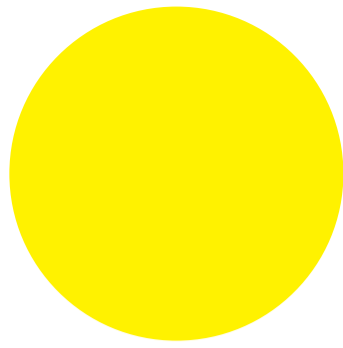


Persian Wolf close but not cigar

Choopan comes second at Mr. Olympia 2024

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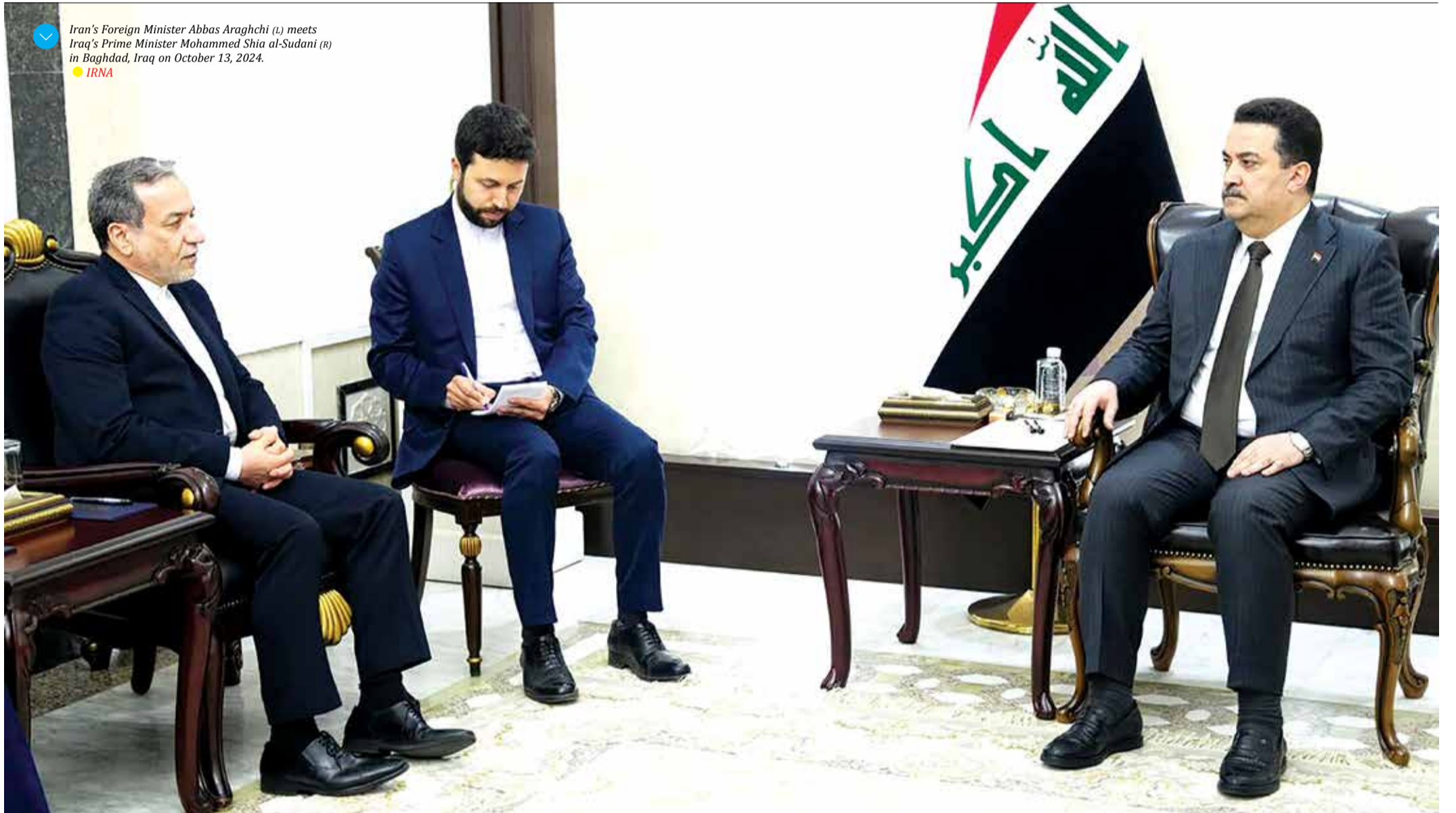
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Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) meets Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani (R) in Baghdad, Iraq on October 13, 2024.
 • IRNA

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Biden's sanctions on Iranian barrels non-starter from beginning

By **Mostafa Shirmohamadi**
Editor-in-chief

OPINION

The move was in response to Iran's second missile attack on Israel earlier in the month. The Biden administration had already tried to choke off Iranian oil exports following Iran's first-ever strike on Israel in mid-April by imposing sanctions that would penalize financial institutions, tankers, ports, and refineries involved in oil trade with the Islamic Republic. However, efforts to curb Iran's oil sales have so far fallen flat. According to data from monitoring and analytics firms, sanctions introduced in April utterly failed to make a dent in Iran's oil exports.

Last year, Iran shipped an average 1.46 million barrels per day and after the Biden administration's sanctions came into effect in April, Iranian barrels were still forcing their way into the global market.

Iran's daily oil exports even surged to 1.7 million bpd between July and September, according to Vortexa, an international consultancy that monitors tanker flows. Belgian analytics group Kpler put the sales in September at 1.83 million bpd, making it a bumper month when the exports hit a six-year high.

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Iran to rethink nuclear doctrine if Israeli threats continue

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Non-oil exports to Russia up by 12%



Economy Desk

Iran's non-oil exports to Russia posted a considerable rise, with a 12% surge in value and a 20% jump in weight during the first six months of the Iranian calendar year (March 20 - September 21), compared to the same period last year, the Islamic Republic Customs Administration (IRCA) said on Sunday.

The IRCA latest figures showed that Iran's non-oil exports to Russia raked in \$494 million and tipped the scales at 1.3 million metric tons in first half of the year, IRNA reported. Greenhouse pepper, polystyrene, and unshelled pistachios were as the top export earners, accounting for 5.9%, 5.8%, and 4.9% of the total export value during the time-span.

The IRCA report also pointed out that the Astara customs office in the northwest handled 32% of the total exports which made it the busiest customs point for trade with Russia.

Meanwhile, foreign transit from Russia picked up steam, with a 17% increase weight-wise in the first half, totaling 526,000 metric tons. However, transit to Russia has taken a hit, plummeting 18% to 56,000 metric tons during the same period.

Iran censures US sanctions on energy sector as 'ransom' to Israel

Economy Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned on Sunday the new round of US sanctions targeting the country's oil industry as a "ransom" to the Israeli regime following the Islamic Republic's retaliatory operation against the occupied territories earlier in the month.

Esmail Baghaei said in a statement that the bans are "illegal and unjustified" after the US Treasury Department slapped Iran with a spate of new sanctions on a number of companies in the country's oil and petrochemical industry as a response to Tehran's October 1 attack against Tel Aviv.

