



Iran-Russia relations developing amid Western accusations

A Focus on Truth and Diplomacy

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Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian (R) shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a meeting of BRICS security officials in Russia's port city of St. Petersburg on September 12, 2024.



The role of media and BRICS in reshaping power structures

By Kazem Jalali
Iran's ambassador to Russia

MOSCOW - Today, I had the honor of attending the opening session of the BRICS Media Forum, which also marks the 120th anniversary of the TASS news agency.

The speeches delivered were insightful, though not entirely new to us as Iranians, addressing familiar themes such as unilateralism, media monopolies, and the media dictatorship in the West. These are issues the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution have been confronting for 45 years. What's remarkable now is that this voice is growing louder and more influential on the global stage.

The countries in the Global South are increasingly drawing clearer distinctions against the Global North. It's becoming clear that nations in the Global South, with their understanding of global dynamics and the behavior of the Global North, particularly the United States, have realized they must unite and stand together.

The core idea behind BRICS is that the current global power structure is failing and needs to be rethought.

Events around the world are showing more clearly that this structure is monopolistic. Even international organizations, like the United Nations, which were established to promote peace and security, have lost their effectiveness due to the unfair and rigid nature of global powers. ► Page 3

Turkish FM: Israel deliberately killed Eygi

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan has bidden farewell to Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, saying the American-Turkish activist was "deliberately targeted and killed by Israeli soldiers" in the occupied West Bank.

"We will work with all our might to ensure that the perpetrators of this inhumane attack are brought to justice," he wrote on X.

He also slammed the "hypocritical silence of those who act as human rights advocates" in what appeared to be a remark directed at the US, which unlike Turkey refused to open its own investigation into the killing of Eygi, who was a citizen of both countries.

Turkey conducted an autopsy on the body before its burial, and officials said the results would be brought before international courts to pursue accountability.

Hundreds of mourners, waving Turkish and Palestinian flags, gathered on Saturday for Eygi's funeral.

On September 3, Eygi went to observe a protest in the town of Beita in Nablus, to stand against the illegal Israeli settlements there. She was killed by an Israeli sniper standing on a nearby rooftop.

Hezbollah hits strategic Israeli army base

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Lebanon's Hezbollah has announced that it has, for the first time, targeted the base and headquarters of the Israeli military's 282nd Artillery and Precision Missile Brigade with dozens of Katyusha rockets.

The Lebanese resistance movement also said in a statement published on Saturday that its forces targeted the Israeli military's 282nd armament and emergency warehouses in Yiftah Eliphalet, northwest of Lake Tabaraya (the sea of Galilee), in the same operation, as well.

Hezbollah has declared that its latest operation "is in support of Gaza and in response to the Israeli enemy's attacks on the steadfast southern villages and safe homes, especially in the town of Kfar Rumman."

Base 282 is located about 18 kilometers from the Lebanese border and is integrated with the Israeli military's Northern Command.

According to Hezbollah's statement, the Israeli base, which has been targeted for the first time, is home to precision guided weapons and missiles, a reserve division command headquarters, and an advanced armament center.

Israel using PR to cover up battlefield setbacks

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel is attempting to project an image of success in the wake of its genocidal war against Gaza despite suffering setbacks on the battlefield.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered his army to wage war on Gaza in early October, which has so far claimed the lives of more than 41,000 Palestinians. Nearly a year has passed since the start of the conflict, but Netanyahu has not succeeded in realizing his objectives which mainly include "total victory" over Hamas and the elimination of the resistance movement.

Nonetheless, he aims to convey the perception that progress has been achieved in the war.

The Israeli army claimed on Thursday that it destroyed the Rafah Brigade of the al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas. It also claimed that more than 2,300 resistance fighters were killed and over 13 kilometers of tunnels built by Hamas were destroyed.

Nonetheless, a senior Knesset member dismissed the army's assertions.

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The 7th BRICS media summit: a crucial step in strengthening global media collaboration

By Maryam Amirshabani

TEHRAN - The 7th BRICS media summit, currently underway in Moscow, marks a significant moment in the evolving media landscape within the BRICS alliance.

Running from September 13 to 17, the summit has gathered key media representatives from BRICS nations and several other countries interested in enhancing cooperation.

Among the notable participants are representatives from Iranian media outlets such as the Tehran Times, Mehr, and IRNA.

BRICS, originally composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is on the cusp of a new era, with significant expansion efforts underway.

During the Johannesburg Summit in August 2023, BRICS extended invitations to Egypt, Iran, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia, reflecting the mounting interest from nations seeking alternatives to Western-dominated global structures. ► Page 2

Heroes of the age of terror: what happened to American superheroes on 9/11?

By Ali Hamedin

Part 2

TEHRAN-In addition to reinforcing stereotypes of Arab and Muslim villains, comic books and movies based on them address the 9/11 attacks in another way. These attacks are metaphorical as part of a larger plot that places comic book elements and characters within mythological narratives of good versus evil.

As an example, the superhero fantasy of "Batman Begins" (2005) offers a way of incorporating traumatic historical events in a symbolic way that ultimately rewrites them as a narrative of simultaneous triumph and victimization. ► Page 8



Iran successfully launches domestically-developed Chamran-1 research satellite

TEHRAN - Iran has successfully launched the domestically-developed Chamran-1 research satellite into orbit, achieving another milestone in the country's growing space program.

The launch took place in the early hours of Saturday, with the satellite reaching an altitude of 550 kilometers (341 miles) above Earth. It was delivered into orbit by the Qaem-100 space launch vehicle (SLV), a three-stage, solid-fuel rocket developed by the Aerospace Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). ► Page 2

Iran, Iraq customs stress expansion of ties

TEHRAN - In a meeting between the heads of Iran and Iraq customs administrations, the two sides stressed the need for the expansion of mutual ties, IRNA reported.

During the meeting between the Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mohammad Rezvanifar and Head of the Iraqi Customs Authority Hassan Hamoud Hassani, which was held on the sidelines of the Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Iraq, the two sides examined common customs issues, especially border issues and the existing cooperation capacities to facilitate and develop trade, IRNA reported.

The officials also emphasized signing an agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs affairs.

At the end of the meeting, the text of an agreement, which was discussed with the Iraqi side for two consecutive days, was finalized. ► Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

Agreement and consensus with neighbors against the Zionists

In a commentary, Javan pointed to the visit of President Msoud Pezeshkian to neighboring Iraq. The paper said: Iraq was chosen as the destination for the first foreign trip of the president of the 14th (sitting) government, a three-day intensive trip that had many achievements. The visit took place within the policy neighborhood diplomacy to the signing of 14 cooperation documents in different fields that can lead to economic prosperity. In a historic trip to Iraq, the president visited 6 cities in the country. In the last leg of his trip to Iraq, he visited Basra, where he said that if Islamic countries with different denominations fraternize with each other and have an agreement, Israel will not be able to massacre Muslims. The message of unity was given to the neighboring countries by the president of Iran from the city of Basra. The manifestation of the religious beliefs of Muslims is unity against enemies, including the Zionist regime. Therefore, differences must be put aside to form the unity of the Islamic ummah.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Shadow of sanctions on bilateral relations

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtasad pointed to the president's visit to Baghdad and the impact of sanctions on Tehran-Baghdad bilateral relations. It wrote: One of the most raised issues between Iran and Iraq, which was on the agenda of the visit of the president and his delegation to Baghdad, was the release of 11 billion dollars of Iranian assets blocked in Iraq. Apparently, the release of these blocked assets was not agreed upon during this trip, and Baghdad is still waiting for Washington's green light to resolve the issue. It is a part of the dispute between Iran and America over sanctions, and until we see a change in this regard, it is unlikely that Iraq will be able to unfreeze these assets. Considering the war in Ukraine, the claim that Iran has sent short-range ballistic missiles to Russia, the war in Gaza and the possibility of Iran's response to Israel, and the upcoming elections in the United States, achieving such a process seems unlikely for at least the next few months.

Arman-e-Melli: Iran seeks to deepen its relations with Russia

In an analysis, Arman-e-Melli wrote: The Europeans are very afraid of Russia's actions

against Ukraine, and during the days after Russia's war against this country, they have sent a lot of financial and military aid to Kyiv to resist Russia. They react to every Russian advance in Ukraine and attribute it to Iran. Of course, it is intended to put pressure on Tehran. Tehran has always tried to expand its relations with Russia in political, economic, and military dimensions, and now there is a possibility that the date for signing a contract to transfer the Russian gas to Iran is approaching. In addition, Tehran and Moscow have always tried to get closer to each other as they are classified in the Eastern bloc against the United States. Considering that the Europeans are opening a new case against Iran related to Russia, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council traveled to Russia to attend the BRICS security chiefs and security advisors as well as representatives of some countries in the Global South.

Hamshahri: We do not hesitate to react to ill-advised actions

In an article, Hamshahri discussed the provocative actions of three European countries and possible approval of a sanction resolution against Iran. It said: Iran fulfilled all its obligations under the agreement until one year after the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA because Iran wanted to give a chance to the European countries that promised to compensate for the effects of Washington's withdrawal from the agreement and fulfill their promise. However, since European countries have not fulfilled their promises, Iran also reduced its obligations under the JCPOA in several steps. In an agreement later known as the March 4 Joint Statement, the Islamic Republic of Iran voluntarily agreed to increased verification and monitoring activities by IAEA inspectors. However, the experience of the past 4 years showed that despite the claims of diplomacy, the White House does not have the necessary will to decide to return to the JCPOA and compensate for the failed policy of President Trump's administration against Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran also emphasizes that whenever the other parties fully fulfill their obligations, it will act reciprocally, but Iran is ready to react to any ill-advised position and action.

Tehran demands UNSC condemnation of terrorist attack in Iran

TEHRAN- Iranian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani, has addressed the Security Council in a letter concerning a recent terrorist attack in Mirjaveh.

Amir Saeed Iravani urged the council to denounce this abhorrent act perpetrated by the Jaish al-Adl terror group and to implement necessary actions following its steadfast commitment to combating terrorism.

The complete text of Iravani's letter is as follows:

"In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful Excellency,

I am compelled to report yet another despicable and cowardly terrorist attack against my nation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, executed by the notorious terrorist organization, Jaish al-Adl.

In the late hours of September 12, 2024, this foreign-supported group, associated with and backed by Daesh Khorasan (ISIL-K), which has been infamous for its violent actions since 2012, launched a vicious assault in the border city of Mirjaveh, located in the Sistan and Baluchistan province.

An armed group linked to Jaish al-Adl opened fire on an Iranian law enforcement vehicle at a gas station in Mirjaveh while border guards and officers were refueling.

This tragic incident resulted in the deaths of three law enforcement personnel: Lieutenant Mohammad Amin Narouei, Private Parsa Sozani, and Private Amir Ebrahimzadeh, and

also left a civilian injured. Jaish al-Adl terror group claimed responsibility for the attack shortly thereafter.

