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Arbaeen pilgrims on the march to Karbala are carrying the Palestinian flag in a show of solidarity for the Gazan people.

# Arbaeen of Disavowal

Pilgrims on Arbaeen walk mourn Imam Hussein (AS) while slamming Israeli crimes against Palestinians

## Araqchi highlights potential for cooperation with Japan amid illegal U.S. sanctions

TEHRAN – There are significant opportunities for cooperation between Iran and Japan, particularly in the energy and economic sectors, said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi during an interview with Japanese media.

“Japan can play a more significant role in the energy, oil, and economy sectors of Iran,” the top diplomat stated on Wednesday.

Araqchi expressed optimism about the prospects for cooperation, noting that the relationship between the two countries has the potential to stabilize and benefit both sides. He remarked, “Expanding economic and trade relations between Iran and Japan seems a natural and logical option,” indicating a clear path forward for mutual interests. ▶ Page 3

## ‘Nuclear weapons not part of Iran’s defense, security strategy’: spox

TEHRAN- Addressing a query regarding the anti-Iranian assertion made by the chair of the U.S. House Intelligence Committee, the spokesperson for the Iranian foreign ministry stated that nuclear weapons have never been a component of Iran’s defense and security strategy.

Nasser Kanaani addressed inquiries from the Sputnik news agency regarding comments made by Mike Turner, the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, about Iran’s potential acquisition of nuclear weapons by the end of this year.

He stated, “The Islamic Republic of Iran’s strategy and nuclear doctrine focus on the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. This approach aligns with the country’s developmental needs and is grounded in its international rights and obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement.”

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) represents a significant international accord designed to curb the proliferation of nuclear arms while encouraging the peaceful application of nuclear energy. ▶ Page 2

## Iranian intelligence captures 14 Daesh members in nationwide operations

TEHRAN – Iran’s intelligence forces have apprehended 14 members of the Daesh terrorist group across four provinces in the country.

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry announced the arrests in a statement on Friday, stating that the terrorists were captured in a series of operations in Tehran, Alborz, Fars, and Khuzestan provinces.

The ministry labeled the arrestees as affiliates of the “American-Zionist grouplet known as Daesh-Khorasan,” highlighting their connection to external forces.

According to the statement, the individuals “had illegally entered Iran during the past recent days with the purpose of carrying out terrorist operations.”

The ministry revealed that seven Daesh members were apprehended in Fars Province alone, while the remaining seven were captured in the other three provinces.

## Don’t give wrong address on Oct. 7 attack

By Parviz Rashidi

TEHRAN – Donald Trump has claimed that Kamala Harris, the U.S. vice president and the Democratic candidate for the upcoming presidential elections, “hates” Israel and is responsible for the Hamas attack on southern Israel on October 7 last year.

Trump leveled the accusations in a flurry of posts on his Truth Social platform after Harris insisted on her support for Israel during a keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention on Thursday.

“SHE HATES ISRAEL – Wouldn’t even show up to Congress for Netanyahu’s session!” Trump wrote in one post.

In another post, he claimed, “She caused the Attack of October 7th.”

While campaigning for the 2024 presidential race, Trump has aggressively sought to portray himself as the pro-Israel candidate, claiming he is “the best president in history of Israel!” and that any Jew who votes Democratic “hates their religion”.

## Oil tanker heading to Israeli port struck

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – An oil tanker has changed route after coming under attack by Yemen’s Ansarallah in the Red Sea.

A spokesman for the government forces in Sana’a accused the Greek-flagged SOUNION of “violating the [Ansarullah decree] to ban entry to the ports of occupied Palestine.”

In a televised statement, Yahya Sare’e said the oil tanker “belongs to a company that has ties with the Israeli enemy”.

The ship was accurately and directly struck while sailing in the Red Sea and is at risk of sinking, according to the senior Yemeni military official.

Global maritime monitors say the SOUNION was targeted by multiple projectiles off Yemen’s port city of Hodeidah.

The European Union’s naval forces in the region, deployed to prevent Ansarullah’s operations, said the tanker was carrying 150,000 tons of crude oil, and the attack from Yemen led to the loss of engine power while causing a fire on board.

## Wolf in sheep’s clothing: Harris grieves for Gazans, enables Israeli genocide

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Comments made by US Vice President Kamala Harris at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago about Israel’s war on Gaza showed that Washington’s claims of being a mediator in ceasefire talks between the Tel Aviv regime and Hamas ring hollow.

Harris echoed America’s decades-long pro-Israel bias and threw her full weight behind the bogus entity.

“Let me be clear, I will always stand up for Israel’s right to defend itself, and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself,” Harris said in a speech at the convention as she accepted the Democratic presidential nomination.

The army of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has butchered about 40,300 Palestinians since launching war on Gaza on October 7.

American media have acknowledged that many Gazans have been killed by the weapons that the US has provided to Israel.

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## Firms or countries aiding Israel are complicit in Gaza genocide

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – As Israel continues its bombardment of Gaza, destroying infrastructure and flattening homes in the West Bank, many signatory nations of the Geneva Conventions and the Genocide Convention are still supplying oil to Israel. According to legal experts, this commercial relationship could implicate them as accomplices in the severe crimes being committed against the Palestinian people.

An investigation by Oil Change highlights how the ongoing and increasing provision of oil is fueling the genocide against Palestinians. ▶ Page 5



## Iran Paralympic delegation arrives in Paris

TEHRAN – The Iranian delegation arrived in Paris Friday noon to compete at the 17th Summer Paralympic Games.

Newly-appointed sports minister Ahmad Donyamali extended best wishes to all Iranian athletes who will compete in the 2024 Paralympic Games.

A total of 66 Iranian Para-athletes will participate in 10 sports in the Games.

Iran came 13th in the 2020 Paralympic Games, winning 12 gold medals, 11 silver medals and one bronze.

Shooter Mohammadreza Mirshafiei and runner Hajar Safarzadeh will be carrying the Iran flag at the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, scheduled at Place de la Concorde on Aug. 28.

The 2024 Paralympic Games will be held in Paris, France from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8.

## Army pledges support for Pezeshkian administration's policies



TEHRAN- The commander-in-chief of the Iranian Army extended congratulations to the ministers of the administration of Masoud Pezeshkian for securing the vote of confidence from the Iranian Parliament.

Major General Seyyed Abdulrahim Mousavi affirmed the readiness of the Iranian Army to bolster bilateral cooperation across various sectors and specialties by utilizing available resources.

Mousavi communicated with 19 ministers and presidential deputies by separate messages, congratulating them on gaining the trust of the esteemed representatives of the Iranian populace. He emphasized the army's

extensive capabilities present in universities, research institutions, and educational organizations.

Mousavi underscored the importance of fostering bilateral cooperation and following the system's overarching policies and the visionary strategies of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

"The president's academic approach to enhancing national unity is crucial for instilling greater hope within society," he noted.

The commander-in-chief expressed his belief that strengthening collaboration between the army and the national unity government, along with the army's headquarters, deputies, and ground, air, and naval forces, as well as the strategic studies center, with the presidential deputies and trusted ministers of the Iranian Parliament, will be vital.

Mousavi highlighted that government support for initiatives aimed at improving combat capabilities, expanding defense diplomacy, and advancing scientific and technological production will effectively safeguard the interests of the system and the Iranian populace.

## Qatari FM to visit Iran for high-level political discussions

TEHRAN- Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, the Qatari foreign minister, is anticipated to travel to Tehran shortly for a series of discussions.

As reported by Tasnim News, Al Thani will engage with high-ranking Iranian officials, including a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araqchi.

Qatari Foreign Minister's agenda will focus on enhancing the relationship between Tehran and Doha, along with addressing significant regional matters.

In recent weeks, Qatar, alongside Egypt and the United States, has acted as a mediator to secure a ceasefire to end a 10-month war between Israel and the Palestinian groups in Gaza.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar had earlier dispatched a senior delegation to Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of Masoud Pezeshkian and to honor the memory of the late President of Iran, Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi.

## Iranian Space Agency prepares for launch of 14 satellites

TEHRAN- The director of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) has announced that there are 14 satellites planned for launch.

During a briefing on the accomplishments of the Iranian Space Agency under the 13th administration, Hassan Salarieh stated on Thursday that ISA has completed 12 launches, matching the total from 12 years ago.

Furthermore, he noted that the Agency has successfully placed eight satellites into orbit, which is equivalent to the achievements of the last three administrations in terms of launches.

Salarieh highlighted that there are 14 satellites on the launch schedule, with an additional 30 satellites currently in development, 20 of which will be produced by the private sector.

The Iranian Space Agency (ISA) was founded on February 28, 2004, following Article 9 of the law for tasks and authorizations of the

Ministry of I.C.T



Iranian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, which was enacted by the Iranian Parliament on December 10, 2003.

As outlined in its established statute, ISA is responsible for overseeing and promoting all activities related to the peaceful use of space science and technology in Iran, operating under the guidance of a Supreme Council of Space led by the Iranian president.

## Iran commemorates terror victims on UN Day against terrorism

TEHRAN- The permanent mission of Iran to the United Nations in New York has recently organized a ceremony to honor victims of terrorism.

This ceremony included Palestinians who lost their lives due to actions by the Israeli regime, as well as General Qassem Soleimani, a prominent Iranian commander who was killed by the United States in 2020.

This event took place on Wednesday in recognition of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

The Iranian mission expressed solidarity with those affected, stating, "We stand with them, including Palestinians enduring the Israeli regime's terrorism. We honor martyrs of terrorism, including thousands of Iranians, notably Gen. Soleimani who was the hero of the fight against terrorism."

The mission made the remarks in a post on its official account on X.

The International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is commemorated each year on August 21st. Instituted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017, this observance seeks to honor and support those affected by terrorism, while advocating for their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

This day highlights the persistent effects of terrorism on individuals and communities around the globe. It underscores the necessity for sustained assistance for victims, encompassing physical, psychological, social, and financial support. The United Nations is instrumental in aiding member states to deliver this support and safeguard the rights of victims.

This year's observance featured a virtual high-level event titled "Voices for Peace: Victims of Terrorism" which included statements from UN secretary general, António Guterres, and personal accounts from victims and survivors.

# Resistance to escalate operations amid continued Israeli airstrikes on Gaza: IRGC

TEHRAN - A high-ranking commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has issued a stern warning that Resistance forces will persist in their operations as long as the United States-backed Israeli airstrikes on Gaza continue.

On Thursday, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Fallahzadeh, Deputy Commander of the IRGC's Quds Force, stated that in response to Israel's relentless bombing of Gaza following the al-Aqsa Storm operation, various Resistance groups have united in their efforts against Tel Aviv, launching attacks from multiple fronts across the region.

According to General Fallahzadeh, these Resistance groups have targeted areas where both the U.S. and Israeli interests are deeply entrenched, vowing that their operations will not cease as long as the bombings and atrocities in Gaza persist.

## 'Nuclear weapons not part of Iran's defense, security strategy': spox

From page 1 ► Additionally, a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) is established between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and a non-nuclear-weapon State as part of the NPT framework. The primary objective of a CSA is to enable the IAEA to ensure that nuclear materials are not misappropriated for the development of nuclear weapons or other explosive nuclear devices.

Kanaani emphasized that nuclear weapons have never been part of Iran's defense and security strategy.