Baghaei underscored Iran's missile operation as a legal action under international law and in line with the exercise of the inherent right of self-defense.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman censured the US move to impose sanctions against several companies and ships over what Washington claimed to be involve-

ment in the transfer of Iranian oil products, and termed it as a "form of ransom to the rogue Israeli regime."

"Imposing sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran under the guise of supporting the Zionist regime, besides creating the international responsibility for the US government, will make the occupying regime more aggressive to continue killing innocents and pose a threat to the peace and security of the region and the world," he said.

"The US regime's addiction to the policy of threats and maximum pressure against the Iranian people will not affect the will of the Islamic Republic of Iran to defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interests, and its citizens against any violation and foreign aggression," Baghaei added.

The US Treasury Department on Friday designated 10 companies and 17 vessels as blocked property, claiming they were involved in shipments of Iranian oil and petrochemical products.



Esmail Baghaei

The department said that the sanctions are designed to intensify financial pressure on Iran, including by limiting its ability to earn the energy revenue it uses to help resistance movements across West Asia.

On October 1, Iran launched a barrage of missiles toward the Zionist entity's military intelligence and spying bases over the regime's recent acts of aggression. Dubbed Operation True Prom-

ise 2, the daring attack came in response to the regime's assassinations of Hamas's chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

Domestic firm raises output at Jufeyr oilfield



Oil production has further increased in an Iranian oilfield where a domestic company has been in charge of develop-

ment works for the past couple of years, Press TV reported. CEO of Pasargad Energy Development Company (PEDC) said

on Saturday that the firm had launched a sixth well at Jufeyr oilfield in Iran's southwestern province of Khuzestan.

Ahmad Mohammadi said that the new well will increase oil production at Jufeyr by 3,000 barrels per day (bpd).

Mohammadi said production from the new well will increase by another 1,000 bpd in the very near future, adding that the technicians were working to stabilize output from the well.

He said the company had mostly relied on equipment sourced from domestic suppliers to make the well oper-

ational.

The increase in production at Jufeyr comes more than seven months after the PEDC, a subsidiary of Iran's Bank Pasargad, started pumping 50,000 bpd of oil from the field.

Jufeyr is located just 30 kilometers from Azadegan, the largest of several oil reserves to the west of Karun River which are shared between Iran and Iraq.

Iran has introduced plans to ramp up output from oilfields shared with Iraq as the Arab country continues to invest heavily on its side of the oil reserve.

The expansion of production at Jufeyr comes amid Iran's growing efforts to rely more on domestic technology and know-how to develop its giant petroleum industry amid sanctions that restrict the presence of foreign companies in the sector.

Domestic contractors have been in charge of development works at oil and gas fields across Iran, especially in the oil-rich Khuzestan and in various phases of the South Pars, the world's largest gas field which straddles the Iran-Qatar maritime border in the Persian Gulf.

Biden's sanctions on ...

The monthly jump indicated that those sanctions were whatsoever able to stem the flow of Iranian crude.

The latest round of bans is unlikely to put the brakes on Iran's oil sales and is expected to suffer a similar fate for a string of reasons. According to former Iranian oil minister Javad Owji, Iran delivers crude oil and condensate to 17 countries, including clients in Europe. However, China appears to be the largest buyer, accounting for more than 90% of Iran's exports.

Small, private refineries in eastern China, known as "teapots," are the main customers of Iranian oil. The teapots stepped in to fill the gap left by China's state-owned energy giants, which had dropped out of the Iranian oil trade in 2018, fearing US reprisals in the wake of sanctions on the Iranian petroleum industry. The tiny refineries operate outside of the US financial

jurisdiction and have nothing to do with it. Therefore, they are unfazed by the threat of US penalties. Moreover, the generous discounts that Iran offers to its oil buyers - although a few dollars per barrel according to Iranian officials - always tempt them to take on the risk in order to benefit from Iran's relatively cheap oil. According to Tanker Trackers, a website focused on the oil trade at sea, around 400 vessels, known as the "ghost fleet" are involved in carrying Iranian fuel to its customers to circumvent the illegal sanctions. How can the US blacklisting of 23 of them interrupt the Iranian oil business?

Moreover, the penalties levied on non-complying tankers are limited to a two-year ban on entering US ports, which cannot be a major deterrent given that many of these vessels are already operating outside of the US sphere of influence. In fact, since Russia and Venezuela, two of the

world's largest oil producers, are also subject to US sanctions, there are millions of barrels of sanctioned oil available for transportation every day, ensuring that the so-called "ghost fleet" will always have a steady supply of oil to deliver and will never sit idle.

Let's assume that the US is genuine in cracking down on tankers carrying Iranian oil. If this is the case, the US faces a daunting task in identifying ghost tankers as they often switch off their transponders to go unnoticed. That's why they are also called the "dark fleet." They go dark by turning off the automatic identification systems (AIS), which provide locations of vessels, to avoid being tracked.

To throw anyone off their trail, dark vessels also often offload their Iranian crude onto another tanker in the middle of the ocean to blend it with that ship's cargo to conceal its origin. The ship-to-ship tactic usually takes place off the United Arab

Emirates, Oman, Malaysia, and Singapore.

It can be inferred that the Biden administration is only going through the motions with its sanctions and is just trying to give the impression that it is tough on Iran while actually having no intention of seriously blocking the country's "illicit" oil trade.

The loss of Iranian oil from the market in an election year when Biden's Vice President Kamala Harris is going to lock horns with the architect of Iranian oil sanctions, Donald Trump, could lead to a spike in oil and by extension a hike in gasoline prices in the US. This is the last thing the Democratic camp wants, as it is highly unpopular with American voters and could cost them a significant number of votes on November 5.

It is no surprise that Biden came out strongly against the idea of Israel striking Iran's oil infrastructure in retaliation for the October 1 missile attack.

Gov't to double tax exemption for small businesses

Economy Desk

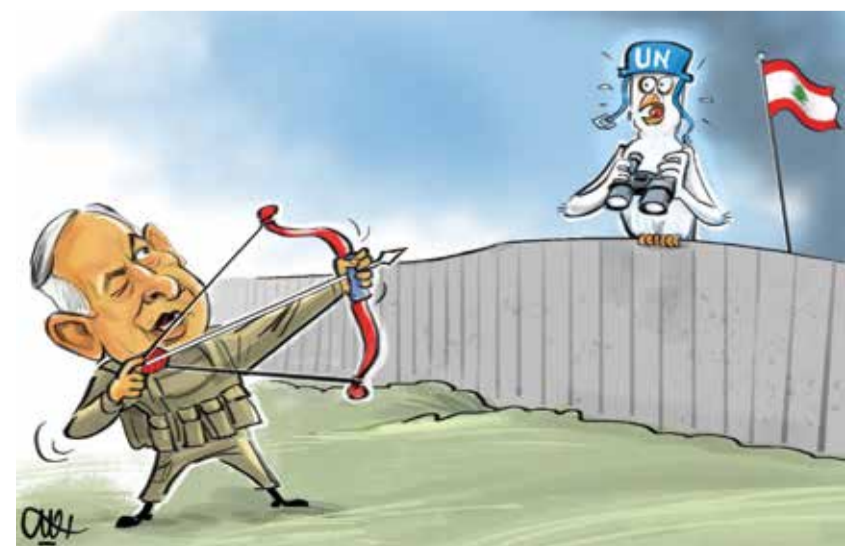
The Iranian government plans to double income tax exemption for small businesses, Economy Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati said on Sunday.

