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# UNICEF, Iran's Book City Institute partner to uphold children's welfare, rights

For the first time in Iran, UNICEF Iran and the Book City Institute have announced a partnership to advance the welfare and well-being of children across the country. The partnership aims to leverage the strengths, networks, and expertise of both organizations to support vulnerable children across the country. As part of this partnership, the two partners will launch a series of advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives to foster a love for reading among children. Key activities will include establishing book clubs and reading groups for vulnerable children, awarding cultural prizes to children's book authors and publishers, and mobilizing financial resources for UNICEF's programs in Iran. unicef.org reported. The City Book Institute and UNICEF Iran will also work together to promote respect for children's rights in the workplace, market, and society. Both

organizations aim to integrate best practices for advancing children's rights into their activities and services, setting an example for others to follow. The three-year cooperation agreement was signed by Monika Oldzka Nielsen, UNICEF's Acting Representative in Iran, and Mehdi Firouzan, CEO and Chairman of the Board of the City Book Institute, at a ceremony held in November 18. Through this partnership, UNICEF will strengthen its engagement with the private sector in Iran, emphasizing companies' commitment to the communities in which they operate. UNICEF will also provide businesses with opportunities to enhance their reputation, build brand trust, and boost employee and stakeholder morale. Firouzan, CEO of the City Book Institute, stated, "Collaborating with UNICEF is a great honor for me, as I have dedicated my life to promoting cultural advancement among Iranian children

and youth. This partnership will strengthen the relationships we have established with universities and cultural centers around the world over the past few years and open new doors for the City Book Institute." He added, "Our goal is to put a smile on the faces of children and youth and guide them towards achieving their dreams through books, cultural products, and activities that promote aesthetics." Monika Oldzka Nielsen noted, "We are excited about the valuable opportunity for cooperation between UNICEF Iran and the City Book Institute. We hope to utilize the City Book Institute's vast capacities and networks to convey our key messages to children and the general public. The private sector in Iran has immense potential in terms of resources, expertise, and innovation, which can contribute to UNICEF's effective results for the most vulnerable children." She emphasized, "To-



UNICEF's Acting Representative in Iran Monika Oldzka Nielsen (R) and CEO and Chairman of the Board of the City Book Institute Mehdi Firouzan (L) sign a three-year cooperation agreement in Tehran on November 18, 2024. IRNA

day, UNICEF and the City Book Institute have joined hands to enable Iranian children to live their dreams and smile."

Firouzan further added that referring to Dr. Nielsen's speech, Book City intends to put a smile on the faces of children and

adolescents and guide them towards their dreams via cultural platforms adopting aesthetic knowledge.

## Decreasing age of onset for heart disease raises concerns



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

Although heart disease usually strikes women 10 years later than men, its onset is becoming increasingly common at a younger age in this country, said Head of the

8th International Iranian Heart Failure in Iran, Babak Sharif-Kashani, a cardiologist and faculty member at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily reporter,



Sharif-Kashani explained that women who develop other risk factors, such as diabetes or high blood pressure, are just as likely to develop heart disease at a younger age as men. He added that high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart valve diseases are among the causes of heart failure, and that even some lung, kidney, and liver diseases can contribute to heart disease. The expert stressed that the most important issue in preventing heart failure is identifying and preventing the underlying causes. He noted that the causes of

heart failure vary across different age groups, with children being less likely to develop heart failure, which is often related to heart muscle problems or structural heart defects. In contrast, older adults are more likely to develop heart failure due to factors such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Sharif-Kashani also highlighted the significant impact of smoking on the risk of heart failure, warning that all smokers are at risk of developing heart disease. Unfortunately, the age of smoking onset has decreased in the country, and the number of smokers has increased. According to Sharif-Kashani, approximately 27 million people worldwide suffer from heart failure, a number that is expected to rise as

the global population ages. A sedentary lifestyle, high stress levels, and air pollution also contribute to the increasing risk of heart disease. The 8th International Iranian Heart Failure in Iran will be held from December 27 to 29 at Shahid Beheshti University, featuring 90 Iranian experts and 10 international speakers from Italy, France, Germany, the Persian Gulf region, Spain, Turkey, Iraq, and Hungary. They will discuss various topics related to heart failure and cardiovascular diseases. Vahid Eslami, the executive secretary of the congress, discussed the state of heart disease in Iran, stating that heart disease is the leading cause of death in the country, accounting for 40% of all deaths, up from 20% a de-

cade ago. After heart disease, road accidents and cancer are the next leading causes of death in Iran. Eslami noted that one in five Iranians dies from heart disease, with approximately 160,000 deaths per year. He warned that the cardiovascular disease starting age has decreased to 35, making it no longer a rare occurrence at this age. Regarding the decreasing age of first stroke, Eslami cautioned that approximately 40% of Iranian students are overweight or obese, increasing their risk of developing heart disease. He emphasized that this is a warning sign for the future, as these students are at a higher risk of developing heart disease and other cardiovascular conditions.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Pure truths in ...

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In addition to the Iranian Jewish community, many other Jews in Europe, America, and other parts of the world have consistently spoken out against the Zionist regime's exploitation of Moses' teachings. They even opposed the establishment of the Israeli regime from the onset. Many Jews been vocal in their opposition to the Israeli regime's atrocities in Gaza, taking to the streets in protest alongside people from other walks of life. As a prominent figure in the Islamic world and on the international stage, Zarif's message is a timely and appropriate move that is expected to resonate with peace-loving Jews worldwide. However, despite the clear distinction between Zionism and Judaism, some

officials in the Islamic Republic unfortunately fail to acknowledge this difference, instead attributing stances to Jews that are not accurate. This not only plays into the hands of the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran but also causes concern among Iranian Jews. As the representative of the Jewish community in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament), I would like to thank Mr. Zarif for highlighting the correct and historical facts in his message, recalling the peaceful nature of Judaism and the teachings of Moses, and acknowledging the Iranian people as a tolerant nation that supports the oppressed. He also expressed gratitude to followers of Judaism who, along with believers of other divine religions, have spoken out



against the Israeli regime's atrocities. We, the followers of Moses in Iran and other parts of the world, who do not see any bond between Zionism and Judaism, are hopeful that the Palestinian people will soon attain their rightful and historical claim and live in peace and tranquility in their ancestral land.