

# Great Surprise

Ansarullah hits Tel Aviv with hypersonic missile 2,000km away



Responders put out a fire in the area of Lod, near Tel Aviv, after a long-range ballistic missile launched by the Yemeni army hits central Israel on September 15, 2024.

## Yemen's Ansarullah pledges harsher strikes on Israel

The leader of Yemen's Ansarullah has warned that the resistance movement will strike a more severe blow to Israel during its future attacks.

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi was speaking on Sunday after the Yemeni army launched a long-range ballistic missile that "successfully" hit central Israel.

"Today's operation, which was carried out by the missile force with a new ballistic missile with advanced technology, exceeded and penetrated all the protective belts that the Israeli enemy is sheltering and entrenched in, including various air defense systems," he said.

Al-Houthi said the missile "covered a distance of 2040 kilometers in eleven and a half minutes, in the framework of the fifth phase of escalation against the Israeli enemy".

He added that the Yemeni armed forces will intensify their attacks against Israel if the regime does not stop its genocidal war on Gaza.

The Ansarullah leader described the Yemeni army operations at sea against Israeli vessels as well as British and American warships as successful and very effective.

## A single Yemeni missile terrified the temporary occupation entity

By Sondos Al-Asaad

BEIRUT - On the 345th day since the ongoing "Al-Aqsa Flood war," the peoples of the pro-Resistance Axis have woke up this morning to joyful news from Yemen: A qualitative military operation has targeted the occupied Palestinian city of Jaffa (the Zionists falsely have named it Tel Aviv).

A single Yemeni missile has shaken the occupation entity and terrified the herds of Zionist colonial settlers, forcing more than two million to hide in shelters for the first time in the history of the usurping entity.

Indeed, various questions have popped up. The most important is: how has a Yemeni-made missile been able to bypass the American, Israeli and Western radar systems deployed in the Red Sea in its way to the occupied Palestinian Jaffa?

Yemen's heroic operation has been carried out with a new "hypersonic" ballistic missile, which the enemy's defenses have miserably failed to intercept despite passing a distance of approximately 2,040km in 11 and a half minutes, and only 60 km away from the so-called "Ben Gurion Airport."

## Disillusioned Israelis demand ceasefire with Hamas

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israelis have become increasingly frustrated over their army's failure to deliver on its promised goals in the nearly one-year war against the Gaza Strip.

Demonstrations demanding a captive deal have regularly taken place across Israel since early October.

The latest protests were held at the weekend attended by tens of thousands of people.

On Saturday, protesters gathered in Tel Aviv to express their frustration towards Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding his ineffective military approach in Gaza.

Similar rallies were held in Jerusalem (al-Quds) and other cities.

Protesters demanded that Netanyahu reach a deal with Hamas to ensure the return of captives held in Gaza.

Approximately 100 captives are being held in Gaza which includes the bodies of nearly three dozen who have been confirmed dead.

They are among some 250 people who were taken captive during the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, a surprise military operation carried out by Hamas in southern Israel on October 7.

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## Dialogue impossible with West leveling baseless claims against Iran: parliament speaker

TEHRAN - Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has stated that meaningful negotiations between Iran and Western governments will remain unattainable as long as Western countries continue to make unfounded accusations against Tehran.

Speaking during a parliamentary session on Sunday, Qalibaf firmly rejected the allegations levied by Western nations, labeling them as baseless.

Qalibaf pointed out that these repeated claims against Iran echo the Israeli regime's long-standing rhetoric, which he characterized as deceitful and notorious for its dishonesty.

He argued that such false accusations are inconsistent with the West's professed desire for diplomacy and dialogue. "As long as the Western countries persist in these anti-Iran claims, no constructive or effective negotiations can take place," Qalibaf asserted.

He went on to address the ongoing conflict in Gaza, condemning Israel's decades-long pattern of genocidal actions against Palestinians.

Citing the numerous atrocities committed over the past 80 years, Qalibaf called for greater unity among Muslim nations to support the Palestinian cause. He emphasized the need for a united stance against Israel's aggressive actions, particularly in light of the recent escalation in violence. ► Page 3

## Iran ushers in new era for space industry with launch of Chamran-1 microsatellite

TEHRAN - The head of the Chamran-1 satellite development team says the successful launch of Chamran-1 microsatellite marked a major breakthrough in Iran's space sector.

Moharram Ghiyasvand shared details of the mission in an interview with Tasnim News Agency on Sunday.

He highlighted that Iran Electronics Industries, a key player in the country's space technology sector, has developed over 20 satellites of various sizes—ranging from nanosatellites to microsatellites and minisatellites—since the launch of the Omid satellite in 2009. ► Page 3

## Iran-Turkey five-month trade exceeds \$6b

TEHRAN - The value of non-oil trade between Iran and Turkey stood at \$6.01 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

The IRICA report put the weight of the non-oil trade between the two countries at 6.698 million tons.

As reported Iran-Turkey five-month non-oil trade indicates six percent rise in value and 23 percent growth in weight year on year.

Turkey was the second top trade partner of Iran among the Islamic Republic's neighbors in the first five months of the present year.

During a meeting between a delegation of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) and the senior directors of the Turkish Exporters Union (TiM), the two sides explored the ways to improve and develop trade relations between the private sectors of the two countries.

In the meeting, held at the place of TiM in Istanbul, last week, the areas of development of commercial cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries were discussed and the use of advantages and capacities in the fields of tourism, food, textile and pharmaceutical industries was emphasized, the TCCIMA portal reported. ► Page 4

## Why Iraq matters to Iran

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian made his first official visit to Iraq since taking office. On the first day of his trip, Pezeshkian held individual meetings with Iraq's President, Prime Minister, Chief Justice, leaders of the Coordination Framework of Iraq's Shiite forces, and the First Deputy Speaker of Iraq's Parliament. Additionally, he met with Iranian expatriates in Baghdad and participated in discussions with business leaders active in Iraq.

On the second day, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran traveled to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah for talks with officials from the Kurdistan Regional Government. He also visited the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, where he paid respects at the sacred Shiite shrines. ► Page 2



## Police clash with Gaza war protesters at Australian arms fair

Clashes have erupted between antiwar protesters and police outside an arms fair in the Australian city of Melbourne as they demanded a change in Canberra's stance on Israel's war in the Gaza Strip.

Police said they used stun grenades, pepper spray and "rubber bullets" and arrested 39 people on Wednesday as about 1,200 picketed the Land Forces 2024 military weapons exposition, according to Al Jazeera.

Australia has seen numerous protests against its arms industry's involvement in the war over the past 11 months.

## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## Diplomacy of unity the first step in the region

Shargh devoted its main headline to the importance of the president's visit to Iraq and said: The president's visit to Iraq, as his first foreign trip, can definitely be a big step in the direction of regional diplomacy, especially since Iran's foreign policy has been caught in an undeniable deadlock in the past few years due to the American disloyalty on the global stage. The dynamism of regional diplomacy creates a prospect that Iran can make its path to global markets smoother through regional activities. In fact, the favorable game of diplomacy in the region can be considered as an alternative to global competition. Today, major countries in the world, as well as developed countries in the region, have intensified their diplomatic activities of the region. The timely visit of Masoud Pezeshkian to Iraq should be considered positive step in line with policy.

### Siasat-e-Rooz: Undeniable facts

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to the hostile behavior of the Westerners and their attempt to undermine Iran's authority. It wrote: While the world is focused on the Gaza genocide and is pushing for an immediate end to the brutality of the Zionist regime, the West is looking for a pretext to deflect attention from the world's main headache. These excuses include the recent moves by Germany, England, France, and the United States to impose sanctions and pressure on Iran under the bogus claim of Iran-Russia missile cooperation and claims that Iran's cooperation with the IAEA are not sufficient. These behaviors take place while the Westerners are officially hiding some truths. They are adamant to acknowledge that coercive diplomacy has never made changes to Iran's regional and international policy. They also do not say that during 45 years of sanctions, Iran has been able to become a nuclear, military, technical, and scientific power in the region and the larger world, which even the West cannot deny. Their failure in isolating Iran cannot be hidden either. These are some of the facts that the West seeks to hide.

## Iran nuclear chief in Vienna to attend IAEA conference

TEHRAN – Iranian nuclear chief, has traveled to Austria to participate in the 68th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference.

Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), left for Vienna on Saturday evening.

The conference is scheduled from September 16 to 20, and Eslami is expected to deliver a speech on Monday, September 16.

Additionally, he will hold discussions with IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi and representatives from various nations.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference holds its regular session annually, bringing together representatives from member states to discuss various topics related to nuclear energy, safety,

### Iran: Irresponsible remarks about alleged weapons delivery to Russia

In an article, the Iran newspaper addressed the irresponsible statements about the alleged delivery of Iranian weapons to Russia and said: Irresponsible statements and claims contrary to national security and interests have always been one of the main topics of the hostile media and a tool for providing excuses for Western countries to put sanctions pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. By claiming that Iran has "sent short-range ballistic missiles to Russia", the West was pursuing two goals: changing the balance in the battleground in the Ukraine war and also creating an excuse to impose more pressure on Iran. After new government took office in Iran, some (foreign-based) opposition media outlets highlighted this false claim again and Westerners abused it.

### Jam-e-Jam: Consolidation of Iran's strategy in the Caucasus geopolitics

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam dealt with the trip of Ali Akbar Ahmadian, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Russia to participate in the BRICS meeting. It wrote: At the meeting of the high-ranking security officials of the BRICS member countries, Ahmadian proposed to form a special security structure for BRICS under the title of "BRICS Security Commission". Ahmadian's proposal to form the BRICS Security Commission was innovative. It highlighted the need to pay attention to stability and security among the member states. Another important event that happened was a private meeting with the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin. This meeting was important because Putin officially emphasized to Ahmadian that he wants to develop the North-South Corridor and support Iran's transport routes. Therefore, Putin's recent support can be considered a kind of consolidation of our country's strategy regarding the geopolitics of the Caucasus region, which was achieved by insistence on the principles of our country's foreign policy.

security, and non-proliferation.