"These unfounded and fundamental allegations, which have been perpetuated by U.S. officials in various forms for decades, are intended to undermine Iran's peaceful nuclear program and align with the Iranophobic agendas of Zionist entities," he remarked.

The spokesperson further noted that this narrative has historical roots in the statements made by Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, over the years.

## Iran, Iraq officials meet at border crossing to discuss Arbaeen Walk

TEHRAN- The Iranian Minister of Interior held a meeting with border officials from both Iran and Iraq at the Munthrya border crossing, situated on the Iraqi side of the Khosravi border, to address the security measures for pilgrims participating in the Arbaeen Walk.

As reported by Iran's interior ministry, Eskandar Momeni participated in this meeting on Friday morning, which included officials from both nations at the Khosravi and Munthrya borders.

Momeni emphasized the exceptional level of collaboration between Iranian and Iraqi authorities while assessing the current



He emphasized that the al-Aqsa Storm operation marked a turning point, after which the Israeli regime experienced significant setbacks, leading the United States to intervene in a desperate attempt to regain control and stabilize the situation.

Highlighting the achievements of Hezbollah, Fallahzadeh pointed out that Lebanon's resistance movement has effectively neutralized three Israeli military

units, leaving them in a state of complete disarray. He also mentioned that the Iraqi resistance movement has increased pressure on U.S. forces in the region, with a total of 100 drone strikes carried out against American targets so far.

General Fallahzadeh further criticized Israel's foundation, describing it as being built on a legacy of terror. He stated that the Israeli regime has been respon-

sible for the assassination of 280 resistance figures, including the recent killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

The IRGC commander also condemned Israel for engaging in a genocidal campaign, stating that Israeli bombardments have led to the deaths of 40,000 Palestinians, primarily women and children, in Gaza.

He noted that these actions are part of a broader strategy to dismantle Palestinian family structures, fueling global outrage and increasing awareness of the dire humanitarian situation in the region.

Since the onset of the war in Gaza, the Israeli military has reportedly killed over 40,000 Palestinians, many of whom are women and children, drawing widespread condemnation from the international community.

repeatedly. The repetition of these unfounded allegations does not impact the United States, as it will not undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran's determination to advance its peaceful nuclear program," he emphasized.

Kanaani emphasized that it is important to remember that the current circumstances regarding Iran's nuclear program stem from the United States unilateral and unlawful exit from the JCPOA, along with the breach of all stipulations outlined in Security Council Resolution 2231.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, adopted on July 20, 2015, supports the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) concerning Iran's nuclear program. This resolution establishes a framework for inspections to verify that Iran's nuclear activities are conducted for peaceful purposes.

status of pilgrims traveling for the Arbaeen Hosseini observance.

He expressed his appreciation to the Iraqi minister of interior and highlighted the establishment of six special representatives from the Iraqi side at various border crossings as a commendable initiative designed to swiftly address issues at the border points.

Momeni characterized the Arbaeen Walk as a testament to the profound connection between the two nations, noting that the relations and cooperation among their officials are exceptionally

strong.

The meeting also featured Brigadier General Hassan Omid, the director of the Munthrya border in Iraq, during which Momeni reiterated his gratitude to his Iraqi counterpart for the effective collaboration in accommodating millions of Iranian pilgrims and visitors from other countries.

On the same day, Iran's minister of interior traveled to the provinces of Kermanshah and Ilam provinces to inspect the Arbaeen border crossings, including Khosravi and Mehran.

The Arbaeen Walk is a significant annual event in Shia Islam,

commemorating the 40 days following the martyrdom anniversary of Husayn ibn Ali, the third Imam. This pilgrimage takes place 40 days after Ashura, the day when Imam Husayn was martyred during the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

Each year, millions of devotees, often exceeding 20 million, undertake this journey, traversing approximately 80 kilometers from Najaf to Karbala in Iraq.

The Arbaeen Walk serves as a profound expression of their commitment to the principles championed by Imam Husayn, such as justice and resistance against tyranny.

## Armed forces chief congratulates new defense minister on confirmation

TEHRAN- The chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces extended his congratulations to Brigadier General Nasir Zadeh following his confirmation by Iranian Parliament as the new Iran's minister of defense.

In a message from Major General Mohammad Bagheri to the newly appointed Iranian Minister of Defense and Armed Forces, he stated,

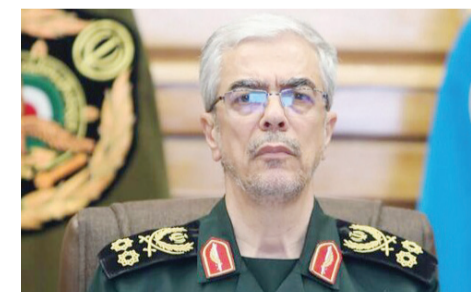
"Dear Brigadier General Azizollah Nasir Zadeh, I am pleased to extend my heartfelt congratulations on receiving the vote of confidence from the honorable members of the Iranian Parliament for your significant position as Iranian Minister of Defense and Armed Forces in the fourteenth administration. This accomplishment is a testament to your com-

mitment, expertise, and qualifications.

Your extensive and reassuring experience in various leadership and management capacities within the esteemed Iranian Army, coupled with your notable service as deputy chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, will provide a solid foundation for executing the initiatives of the National Unity Government.

These initiatives are designed to promote a transformative and comprehensive strategy in defense, military, and national security, while ensuring ongoing and effective support for our armed forces. Your efforts will play a crucial role in defining and enhancing Iran's influence in the evolving global and regional landscape.

This momentous occasion, which signifies a



proud achievement in securing parliamentary backing for government ministers, is a reason for celebration for you and your distinguished colleagues.

I wish for the continued success of the Iranian Ministry of Defense and its components, with the blessings of the Almighty God."

## Iran, Belarus officials call for expanded legal, judicial collaboration

TEHRAN- The Iranian ambassador to Belarus and the Belarusian Prosecutor General, Andrey Ivanovich Shved, have highlighted the importance of enhancing legal and judicial collaboration between their nations.

On Thursday, Alireza Sanei engaged in discussions with Ivanovich Shved in Belarus.

During their meeting, both parties assessed the growing ties between the two countries across various sectors, particularly in legal and judicial matters.

They expressed a mutual commitment to advancing their legal and judicial partnership.

Both officials acknowledged the significance of the reciprocal visits made by the prosecutors of their respective countries to

Iran and Belarus, as well as the discussions during regional and international summits, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Prosecutors' Meeting. They underscored the necessity for ongoing meetings and consultations between the prosecutors of both nations.

Over the past ten years, Iran and Belarus have established agreements related to trade,

investment, and cultural exchanges. Additionally, they have collaborated with international organizations, including the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The two nations have also provided mutual support on shared interests, particularly in opposing unilateral sanctions and advocating for multilateralism.



# Arbaeen of Disavowal

Pilgrims on Arbaeen walk mourn Imam Hussein (AS) while slamming Israeli crimes against Palestinians

By Soheila Zarfam

The Arbaeen pilgrimage is a profoundly unique experience, especially for first-timers. Walking tens of kilometers under the scorching sun to reach the holy shrine of Imam Hossein (AS), sharing space with people from diverse backgrounds and nationalities, and relying on the kindness of strangers for sustenance and shelter, are all experiences far removed from daily life.

This year, however, a new element has been added to the pilgrimage. Millions of participants are experiencing a sense of being part of a larger anti-Israeli campaign, a collective sentiment though not unprecedented in the history of Arbaeen, has become the most valiant it has ever been in 2024.

Examining the logic behind Arbaeen and its intended representation reveals why its heightened anti-Israeli essence makes perfect sense. Arbaeen commemorates the 40 days following the martyrdom of Imam

Hussein (AS), who died fighting for justice, dignity, and freedom. As the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the son of Imam Ali (AS), he stood against Yazid's army in Karbala, believing that "death with dignity is better than a life of humiliation." Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions sacrificed their lives in Karbala for justice, righteousness, and the pursuit of truth.

Each year, Muslims participate in Arbaeen to honor and remember his message. It is only fitting that they also show solidarity with the Palestinians, who are striving for justice in a manner reminiscent of Imam Hussein's struggle in 680 AD while distancing themselves from Israel, which they see as the modern-day Yazid.

"Imagine how Imam Hussein (AS) would feel if he saw the loss of innocent lives [in Gaza] today. Wouldn't he openly express his adversary to the Zionist regime? As followers of Imam Hussein (AS), we should do the same," said Hujjat al-Islam Mohammad Qomi, the head of Iran's Islamic Development

Organization. "We must ask ourselves if we have raised our voices enough. Whether we are visiting Karbala this year by taking part in the Arbaeen walk or mourning the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) from afar, we must remember to publicly disavow Israel," the cleric added in a video message addressing Muslims, millions of whom have traveled to Iraq this year to be by the third Shia Imam's holy shrine.

Israel's war against the besieged Gaza Strip, which began on October 7, has created horrors many deem just as terrifying and tragic as what happened during the battle of Karbala. Over 40,000 people have lost their lives as a direct result of the regime's carpet bombing of Gaza, and about 180,000 more civilians are expected to follow suit. The enclave is engulfed by diseases, as people struggle to quench their thirst or soothe their hunger due to a full blockade over Gaza by Israelis. In such a situation, participants in the Arbaeen walk may feel that, although they cannot

directly confront Israel, they can still contribute to raising awareness about the regime's actions against Palestinians by waving Palestinian flags, carrying banners, or reciting elegies.

"I used to think that if Karbala had happened today, Muslims in Kufa and Medina would not leave Imam Hussein alone as they did 13 centuries ago," a young Pakistani pilgrim told Iranian media near Karbala, her luggage adorned with a picture of a Palestinian child beside his deceased mother. "But look at what's happening now," she continued, her voice heavy with emotion. "The same fate that befell Imam Hussein and his companions is being repeated with the Palestinians, and the majority of Muslims are silent. Except for Iran, Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen, which make up less than 10 percent of the Muslim world, the rest are watching Palestinians being slaughtered. I never thought I would witness another Karbala with my own eyes."

## World's chief diplomats congratulate Abbas Araqchi as Iran's FM

TEHRAN— Several prominent international figures, including the European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, as well as the foreign ministers of Germany and Iraq, have extended their congratulations to Abbas Araqchi following his recent appointment as Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Araqchi, known for his previous role as a nuclear negotiator, was appointed by President Masoud Pezeshkian and successfully secured a vote of confidence from the Iranian parliament, receiving 247 out of 288 votes.

In a phone call on Thursday, Borrell conveyed his congratulations to Araqchi, expressing optimism that political discussions and consultations between Iran and the European Union would not only continue but also expand under Iran's new government.

The two officials also discussed ongoing negotiations aimed at lifting international sanctions against Iran and addressed recent developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly the situation in Gaza.

Earlier in the day, Araqchi announced Iran's willingness to manage tensions with the United States and restore relations with European nations, contingent upon these countries ceasing what he described as hostile actions against the Islamic Republic.

He emphasized that a key priority for the new administration would be the removal of sanctions, which would help normalize Iran's trade relations globally.

Araqchi reiterated that reviving the 2015 nuclear deal remains a central objective, provided that Western nations show a willingness to engage constructively.

The signing of the 2015 nuclear agreement, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with six world powers showcased Iran's commitment to demonstrating the peaceful nature of its nuclear program. However, the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA in May 2018 and the subsequent

reimposition of sanctions against Tehran have cast uncertainty over the future of the agreement.