The Islamic Republic of Iran vehemently condemns this act of terrorism and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice.

In light of the ongoing violence and terrorist activities carried out by Jaish al-Adl, a group supported by foreign entities and associated with Daesh Khorasan (ISIL-K), against innocent Iranian citizens and law enforcement, the Islamic Republic of Iran urges the Security Council to denounce this reprehensible act and to implement measures consistent with its dedication to combating terrorism in all its forms, as evidenced by the Security Council's unified stance in the press statement dated December 16, 2023 (SC/15534).

Having directly experienced the devastating impacts of terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains resolute in its commitment to lead the fight against this menace. The nation is determined to protect its honorable citizens and ensure the security of neighboring countries from the threats posed by such dangerous terrorist organizations.

I kindly request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council and the General Assembly under agenda item 110, titled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism."

Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The 7th BRICS media summit: a crucial step in strengthening global media collaboration

From page 1 ▶ With more than 30 membership applications currently under review, as reported by the Russian Foreign Minister, BRICS is emerging as a focal point for countries in the Global South aiming to reshape the international order.

BRICS currently represents approximately 46% of the world's population and accounts for 30% of global GDP. As an intergovernmental association, BRICS has no permanent headquarters or secretariat, yet its influence spans a wide range of sectors, including economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation.

This year's BRICS media summit, co-organized by Russia's TASS news agency, has highlighted the critical role that media cooperation plays within the BRICS vision.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, in a video address at the summit's opening, emphasized that BRICS stands as a unique platform for comprehensive cooperation, underpinned by principles of equality, mutual respect, and balanced interests. Lavrov stressed that media organizations in BRICS countries must lead the way in countering biased narratives often seen in Western media.

"The forum's theme—'The Role of the BRICS Media Community in Strengthening Stability and Cooperation in Today's World'—is a reflection of the irreversible shift toward a multipolar world," Lavrov noted.



TEHRAN - Addressing the West, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi suggested on Saturday that "dialogue must be based on mutual respect and not threat or pressure."

The United States plus the European trio of Britain, Germany and France have made accusations that Iran has transferred ballistic missiles to Russia in its war with Ukraine.

Iran successfully launches domestically-developed

Chamran-1 research satellite

From page 1 ▶ Just hours after launch, Chamran-1 transmitted its first signals, marking the success of the mission. The satellite, which weighs around 60 kilograms, was designed and manufactured by Iranian engineers at Iran Electronics Industries (SAlran), a defense ministry subsidiary, in collaboration with the Aerospace Research Institute and several private firms.

Chamran-1's primary mission is to

test hardware and software systems for orbital maneuvering technology.

Additionally, it will assess the performance of cold gas propulsion subsystems and evaluate navigation and attitude control systems in space.

This successful launch comes despite ongoing sanctions imposed on Iran by Western nations.

Over recent years, Iran has made significant strides in its civilian space

program, now ranking among the top 10 countries globally capable of developing and launching satellites.

Earlier this year, Iran also successfully launched the Mahda research satellite using the domestically produced Simorgh (Phoenix) SLV.

The Mahda satellite, weighing 32 kilograms, was designed to test satellite subsystems and evaluate the performance of new space technologies.

Belarusian president highlights Iran as key ally

TEHRAN- Belarusian president Aleksandr Lukashenko has emphasized the importance of Iran as a vital ally for Belarus.

Lukashenko made the remarks during a meeting with Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the Iranian Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) secretary in Minsk on Friday.

Lukashenko also extended an invitation for Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to visit Minsk. Belarusian president highlighted the complex global political landscape and the shift

towards a multilateral system, advocating for increased collaboration between the two nations.

Lukashenko asserted that a robust economy is essential for security and called for strengthened economic ties with Iran.

He also expressed gratitude for Iran's backing of Belarus's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS group, which he believes have opened new avenues for independent nations.

In response, Ahmadian noted the longstanding

Enhancing relations with neighboring countries top priority: Iranian diplomat

TEHRAN- The political deputy of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, highlighted Iran's commitment to enhancing relations with its neighbors during a recent phone conversation with his Armenian counterpart.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi shared on the social media platform X, "During my congratulatory call with Goostanian, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia, I reiterated Iran's strong intention to bolster ties

with all neighboring countries and reaffirmed Iran's steadfast stance on the sanctity of international borders. I was pleased to accept his invitation to visit Yerevan."

Furthermore, the deputy foreign minister of Armenia conveyed in a message on X, "In our phone conversation, I congratulated Takht-Ravanchi on his recent appointment and expressed appreciation for Iran's support of Armenia's territorial integrity.

We also discussed recent developments related to this matter."

Iran and Armenia enjoy a strong and cooperative relationship, marked by warm diplomatic connections, strategic alliances, and mutual assistance on a range of matters.

Two-nation diplomatic ties were formalized in 1992, coinciding with Armenia's emergence as an independent nation after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

role of BRICS media in strengthening stability in a multipolar world, alongside technical discussions on enhancing information exchange between BRICS countries. These conversations aim to bolster media collaboration and ensure that BRICS nations can effectively share their perspectives on global events, free from the influence of dominant Western media outlets.

It is important to note that the ongoing media summit in Moscow serves as a precursor to the upcoming BRICS summit, which is scheduled to be held in Kazan from October 22 to 24, 2024.

This high-profile event will play a crucial role in shaping the future direction of the BRICS alliance, especially in light of its ongoing expansion and increasing global influence. Expert reports on the new membership applications will be presented at the summit, and discussions will focus on fostering global development and security in a balanced and fair manner.

As BRICS continues to grow in both membership and influence, media cooperation will play an increasingly critical role in shaping global narratives. Through platforms like the BRICS media summit, member countries are working to strengthen their media infrastructure, develop new channels for collaboration, and ensure that their stories are heard on the global stage.

Dialogue must be based on respect and not pressure, Iran tells the West

Though failing to provide any evidence to support their claims, they have cut air services agreements with Iran imposed sanctions on IranAir and some other steps. "We have always sought dialogue and never left constructive negotiations to reach a common understanding on issues" that the West and Iran disagree on "but dialogue must be based on mutual respect and not three or pressure."

The foreign minister added, "It is surprising that the Western countries still don't know that sanctions is an outdated tool and they cannot impose their will on Iran through sanction."

The United States under Donald Trump abandoned the 2015 nuclear deal and imposed the "maximum

pressure" sanctions on Iran, suffering from the illusion that Iran will surrender. After adopting a strategic patience for a year, Iran gradually lifted limits on its nuclear program and now it is enriching uranium to the purity of 60 percent.

"It is a failed experience both on the nuclear issue and other issues.

I am surprised that they still are pinning hope on this failed experience and act based on this," said the chief diplomat who helped craft the nuclear deal in 2015.

He added, "Sanctions are tools of pressure and confrontation and not tools of cooperation and this is a tool that has ended in failure and actually lost its effectiveness."



alliance between Iran and Belarus, expressing optimism for the future expansion of cooperation.

Ahmadian remarked on the global transition towards a new order, suggesting that the influence of the United States is diminishing.

The two countries work together in areas such as energy, transportation, and infrastructure enhancement. On the political front, Iran supports Armenia in its ongoing conflict with Azerbaijan regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Furthermore, Iran has reinforced its commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and regional collaboration by establishing a consulate in Kapan, located in southeastern Armenia.

A Focus on Truth and Diplomacy

Iran-Russia relations developing amid Western accusations

By Faramarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN – On Thursday, Ali Akbar Ahmadian, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Saint Petersburg.

The meeting, that took place on the sidelines of the meeting of BRICS's security chiefs or national security advisors, underscored the deepening ties between Iran and Russia, reflecting their growing strategic partnership in an increasingly multipolar world.

The visit occurred amid heightened scrutiny from Western nations, particularly the United States, which has accused Iran of supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia—a claim that Tehran has consistently and categorically denied.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken had claimed that Russia might soon receive Iranian missiles for use in Ukraine, prompting new sanctions against Iran, including measures targeting its national airline, IranAir. The U.S. along with its European allies has also announced further restrictions and canceled bilateral air service agreements with Iran.

In response to these allegations and sanctions, Iran has condemned the actions of the U.S. and European nations as baseless that are primarily intended to create a commotion against Iran. Tehran also summoned the ambassadors of Britain, France,



the Netherlands, and Germany, reflecting its dissatisfaction with the continuation of hostile policies from the West.

Iran has been adamant in rejecting accusations from the U.S. and other Western nations that it has supplied missiles to Russia, particularly in the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Despite the absence of credible evidence, these accusations persist, with Western leaders pushing the narrative that Iran is complicit in aiding Russia's military operations.

From Tehran's perspective, this is yet another example of a politically motivated campaign to vilify the nation without substantiated proof.

Iranian officials have consistently maintained that their military doctrine is defensive in nature and that they have not provided missiles to Russia. The Iranian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly called the allegations

“baseless” and stressed that Iran's policy is centered on non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has firmly denied these allegations, stating that the U.S. and E3 countries (Britain, Germany, and France) are acting on “faulty intelligence and flawed logic.” Araghchi emphasized, “Iran has not delivered ballistic missiles to Russia. Period.”

The Kremlin has dismissed the accusations of missile transfers as unfounded. It aligns with Iran's stance that these claims are part of a broader effort to undermine its position on the global stage.

This denial has not been met with any meaningful counter-evidence from the accusing parties. Instead, the accusations appear to rest on circumstantial speculation and assumptions, reflecting the flawed logic that the West has often applied

when dealing with countries like Iran. The U.S. and its allies seem to view Iran's close diplomatic and economic ties with Russia as sufficient grounds for assuming military collaboration, despite the lack of hard evidence.

The Western focus on Iran's alleged involvement in missile transfers to Russia also reflects the broader geopolitical context surrounding the Ukraine conflict. As the war drags on, Western governments are increasingly looking for scapegoats to explain the ongoing challenges in countering Russian military advancements. Iran, already a target of numerous sanctions and diplomatic pressure from the West, has been an easy target for these unfounded allegations.

However, the logic of the U.S. and other Western nations in accusing Iran of such actions appears increasingly strained. Iran has openly expressed a neutral stance on the Ukraine conflict and has called for diplomatic solutions rather than military escalation.

Amid these tensions, President Putin praised the “strategic” partnership between Russia and Iran, highlighting the dynamic growth of their relations in recent years.

Ahmadian, on his part, reaffirmed Iran's commitment to strengthening ties with Russia, emphasizing the mutual benefits of their strategic cooperation.

Iran condemns deadly terrorist attack in Afghanistan

TEHRAN- The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has vehemently denounced a terrorist attack that targeted Shia civilians in Sangi Takht, located in central Afghanistan.

Nasser Kanaani expressed his condolences to the victims' families and offered prayers for the swift recovery of those injured in the incident.

He reiterated Tehran's backing for the Afghan authorities' counter-terrorism efforts and called for the immediate prosecution of those responsible for the attack.

