and Iranian officials signed a memorandum of understanding to bring mutual trade to \$3 billion.

The document was signed by Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Serik Zhumangarin and Iranian Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Ali Nikbakht at the 19th meeting of the intergovernmental commission

on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation between the two countries, held in Tehran on December 2-3.

During the meeting, officials and business persons from Iran and Kazakhstan discussed various issues of common interest between the two countries.

Nikbakht, the Iranian co-chair of the intergovernmental commission, said, "This is the second

meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee in the current Iranian year (started March 21), which shows the two countries' determination to expand economic ties."

Currently, the economic exchange between the two countries is not at a good level, so we have targeted the trade exchange between the two countries to hit \$3 billion, Nikbakht noted.

According to the minister, Iranian enterprises can arrange supplies of fish and dairy products, honey, fruits and vegetables, herbs, dried fruits and other food products to Kazakhstan.

The Iranian side also showed interest in Kazakh investments and expressed its readiness to provide special conditions for doing business in free economic zones of Iran.

Zhumangarin for his part point-

ed to a meeting with Iranian businessmen and said the two countries of Iran and Kazakhstan have vast capacities to cooperate.

"In the 19th Joint Economic Committee meeting, two issues of transportation logistics and bank settlement were agreed upon," he added.

At the end of the meeting, Iran and Kazakhstan signed four MOUs to boost cooperation.

Iran's membership in Eurasian Economic Union to facilitate trade

The issue of regionalism is important to Iran since it has been subjected to the most severe sanctions system of the US and the West for years. Iran is trying to neutralize sanctions by taking advantage of the capacity of regional links and developing relations with neighboring countries.

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is one of the regional economic links of which Iran is trying to become a member. It is an international organization for regional economic integration, Press TV wrote.

The main goals of the union are to facilitate trade, create a common market among member states, gradually remove customs laws within the union, establish a common tariff, coordinate customs formalities, allow movement of goods, capital, labor and services across Eurasian borders, and set up a common policy in the field of energy, industry, agriculture and vehicles.

Given the capacities of the EAEU members and those of Iran as one of the most powerful economies in West Asia,

having rich mineral and natural resources, as well as abundant oil and gas reserves, the development of relations between Iran and the member states will definitely promote regional trade.

Several attempts have been made over the past two decades by the Commonwealth of Independent States to bring about deeper economic integration, one being the agreement made between the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union to create a free trade zone.

However, the union seeks to go beyond the post-Soviet space, and a number of countries, including Iran, are interested in cooperating with the orga-

nization.

In fact, the Eurasian Economic Union is one of the most important groupings in Iran's neighborhood, which has common cultural, political and geopolitical points with Iran and is of special importance for the country.

The cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union is one of the most important serious experiences of Iran in agreeing with a regional economic union and one of the most complete and detailed trade agreements of the Islamic Republic.

At the end of 2022, the population of the Eurasian member states was close to 182 million, accounting for 2.4% of the world's population of 8 billion. With 144 million people, Russia accounts for 79% of the population of the union. The trend of the population ratio of the union compared to the world population has constantly been decreasing since its formation in 1994.

At the end of 2022, EAEU's production was close to \$2.56 trillion, or 2.5% of the world production of \$100 trillion. With \$2.2 trillion, Russia accounts for 87% of the production of the union. The ratio of the production of the union to the production of the world has fluctuated and increased since

its inception.

At the end of 2021, exports of Eurasian member countries were close to \$673 billion, or 2.4% of the world's \$28 trillion. Russia accounted for 82% of the exports of the union, with \$550 billion. The trend of the export ratio of the union compared to the world's exports has been fluctuating and unchanged since its formation. At the end of 2021, the imports of Eurasian member countries were nearly \$484 billion, accounting for 1.8% of the world's \$27 trillion. With \$380 billion, Russia accounted for 78% of the imports of the union. The trend of the import ratio of this union compared to the world's imports has been fluctuating and unchanged since its establishment.

At the end of 2022, Iran, with a population of 89 million people accounted for 49% of the population of the Eurasian Economic Union. In fact, with the addition of Iran, the union's population will increase by 49 percent.

At the end of 2022, Iran's annual production of \$389 billion accounted for 15.2% of the union's total, meaning with the addition of Iran to the Eurasian Economic Union, its production capacity will increase by the same ratio.

At the end of 2021, Iran exported \$82 billion worth of goods; meaning with the country joining the Eurasian Economic Union, its export capacity will increase by 12.2 percent.

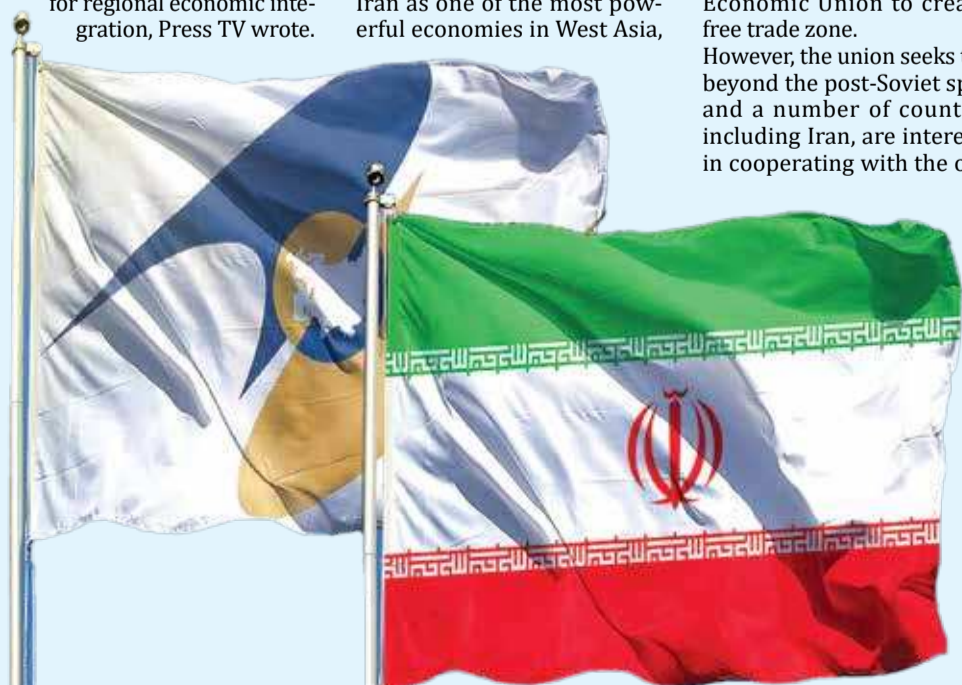
At the end of 2021, Iran imported \$77 billion of goods, which means the country's addition will raise its production capacity by 16%.

The Eurasian Economic Union is an intergovernmental economic union consisting of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia.

In fact, with the capacities of the Eurasian Economic Union and Iran, membership in the bloc will increase Iran's regional ties with neighboring countries, reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience of the national economy in the face of economic sanctions.

In addition, the country's bargaining power will increase in the face of the Western countries in matters of negotiation and conflict, such as the nuclear program.

Finally, it will increase the cost of sanctions for the sanctioning countries. In addition, it will lead to cracks in the structure of economic sanctions due to the lack of cooperation of member countries of joint agreements.