Hemmati wrote on his X

account that small businesses with an annual income of 2 billion rials (around \$3,330) would be exempted from paying taxes in the coming Persian calendar year starting on March 21, 2025.

The new threshold will be

included in the next year's budget plan which will become law once it clears Parliament. Hemmati said the tax break was a fulfillment of President Masoud Pezeshkian's campaign promise to shore up small businesses.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Nature's resilience in Varamin's tree-lined road



Iranica Desk

The Varamin plain, located in the southeastern part of Tehran Province, sits on the edge of Iran's central desert and is characterized by a hot, dry climate. During the searing summers, temperatures can soar between 40 to 50 degrees Celsius, making survival challenging for all living beings, particularly delicate flora such as trees. Mohammad Reza Tajik, the head of Varamin's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, wrote in a note that the ancient trees dotting the fertile Varamin plain have become a major attraction, drawing

both Iranian and international visitors despite the severe crises of heat and water scarcity they currently face. What has transformed this desert-bordering land into a radiant gem is the tree-lined road leading to a tourist village named Khaveh, situated east of the city of Varamin. Khaveh is recognized for its diverse historical, architectural, religious, and natural attractions, making it a prime destination for tourists. This road, noted as the longest tree-lined avenue in both the Varamin plain and even Tehran Province, features a heavenly

corridor lined with ancient European ash trees (known as *Zabaan Gonjeshk* in Persian). It stretches approximately two kilometers and is home to around 3,000 uniformly planted trees. According to village elders, these trees were planted in 1931 by Hajj Agha Mohammad Masoumi and the local villagers. At that time, with access to qanat water and later motor pump water, many trees were planted by school students, each named after an individual student who pledged to care for their tree for life. They promised to replace any tree that dried out or broke with a new sapling. As the surviving students age, they

still feel compelled to protect the tree-lined road they once nurtured. In recent years, a new road has been constructed alongside the original entrance, serving as an exit, thanks to the efforts of the village council and local residents. The addition of new saplings promises to enhance the beauty of this avenue in the years to come. Currently, this road is among the most significant historical, natural, and rural attractions in Varamin and Khaveh village. The presence of a traditional water mill nearby has made it a popular filming location for various cinematic and television

productions, attracting countless domestic and international tourists each year. A unique feature of this tree-lined road, unlike any other in Varamin's social and agricultural history, is the community practice of agricultural water vows. Since the trees were planted, channels and ditches have been constructed on both sides of the road, allowing farmers to willingly share water from their agricultural fields. This collaboration ensures that the thirsty trees receive the necessary hydration while contributing to the area's ecological restoration. The annual celebration of *Sizdah Bedar* (Day of Nature) in

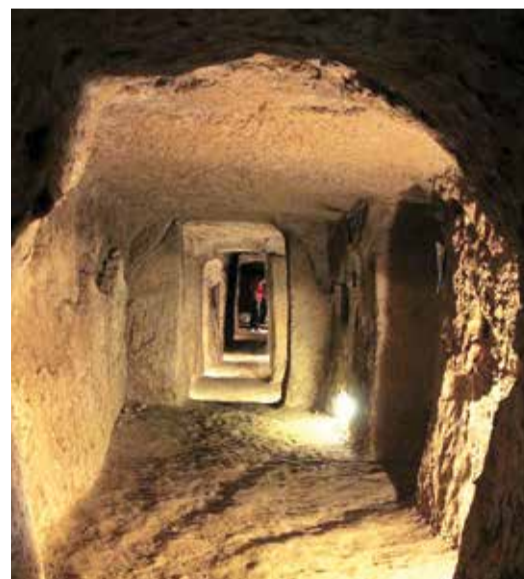
April showcases the road's significance. On this day, urban residents and villagers gather along its edges, setting up camps, performing traditional music, and preparing local dishes such as local *aash* (a thick soup) and fire-brewed tea. Celebrations continue until sunset, filled with local games and festivities that honor this cherished occasion. It is hoped that registering this natural attraction on Iran's National Heritage List through the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ministry will position Varamin as one of the leaders in preserving the county's historical and cultural identity.

Hand-carved architecture of Nushabad Underground City is astonishing

Iranica Desk

It may seem fanciful to think that one of the capitals of the Sassanid Empire has remained untouched, yet an underground city was discovered in Isfahan Province about 20 years ago, and it has now become one of its most astonishing attractions. The Nushabad is regarded as one of the largest underground cities and the largest hand-carved architectural works in the world. This is why flights to Kashan and travel to this ancient land are popular among foreign tourists. If you want to wander through the intricate narrow tunnels of this uninhabited underground city and embark on an unparalleled adventure, head to the region. Discovered accidentally in 2004, the Nushabad Underground City has since become one of the region's most astonishing attractions. The ancient area, which is considered one of the largest hand-carved structures in the world, is located about seven kilometers north of Kashan and has been settled beneath the current fabric of Nushabad city for over 1,500 years. Previously, Kashan's historical significance was known through the ancient hills of Sialk and the inscriptions on the minarets of its mosques. However, since the entrance to its underground world was discovered, visitors from around the globe have come to witness the remarkable craftsmanship of its past inhabitants. Nushabad was one of the capitals of the Sassanids during the reign of Anushirvan and served as a refuge for people during the Mongol invasions, although floods have destroyed many parts of the city. The underground city was discovered by a person digging a well at home, and two years later, it was registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

The hand-carved architecture of the Nushabad Underground City is astonishing in its uniqueness, attracting enthusiasts, historians, and archaeologists alike. Experts believe that the hard soil composition in this region likely necessitated the use of diamond-tipped tools for excavation. When you witness the vastness of the Nushabad Underground City, which was even larger in the past, it becomes clear why this architecture is considered unparalleled. The robust structures of the underground city extend both vertically and horizontally. These dense and expansive networks consist of intricate tunnels, rooms, wells, and numerous channels arranged across three levels, with depths ranging from 4 to 16 meters. However, the entrance to the city is below human height, requiring visitors to bend down while traversing the narrow one-person tunnels to reach the interior sections. The first level features tunnels designed to mislead enemies, while the second and third levels served as living quarters, food storage, and shelters for the inhabitants. The artifacts discovered in the Nushabad Underground City indicate that people made significant use of this underground shelter during the Mongol and Timurid invasions. While the underground city does not maintain particularly cool air, it can be visited year-round, regardless of weather conditions. Generally, the three spring months and the autumn season are considered the best times to explore its attractions, as visitors can escape both the scorching summer heat and the biting winter cold. Additionally, in May, a traditional rosewater extraction festival takes place, but during this period, you may encounter crowds and large gatherings of people.



irangard.com





By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

A member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, referring to the fact that Zionist adventurism against Iran puts Israel at risk, emphasized, "If Zionist crimes and threats by the regime and its supporters against us continue, the Islamic Republic will seriously review its nuclear doctrine."