The assault, which occurred on Thursday and was claimed by the Daesh terrorist organization,

resulted in the deaths of at least 14 individuals and left four others injured.

This attack was specifically aimed at Shia civilians who were gathered to welcome residents of Sangi Takht returning from a pilgrimage to Karbala, Iraq, to honor the holy shrine of the third Shia Imam.

Iran's embassy criticizes the Daesh attack in Afghanistan

The Iranian embassy in Kabul vehemently denounces the martyrdom of several Shiites in Daykundi, Afghanistan, at the hands of the merciless terrorist organization Daesh. The embassy extends

its prayers for the elevation of the martyrs' status and divine strength for their families.

In its official statement, Iran's embassy calls for accountability for those responsible for this tragic event and expresses its readiness to assist in this pursuit. Following the attack on individuals welcoming pilgrims from Karbala in Ghor province, Daesh has claimed responsibility for the incident.

Afghanistan's TOLONews highlighted that the assault specifically targeted the Hazaras, the third largest ethnic group in the country, occurring in the Kariodal region along the border of Daykundi and Ghor provinces.

Tehran urged IAEA to maintain neutrality in technical matters

TEHRAN- Iranian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, emphasized the importance of addressing technical matters without a political lens.

During a seasonal meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors, Mohsen Naziri highlighted Iran's demonstrated commitment to constructive engagement with the IAEA, while also indicating that the country would not shy away from responding to disproportionate actions.

Naziri noted that despite the provocative initiatives from the three European nations namely the UK, France, and Germany regarding an anti-Iran sanctions proposal, Iran remains dedicated to upholding the comprehensive safeguards agreement and continues its collaboration with the Agency.

Naziri also mentioned the recent exchanges between the Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian and the IAEA's managing director, expressing optimism that these discussions will facilitate enhanced cooperation to

address outstanding issues.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to maintaining its constructive technical collaboration with the Agency, in alignment with its rights and responsibilities under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the comprehensive safeguards agreement,” he concluded.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), established in 1968, aims to curb the proliferation of nuclear

arms, foster collaboration in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, and advance disarmament efforts. Officially in force since 1970, the treaty has garnered the support of 191 nations, making it the most widely accepted arms control agreement ever.

Non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS) are committed to abstaining from acquiring or producing nuclear weapons in exchange for support in developing peaceful nuclear technologies.

Iran's military recognized as world's most powerful anti-terror force: commander

TEHRAN- The deputy chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination declared that Iran's armed forces are recognized as the foremost anti-terrorism entity globally.

During his address at the Xiangshan Security Forum in Beijing, Rear Admiral Habibullah Sayyari emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran's military is viewed as the largest and most formidable anti-terrorist organization worldwide.

Sayyari asserted that regionally, they are prepared to confront any acts of recklessness, disorder, or violations of international standards, noting that the so-called global hegemonic powers have repeatedly faced the repercussions of such confrontations.

Sayyari expressed his appreciation for participating in the forum, which promotes the noble principles of equality, freedom, inclusivity, and mutual learning.

In his speech at the “Global Peace and Security Forum,” held on Friday, Sayyari remarked on the current global landscape, which is fraught with tensions, conflicts, and confrontations that pose serious threats to humanity.

He further stated, “While these challenges have historical precedents, their current intensity demands expert and elite gatherings like the Xiangshan Forum to devise fundamental and practical strategies aimed at improving the

global human condition.”

The Global Peace and Security Forum (GPSF) serves as an international platform uniting essential stakeholders from diverse sectors to engage in discussions and tackle urgent matters concerning peace, security, and conflict resolution.

The forum's objective is to encourage dialogue, exchange knowledge, and advance creative solutions to worldwide challenges.

The role of media and BRICS in reshaping power structures

From Page 1 ▶ For example, in the case of Gaza, although much of the world's public opinion supports the oppressed people of Gaza, the minority powerful prevents a meaningful action. This has led to a global understanding that we must challenge this system. Organizations like BRICS have emerged in response to this need. BRICS, in particular, is taking a leading role in critiquing the global power structure, though other organizations are also making strides.

I believe the media has a crucial role to play.

First, in exposing and portraying the realities of the world, something independent media has done well by highlighting the harsh truths of today's world. Second, and perhaps more urgently now, is fostering collaboration among independent media across the globe. Although there are many independent media outlets, they don't interact much with each other.

When we look at the so-called Global North, we see numerous media outlets, but their narratives are often similar. They work together to repeat the same news in different

forms to increase credibility.

Independent media need to work toward greater collaboration, creating think tanks, and working together to reflect global realities while avoiding fake news and promoting accurate information. In this regard, the media in the Islamic Republic of Iran plays a vital role, as the discourse it champions—originating from core of the Islamic Revolution—can contribute significantly.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Iran grouped with Philippines, Egypt, Tunisia at 2025 FIVB World Championship



TEHRAN – Iran have been bunched with the Philippines, Egypt, and Tunisia during the drawing of lots of the 2025 FIVB Men's World Championship on Saturday in Pasay City, a year before the country hosts the global event.

The Filipinos, who currently rank 64th in the world, will take on the world no. 15 Iran, no. 20 Egypt, and no. 24 Tunisia in Pool A as the Philippines serves as host of the quadrennial event for the first time. It will also be the first time that the World Championship will be held in Southeast Asia.

Iran are a powerhouse in the Asian region, copping the Asian Games title for three consecutive editions since 2014 in South Korea while Egypt saw action during the 2024 Paris Olympics but went winless.

Tunisia, on the other hand, is a frequent participant in the World Championship, suiting up in sixth straight edition since 2002.

Meanwhile, world no. 1 Poland leads Pool B alongside Netherlands, Qatar, and Romania while back-to-back Olympic gold medalist France is in Pool C together with Argentina, Finland, and South Korea.

World no. 1 Poland leads Pool B, where they are joined by Romania, Egypt, Qatar, and the Netherlands.

Olympic and VNL champions France, alongside South Korea, Finland, Puerto Rico, and world no. 9 Argentina, will compete in Pool C.

In Pool D, world no. 3 USA is matched with Colombia, Portugal, and world no. 12 Cuba.

Pool E features world no. 4 Slovenia, Chile, Bulgaria, and world no. 8 Germany.

Shahdab, Foolad in highly anticipated Asian Club Volleyball Championship final

TEHRAN – The 2024 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship is culminating in an all-Iranian showdown as Shahdab Yazd and Foolad Sirjan prepare to battle for the continental title on Sunday. This highly anticipated final promises an intense match between two of Iran's most formidable volleyball clubs.

Both teams have showcased their dominance throughout the tournament, securing their places in the final with convincing victories in the semifinals. Shahdab Yazd swept aside Kazakhstan's Pavlodar Volleyball Club in straight sets, while Foolad Sirjan overcame a tough challenge from Indonesia's Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi in a thrilling five-set match.

The rivalry between Shahdab Yazd and Foolad Sirjan has intensified in recent years, with both teams vying for domestic and continental supremacy. The final will not only determine the Asian champions but will also serve as a litmus test for the two clubs ahead of the upcoming domestic season.

Foolad Sirjan's captain, Seyed Mohammad Mousavi, has expressed his team's determination to secure the championship. “We've been aiming for this final from the start,” Mousavi said. “We're prepared to give our all and bring home the trophy.”

advantage and a strong fan base, will be a formidable opponents. Head coach Rahman Mohammadiraad is confident in his team's ability to clinch the title.

“We know Foolad very well, and they know us,” Mohammadiraad said. “It's going to be a tough match, but we're ready to give our best.”

With both teams boasting experienced players and talented coaches, the final is expected to be a closely contested affair. Volleyball fans around Iran and Asia will be tuning in to witness this historic clash between two of Asia's top clubs.

Former Milan midfielder Merkel joins Nassaji

TEHRAN – Kazakh professional midfielder Alexander Merkel joined the Iranian club Nassaji.

The 32-year-old footballer has joined Nassaji on a one-year deal.

Merkel has most recently played at the Emirati club Hatta.

Born in Kazakhstan to parents of German descent, Merkel initially represented Germany internationally at youth level. He switched allegiance to Kazakhstan in 2015, making his debut in a UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying game.

Merkel started his playing career in Milan in 2010 and has also played at VfL Bochum, Watford, Udinese, and Gaziantep.

Iran fail to advance to 2025 IHF Men's U19 Handball World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Bahrain 46-39 in the 2024 Asian Men's Youth Handball Championship fifth-place match on Friday.

The 2024 Asian Men's Youth Handball Championship takes place from Sept. 3 to 14 in Amman, Jordan under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation.

It was the third time in history that the championship was organized by the Jordan Handball Federation. It also acts as the qualification tournament for the 2025 IHF Men's U19 Handball World Championship.

Top five teams from the championship directly will qualify for the Youth World Championship to be held in Slovenia.

Saipa learn fate at 2024 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iranian club Saipa discovered their opponents at the 2024 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship.

Pool A comprises host Nakhonratchasima QminC VC, silver medalist at the 2021 edition in Thailand, Kazakhstan's Kuanysb VC, champion in the 2022 edition on home soil and 6th at the FIVB Women's Club World Championship in Turkey, Kwai Tsing from Hong Kong, China and Duc Giang Chemical Club from Vietnam B.

Saipa are drawn in Pool B with LP Bank Ninh Binh of Vietnam A, silver medalist at the 2024 Binh Dien International Cup in Dak Lak, NEC Red Rockets Kawasaki from Japan, winner in 2016 in Philippines, and Philippines' Monolith Sky Risers.

Nakhon Ratchasima, known as Korat, a city with an estimate distance of 269km northeast of Thailand's capital city Bangkok, gets set to host the 2024 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship at the 5,000-seater Chatchai Hall between September 22 and 29, with all participating teams confirmed during the drawing of lots on Wednesday.

Iran outperforms Qatar in extracting gas from SP joint field: official



TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic has outpaced Qatar in gas extraction from South Pars field which is shared between the two countries in the Persian Gulf, an official with the Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) said.

Alireza Rikhtehgar Dezfouli put the daily gas production from the field at about 700 million cubic meters, noting that 70 percent of the natural gas, 40 percent of the feed for gasoline production and 64 percent of the fuel required for electricity production in the country is supplied from the South Pars gas field.

According to the official most of the equipment

and parts needed for overhauling and maintaining the platforms of the field are manufactured by domestic companies.

"Since the sanctions imposition, the development of knowledge base companies in the oil industry has been prioritized, and in the first stage, and for the major repairs of the platforms of the South Pars gas field, which has been one of the heaviest overhauls in this field in the last two decades, we have used the capacities of domestic knowledge-based companies," Rikhtehgar Dezfouli said.

South Pars gas field 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.

National Housing Movement, government's major development plan

TEHRAN- Hamid Pour-Mohammadi, the head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), said that the National Housing Movement is the major development plan of the government.

As announced in late July by the former minister of transport and urban development, 2.6 million units of the National Housing Movement are currently under construction throughout the country.