Biglarbeigi Tekiyeh draws art and history enthusiasts

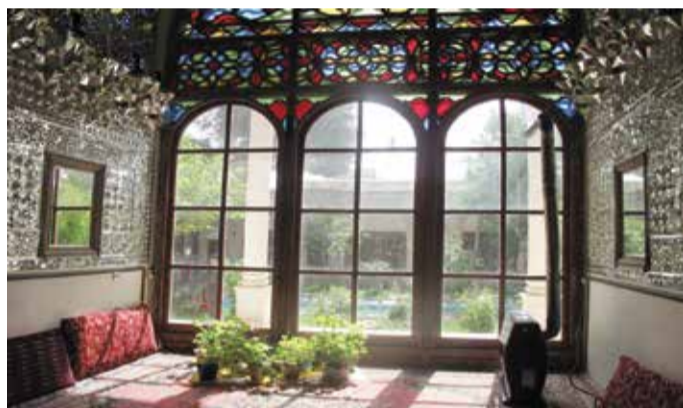
Iranica Desk

Located in Kermanshah, the capital city of the western province of Kermanshah, Biglarbeigi Tekiyeh is a historical gem that dates back to the Qajar period. It serves as a gathering place for Shia Muslims to hold religious ceremonies. Built by Abdullah Khan, also known as Biglarbeigi, this magnificent structure was officially registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 1996. Its architectural significance and exquisite mirror and plaster decorations have made it a renowned attraction.

Within the Tekiyeh, you will find the Zagros Paleolithic Museum, the first Middle Eastern museum of its kind, as well as the Museum of Calligraphy and Writing. These two museums have further enhanced the importance of this site, making it a must-visit destination in Kermanshah. During your exploration, you will come across numerous photo frames displaying famous individuals from the city, adding to the cultural richness of the experience.

In the past, Biglarbeigi Tekiyeh boasted an impressive area of over 4,000 square meters, with different spaces on the left and right sides of the entrance. The buildings on the left were designated for accommodating foreign guests, while the spaces on the right were used for livestock. Today, after some sections have been repurposed, the Tekiyeh spans an area of approximately 2,000 square meters.

Construction of Biglarbeigi Tekiyeh started in 1891 under the supervision of Abdullah Khan Farashbashi, a prominent figure of influence in Kermanshah during the Qajar era. This grand project reached completion in 1899, with the plaster and mirror decorations finalized in 1908. Beyond its role in hosting religious ceremonies, the Tekiyeh served as the residence and government office for Abdullah Khan



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and his family.

Biglarbeigi Tekiyeh features three entrances, with the main entrance situated in the southeast. This entrance stands out with its remarkable plaster and decorative elements, evoking a sense of awe. Flanking the entrance on both sides are rows of vaulted niches, adorned with plaster figures depicting personalities from the Qajar era.

Visiting Biglarbeigi Tekiyeh is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich history and breathtaking architecture of Kermanshah. Whether you are interested in religious traditions, ancient artifacts, or calligraphy, this cultural hub has something to captivate every visitor.

Hashti (a vast entrance area)

After passing through the entrance corridor, you will find yourself in a spacious area known as *Hashti* in Persian. The walls of this space feature striking arches, and the ceiling is elegantly decorated with brickwork. On the northern side of the *Hashti*, there is a wooden gate that provides access to the attached houses.

Corridor

Continuing from the *Hashti*, you will enter a relatively long corridor called *Dalaan*. This corridor leads you to the main courtyard of the Tekiyeh.

Along the southern side of the corridor, you will notice two

wooden gates that lead to the southern houses. On the northern side of the corridor, there is another entrance that leads to a dead-end alley. This entrance provides access to the residential spaces on the northern side. Additionally, there is a third entrance located in the southwest.

Courtyard

The Tekiyeh boasts a spacious courtyard with a large basin. The floor of the courtyard is approximately 2.5 meters lower than street level. This courtyard plays host to a significant number of mourners during the month of Muharram, a period of mourning for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third

Imam of Shia Muslims.

On the northeastern side of the courtyard, you will find a kitchen that is used specifically for preparing food for the individuals gathering in the courtyard for mourning ceremonies.

The surrounding areas of the courtyard serve different purposes. The northern and southeastern parts are designated for residential use, while the western part houses a domed chamber. The eastern part of the courtyard consists of two-story spaces.

To access the four spaces in the southern part of the courtyard, three of which have lattice windows, you can use the stone staircase located inside the courtyard.

This staircase sits about one meter higher than the courtyard floor.

The northern part of the courtyard has two stories and also features a basement, which can be accessed through a staircase within the courtyard.

The basement includes a reservoir, a summer resting place, and several rooms. The basement windows are designed as lattices, serving as wind catchers. The ceiling of the reservoir and the summer resting place is covered with wooden beams and planks, while the surrounding rooms exhibit brick arches adorned with plaster decorations.

Rooms

Within the Tekiyeh, there are 24 rooms. Access to these rooms on the first floor is through the staircases located inside the courtyard. The floor of the rooms is elevated by one meter compared to the courtyard floor. Each room contains 16 two-story arches, originally used for storage of belongings. The second-floor rooms have a height of 1.5 meters and were primarily utilized for storage purposes. Access to the second floor is possible through the staircase located in the south-east room.

Shahneshin

The *Shahneshin* is a spacious room located on the first floor of the northern part of the Tekiyeh. It is adorned with colorful glasses, delicate mirror works, and beautiful tiling.

The *Shahneshin* is surrounded by multiple spaces. Inside the *Shahneshin* you will find exquisite wooden lattice accessories, while both sides of the room feature plastered column facades. The interior is further enhanced with plaster decorations, including geometric patterns, plant motifs, frames, eagle motifs, and plaster columns. These intricate details make the *Shahneshin* a highly attractive space for all viewers.

Settlement and migration of Aryans in southern Iran

The settlement of the southern part of Iran by the Aryans took place, most probably, independently of the movement of the Medes.

The Iranians of the southern regions are subsumed by Herodotus, in distinction from the Medes, under the common name Persai, from whom the southeastern regions Gedrosia (now Makran) and Kerman received their names. This movement also probably proceeded from east to west.

These Aryans became separated from the northern branch of the Iranians, perhaps in Khorasan. They occupied Sistan, where the tribe mentioned by Herodotus.

H. Kiepert, a German geographer, likewise assumes a separate movement of the Aryans southward across Sistan.

Moving on from Sistan, the Aryans must have first of all

crossed the desert on the way into the northeastern part of the present province of Kerman toward the mountain spurs that belonged, in their geological formation and north-west-southeastward orientation, to the Zagros system; this system forms the western border of Iran and cuts, by means of individual mountain chains, through the plateau itself.

In historical times, the important road led from Sistan to Bam. The cultivated belt is separated here from Sistan by an extensive steppe area, but one less extensive than the vast desert stretching northward. A low row of hills, extending toward the town of Khabs, divides this desert into two parts, the Dasht-e Kavir and the Dasht-e Lut; the Arab geographers subsumed both these parts under one name, the Wilderness of Kho-

rasan. It impressed even the Arabs as a desert of extreme sterility, even when compared with those of Arabia and northern Africa with which they were so familiar.