When we see a regime using its military might against civilians, engaging in mass killings, and committing crimes against humanity, effectively carrying out genocide, the Islamic Republic is compelled to change its nuclear doctrine.

Iran to rethink nuclear doctrine if Israeli threats continue

In an interview with Iran Daily, Abbas Golrou added: "The Iranian Parliament is carefully examining the situation, and if Zionist crimes in Lebanon and Gaza continue unabated, and the international community remains silent, and if threats against the Islamic Republic persist, we will be forced to beef up our power-balancing tools, and naturally, our nuclear doctrine is one of them."

He noted, "The parliament and the people's representatives will undoubtedly ask the relevant authorities to seriously review our nuclear doctrine, as we are living in an era where unprecedented crimes are being committed against nations."

"If a war breaks out between armed forces, one side will inevitably emerge victorious, and the other will be defeated, or both sides will suffer the consequences of war. However, when we see a regime using its military might against civilians, engaging in mass killings, and committing crimes against humanity, effectively carrying out genocide, the Islamic Republic is compelled to change its nuclear doctrine," Golrou added.

In response to a question about how the nuclear doctrine would change, he said, "This issue has its own process and related matters, such as the NPT, nuclear agreements, and our parliamentary law on nuclear issues, which we need to amend."

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons or NPT is a cornerstone international agreement aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the dissemination of nuclear technology, fostering cooperation in the



peaceful application of nuclear energy, and advancing the ultimate goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and comprehensive disarmament.

Danger of escalation

The parliamentarian, warning about the spread of conflicts in the region, emphasized, "Today, Americans more than anyone else understand both the danger and the negative consequences of the escalation of conflicts and war in the region."

Referring to Israel's recent response to Israel, he said, the country's response "to Zionist aggression, as our military commanders and experts say, was just a military test and a slap on the wrist. But if we assume that the full capacity of the Islamic

Republic and the Resistance Axis is unleashed against the Zionist regime, we'll see what happens in the region and what becomes of the Zionist regime." Iranian military on October 1 launched a direct attack on Israel, firing 180 long-range ballistic missiles with at least 90 percent of them hitting the intended targets. The operation - dubbed Operation True Promise II - came in response to the assassinations of top resistance leaders, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah of Hezbollah, Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas and Abbas Nilforoushan of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC). Following Iran's massive launch of a barrage of ballistic missiles against Israel, the Tel Aviv regime has time and again vowed to launch a retaliatory



Abbas Golrou

attack against the Islamic Republic.

Golrou said, "I'm only mentioning one scenario because I'm not a military expert, but certainly only a small percentage of the Islamic Republic of Iran's military capability was used in this operation against the Zionists."

He stressed, "War, first and foremost, has negative consequences for all parties involved, and its

A projectile is seen in the sky after Iran fired a salvo of ballistic missiles, as seen from Tel Aviv on Oct. 1, 2024.

REUTERS

continuation and escalation in the region will cripple the global economy, as many of the world's energy routes, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab-el-Mandeb, pass through our region, and the escalation of war will lead to insecurity throughout the region."

"War is also detrimental to regional countries that have close ties with the United States and are pursuing economic development. Essentially, a widespread war has far-reaching consequences for all parties involved, and therefore, no one welcomes war. However, if an incident occurs that leads to further escalation of the war in the region, the Zionist regime's very existence will be at risk."

Netanyahu driving Jews to brink of disaster

The MP said that the Zionist regime, with [Benjamin] Netanyahu at the helm, are driving the people of the occupied territories and Jewish immigrants to the edge of the cliff. Of course, the Jews themselves have realized this, and recently, in synagogues, they have questioned the prime minister's actions, putting him under pressure, saying, he is putting Israel at risk.

Back in April, the IRGC also launched extensive missile and drone strikes on the Israel. The series of retaliatory strikes - dubbed Operation True Promise - inflicted damage on Israeli military bases across the occupied lands.



A man uses his mobile phone as flames and smoke rise at the scene of buildings hit by an Israeli airstrike in central Beirut, Lebanon, on Oct. 10, 2024.

BILAL HUSSEIN/AP

By Mitchell Plitnick
Author & journalist

OPINION

In a welcome, but under-reported, development last week, Arab states from the [Persian] Gulf Cooperation Council reportedly "sought to reassure Iran of their neutrality" in the brewing conflict between Iran and Israel.

The stance was expressed by Arab ministers to their Iranian counterparts at a meeting last week in Doha. It was not a formal, public declaration, but rather a commitment expressed in the meetings directly. Initially, reports—particularly the main one from Reuters on which much of the other reporting was based—also said that the Persian Gulf states had explicitly stated that they would forbid the United States from using their airbases to attack Iran, although more recent and updated reports have mysteriously omitted this point. Still, neutrality does mean forbidding their airbases and territory to be used to launch an attack on Iran. It is important not to overstate the significance of this promise; it was expressed privately, though reported publicly, and it was verbal, not written. So it doesn't carry the full weight of a formal commitment.

Still, the promise is significant, particularly in light of the total inaction, beyond empty rhetoric, from the Arab leadership since the Israeli genocide in Gaza began. The ongoing exchange of threats, as opposed to an exchange of fire, between Israel and Iran, with the Israelis in ongoing discussions with the United States about it, implies that the Arab commitment has had some effect. American efforts to start ceasefire talks with Iran, while no more than political theater, also demonstrate the effect Arab efforts toward de-escalation have had.

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As Israel expands its war to Lebanon and is threatening Iran as well, there are important signs that Arab states in the region are finally stepping in to prevent a broader regional war. Will the Biden administration listen?

Arab states are coming together to prevent a regional war, will US listen?

US left Arab states with no choice

Although the United States has enabled Israeli crimes for decades, there was usually some effort to draw a line when Israeli action posed too grave a threat to "regional stability" or American interests. Even Donald Trump acted, albeit in a horribly misguided and counter-productive way, when he wanted to stop the cabinet of Benjamin Netanyahu from formally annexing the West Bank during his presidency.

But Joe Biden has completely abandoned such efforts. There are many reasons for this, including Biden's deeply held and self-declared Zionism, his utter and inhuman disregard for Palestinian lives, and his general weakness as a leader. Another factor, too rarely discussed in the media, but very significant, has been the absence of pressure from the Arab leadership. As the analyst Mouin Rabbani has often pointed out, Arab leaders, particularly the Saudis, have often, in the past, pushed American presidents to rein Israel in when Israeli actions were making matters too difficult for them, potentially straining US-Arab relations.