Mehرداد Bazrpash said that these units in different models are being built in the country, some of them have been delivered and the rest are in different stages of progress.

The National Housing Movement is one of the major policies of the 13th government in the housing sector, and according to this policy, the construction of four million residential units is planned in four years.

It is one of the projects through which the government is trying to help low-income individuals in society become homeowners.

Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Hadi Abbasi-Asl has emphasized the acceleration in implementing the Housing Construction Leap Law to achieve the goals of the 13th government. In late September 2023, Bazrpash announced the launching of a program for allocating free land (in the framework of the National Housing Movement) to young couples in order to help them build houses.

The National Housing Movement to construct four million housing units in four years is one of the major plans of the current government in the housing sector. According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages.

After the National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), the National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-income

classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of the National Housing Movement began in February 2022.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by a former Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi.

Also, in July 2022, the minister inaugurated a project for the construction of the first group of affordable housing units for laborers under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

On September 10, 2023, 1,278 units of the National Housing Movement were handed over to the applicants in a ceremony attended by Aref Norouzi, the acting director of the Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini.

The mentioned units were delivered to the applicants in five provinces throughout the country.

The Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development to construct 100,000 units under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

According to Norouzi, the headquarters also completed and handed over 2,000 such units back in April, 2023. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the official said construction of the National Housing Movement units is underway by the Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini in 27 provinces.

Late President Ebrahim Raisi stated that the National Housing Movement is the flagship project of the 13th government to meet the needs of the people, and in addition to the Transport and Urban Development Ministry, all relevant organizations are also striving to achieve it.

Annual export from Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province rises 94%

TEHRAN - The value of non-oil export from Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province increased by 94 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), as compared to its previous year, according to a provincial official.

Mazaher Rabiei, the acting head of the customs department of the province, also stated that the annual non-oil export from the province shows 123 percent rise in terms of weight.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.17.8 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

According to Mohammad Rezvanifar, the value of the Islamic Republic's trade with the partners in the previous year increased by 2.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

The official put the country's non-oil exports, excluding exports of electricity, crude oil, and techno-engineering services, at 136.4 million tons worth \$49.33 billion which shows a 9.82 percent rise in terms of tonnage and an 8.87 percent

decline in terms of value.

Iran exported \$35.87 billion of crude oil, \$370 million of electricity, and \$1.293 billion of technical 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, Iraq customs stress expansion of ties

From page 1 ▶ Iran and Iraq signed 14 cooperation documents in various economic, commercial, cultural, and social fields during President Pezeshkian's visit to the neighboring country.

The cooperation documents were signed in the presence of Pezeshkian and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in the Iraqi capital.

Heading a high-ranking ecological delegation, Pezeshkian arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday to start his first foreign visit after taking office in August.

Upon arrival in Baghdad, President Pezeshkian was welcomed by Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani and Iran's ambassador to the neighboring country Mohammad Kazem Al-e Sadeq.

The value of Iran's non-oil export to Iraq rose 21 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.



Head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration Mohammad Rezvanifar (1st R) and Head of Iraqi Customs Authority Hassan Hamoud Hassani (L) hold talks in Baghdad on Thursday.

Abdol-Amir Rabiavi, the director of the West Asia Office of the TPO, said that Iran exported non-oil goods worth over \$4.5 billion to Iraq in the five-month period of this year, while the figure was \$3.508 billion in the same time span of the previous year.

Iraq is a strategic neighbor of Iran and Iran-Iraq annual trade stands at about \$10 billion, he noted.

In late May, the head of the

Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Planning of the Iranian Plan and Budget Organization said that Iran exports some 2,200 products, valued at \$12 billion, to neighboring Iraq annually.

Speaking in a meeting entitled "Reviewing opportunities and challenges of attracting Iraqi investors and strengthening trade relations between the two countries in line with

demarcating Iran in the regional value chain", Jafar Hosseini said that Iraq, benefiting from \$85 billion foreign exchange reserves, 130 tons of gold reserves, and 147 billion barrels of proven reserves of crude oil, is among the richest countries in West Asia.

He went on to say that Iran's exports to Iraq have increased 15-fold over the past 20 years, rising from about \$600 million in 2003 to more than \$10 billion last year (ended March 19, 2024).

Currently, Iran exports over 2,200 various types of goods and products to Iraq, he said, adding that more than half of the active Iranian traders are present in the Iraqi market, IRNA reported.

Developing the trade infrastructures to facilitate trade between the two countries, encouraging traders to invest in Iraq, promoting trade through dispatching and admitting trade delegations and participating in exhibitions of the two countries, etc. are suggested to strengthen the trade and economic relations between Iran and Iraq, he underlined.

Oman interested in using Iran's Imam Khomeini Port trade capacities

TEHRAN - A business delegation from Oman has visited Iran's Imam Khomeini Port in southwestern Khuzestan province during which they expressed interest in using the commercial capacities of the port for expanding economic ties with Iran.

According to Head of Ahvaz Chamber of Commerce Mohammad-Javad Amani, the business delegation, who arrived in Khuzestan on Saturday, visited Khorramshahr and Arvand Free Trade Zone in order to explore trade opportunities in the area, the portal of Iran Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported.

During the visit, the two sides concluded several cooperation agreements, and the Omani side emphasized increasing cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries, Amani said.

Referring to the delegation's visit to the Special Economic Zone of Imam Khomeini Port as the country's largest grain trading center, he added: "Port capacities for the supply of goods, transit, the possibility of re-exporting, as well as making large private sector investments in this area were among the issues that were discussed during the visit."

According to the head of Ahvaz Chamber of Commerce, visiting the factories located in the special economic zone of Imam Khomeini Port, familiarizing with the processing products, and examining the available resources and investment requirements in this area, were also among the goals of this economic delegation's trip to Imam Khomeini Port.

During their trip to Khuzestan, the members of the Omani business delegation pointed out the activity of 14 free and special economic zones in Oman and emphasized the interest in developing economic cooperation with Iran, and called for the development of trade and commercial activities between the two sides.

The delegation also visited the loading and unloading operation site of the Imam Khomeini port and became familiar with the port capacities in this regard, according to Amani.

As announced by a provincial official, loading and unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port, in southwestern Khuzestan province,

increased by 14 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20- August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Aboutaleb Geraylou, the director-general of Khuzestan province's Ports and Maritime Department, said that 20 million tons of oil products and non-oil goods have been loaded and unloaded in this port during the five-month period.

Based on the latest data released by the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), some 94,284,476 tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at the country's ports in the first five months of the present year.

As reported, during the mentioned five months more than 10.964 million tons of oil products and over 21.291 million tons of non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports, while the loading of oil products in ports was reported to be 32.132 million tons, and the loading of non-oil goods was 29.896 million tons.

Totally, more than 32.255 million tons of oil- and non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports in the said five months, and over 62.029 million tons of oil- and non-oil products were loaded.

During the mentioned period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 1,079,516 TEUs, which was four percent more than the 1,052,590 TEUs in the first five months of the past year.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support for ports and their development serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in five years.

Ports and Maritime Organization has put



it on the agenda to attract 300 trillion rials (about \$600 million) of investment from the private sector in the country's ports by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

As reported by the PMO portal, the mentioned investment is going to be used to develop the infrastructure and operational capacity of the country's ports.

In July, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei said over the past few years the organization has managed to attract nearly \$1.7 billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country's ports and maritime sector. Speaking in a press conference on July 10, Safaei said some 620 trillion rials (about \$1.24 billion) of domestic investment and \$470 million of foreign investment have been attracted in the mentioned sectors.

"The attraction of this amount of private sector investment is significant compared to the total budget of the government in the sea and port sectors," he said.

According to the official, regarding foreign investment, PMO has signed contracts with five countries including India which has so far invested \$120 million in the port sector and \$250 million in the rail, roads, and infrastructure sectors.

Referring to the growth of maritime trade in the country, Safaei continued: "Maritime trade increased from 215 million tons in [the Iranian calendar year] 1401 (2022-2023) to 237 million tons last year (ended on March 19, 2024)."

"In the first quarter of the current year, 60 million tons of maritime trade was recorded, which shows a 10 percent growth compared to the same period last year, and even a 70 percent growth was recorded in some parts of the Caspian Sea," he added.

Thermal power plants' overhaul operation begins

TEHRAN- As announced by the head of Iran's Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH), the overhaul operation of the country's thermal power plants has been started.

"Since mid-Shahrivar [the sixth Iranian calendar month beginning on August 22], the overhaul operations have begun on more than 109,000 megawatts capacity of thermal power

plants throughout the country in order to increase the readiness of these units to produce sustainable electricity in the next year's summer peak period," Abdolrasoul Pishahang said.

Summer months constitute Iran's peak demand periods, so most of the power plant overhaul programs are scheduled to take place during autumn, winter and spring seasons.

New head of Persian Gulf Star Oil Company appointed

TEHRAN - Gholamhossein Ramezanzadeh has been appointed as the new head of the Persian Gulf Star Oil Company with the approval of the company's Board of Directors.

As Shana reported the text of the decree of

Babak Afghahi, the chairman of the board of directors of the company, reads:

"Considering your commitment and expertise, and according to the resolution of the 403rd meeting of the board of directors of the Persian Gulf Star Oil Company, you have

been appointed as the head of the Persian Gulf Star Oil Company, by this decree."

"I take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the worthy efforts of Mr. Alireza Jafarpour during his tenure in this position, and ask God for his ever-growing success."

Hezbollah hits strategic Israeli army base

Lebanese resistance movement targets Israeli Base 282 for the first time

From page 1 ▶ Israeli media has acknowledged that Hezbollah is expanding its operations towards “the sea of Galilee”.

Media reports have said that “intensive volleys of rockets were launched from Lebanon towards the depths of the Upper Galilee.”

Hezbollah’s statement also noted that this operation came “in support of the steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, and in solidarity with their brave and honorable resistance.”

Hezbollah issued a separate statement which announced the targeting of the Israeli occupation army’s reserve headquarters of the northern corps, the reserve station of the Galilee division, and its logistical depots in Ami’ad with dozens of Katyusha rockets.

In another operation carried out on Saturday, an Israeli Merkava tank was “destroyed” on the road connecting Ruwaisat al-Alam in the Israeli-occupied Kafr Shuba Hills near Sheba’a Farms to Zabdin in the Israeli-occupied Golan.



The tank was set on fire after it was struck by a guided missile.

Israeli media reported that “55 rockets had been launched from Lebanon towards the Upper Galilee” on Saturday morning, reporting that sirens were repeatedly heard in several northern settlements, including Avivim.

On the expansion of Hezbollah’s operations, one Hebrew news media outlet asked, “Has Safed also become part of Israel’s conflict zone? What is the

next city? Tiberias or Haifa?”

Israeli media also pointed out, “Hezbollah continues to expand the range of fire in the north, focusing on Safed, the Tiberias area, and Rosh Pina.”