### Iran, Germany FMs discuss regional developments

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock also congratulated Araqchi, expressing hope that Germany and Iran could deepen their bilateral relations by overcoming existing challenges.

During their conversation, Araqchi stressed the importance of mutual respect and focusing on common interests to strengthen ties between the two nations.

The two diplomats also exchanged views on regional and international issues, emphasizing their shared commitment to resolving current problems through dialogue.

### Iran does not want to escalate regional tensions: Araqchi tells U.K.

In another diplomatic outreach, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom David Lammy extended his congratulations to Araqchi on his recent appointment as Iran's foreign minister.

During a phone call, Lammy expressed that the formation of Iran's 14th government presents a fresh opportunity to enhance diplomatic consultations between the United Kingdom and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Lammy also addressed the ongoing conflict in Gaza, urging Iran to play a constructive role in de-escalating tensions in the region. He emphasized the importance of dialogue and diplomatic efforts in achieving stability, highlighting the potential for cooperation in easing the humanitarian crisis.

Responding to his British counterpart, Araqchi acknowledged the ups and downs in bilateral relations over the years. He reiterated that while Iran does not seek to widen the conflict or increase tensions, it will not relinquish its right to respond to the "criminal and terrorist actions" of the Zionist regime in Tehran.

The conversation between the two ministers also covered other areas of mutual interest, in-

cluding the ongoing negotiations concerning the lifting of sanctions on Iran. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continue these diplomatic consultations, signaling a desire for constructive engagement moving forward.

### Iran, France urge constructive dialogue to expand cooperation

Additionally, France's Foreign Minister, Stéphane Séjourné, also reached out to Araqchi in a separate phone call to offer his congratulations.

Séjourné conveyed France's readiness to continue diplomatic consultations with Iran, focusing on both bilateral relations and broader regional and international issues.

He highlighted the ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at securing a ceasefire in the Gaza conflict, stressing the need for dialogue with all involved parties to reduce tensions and achieve lasting peace.

Araqchi expressed appreciation for the French foreign minister's congratulations and emphasized the longstanding historical relationship between Iran and France. He reiterated Tehran's willingness to engage in constructive dialogue to expand cooperation between the two nations.

He urged France and other Western countries to focus on holding the Zionist regime accountable for these actions to prevent further escalation of the conflict.

The phone call between Araqchi and Séjourné also included discussions on other topics of mutual interest, such as consular issues, with both ministers agreeing on the importance of continued dialogue to address these concerns.

### Iraq FM congratulates Iranian counterpart

Iraq's Foreign Minister Fuad Mohammed Hussein was among the other leaders who reached out to congratulate Araqchi.

He expressed hope that Iran and Iraq would continue their close cooperation on bilateral, regional, and international issues.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Araqchi highlights potential for cooperation with Japan amid illegal U.S. sanctions

From Page 1 ▶ Addressing the challenges posed by U.S. sanctions, Araqchi outlined the new Iranian government's commitment to improving relations with East Asia, specifically prioritizing Japan. "The new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has set establishing relations with East Asia as a fundamental goal of its foreign policy," he said, highlighting Japan's prominent posi-

tion in this strategy.

The Foreign Minister also touched upon the ongoing efforts to "revive" the 2015 nuclear agreement, stating, "The goal of the Ministry is to revive the 2015 nuclear agreement and terminate the sanctions." He emphasized that serious negotiations are essential for overcoming obstacles that hinder cooperation.

Moreover, Araqchi acknowl-

edged Japan's historical relationship with Iran, characterized by "friendship, trust, respect, and mutual understanding." He expressed hope that this foundation could facilitate joint initiatives to tackle global and regional challenges.

As for Japanese companies, Araqchi welcomed their involvement in Iran's oil and energy sectors, stating, "Iran welcomes

Japanese companies interested in working in its oil and energy sectors."

The Iranian parliament overwhelmingly approved Araqchi as Iran's top diplomat on Wednesday, granting him their vote of confidence. Araqchi has served in different ranks of Iran's foreign ministry for the past several years.

### Iran Greco-Roman defend title at 2024 U17 World

TEHRAN – Iran Greco-Roman team defended their title at the U17 World Wrestling Championships Wednesday night.

The first World Championships of this season take place from Aug. 19 to 25 in Amman, Jordan.

Iran once again clinched the team title with 140 points. Uzbekistan, who won its first team title in Greco-Roman at the U17 level at the Asian Championships, finished second with 113 points, eight points ahead of Azerbaijan which was third.

The Iranian team claimed three gold and three bronze medals.

Armin Shamsipour in 48kg, Amir Saeidi Nava in 65kg and Danial Izadi in 92kg snatched three gold medals and Abolfazl Karami in 51kg, Emad Mohsennejhad in 80kg and Aliasghar Dadbakhsh in 110kg claimed three bronze medals.

Izadi, a native Gushlu village in the historic province Ardabil in northwest Iran and on the Azerbaijan border, will be moving to the U20 level next year and hopes to continue his success.

"Next year, I'll be in U20s and I hope I'll be a champion in U20 like I did here," he said.

### 10-man Persepolis escape with point against Tractor

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team managed to escape with a point Thursday night in Matchweek 2 of the 2024–25 Iran Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL).

At packed Yadegar-e Emam Stadium, Ayoub El Amloud leveled the scoreboard in the 89th minute.

Tractor captain Shoja Khalilzadeh had scored at the hour mark.

Persepolis midfielder Soroush Rafiei was shown a red card in the 76th minute.

Gol Gohar defeated Esteghlal Khuzestan 2-0. Aluminum were held to a 1-1 draw by Nassaji and Foolad played out a goalless draw against Mes Rafsanjan.

On Friday, Esteghlal will play Malavan, Zob Ahan face Havadar, Chadormalu meet Shams Azar, Kheybar face Sepahan.

### Aluminum eye Wigan forward Jordan Jones

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Aluminum have set their sight on signing Wigan Athletic forward Jordan Lewis Jones.

Jones, 29, had been also linked with a move to Esteghlal and Gol Gohar.

The Northern Ireland player started his playing career at Middlesbrough in 2013 and has also played in Kilmarnock, Rangers and Sunderland.

French winger Arthur Kevin Yamga Tien-tcheu is also a candidate to join Aluminum.

### Iran to meet Libya at FIVB Boys' U17 World Championship opener

TEHRAN – Iran U17 head coach is optimistic about FIVB Volleyball Boys' U17 World Championship, where the Persians are scheduled to meet Libya in their opening match.

The 16 best U17 men's national teams on the planet begin on Saturday the race to claim the first-ever world title in the age group as the maiden edition starts in the Bulgarian capital Sofia.

With matches split between the Levski Sofia

sports hall and the Hristo Botev volleyball hall, the tournament will have eight days of action from Aug. 24–31 – there will be one day off on Aug. 28, between the Round of 16 and the quarterfinals.

Featuring national teams representing all five continental confederations, the event will start with four pools of four teams each. Host Bulgaria are in Pool A, alongside European rival Spain, Mexico and the Chinese Taipei.

Pool B will feature three teams from Africa – Egypt, Libya and Tunisia and Iran from Asia.

Iran will start the campaign with Libya in their opening match. Iran will face Tunisia and Egypt in Pool B in the following days.

"We've analyzed the Pool B teams and know that there is no easy job ahead of us. But before the competition starts, we played three friendly matches with hosts Bulgaria, Italy and Brazil and found out our strengths and weaknesses," Sadeghiani said.

"Our priority is to find the new talented players for the senior team and the competition is helpful for our players to gain experience in an international field," he added.

"Tunisia, Libya and Egypt are strong African teams but Egypt are the main opponents in our pool as their senior team played in 2024 Olympic Games," Sadeghiani stated.

Pool C has representatives from South America – Argentina –, Europe – Italy – and the NORCECA region – Cuba and Puerto Rico. Finally, Pool D has two national teams from South America – Brazil and Chile –, one from Europe – Belgium – and another one from Asia – Uzbekistan.

All 16 national teams will advance to the Round of 16 and their pool positions will determine their matchups. The eight teams that prevail in their first elimination matches move forward to the quarterfinals, while the losers play the playoffs from ninth to 16th place, volleyballworld.com reported.

### Iran kata team cadet win bronze in Asian Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's Sina Nouri, Armin Javani and Amir Reza Mosalman won a bronze medal in the 22nd Asian Cadet Junior & U21 Championship.

Japan won the gold after beating Saudi Arabia in the final.

The competition is being held in Manila, Philippines.

The championships not only provide a platform for young karatekas to compete at an international level but also foster friendship and cultural exchange among participants.

### O'Sullivan beats Vafaei at Xi'an Grand Prix

TEHRAN – Ronnie O'Sullivan cruised to an emphatic victory over Hossein Vafaei at the Xi'an Grand Prix to set up a quarter-final showdown with Matt Selt.

The Rocket, who does not always see eye-to-eye with Vafaei, was simply a cut above as he steamrolled his way to a 5-0 whitewash.

The match lasted little over 90 minutes as O'Sullivan turned on the style to put Vafaei to the sword with a ruthless display. He secured century breaks of 103 and 104 and was never really threatened by the Prince of Persia, who struggled to get going and failed to recover.

It came a year after the two players were embroiled in a bitter feud at the World Snooker Championship in 2023. It began when Vafaei accused O'Sullivan of being 'disrespectful' to the sport and urged him to retire, which did not go down well with the Rocket.

The 2024 Xi'an Grand Prix (officially the 2024 Du Xiaoman Xi'an Grand Prix) is a professional snooker tournament that is taking place from 19 to 25 August 2024 at the Qujiang E?sports Centre in Xi'an, China.

## Nearly 32,000 tons of red meat supplied in a month



TEHRAN- Production of red meat in Iran stood at 31,952 tons in the fourth Iranian calendar month Tir (June 21-July 21), the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) announced.

As reported, beef and veal had the lion's share in the country's red meat output during the third month with 18,439 tons, followed by lamb and mutton with 10,409 tons, goat meat with 2,425 tons, and red meat from other livestock with 679 tons.

Supply of red meat in the fourth month of this year fell 28 percent from that of the same month in the previous year, and dropped four percent as compared to the third month of the present year.

Production of red meat in Iran rose two percent in the third month of the current Iranian

calendar year (May 21- June 21), as compared to the previous month, the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) announced.

As reported, 33,167 tons of red meat was produced in the third month of this year.

Beef and veal had the lion's share in the country's red meat output during the third month with 18,310 tons, followed by lamb and mutton with 11,626 tons, goat meat with 2,468 tons, and red meat from other livestock with 763 tons.

Supply of red meat in the third month of this year fell 28 percent from that of the same month in the previous year.

Iran is among the leading consumers of red meat in the West Asia region with lamb being the most sought after. However, the consumption per person is around a third of what is normally seen in countries like the U.S. and Australia, mainly due to the prohibition of pork in Islamic law.

The major part of Iran's red meat imports comes from countries like Brazil, where Iranian supervisors directly control culling methods to ensure they comply with religious rules.

## Products worth over \$1.5b exported from East Azarbaijan in a year

TEHRAN - Non-oil commodities valued at \$1.542 billion were exported from East Azarbaijan province, in the northwest of Iran, in the past Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), a provincial official announced.