That hasn't happened with Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza. There have been public statements, but these are to be expected, and they have been limited to objections and condemnations, without any implied threat of consequences.

Without direct contact with the White House or some signal that there is a potential problem for American interests, there is no reason for an American president to worry, knowing that Saudi and other Arab leaders need to make such public statements in support of Palestinians under siege whether or not they are genuinely concerned about it.

The fact that these reassurances to Iran were made public is a much clearer signal to the White House that the Persian Gulf states do not want to see Israel and the United States start a regional war. More than that, they are also a signal that the relationship with the US is suffering a serious blow right now. Arab states have every interest in regional stability, regardless of their concerns about Iran, and this is a concern that Washington and Israel have severely underestimated.

The power of Arab states standing firm on these matters should not be taken lightly. When a US-allied Arab state takes a firm stand, it has a visible impact. Consider, for example, Egypt. In the midst of the Gaza genocide, Israel was pursuing a strategy of forcing the people of Gaza south, hoping that the buildup of people would force a substantial number to flee into the Sinai Peninsula and become Egypt's problem.

Egypt was worried they might not be able to stop Israel's plan, so they decided to construct what was basically a huge makeshift penitentiary in which to house Gaza refugees. But they were committed to stopping this Israeli scheme if they possibly could. At first, they tried to voice their strong objections through public statements and

by communicating directly to Israel and to Washington that this would not be tolerated. Ultimately, Egypt warned the US and Israel that if Israel persisted in pursuing this plan, it would endanger the Camp David Accords. Israel backed off. It's remarkable what a threat can do when you mean it.

The United Arab Emirates could do the same with the Abraham Accords. This deal, which was struck between Israel and the UAE, with Bahrain also signing on and, later, Morocco (Sudan also signed on, but the official signing is overwhelmingly opposed in the country and the civil war there has put the agreement on hold), is held up as a prime example of "peacemaking" between Israel and the Arab world. It is, of course, nothing of the kind. Instead, it is an agreement to normalize relations between an apartheid regime, Israel, and two of the Arab world's most brutal dictatorships, the

Times last week that represented the strongest statement by far from the Kingdom since October 7. He called a Palestinian state a prerequisite for peace and explicitly stated that self-defense was not motivating Israel's aggression. He even calling for real accountability for Israel.

"But merely recognizing Palestine is not enough. We must demand more accountability in line with International Court of Justice opinions. This includes the implementation of UN resolutions, the imposition of punitive measures against those that work to undermine Palestinian statehood and incentives for those who support it," he wrote.

As strong a statement as that is compared to most of what has come from Saudi Arabia over the past year, it is bolstered by the visit this week of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Aragh-

But as Israel has expanded the war to Lebanon, and is obviously trying to bring Iran in as well, there are some stirrings of a limit to what the US will support. Attacks on Hezbollah are widely applauded in Washington, as the group is responsible for one of the largest attacks on American forces in history. That is not forgotten in DC. But the concerns about regional war are now coming to the fore in a new way.

If the US ever did object to Israel's behavior, Benjamin Netanyahu can thumb its nose at Biden in Gaza, and even to an extent in Lebanon, because these places are either under Israeli occupation or right on its borders. Even if offensive weapons stopped flowing tomorrow, Israel has enough firepower to continue those attacks for a while. In any case, the weapons will continue to flow, and Israel has no need of on-the-ground

American assistance to carry out those atrocities.

But Iran is a very different proposition. Israel can pull off targeted assassinations and some missile or drone attacks, but to really attack Iran, they need the United States. It was, therefore, significant that Biden made it clear that the US would not support a strike on Iranian nuclear sites, and, while not ruling it out, is "discouraging" Israel from hitting Iran's oil fields.

The fact that Israel has taken this long to strike Iran is likely an indication that they are trying to find a response that the US will support, meaning they are thinking about a big strike that will hurt Iran and are trying to find one that the United States will not only tolerate but will help with, at least with intelligence and logistics.

As was reported last month, some of Biden's closest advisers were salivating at the prospect of engaging Iran. Given that and the relish with which Biden and his team have greeted Israel's attacks on Hezbollah, despite the fact that they surely understood that this risked leading to a regional war, it is reasonable to believe that Persian Gulf Arab concerns played a significant role in deterring Washington from supporting a potentially destabilizing Israeli attack on Iran.

In the bigger picture, this reflects the bankruptcy of US policy in the region. Some of the [P]GCC states that declared their neutrality, such as Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar, routinely try to build bridges between themselves and Iran. But Saudi Arabia and the UAE have much stronger connections to the United States, and this heightens tensions that exist for a wide variety of other reasons between them and the Islamic Republic.

Saudi and Emirati resistance to a strike on Iran should be good news, and it is for anyone who genuinely wants to see peace in the Middle East. But the Biden administration's hawks are seeing their plans frustrated by the Saudi and Emirati effort to stave off a regional war. In the long term, healing the Arab-Iranian rift is absolutely essential for regional stability and peace. Yet it is also a key requirement for what any reasonable person should see as American foreign policy goals: investing less money, military, and diplomatic resources in the Middle East and regional stability.

Israel, of course, doesn't see it that way, even though improving Arab-Iranian relations only makes it more likely that Israelis can find a way to assimilate into the region, provided they end their occupation, genocide, and apartheid policies. That, of course, helps many Israelis, but is counter to the interests of the Israeli regime.

Sadly, American foreign policy continues to reflect the priorities of the Israeli government rather than the people of the entire region. There should be no higher foreign policy priority than changing this outlook for the next American administration, as unlikely as that may seem to be right now.

The full article first appeared on [Mondoweiss](#).



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and US President Joe Biden during the Jeddah Security and Development Summit at a hotel in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah on July 16, 2022.
SAUDI PRESS AGENCY
via APA IMAGES

UAE and Bahrain. Morocco already had de facto relations with Israel, and the agreement just formalized and expanded it, with Morocco getting American recognition of its claim to Western Sahara as a bribe.

The UAE is the key party here, and they could have used the threat of withdrawing from the Abraham Accords to pressure Israel to curb its genocide in Gaza. Israel and the Biden administration place great value on the normalization with the UAE, so the UAE could have used it to convince Washington to pressure Israel, which could have combined with Israel's own concern about losing this valuable relationship. Biden has been desperate to expand the Accords, and has failed to do so. If they had been reversed under his watch, it would have been a huge blow to him. Maybe it would have worked, maybe it would not have. We'll never know because the UAE never even considered trying.

By the same token, Saudi Arabia could also have done a lot more to push the Biden administration. Their Foreign Minister, Faisal Bin Farhan al Saud, published an Op-Ed in the Financial

chi to Riyadh, a sign of the growing rapprochement between the two countries. While many tensions remain between Saudi Arabia and Iran, it is clear that the Saudis no longer trust the United States to maintain security in the region and are working with Iran to de-escalate the current tensions and address the long-term ones.