Reports of continued efforts to extinguish fires that broke out around Ami’ad near Tiberias as a result of rockets launched from Lebanon have also circulated in the Israeli press.

Hezbollah has been exchanging fire on a daily basis with the

Israeli military since October 8, 2023, one day after Hamas launched the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation.

The southern Lebanese resistance forces have repeatedly informed mediators that it will only halt fire once there is a ceasefire in Gaza.

There have been casualties on both sides as well as tens of thousands of people displaced in southern Lebanon and an estimated 100,000 on the Israeli side.

Analysts say the number of displaced on the Israeli side is 300,000.

Experts have pointed out that Hezbollah has been transparent in announcing the names of both the fighters it has lost and the civilians that have been killed by Israeli strikes.

This is while critics have accused Tel Aviv of hiding the real number of its casualties on the northern front.

Israel using PR to cover up battlefield setbacks

From page 1 ▶ Amit Halevi, a member of the Knesset’s Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, said on Saturday that the Israeli army has not managed to defeat even a single battalion of the resistance movement in Rafah.

He also rejected the army’s claim of killing a large number of Hamas fighters as an exaggeration.

Halevi further said Israel has only destroyed a small fraction of the underground tunnels in Rafah.

He admitted that the Netanyahu regime has not only failed to accomplish any strategic successes but is also far from defeating or destroying Hamas.

This is not the inaugural instance of a high-ranking Israeli official highlighting the army’s failures on the battlefield.

Last month, war minister Yoav Gallant said during a closed-door hearing before a Knesset committee that Netanyahu’s “total victory” slogan is “nonsense” and “gibberish”.

It was also in August that around 100 Israeli officers warned that the regime’s army is “still far from victory”.

“In the past few days, we have been astonished by repeated statements from senior army officials that victory is within reach and it is possible to move to the stage of pinpoint raids,” the officers said in a letter to military

Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi.

They added, “We, who came from the field, know very well that the situation is still far from victory.”

The officers acknowledged that the Palestinian resistance factions still have cross-border capabilities such as UAVs, explosive drones and mortars as they took a jab at Netanyahu’s warmongering. “This is not what victory looks like!” the letter read.

In June, the Israeli military spokesman also expressed skepticism regarding the feasibility of achieving the war objective of defeating Hamas.

“The idea that it is possible to destroy Hamas, to make Hamas vanish — that is throwing sand in the eyes of the public,” Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Israel’s Channel 13. He added, “Hamas is an idea, deeply rooted in the hearts of the residents of Gaza. To replace those who handle civil services and distribute or steal food, something else needs to be established. This is a decision for the political echelon, and the army will implement it.”

Israel’s war of genocide on Gaza followed the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, a surprise attack carried out by Hamas in southern Israel on October 7.

Hamas said the operation was a normal response to all Israeli conspiracies against the Palestinian people.



Knesset member Amit Halevi says Israel lacks strategic accomplishments and is currently trapped in an “endless tunnel”

The Al-Aqsa Storm Operation shattered the image of Israel’s invincibility.

For now, Halevi’s remarks, echoing the views of other Israeli officials, indicate that Palestinian resistance groups are unbeatable and possess the ability to bring the occupying regime to its knees.

Turkey buries activist killed by Israel in West Bank

The American-Turkish activist Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, who was killed by Israeli gunfire in the West Bank a week ago, was buried in her family’s hometown in southwestern Turkey on Saturday.

The activist’s body arrived in Turkey on Friday in a flat top coffin, wrapped in the Turkish flag and carried by soldiers, in a ceremony that is usually reserved for fallen troops, CNN reported.

Her coffin was placed outside Didim Central Mosque on Saturday, where hundreds of people gathered to pay their respects to the 26-year-old. A smaller event later took place at a cemetery where an imam read verses from the Quran and mourners laid white flowers on her grave.

Eygi, who was born in Turkey and had joint US citizenship, was shot by Israeli forces while taking part in a weekly protest against an Israeli settlement near the Palestinian village of Beita. All Israeli settlements are considered illegal under international law.

She was a recent graduate of the University of Washington, and had been volunteering with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), the same pro-Palestinian activist group

as Rachel Corrie, a US citizen killed in 2003 while attempting to stop an Israeli bulldozer from demolishing Palestinian homes in Gaza.

The Israeli army said it was “highly likely” that Eygi was “hit indirectly and unintentionally by IDF fire.”

The speaker of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, Numan Kurtulmu? spoke outside of the

Turkey’s Parliament Speaker Numan Kurtulmu? promised to hold accountable those who killed Eygi.

mosque during the procession and said Eygi’s killing was “not the fault of a handful of Israeli soldiers, this is the crime of a terrorist state.”

Kurtulmu? indirectly referred to President Joe Biden, calling him “so far from humanity” for describing Eygi’s death as an apparent accident.

The ISM has criticized Biden



An autopsy report suggested that Eygi was directly shot in the head by Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank.

for refusing Eygi’s family’s demands for an independent and transparent investigation into her death.

An autopsy report prepared by the Palestinian Authority suggested that Eygi was directly shot in the head by Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank, according to three forensic experts who reviewed the dossier.

The report, dated 6 September and drafted by a Palestinian medical committee led by Dr

Rayyan al-Ali, contradicts the version of events given by Israel and the US president, who said the bullet that killed Eygi appeared to have “ricocheted off the ground”.

Three separate forensic experts who viewed the autopsy report told Middle East Eye that the damage on Eygi’s skull and the destruction within suggest that it was a direct hit.

WORLD HEADLINES

Former army official: Israel ‘stuck in Gaza and bleeding’

The Israeli army’s former head of operations has criticized the continuing war in Gaza saying the regime is “stuck in Gaza and bleeding”.

Major General Israel Ziv described the war as a “dire quagmire”.

Ziv, who previously led the Gaza Division, asserted that the war has become a source of political stability for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet, Al Jazeera reported.

He suggested that Netanyahu might be prolonging the war to maintain his political position and delay his corruption trial, which could lead to imprisonment.

Ziv added that after a year of what he called the longest and most exhausting war in Israel’s history, the regime finds itself trapped in a continuous security crisis with no end in sight.

He noted that the situation is not improving and lacks a clear path towards resolution. He emphasized that the war, which Netanyahu claimed was on the verge of victory six months ago, now appears endless.

Evacuation of northern Gaza ‘prelude’ to annexation

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry has warned of “the dangers posed by Israel’s actions to evacuate Palestinians from northern Gaza, viewing it as a prelude to the annexation of Gaza and significant parts of the territory for settlement purposes”.

It also said Israel is attempting to divide Gaza into three parts.

The ministry said Israel was also mobilizing all its resources to escalate tensions in the occupied West Bank, “with the aim of facilitating its annexation and overthrowing the Palestinian National Authority”.

“This agenda is openly promoted by [Finance Minister] Smotrich and [National Security Minister] Ben-Gvir under the slogan of preventing the realization of a Palestinian state,” it said.

“The international community’s failure to stop these acts of ethnic cleansing and forced displacement grants Israel’s extremist government the necessary time to imple-

ment its colonial plans in both Gaza and the West Bank.”

Iraqi PM condemns Israel for ‘heinous’ acts against civilians

The Iraqi prime minister said Israeli forces have committed “the most heinous of killings, destruction and violation against civilians in full view of the world” in the Gaza Strip.

“The oppressed and defenseless Palestinian people have been subjected for more than 10 months to a war of extermination waged by the criminal Zionist occupation forces,” Mohammed al-Sudani said.

He added, “What is required of us today is that we all, Muslims and Arabs, take an honorable stand to support Palestine.”

Zakharova: US sanctions against RT are ‘aggression’

The new US sanctions against RT and other Russian media outlets are a brazen act of aggression that should concern the rest of the world, as Washington could apply the same measures to others, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

On Friday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced new restrictions targeting RT parent companies Rossiya Segodnya and TV-Novosti while accusing the network of being “engaged in covert influence activities... and functioning as a de facto arm of [Russian] intelligence.”

In her opening remarks at the BRICS media summit in Moscow on Saturday, Zakharova described the recent US crackdown on Russian media an “emergency situation” that she said should be of direct concern to the group’s members.

“Russian journalists became victims of the aggression from the United States of America. They were subjected to a real terrorist and information attack both as a corporation and as individuals,” she noted.

Zakharova added, “We cannot remain silent. What is happening now to Russian journalists and media organizations... could happen to each and one of you.”

US envoy appeasing apartheid: “There is unfair amount of focus on Israel in UN”

The US Permanent Representative to the United Nations accused the UN of “inordinately over-focus” on Israel, which has killed more than 41,100 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since October, saying that “there is an unfair amount of focus on Israel”.

“I think that we have an Israel problem in the UN. And there is an inordinately over-focus on Israel – even before Gaza – in the UN. It’s something that we have raised on a regular basis,” said Linda Thomas-Greenfield during an event at the Council on Foreign Relations late Thursday, Anadolu reported.

“There is no other country in the world that has a monthly meeting on the (Security) Council’s agenda going back decades,” the US envoy said, describing the “unfair amount of focus on Israel in the UN” as “problematic”.

Asked about recognizing the Palestinian State, Thomas-Greenfield gave an evasive response as she claimed that “a state has certain responsibilities for its people, and I do not believe the Palestinians, as they exist right now, have all of the elements to give it statehood.”

She also bluntly responded to a question about the arrest warrant issued for Is-

raeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, by the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor, Karim Khan, and said: “We have been clear that we have a problem with the Court’s ruling.”

“Well, let me be clear: We will not arrest him,” she stressed.

On 20 May, ICC Prosecutor, Karim Khan, announced that the court was seeking arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant, on charges of committing war crimes.

If arrest warrants are issued, Netanyahu and Gallant would be unable to travel to any of the 124 member countries of the ICC, where its rulings are binding.

Israel is also accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, whose latest ruling ordered it to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah,

The US remains accused of complicity in Israel’s genocidal war in Gaz through its unwavering military support for the apartheid regime.

Over the past months, protesters in American cities have called on the Biden administration to stop arming Israel.

Bordering province targets Iraqi tourist market



TEHRAN – Kermanshah, the Iranian western province which shares a 371-kilometer border with both the Kurdish and Arab regions of Iraq, has set sights on Iraqi tourism market, said a local tourism official.

"Iraq and its [semi-autonomous] Kurdistan region are key target markets for attracting overseas tourists," Dariush Farmani stated in a meeting with local travel insiders on Saturday.

"Enhancing interactions with this area is a top priority for province's foreign tourism development."

He further emphasized that the western tourism axis of Iran will be highlighted at the Sulaymaniyah International Tourism Exhibition in Iraq, scheduled to take place in late September.

Mentioning to the exhibition as a valuable opportunity to introduce Kermanshah's attractions and capabilities, Farmani high-

lighted that attending such international exhibitions provides a suitable platform for promoting tourism, engaging in international negotiations, and signing cooperation agreements.

Some promotional packages, including video clips of the province's tourist attractions, will be presented at the event, the official continued.