Mohammad-Jafar Ozmaei, the director-general of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that East Azarbaijan was among the top provinces of the country in terms of non-oil export in the previous year.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the country's non-oil exports, excluding exports of electricity, crude oil, and techno-engineering services, stood at 136.4 million tons worth \$49.33 billion in the past year, which shows a 9.82 percent rise in terms of tonnage and an 8.87 percent decline in terms of value.

According to Mohammad Rezvanifar, Iran exported \$35.87 billion of crude oil, \$370 million of electricity, and \$1.293 billion of tech-

nical engineering services in the mentioned year.

Based on IRICA data, during this period, 48.8 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$19.4 billion were also exported, which shows a decrease of 11.32 percent and 28.59 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively.

During this period, liquefied natural gas with \$3.9 billion, liquefied propane with \$3.62 billion, and bitumen-oil with \$2.19 billion were Iran's top exported items.

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$13.915 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq with \$9.215 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$6.611 billion, Turkey with \$4.16 billion, and India with \$2.17 billion.

The official put the average customs value of each ton of exported goods at \$362 which has decreased by 17 percent compared to the preceding year.

## Iran, Russia discuss expansion of ties in car industry

TEHRAN - A group of manufacturers from Iran and Russia have discussed ways to strengthen exchanges in the spare parts and automotive manufacturing sectors in a meeting on the sidelines of the MIMS Automobile Moscow 2024, IRNA reported.

As reported, the Iranian side in the negotiations was headed by Deputy Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade and CEO of the Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization of Iran Farshad Moghimi as well as officials from the state-owned Russian automobile manufacturing company AvtoVAZ.

During the meeting, the two sides explored the views on ways to develop exchanges, including the role of Iran's spare parts manufacturers in meeting the needs of the Russian market.

The two sides also expressed their interest in using each other's capacities to export cars manufactured by Iranian and Russian companies to the other nation.

The MIMS Automobile Moscow 2024 opened on Monday, August 19, 2024. The representatives of the Iranian automotive industry set up a booth to showcase their new products for the third year in a row.

Ebrahim Doustzadeh, a member of the board of directors of the Iranian Specialized Manufacturers of Auto Parts Association (ISMAPA), told IRNA that according to the official statistics of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, the export of Iran-made auto parts to Russia increased from \$13 million in 2022 to more than \$66 million in 2023, indicating a significant growth.

Doustzadeh further noted that between March 21 and June 20, the export of Iran-manufactured auto parts to Russia witnessed a 100 percent growth in comparison to the same period in 2023.

Iran's former minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade has said 1.5 million cars will be produced in the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2025).

More than 1.5 million cars will be manufactured in the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year, Abbas Aliabadi said, speaking at the 19th International Auto Parts Exhibition 2024 dubbed "IAPEX".

He also stated that Iran should be industrialized and the country has a high potential for becoming industrialized.

In early July, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin said a monetary contract has been signed between Tehran and Moscow for carrying out bilateral trade exchanges.

Farzin told reporters that he and his Russian counterpart had a meeting in Saint Petersburg last Thursday where they finalized agreements already signed between the two countries.

During the meeting, the chief bankers of Iran and Russia also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on joint measures to be taken by the two countries for the expansion of economic and monetary ties.

According to Farzin the new monetary contract enables Iran and Russia to trade in local currencies.

# Iran's new oil minister outlines short-term plans

TEHRAN - Iran's new Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad has outlined the ministry's short-term plans, stressing the resolving of energy imbalance in the country as a priority, Shana reported.

Speaking to the press on Thursday, the first day of his office as the oil minister, Paknejad said he is not considering increasing the price of energy carriers as an approach to resolve imbalance but the main solution will be using alternative fuels like gas to do so.

"Non-price solutions that go beyond the Oil Ministry, that is, in cooperation with other organizations and ministries, will be on the agenda so that without increasing the price of gasoline for instance, it will be possible to balance the production and consumption," he explained.

"[In my future plans portfolio]



I have presented detailed operational solutions to solve this problem to the parliament and the specialized committees, of course, this does not mean that energy imbalance in the country can be resolved completely in a short time, but it could be somewhat moderated," the minister added.

Referring to the valuable measures taken by the 13th government in the field of energy diplomacy including the import of gas from Turkmenistan in the form of a gas swap deal, he said: "Since part of this gas is going to be consumed in the country, it also helps to resolve the gas imbalance."

Regarding the plans of the Oil Ministry to solve the gasoline shortage, Paknejad said: "Currently, price solutions are never considered to solve the gasoline shortage."

He further noted that the model of the financial relationship between the government and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), which has been defined for many years, needs to be revised.

"We are considering new models for using resources outside the Oil Ministry and not necessarily foreign investment. One example is to use the financial resources of major gas-consuming companies and industries such as petrochemicals to involve these companies in the development of the oil industry's upstream sector," the official said.

## Industry Ministry to focus on increasing domestic production, says new minister

TEHRAN - Iran's new Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabek has said his programs will be mainly focused on realizing production leap under the framework of the Seventh National Development Plan.

On his first day of work as the minister, Atabek held a meeting with his deputies on Thursday, in which he said: "With two economic and planning points of view, we follow up the production leap and the framework we want to follow is the seventh National Development Plan."

"The government of President Pezeshkian is a special government, and the most important issue in the 14th government is national unity; I hope that we can have such a unity in the government entities as well," the new minister said.

Stating that the framework he wants to follow is the framework of the seventh National Development Plan, he added: "There are differences of opinion, but we can cooperate when the conditions in the ministry and the country improve. I hope that we all can sympathize with each other in the ministry."

In this meeting, Abbas Aliabadi, the former Industry Minister, also considered the successes achieved in various fields as the result of diligent efforts of the ministry employees, provincial offices, companies and subsidiary organizations and thanked them for their efforts.

Mohammad Atabek was elected as the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade of the 14th government on Wednesday evening, August 21, after receiving a vote of confidence from the parliament.

## SATBA offering 40,000 MW capacity of wind power plant projects to investors

TEHRAN - Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) is offering 40,000 megawatts (MW) of wind power plant projects to investors, an official with the organization said.

"The capacity for producing 40,000 megawatts of wind energy has been identified in the country, and investors can enter in this field," Mostafa Rabiei said.

According to the official, SATBA has identified windy spots across the country from 2007 to 2011 in collaboration with Iran Meteorological Organization and about 120 wind measuring towers were installed at 30 and 40 meters high.

"After two years of collecting

information in the preliminary stage, we have reached the figure of about 40,000 megawatts of electricity generation capacity which can be realized by investment in this sector," he said.

Based on the Energy Ministry data, renewables, currently, account for nearly seven percent of the country's total electricity generation capacity.

Of the country's total renewable capacity, 44 percent is the share of solar power plants while the share of wind farms stands at 40 percent and small-scaled hydropower plants generate 13 percent of the total renewable capacity.

Earlier that month, SATBA reported that the capacity of Iran's

renewable power plants has reached 1,199.71 MW.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has taken serious measures to accelerate the growth and development of renewable energies in the country.

Diversification of financing models for renewable projects, increasing the ceiling of guaranteed electricity purchase, providing the possibility of buying and selling renewable electricity in the green board of the Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) and providing the possibility of exporting renewable electricity have been the most important measures taken for this purpose.

Iranian Energy Ministry has

also put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of the current government's administration (August 2025).

Considering the fact that the country's renewable power generation capacity stood at about 800 MW when the current government took office in August 2021, the mentioned increase in renewable energy capacity would mean a 13-fold rise.

Back in January 2022, the Energy Ministry and some of the country's private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the construction of new renewable power plants across the country.

## Drilling operations begin for 3 infill wells at South Pars gas field

TEHRAN - Iran's Petropars Company begins the operations for drilling three infill wells at South Pars gas field which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, Shana reported.

As reported, the operations begun after the installation of the drilling rig in the location of the SPQ1 gas platform located on the water border of Iran and Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

Back in July, Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of developing South Pars gas field, announced the beginning of a project to spud 35 new wells in the field to enhance and maintain gas production.

POGC has also inked several contracts with domestic companies to conduct the drilling operations in the form of four project packages.

Pasargad, Petropars, Petrolran and Shomal Drilling companies are the sub-contractors of the drilling project.

The duration of the project contract will be



three years and the investment required to implement this project is estimated at \$1.2 billion.

The megaprojects will not only help develop the country's gas industry and economy, but also create job opportunities and promote domestic capabilities.

Last month, the former Oil Minister Javad Oji said that the Islamic Republic has outpaced Qatar in gas extraction from joint fields by 100 million cubic meters (mcm).

"We set an unprecedented record in gas

production, and Iran has been ranked first among the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) members in terms of gas production increase; the average growth of the countries was equal to 2.5 percent, and Iran ranked first with five percent gas production growth," Oji said in a press conference.

"In the South Pars joint field, we extract 75 to 100 million cubic meters of gas more than the Qatari side," he added.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate. The field is divided into 24 standard phases.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

## Iran imports over 4m cellphones in 5 months

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said 4.227 million cellphone handsets, valued at \$966.4 million, were imported into the country in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), IRNA reported.

In this period, more than 4,093,774 mobile handsets were imported by commercial companies while 133,308 of the cellphone handsets were imported by passengers, IRICA reported.

According to IRICA, the cell phones imported in this period registered a 15 percent and

a 10 percent reduction in volume and value, respectively.

Iran imported 2.857 million cellphones, valued at \$688 million, in the first four months of the current calendar year (March 20-July 20), registering a 27 percent decline in value, year on year.

# Wolf in sheep's clothing: Harris grieves for Gazans, enables Israeli genocide

From page 1 ▶ Hence, Harris' statements about siding with Israel to "defend itself" mean giving a green light to the Netanyahu regime to massacre more Palestinians in Gaza. Besides, they amount to contributing to or even enabling acts of genocide perpetrated by the Israeli army in Gaza.

## Mediation or misdirection?

The US, along with Qatar and Egypt, has been mediating negotiations between Hamas and Israel with the aim of ending the Gaza war.

But, Harris' stance against one of the warring sides has raised questions about Washington's role as a mediator.

"The people of Israel must never again face the horror that a terrorist organization called Hamas caused on Oct. 7, including unspeakable sexual violence and the massacre of young people at a music festival," Harris said in her speech.

Harris calls Hamas a "terrorist organization" while the resistance group won a huge majority in parliamentary elections in Gaza in 2006.



Hamas rose to power in a democratic manner but the nominee for the Democratic Party tries to demonize the group because it does not toe the US line.

Harris, who replaced President Joe Biden as the party's nominee, is also playing a blame game when she accuses Hamas of committing sexual violence and killing Israelis during the October 7 attack.

The Netanyahu regime is under fire over its brutalities against Palestinians who are in Israeli jails.

Numerous reports have shed

light on the systematic abuse of Palestinian prisoners by Israeli authorities, with disturbing accounts of torture and inhumane conditions. Israel is accused of killing and raping inmates.

The Israeli army has also massacred civilians in residential buildings and those who have taken shelter in hospitals and schools.

But the US has remained silent in the face of such atrocities.

## Flight of fantasy

During her speech at the convention, Harris tried to launch a charm offensive with Palestinians.

"What has happened in Gaza over the past 10 months is devastating. So many innocent lives lost. Desperate, hungry people fleeing for safety, over and over again. The scale of suffering is heartbreaking," she said, adding that the White House is working to end the war in Gaza.

Harris claims that the US wants to end the war but it continues weapons transfers to Israel. So, her comments look like a flight of fantasy.