A bankrupt US strategy

With Biden's and Netanyahu's genocide now a full year old, the horrific crime against the Palestinians and all of humanity that is being committed is clearly not a moral issue for Western or Arab leaders. Yet one would think perceived national interests might come into play at some point for Washington, as it now has for the Saudis and Emiratis.

It has been clear from the outset that any concerns the Biden administration might have over the genocide were far below the threshold for American action. The absolute lack of value that Palestinian lives have in the eyes of Biden, Antony Blinken, Lloyd Austin, Kamala Harris, Jake Sullivan and the rest of this administration is clear.

AFC Women's Champions League

Jafari credits Bam Khatoon resilience for historic win



AFC



AFC

Head coach Marziyeh Jafari praised Bam Khatoon's resilience after they sealed a 2-1 win over Thailand's College of Asian Scholars in their AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25 Group B tie on Saturday. The Iranian side's triumph was sealed in dramatic fashion with Zahra Ghanbari scoring the winner in the second minute of added time, the AFC reported on Sunday. "It was very difficult for us to play against a motivated

Thai team, especially with the support they had from the fans, but we showed everyone that we can be one of the best teams in Asia," said Jafari. "I want to express my gratitude to our president for his kind support and to the players as well. "We analysed College of Asian Scholars after we conceded that last-minute goal against Kaya FC-Iloilo (on Matchday Two). I spoke to the players, and they were motivated to get the points,

win the game, and create history for Iran women's football." Defeat meant College of Asian Scholars were eliminated with head coach Nuengrutai Srathongvian expressing disappointment. "Our team did our best, but the opponents performed better than us," said Nuengrutai. "We had our chances, but we couldn't capitalise on them. We want to thank the fans for showing their support. Some of the players

are still studying, and we will go back, develop, and come back stronger." "We had our chances, but we couldn't capitalise on them. We want to thank the fans for showing their support. Some of the players

"It was a great performance from us. We started the match well and capitalised on a few early chances, which got us under control. I thought they posed a few problems on the counter-attack," said Matricciani. "We dominated the match in both halves. In the second half, it was a bit difficult to unlock them and create extra chances. "Overall, it was a great effort, though there are still a lot of things to improve. I'm very happy with how

the last three games turned out." Kaya head coach Let Dimzon expressed disappointment after a difficult first half saw her side concede three goals, which ultimately led to their defeat. "It was a heartbreaking first half for us after we conceded three goals from set-pieces. In the second half, we were able to address all the problems in the middle, but I'm still happy we managed to hold on and not concede any

more goals," said Dimzon. "I'm not happy with the result, and there's disappointment, but the adjustments we made after halftime helped keep them at bay. The lessons we've learned today are ones we need to work on and study for future games." Bam Khatoon and Melbourne City will have to wait for the knockout stage draw, set to take place on January 16, to learn their quarter-final opponents.

Persian Wolf close but not cigar

Choopan comes second at Mr. Olympia 2024

Iranian bodybuilder Hadi Choopan placed second at the Mr. Olympia 2024 competition. The bodybuilding world crowned a first-time Mr. Olympia champion Saturday in Las Vegas as Samson Dauda bested one of the most unpredictable fields in recent memory to secure the career-defining victory. The win came after several callouts from officials who wanted to take every possible moment to ensure they had made a final decision and selected the right winner.

The 32-year-old was also named the People's Champion of this year's event, an award reserved for the athlete receiving the most fan votes. Accompanying the first-place medal and people's champion trophy and belt was the largest payday for a winner in event history in the form of an announced \$600,000 check. Hadi Choopan, the runner-up for the second year in a row, received \$250,000. For the Iranian bodybuilder, it was a second disappoint-

ing outing at the event. Realistically, the 2022 champion was one or two judges' decisions away from being a three-time champion and etching his name in the history books as the most decorated champion since the end of Phil Heath's run of dominance. Instead, he continued what has become a career of "close but no cigar" moments that also saw him finish third twice (2019, 2021) and fourth (2020). The 2023 winner, Derek Lunsford, failed to success-

fully defend his title and finished third in this year's event. It marks the third year in a row that the defending champion has not repeated, a testament to the depth of the sport right now and the quality of legitimate contenders to the Mr. Olympia title. Martin Fitzwater, another fan-favorite in the event, finished in fourth place and provided fans with a look at an athlete who may well be a force in the sport in the coming months and years.



Female karateka wins bronze at world championship

Female Iranian karateka Yalda Naqi-Beiranvand claimed the bronze medal at the 13th World Karate Federation (WKF) Junior and Youth World Championship. The under-15 Iranian karateka fought for the bronze medal on Sunday, as with the result of 6-0, she defeated Moroccan karate player Reem Douari and won the bronze medal in this competition, IRNA reported. The 13th World Karate Federation (WKF) Junior and Youth World Championship was held in Venice, Italy. This event took place on October 9-13.



IRNA

Djokovic beats Fritz to set up Shanghai final with Sinner

Novak Djokovic moved a step closer to his 100th ATP title when he beat American seventh seed Taylor Fritz 6-4 7-6 in the Shanghai Masters semi-finals to set up a title decider against top-ranked Jannik Sinner. Earlier on Saturday, Sinner secured the year-end world number one ranking by beating Czech 30th seed Tomas Machac 6-4 7-5 and becoming the first Italian to reach the final, Reuters reported. Djokovic, the 24-times Grand Slam champion, will play his fifth final in the tournament's history, looking to claim his 100th ATP title as well as his fifth Shanghai Masters crown.



REUTERS

Araghchi: Iran not seeking war but ready for war situation

Baghdad against use of own airspace against Tehran: *Iraqi FM*

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said his country is not seeking war but is ready for a "war situation" amid Israel's threats of retaliation for Iran's recent missile attack on its military sites.

"We are fully prepared for a war situation. We are not afraid of war, but we do not want war, we want peace and we will work for a just peace in Gaza and Lebanon," he said during a joint press conference with Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein in Baghdad.

Araghchi warned that the possibility of new conflict and rising tensions in the region has increased, stressing that all tensions in the region are rooted in the Israel's crimes which the regime first committed in

Gaza, then in Lebanon and may spread in other regional countries.

The Iranian foreign minister said that the attacks by the Israeli regime should be countered and its strikes in Gaza and Lebanon must be stopped.

Araghchi also in a post on X said Iran has "no red lines" in defending itself.

"While we have made tremendous efforts in recent days to contain an all-out war in our region, I say it clearly that we have no red lines in defending our people and interests," Araghchi said.

The Iraqi foreign minister, for his part, said Baghdad was against a regional war spreading to Iran.

"The continuation of the war and its expansion towards the Islamic Republic of Iran and (Israel's) exploita-

tion of Iraqi airspace as a corridor is completely unacceptable and rejected," Hussein said.

He said Baghdad had earlier warned about the consequences of Israeli regime's aggression against Lebanon, adding that the continuation of the conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon has threatened the security and stability of the region.

Hussein said the Israeli regime has threatened to target specific bases in Iran. He said such threats are aimed at dragging Iraq into the war.