In the latter countries all the deserts, except for limited areas, include good pasture lands, and are therefore divided up among various nomadic tribes, whereas the desert of Khorasan has almost no inhabitants at all; one sees only the road and the post stations along it.

The words of the same geographer, however, suggest that nomads nevertheless passed through even these parts, for caravans were exposed not only to natural dangers of the desert but also to the raids of brigands, whose temerity was enhanced by the fact that the



areas bordering the desert were under the rule of differ-

ent governments; brigands could escape pursuit by one

government by fleeing to the possessions of another.

The above is a lightly edited version of chapter entitled 'Quhistan, Kerman, and Makran,' from a book titled, 'An Historical Geography of Iran,' written by W. Barthold and published by Princeton University Press, Princeton.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran obtained 'guarantees' from US on unfrozen funds



The Iranian Foreign Ministry said the country had obtained "guarantees" from the United States on its unfrozen funds in Qatar banks.

The plan to block Iran's money needs the approval of the Senate and the signature of the US president. The US government must honor its commitments in an agreement with Iran. "We received the necessary guarantees in this regard as the US has shown that it is not reliable," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said, according to Press TV.

He was responding to a question about a bipartisan measure passed by the US House of Representatives to block Iran from accessing its \$6 billion funds unfrozen in South Korea and transferred to Qatar banks a few months ago. Kanaani emphasized that the Iranian government has access to the funds, saying, "We can use them according to our needs."

The Thursday bill passed 307-119 as the voters sought to hold the Biden administration accountable for what they call their complicity in funding terrorism in the Middle East.

Back in August, Iran and the United States agreed to a Qatari-brokered deal to secure the release of some \$6 billion of Iranian funds that had remained blocked in two South Korean banks since 2018, under the pretext of US sanctions. The deal eventually saw the release of five detained Americans in Tehran and an unknown number of Iranians imprisoned in the US. The money was successfully transferred to accounts in Qatar's Ahlibank and Dukhan Bank.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Leader calls for coalition among nations opposed to US bullying

Iran, Cuba sign seven documents, cooperation agreements

National Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said great political and economic capacities of Iran and Cuba should be used to form a coalition against the bullying of the United States and its Western allies.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a Monday meeting with Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, who is heading a high-ranking politico-economic delegation. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi was also present at the meeting. Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to the remarkable potentialities of Iran and Cuba, and said, "These capacities should be used to set up an alliance and a coalition among those countries that share the same position against the US and Western bullying," Press TV reported.

"This coalition, with a focus on economic collaborations, can have a united and influential stance on global issues, such as the Palestinian cause," the leader added. The Palestinian issue is not only related to recent events in Gaza and bombardments, as the Palestinian people

have endured various forms of torture, suffering, and massacres over the past 75 years, the Leader emphasized. However, the current tragedy in Gaza is so significant that it has brought the reality to the world's public consciousness, making it impossible to conceal. Ayatollah Khamenei regarded the positions of the Cuban president on global issues, especially the Palestinian cause, in harmony with the Islamic Republic's stance, press.tv reported. Referring to the collaboration of the two countries in international forums, he added that relations between the two countries, including scientific cooperation, should be strengthened more than ever.

The Leader expressed hope that the memoranda of understanding and agreements between the two countries would progress to the implementation and action stage.

Agreements inked

In the presence of the Iranian and Cuban presidents, senior officials of the two countries signed seven documents and agreements on the improvement of bilateral cooperation.



Raisi and Díaz-Canel also issued a joint statement on strengthening strategic relations between Tehran and Havana. According to the documents, Iran and Cuba will strengthen cooperation in various sectors of science and technology, health, agriculture, energy and mines, communications and medicine.

'Unacceptable genocide'

The Cuban president em-

phasized that the two countries can complement each other in various fields, especially in countering interventionist actions and sanctions by the United States and its allies.

"What is happening in Gaza today is an unacceptable genocide, and international organizations close their eyes to the massacre of tens of thousands of people in Gaza, two-thirds of whom are children and women," he said.

Support of Palestine

The Iranian president had a separate meeting with the Cuban president, during which he said the two sides have a common stance on the need to form a coalition to support the oppressed Palestinian people in different continents, in cooperation with allied countries. Raisi slammed the deafening silence of the international community on the Israeli genocide in Gaza. Díaz-Canel said Cuba slams

Israel's killing of thousands of Palestinian people and calls for the immediate establishment of a ceasefire in Gaza, which would prepare the ground for the formation of an independent Palestinian state. The Cuban president also said that in his talks with Iranian authorities in Tehran, both sides focused all their efforts on ways to deepen mutual relations, especially in the economic and commercial spheres.

Israeli forces enter southern Gaza

Global concern growing over civilian casualties

International Desk

Israel moved ground forces into southern Gaza in its war on Hamas, witnesses said Monday, despite global concern over mounting civilian deaths and fears the conflict would spread in the Middle East.

Israel ordered people out of swathes of the main southern city in the besieged strip as it pressed its ground campaign deep into the south, sending desperate residents fleeing even as it dropped bombs on areas where it told them to go.

According to the Hamas-run Health Ministry on Sunday, 15,523 people had died in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war with Israel on October 7.

Seventy percent of the Palestinians killed in the war were women and children, ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said, adding that 41,316 people had been wounded.

Germany urged Israel on Monday to guarantee "realistic" protection to civilians with its Foreign Ministry spokesman saying, "Something we expect from Israel is that they not

only urge civilians to leave the danger zone, but that they are in a realistic position to find safe shelter elsewhere."

"Too many civilians have already been killed in this war," Sebastian Fischer said.

On Monday, dozens of Israeli tanks as well as armored personnel carriers and bulldozers entered the south of the territory near the city of Khan Yunis, which is crowded with internally displaced Palestinians, witnesses told AFP.

'Unconditional support to kill babies'

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that the Western nations supporting Israel were giving it "unconditional support to kill babies" and were complicit in its crimes.

In a speech to an Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) committee meeting in Istanbul, Erdogan said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would eventually be tried as a war criminal over the ongoing offensive in Gaza.

"Beyond being a war criminal, Netanyahu will be tried as the butcher of Gaza, just as Milosevic was tried," Erdogan said, in reference to Yugoslav ex-president Slobodan Milosevic, who was tried for

genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes at a tribunal in The Hague. "Those who try to skip over the deaths of all those innocent people by using the excuse of Hamas have nothing left to say to humanity," he added, referring to Western powers, which he said were "blind and deaf".

Commercial ships hit

Despite global fears that the conflict will spread elsewhere in the Middle East, Israel has widened its offensive in Gaza.

On Sunday, ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthis struck three commercial ships in the Red Sea, while a US warship shot down three drones in self-defense during the hours-long assault, the US military said. The Houthis claimed two of the attacks. The strikes marked an escalation in a series of maritime attacks in the Mideast linked to the Gaza war, as multiple vessels found themselves in the crosshairs of a single Houthi assault for the first time in the conflict. The US vowed to "consider all appropriate responses" in the wake of the attack.

"These attacks represent a direct threat to international commerce and maritime security," the US military's Central Command



said in a statement. "They have jeopardized the lives of international crews representing multiple countries around the world."