The behavior of US administration officials indicates that they are committed to helping Netanyahu achieve his war aims in Gaza, but to no avail. Israeli military officials have admitted that Netanyahu's main goal of "total victory" over Hamas will remain elusive.

Hence, Washington's aim of brokering a ceasefire in Gaza and Harris' crocodile tears about the loss of civilian lives in Gaza are just a tactical ploy to appease pro-Palestine voters who are disillusioned with the Democratic Party ahead of the November presidential election.

## Don't give wrong address on Oct. 7 attack

Wounded hearts may act as time bombs in the future

From page 1 ▶ It is unquestionable that the United States, whether under Democrats or Republicans, has been blindly supporting Israel since its establishment in 1948. However, certain presidents and Congress persons, no matter Democrat or Republican, have been showing more subservience to Israel than others.

Current Democratic President Joe Biden has boasted about being a "Zionist" and famously said, "If there were not an Israel, we would have to invent one to make sure our interests were preserved."

Renewing his commitment to Zionism, in a taped interview in mid-July, Biden reiterated, "You don't have to be a Jew to be a Zionist."

Biden's support for Israel's genocide in Gaza has been so strong since the start of the October 7 attack that he has got the title of "genocide Joe".

Harris' loyalty to Israel is also unquestionable. In her convention speech, she offered a full-throated defense of Israel, echoing the language of Biden.

"Let me be clear, I will always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself, and I will always

ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself," Harris said.

Of course, contrary to what Harris said, Israel is not defending itself. Rather it is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in the coastal enclave.

Most probably, Trump is misusing this part of Harris's speech in which she said, "What has happened in Gaza over the past 10 months is devastating... (and) the scale of suffering is heartbreaking."

To sit in the White House again, Trump resorts to nonsensical and misleading remarks. His new remarks are similar to the ones he made in March when he said the Oct. 7 attack "would have never happened if I was president" and also in early April when he suggested Israel needs to "finish what they started" and "get it over with fast".

Trump seeks two purposes: to encourage war criminals in Israel to commit more and more crimes in the Gaza Strip and to win the support of AIPAC, which exercises great influence in the United States, in the runup to the November polls.

To achieve his goal, he is adding fuel to the

fire to kill a possible chance for a ceasefire in the Gaza war and mislead public opinion in the United States.

Trump, president from January 2017 to January 2021, is notoriously famous for giving misleading information and making false claims. In a news story in January 2021, the Washington Post reported that Trump had made 30,573 false or misleading claims as president. It said nearly half came in his final year when he was seeking reelection.

Again, he has stepped up false and misleading remarks by attributing the October 7 attack to Biden and Harris. Trump is not stupid not to understand that the attack was the result of decades-long occupation, apartheid, suppression, injustice, siege, etc.

Giving wrong addresses will not fool the people except those who have closed their eyes to the realities. And a failure to address the Palestine issue the occurrence of such attacks is not far from mind in the future. Small children who are feeling and seeing the sufferings of their families will turn into time bombs in the future if their wounded hearts are not healed.

## Firms or countries aiding Israel in Gaza are complicit in genocide

From page 1 ▶ Based on data published in March, the investigation reveals that despite the International Court of Justice (ICJ) opinion in January, which suggests that Israel is likely committing genocide and that Palestinians in Gaza have plausible claims under the Genocide Convention, countries and companies continue to supply Israel's war machinery. Additionally, in July, the ICJ declared that the occupation of Palestinian territory is illegal. This analysis underscores the persistent complicity of these countries and companies.

Since the start of the airstrikes on Gaza in October, four tanker ships carrying jet fuel for U.S. combat aircraft have been sent to Israel, primarily for military use. Nearly 80% of the jet fuel, diesel, and other refined petroleum products supplied to Israel by the U.S. in the past nine months were delivered after the January ruling.

The United States remains a key provider of jet fuel to Israel, crucial for its military operations. Shipments come from the Valero refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas. Between October 21, 2023, and July 12, 2024, 65 shipments of crude oil and refined products were delivered to Israel, with 35 of these (54%) occurring after the ICJ's January 26, 2024, ruling which affirmed plausible rights for Palestinians in Gaza under the Genocide Convention.

The investigation also reveals that countries such as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Gabon, Nigeria, Brazil, the Republic of Congo, and Italy have supplied 4.1 million tons of crude oil to Israel, with nearly half of these shipments made after the ICJ's ruling.

From a corporate perspective, private oil companies and their investors are implicat-

ed in this complicity through their operations and stakes in projects supplying oil to Israel. These companies provide 66% of the oil Israel receives, with six major international firms—including Chevron (8%), BP (8%), ExxonMobil (6%), Shell (5%), Eni (4%), and TotalEnergies (5%)—accounting for more than half of this supply. According to some legal scholars, these companies could be held responsible for complicity in acts of genocide in light of the ICJ's ruling.

Following the release of these findings, several UN experts and international law specialists have called for an energy embargo to prevent further human rights violations against the Palestinian people. Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, emphasized that, under international law, states have an obligation to prevent genocide and uphold the Geneva Conventions. Albanese warned that, concerning the shipment of jet fuel from the U.S., there are substantial grounds to suspect violations of the Genocide Convention, given the failure to comply with the ICJ's January ruling and its provisional measures.

From an international law perspective, it is essential to recall that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) established in the Bosnia v. Serbia case that a state can be deemed complicit in genocide if its organs were aware that genocide was ongoing or imminent. In such cases, assistance provided to the perpetrators of criminal acts may facilitate the commission of those acts. Therefore, the obligation to refrain from complicity begins when a state becomes aware of a serious risk of genocide.

The ICJ's order on January 26, which identified a "real and imminent risk of irreparable harm to rights that the Court deems plausible," indicates that states are now aware of the risk of genocide in Gaza.

States must consider that their military or other forms of assistance to Israeli operations in Gaza could imply complicity in genocide, according to the Genocide Convention. Similarly, corporations and their executives could be directly responsible for acts of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Article VI of the Convention stipulates that "persons" can be held responsible for genocidal acts, encompassing both individual businesspersons and corporations as legal entities. Although the International Criminal Court (ICC) does not have jurisdiction over legal entities, company personnel, as individuals from States Parties to the Rome Statute, may fall under its jurisdiction. According to Article 25(3)(c) of the Rome Statute, the ICC has the authority to prosecute those who facilitate the commission of crimes, including through the provision of means.

The prohibition against committing genocide is a non-derogable norm, applicable to all parties, including corporations. In armed conflict situations, additional international humanitarian law and international criminal law norms apply to corporations and individual business leaders, who must assess whether their activities contribute to severe human rights violations or international crimes.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Israeli army reports 695 soldiers killed since Oct. 7

The Israeli Army reported on Friday that 695 soldiers have been killed since the onset of its campaign in Gaza on Oct. 7, 2023.

According to data published on the Israeli army's official website, 332 of these deaths occurred during ground battles in Gaza, which began on Oct. 27, 2023, Anadolu reported.

The army also reported that 4,357 soldiers have been injured, with 2,232 of these injuries sustained during the ground operations in Gaza. Among the injured, 21 soldiers are currently in serious condition, 169 in moderate condition, and 3 in mild condition.

### India PM Modi visits Ukraine for talks with Zelensky

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Kyiv on Friday for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky that will be keenly watched in Russia as its assault on its neighbor grinds on.

Modi's visit, the first by an Indian leader since Ukrainian independence, comes just weeks after he traveled to Moscow in a symbolic first overseas trip of his new term as leader, where he held talks with President Vladimir Putin that were criticized by Kyiv.

After talks concluded, India's Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, stressed that India is committed to helping end the war. "We are very, very keen that this conflict should come to an end," Jaishankar said at a press briefing.

### Hezbollah destroys Israeli spying devices

Lebanon's Hezbollah said it carried out a strike on the Meron military base, targeting Israel's spying devices.

In a brief statement, the resistance group said it destroyed espionage equipment inside the headquarters of the air surveillance unit and the air operations command at the base on Friday morning, Press TV reported.

The operation, it said, came in support of

the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and their resistance fighters, and in response to Israeli strikes on the towns and villages in southern Lebanon.

Additionally, the Lebanese resistance fighters shelled the Israeli al-Malikiyah military site and precisely struck the designated targets.

### Hamas: Netanyahu's stance on Philadelphi Corridor shows no desire for ceasefire

Hamas official Osama Badran said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's demand to keep Israeli troops at the Philadelphi Corridor – a strip of land along Gaza's border with Egypt – shows he is unwilling to reach a final ceasefire deal.

Speaking to AFP news agency, Badran reiterated that Hamas would accept "nothing less than the withdrawal of occupation forces, Philadelphi included".

This is in line with the original US- and UN-backed ceasefire plan presented by US President Joe Biden back in May, he said.

Currently, Israeli negotiators are in Cairo with mediators trying to hammer out the details of a deal, which the US and Israel said they have agreed to a "bridging proposal" for.

However, Hamas has not accepted the "bridging proposal", which it says violates earlier agreed-upon terms, and is not taking part in this round of talks.

### UN expert: Israel's presence in a post-war Gaza legally wrong

The UN special rapporteur on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory said "imagining Israel's continued presence in 'post-war' Gaza (where the scars of its genocide are indelible)" is "absolutely legally wrong".

In a post on X, Francesca Albanese cited the recent International Court of Justice ruling that said Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and should come to an end "as rapidly as possible".

### Oil tanker heading to Israeli port struck

#### Ansarullah target two "Israeli-linked" vessels

From page 1 ▶ The SOUNION is now reportedly anchored near Eritrea amid plans to move it to a safer destination for checks and repairs.

None of the crew members who were evacuated have been harmed.

Sare'e also declared that Ansarullah staged a second operation, which targeted the SW NORTH WIND I, reiterating that this vessel also belongs to a company that "deals with the Israeli enemy" and "violated the decision to ban entry to the ports of occupied Palestine."

This ship, too, was directly and accurately hit while sailing in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, the Ansarullah military spokesman said.

Maritime monitors say the SW NORTH WIND I suffered damage after an encounter with an uncrewed vessel 57 nautical miles south of Yemen's port of Aden.

Ansarullah said the attacks in the Aden Gulf and the Red Sea were carried out with unmanned boats, ballistic missiles, winged missiles, and drones.

"Our operations will continue until the aggression ceases and the siege on Gaza is lifted, and we will continue to prevent all ships heading to Israel until the blockade on the Gaza Strip is lifted," Ansarullah added.

Since November, the Sana'a government forces have carried out scores of attacks against Israeli and Israeli-affiliated vessels in the Red Sea and beyond.

The arrival of American and British destroyers in the region has failed to deter the Yemeni forces. Bombing attacks by U.S. and British forces have seen ships and warships belonging to America and Britain also come under attack.

Ansarullah has waged more than 184 attacks against Israeli, American and British ships in solidarity with Gaza.

The Sana'a government has informed mediators that its operations will end once a ceasefire is reached in the Gaza Strip and the blockade on the enclave is lifted.

According to experts, Ansarullah's military actions have proven very effective amid a significant drop in the number of U.S. and UK ships, and ships bound for Israeli ports in the Red Sea.

The presence of Western warships and the regular bombings on Yemen by America and Britain have failed to weaken or stop Ansarullah's maritime ban on ships docking at Israeli ports.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Alborz makes strides to draw intl. health tourists



TEHRAN – Alborz province, home to the first health tourism village in Iran, has set sights on drawing international visitors by enhancing infrastructure.