During this session, delegates assess the IAEA's operations and financial plans, review reports from the director general, and discuss ways to tackle emerging challenges and opportunities within the nuclear sector.

This platform facilitates dialogue among member states, enabling collaboration on initiatives that advocate for the peaceful application of nuclear energy while ensuring the safety and security of nuclear materials and facilities.

Typically occurring in September at the agency's headquarters in Vienna, Austria, the Regular Session of the IAEA general conference is believed to be instrumental in influencing global nuclear policies and enhancing international cooperation in the nuclear arena.

## Iran, Tajikistan, Uganda, and Finland establish parliamentary friendship group



TEHRAN – A parliamentary friendship group representing Iran, Tajikistan, Uganda, and Finland was established during the twelfth session of the Iranian parliament on Sunday.

According to ISNA, the formation of this group was marked by the election of its board of directors today.

In this election, Fathollah Tavasuli was chosen

as the leader of the group, with Mohammad Reza Mohseni Sani and Hossein Abdoli serving as deputies.

Parliamentary friendship groups consist of informal assemblies of lawmakers from various countries, aimed at fostering mutual understanding, camaraderie, and collaboration between their nations.

The establishment of this group, which includes Iran, Tajikistan, Uganda, and Finland, reflects a commitment to enhancing bilateral relationships and encouraging discussions on shared concerns.

These groups provide parliamentarians with a platform to exchange insights, share effective strategies, and explore potential collaborative efforts, thereby strengthening parliamentary relations among the involved countries.

# Tehran, Moscow discuss maritime cooperation in Caspian Sea during China visit

TEHRAN – While visiting China, senior military officials from Iran and Russia seized the opportunity to discuss security and areas of bilateral cooperation in the Caspian Sea.

Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, deputy chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination, and Alexander Fomin, Deputy Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation, were in Beijing on Sunday to attend the Xiangshan Security Forum, China's premier military diplomacy event, which commenced on Thursday and attracted over 500 representatives from more than 90 countries to the capital.

During a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the forum, the two high-ranking officials highlighted the growing military and strategic cooperation between Tehran and Moscow, while exploring ways to further enhance the two countries' partnership.

A key focus of the meeting was the Caspian Sea, which Rear Admiral Sayyari described as a "sea of peace and friendship." He emphasized the importance of collective security efforts among the countries bordering



the Caspian, advocating for regional stability without foreign intervention.

The talks also covered enhancing cooperation in maritime activities, including proposals for joint maritime patrols and specialized combined exercises.

This initiative aims to bolster defense capabilities and foster closer military ties between Iran and Russia, as stated by Russian media.

In addition to security matters, both officials recognized the importance of educational exchanges. They discussed plans for increasing interactions in

academia, including the exchange of professors and students, which could pave the way for deeper cultural and intellectual collaboration.

Furthermore, the two sides highlighted the need to strengthen pathways for expanding cooperation in utilizing the North-South Corridor, which is a vital route for enhancing trade and connectivity between Iran, Russia, and other countries in the region.

### Commander expresses Iran's readiness to support humanitarian initiatives

During his stay in China, Rear

Admiral Habibollah Sayyari also engaged in productive discussions with Gilles Carbonnier, the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

They focused on the significant contributions of the Iranian armed forces to international humanitarian efforts.

Rear Admiral Sayyari emphasized Iran's readiness to share its expertise in managing natural disasters and providing essential equipment and resources to support humanitarian initiatives.

The ongoing conflict in Gaza was also a critical topic of discussion, highlighting the urgent need for collaborative responses to global crises.

In addition to his meeting with Carbonnier, Rear Admiral Sayyari visited the National University of Defense Technology and a Chinese military-affiliated think tank.

At the university, he participated in discussions on various security issues, addressing both internal and external dimensions, as well as the current geopolitical landscape in the West Asian region.

## Why Iraq matters to Iran

### Pezeshkian travels to Iraq in first foreign visit, signifying the importance of Iran-Iraq ties



From page 1 ▶ This visit underscores Iraq's geopolitical and geoeconomic importance to the Islamic Republic. This article aims to shed light on the recent relations between the two countries and analyze Iraq's significance to Iran's security and regional stability. In this regard, it is crucial to recognize that the convergence between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq and their bilateral relations can impact regional security, potentially enhancing security levels and mitigating regional challenges.

Iran's foreign policy strategy toward Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein has been shaped by various factors, including geography, economics, and its role within the Axis of Resistance. This strategy, developed in the context of the U.S. occupation of Iraq, the dissolution of the Iraqi government and military, and the shifting perspectives of regional actors, has progressively expanded Iran's regional and global influence in post-Saddam Iraq.

Following Saddam's fall, Iran's foreign policy contributed to the formation of security in Iraq, a nation engulfed in crises after the Ba'ath regime's collapse and the military's dissolution. Iran played a pivotal role in establishing Iraq's new security framework, including both physical and cyber security. However, the involvement of other regional powers, such as Saudi Arabia, has introduced new security challenges for Iraq.

Iran's foreign policy in the post-Saddam era has undergone significant transformations, distinguishing itself from earlier approaches. Over the years, Iranian leadership has focused on implementing measures to balance the country's foreign policy, resulting in active diplomacy in Iraq, which was previously unattainable. Between 2003 and 2014, no agreement was reached to balance regional powers in Iraq, contributing to the country's ongoing instability.

Iraq's parliamentary system, its Shiite majority, and Iran's strong ties with Iraq's Shiite population, alongside the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the Syrian crisis, have allowed Iran to maintain significant influence and strategic relations during the last three Iraqi elections. In contrast, Turkey and Saudi Arabia have not achieved similar success in Iraq's parliamentary elections.

The U.S. invasion in 2003 and Saddam's fall marked a critical juncture in Iraq's history, releasing pent-up energy within the country. The emergence of new ideas, groups, and figures, along with the influence of regional and non-regional actors, rapidly reshaped Iraq's internal dynamics. Although the withdrawal of U.S. forces eased tensions somewhat, the rise of ISIS further exacerbated the wounds inflicted by decades of dictatorship and occupation, compounding Iraq's devastation and challenges.

In recent years, particularly after the defeat of ISIS, Iraq's foreign policy behavior has shown notable developments. Changes in Iraq's power and governance structure have facilitated the influence of regional actors like Iran. The key question remains: What policy has the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted toward Iraq post-Saddam, and what are its objectives?

Before addressing these issues, it is essential to first define the Islamic Republic as a regional power. In general terms, a regional power can be characterized by meeting, to a greater or lesser extent, the following criteria:

1. Power Resources: Possessing essential resources of power, particularly an effective military force.
2. Regional Pole: Being one of the centers of power within the region.
3. Cultural and Normative Influence: Having the ability to shape and establish norms and cultural trends in the region.
4. Impact on Regional Trends: Influencing the development of events and crises within the region.
5. Crisis Management Capability: Being able to form and manage regional crises.
6. Special Status in Foreign Policy: Holding a special status in foreign policy at both regional and transnational levels.
7. Participation in Regional Order: Contributing to the creation and maintenance of regional order.
8. Influence in Regional Interactions: Impacting regional interactions and relations.
9. Defensive Capability: Maintaining the ability to defend against other countries in the region.

A regional power must not only show interest in the affairs of its region but also intervene effectively in the resolution of regional crises when necessary.

This intervention should be accompanied by an influential capacity. Major regional problems cannot be solved without the involvement of a regional power, which must demonstrate its commitment to leadership and act as a stabilizing force in the region. According to this view, the Islamic Republic of Iran can be defined as a regional power.

From a geopolitical perspective, two primary objectives of Iran can be outlined:

1. Eliminating Threats and Creating New International Dynamics:

A key objective of Iranian foreign policy is to reduce threats surrounding the Islamic Republic and to establish new international trends that enhance its stability and security.

2. Creating Mutual Opportunities and Expanding Strategic Depth:

Iran aims to create new opportunities for cooperation while expanding its influence and strategic depth in the region and beyond, thereby strengthening its position on the international stage.

In addition to these immediate priorities—eliminating threats and creating opportunities—Iran must implement long-term mechanisms. These mechanisms include

cultural strategies, economic and commercial tools (such as joint investments), and the strengthening of public diplomacy in the region. The goal is to achieve a position where Iran can define its foreign policy influence, with a focus on increasing the strategic depth of the Islamic Republic in the region.

Iran's political priorities concerning Iraq after Saddam Hussein's fall can be defined as follows:

1. Friendly Relations and Peaceful Coexistence: Relations between Iran and Iraq faced challenges even before the Islamic Revolution. Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iraq and the subsequent eight-year war emphasize the need for establishing friendly relations as a key priority for Iran.
2. Security and Stability in Iraq: Sharing a 1,500-kilometer border, Iran views Iraq's security and stability as integral to its own. Instability in Iraq directly affects Iran's internal security, making the maintenance of Iraq's stability a second priority for Iran.
3. Preservation of Iraq's Territorial Integrity and Prevention of Fragmentation: Iran is sensitive to any possibility of Iraq's fragmentation. Despite proposals to divide Iraq into three countries (Shiite, Sunni, and Kurdish), Iran remains committed to safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity.
4. Eradication of Terrorism: The presence of takfiri terrorist groups in Iraq poses a major threat to Iran's national security. Iran has invested significant resources in combating terrorism in Iraq, considering it a fundamental priority.
5. Ratification of the 1975 Border Treaty: Border disputes between Iran and Iraq were partly resolved with the signing of the 1975 Algiers Agreement. Consolidating and continually enforcing this agreement is essential for maintaining stability and friendly relations between the two countries.
6. Opposition to U.S. Military Presence in Iraq: Iran opposes the U.S. military presence and dominance in the region, particularly in Iraq. Since the U.S. invasion and the ongoing military presence post-ISIS, Iran has consistently expressed disagreement with this policy.
7. Strengthening Cultural and Islamic Ties: Iran and Iraq have shared centuries of close cultural and Islamic ties. Tens of thousands of citizens from both countries have family connections, and six Shiite shrines are located in Iraq. Najaf, historically a center of Shiite religious authority, is of particular importance. Deepening these ties is a critical priority for Iran.
8. Long-Term Collective Cooperation in the Persian Gulf: Stable and collective cooperation in the Persian Gulf is vital. Iraq must maintain friendly relations not only with Iran but also with Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. The security and stability of the Persian Gulf largely depend on harmonious relations between Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Without strong cooperation among these regional powers, sustainable security will remain elusive.