Intolerable suffering

Full-scale fighting in Gaza resumed Friday after the collapse of a week-long truce brokered by Qatar, the United States and Egypt, during which Israel and Hamas had exchanged scores of POWs and prisoners.

Air strikes have since intensified in Gaza's south, said James Elder, a spokesman for the United Nations children's agency UNICEF. "Despite what has been assured, attacks in the south of Gaza are every bit as vicious as what the north endured," he posted Monday on X. "Somehow, it's getting worse for children and mothers."

The Red Cross president, who arrived in war-torn Gaza on Monday, called for the protection of civilians in the Palestinian territory, where she warned that human suffering was "intolerable".

The International Committee of the Red Cross said ICRC president Mirjana Spoljaric's travel to the region would happen in several stages with "a visit to Israel expected over the coming weeks".

"I have arrived in Gaza, where people's suffering is intolerable," Spoljaric said on X, formerly Twitter. "It is unacceptable that civilians have no safe place to go in Gaza, and with a military siege in place there is also no adequate humanitarian response currently possible," she added in an ICRC statement.

Israel using AI to deliberately target more civilians in Gaza

Israel is using artificial intelligence to deliberately target more civilians in the Gaza Strip in order to “harm Palestinian civil society and create a shock” that would force civilians to put pressure on Hamas resistance movement, a new investigation has revealed.



● AFP

PERSPECTIVE

The investigation has been conducted by +972 Magazine and Local Call outlet, and is based on talks with several current and former members of Israel's intelligence community, official statements by the Israeli Army and other Israeli institutions, in addition to Palestinian testimonies, data, and documentation from the Gaza Strip.

Since October 7, the Israeli military has killed more than 16,000 people – mostly women and children – in Gaza after it launched a brutal onslaught on the Gaza Strip in response to Hamas's operation in the occupied territories.

The number of civilian casualties in Israel's renewed aggression on the Gaza Strip is much higher than the numbers registered in previous Israeli assaults on Gaza.

Although the Israeli regime has never cared about civilian lives in conflicts, the large number of such casualties in the ongoing aggression has raised questions about Israel's new military tactics in its confrontations with the Palestinian fighters.

During the current aggression on Gaza, the Israeli Army has signifi-

cantly expanded its bombing of targets that are not distinctly military in nature. The targets include private residences as well as public buildings, infrastructure, and high-rise blocks, which sources say the army defines as “power targets”.

The bombing of power targets, according to intelligence sources who had first-hand experience with its application in Gaza in the past, is mainly intended to harm Palestinian civil society to “create a shock” that, among other things, will reverberate powerfully and “lead civilians to put pressure on Hamas,” as one source said.

According to sources who talked to +972 Magazine and Local Call, the main goal of the Israeli aggression was to kill as many Hamas fighters as possible.

Habsora

For this goal, the Israeli Army has used a system called “Habsora,” which is largely built on artificial intelligence.

The system can “generate” targets almost automatically at a rate that far exceeds what was previously possible. This AI system, as described by a former intelligence officer, essentially facilitates

a “mass assassination factory.” According to the sources, the increasing use of AI-based systems like Habsora allows the army to carry out strikes on residential homes where a single Hamas member lives. According to the investigation, such attacks can knowingly kill entire families in the process.

The sources added that in the majority of cases military activity is not conducted from these targeted homes.

In one case, the Israeli military command knowingly approved the killing of hundreds of Palestinian civilians in an attempt to assassinate a single top Hamas commander.

Yet testimonies of Palestinians in Gaza suggest that since October 7, the army has also attacked many private residences where there was no known or apparent member of Hamas or any other resistance group.

‘Nothing happens by accident’

“Nothing happens by accident,” said a source. “When a three-year-old girl is killed in a home in Gaza, it's because someone in the army decided it wasn't a big deal for her

to be killed – that it was a price worth paying in order to hit [another] target. We are not Hamas. These are not random rockets. Everything is intentional. We know exactly how much collateral damage there is in every home.”

The investigation says the Israeli Army has files of potential targets in Gaza – including homes – which stipulate the number of civilians who are likely to be killed in an attack on a particular target. This number is calculated and known in advance to the army's intelligence units, who also know shortly before carrying out an attack roughly how many civilians are certain to be killed.

According to sources, the Israeli Army has significantly relaxed rules over harming Palestinian civilians.

Saving time

Therefore, there are “cases in which we shell based on a wide cellular pinpointing of where the target is, killing civilians. This is often done to save time, instead of doing a little more work to get a more accurate pinpointing,” a source said.

Various sources who served in the Israeli Army's intelligence units

said that army protocols allowed for attacking power targets only when the buildings were empty of residents at the time of the strike. However, testimonies and videos from Gaza suggest that since October 7, some of these targets have been attacked without prior notice being given to their occupants, killing entire families as a result.

According to the Israeli Army, during the first five days of the conflict it dropped 6,000 bombs on the Palestinian territory, with a total weight of about 4,000 tons. Media outlets reported that the army had wiped out entire neighborhoods; according to the Gaza-based Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, these attacks led to “the complete destruction of residential neighborhoods, the destruction of infrastructure, and the mass killing of residents.”

According to the reports, Israel bombed the Islamic University of Gaza, the Palestinian Bar Association, a UN building for an educational program for outstanding students, a building belonging to the Palestine Telecommunications Company, the Ministry of National Economy, the Ministry of Culture, roads, and dozens of high-rise

buildings and homes – especially in Gaza's northern neighborhoods. Indeed, according to sources who were involved in the compiling of power targets in previous wars, although the target file usually contains some kind of alleged association with Hamas or other resistance groups, attacking the target functions primarily as a “means that allows damage to civil society.” The sources understood that damage to civilians is the real purpose of these attacks.

For example, Israel attacked the Al-Jalaa Tower in May 2021, which housed prominent international media outlets such as Al Jazeera, AP, and AFP. The Israeli Army claimed that the building was a Hamas military target but sources said that it was in fact a power target.

“The perception is that it really hurts Hamas when high-rise buildings are taken down, because it creates a public reaction in the Gaza Strip and scares the population,” said one of the sources. “They wanted to give the citizens of Gaza the feeling that Hamas is not in control of the situation. Sometimes they toppled buildings and sometimes postal service and government buildings.”

War with Iran would be disastrous for US



International Desk

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned about any miscalculation about Iran's military strength in response to US officials' rhetoric about a possible military action against Iran. Many US officials are aware of the consequences of the war but some hawkish American officials have been trying to push the US administration towards a new conflict in the Middle East. The eruption of a new conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has increased the risk of a broader war in the region. Resistance groups in the region have begun a campaign against Israel and its main supporter, the United States.

Since the beginning of the conflict on October 7, US bases in the region have been the main target of the resistance movements. Meanwhile, the groups have launched many attacks against Israel, in solidarity with the Palestinians and in response to the regime's brutal onslaught on the Gaza Strip.

Unfounded allegations

American officials have time and again accused Iran of being behind the attacks. But Tehran, which supports resistance groups in the region, has rejected the allegations.