"The first health tourism complex in Iran, located between the tourist areas of Kordan and Baraghan, has been operational since last year," said the manager of the health tourism village on Thursday. "From that point on, the complex has already hosted several foreign delegations."

Mahboob Hashemi explained that the village offers comprehensive preventive and diagnostic services for all diseases. "Patients requiring further treatment are referred to specialized and super-specialized medical centers," he pinpointed.

In addition to health services, the complex also provides accommodation and tourism services for visitors, making it a holistic destination for health and wellness, according to Hashemi.

The Alborz health tourism village, he continued, boasts advanced medical facilities, offering specialized services in fields such as brain mapping, vision and hearing assessments, cardiology, nephrology, orthopedics, and more.

The manager further elaborated that the complex also hosts national conferences in its auditorium, where attendees can benefit from the health services available.

"We're ramping up every effort to develop Alborz province as a health tourism hub," Hashemi wound up.

Iran has increasingly positioned itself as a key player in the health tourism industry, attracting patients from neighboring countries and beyond.

Known for its highly skilled medical professionals, modern healthcare facilities, and competitive pricing, Iran offers a wide range of medical services, including advanced surgeries, fertility treatments, cosmetic procedures, and traditional medicine therapies.

The country's strategic location, combined with the availability of high-quality healthcare at a fraction of the cost found in many Western countries, makes it an attractive destination for health tourists. Additionally, Iran's rich cultural heritage and diverse landscapes allow patients to combine their medical treatments with unique travel experiences, enhancing the appeal of health tourism in the country.

## Qajar-era bathhouse added to national heritage list

TEHRAN – A Qajar-era bathhouse in southern Iran has been officially registered on Iran's national list of cultural heritage sites.

Hammam-e Goudi, located in the historic district of Shiraz, has been assigned the registration number 34147, marking a significant step in preserving the 19th-century structure.

This is the 87th historical bathhouse dating from the Safavid to early Pahlavi periods to be registered in Fars province, the provincial tourism chief Mohammad Sabet Eqlidi said.

The Goudi bathhouse, with its roots in the Qajar era, is a valuable cultural asset despite currently being unused, the official said.

Sabet Eqlidi noted that the bathhouse, which covers an area of approximately 600 square meters, features all the key elements of traditional Iranian bathhouses, including an entrance vestibule, changing room, intermediate space, hot chamber, reservoir, and sunken pool.

"The bathhouse is partly underground, with its roof rising about 2.5 meters above the surrounding street level, a design that helps regulate the internal temperature throughout the seasons."

However, the bathhouse has suffered from various alterations and modern interventions over the years, leading to concerns about its structural stability, he explained.

Sabet Eqlidi emphasized the need for careful restoration to preserve its historical integrity and suggested that the bathhouse could be repurposed as a museum café and gallery to breathe new life into this cultural treasure.

Bathhouses or 'hammams' in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly. It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities but they do not have their social function anymore, since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in the past.

## 'It has been effective': Screen blocking Mount Fuji taken down but tourists warned to behave

A town in Japan got so fed up with tourists earlier this year that they built a huge fence blocking the view of the attraction they are coming for - the famous Mount Fuji.

The 20-metre long and 2.5-metre-high fence covered with a black mesh which prevented tourists from taking selfies with the landmark has now been removed.

This was initially done as a precaution when a typhoon was forecast last week, but authorities now say it will remain down for the time being.

They warn, however, that it could be reinstalled if tourists return in large numbers.

"We wanted to see what would happen," an official told AFP news agency.

"There are still some people who come to the place, but we no longer find many people suddenly rushing out into the traffic to cross the road. We feel like it has been effective," he added.

**Why was a screen put up to block Mount Fuji?**

The town of Fujikawaguchiko is known to offer some of the best views of the Japanese mountain. But locals had had enough of tourists blocking pavements and stopping traffic to get the perfect shot.

A particularly popular photo location was outside a Lawson convenience store, from where a photograph taken at a particular angle would

make it seem as if Mt. Fuji was sitting atop the shop's roof. The tourists, mostly foreigners, even dubbed the spot "Mt. Fuji Lawson."

"Kawaguchiko is a town built on tourism, and I welcome many visitors, and the town welcomes them too, but there are many things about their manners that are worrying," says Michie Motomochi, owner of a cafe serving Japanese sweets near the photo spot.

Motomochi mentioned littering, crossing the road with busy traffic, ignoring traffic lights and trespassing into private properties.

**Camera-sized holes appeared in Mount Fuji screen**

The town spent 1.3 million yen (€7,700) to install the black mesh net, and additional fences along the sidewalk.

But in the beginning, it didn't seem like tourists had much respect for the measure.

Small holes appeared in the screen, which tourists exploited to snap the iconic view. Within just a week of the fence being built, officials had found around 10 holes, all at eye level, and all apparently just the right size to fit a camera lens through.

Since then, however, the screen has helped ease congestion in the area, according to officials.

# Feasibility study conducted on shark tourism in southern Iran

TEHRAN – An Iranian expert has conducted a research project probing the feasibility of launching shark tourism in the waters surrounding Chabahar in the Sea of Oman.

The research has been conducted with the support of the National Science Foundation of Iran with the aim of developing various aspects of eco-tourism in Iran, IRNA reported.

According to the foundation, maintainable utilization of natural resources through eco-tourism is a fundamental aspect of sustainable development.

"Shark tourism has emerged as a highly profitable industry over the past few decades," said the project's conductor, Amir Ghazilou, an assistant professor at the National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Science, who holds a PhD in Marine Biology from Shahid Beheshti University.

"Unlike traditional tourism,



which is often based on single-use experiences, shark tourism offers ongoing interaction with living ecosystems, which has garnered significant attention from many countries."

Ghazilou highlighted that with Iran's 20-year national vision emphasizing the importance of boosting non-oil revenues and reducing reliance on oil exports, a precise feasibility study on

establishing shark tourism in Chabahar could be a key step in leveraging the unique marine resources of the Sea of Oman for economic gain.

He further noted that this initiative could significantly elevate Iran's profile as a leading provider of shark tourism services in the region.

The study also explored four key components of the shark

tourism industry in the waters around Chabahar, including the types of sharks in the area, the level of interest among Iranians in shark tourism, and the potential for establishing competitive diving clubs in the region.

Ghazilou pointed out that integrating this industry with other forms of nature tourism currently active in the region, such as dolphin watching, bird-watching tours, and mangrove forest excursions, could further enhance the development of the tourism sector.

He also suggested that combining these various tourism experiences into a comprehensive marine tourism package could potentially attract even more visitors to the area.

Shark tourism, a form of eco-tourism, allows people to dive with sharks in their natural habitat, offering both adventure and an opportunity to promote marine conservation.

## Hamedan's 15-day celebration: discounts in honor of Avicenna

TEHRAN – Hamedan is set to celebrate its national day coinciding with Avicenna's birth anniversary with a 15-day discount on hospitality services.

A local tourism official, speaking on Wednesday, announced a 15-day discount on hotel services, accommodation centers, dining and entertainment facilities, and souvenir shops within the province.

This initiative, aimed at celebrating Hamedan's Day and the birth anniversary of Avicenna, is planned to run from August 22, according to Ali Khaksar.

Over 20 events are scheduled during this period, including a tribute ceremony for Avicenna conducted by local tour guides and a Hamedan awareness conference organized by heritage and tourism associations, he brought to light.

As revealed by the local officials, these events and discounts aim to honor the sig-



nificant cultural and historical heritage of Hamedan and enhance the city's appeal as a tourist destination.

Hamedan, one of Iran's most historically significant cities, offers a wealth of tourism potential due to its deep cultural roots and diverse attractions.

Historically known as Hegmataneh (better known as Ecbatana in western sources), Hamedan was a prominent center during the Median Empire and later under the Achaeme-

nids and Parthians.

The city is renowned for its ancient sites, including the UNESCO-listed Hegmataneh and the Ganjnameh inscriptions, which attract history enthusiasts.

In addition to its historical heritage, Hamedan is notable for its cultural landmarks, such as the Avicenna Mausoleum, dedicated to the celebrated Persian polymath.

Hamedan's natural beauty also enhances its tourism potential. The city is surrounded by scenic mountains and offers opportunities for eco-tourism and outdoor activities, such as hiking and nature exploration.

The region's traditional crafts, local cuisine, and vibrant cultural festivals provide additional attractions for visitors, making Hamedan a rich and varied destination for tourists seeking historical, cultural, and natural experiences.

## Models of vintage, classic cars on show in Tehran

TEHRAN – Models of vintage and classic cars have been put on show at Iran's National Car Museum, located in western Tehran.

The exhibit was initiated on Thursday in close collaboration between the Iranian Collectible Models Club and the Iranian Historic Vehicles Association, which is affiliated with the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The bodies of some of the models on display have been signed by the drivers of the original cars, adding to their material and sentimental value, IRNA reported.

The exhibition, which will run for one month, features around

60 unique, appreciated, and hand-crafted model cars, representing various old and historic vehicles.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is a model of the 1886 Benz, the first car ever produced in the world. The model, built at a 1:10 scale, is considered one of the unique and valuable in the world and is on display for enthusiasts.

Another notable model in the collection includes a model of the 1896 Ford, crafted by hand at a 1:6 scale.

During the opening ceremony, a handcrafted model of a historic Mercedes-Benz, famously used in the memorable TV series "Hezardastan", was also unveiled.

The National Car Museum has four main halls, the first of which bears the oldest vehicles in the collection, amongst them the Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost that belonged to Ahmad Shah Qajar. Hall No. 2 is dedicated to American and Mercedes-Benz vehicles, and Hall No. 3 is devoted to the official and ceremonial cars, which include various models of Rolls-Royces and Mercedes. Hall No. 4 is also dedicated to sports and super sports cars.

The museum reportedly owns the largest collection of Mercedes-Benz 600 in the world. "We have the largest collection of Mercedes-Benz 600 in the world with

21 units. The Mercedes-Benz Museum itself has three units of the 600 model... the Mercedes-Benz 600 itself is designed and built with different rooms and its function is only for ceremonies and this model has different rooms, some having hardtops or custom-made sunroofs," a museum official told the Tehran Times.

Other highlights include a gold-plated limousine, the world's only Panther-Laser car produced, a Silver Ghost Rolls-Royce once owned by the Qajar King, Ahmad Shah (r. 1909 – 1925), as well as a royal carriage belonging to Nasereddin Shah of Qajar.

## Semnan unveils album showcasing local handicraft

TEHRAN – Semnan province has unveiled a new album of its finest handicrafts, marking a step in promoting local artisans and boosting the visibility of their work.

A local official in charge of handicrafts announced the launch of an album showcasing the province's handmade masterpieces, on Wednesday, highlighting the collection's role in promoting and selling local handicrafts.

"The album, which features 100 high-quality works, includes items with national and

UNESCO labels," Samaneh Soltanipour noted, adding that the collection offers professional photography and detailed information about each piece.

This initiative, she underscored, aims to enhance visibility for local artisans and facilitate easier access for buyers.

Soltanipour also outlined other recent efforts, including the establishment of the first virtual handicraft store, the organization of various training courses, and documentation

of local handicrafts.

Additionally, the province has signed a sales agreement with the Astan Quds Razavi and held numerous handicraft markets and exhibitions throughout the past year, the official emphasized.

A new handicraft industrial park also will soon open in Semnan, further supporting the sector's growth and development, she concluded.