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

# Dialogue impossible with West leveling baseless claims against Iran: parliament speaker

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Qalibaf pointed out that these repeated claims against Iran echo the Israeli regime's long-standing rhetoric, which he characterized as deceitful and notorious for its dishonesty.

He argued that such false accusations are inconsistent with the West's professed desire for diplomacy and dialogue. "As



long as the Western countries persist in these anti-Iran claims, no constructive or effective negotiations can take place," Qalibaf asserted.

He went on to address the ongoing conflict in Gaza, condemning Israel's decades-long pattern of genocidal actions against Palestinians.

Citing the numerous atrocities committed over the past 80 years, Qalibaf called for greater unity among Muslim nations to support the Palestinian cause. He emphasized the need for a united stance against Israel's aggressive actions, particularly in light of the recent escalation in violence.

Describing Gaza as the "capital of the hearts of Muslims," Qalibaf

proposed that this year's Islamic Unity Week, which coincides with the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), be dedicated to demonstrating solidarity among Muslims for the liberation of al-Quds.

He urged the Muslim world to use this occasion to rally behind the Palestinian people and their struggle for freedom.

The Iranian speaker also cited alarming figures from Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza, which began in October 2023.

According to Qalibaf, the conflict has claimed the lives of at least 41,182 Palestinians and left over 95,000 wounded. He reiterated Iran's commitment to standing with the Palestinian people in their fight against Israeli occupation, urging the global Muslim community to do the same.

## KRG agrees to release imprisoned Iranian nationals: envoy

TEHRAN – Iran's ambassador to Baghdad, Mohammad Kazem Al-e Sadeq has revealed that Kurdistan Regional Government officials have agreed to cooperate with Tehran on the release or extradition of Iranian nationals currently held in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.

In an interview with Tasnim News Agency, the ambassador praised the outcomes of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Iraq, emphasizing the importance of bolstering ties between Iran and the autonomous Kurdistan Region.

Ambassador Al-e Sadeq highlighted the significance of the president's trip to the Kurdish cities of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, where discussions focused on the full implementation of a security agreement between Iran and Iraq.

The envoy stressed that officials in

both Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) have pledged that no part of the region's soil will be used for any activities that could threaten Iran's security.

During the visit, the Iranian and KRG officials also addressed economic cooperation, focusing on removing obstacles to ongoing and future projects between the two sides.

Discussions covered the expansion of economic ties, including the export of Iranian engineering and technical services to the Kurdistan Region. Al-e Sadeq noted that the talks were productive and aimed at strengthening mutual economic interests.

President Pezeshkian's visit to Iraq marked his first official foreign trip since taking office, underlining the importance of Iraq as a regional partner for Iran. In Baghdad, the Iranian

president held high-level talks with Iraq's president and prime minister, culminating in the signing of 14 cooperation agreements that span various sectors.

These documents are expected to deepen the bilateral relationship and enhance cooperation in fields such as trade, security, and infrastructure development.

The Iranian president's visit to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region further reinforced Tehran's commitment to regional stability and economic growth.

He described cooperation for regional development as a cornerstone of his administration's foreign policy, emphasizing that Iran's approach is rooted in fostering strong ties with its neighbors.

## Iranian Navy's 98th fleet returns from Red Sea mission

TEHRAN – The Iranian Army's Navy's 98th Fleet has returned to its home base in Bandar Abbas after successfully completing its mission in the Red Sea.

The fleet, comprised of the destroyer Jamaran and the support vessel Bushehr, spent over 126 days safeguarding Iran's maritime communication routes in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

The fleet's arrival at Bandar Abbas on September 15, 2024, was



met with a welcoming ceremony led by Iranian Navy commanders.

Rear Admiral Babak Baluch, Deputy Coordinator of the

Strategic Navy of Iran's Army, highlighted the significance of the mission's successful completion for Iran's national security. He emphasized the Jamaran's effectiveness in ensuring the safety of Iranian maritime communication lines, as well as the country's commercial and oil tankers, amidst a challenging military environment in the region.

Admiral Baluch further noted that the 99th Fleet, consisting of the destroyer Dena and the

support vessel Bushehr, is currently deployed in the Gulf of Aden, Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Red Sea, continuing to protect Iran's national interests.

The 98th Fleet plays a crucial role in Iran's naval defense strategy, actively patrolling international waters and key regional routes to safeguard Iranian maritime interests and shipping routes. The fleet's operations contribute to Iran's efforts to promote peace and security in the region.

## Iran ushers in new era for space industry with launch of Chamran-1 microsatellite

From Page 1 ▶ Chamran-1, named in honor of the late Mostafa Chamran, a renowned Iranian scientist and martyr, is a 60-kilogram microsatellite with a diameter of approximately 90 centimeters. The satellite is part of a series developed by Iran Electronics Industries.

According to Ghiyasvand, the satellite was developed in partnership with the Aerospace Research Institute under the Ministry of Science. Chamran-1's primary mission is research-focused, aimed at demonstrating new technology related to orbit adjustments and maneuvering in space.

Ghiyasvand emphasized the importance of this technology demonstration, citing two key reasons.

First, after a satellite is injected into orbit, it often requires adjustments to its initial trajectory based on its mission. Second, for the development of satellite constellations, satellites must be transferred from their initial orbits to secondary or operational ones.

"To achieve these tasks, satellites need propulsion systems or thrusters. Chamran-1 is equipped with a domestically produced space thruster, developed by Iran's knowledge-based sector. The successful demonstration of this technology in Chamran-1 is expected to pave the way for more advanced Iranian satellites in the future," he noted.

Ghiyasvand also referred to Iran's 10-year space plan, which includes goals for managing space traffic through the in-orbit connection of space systems.

"This ambitious program requires advanced thrusters and flight dynamics subsystems capable of performing complex maneuvers, such as altitude changes, orbital phase shifts, and plane adjustments. Chamran-1, with its propulsion system and flight dynamics technology, represents an important first step toward achieving these capabilities," he said.

The secondary mission of Chamran-1, Ghiyasvand explained, is to assess the



performance and accuracy of its flight dynamics and propulsion subsystems for complex orbital maneuvers.

He noted that other key subsystems, such as power and energy management, central computing, and communications, were developed domestically. Their successful operation in Chamran-1 will increase the reliability of future operational satellites.

Ghiyasvand concluded by stating that the successful launch of Chamran-1 opens the door to a range of diverse space missions in the near future.

## Latest satellite launch defied anti-Iran sanctions: foreign ministry

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Nasser Kanaani has hailed the successful launch of the "Chamran 1" research satellite as a clear defiance of international sanctions.

The satellite, now in a 550-kilometer orbit, was launched by the domestically-developed Qaem 100 carrier on Saturday.

In a message on X, Kanaani expressed pride in the achievement, particularly recognizing the contributions of Iranian scientists and scholars. He declared, "Once again, those who impose irrational

sanctions have received a definitive answer to their unreasonable actions."

Kanaani further emphasized Iran's role as a "rational, strong, and constructive player on the global stage," urging Western nations to reconsider their policies.

In separate remarks on Sunday, General Amir Rastegari, an official from the Iranian Defense Ministry and Managing Director of Iran Electronics Industries, confirmed the successful stabilization of the Chamran 1 satellite in its designated orbit.

"This domestically manufactured satellite, weighing 60 kg, was successfully positioned in an orbit of 550 km on Saturday morning," Rastegari said, highlighting the satellite's unique capability.

"Chamran 1 is the first Iranian-developed spacecraft capable of altering its orbit post-launch," he explained. "Previous satellites we launched primarily focused on imaging and telecommunications, and once they were placed in orbit, we lacked the ability to adjust their orbits as we did not possess orbital maneuvering capabilities for those

satellites."

The Chamran 1 satellite is primarily intended to evaluate hardware and software systems related to orbital maneuvering technology. It will also analyze the effectiveness of cold gas propulsion subsystems and examine navigation and attitude control systems in a space environment.

Iran has taken big strikes in the aerospace industry in recent years, despite decades of debilitating sanctions by the West. The country has also made significant advancements in maritime and military fields thanks to its own domestic productions.

### Foolad Sirjan crowned champions of 2024 Asian Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Foolad Sirjan Iranian defeated Shahdab Yazd in straight sets (25-20, 25-18, 25-23) in an all-Iranian final of the 2024 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship.

The 2024 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship was the 24rd edition of the Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, an annual international men's volleyball club tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Iran Volleyball Association (IRIVF).

The tournament took place in Yazd, Iran, from Sept. 8 to 15 and Foolad Sirjan qualified for the 2024 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

Earlier in the day, Indonesian team Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi defeated Kazakhstan's Pavlodar Volleyball Club 3-0 in the bronze medal match.

### Esteghlal, Al Gharafa to face off in AFC Champions League opener

TEHRAN – Esteghlal and Al Gharafa football teams will both be desperate to shake off their inconsistent form when they face off in their AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 opener on Monday.

Both have struggled to get going domestically and will have to find their best form if they are to hit the ground running at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium.

Esteghlal will hope to make home ground advantage count, with the two meeting for the first time since they clashed in the group stage of the AFC Champions League 2010.

Esteghlal won the home tie then 3-0 but the Iran side has only triumphed once in its last seven opening matches on the continental stage. Al Gharafa was held 1-1 by Al Shamal in the Qatar Stars League tie on Friday, the result taking the team to five points from four matches.

They will, however, draw on the high of having defeated UAE side Shabab Al Ahli in the preliminary stage to get a result against the Iranian opponent.