In an article, the American newspaper, The Hill, has warned that a war with Iran would be disas-

trous for the United States. On November 26, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) said the Biden administration needs to take “massive retaliation” against Iran to end attacks on US assets. Ultimately, the Biden administration, congressmen, and former defense officials are all sharing sentiments that Washington could escalate its move toward armed conflict in the face of Iranian aggression. But despite the confidence of hawks, a war with Iran would be disastrous for the United States and the broader Middle East. Regardless of the goals of the mission – from destroying Iran's nuclear capabilities to regime change – there are only two real

paths for Washington to directly attack Iran: an air and naval campaign designed to impose significant costs on the country; or a ground invasion dependent on establishing air and naval superiority.

Both options, however, are less tenable than policymakers suggest and reflect a fundamental miscalculation of Iran's military strength – an issue that has been repeatedly noted by Iranian military officials.

Iran has warned that it would react militarily to any attack on its interests or citizens.

In October, Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani warned that the country would give a decisive, strong response to any miscalculation or mistake by enemies.

Military action

A campaign that relies on air and naval power to rapidly beat Iran into submission will meet significant challenges. Iran's military is designed to prevent such an invasion and impose significant costs on any potential attacker, by air or the sea. Iran has 600-mile range cruise missiles, advanced long-range air defense systems, short-range air defense systems, anti-aircraft missiles, 3,000 ballistic missiles, 6,000 naval mines, and the most capable unmanned aerial vehicles in the region.

In essence, any combined operation involving air and naval war

not only faces the traditional limits that make these campaigns rarely successful, but landing individual attacks on Iranian territory will likely come with high costs to expensive US aircraft and ballistic missile defense systems.

Previous analysts have weighed the chances of success for a campaign reliant on US air and naval power. A 2002 war game that required US planners to change the rules mid-conflict showed that Iran could easily sink US ships, and in 2012, Pentagon officials estimated that such a strategy would require a minimum of 100,000 troops.

Following escalations with Iran in 2019, Pentagon officials estimated that a version of this strategy that sought to destroy Iranian nuclear facilities would require a minimum of 120,000 troops deployed throughout the Middle East.

At present (despite no more recent estimates), even more troops would likely be required, given Iran's increased military spending. As a result, the US will be unable to engage in a strategy relying on air and naval power to overcome Iranian military capacity.

Iran well-prepared militarily

If the intention is to use air and naval power to allow for ground operations, Iran is equally prepared. Such an assault would re-

quire absorbing massive costs to gain access into the country. Analysts estimate that any ground invasion would require 1.6 million US troops, almost ten times what the US committed to Iraq at any given time. Upon arrival in Iran, the US would face the 13th largest fit-for-service population in the world, the 13th most armored vehicles and self-propelled artillery in the world, the 9th most towed artillery in the world, and the 8th most mobile rocket projectors in the world. The human and material costs would be immense.

Iran's strategy to combat the US would center around making any naval and air assault costly, slow, and predicated on an assumption that eventually Americans will lose their willingness to continue fighting.

Iran is surrounded by water and will use her anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles to cover the 2,400-kilometer southern coastline as well as exploiting the lack of US minesweepers to slow down the pace of a naval assault. By slowing the pace of war, Iran will attack the political will of US policymakers and the American public, while also giving itself time to make decisions and potentially even blockade the Straits of Hormuz to the Gulf of Oman.

Expecting an easy win against Iran is not any more of a strategy than waiting for humans to learn to fly.

'Bonkers' to still be winning 30 years on, O'Sullivan says



WORLD SNOOKER

BBC— Ronnie O'Sullivan says it is "bonkers" to have won the UK Championship for an eighth time, 30 years on from his first triumph as a 17-year-old in 1993. The world number one's 10-7 victory over Ding Junhui on Sunday saw him become the oldest UK champion, two days before his 48th birthday. It was the Englishman's 40th ranking title and his 22nd Triple Crown success since turning professional in 1992.

"I feel a more complete player now than ever," O'Sullivan said.

"I've got better, I feel like I got better in many ways. I started off pretty raw. I was all right when I first turned pro and I lost my way. It's bonkers to be still playing and winning tournaments at the age of 48."

The seven-time world champion became the youngest winner of a ranking event with the first of his record eight UK titles – a 10-6 win over Stephen Hendry. O'Sullivan's latest victory saw him eclipse Doug Mountjoy to become the oldest winner of the UK title.

Asked if he could have foretold his own longevity three decades ago, O'Sullivan, who has claimed almost every major record during an unprecedented spell at the top of snooker, added: "I'd have said, 'You're off your nut, you are crazy.'"

Widely regarded as the greatest player of all time, O'Sullivan typically arrived at the York Barbican under the spotlight, with the release of his documentary coming amid a row with the game's governing body that has cast doubt over his future on snooker's main professional tour.

"I don't know [how long I'll continue]," said O'Sullivan, who will target an eighth Masters title in January. "I don't really want to put a number on it."

"I think [I'll continue] as long as my sponsors keep supporting me and I don't fall off the tour. If I did fall off the tour it would be nice to get a wildcard off World Snooker to keep playing, but you never know, they might give me a knockback as usual."

"I just keep playing. As long as they want me to keep playing I'll play. But they sent me a letter the other week saying they want me to consider my future on the tour, I don't know what's going through their heads at the moment."

New era for Iranian freestyle wrestling ahead of Olympics

Sports Desk

Iranian freestyle wrestling will turn to a new page after Pejman Dorostkar stepped down from his role as the national team head coach last week, making way for Mohsen Kaveh to take over ahead of next year's Paris Olympics.

With eight months to go before the opening ceremony in the French capital, the new coach, also an advisor to the chairman of the Iranian federation, Alireza Dabir, will have quite a job on his hands as three Olympic berths are yet to be secured for the country. Amirhossein Zare' (130kg) and Hassan Yazdani (86kg) have already sealed the Olympic quotas of their respective weight classes, thanks to their medal-winning campaigns in September's World Championships, while Rahman Amouzad clinched the 65kg slot after finishing fifth in Belgrade. However, the 57kg, 74kg, and 97kg spots will be up for grabs in the qualification events in the coming months.

"It was the hardest decision that I had to make, though I'll be looking to succeed at the Olympics," Kaveh said after his appointment.

"We only have eight months to prepare and I've already begun planning for the Games," added the new head coach.

"I know expectations will be high of the freestyle team in Paris, but I'll do all I can to avoid the mental pressure on the Iranian wrestlers for the Olympics."

With the Americans and



iawfir

the Russians in impressive form in the latest UWW Worlds, Kaveh knows his men will have a mountain to climb to walk away with the ultimate prize in Paris.

In the Iranians' eight bouts against either an American or a Russian opponent in Belgrade, only Amouzad managed to come out on top against Team USA's Nick Lee, while last week's final showdown of the Iranian Pro League saw the Iranians suffer five defeats against the Russians – including losses for Olympic contenders Alireza Sarlak

and Younes Emami. Sarlak fell to a 7-0 setback against reigning Olympic champion Zaur Uguev in the 57kg contest, before Emami, a two-time world silver medalist, was beaten 5-4 by Magomedrasul Gazimagomedov.

The other major challenge facing Kaveh will be the form of Yazdani before the Olympics, after the 86kg sensation underwent surgery on his injured shoulder in November and is set to spend up to six months on the sidelines.