## Flydubai to launch direct flights to Kerman

TEHRAN – Flydubai, an Emirati government-owned low-cost airline, is set to launch direct flights to Kerman on September 9.

Currently, the Kerman-Dubai route is arranged to be operated twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays.

International flights to and from Kerman will be resumed after nearly 10 years, providing a suitable connection to at least 150

countries around the world, IRNA reported.

This development is seen as a major boost to Kerman's connectivity, providing significant opportunities for local businesses, tourists, and the broader community, the report added.

Relevant officials are now focused on coordinating efforts, spreading awareness, and maximizing capacity to ensure the sus-

tainability of these flights, which are expected to greatly benefit the local economy.

It is said that the frequency of flights could increase to a daily schedule given the presence of large state-owned and industries, automotive companies, various tourism opportunities, and the region's unique agricultural exports.

Kerman is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various

regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites, including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais and ruins of ancient urban areas.

It is bounded by the provinces of Fars in the west, Yazd in the north, South Khorasan in the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan in the east, and Hormozgan in the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

# IRCS, UNICEF to boost students' knowledge in climate change

TEHRAN –Under a newly launched initiative, titled Green DADRAS, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Climate Change Secretariat aim to promote students' climate literacy.

A total of 11,536 high school students, girls and boys aged 12 to 15 years, from across Iran will benefit from the educational program, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on August 22.

By raising awareness and promoting proactive measures, the IRCS and UNICEF aim to create a positive environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable future for all.

The newly launched Green DADRAS Initiative, guided by the Climate Change Secretariat of the IRCS, has equipped 46 master trainers from the Youth Organization of the IRCS to lead educational sessions on climate change for these school students.

These dedicated trainers will train 824 provincial trainers across the country to finally empower over 11,000 high school students within DADRAS teams, focusing on critical topics such as drought and floods.

The initiative will enable these students to design and implement impactful climate change-related campaigns within their schools and communities.

Having received education on the importance of climate change, these young minds will then be equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed decisions and take pro-



active measures to protect their environment.

Considering the significant impact of climate change in Iran, this initiative is considered a crucial step towards securing a better future for the next generation.

## Other services

The Vice Presidency (VP) for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy and UNICEF organized a training session for VP directors on child rights.

The training session was held in the last week of May, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on June 3.

A total of 18 VP directors and experts specialized in the fields of innovation, artificial intelligence (AI), knowledge-based economy, and cultural technologies attended the one-day training.

During the session, the participants gain insight into Results Based Management (RBM) and UNICEF's Innovation Strategy.

They also discussed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the relevant corresponding national legislation.

The session also covered government sectoral accountabilities, in developing national plans that contribute to the identification and addressing of the child rights deprivations in the country.

Following the CRC briefing, several modules of the RBM were elaborated, underscoring UNICEF's approach to planning, implementation, and monitoring of the 2023-2027 Country Program, which aims to improve the delivery of results for children and the realization of the rights of the children in the country.

The RBM training put implementation planning and monitoring at the front and center of program development by providing insights into implementation strategies, work planning, budgeting, risk and change management, resource, and progress tracking well as outcome and

impact monitoring as a means of accountability towards children.

The training ended with a brief overview of UNICEF's global innovation strategy, UNICEF's global artificial intelligence guidelines that focus on protecting the rights of children as well as sharing successful experiences of UNICEF innovations in programming with and for children.

The ministry of education and UNICEF held a workshop for principals of Upper Secondary Boarding Schools from 10 provinces to boost their capacities in developing students' skills which are essential to finding a decent job.

The four-day long workshop was held from April 27 to 30. A total of 90 Upper Secondary Boarding School principals from 10 provinces of Kordestan, Kermanshah, Hamedan, Ilam, Zanjan, Markazi, Qazvin, Ardebil, West and East Azarbaijan attended the workshop.

UNICEF's collaboration with the ministry of education focuses on adolescents in boarding schools, which are secondary schools in disadvantaged parts of the country.

The training opportunity provides school principals with the necessary knowledge and skills to support the students, at these schools in rural and remote regions, in improving their self-assurance, problem-solving, and teamwork skills.

This series of workshops marks the initial phase that will span across all provinces throughout the year, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on May 9.

## Intl. Congress on Cardiovascular Updates to be held

TEHRAN –The 24th International Congress on Cardiovascular Updates is scheduled to be held from September 17 to 20 in Tehran.

The Iranian Society of Atherosclerosis will host the congress.

The main objective of the congress is to showcase the latest diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic findings in cardiology, as well as the role of artificial intelligence in the treatment of heart diseases, Mehr news agency reported.

The event will host over 5,000 domestic and international attendees from North America, Italy, and Turkey.

Also, the congress serves as a platform to develop a communication network among researchers of various cardiovascular fields, as well as an opportunity to share and exchange theories and scientific experiences in the field.

Showcasing new pharmaceutical products, and the latest technologies as well as medical equipment, that play an effective role in speeding up the recovery of patients, are among other goals of the four-day congress.

So far the Iranian Society of Atherosclerosis has worked toward achieving goals including

scientific improvement of cardiologists, helping conduct broader medical research and education in fields of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

## Cardiovascular diseases

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death globally, taking an estimated 17.9 million lives each year. CVDs are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels and include coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, rheumatic heart disease, and other conditions.

More than four out of five CVD deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes, and one-third of these deaths occur prematurely in people under 70 years of age.

Identifying those at highest risk of CVDs and ensuring they receive appropriate treatment can prevent premature deaths

## Heart diseases responsible for 40% of annual deaths in Iran

"Cardiovascular diseases, mainly heart attacks, account for 40 percent of annual death in the country. Car accidents, diabetes, and cancers are the next important risk factors among non-communicable diseases," ISNA

quoted Kourosh Etemad, a health ministry official, as saying.

In addition to high blood pressure, low physical activity, unhealthy diet, smoking, and drinking alcohol are four risk factors for cardiovascular diseases.

Those aged 30 and older are suggested to go to health centers to be checked for probable high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart diseases.

A three-month, six-month, and one-year care plan will be arranged for those who visit health centers based on their age, family history, and overweight. This program helps to detect the disease earlier or control the risk factors in people.

Unfortunately, in our country, as in many other countries of the world, half of the people are unaware of their high blood pressure disease. Only 50 percent of those who are aware of their high blood pressure take medicine.

This means that in addition to informing people about their disease, we must also give the necessary recommendations regarding its control and treatment.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iran finds herbal medicines effective in COVID-19 treatment

The Food and Drug Administration has approved four domestically produced herbal medicine effective in the treatment of COVID-19 and has issued a production license for two of them. The first herbal medicine in this collection is an oral spray containing six herbal essential oils, and according to the results of a clinical trial presented, if used, it helps to improve the pulmonary complications of coronavirus, including shortness of breath, cough, and arterial oxygenation.

The second drug is a syrup containing the extract of two herbs, which according to the clinical trial evidence provided if used, helps to improve the symptoms of fatigue and anorexia in patients with coronavirus.

## تولید دو داروی گیاهی موثر در درمان کرونا در ایران

سازمان غذا و داروی ایران چهار فرآورده طبیعی تولید داخل با اجزای گیاهی برای بهبود علائم کووید ۱۹ را تایید کرده و مجوز تولید را برای دو مورد آنها صادر کرده است.

اولین داروی گیاهی از این مجموعه یک اسپری دهانی حاوی ۶ اسانس گیاهی است و با توجه به نتایج کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده در صورت مصرف به بهبود عوارض ریوی کووید ۱۹ شامل تنگی نفس، سرفه و اکسیژن رسانی شریانی کمک می کند.

داروی دوم یک شربت حاوی عصاره دو گیاه است که با توجه به مدارک کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده، در صورت مصرف به بهبود علائم خستگی و بی اشتها در بیماران مبتلا به کووید ۱۹ کمک می کند.

## Iranian knowledge-based product among XR Awards finalists

TEHRAN –An Iranian knowledge-based product, GearMaster VR, has been announced among the top ten finalists in XR Education and Training Solution of the Year.

The AIXR XR Awards celebrates outstanding achievements in the virtual reality industry, and attendees include some of the biggest names in XR.

The product is recognized among projects that effectively address educational gaps with impactful XR technology and solutions that significantly enhance education and training through immersive experiences, innovative methods, and measurable outcomes.

The participants in the event are among the largest active companies in the field, therefore it is referred to as the Oscar of augmented reality.

One of the important points of the festival for education and train section is the use of creative and innovative solutions. So with the help of virtual reality technology, the designed product facilitates repairing automatic car gearboxes for the trainees.

Automatic gearboxes are complex and expensive tools so not all students can use them to learn how to repair these tools.

So the product helps establish educational justice and increase education quality, as well.

It also minimizes repair process risks. The features made the product unique; it has no similar counterpart in the world.

The final winners will be announced on December 5.

## XR Award

Organized by the Academy of International Extended Reality, the XR Awards is an independent, not-for-profit academy funded solely by its awards activities and supplementary funding/resource from AIXR.

It was launched on October 9, 2017. The awards were designed to showcase stand-out achievements in XR over the last year and to celebrate the passionate and dedicated teams focused on bringing the best in XR and

## Iranian Space Agency to launch 14 satellites in near future

TEHRAN –Head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), Hossein Salarieh, has announced that 14 domestically manufactured satellites are ready to be launched in the near future, and 30 others are being built for different purposes.

The private sector is constructing 20 out of these 30 satellites, IRNA quoted Salarieh as saying.

The official also noted that 12 satellites have been successfully put into orbit since the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi took office in 2021.

The pace of designing and manufacturing homegrown satellites has accelerated as the ISA has set up joint projects with the private sector, Press TV quoted Salarieh as saying.

The country is among the world's top 10 nations capable of developing and launching satellites.

Earlier this year, Iran successfully sent the homegrown Mahda research satellite, along with two research cargoes, to space onboard the domestically developed Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite launch vehicle (SLV).

Mahda weighs 32 kilograms and its primary task is to test the satellite-related subsystems, verify the function of Simorgh SLV in dispensing space cargoes, and evaluate the performance of new designs and the reliability of indigenous technologies in space.

Earlier, the Aerospace Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) successfully put the Soraya satellite into an orbit 750 kilometers above Earth in 11 minutes.

The research satellite, manufactured by the ISA, was launched with a Qaem-100 space launch vehicle (SLV). Qaem-100 is a three-stage SLV with solid fuel developed by the IRGC Aerospace Force.

In July, Salarieh announced that "Kowsar" and "Hodhod" are among satellites scheduled to be launched and put into orbit this year.

According to the official, Kowsar is an observation satellite with an imaging resolution of 3.5 meters per pixel, which can be used for agricultural purposes, surveying, and demarcation. The satellite has an orbital lifespan of two years.

building a foundation for XR to grow for many years to come.

It was founded on the principles of a continuing initiative that supports innovators, creatives, thinkers, disruptors, doers, and dreamers exploring the future of VR, AR, MR, and XR contributing to the growth of the XR industry.

## Knowledge-based growth

The significant and fast-paced growth in the number of knowledge-based companies with over 200 percent increase in their number just over the past year (March 2023 – March 2024), shows the solid foundation, dynamism, and growth of the country in innovation and technology and the productive atmosphere which have been made available in line with the goal of boosting domestic production with public participation.

The administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi underscores the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge-based companies.