### Al Ahli Saudi aim to make home ground advantage against Persepolis

TEHRAN – Al Ahli Saudi football club will aim to make home ground advantage count when it welcomes Persepolis FC for their AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 tie at the Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Stadium on Monday.

Both teams have endured indifferent starts domestically and will target a win to launch their continental campaigns on the front foot.

Al Ahli were denied three points by a late Al Nassr equalizer in their Saudi Pro League tie on Friday, with the stalemate taking them to four points from three matches.

While Al Ahli have once lost once in their last eight opening matches on the continental stage, they have failed to beat Iranian sides in their last three meetings.

Persepolis have found themselves having to play catch up after just three matches into the Iran Pro League season, with the defending champions on five points - seven adrift of pacesetters Sepahan who have played a match more.

The head-to-head record, however, favors Persepolis who have won two of their four meetings with Al Ahli although the sides traded victories in the group stage of the AFC Champions League 2019.

### Iran's athletes bag four medals at 2024 Asian Wushu Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's Sanda practitioners have snatched four medals at the 2024 Asian Wushu Championships.

Iranian wushu practitioners secured four medals, including two gold and two silver, on the final day of the 10th Asian Wushu Championships in Macao, China.

Yasaman Bagherzadeh, in the -70 kg weight category, and Shahrbanoo Mansourian, in the -75 kg weight category, grabbed gold.

Soheila Mansourian and Sedigheh Daryaei took silver in the -65 and -60 kg weight categories, respectively.

Wushu is practiced both through forms, called Taolu, and as a full-contact combat sport, known as Sanda.

The competition started on September 9 and will run until September 15 in Macau.

### Iranian referees assigned to major continental football matches

TEHRAN – The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has announced that two Iranians will referee in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite (ACL Elite).

Mo'oud Bonyadifard will serve as the referee, with Alireza Ildrim and Saeed Qasemi as his assistants, participating in the AFC championships, IRNA reported on Sunday.

The Iranian referees will officiate the match between Pohang Steelers from South Korea and Shanghai Port FC from China on October 1, 2024. The Fourth Official for the match will be from Uzbekistan.

The match will be held in the second week of the Champions League Elite.

In a related development, the spokesman for the youth and sports department in Hamedan, Alireza Safizadeh, told IRNA that the AFC has chosen two referees, Bijan Heydari and Payam Heydari, from this western Iranian province to officiate in the Asian championships.

Payam will serve as the referee, with Farhad Moraveji and Farhad Farhadpour as his assistants, and Vahid Kazemi as the Fourth Official, for a match between Singaporean and Chinese teams on September 19. Additionally, Bijan will serve as the referee, with Saeed Qasemi and Alireza Ildrim as the assistant referees, for a match between Thailand and Malaysia on the same day.

Since 2016, Bijan Heydari and Payam Heydari have been on Iran's international list of referees.

The AFC Champions League Elite for 2024-25 is slated to begin on September 16, 2024, and will conclude on February 19, 2025.

### APC President Majid Rashed congratulates Iran's NPC

TEHRAN – Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) President Majid Rashed has congratulated Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) over performance in the 2024 Paralympics Games in Paris.

In a message sent to head of Iran's NPC Ghafour Kargari, the Emirati top official praised the Iranian athletes.

Iran finished 14th in the medal table, with a total of 25 medals.

The Iranian delegation won eight gold, 10 silver, and seven bronze medals, putting them in 14th place in the medal table.

Iran stood in fourth place behind China, Japan, and Uzbekistan, among Asian countries taking part in this summer's Paralympics.

The games' medal table was topped by China, which won a total of 220 medals, including 94 gold.

## Dry tea output exceeds 25,000 tons

TEHRAN – Iranian farmers have managed to produce 25,856 tons of dry tea in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), Head of Iran's Tea Organization (ITO) Habib Jahansaz said.

The official noted that so far 114,914 tons of tea leaves have been purchased from the country's tea farmers, from which the mentioned amount of dry tea has been produced, Mehr News Agency reported.

Tea harvest season in Iran starts in farm-lands across the northern provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran in early May.

More than 55,000 families grow tea over 28,000 hectares of farmland in the two provinces, accounting for 90 percent of the country's total tea production.

Iranian Agriculture Ministry is concentrating on export-based production in the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024).

As reported, more than \$1.0 billion of agricultural products were exported from the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024), showing a 13 and 23 percent hike in weight and value respectively compared to a year earlier.

The value of Iran's exports of agricultural and foodstuff products increased by 22.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year, the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade said.

According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian producers managed to export about \$6.3 billion worth of the mentioned products in the said year.

As reported, agro-food products accounted for 12.8 percent of the country's total non-oil exports in the previous year.

Iraq was the top destination for Iran's agro-food products in the mentioned year importing \$1.986 billion worth of the said items. The Arab neighbor accounted for 31.5 percent of the total exports of food and agricultural products from Iran.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood in second place, importing \$751 million of the mentioned products, followed by Russia with \$521.5 million.

The value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 33 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, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

According to the IRICA report, the country exported 2.657 million tons of agricultural products worth \$1.453 billion in the five-month period of this year, also indicating 22 percent rise in terms of year on year.

Also as previously announced by the IRICA, Iran exported about 2.226 million tons of agricultural products valued at \$1.18 billion in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), registering an increase of 32 percent in value year on year.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, the exports of the mentioned products also increased 22 percent in terms of weight.

## ICCIMA calls for participation of private sector in drafting budget bill



TEHRAN –Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has called on the government to ensure the participation of private sector representatives in the process of drafting the national budget bill for the next Iranian year (begins in late March 2025).

As the ICCIMA portal reported, Members of the ICCIMA board of representatives gathered on Sunday in a meeting with Head of the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) Hamid Pour-Mohammadi, in which ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh called on the PBO to take the necessary measures for ensuring the participation of private sector representatives in the budget bill coordination meetings.

Speaking in this meeting, Hassanzadeh said: "The main concern of the private sector is to solve the country's economic problems

and remove the restrictions that have been imposed on production, industry, and trade, so they voice such concerns loudly and demand that the issues be addressed."

The private sector expects the 14th government to realistically estimate its income by taking into account the realities of the domestic and global economy, the price of oil, sanctions, and the results of the U.S. elections and prevent overestimations that would negatively affect the country's economy later.

"We expect the government to allocate some resources in the next year's budget bill to compensate the losses caused by electricity and gas outages to the country's industries, and accelerate and promote investment in the country's energy infrastructure by providing the necessary incentives," the official said.

"As we all know, power outage has become a recurring pattern as one of the factors limiting the growth of the industry and has caused irreparable losses to production over the years," he added.

ICCIMA has continuously criticized the government's approach in ignoring the capacities and experiences of the private sector in drafting the country's budget bill, calling for more active participation of the private sector experts in the process of drafting the bill.

## Overcoming Iran's power imbalance requires \$1b investment: official

TEHRAN – Iran needs about \$1.0 billion of investment in the power plant sector to overcome electricity supply and demand imbalance in the country, according to the chairman of the board of directors of the Iranian Power Plants Trade Union.

Ali Nikbakht said in a press conference in Tehran on Saturday that the country is expected to face a 26,000-megawatt power shortage next summer if no measure is taken with regard to the Iranian electricity network.

Mentioning the current energy imbalance in the country, Nikbakht said "With the addition of new units to existing power plants and the development of renewable power plants, which has become customary in the whole world, the conditions can be changed."

"Iran has a high potential in the field of renewables and by developing this sector the problems can be solved to a large extent," he added.

Peak electricity consumption in Iran reached nearly 80,000 megawatts this sum-

mer as new heat waves hit the country.

To meet the electricity demand in the peak summer period, the Iranian Energy Ministry implemented several programs among which increasing electricity production and managing consumption were the major ones.

The ministry implemented a comprehensive program during the summer, based on which low-consuming households were rewarded while the subscribers whose consumption exceeded the normal level faced a penalty.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rises and the significant decrease in rainfall across Iran have put the country in a difficult situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has repeatedly announced that it is implementing various programs to manage the situation and prevent blackouts in the country.

# Iran-Turkey five-month trade exceeds \$6b

From page 1 ▶ In this meeting, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi-Arab referring to the trade balance of 1.6 billion dollars between the two countries, which is also positive for Turkey, mentioned the re-export of some Iranian products through this country as one of the opportunities to optimize the trade relations between the two countries.

Recalling that Turkey has great power and experience in the field of tourism, he mentioned the use of the capacity of Turkish tourism companies to cooperate with the Iranian tourism industry and to increase the attraction of foreign tourists to Iran as another area of development of relations between these two neighboring countries.

Najafi-Arab also pointed to Iran's high power and knowledge in the textile industry and said that by setting up a joint cooperation program, the global expertise of Turkish companies can be used to strengthen the branding of Iranian products in international markets.

The TCCIMA head then pointed to the technical knowledge and expertise of Iranian companies in the pharmaceutical industry, especially in biotech drugs and probiotic industries, and emphasized on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in these sectors.

Addressing the same meeting, TiM Deputy Chairman Ahmet Gulec explained about this large Turkish private sector union and reminded that currently 150,000 Turkish exporters are members of this union and 61 export associations of this country also form the body of this large entity.

According to him, this union covers 27 product groups in the agricultural, industrial, mining and service sectors, and sup-



porting Turkish exporters for their greater presence in the world markets is one of the main goals of the union.

He further put the export value of Turkey in 2023 at \$357 billion and the import value at \$410 billion, and reminded that the country plans to rise the value of products export to \$375 billion and the value of services export to \$200 billion by 2028.

He called the joint investment and the construction of Turkish factories in Iran and vice versa, among the capacities of joint cooperation and reminded that the TiM is ready to cooperate and interact with the TCCIMA to strengthen and develop the exports of the companies of the two countries.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of non-oil trade between Iran and Turkey stood at \$4.125 billion during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21).

As reported, Turkey was Iran's second biggest trade partner among the neighboring countries during the four-month period.

In early July, Director of Asia and the Pacific Office of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (IC-

CIMA) International Affairs Department Niloufar Asadi said a Free Trade Agreement

(FTA) between Iran and Turkey should replace the previous trade agreements between the two countries to boost economic exchanges.