Farmani also pointed out the participation of the province's accommodation centers in the exhibition to introduce the region's lodging facilities.

Additionally, local travel agencies and tourism guides will be involved to further promote the province's offerings, he outlined.

One area of focus, Farmani concluded, is health tourism, where Kermanshah is poised to play a prominent role.

The Sulaymaniyah International Tourism Exhibition is scheduled to take place from September 26 to 29, coinciding with World Tourism Day (September 27).

Iran's strategy of prioritizing tourism from neighboring countries in recent years, places Iraq in a special position due to geographical and religious proximity.

Showcasing tourism capacities aims to strengthen cross-border ties and highlight Kermanshah's potential as a prime destination for Iraqi travelers.

Third of people in Spain say local area has too many foreign tourists

A third of people in Spain say their local area now has too many international visitors, according to a continent-wide survey that has found most people across Europe are sympathetic to protests against overtourism and back steps to combat it.

The YouGov survey comes after a summer of demonstrations and urgent warnings against the impact of mass tourism from Santorini to the Canary Islands, and measures aimed at reducing it announced from the Cinque Terre to Amsterdam.

The polling in Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and the UK found Spain was the country that felt most strongly about the phenomenon, with 32% of respondents saying there were now too many foreign travelers in their area.

That number rose to 48% in Catalonia, the region that includes Barcelona, whose 1.6 million residents receive about 32 million visitors annually, and of which one local columnist said last month: "My city has been stolen from me, and I'm not getting it back."

People in Spain also felt more strongly than others about the short-term holiday rentals sector, which is widely accused of removing accommodation from the local residential market and inflating rents to a point many residents cannot afford.

The survey showed more than a third of Spaniards (37%) felt the holiday lettings sector brought more harm than benefits, and 45% said they had a negative view of it, an opinion shared by smaller but significant minorities in other countries.

Controlling tourist numbers is a difficult balancing act for national, city and local authorities, with compromises needing to be struck between often vital revenues and jobs generated by international visitors and the quality of life of residents.

Cities including Amsterdam, Paris, Seville and Venice, top tourist draws including Istanbul's Hagia Sophia and the Acropolis in Athens, and sites of natural beauty such as Marseille's Calanques have all adopted recent measures to curb overtourism.

Strategies include regulating or reducing visitor numbers by boosting tourist taxes; introducing entrance fees, time slot systems or advance reservation schemes; or launching mass information campaigns aimed at reducing visitor numbers.

Most popular – and backed by majorities of between 57% and 76% in every country surveyed – was a requirement to book in advance to get admission to popular sites, a policy adopted at attractions such as Rome's Colosseum and the Louvre in Paris.

At least half (50–62%) of respondents in every country said they would also support capping the number of tourists who could access popular cities or destinations, a measure introduced at the Acropolis in Athens – and a small island in Brittany.

Respondents in all seven countries were also broadly in favour (between 46% and 58%) of banning the construction of new hotels in popular cities, a measure that Amsterdam announced earlier this year, saying it had "to keep the city livable".

Less popular, though still backed by many in some countries, were "tourist tax" fees to enter overcrowded cities; prohibiting residential properties being let as holiday accommodation; and banning visitors who do not stay at least one night.

"High levels of international tourists have been a persistent challenge for cities across Europe," said Eva Satkute Stewart, YouGov's global head of travel and tourism, with the issues "particularly acute in Spain, which is reflected in our data".

Excessive tourism triggered concerns about rising living costs, housing prices and the erosion of cultural identity, Stewart said, "although locals also acknowledge the benefits, such as job creation and improved infrastructure".

Increasingly, she said, residents in larger cities were demanding stricter regulations on tourist housing, while medium-sized cities were promoting off-season tourism.

(Source: The Guardian)

Malayer tourism soars tenfold for furniture festival

"The city has embraced a vibrant tourism spirit, with celebrations taking place every night in various parts of the county."

Highlighting the economic aspects of the month-long event, which began on September 5, Esmaeili pointed out the positive effects on local businesses, particularly as tourism-related activities have boosted income for many sectors.

TEHRAN – The fifth Hand-Carved Furniture Festival in Malayer has brought at least a tenfold increase in tourist numbers compared to last year, filling the city with celebrations, according to a local official.

"We are witnessing thousands of tourists from all over the country," Salman Esmaeili said on Friday.

Ambassador urges stronger Iran-India tourism exchange, calls tourism 'best symbol of people-to-people relations'

TEHRAN – Iran's ambassador to India has emphasized the importance of tourism as a bridge for deepening the longstanding cultural and people-to-people ties between the two nations.

Speaking to ANI on the sidelines of a roadshow tourism event organized by the Islamic Republic, Iraj Elahi called for renewed efforts to enhance mutual understanding and tourism exchanges.

"Iran and India have shared strong people-to-people relations for centuries. Tourism is the best symbol of these relations, and it is time to strengthen this connection," Elahi said on Friday.

The envoy noted that, in recent years, [public] knowledge about developments in both nations has diminished, with many Indians unaware of Iran's progress and vice versa.

"We initiated this event to collaborate, to think together, and to find ways to promote tourism between our two countries," he said, highlighting the roadshow as an opportunity for stakeholders to explore ways of boosting tourism flows.

Elahi stressed that the goal is not limited to encouraging Indian tourists to visit Iran but also includes fostering a reciprocal flow of travelers.

"As the ambassador of Iran, one of my duties is to attract Iranian tourists to India, while also working to bring Indian tourists



to Iran." It is a two-way street, he explained.

"As the ambassador of Iran, one of my duties is to attract Iranian tourists to India, while also working to bring Indian tourists to Iran." It is a two-way street, Elahi said.

To make travel easier for Indian nationals, Iran has taken several steps, including the exemption of passport holders from visa requirements. Elahi further explained, "Indians do not need to scan their passports when entering or leaving Iran, and there are no concerns about potential restrictions on visiting other coun-

tries after traveling to Iran."

Asked about the potential impact of geopolitical tensions, particularly the ongoing discord between Iran and the Zionist regime of Israel, on tourism, Elahi downplayed any significant effect.

"The current tension between Iran and Israel is not a new thing. For more than 40 years, we've had this tension. Israel is waiting for Iran's retaliation, and we will respond at the right time..." he stated confidently.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Elahi acknowledged that travel advisories from India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) may sometimes deter tourists, but noted that travelers from Europe and other parts of the world are increasingly visiting Iran despite these concerns.

"We are witnessing an increase in tourism from different countries, particularly from Europe.

They are conscious of the geopolitical situation, but they are still coming to Iran," he pointed out.

In a direct appeal to Indian travelers, Elahi extended a personal invitation. "I invite the people of India to come and see Iran for what it really is.

He then talked about anti-Iran propaganda spread by some mass media, saying: "Unfortunately, the mainstream media is giving misinformation, trying to manipulate perceptions."

He noted that Indian passport holders can easily travel to Iran on direct flights without a visa. It's just a three-and-a-half-hour flight, and they can buy good souvenirs from Iran," he said.

Elahi's remarks reflected Iran's broader effort to revitalize tourism exchanges with India and counter misconceptions that may deter travelers. By easing visa requirements and addressing logistical hurdles, Iran aims to attract Indian tourists while encouraging more Iranians to explore India as well.

The ambassador's remarks came during the Iranian roadshow, which is scheduled to take place from September 10 to 14 in three major Indian cities: Mumbai, Hyderabad, and New Delhi. The event is part of a broader effort by Iran to rejuvenate its tourism sector by attracting more visitors while also encouraging Iranians to explore India's diverse landscapes and culture.

Sports tourism blossoms in World Heritage city of Yazd

TEHRAN – Yazd's sports tourism sector is experiencing a significant boost as the city hosts the 2024 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, according to a local tourism official.

"The sports tourism sector in Yazd is taking shape and gaining momentum," Seyyed-Mohammad Rastegari said on Friday, adding that with the hosting of international sporting events, this branch of tourism is thriving.

The official highlighted Yazd's role as the 2024 Capital of Tourism for Asia Dialogue Member States, adding that last year, the city hosted an international badminton tournament, and now the city is hosting the Asian Club Volleyball Championship, further boosting sports tourism.

He expressed hope that leveraging this opportunity and the presence of top international players will help showcase Yazd's World Heritage status and the rich, peaceful culture of its people to the world.

"Ongoing hosting of such events and the

development of a sports event calendar are positive for Yazd's tourism industry," he emphasized. "This initiative can assist travel agencies in creating sports tourism packages and organizing tours in Yazd."

The Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, featuring eight teams, kicked off on September 8 in Yazd and will run until September 15.

Sports tourism is a rapidly growing segment of the global tourism industry, encompassing travel for the purpose of participating in or viewing sports events. This niche market includes a wide range of activities, from international sporting events like the Olympics to local and regional competitions.

Sports tourism generates substantial revenue for host destinations through spending on accommodation, food, transportation, and entertainment. It also creates jobs and stimulates investment in infrastructure. Hosting sports events provides opportunities for local



residents to engage in and benefit from tourism activities.

With the growing popularity of sports globally, more destinations are investing in facilities to attract sports tourists. This trend is particularly notable in regions looking to diversify their tourism offerings.

There is a rising focus on making sports tourism sustainable, ensuring that it benefits local communities while minimizing environmental impacts.

Iran's highest observatory launched in Kerman province

TEHRAN – On Friday evening, the Bam-e Behesht Observatory, recognized as the third-largest in Iran and the highest of its kind, was officially inaugurated in Sarduiyeh district of Jiroft, southern Kerman province.

Speaking at the launch event on Friday, Seyyed Ahmad Fatemi, CEO of an investment company, highlighted the significance of the new facility. He noted that there is only one observatory higher than this one in the country, but it is primarily used for research purposes.

"This observatory is situated 2,800 meters above sea level and is equipped for day and night observation," Fatemi stated.

"It is equipped with a specialized telescope that allows us to observe activities within the sun

during the day, as well as planets and celestial bodies that are invisible to the naked eye."

Fatemi added that the observatory provides a clearer view of the sky's phenomena, enhancing the public's understanding of the universe.

The observatory complex offers several facilities, including an amphitheater, a library, a restaurant, and areas for both day and night sky viewing. It also features a planetarium with a rotating dome that focuses on planets for detailed observation.

Fatemi revealed that the initial phase of the project required an investment of 570 billion rials (some \$950,000) and has created employment for 42 people, emphasizing that all the workers are local to the area.

"We are committed to hiring

only local staff because the people in this region face economic hardships," he added.

Kerman is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. 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, which has long been a destination for stargazers.

Glimpses of Iran's 13th-century observatory

Constructed in the mid-13th century under the patronage of Hulagu Khan, the grandson of Genghis Khan, Maragheh observatory is the oldest existing one in the country. Hulagu Khan se-

lected Persian polymath Nasir al-Din al-Tusi as the director of the observatory, which is located in northwest Iran.