A winner of a national-re-

cord nine world and Olympic medals, Yazdani had to cope with the shoulder problem through September's World event, where he had yet another disappointing finish, by his own standards, after a fall defeat against his familiar foe David Taylor, which gave the American a 3-1 lead in the head-to-head battles with the Iranian in the recent four major finals – including the showdown at the Tokyo Olympics. While Yazdani has promised to "come back to his best in the near future",

Dabir's comments raised doubts over the wrestler's condition ahead of his quest for a third Olympic medal.

"No wrestler in Iran has fully recovered from a shoulder injury over the past 20 years. That's what happened to me as my career came to an end when I was 25," said Dabir – an Olympic champion in Sydney 2000.

When Kaveh was asked about Yazdani's situation back then, he said: "Hassan is in a league of his own and hard to replace.

I'm sure he'll put in all his efforts to make it to the Games."

Kaveh still added there would be other alternatives for Yazdani, should he fail in the race against time for a proper challenge in Paris.

"Our priority will definitely be Yazdani but Ali Savadkouhi has recently moved up to the 86kg class and could be in contention, along with [former world silver and bronze medalist] Alireza Karimi as well as Hadi Vafaeipour," Kaveh said in November.

Haaland and Guardiola upset with ref after Spurs draw

THE GUARDIAN – Manchester City's 3-3 draw with Tottenham ended in fury for the champions, prompting Pep Guardiola to say he would not make a "Mikel Arteta comment" and Erling Haaland to write "wtf" on X after the referee, Simon Hooper, stopped play with Jack Grealish clear on goal in added time.

Hooper, having waved play on for a foul on Haaland, halted the game after a pass by the Norwegian had put Grealish in behind the Spurs defence. Angry City players surrounded the referee – which may provoke a Football Association charge – and Guardiola re-monstrated with the fourth official. When Hooper blew for time, Haaland departed the pitch visibly upset.

Guardiola, asked about the incident, responded pointedly. "Next question," he said. "I will not do a Mikel Arteta comment. It is hard when you review the image: the referee decides to blow the whistle after he has already said to play on.



Erling Haaland (c) reacts after the referee, Simon Hooper, stops play with Manchester City through on goal against Spurs in a Premier League 3-3 draw at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester, Britain, on December 3, 2023.

ROBBIE JAY BARRATT/GETTY IMAGES

After the pass, the whistle, so I do not understand this action."

Guardiola was referring to Arteta's comments after Anthony Gordon's winner for Newcastle against Arsenal was allowed to in the wake of three VAR checks. Arteta called the decision "an absolute disgrace".

City's manager was more forthcoming when asked about Haaland's reaction at the end. "It's normal," he said. "His reaction was the same for 10 players. The rules are you cannot talk with the referees or fourth officials so we should have had 10 players sent off today. He's a little bit disap-

pointed. Even the referee, if he played for Man City today he would be disappointed for that action, that's for sure."

Guardiola refused to blame the decision for the result. "I make mistakes, the players make mistakes. I don't want to criticise him. On the touchline sometimes I

lose my mind and my gestures are not proper but here normally for many years as a manager I'm not a guy when I'm refreshed [calm] to comment. But I would say we didn't draw for that."

On X, Haaland wrote "wtf" above a clip of the incident. The FA is likely to charge

him or Guardiola only if it concludes they have questioned the referee's integrity. In a thrilling match, Son Heung-min opened the scoring on six minutes before the Spurs captain's own goal equalised three minutes later. City took the lead via Phil Foden, Giovanni Lo Celso levelled after the break, Grealish made it 3-2, and Dejan Kulusevski's goal shared the points.

Ange Postecoglou indicated he was unhappy at half-time. Asked by Sky Sports to elaborate on what he had said, the Spurs manager replied: "There would probably only be a few words I can say. Joking aside, it was more trying to get the players to believe in themselves rather than anger at them."

An overview of Iran's efforts to save endangered species on International Cheetah Day

Cheetah safe zones yet to be realized

Social Desk

The Mayamey to Sabzevar road in the Turan region in Iran poses a threat to both passing cars and the critically endangered Asiatic cheetah, resulting in fatalities. Despite a proposed and approved fencing plan to address this issue, no credit has been allocated, and no fencing has been initiated. The cheetah, once widespread across Africa, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent, is now critically endangered, with the Asian species facing a direr situation than its African counterpart, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The Turan region is home to at least 17 cheetahs, including seven females, two males, and eight cubs, according to the latest report from the Department of the Environment (DoE). Urgent measures are needed to increase their population, and the DoE has taken action in Turan and its surrounding areas to create safe habitats for these felines, particularly in the north, east, and southeast parts of the region. The Pol-e Abrisham (Silk Bridge) area, known for its otter population, holds potential as a secure zone for cheetahs.

Turan National Park, the largest habitat for Iranian cheetahs, stretches across Golestan and Semnan provinces and was designated as a wildlife sanctuary in 1976. It is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including 41 mammal species, 167 bird species, 42 reptile species, and two amphibian species, with the Asian cheetah being the most significant. The decline of cheetah populations extends to both Asian and African cheetahs, primarily due to human activities such as road construction, overhunting of prey species, and habitat destruction from agriculture and mining.

Recognizing the importance of protecting this remarkable species, the United Nations designated December 4th as International Cheetah Day in 2010. Despite the establishment of protected habitats for cheetahs in Africa and Asia,

these territorial animals often wander beyond these areas, particularly in Iran, where a significant number of cheetahs with cubs have been observed outside the Turan habitat. As a result, protective measures are necessary in these regions. The DoE, responsible for safeguarding wildlife species, has taken action, but it is estimated that it will take one to two years for these measures to yield tangible results, according to the deputy of the natural environment at the DoE.

In terms of the fencing project for the Mayamey to Sabzevar road in the Turan region, progress updates have been provided by Hassan Akbari. However, the project has not yet reached the implementation stage, despite efforts by the DoE and follow-ups with the Ministry of Roads. The fencing plan includes a 70-kilometer area with sections designated for illumination and fencing, along with repaired underpasses and water passages to facilitate cheetah movement.

However, no action has been taken in this regard, except for illuminating merely two kilometers of the road for better visibility. Additionally, reducing the speed of drivers in the area is crucial. "Obtaining permission from the Road Transport Commission to implement a speed reduction has caused delays, but a one-year trial period was eventually agreed upon," Akbari said. However, despite the installation of camera mounts, the activation and implementation of average speeds have not occurred as intended. Although progress has been made, it has not yet reached the desired level of effectiveness. Good things have

happened regarding warning signs, awareness, and information, with designed and improved signs in place. However, only a small part of the plan has been implemented and the actions taken so far are not effective in preventing accidents.

Akbari emphasized that the problem of cheetah cannot be solved by addressing the road issues alone, as there are other crucial threats such as insecurity and lack of prey in the surrounding habitats. It is crucial to create suitable safe spaces outside of Turan for the cheetah, but challenges like conflicts, mining activities, and restrictions from the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade hamper the protection efforts.