In a meeting with the Consul General of Iran in Istanbul, Asadi referred to a previously reached preferential trade agreement between Iran and Turkey under the framework of the Group of Eight Developing Islamic Countries (D8) and said: "Considering the shortcomings of the previously signed preferential trade agreement and the necessity to improve and develop it, I suggest that a free trade agreement between the two countries replaces the previous agreements."

The trade exchanges between Iran and Turkey in the first five months of 2024 reached \$2.3 billion, showing a five percent increase compared to the same month last year.

According to the latest figures released by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT), Iran's trade with the neighboring country stood at \$2.189 billion in January-May 2023.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, the value of Iran's non-oil trade

with its neighbors increased by 16 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year to reach \$26.857 billion.

Mohammad Rezvanifar put the weight of non-oil trade with the neighboring countries at 43.579 million tons in the said period, noting that the trade between the two sides also increased by 10 percent in terms of weight.

During the mentioned five months, Iran exported 34.118 million tons of goods worth \$13.402 billion to its neighbors, while importing 9.461 million tons of commodities valued at \$13.455 billion.

Iran's exports to neighboring countries in the first five months of this year compared to the same period last year increased by 11 percent in terms of weight and 19 percent in terms of value, respectively; and imports from neighboring countries increased by 10 percent and 13 percent respectively in terms of weight and value, according to Rezvanifar.

He named Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan as the top importers of Iranian goods among the neighboring countries, and the UAE, Turkey, Russia, Oman, and Pakistan as the main sources of imports in the said five months.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely UAE, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

## Tehran to host conference on renewable energies

TEHRAN – The renewables Association of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) is going to hold the 6th edition of the National Renewable Energies Conference in early October, Mehr News Agency reported.

Organized in collaboration with Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) and Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir), the conference will be held during October 1-2.

As the country's biggest event on renewables, the conference will be attended by investors, industrial owners, representatives of relevant government agencies, farmers and trade unions.

The gathering is held with the aim of reviewing the latest developments and investment opportunities in the renewable energy industry.

Iranian renewable power plants generated 261 million kilowatt-hours (Kwh) of electricity in the fourth Iranian calendar month of Tir (June 21- July 21), registering a nine-percent growth compared to a month earlier.

According to the data released by Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), renewable power plants generated over 923 Kwh of electricity since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19), IRNA reported.

The electricity generated by renewable sources also increased by 28 percent in the third Iranian calendar month of Khordad (ended on June 20) compared to the same month last year.

Renewable sources generated more than 230 million kilowatt hours of electricity, an increase of 21 percent in comparison with a month earlier.

Wind power plants held the lion's share of the rise in the production of electricity by renewable sources.

In late July, SATBA Head Mahmoud Kamani said 600 renewable power plants with a total capacity of 13,500 megawatts (MW) are under construction across the country and with these power plants going operational the



share of renewables in Iran's power generation will reach 15 percent.

"We hope that by implementing these power plants, the share of renewable energies in Iran's electricity production will increase to more than 15 percent in the next two years," Kamani said.

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

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

Earlier that month, SATBA reported that the capacity of Iran's renewable power plants has reached 1,199.71 MW.

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

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

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

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

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

A solar farm with the capacity of generating 25 megawatts of electricity came on stream in Shahr-e Babak Copper Complex in Kerman province on September 8, and was connected to the national power network on Sunday, IRIB reported.

This solar farm, which is established in 42 hectares of land, can play a key role in removing electricity imbalance in the country.

As reported, the establishment of a 100-megawatt solar power plant in the near future, to provide sustainable energy and improve people's quality of life, is being investigated and planned.

Back in February, the head of the technical office of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) has said that five solar parks are currently being constructed across the country, Mehr News Agency reported.

"The government has approved the plan for the establishment of 17 solar parks in six provinces, five of which are being constructed," Ruhollah Ebrahimi said.

According to the official, the mentioned parks are being established in Qazvin and Kerman provinces.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), on behalf of the Energy Ministry, is in charge of the construction of the mentioned solar parks, and so far this organization has had good cooperation with ISIPO for the implementation of the said plan, Ebrahimi explained.

## WORLD HEADLINES

**Opposition leader:  
Netanyahu dragging  
Israel into 'endless  
war'**

Israel's Labor Party leader has called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition a "zero government" that is dragging the regime to an "endless war".

In a statement on X, Yair Golan demanded that the Israelis stage daily protests against the Netanyahu cabinet.

"Only continuous popular pressure will bring down this government," he added.

Golan said Sunday's missile attack by Yemen's Ansarullah was a "reminder of the right-wing government's ongoing failure".

"Instead of closing battlefronts, this zero government is pulling us into endless war, eternal internal conflict and an abyss."

**Venezuela arrests  
US, EU citizens over  
alleged coup plot**

Venezuela on Saturday arrested three United States citizens, two Spaniards and a Czech national over their alleged participation in a U.S.-sponsored plot to kill President Nicolás Maduro and several members of his government.

The arrests of the six foreigners were announced by Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello on state TV on Saturday.

"These groups seek to seize the country's wealth, and we as a government will respond firmly to any destabilization attempt," Cabello said, according to a Reuters report. He added that about 400 rifles originating in the United States had been seized.

The U.S. State Department confirmed that three American citizens, including one Navy service member, are being held in Venezuela, but it rejected any links to an assassination attempt.

During his press conference on Saturday, Cabello argued that the arrested Spanish nationals had links to Spain's secret service and were planning the killing of a mayor.

**Israeli military  
admits killing three  
captives in 2023**

After months of denial, the Israeli army has confirmed that Gaza captives Ron Sherman, Nick Beiser, and Elia Toledano were killed in an Israeli strike in December 2023, according to Israeli media reports.

At the time, it was reported that the pathological examination could not definitively determine the cause of death for two of the captives.

The military told the families of the captives there was no intelligence suggesting their presence in the underground area targeted during the operation, which resulted in the death of commander Ahmed Ghandour.

Israeli soldiers discovered the captives' bodies during subsequent searches of the tunnels, and had no prior knowledge of their location, the army told the families.

The forensic report showed no signs of trauma or gunshot wounds, suggesting the captives were not killed by direct impact from the strike. Due to the condition of the remains, the exact cause of death could not be determined.

**UN rapporteur slams  
Israel's 'genocidal  
conduct'**

The UN's special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory has accused Israel of deliberately starving Palestinians in Gaza.

"The way Israel is destroying Palestinian food sovereignty will be studied not only as a shocking example of genocidal conduct but also as a textbook case of sadistic disregard for human life and dignity," Francesca Albanese wrote on social media.

She referred to a report by UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Michael Fakhri, who described Israel's actions as "a starvation campaign."

"Life in Gaza revolves around the sea. Small-scale fishers are central to that life. Since October 7, Israel has denied all fishers access to the sea, destroying more than 75 percent of the fishing sector," Fakhri noted in his report.

**Palestinian  
octogenarian  
experiences "worst  
Nakba of her life"**

Badriya al-Kilani, an 80-year-old Palestinian woman from northern Gaza, has been displaced and forced to seek refuge in the central Gaza Strip.

"I left my home barefoot, with nothing, and walked among the corpses," she told Al Jazeera.

The heavy bombardment forced her and her family to flee, but she said her frail body was unable to keep up.

"You go ahead and leave me here to die, save yourselves," she told her family at one point.

Currently residing in a makeshift camp in Deir el-Balah, al-Kilani – also known as Umm Wissam – recalls being displaced to the same area during the 1948 Nakba, when she was just four.

The Nakba, or "catastrophe", refers to the ethnic cleansing of Palestine and the near-total destruction of Palestinian society in 1948.

Al-Kilani said she is also a survivor of the 1967 Naksa episode – when Israel seized the Palestinian territories of the West Bank, East Jerusalem (al-Quds), and Gaza Strip, as well as the Syrian Golan Heights and the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula.

Now, she describes the most recent Israeli bombardment as "the worst Nakba" of her life.

"I can't move, and during any bombardment, I can't escape," she said with tears streaming down her face.

**Israel offering  
residency to African  
asylum seekers  
willing to fight in  
Gaza**

Israel is offering African asylum seekers permanent residency status if they fight in the regime's genocidal war on Gaza, Israeli news site Haaretz reported, based on personal accounts obtained.

Military officials who spoke off the record said the system will be implemented in an organized fashion under the guidance of legal advisors in the military establishment.

The plan has been heavily criticized over ethical concerns, mainly because the African asylum seekers will be risking their lives and also because to date, no asylum seekers taking part in the war on Gaza have been granted official status.

According to Haaretz, there are currently around 30,000 African asylum seekers in Israel, most of them young men.

**Hezbollah warns  
Israel against  
expanding war in  
Lebanon**

Hezbollah has warned that its response to another potential war by the Israeli regime against Lebanon would cause "large losses" on the Israeli side.

The Lebanese resistance movement's Deputy Secretary General, Sheikh Naim Qassem, made the remarks during an address in the capital Beirut on Saturday, according to Press TV.

"We have no intention of going to war as we consider that this would not be useful," he said. "However, if Israel does unleash a war, we will face up to it," Qassem added.

**Great  
surprise  
Ansarullah hits Tel Aviv  
with hypersonic missile  
2,000km away**

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Ansarullah forces have claimed responsibility for a ballistic missile attack targeting the area of "Jaffa (Tel Aviv) in occupied Palestine".

According to Brigadier-General Yahya Saree, the spokesperson for the Sana'a government's Armed Forces, the missile forces, carried out a special military operation targeting an "Israeli military objective in the area of Jaffa (Tel Aviv) in occupied Palestine".

In a televised statement, Saree underlined that the operation was executed by "using a new hypersonic ballistic missile, which, by the grace of God, successfully reached its target."

The Yemeni ballistic missile attack triggered sirens across central Israel and has led some experts to believe the missile may have carried cluster munitions.

The Yemeni military spokesperson said Ansarullah has made great efforts in developing missile technology to adapt to the battle and reach enemy targets, emphasizing that this "advanced technology is capable of bypassing all land and sea-based defense systems."