According to the UNESCO Astronomy and World Heritage Webportal, Maragheh observatory represented a new wave of scientific activities in the Islamic world in the 13th century, it had a key role in the development of some sophisticated pre-Copernican non-Ptolemaic systems for explaining the planetary motions, and it was the model for several observatories that were built in Persia, Transoxiana, and Asia Minor up to the 17th century.

Experts say ideas initiated by the Maragheh school created a considerable impact beyond the Islamic territories and influenced the astronomical revolution of the 16th century.

ularly in wood carving and furniture making. The city is renowned for its traditional hand-carved furniture, which showcases intricate designs and skilled artistry.

In recent years, Malayer has made significant strides in promoting tourism, particularly through events such as the Hand-Carved Furniture Festival, which attracts visitors from across the country.

Tehran to host Iran Pharma Exhibition 2024

TEHRAN – The International Exhibition of Pharmaceuticals and Related Industries (IRAN PHARMA 2024) will be held from October 2 to 4 in Tehran.

The event will gather many pharmaceutical specialists from regional countries, as well as from Africa, South America, and East Asia.

The exhibition serves as a platform for participants to share knowledge and experiences through holding specialized meetings; showcase their latest achievements, capabilities, and pharmaceutical products to draw investors' interest; as well as identify gaps in different sectors to resolve them later.

Iran Pharma

The International Exhibition on Pharmaceuticals and Related Industries, one of the largest pharmaceutical events of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region, is held by the Iranian Pharmaceutical Industries Syndicate, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, and other associations, syndicates, and health-related bodies.

Each edition hosts a number of sub-events, aimed at expanding contributions and innovative collaborations in the pharmaceutical sector, capabilities transfer, networking, establishing export markets, and identifying the opportunities for investing in pharmaceutical technologies.

Keynote speeches, scientific and syndicate panels, B2B and multilateral trade meetings, syndicate conventions, interactive competitions and challenges, health-related book and me-



dia fairs, and student tours have been among the side events in the past few years.

Africa welcomes Iranian medical equipment, medicine

Eleven Iranian pharmaceutical manufacturing companies have taken important steps towards presenting their products in East African markets.

Thanks to the efforts of the iHiT in Kenya and the support of the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, 13 different production lines in 11 pharmaceutical companies were inspected by the ministry of health of Kenya and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certificates were issued, IRIB reported.

The move plays an important role in strengthening the status of Iran's pharmaceutical industry in the region.

In January 2021, Iran opened its house of innovation and technology in Kenya and the first center in Africa.

medical equipment, and research.

Moreover, Mohammad Hossein Niknam, the deputy health minister for international cooperation, highlighting the importance of health in the world said, "Iran is ready to identify fields of cooperation and expand collaboration in the field of health with Libya."

The parties put forward some proposals to further cooperation in the field of health.

These proposals are to be reviewed and implemented in the coming days in meetings, during the visits of the delegation of the Libyan Ministry of Health to Iran's health centers.

Over 60 countries import Iranian medical equipment

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment such as anesthesia machines and other equipment are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Isfahan AI Event 2024 slated for October

TEHRAN –Isfahan Artificial Intelligence (IAI) Event is scheduled to be held from October 23 to 25, bringing together faculty members, academicians, experts, and students to discuss the latest developments in the field of AI, ISNA reported.

The main theme of the gathering will be the development of cross-border activities, including research, technological, and economic activities.

Holding meetings of artificial intelligence experts and specialists, and organizing exhibitions, investment events, and competitions will be the four main parts of the IAI 2024.

The event will feature the attendance and presentation of experts, professors, and influential international businesses.

It will also provide an opportunity for sharing and presenting the capacities and latest capabilities of the best national and international knowledge-based companies in the field of artificial intelligence.

The competitions serve as a platform for providing innovative solutions based on data and artificial intelligence tools.

One of the main goals of this gathering is to improve the quantitative and qualitative level of the economy based on artificial intelligence which will consequently develop the artificial intelligence ecosystem in the country through fostering international businesses and the internationalization of the capacities and capabilities of individuals and companies.

Iran to become a leading country in AI

In January 2022, Shahram Moein, head of the innovation and development center of artificial intelligence at the Research Institute of Information and Communication Technology, said, "Iran will be placed among the top 10 countries in artificial intelligence (AI) by 2032 based on the national document on artificial intelligence strategy."

The study of the national artificial intelligence development roadmap started two years ago at the Research Institute of Information and Communication Technology and was officially completed by the end of November 2021.

According to a report released by the Web of Science database, Iran ranks first for the highest number of documents in artificial intelligence (AI) among Islamic countries.

The country issued 2,638 AI documents between 2013 and 2022.

Saudi Arabia (2,465) and Turkey (2,303) were ranked second and third, respectively, IRIB reported.

National AI center

On July 10, the National Artificial Intelligence Center was inaugurated.

Creating a complete and stable chain of ideas to market in AI, benefiting from AI for the economic progress of the country, planning to achieve a leading and sustainable position among the countries of the world, as well as identifying and nurturing talents in the field of AI are among the most important tasks of the national AI center, IRNA reported.

By allocating 50 trillion rials (some \$100 million), the public and the private sector will develop the

infrastructure for artificial intelligence operators in the next calendar year, which starts on March 21.

"Iran ranks 17th in artificial intelligence in terms of scientific production and publication of articles in the world, while ranks 78th in terms of its application in the world," Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi, the then Vice President for Science, Technology and Knowledge-based Economy, said.

The importance of artificial intelligence cannot be denied. However, it's hard to keep pace with the rapid [global] growth in the area, he added, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks while attending the first meeting of the national steering committee's working group on artificial intelligence.

The main objective behind founding the national steering committee is to promote and develop AI in the country with the help of both the private sector and the public sector, he added.

Dehqani-Firouzabadi went on to say that the national committee is not seeking to hold a share in management. It aims to facilitate and coordinate the development of AI by developing a streamlined, dynamic, and synergetic structure. It also endeavors to pave the way for individuals to participate in the development of artificial intelligence.

Plans to develop AI

The Vice Presidency has prepared three comprehensive plans to develop artificial intelligence in different sectors.

Currently, artificial intelligence is the first priority for the development of technology and is pursued with three programs, IRNA quoted Firouzabadi as saying

Artificial intelligence is a comprehensive technology and affects all other areas of technology, he highlighted.

"The plans in the field of artificial intelligence include scientific development programs that are mostly pursued in universities. The second plan is technology development programs that are pursued in companies that work in the field of artificial intelligence. And the third plan is the creation of a national technology hub in the field of artificial intelligence."

Best universities in AI

EduRank, a global source for social media analytics in the education sector, has ranked 100 Iranian universities among the best universities worldwide for Artificial Intelligence (AI) based on their research performance.

A graph of 252 million citations received by 13.4 million academic papers made by 5,743 universities in the world was used to calculate ratings, which then were adjusted for release dates and added to final scores.

The University of Tehran, ranking 56 in Asia and 201 in the world, is the top university in the country.

Amirkabir University of Technology (ranking 70 in Asia, and 266 globally), and Iran University of Science and Technology (ranking 83 in Asia, and 318 in the world) are placed second and third, respectively.

Based on EduRank, the University of Tehran is also placed first for AI among Islamic nations.

Police seize over 3 tons of drugs in southeast

TEHRAN –The anti-narcotics police have reported the seizure of three tons and 472 kilograms of different types of narcotics in Zabol and Saravan counties, southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Border guards seized two tons and 200 kilograms of methamphetamine, 993 kilograms of opium, and 193 kilograms of marijuana, IRIB quoted Ahmad-Ali Goudarzi, Commander of Border Police, as saying.

Narcotics seizures up by 21%

On December 30, 2023, Iraj Kakavand, the head of anti-narcotics police, said since the beginning of the current year, some 470 tons of narcotics have been seized from smugglers all over the country, Mehr News Agency reported.

"We are witnessing a 21-percent rise in seizures of narcotics originating from Afghanistan," he added.

A large number of smugglers have also been identified and arrested in this regard, Kakavand stressed.

In October, Kakavand, in a meeting with the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) representative in Tehran, Alexander Fedulov, called it essential to support Iran in the fight against drug trafficking.

During the meeting, Fedulov said the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been committed to a serious and decisive fight against narcotics at the regional and global level, IRIB reported.

Iran has spent a huge sum of money fighting the war on drugs, and apart from that, many anti-narcotics forces have sacrificed their lives in this way.

The high number of martyrs and injured shows Iran's serious determination to deal with this scourge, the UN official added.

"Considering the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking, the UNODC and the international community support of Iran should be proportionate to the activities and actions at the regional and global level."

Strategies to fight narcotics need to be revised

As long as there is demand for narcotic drugs, their supply and distribution cannot be restricted, so the strategies for dealing with illicit drugs have to primarily focus on controlling and lowering demand, President Masoud Pezeshkian announced on September 9.

Referring to addiction as one of the significant concerns of society, which is a root cause of many crimes and social corruption, he highlighted the inefficiency of the methods implemented so far in dealing with addiction in the country in the past years.

"Despite the many efforts that have been made in the country, we are still a long way from optimal conditions which makes it necessary to review and change the current methods by learning from the successful experiences of other countries," Pezeshkian added.

Failing to monitor and curb demand for narcotic drugs, and focusing mainly on preventing drug supply are among the mistakes in the fight against narcotics, he further noted.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'City-friendly schools' scheme launched in Tehran

The "city-friendly schools" scheme was launched in the capital to promote environmental protection and urban development issues among students, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Mojtaba Daneshvar, director general of citizenship education at Tehran Municipality, said that the project covers more than 550 schools, consisting of 160,000 students.

It aims to familiarize students with the rights and duties of citizens, the environment, waste, transportation and traffic, safety and security, crisis management, he explained.

The training programs will be in the form of workshops, role plays, cultural and educational camps, production of educational content such as books, brochures and posters, he concluded.

آغاز طرح «مدارس دوستدار شهر» در تهران

طرح «مدارس دوستدار شهر» با هدف آشنا کردن دانش آموزان با حقوق و تکالیف شهروندی، محیط زیست و پسماند، حمل و نقل و ترافیک، و ایمنی و مدیریت بحران در مدارس منتخب شهر تهران آغاز شد.

به گزارش ایسنا مجتبی دانشور، مدیرکل آموزش‌های شهروندی شهرداری تهران، گفت این طرح بیش از ۵۵۰ مدرسه شامل ۱۶۰ هزار دانش‌آموز را در بر می‌گیرد.

برنامه‌های آموزشی این طرح در قالب برگزاری کارگاه‌های آموزشی، تولید محتوای آموزشی در قالب کتاب، بروشور و پوستر، اجرای نمایش و برگزاری اردوهای فرهنگی و آموزشی خواهد بود.



Date harvest in Khuzestan province

Some 330,000 tons of dates of various types are forecast to be harvested this year in the southwestern Khuzestan province.

Every year, up to 1.2 million tons of dates are produced in the country, making it the second-largest producer in terms of production and area under cultivation and the fifth largest exporter.