"A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the private sector to enlist their support in certain areas, but it will take time for these efforts to yield results," Akbari stated. Akbari went on to say, "In the southeast region of Turan, we are implementing a program to increase the prey population for cheetahs, such as deer, rams, and sheep, in collaboration with the private sector. We hope that within the next two years, the prey population will significantly increase." These prey animals will be released into the wild, making the southeast of Turan a safer environment for cheetahs. Part of the cheetah population already migrates in that direction.

"We believe that with continued seriousness in the protection efforts in that area, it will take one to two years for the area to become safe for wolverines," the official said, adding, "We have also initiated measures on the northern

side of Turan. Through a memorandum of understanding with the governorates of North Khorasan and Semnan, as well as the two general environmental departments of these provinces and the private sector, we have deployed at least eight environmental assistants with suitable facilities in the free habitats range in the north of Turan and southwest of Miandasht, specifically in an area known as Pol-e Abrisham."

This is a crucial action in an area where most cheetah sightings have occurred. Despite conflicts with villages, livestock, and mining in the area, the low vegetation and limited livestock numbers make it possible for cheetahs to roam freely. By strengthening protection and restoring the prey population, the region can become a suitable habitat for these endangered species. Akbari also stressed the importance of extending these measures to other regions and involving local communities and the private sector for maximum effectiveness. The environmental further addressed the need to continue purchasing customary rights in specific parts of Turan, which involves acquiring the rights of local herdsmen and relocating their animals outside the area. However, he also highlighted the challenge of limited financial resources, stating that government funding alone is insufficient for effective cheetah conservation.

"Despite efforts to attract assistance through methods like the National Environmental Fund, a comprehensive and efficient plan has yet to be developed," he said.

On a positive note, Akbari assured that the three female cheetahs at the Turan breeding site, Iran, Turan,

and Azar, are in good condition, with no issues anticipated for Iran's ability to become pregnant again in

the future.

"Necessary measures will be taken when the time comes," he said.

One year old and very well

Azar and Turan, two of the five cheetahs housed at the breeding site in Turan National Park, Shahrud, Semnan Province, were found a year ago and are now safe and sound. Cheetahs reach adulthood at the age of two, and until then, measures must be taken to ensure the well-being of these remarkable gifts of nature.

On December 2, 2022, two newborn cheetah cubs, aged between 18 and 20 days old, were discovered and rescued by a shepherd in the Turan region of Shahrud city, located in the eastern part of Semnan Province.

The country's Department of the Environment (DoE) promptly returned the cubs to the capture site in hopes of finding their mother. However, their efforts were in vain, and due to the cold weather, the cubs were brought to the environmental protection station. After reaching 10 weeks of age and receiving vaccinations to enhance their immunity against respiratory and digestive diseases, as well as transitioning to a carnivorous diet, the two female cheetahs were transferred to the captive breeding center in Turan National Park. This move aimed to ensure their continued growth so that they could be used for breeding, and, subsequently, mitigating the risk of extinction for this valuable species.

The care and breeding of female cheetah cubs Azar and Turan from their early days of birth have contributed to the expertise of local specialists, making them more prepared for the future birth and care of other cheetahs in captivity. Every Iranian who holds love for their country will undoubtedly appreciate the success of these local experts, feeling delighted and proud of the authority and scientific achievements of Iran.

Bahram Ali Zahiri, head of the DoE office in Semnan Province, recently stated that cheetahs reach maturity in their second year of life, and thus we must wait another year before discussing the fertility of Azar and Turan. Zahiri emphasized that Azar and Turan hold great promise for the dynamics and population growth of cheetahs in Semnan Province. He further added that their current physical condi-

tion is favorable, and they are growing and developing according to established indicators and standards.

Zahiri explained that research has shown cheetahs to be polygynous mammals, reaching maturity between two to three years of age, and retaining reproductive capability until they are eight years old. The Asiatic cheetahs, in particular, exhibit polygynous mating behavior.

Zahiri expressed hope that with the existing infrastructure and the forthcoming "Asiatic Cheetah Growth and Maintenance Document," local specialists will achieve success in breeding cheetahs in captivity.

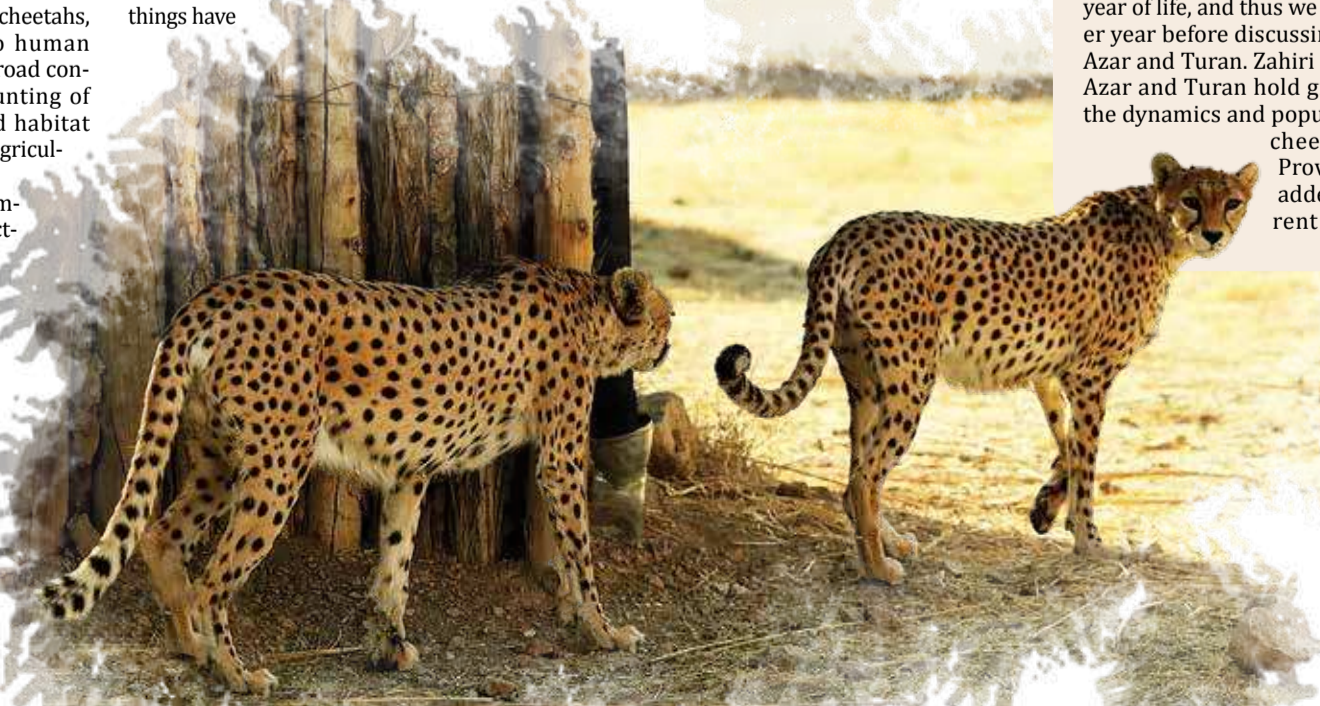
Addressing speculations regarding the establishment of a second Asiatic cheetah breeding site in Iran, Zahiri stated that if the captive breeding of cheetahs in Turan National Park proves successful, the DoE will decide on the creation of another site by relocating Azar and Turan.