Saree added that the enemy's defenses failed to intercept it.

"The missile covered a distance of approximately 2,040 kilometers in 11 and a half minutes, causing widespread fear and panic among the Zionists, with over two million of them seeking shelter in bunkers for the first time in the history of the Israeli enemy."

The strike marks the first time a missile fired by Ansarullah has reached central Israel, which is around 2,000km (1,240 miles) from Yemen, BBC reported.

Experts say the missile is ten times the speed of sound and was a hypersonic missile that has not entered the battlefield to date. This has led analysts to believe that the damage caused by the operation is much higher than what the Israelis are saying publicly.

The missile also crossed the defense systems of CENTCOM, which has pledged to prevent such missiles from reaching Israel.

Reports suggest the hyper-

sonic missile had reached Israel after "20 missiles failed to intercept" it.

Hypersonic missiles are one of the most advanced technologies in the world today, combining high speed and maneuverability, making them a significant challenge even for countries with the most advanced defense systems.

**The strike marks  
the first time a  
missile fired by  
Ansarullah has  
reached central  
Israel**

Israeli officials have offered conflicting accounts with some claiming the missile was intercepted over the airspace of Tel Aviv, which experts say means the missile reached Tel Aviv despite all the layers of air defense systems surrounding the Israeli commercial hub.

Based on the images and videos that have gone viral, several areas appear to have been burned in the aftermath of the operation.

Ansarullah has stated that its operation comes as part of the fifth phase and is a culmination of the efforts of the Yemeni missile forces, who made "tremendous efforts in developing missile technology to meet the demands and challenges of the battle with the Zionist enemy."

The missile successfully reached its target, overcoming all obstacles and interception systems on land and sea, including American and Israeli systems, among others."

Saree said geographical barriers as well as "American and British aggression, and monitoring, spying, and defense systems will not prevent Yemen from fulfilling its religious, moral, and humanitarian duty in supporting the Palestinian people."

In a warning to Tel Aviv, Saree added that "the Israeli enemy should expect more upcoming strikes and special operations, especially as we approach the first anniversary of October 7. These include responses to its criminal aggression on the city of Hodeidah and continued support for the oppressed Palestinian people."

Following the strike on Tel Aviv, videos went viral on social media of an electricity station on fire amid the sound of air raids sirens being heard in the background.

On 20 July 2024, Israeli forces launched an attack on Hodeidah Port in Yemen, setting oil storage facilities on fire. Ansarullah pledged to retaliate but it is not clear whether the operation on Sunday was part of the retaliation.

On Sunday, Ansarullah vowed that it will not back down in the battle and any Israeli aggression will be met with more strikes on Tel Aviv, Haifa, Eilat and other Israeli cities.

The Sanaa government's armed forces have been staging

attacks on Israeli sites as well as blocking Israeli and Israeli-affiliated vessels from crossing the Red Sea in solidarity with Gaza.

Israeli media reported that the occupation regime's army was surprised by the Yemeni missile and that the regime's air forces neither saw nor knew or heard anything.

Hebrew media also reported that the new head of the Aman Unit was asleep when the missile fell, slamming the Israeli army spokesperson as no longer trustworthy.

Israeli Army Radio claimed that the ballistic missile traveled 2,000 kilometers from Yemen in 15 minutes. It added that the Israeli occupation forces are investigating why it was not intercepted.

**Yemenis hit Tel Aviv  
with hypersonic  
missile in solidarity  
with Gaza**

According to other reports, sirens sounded in the center of the occupied territories as well as about 20 settlements and cities in the east and south of Tel Aviv.

The missile attack has caused casualties. Israeli media aired footage showing people racing to shelters in Ben Gurion international airport.

**A single Yemeni missile terrified the temporary  
occupation entity**

From page 1 ► Much can be said about this dramatic development in terms of the development of the Yemeni armed forces' missile industries on one hand and the ongoing Zionist-American failures on the other.

The qualitative operation is highly significant as it coincides with the birth-anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). Without a doubt, choosing this time sends an ideological message which shows Yemenis' adherence to the path of the Prophet and loyalty to the Qur'anic teachings despite all the threats.

Besides, the operation has been carried out

in light of the Zionists' awaiting a response to the Hodeidah strike. Of course, this operation is not the expected response at all, but it is a warning to the colonial Israeli occupiers.

Another question: What if the missile is launched from a closer distance, from Lebanon, for example, on the eve of the escalation of the Zionist threat to the Lebanese resistance!!

West Asia is obviously ahead a new path of confrontation full of surprises, which has begun with a ballistic missile striking the occupied Greater Jaffa, the so-called capital of the temporary occupied entity. Certainly, it will

include a response to the Hodeidah strike, which the Zionist enemy called "Long-Range Strike."

The "Long-Range Strike" is a Yemeni one, the Yemeni experts confirm.

Hence, this operation could be considered successful experiment. In the near future, the Zionists and those behind them will face other strategic operations that would threaten their illegitimate existence if they continue their aggression against the Palestinians and West Asia.

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

**Disillusioned Israelis demand ceasefire with Hamas**

From page 1 ► More than 100 captives were released in a swap deal with Hamas in November last year. A number of other captives have been freed by the Israeli army during raids in Gaza and the rest have perished as a result of the regime's strikes.

Netanyahu stands accused of undermining initiatives intended to secure a ceasefire with Hamas which can facilitate the release of the remaining captives.

Families of the captives were among those who participated in the Saturday rallies.

They lashed out at Netanyahu for not reaching a deal with Hamas, arguing that this inaction will help him remain in power as long as the war continues.

"This deal-sabotaging government is forsaking the captives and abandoning them to die," the brother of Yotam Cohen, an Israeli soldier held captive in Gaza, told the Associated Press.

Cohen added, "As long as Netanyahu is in power, this war will go on indefinitely and there will be no hostage deal. To save the

hostages lives, Netanyahu must be replaced."

Skirmishes broke out between police and protesters who were chanting against Netanyahu. Reports suggest police have made some arrests.

Street protests in Israel surged following the recovery of the bodies of six captives from a tunnel in southern Gaza. The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement announced that they were killed by Israeli strikes.

A week ago, an estimated 750,000 people took to the streets in Israel. Organizers said 500,000 Israelis rallied in Tel Aviv, marking the largest-ever demonstration in the regime's history. Some 250,000 others attended rallies in cities including Jerusalem (al-Quds) and Haifa.

Protesters have called for Netanyahu's resignation and early elections.

But Netanyahu has maintained that he will press ahead with the war until achieving "total victory" over Hamas and "destroying" the resistance group.

Israelis participating in the weekly protests

## Restoration of Shah Nematollah Vali Shrine begins



TEHRAN – A new restoration project has been commenced on Shah Nematollah Vali Shrine, a revered historical and cultural monument, which stands tall in Mahan of Kerman province, southern Iran.

Amin Mahani, head of Mahan's Cultural Heritage Office, on Sunday stated that this phase focuses on restoring the shrine's intricate tilework.

Scaffolding has been erected, and the old, deteriorated surface will be removed to prepare for new tiling and grouting, the official said.

"20 billion rials (some \$35,000) from national funds has been allocated to the restoration project so far," he added.

The dome, a significant feature of the shrine, boasts 11 turquoise-tiled segments decorated with white geometric patterns and black borders. Constructed using traditional plaster materials, the dome is double-lay-

ered and has been periodically restored, approximately every 25 years, according to Mahani.

Originally built during the Timurid era, the dome's current form dates back to the 15th century. However, sections were reconstructed in the 1980s following damage from an earthquake and the deterioration of the original wooden structure.

The shrine is dedicated to Shah Nematollah Vali, a renowned 14th-century Iranian mystic and poet who passed away in 1431. It was first erected in his honor in 1436 and has since become an important pilgrimage site, with successive rulers adding to the complex over the centuries.

The shrine complex includes four courtyards, a reflecting pool, a mosque, and twin minarets adorned with turquoise tiles. The Safavid monarch, Shah Abbas I, undertook major renovations in 1601, including the reconstruction of the dome, which is considered one of the most remarkable architectural achievements of ancient Persia.

In the Qajar era, the shrine gained further popularity, leading to the construction of additional courtyards to accommodate the increasing number of pilgrims. The minarets and other notable features, such as the prayer room of Shah Nematollah and the intricate tilework, remain significant elements of the complex.

## Keshit waterfall named natural heritage



TEHRAN – The Keshit Waterfall and Valley, located in the Golbaf region of Kerman province, has officially been added to Iran's national list of natural heritage.

The national inclusion was publicized on Sunday by Nader Alidadi Soleimani, who presides over Kerman's office for cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts registration.

According to Soleimani, the registration process was completed following legal procedures, and the formal announcement was made by Ali Darabi, the deputy minister for cultural heritage.

Moreover, an official notification has been

submitted to Mohammad Mehdi Fadakar, the governor-general of Kerman province, ISNA reported.

The Keshit Waterfall and Valley, which is now protected under national heritage laws, will remain under the supervision of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage.

Soleimani emphasized that any actions or interventions that may damage or alter the original character of the site are strictly prohibited, though property rights will be respected.

The Keshit Waterfall and Valley is renowned for their breathtaking beauty, with the waterfall's descent forming a picturesque pool.

The site, located just 40 kilometers from the city of Shahdad, is one of the most unique tourist attractions in Kerman province. Its natural beauty, juxtaposed against the vast desert landscape of the Lut Desert, a UNESCO World Heritage site, makes it a rare and captivating destination for nature enthusiasts.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites

### Djémila

Situated 900 m above sea level, Djémila, or Cuicul, with its forum, temples, basilicas, triumphal arches, and houses, is an interesting example of Roman town planning adapted to a mountain location.

As mentioned by UNESCO, the site of Djémila is located 50 km northeast of the town of Sétif. Known under its antique name Cuicul, Djémila is an establishment of an ancient Roman colony founded during the reign of Nerva (96 – 98 CE).