He emphasized that his country is in contact with its friends to "push the phantom of war away from the region and Iraq."

Iran fired 200 ballistic missiles towards sensitive military and intelligence targets across the occupied



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) and his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein attend a joint press conference in Baghdad, Iraq on October 13, 2024.

● MURTAJA LATEEF/AFP



Palestinian territories on October 1 in response to the regime's deadly atrocities against the country and other regional territories and the assassinations of resistance leaders. Since then, Israel has repeatedly threatened that it will respond to Iran's attack.

The Iranian foreign minister also held separate talks with the Iraqi prime minister and president during his visit to Iraq.

Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani emphasized that Baghdad's

priority is to stop Israel's military aggression against Gaza and Lebanon.

Sudani said that Iraq, with the cooperation of international friends and partners, especially the European Union countries, is making all its efforts to stop the war.

He added that the Iraqi government had previously warned about Israel's plans to expand the war in the region.

Araghchi expressed Iran's appreciation for Iraq's efforts in promoting peace and sending relief aids to

those affected in Gaza and Lebanon. He stated that his visit aims to enhance coordination and consultation on the ongoing situation, confirming that Iran aligns with Iraq's endeavors to prevent the war from escalating.

UNIFIL: Israeli forces crossed Blue Line, 'destroyed' main base gate



Sunday to move peacekeepers deployed in south Lebanon out of "harm's way", claiming Hezbollah was using them as "human shields".

"Mr Secretary General, get the UNIFIL forces out of harm's way. It should be done right now, immediately," Netanyahu said in a video statement issued by his office.

UNIFIL has refused to leave its positions in southern Lebanon.

"There was a unanimous decision to stay because it's important for the UN flag to still fly high in this region, and to be able to report to the Security Council," UNIFIL spokesman Andrea Tenenti told AFP in an interview on Saturday.

Forty countries contributing to the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon demand an immediate halt to Israel's attacks on peacekeepers.

UNIFIL is tasked with monitoring a cease-fire that ended a 33-day war in 2006 between Israel and Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah. It was first established as an interim force in 1978 to confirm Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Hezbollah and Israeli army have been exchanging fire since last October, when the Israeli regime began bringing Gaza under a genocidal war. Israeli attacks on Lebanon have claimed the lives of more than 2,000 Lebanese so far.

nel and property" at the Lebanon border, the force said after the latest attack.

"Breaching and entering a UN position is a further flagrant violation of international law and Security Council resolution 1701," UNIFIL said in a statement.

On Saturday, Israeli soldiers "stopped a critical UNIFIL logistical movement near Mais al-Jabal, denying it passage", the force said, referring to an area in south Lebanon.

A UNIFIL spokesman said that the mission would stay in place despite five of its peacekeepers being wounded and damage to their facilities in Israel's war on Lebanon.

UNIFIL said Israeli tank fire on Thursday caused two Indonesian peacekeepers to fall off a watch tower in Naqura. The following day it said explosions close to an observation tower in Naqura wounded two Sri Lankan Blue Helmets.

On Saturday UNIFIL said a peacekeeper in Naqura "was hit by gunfire" on Friday night.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the UN chief Antonio Guterres on

International Desk

The United Nations said Israeli tanks burst through the gates of its peacekeeping force base in southern Lebanon after three platoons of Israeli soldiers crossed the Blue Line.

The UN peacekeepers said in a statement two Israeli army Merkava tanks "destroyed" their main gate and "forcibly entered the position" while peacekeepers were asleep.

"The tanks left about 45 minutes later after UNIFIL protested through our liaison mechanism, saying [the Israeli military] presence was putting peacekeepers in danger," it said.

Peacekeepers also reported several rounds being fired about 100 meters (328 feet) north of their position in what appeared to be an attack with some sort of chemical agent.

"Despite putting on protective masks, 15 peacekeepers suffered effects including skin irritation and gastrointestinal reactions after the smoke entered the camp. The peacekeepers are receiving treatment."

The Israeli army must obey its "obligation to ensure the safety and security of UN person-

Speaker: Israel at its weakest position in history



International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said the Israeli regime is at its weakest position since the beginning of its exis-

tence and that is a chance for Islamic countries to put an end to the "age-old evil" in the region.

The Iranian official made the remarks in an address to an extraordinary meeting of the

Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries, which was held on the sidelines of an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Geneva on Sunday. Qalibaf said that Israel's crimes are not restricted to Gaza and Lebanon. He said that the regime, which enjoys full support of the US and certain Western countries, seeks to reach a point that can commit crimes against any Islamic leader everywhere in the Islamic world with full immunity.

Qalibaf warned that Israel wants to control all the in-

frastructures of the region, saying that the Muslim world has to take some critical steps to stop the regime before it is too late.

He also said the Muslim countries need to stop any kind of cooperation, dialogue with the regime and stop any political and economic project that would help Israel.

Israel is now trying to hide its unprecedented weaknesses behind aggressive gestures in order to prevent unity among Muslim nations, the Iranian speaker underlined.

Palestine's UN envoy: 'Genocide within genocide' going on in north Gaza

A senior Palestinian diplomat to the United Nations sounded alarm over Israel's ongoing siege of northern Gaza, in which hundreds of Palestinians have been killed over the last week and hundreds of thousands of civilian residents are either trapped or ordered to flee amid intense bombardment. As the military siege in the Jabalia refugee camp and its vicinity entered its 10th day on Sunday, Palestinian authorities said

at least 200 people have been killed since the Israeli operations began earlier this month.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that at least 17 more people were killed on Sunday morning in central and northern Gaza, including eight members of one family in the Nuseirat refugee camp as well as five people in Al-Ettesalat area west of the Jabalia refugee camp.

"What is happening in northern Gaza now is a

genocide within the genocide," Palestinian Ambassador Majed Bamyia, the deputy permanent observer to the UN, wrote on X. On Saturday, the Israel's military renewed its evacuation orders for Palestinians still living in the decimated northern half of Gaza, although many residents say the fighting and Israeli sniper fire make it impossible to leave.

Israeli military told people that the area includes parts of Gaza City's Sheikh

Radwan neighborhood and sections around Jabalia, the urban refugee camp.

It asked people living there to head south to Al-Mawasi, a coastal area of southern Gaza where hundreds of thousands of people are already displaced. A total of 84% of the territory is currently under evacuation orders, pushing civilians into ever-dwindling "humanitarian zones" which Israel has bombed regardless.

Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Flare Package for Belal Project, Tender No. 974108

First Announcement

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to Purchase of Flare Package for Belal Project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 14 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Ms.Mahabadpour with Tel:+9821-82841057 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

'Endless Clouds of Silk Road'

Iran, China showcase arts, history in joint exhibition



Arts & Culture Desk

A joint exhibition of Iranian and Chinese arts and culture, titled 'Endless Clouds of Silk Road,' kicked off on Saturday in Tehran, Iran.

The exhibition showcases a collection of cultural exchange achievements between China and Iran along the ancient Silk Road. It features paintings created by Chinese artists, manuscripts by renowned Chinese authors, and ancient coins used in Silk Road trade, IRNA wrote.