The number of companies, which was around 5,000 before the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi took office in August 2021, has now reached 10,000 with a total value of two billion dollars.

Iran's knowledge-based companies exported over 3.6 million tons of products, valued at \$2.506 billion, in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 19, 2024), according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Based on the IRICA data, some 1.158 million tons of goods, valued at \$5.141 billion were also imported by knowledge-based companies into the country from March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024.

About 85 percent of the goods imported by the knowledge-based companies came from China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Germany, and India, IRNA reported.

The domestic knowledge-based companies exported their products to China, Iraq, the UAE, Turkey, and Russia in this period, IRICA said.



The Hodhod satellite is planned to be used in the area of the Internet of Things, agriculture, transportation, and crisis management scenarios.

The official noted that the satellite launches will be carried out in line with the coordination and planning efforts that have been undertaken.

Salarieh emphasized that the space industry serves as a crucial client for the innovations and products developed by other industries. Additionally, he pointed out that commercializing space-related technologies and applying them to other sectors, such as the automotive industry, could significantly address various national concerns and needs.

Salarieh noted that the space industry has experienced a significant positive leap in recent years, thanks to the government's support for developing indigenous space technology. This support has facilitated the sector's transition from a research-oriented focus to an industrial one.

He detailed that during this transformative period, many previously unfinished projects were completed.

"With a series of successful research and operational launches, Iran has now established the capability to launch and place satellites into orbits up to 750 kilometers in altitude. This achievement is expected to further accelerate the growth and development of the country's space industry in the years to come," he added.

Salarieh stressed the importance of continuing to focus on the space industry, noting that its growth could be a driving force for development and for attracting and retaining skilled specialists across various fields and industries.



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AUGUST 24, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*He who remembers the length of the journey, prepares himself for it.*  
**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:12:07 Evening: 19:01 Dawn: 4:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:31 (tomorrow)

## What's in Tehran art galleries



### Painting

A collection of paintings by a Nasser Ovissi is currently on view in an exhibition at Liam Gallery.

The exhibit runs until August 31 at the gallery located at No. 118, Fathi Shaaqai St. near Salmas Square.

An exhibition of paintings by Sajjad Hamidian is currently underway at Sharif Gallery.

Entitled "The Brothers Karamazov", the exhibit will be running until September 6 at the gallery that can be found at 11 Mahruzadeh Alley, Shariati Ave. near Quds Square.



A collection of paintings by Sara Nazhad is on view in an exhibition at Soo Gallery.

The exhibit named "Blue Rabbits" will continue until September 13 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off So-mayyeh St.

Paintings by Shaqayeq Saeedi are on display in an exhibition at Sheidai Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "This Grass Is the Object of Her Gaze" will continue until September 13 at the gallery located at 149 Bahar Shiraz Square near Hafte Tir Square.



Paintings by Sina Boroumandi are on view in an exhibition at O Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Resident Undeadness" will continue until September 9 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Shahin St., Sanai St.

Hoor Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Nazila Moqaddam.

The exhibition will be running until September 20 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.



Paintings by Ahmad Gholami Mehrbadi are currently on view in an exhibition at Dena Gallery.

The exhibit will run until August 30 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.

A collection of paintings by Yousha Bashir is on display in an exhibition at Parallel Circuit Gallery.

The exhibit named "Transcendent Dimensions" will be running until September 20 at the gallery that can be found at 409 Bamshad Alley, Hafez St. near the College Crossroads.



Reyhaneh Shariati is showcasing a collection of her latest paintings in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibition named "Har Haz Niz" will run until September 20 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

### Calligraphic painting

Ech Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of calligraphic paintings by Mehdi Saedi.

Entitled "Reflection", the exhibit runs until August 30 at the gallery that can be found at 10 Mirza Taraj opposite Dowlat St., Shariati Ave.



# Iran's "In the Shadow of the Cypress" competes at Melbourne film festival

TEHRAN- Iranian short animation "In the Shadow of the Cypress", co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani, is on screen at the 72nd edition of Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), which is currently underway at the Australian city.

Produced by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IID-CYA)-Kanoon, the 20-minute animation portrays an aging sailor grappling with post- traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Living with his daughter in a modest seaside home, their relationship has grown distant. Despite the old captain's desire to reconnect with his daughter, their lives take an unexpected turn one morning.

The festival has dedicated a section to old Iranian animated movies titled "Golden Age of Iranian Animation, 1965-77," featuring screenings of seven animations produced by Kanoon.

This section showcases Iranian animation in a variety of styles and themes, highlighting the early efforts of Western-educated filmmakers such as Nosrat Karimi alongside award-winning shorts produced by Kanoon and the Ministry of Culture and Arts.



A scene from Iranian short animation "In the Shadow of the Cypress", co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani

Included in this package are films like "Malek Jamshid" (1965) directed by Nosrat Karimi; "Grey City" (1972) and "Better, Comfier" (1977), both created by Farshid Mesqali; "Malek Black Bird" (1973) by Morteza Momayyaz; and "Atal Matal" (1974) and "The Mad, Mad, Mad World" (1975), both directed by Norroddin Zarrinkelk. Addi-

tionally, there are "Rook" (1974), "I Am the One Who" (1974), and "Malak Khorshid" (1975), all by Ali Akbar Sadeghi.

Furthermore, the event has a segment dedicated to Iranian classic films, titled "Iranian New Wave: 1962-79," which features short and feature films made by renowned Iranian directors who

have significantly influenced the country's film industry.

The festival will conclude on Saturday.

Established in 1952, the Melbourne International Film Festival is one of the oldest film festivals in the world. The festival offers several sections dedicated to international films.

## House of Cinema to show restored version of Albert Lamorisse's documentary about Iran

TEHRAN-The cinematheque of House of Cinema in Tehran will screen the restored version of "The Lovers' Wind," a documentary directed and produced by the late French filmmaker Albert Lamorisse about Iran, on Monday.

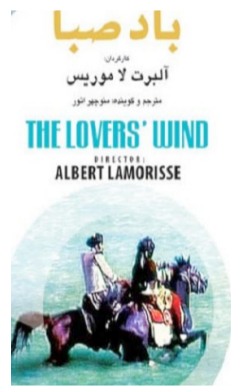
The 1978 movie has been digitally improved with the help of the National Film Archives of Iran. The film screening, part of the "Documentary Nights" program of House of Cinema, will begin at 5 p.m. and will be followed by a review session with the Iranian veteran documentarians Mohammadreza Aslani and Saeed Rashtian in attendance, ILNA reported.

"The Lovers' Wind" is a dreamlike documentary film that scans Iran's stunningly variegated landscape of both natural and manmade wonders.

The documentary beautifully depicts landscapes of Iran from an aerial view, showing waters of the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf in the south, palm trees in the west, central deserts and eastern meadows, ruins of ancient historical sites like the city of Susa and Persepolis, as well as people in different locations. About 85% of the film was shot from a helicopter. Although it shows real images of the country, there is a fictional (and funny at times) narration by the acclaimed Iranian veteran filmmaker, writer, editor, translator, and voice artist Manouchehr Anvar.

Iranian traditional and ethnic music also accompanies the picture and narration. The composition by Master Hossein Dehlavi, includes several pieces with Persian instruments tar, tonbak, santur, ney and violin, greatly contributing to each scene.

In Persian, the title of the movie is translated as "Saba Wind" coming from the northwest symbolizing the message of love. The film is lyrically narrated by the voice of the wind.



Born in Tehran, Anvar, 95, graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and started his artistic career in 1958 after returning to Iran.

Lamorisse (1922-1970) was a French filmmaker, film producer, and writer of short films which he began making in the late 1940s. He also invented the strategic board game Risk in 1957.

In the filmmaking sphere, he invented a steady-camera mounting system for helicopters, called "helivision," which helped support his lifelong fascination for filming aerial subjects, as well as for filming ground-level subjects from the air.

Thanks to his unique aerial documentary capabilities, Lamorisse was commissioned in 1968 by the Iranian Ministry of Art and Culture to make a film celebrating Iran's magnificent culture, from ancient times up to the present, that would feature his patented aerial photography.

Lamorisse completed much of the shooting for the film in 1969, most of which (about 85 percent) featured aerial cinematography, accordance with his own poetic view of what the film should be about. He came back in 1970 to shoot more material featuring modern industrial developments but was killed in a helicopter crash while filming Karaj (Amir

Kabir) Dam 63 km northwest of Tehran.

His widow and son, both of whom had been working as assistants on this film's production, completed the film, based on his production notes, and released it eight years later in 1978. It was nominated for a posthumous Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 1979.

There is also a postscript to the story, in the form of a six-minute film. After the accident at Karaj, Lamorisse's camera was retrieved from the wreckage and its film developed in the lab of the Ministry of Art and Culture. The footage was then edited together by Iranian members of his original crew to create a tribute to the director and a memorial of his death.

As mentioned, "The Lovers' Wind" pays tribute to Iran by showing the country's fascinating features from the perspective of the wind. Wind mythology is a feature of all ancient cultures, and winds are variously thought to metaphorically represent disruption, fate, and the forces of change. In the case here, we have a unique wind, Saba Wind, who looks down with fascination on the changing terrain he surveys.

This wind joins other winds to travel around Iran. They visit Isfahan and see wind towers. Then they go to Susa, which represents all cities destroyed by wind and repopulated by nomads, wanderers like the wind. Then it is on to Persepolis, Mashhad, Qom, the unpopulated city deserts, Zoroastrian towers of silence, the Persian Gulf, oil refineries, Mount Damavand, Tehran, Caspian provinces, and the Turkmen area in the northeast of Iran. There are wonderful views of the antelope, onager, wild sheep, and fox.

## Iranian music producer to deliver speech at St. Petersburg International United Cultures Forum

TEHRAN-Iranian music producer, festival manager, and composer Ardavan Jafarian will be one of the guest speakers at the 10th St. Petersburg International United Cultures Forum, slated to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia, from September 11 to 14.

Jafarian, who has been a member of the Executive Board of the International Music Council (IMC) based at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris since 2019, will deliver a speech on "The Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Music," at the event, Mehr reported.

IMC is the world's largest network of organizations and in-

stitutions working in the field of music. The council promotes access to music for all and the value of music in the lives of all peoples.

United Cultures is a forum that assembles representatives of many diverse cultures and nationalities. Amid a new, rapidly changing world, this event is going to become a place to talk over the most pressing social and cultural issues, as well as a platform where new ideas and projects are brought into life.

The Forum will be dedicated to the theme "Culture of the 21st century: sovereignty or globalism?". The program will include

ten thematic areas: "The Right to Heritage in a Multipolar World," "Artificial Intelligence in Culture and National Sovereignty," "Cultural Heritage: Traditions and Modernity," "Business Culture," "Media Culture," "Cinema," "Theater," "Musical Culture," "Circus," and "Museums".

Director General of the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives Roman Karmanov will supervise five discussions and the show program within the "Artificial Intelligence in Culture and National Sovereignty" section, including the one addressed by Jafarian.

Traditionally, the Forum brings

together leading Russian and foreign cultural and artistic figures, representatives of the business community, and authorities to exchange ideas discuss trends and current issues in the development of the modern cultural environment.

About 1,700 participants are expected to take part in the Forum. The main venues of the Forum's program will traditionally be the headquarters of the State Hermitage Museum, the State Academic Chapel of St. Petersburg, and the Winter Palace.