The Roman town occupied a singular defensive position. Cuicul is one of the flowers of Roman architecture in North Africa. Remarkably adapted to the constraints of the mountainous site, on a rocky spur that spreads at an altitude of 900 m, between the wadi Guergour and the wadi Betame, two mountain torrents, the town has its own Senate and Forum.

Around the beginning of the 3rd century, it expanded beyond its ramparts with the creation of the Septimius Severus Temple, the Arch of Caracalla, the market, and the civil basilica. The site has also been marked by Christianity in the form of several cult buildings: a cathedral, a church, and its baptistry are considered among the biggest of the Paleochristian period.

The site of Djémila comprises an impres-

sive collection of mosaic pavings, illustrating mythological tales and scenes of daily life.

### Integrity

The site, fenced in following the boundaries presented at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List, contains all the elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value. These attributes comprise among others, the classic formula of Roman urban planning with two gates located at each end of the *Cardo Maximus*; in the centre, is the Forum surrounded by buildings essential to the functioning of public life: the *Capitoleum*, the *Curia*, a civil basilica, the *Basilica Julia*. The vestiges of the Temple of Venus Genetrix and aristocratic residences richly decorated with mosaics are also visible. Vestiges of monuments that have marked the expansion of the city to the south are also included. They comprise private dwellings and public buildings such as the Arch of Caracalla (216), the Temple of Gens Septimia (229), a theatre with a capacity of 3,000 places, baths, basilicas and other cult buildings. The archaeological vestiges have remained surprisingly intact over the centuries. Conservation of the site is not threatened by tourism. However, it is under threat from earthquakes, drought, fire, vandalism, robbing and looting, illegal grazing, illegal constructions and badly integrated infrastructure.

# Iran to boost tourism investment, minister says

TEHRAN – Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri has underlined Iran's commitment to boost tourism investment that includes construction of 500 hotels.

Addressing a ceremony held on Saturday to mark the 90th anniversary of Tonekabon's municipal establishment, Salehi Amiri also called for greater involvement of the private sector.

"While the government can address 20 percent of the infrastructure needs, private investment is crucial to filling the gap," he said.

The minister emphasized the government's pledge to construct 100 hotels annually during a five-year development plan, with a target of doubling the number of tourism sector employees from 500,000 to one million.

"We are committed to making significant strides in the tourism industry, and [adequate] infrastructure is a fundamental part of this development," Salehi Amiri said.

"Investment in the tourism sector will also see a substantial increase, with the Ministry



of Cultural Heritage raising its commitment from €224 million to €500 million," the minister said.

He noted that this surge in funding is aimed at creating the necessary infrastructure to support the growing demand for tourism services.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salehi Amiri highlighted the importance of attractiveness in tourism, describing it as the "first need" for the industry.

He noted that festivals, such as the one held in Tonekabon, play a crucial role in showcasing the charm of cities and regions across the country. He also em-

phasized that beyond scenic appeal, robust infrastructure is essential for the long-term success of tourism.

Salehi Amiri also spoke of Iran's vast potential in maritime tourism, which remains largely untapped but could become a significant driver of development.

The development of this sector is one of the government's focus areas, alongside efforts to promote the export of handicrafts, particularly from regions like Mazandaran, which has seen new opportunities emerge in the global market.

Referring to Iran's rich cultural

heritage, the minister noted the [national] registration of about 35,000 historical and cultural [sites and] artifacts. "Wherever you dig in this country, a piece of history emerges," he said.

Another speaker at the event was Mazandaran's governor-general Yousef Nouri, who echoed the call for enhanced tourism infrastructure, noting that the province has the potential to combine all of its attractions, from mountains to seas, into a comprehensive tourism package.

Furthermore, Nouri announced that plans are underway for a "sea-based development strategy" to further tap into the region's potential and attract investors.

Mazandaran, situated in northern Iran along the Caspian Sea, is renowned for its diverse tourist attractions and natural beauty. The province boasts approximately 2,500 historical and natural sites, including ancient buildings and picturesque landscapes. Its diverse terrain ranges from lush coastal plains to verdant mountains, providing a variety of outdoor activities and scenic vistas.

## 2,700-year-old metalworking workshop discovered in heart of Iran

TEHRAN – A 2,700-year-old metalworking workshop has recently been unearthed in Tepe Sialk during a reassessment project conducted on the archaeological site which is situated near Kashan, central Iran.

The discovery was part of the third season of excavations conducted at the 8,000-year-old site, one of the oldest in Iran.

The one-month project, which began on August 15, was a collaboration between Kashan University, the National Museum of Iran, and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

On Sunday, Javad Hosseinzadeh Sadati, head of the Tepe Sialk Cultural Heritage Base, confirmed the findings, revealing that in addition to the metalworking workshop, archaeologists unearthed remains of an ancient oven and well-preserved pottery dating back to the third phase of Sialk civilization.

"Alongside the workshop and other artifacts, we found evidence of industrial spaces from the third period of the Sialk era (Sialk III)," Hosseinzadeh Sadati said.

Around 25 archaeology students from universities across Iran, including the University of Tehran, Tarbiat Modares, the University of Kashan, Shahid Beheshti, and Isfahan Art University, participated in the excavation.

Tepe Sialk is renowned for its historical significance, spanning from early village settlements to the Median Empire. Hosseinzadeh Sadati expressed hope that the site would ultimately gain a UNESCO recognition, adding, "Tepe Sialk is one of the most treasured archaeological sites in Iran and the world, holding evidence of human civilization dating back nearly 8,000 years."

### A window into ancient civilizations

Tepe Sialk was first excavated during three seasons in 1933, 1934, and 1937 by a team led by Roman Ghirshman and his wife, Tania Ghirshman. The site is divided into two main

mounds, referred to as the northern and southern hills, each with six distinct levels of civilization:

### Sialk I

Sialk I represents the oldest and deepest layer of the site. According to Ghirshman's research, the early inhabitants built their straw-and-branch cottages and covered them with mud. They also produced pottery using specialized ovens, a notable development in their daily lives.

### Sialk II

During this period, the people of Sialk created pottery adorned with images of plants and animals, each with symbolic meanings. The community largely consisted of shepherds, hunters, and farmers. Remarkably, they discovered copper, which they used to craft small items, such as jewelry.

One unique cultural practice of this era was the burial of the deceased within their homes. Bodies were covered in red clay and buried with personal valuables, reflecting the beliefs and customs of the time.

### Sialk III

Approximately 6,100 years ago, the inhabitants of Sialk migrated from the northern hill to the southern hill, although they continued their tradition of burying the dead beneath the floors of their homes. This period saw the introduction of the pottery wheel, marking a significant advancement in craftsmanship, which likely corresponded to a growing population and increased demand for goods.

The people of this era drew inspiration from human figures in their designs and modernized their jewelry by incorporating silver as a primary material.

### Sialk IV

Between 5,100 and 4,600 years ago, major cultural advancements took place at Sialk. The discovery of cylindrical seals featuring animals and geometric shapes indicates the



development of literacy and trade. These seals suggest that Sialk had become a hub of economic activity, likely spurred by the region's growing population.

### Sialk V

Around 3,200 years ago, a new wave of migrants arrived at Tepe Sialk, bringing with them distinctive gray pottery. This era saw a departure from the tradition of burying the dead within homes; instead, the people established cemeteries on the southern side of the settlement. These burial sites included valuable personal belongings, reflecting a belief in the afterlife.

### Sialk VI

The final phase of Sialk witnessed the construction of new homes and cemeteries by yet another group of migrants. Burial practices evolved, with graves taking on a mound-like shape. More than 200 graves from this era have been discovered, providing further insights into the funerary customs of the time.

In 2019, the Louvre hosted an international conference on the Sialk Hills, drawing archaeologists from Iran, Germany, England, and France. The event sought to shed new light on the site, more than 80 years after its initial excavation. The conference focused on the diversity of research surrounding Tepe Sialk, along with efforts to preserve and enhance this important historical landmark.

## Bali considering a ban on new hotels amid overtourism struggles

Indonesia has agreed to set a moratorium on the construction of hotels, villas and nightclubs in some areas on the tourist resort island of Bali, as it grapples with the over-development of land, a senior ministry official said on September 9.

The moratorium is part of the government's bid to reform tourism on Bali, one of Indonesia's main attractions, to try to boost quality and jobs while preserving the island's indigenous culture.

Hermin Esti, a senior official at the Coordinating Ministry of

Maritime and Investment Affairs, told Reuters the government had agreed to set the moratorium, although the exact timeline was still being discussed.

On Saturday, Bali's interim governor Sang Made Mahendra Jaya said he suggested the moratorium in four of Bali's busy areas to the central government, taking aim at over-development for commercial purposes, such as hotels, villas and beach clubs.

The governor's office and Indonesia's tourism ministry did not immediately respond to re-

quests for comment on Monday.

The moratorium could stretch up to 10 years, senior minister Luhut Pandjaitan was quoted by news website Detik as saying on September 8.

Luhut has previously said about 200,000 foreigners now live in Bali, contributing to problems such as crime, over-development and competition for jobs.

Foreign arrivals in Bali have surged since it re-opened for tourism after the COVID-19 pandemic. Videos of misbehaving

tourists often go viral, angering residents and sparking harsh responses from social media users in Indonesia.

Government figures show 2.9 million foreign visitors arrived through Bali airport in the first half of the year, making up 65% of total foreign arrivals in Indonesia by air.

There were 541 hotels in Bali last year, the figures show, up from 507 in 2019.

(Source: CNN)

# Preservation of ozone layer promotes human health, mitigates climate change

TEHRAN – The phase-out of controlled uses of ozone-depleting substances and the related reductions have helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations.

Consequently, the protection of the layer has contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change and has protected human health and ecosystems by limiting harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the Earth.

In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The ozone layer is a part of the atmosphere that has high concentrations of ozone (a gas made of three oxygen atoms O<sub>3</sub>), compared to oxygen molecules that exist in nature as a pair of oxygen atoms.

It exists 10km to 40km above the surface of the earth in a region called the stratosphere and contains 90 percent of all the ozone in the atmosphere.