According to reports, the Iranian cheetah is listed as an endangered species by the International Union for the Protection of the Environment. Once widespread across Asia around 2,000 years ago, cheetahs now exclusively inhabit desert areas in Iran.

Since the 1970s, Iran has been recognized as the sole habitat of the Asiatic cheetah, earning it the name Iranian cheetah.

At present, Iran, particularly parts of Semnan Province, serves as the safe haven for the Asiatic cheetah. Local experts are working tirelessly to change the fate of these cheetahs, protecting them from the brink of extinction through captive breeding and enhancing the security of Turan National Park.

During a visit to Semnan Province in the spring of 1402, the Vice President and the Head of the country's DoE emphasized the necessity of establishing an international reproduction site as a hub for the life and movement of cheetahs and zebras. The potential of Semnan Province in establishing an international cheetah reproduction site within the protected area of Turan, based on the province's capacity, was underlined during that visit.



Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company – Tender for Transformer

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company intends to purchase a 500A transformer for IDEAL welding machine. Interested companies are requested to offer their quote based on the specifications mentioned in the attached files on our website. Please receive the tender form and send your PI to commercial2@kswo.com by December 10 2023. For further information please contact Mr.Zanganeh: +989123162409

Iran's documentary awarded in Polish festival

ISNA – Iranian documentary 'Austrian Bridge,' directed by Ahmad Azad and produced by Rahil Ilka, received the Best Cinematography Award at 17th edition of the Grand Off World Independent Short Film Awards in Warsaw, Poland.

The cinematography for this short documentary was orchestrated by Reza Heidari Panah.

'Austrian Bridge' tells the story of the historical impact of the Veresk Bridge on both above-ground and underground structures in global transportation (Austrian tunnels or egg-shell-shaped tunnels). It explores the influence of this architecture while narrating legends and tales from nearly a century of the bridge's history, rooted in the culture, music, and literature of Mazandaran. The festival concluded by giving the Best Short Narrative Award to the Polish film, 'Everything is Fine,' and honoring 'Chroma Key' by Max Puglisi from the UK with the Best Directing Award.

The 17th edition of the Polish festival took place in Warsaw, Poland, from November 27 to December 4.

Iranian bookstores see 12% growth in one month

Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA – A total of 9,938 book titles, by 1,392 Iranian publishers, came to bookstores during one Iranian month (October 23 to November 23), which has increased by 12%, compared to 8,873 book titles in the same period last year, based on the statistics of the Iranian Book and Literature House.

Out of the total number of books published during the given period, 7,117 titles were authored and 2,821 titles were translated.

In the subjects of textbooks, literature, children and adolescents, social sciences and religion, the books are mostly authored, and in other subjects, philosophy and psychology, they were mostly translated.

Out of the total number of books published in the period, 7,265 titles were published in Tehran Province, which has recorded a 15% increase compared to the same period last year, with the publication of 6,315 titles. The highest percentage of growth in terms of the subject matter were in the 'children and adolescents' category, with a 48% increase, religion, with a 25% increase, teaching and educational materials, with a 22% increase, and literature and social sciences, with a 10% increase.

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Address: 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran

● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 84711171
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● Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500601
& Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
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Iran's 'The Borders Never Die' wins two awards in Georgia

Iran's short film, 'The Borders Never Die,' directed by Hamidreza Arjomandi, shined at the 4th Diogenes Film Festival 2023, in Tbilisi, Georgia. It won the Special Jury Award and Special Diploma for Best Short Film.

The Diogenes Film Festival, renowned for showcasing thought-provoking films, concluded its fourth edition by awarding 10 prizes and 10 diplomas to outstanding entries.

Named after the ancient Greek philosopher Diogenes, the festival offers a platform for international short films, including masterclasses and side events.

The narrative of 'The Borders Never Die' is the story of families forced to cross borders due to the war in their homeland. The challenging journey, undertaken by a Kurdish couple from Iraqi Kurdistan, when the woman is pregnant, unfolds against the backdrop of impassable roads.

Before the Diogenes Film Festival, 'The Borders Never Die' received accolades at various international film events, including the Lift India Film Festival, Give Peace A Screen in Italy, and the Bangladesh Short Film Festival, among others.



Students from 14 countries learning Persian at Iranian university



The Center for Teaching Persian to Speakers of Other Languages (at Allameh Tabataba'i University) kicked off a new semester, welcoming 140 students

from 14 countries eager to learn the Persian language. A ceremony was held at Allameh Tabataba'i University to mark the beginning of the semester, attended by the university's president, the head of the AZFA center (the center for offering Persian language training programs), and a group of new students, IRNA reported.

The students are from Azerbaijan, Russia, China, South Korea, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Indonesia, Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey,

and Sri Lanka. Abdollah Mo'tamedi expressed a warm welcome to the new students and harbored hope that they would enhance their language skills to effectively articulate their thoughts in Persian. He emphasized the nuances lost in translation, stating that understanding the original language is crucial for understanding the essence of expressions that might be lost in translation. Mo'tamedi highlighted the university's capacities and

facilities, noting its status as one of Iran's premier institutions, ranking first in various criteria according to the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC). Additionally, the university has received recognition in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. With nearly 14,000 students, and over 600 faculty members, including nationally and internationally acclaimed scholars, Allameh Tabataba'i University has played a key role in shaping leaders and

intellectuals. Mo'tamedi encouraged the Farsi students to maintain ties with the university after returning to their respective countries. He suggested that upon returning home, the students keep in touch with the university, offering assistance with Farsi books and programs if needed. The university expressed readiness to support them in promoting the Persian language in their countries, sharing the joy of education with their compatriots.

How Munch Museum is using AI to give its audience new access to history of art

Munch Museum is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create pioneering interactive experiences for local visitors and global audience. The museum in Oslo contains the world's most extensive collection of art dedicated to the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch. With 27,000 artworks, non-art objects and writings, parts of which are spread across 11 galleries on 13 floors, the museum

is eager to show its collection to a wider audience, diginomica.com wrote. Birgitte Aga, Head of Innovation and Research at Munch Museum (MUNCH), says that's where technology specialist Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is helping the museum to open access to its art. The two organizations are working together on a pioneering project that uses a Machine Learning (ML) algo-

rithm to delve into Edvard Munch's artistic processes and allow audience to connect with that data-led insight in creative ways: "Using AI for MUNCH creates new opportunities to preserve the collection and to present it to our audience, and for them to engage with it, in a more relevant way. AI opens up completely new opportunities to understand the artistry of Munch and to make correlations that

we never knew existed before." Aga describes Edvard Munch as a ferociously productive artist. The thousands of artworks in the museum's collection include 7,000 drawings and sketches that show how he tested styles and often reworked paintings, such as The Scream. The museum is keen to make this artistic process visible to the public using the power of emerging tech-

nology: "What we need to do is make our collection more relevant to people. It's a collection that is very rarely seen and is fragile. We have digital versions of the art on our website – you can go in and look at the art, but that's not necessarily something that audience would choose to do. We live in a society where audience expect experiences, rather than just objects, and

we have to work continually on mediating our collection."