Chinese Ambassador to Iran, Cong Peiwu, attended the opening ceremony and highlighted the historical ties between the two countries. "China and Iran, as two of the world's ancient civilizations, have been communicating with each other through the Silk Road since a long time ago," he said. "Such historical ties have created a solid foundation for the two countries' present cultural



exchanges."

The envoy expressed hope that the successful holding of the exhibition will inject new vitality into China-Iran cultural exchanges, providing more support for the deepening of friendship between the two countries.

Amir Khorakian, Director of the Malek National Library and Museum, welcomed the guests and noted that Iran and China are among the few countries that can boast of a several-thousand-year-old civilization.

He emphasized that despite the long distance between the two countries, communication and relations between the Iranian and Chinese peoples have never been hindered.

Khorakian expressed his gratitude to the Shanghai Museum of Collectible Arts and the Chinese Embassy in Iran for their efforts in organizing the exhibition.

He hoped that the event would mark the beginning of a new chapter in cultural exchanges between the two countries. Hu Muqing, Director of the Shanghai

Museum of Collectible Arts, also spoke at the ceremony, highlighting the importance of cultural exchanges between China and Iran.

He noted that the Shanghai Museum has been a pioneer in promoting global cultural exchanges but also raise awareness about the Silk Road and its significance.

Muqing expressed his hope that the exhibition would not only promote cultural exchanges but also raise awareness about the Silk Road and its significance. Chinese artist Zhu Jiefeng, whose works are on display at the exhibition, explained that his goal was to showcase the cultural exchange that took place along the Silk Road.

He thanked the Chinese Embassy and the Malek National Library and Museum for showcasing his works.

Chinese Ambassador Zong Peiwu also spoke at the ceremony, describing the exhibition as a significant achievement

in international cultural exchanges.

He thanked all those who contributed to the event and highlighted the historical ties between China and Iran, which date back over 2,000 years.

Zong Peiwu noted that the exhibition showcases not only the culture of the Silk Road but also the cultural identity of both China and Iran. He emphasized that the event would promote cultural understanding and exchanges between the two countries.

Hassan Fartousi, Secretary-General of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, also attended the ceremony and expressed his delight at the event. He noted that cultural flourishing has always taken place through international exchanges and highlighted the significance of the Silk Road in promoting cultural exchange.

The exhibition will run until November 10 at the Malek National Library and Museum.

Five Persian titles featured in Munich's Int'l Youth Library's White Ravens list

Arts & Culture Desk

The International Youth Library in Munich has unveiled its 2024 White Ravens list, featuring 216 children's and young adult books from 62 countries and 44 languages. Among the selected titles, five Persian books have made it to the list.

The Persian titles include 'The Boy of the Ocean' by Mehdi Rajabi, 'The World is Traveling' by Zahra and Hanieh Shojaei, 'The Roc Girl' by Ahmad Akbarpour, 'Not Like Every Day' by Farhad Hassanzadeh, and 'Seven Immortals' by Marjan Fouladvand, ISNA reported. These titles were selected from books submitted by publishers, authors, illustrators, literary critics, and other organizations involved in children's litera-

ture in Iran between winter 2022 and spring 2023. The more titles submitted, the higher the quality of the selected books and the more diverse the list becomes.

Leila (Roya) Maktabi, curator of the Persian section at the International Youth Library, thanked all the friends and experts who contributed to the selection process and encouraged publishers, authors, and illustrators to continue submitting their latest works twice a year, in October at the Frankfurt Book Fair and in spring at the Bologna Book Fair.

The White Ravens list is one of the most



important sources in the field of children's and young adult literature, published annually by the International Youth Library. The list highlights outstanding and high-quality works from around the world, emphasizing cultural and linguistic diversity.

The primary goal of the White Ravens list is to introduce books that are valuable in terms of literature, art, and content, but may be lesser-known due to cultural or linguistic factors. The list helps publishers, teachers, and parents find books that are worth reading and can provide rich and diverse experiences for children and young adults.

Iranian music group awarded at Dubai festival

Iranian music group 'Iz' led by Parsa Khaef, a young Iranian musician, has taken the top spot at the Mehr Dubai Art Festival, which was held in Dubai from October 3 to 11.

The group, which was among the finalists to perform live at the festival, was chosen as the winner by the festival's jury. Parsa Khaef, along with his fellow musicians Araz Qassemi on Azerbaijani *tar*, Yavar Zandabadi on oud, and Reza Mohammadi on Azarbaijani *kamancheh* (an Iranian spiked fiddle), performed at the festival, Mehr News Agency reported.

The jury consisted of renowned Iranian musicians and artists, including Faraj Alipoor, Ardeshtir Kamkar, Mohammad-Mehdi Gourangi,



Maryam Gharehsu, and Mahdieh Mohammad Khani.

The first edition of the Mehr Dubai Art Festival featured various sections, including music, photography, short film, theater, poetry, Iranian cuisine, handicrafts, and more. The festival brought together selected artists from around the world to showcase their talents.



Social Desk

Iran has achieved a 75% success rate in treating patients with stem cells, according to statistics from the country's

transplant center, CEO of Royan Stem Cell Technology Company, Morteza Zarrabi, announced.

Speaking at a press conference in Ardebil, Zarrabi said that the use of stem

Iran achieves 75% success rate in stem cell treatment: *Health official*

cells in medicine has been a topic of interest in recent years, but some non-experts had made false claims about its effectiveness in treating various diseases, IRNA reported.

He added that the use of stem cells in medicine was first introduced in the early 2000s, but faced ethical challenges due to concerns about human cloning.

Zarrabi explained that not all human cells are stem cells, and that stem cells have the ability to specialize and differentiate into various cell types.

He added that there are two types of stem cells in the human body: One type produces red blood cells, while the other type can help form tissues in other parts of the body. The CEO noted that stem cells have

been used to treat diseases such as leukemia, thalassemia, and immune system disorders, and that clinical trials are underway to use stem cells to treat conditions such as cerebral palsy, autism, and arthritis.

Iran has two stem cell banks, one public and one private, which have stored over 215,000 samples of umbilical cord blood.

Iran has the largest stem cell bank in the Middle East, with over 215,000 samples stored.

Zarrabi said that the country aims to expand its stem cell banking services, with a goal of storing 400,000 samples in the near future.

The CEO also announced plans to establish a stem cell processing plant, which would allow for the extraction and

processing of stem cells from umbilical cord blood and other sources.

He added that the plant would provide a significant boost to the country's stem cell industry and help to reduce reliance on foreign sources of stem cells. Zarrabi emphasized the importance of stem cell research and therapy, saying that it has the potential to treat over 80 diseases, including multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's, and blood cancers.

He also highlighted the need for investment in the field, saying that it requires significant funding and resources.

The CEO concluded by saying that Iran is committed to expanding its stem cell services and research, and is working to establish partnerships with other countries in the region to promote the use of stem cells in medicine.