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 Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
 Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
 Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is a fitting cover, and wisdom is a sharp sword. So cover your ugly conduct with patience, and kill carnal desires with wisdom.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:59 Evening: 18:29 Dawn: 4:23 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:48 (tomorrow)

Iran presenting 1,500 titles at 25th Baghdad International Book Fair

TEHRAN-Iran has participated in the 25th Baghdad International Book Fair in Iraq, which was inaugurated on Thursday.

Iran Book and Literature House represents Iran at the event, showcasing 1,500 titles on various subjects including Islamic studies, literature, children's books, Persian education, academic books, resistance, and Sacred Defense, as well as martyrs Qasem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. There is also a special section dedicated to the Holy Quran.

In addition, 23 Iranian publishers and cultural institutions are also taking part in the book fair, presenting their publications, Honaronline reported.

One of the Iranian participants is the Publications of the World Assembly of AhlulBayt (PBUS). According to the General Director of Cultural Services of the PBUS Mostafa Behbahanipour, the publications is present at the event as seeks to exchange opinions and expand communication and interactions with Iraqi and Arab world publishers.

"The presentation of 64 book titles of the Assembly, the introduction of the Nabaa application in several languages, the identification and follow-up of electronic publishing capacities in the Arab world and Iraq are among the other goals of attending the exhibition," he added.

Behbahanipour further pointed out that presence of the PBUS along with various publishers from the countries of the Arab world, especially the countries of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine, will provide a great opportunity to establish communication and interactions to open new horizons of cooperation for the publishers present in the exhibition.

This is the fourth time Iran is attending the event. A memorandum of cooperation

between the Tehran International Book Fair and the Baghdad International Book Fair is planned to be signed on the sidelines of the exhibition.

The fair's organizer, Sada Al-Aref Company, has brought together 600 publishers from 21 countries, including Arab and foreign nations, as well as writers and intellectuals from Iraq, the Arab world, and beyond. The event features seminars, as well as art exhibitions and play readings.

With the motto of "Iraq Reads", the exhibition serves as a platform for exchanging ideas and fostering cultural ties between Iraq and other nations.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Iraqi Deputy Minister of Trade Sattar Al-Jabiri emphasized the importance of book fairs as spaces for connection between authors, readers, and the broader cultural community.

He noted that the Ministry of Trade is committed to supporting cultural industries, including writing and publishing, as a key driver of Iraq's socio-economic development.

Also speaking at the event, Minister of Education Ibrahim Namis Al-Jubouri confirmed that the opening of the 25th Baghdad International Book Fair is evidence of Iraq's stability and an occasion to support paper reading in the cultural scene after electronic books have dominated. "After this book fair, there will be a similar exhibition in Erbil, Mosul, Najaf and Basra," he added.

Abdul-Wahab Al-Radi, head of the Baghdad International Book Fair, said the event aims to make Baghdad a beacon of knowledge and culture, just as it was in the past. He noted that the fair has been held for 24 years, despite various challenges, including wars, sanctions, and terrorism.

The book fair in Baghdad will run through September 23.

Cartoon of Day



Justice in Gaza

Cartoonist: Ahmed Rahma from Turkey

Heroes of the age of terror: what happened to American superheroes on 09/11?

From Page 1 >

Bin Laden on the Gotham streets

Two fatal shots at his parents became an excuse for Bruce Wayne to don a bat-like costume and enter the world of superheroes. As a child, helplessly watching his parents' brutal murder, Wayne experiences a rage that is common in post-9/11 American culture.

"Batman Begins" is a film that narrates the story of Batman in a different way in the post-9/11 era. Wayne travels to Asia, where he joins a ninja-like group, the League of Shadows, led by Ra's Al-Ghul. After training, Wayne leaves them and returns to Gotham to fight crime due to his differences of opinion with this group.

"Batman Begins" is obviously rooted firmly in the present and clearly reflects contemporary anxieties about the destruction of the World Trade Center, the 'War on Terror,' and the invasion of Iraq.

The main villain of the movie was Ra's Al-Ghul, the leader of an Oriental and radical group. Although this character was present in comic books in the past (as an Arab), a different story is told about him in "Batman Begins." He may not be portrayed as a Middle Eastern Muslim, but his appearance and attitudes align with all the classical stereotypes that make him the archetypal Orientalist enemy of Western values.

Ra's Al-Ghul believes that Gotham City cannot be saved due to the corrupt government system and must be destroyed. He attempts to spread 'fear gas' throughout Gotham and crash an express train into Wayne Tower to destroy the city's infrastructure.

David S. Goyer, one of the writers of "Batman Begins," told "Creative Screenwriting" magazine: "I think, of the Batman villains, Ra's Al-Ghul is the most complex. We modelled him after Osama bin Laden.

He's not crazy in the way that all the other Batman villains are. He's not bent on revenge; he's actually trying to heal the world. He's just doing it by very draconian means."

The use of words such as 'corruption,' 'decadence,' and



'injustice' made Ra's Al-Ghul resemble the leaders of terrorist groups more closely.

Jeff Birkenstein et al. in their book "Reframing 9/11: Film, Popular Culture and the 'War on Terror'" refer to Wayne Tower and state: "In saving the tower yet crashing the train, Bruce/Batman establishes a fresh covenant for the post-9/11 era."

Security vs freedom

Among the tragic events that have occurred to comic book superheroes after 9/11, none has been as important and shocking as the assassination of Captain America.

This event occurs in issue #7 of "Civil War." The story revolves around the disagreement among Marvel superheroes regarding a restrictive government law known as the 'Superhuman Registration Act.' This legislation divides the superhero community, pitting current heroes and former allies against one another.

The law divides the superheroes into two groups: one led by Iron Man, who supports the Superhuman Registration Act and considers it a guarantee of security, and another group led by Captain America, which considers this law an infringement of civil liberties. The story explores the tension and struggle between these two groups. Marvel comic books now host a new socio-political conflict drawn from the real world.

Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. Congress quickly approved the Patriot Act. Like the Superhuman Registration

Act from "Civil War", the Patriot Act violated the rights of certain groups of people. This law gave the U.S. government unprecedented powers to spy on citizens under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

Both in the world of comic books and in the actual world, the necessity and effectiveness of these actions were highly debated. Now, the battle was between security and freedom. These socio-political references earned the comic the attention of The New York Times and many other mainstream media outlets, and the title subsequently became the best-selling comic book of 2006.

The "Civil War" ends with Captain America capitulating because the battle is physically and figuratively destroying the United States.

Captain America surrenders, and as Mark Millar—the writer of this comic—states, "Civil War" becomes 'a story where a guy wrapped in the American flag is in chains as the people swap freedom for security.'

In the continuation of the story, when the policemen were transporting Captain America, someone in the crowd shoots him.

The issue of conflict between security and freedom is also present in the movie "The Dark Knight." In this film, the Joker is portrayed as an irrational and non-negotiable terrorist who kills many people.

Batman uses his company's technologies to design a surveillance device that illegally spies on the entire city; this

is shown to be necessary in order to find the Joker, whom Batman apprehends. Batman has sacrificed people's liberties (without their consent) in order to protect them; Just similar to what the Bush administration claimed.

The eternal mission of superheroes

Many superhero stories, whether on screen or in books, reflected the fear stemming from the terrible start of the third millennium in America—an unreliable and unpredictable world. Of course, they did not abandon their 60-year mission. Along with representing the current feelings in American society, comic book authors provided political and social commentary aligned with their government.

Many comic book authors and artists have repeatedly acknowledged the impact of 9/11 on their work. Furthermore, Marvel and DC deliberately chose to capture the emotions of that day and weave future consequences into their storylines.

In these stories that focus on 9/11, comic book publishers created a fantasy sub-world to explore the complex issues following the attacks. They explored the new reality in which American society now lived.

When superhero fans read about the assassination of Captain America or watched Batman fight a new kind of Joker in "The Dark Knight," they were actually engaging in an analysis of the post-9/11 world.

Film Museum of Iran to review Kiarostami's docs

TEHRAN-The Film Museum of Iran will review two documentaries by the world-renowned Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami on Monday.

"Two Solutions for One Problem" (1975) and "In First Case, Second Case" (1979) will go on screen at the Ferdows Hall of the Museum, Mehr reported.

The screening will be followed by a review session by Iranian film critic Robert Safarian.

In "Two Solutions for One Problem", two young boys are classmates.

When Nader returns his friend's notebook, the cover of which he has inadvertently torn, the other is faced with two solutions, either he takes revenge or the two boys look for a solution together, glue for example, and thus remain good friends.

"In First Case, Second Case" (1979), the filmmaker poses a double-edged question: Is it better to betray your classmates or show solidarity against the punishment of an angry teacher?



A scene from "Two Solutions for One Problem" (1975) by Abbas Kiarostami.

Kiarostami was a film director, screenwriter, poet, photographer, and film producer. An active filmmaker from 1970, he was involved in the production of over 40 films, including shorts and documentaries.

He attained critical acclaim for directing "Close-Up" (1990), "The Wind Will Carry Us" (1999), and "Taste of Cherry" (1997). In later works, "Certified Copy" (2010) and "Like

Someone in Love" (2012), he filmed for the first time outside Iran: in Italy and Japan, respectively.

He was part of a generation of filmmakers in the Iranian New Wave, a Persian cinema movement that started in the late 1960s and emphasized the use of poetic dialogue and allegorical storytelling dealing with philosophical issues.

He is known for his use of Persian poetry in the dialogue, titles, and themes of his films.

His films also contain a notable degree of ambiguity, an unusual mixture of simplicity and complexity, and often a mix of fictional and documentary elements.

The concepts of change and continuity, in addition to the themes of life and death, play a major role in Kiarostami's works.

Kiarostami, the winner of the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997 for his "Taste of Cherry", died of cancer on July 5, 2016 at the age of 76.

2nd Iran-China Watercolor Exchange Exhibition held in Tehran

TEHRAN-The second Iran-China Watercolor Exchange Exhibition was held at Art Garden Pavilion (Kushk Art Garden) in Tehran from September 7 to 13 and its closing ceremony was held at the Tabiat Bridge (the bridge of nature).

On the final day of the event, Iranian and Chinese artists created a 10-meter-long watercolor painting on themes of peace and friendship, ISNA reported.

Renowned Turkish/Canadian watercolor artist Atanur Dogan as well as celebrated Chinese artists Shan Hong and Yang Yan attended the event.

Dogan is also the founder and president of the International Watercolor Society and Hong is the professional teacher of Watercolor Teaching and Research Section at the Academy of Fine Arts, Qingdao University.

Organized by Arya Company, Shan Hong, and Zahra Hamze, the second edition of the exhibition presented works of veteran and young artists from 18 countries, including Turkey, Canada, Japan, Norway, Poland, Malaysia, and Singapore.

In addition, a watercolor workshop was held with the presence prominent Chinese and Iranian masters in the field.