Some harmful gasses including HCFC and Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) can interfere with the formation of ozone; mostly causing gaps or holes in the layer, as well as passing UV radiation from the sun to the atmosphere.

CFCs are referred to compounds of carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, and fluorine typically gases used in refrigerants and aerosol propellants. They are harmful to the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere owing to the release of chlorine atoms on exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

HCFCs are also man-made compounds containing hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, and carbon and do not occur naturally anywhere.



These compounds are used in refrigeration, aerosol propellants, foam manufacture, and air conditioning.

HCFCs are less dangerous causing a smaller risk to the ozone layer; while being very powerful greenhouse gases, which are nearly 2,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide in adding to global warming.

The scientific confirmation of the depletion of the ozone layer prompted the international community to establish a mechanism for cooperation to take action to protect the ozone layer.

This was formalized in the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which was adopted and signed by 28 countries, on 22 March 1985.

In September 1987, this led to the drafting of The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The theme for the celebration this year is "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Actions".

This year, the event not only celebrates the achievements to date but also looks to the future for deeper and faster action under the Montreal Protocol.

Deeper and faster for the ozone layer but above all, for people, for

climate, and for the planet.

The principal aim of the Montreal Protocol is to protect the ozone layer by taking measures to control total global production and consumption of substances that deplete it, with the ultimate objective of their elimination on the basis of developments in scientific knowledge and technological information.

It is structured around several groups of ozone-depleting substances. The groups of chemicals are classified according to the chemical family and are listed in annexes to the Montreal Protocol text.

The Protocol requires the control of nearly 100 chemicals, in several categories. For each group or annex of chemicals, the Treaty sets out a timetable for the phase-out of production and consumption of those substances, with the aim of eventually eliminating them completely.

The timetable set by the Protocol applies to the consumption of ozone-depleting substances. Consumption is defined as the quantities produced plus imported, less those quantities exported in any given year.

There is also a deduction for verified destruction. Percentage reductions relate to the designat-

ed baseline year for the substance. The Protocol does not forbid the use of existing or recycled controlled substances beyond the phase-out dates.

**How Iran confronted chemicals jeopardizing the ozone layer?**

Iran also joined the international cooperation protecting the fragile layer of ozone in 1989 and contributed significantly to global efforts in order to address climate change while protecting human health and ecosystems.

In 1992, the Department of Environment in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program approved a plan to establish an ozone layer conservation office in the Montreal Protocol executive committee; and the office started working a year later.

Maryam Hasani, an official with the ozone layer conservation office, told IRNA that the activities of the ozone conservation office are summarized in the five fields of changing the production process, controlling and monitoring, raising public awareness, and regional and international cooperation.

"Through the first phase of the plan, we succeeded in omitting 9,800 tons of ozone-destroying gasses changing the manufacturing processes of 1,378 factories, and it is scheduled to eradicate some 2,000 tons through the second phase," she explained.

Holding various workshops, enforcing a set of laws and regulations, and strengthening supervision in the manufacturing units are also part of the project's second phase, which will be achieved by the 2030s, she added.

Until 2013, Iran was able to keep the consumption of hydrofluorocarbons at the base level (5.380 ODP tons) and by 2018 reduce this base level by 30 percent.

## 69 Iranian universities in Best Global Universities Rankings by U.S. News

TEHRAN – The 2024-2025 edition of Best Global Universities rankings has included 69 Iranian universities, up from 52 in 2023, among the world's 2,250 top universities.

These institutions from 104 countries have been ranked based on 13 indicators that measure their academic research performance and their global and regional reputations which helps students to explore the higher education options that exist beyond their own countries' borders and to compare key aspects of schools' research missions.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 275), Islamic Azad University (374), Sharif University of Technology and Tehran University of Medical Sciences (516), University of Tabriz (521), and Amirkabir University of Technology (649) ranked first to fifth in the country, respectively.

The rankings assess academic research and reputation, but personal considerations, including location, campus culture, strength of particular programs, and cost, are also very important considerations.

U.S. News first included the top 250 universities in the results of Clarivate's global reputation survey.

Next, it added any other institutions that met the minimum threshold of at least 1,250 papers published from 2018 to 2022.

This paper threshold is unchanged from the last ranking. Those two criteria created the final 2024-2025 ranking pool of 2,271 institutions from which U.S. News ranked the top-scoring 2,250 universities in the overall ranking.

The second step was to calculate the rankings using the 13 indicators and weights that U.S. News chose to measure global research performance.

Each school's profile page on usnews.com lists its overall global score as well as numerical ranks for the 13 indicators, allowing students to compare each school's standing in each indicator.

These indicators include Global research reputation (12.5 percent); Regional research reputation (12.5 percent); Publications (10 percent); Books (2.5 percent) conferences (2.5 percent); Normalized citation impacts (10 percent); total citations (7.5 percent); Percentage of total publications that are among the 10% most cited (12.5 percent); International collaboration – relative to country (5 percent); International collaboration (5 percent); Number of highly cited papers that are among the top 1% most cited in their respective field (5 percent); Percentage of total publications that are among the top 1% most highly cited papers (5 percent).

### International rankings

Shanghai ranking 2024 placed nine Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide.

The 2024 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) was released by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy.

Since 2003, ARWU has been presenting the world's top universities annually based on transparent methodology and objective third-party data. It has been recognized as the precursor of global university rankings and the most trustworthy one.

This year, more than 2,500 institutions were scrutinized, and the best 1,000 universities in the world were published.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran, which were among the top 500 universities in the world with a rank of 401-500, were placed top in the country.

Tarbiat Modares University (601-700) was placed second.

Iran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology with a ranking of 701-800, shared the third rank in the country.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, and University of Tabriz (901-1000) were ranked joint fourth.

According to data released by Web of Science (WoS), Iran's ranking in Quantum Science and Technology publications improved



from 23 in 2014 to 16 in 2023, placing the country top among Islamic nations in all quantum technology fields.

Iran's best global ranking was in quantum remote sensing technology.

The country was ranked eighth worldwide.

The country's other global ranking included photonic network technologies, 17; superconducting circuits, 18; spin qubit, 16; neutral (cold) atoms, 21; Trapped ions, 19; quantum key distribution, 24; quantum repeater, 26; quantum clock, 12; quantum imaging, 14; and quantum radar, 15.

The Times Higher Education (THE) included 33 universities from Iran among the top 1,500 universities pursuing sustainable development goals (SDG) compared to 27 universities in 2023.

THE evaluated 2,152 universities from 125 countries to produce the overall Impact Ranking for 2024.

A total of 29 Iranian universities were mentioned in the overall table including Alzahra University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Kerman University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401- 600); Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, and University of Tehran (ranking 601 -800); Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University, Sharif University of Technology, University of Kurdistan, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences (ranking 801-1000), Mehr news agency reported.

Amirkabir University of Technology and Sharif University of Technology achieved the highest ranking in industry innovation and infrastructure, placing 27th.

The 21st edition of the QS World University Rankings (2025) placed nine Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, compared with seven universities in 2024.

This year's ranking featured over 1,500 institutions across 105 higher education systems.

Sharif University of Technology (with a rank of 342), University of Tehran (368), Amirkabir University of Technology (403), Iran University of Science and Technology (436), and Isfahan University of Technology (489) were ranked first to fifth, respectively.

Tabriz University (552), Shiraz University (691-700), Shahid Beheshti University (851-900), and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (951- 1000) were other top Iranian universities included in the ranking.

A total of 29 Islamic countries with 270 universities were included in this ranking.

Malaysia, Indonesia, and Turkey ranked first to third respectively in terms of the number of universities.

Iran ranked 11th among Islamic nations in this year's QS ranking.

SCImago Institutions Rankings (SIR) 2024 placed 197 Iranian universities among the top institutions in the world compared to 194 universities in 2023.

The SIR is a classification of academic and research-related institutions ranked by a composite indicator that combines three different sets of indicators based on research performance, innovation outputs, and societal impact measured by their web visibility.

In the latest ranking, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (5) and the University of Tehran (10) were among the top 10 institutions in West Asia.

They ranked 6th and 11th, respectively, in the 2023 ranking.

The Research rankings of Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran were 175 and 290, respectively, in the world.

## MVA-BN prequalified as first effective vaccine against mpox

TEHRAN – The World Health Organization (WHO) has authorized the MVA-BN vaccine as the first vaccine against mpox to be added to its prequalification list.

Mpox is an infectious disease caused by the mpox virus. It can cause a painful rash, enlarged lymph nodes, and fever. Most people fully recover, but some get very sick.

Due to the absence of a vaccine for mpox, smallpox vaccine was used and the third generation vaccine named MVA-BN vaccine was prequalified to be effective with low side-effects, ISNA quoted Farshid Rezaei, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

The vaccine, made by the Danish company Bavarian Nordic, has been approved by the regulatory authorities in Europe as well as the United States, he added.

According to the WHO website, the MVA-BN vaccine can be administered in people over 18 years of age as a 2-dose injection given 4 weeks apart.

The WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization reviewed all available evidence and recommended the use of the MVA-BN vaccine in the context of an mpox outbreak for persons at high risk of exposure.

While MVA-BN is currently not licensed for persons under 18 years of age, this vaccine may be used "off-label" in infants, children, and adolescents, and in pregnant and immunocompromised people.

WHO also recommends single-dose use in supply-constrained outbreak situations.

Available data shows that a single-dose MVA-BN vaccine given before exposure has an estimated 76% effectiveness in protecting people against mpox, with the 2-dose schedule achieving an estimated 82% effectiveness. Vaccination after exposure is less effective than pre-exposure vaccination.

Over 120 countries have confirmed more than 103 000 cases of mpox since the onset of the global outbreak in 2022.

In 2024 alone, there were 25 237 suspected and confirmed cases and 723 deaths from different outbreaks in 14 countries of the African Region (based on data from 8 September 2024).

Fortunately, there have been no reports of mpox in the country so far, according to the health ministry.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## \$3b approved for improving safety of schools

The sixth five-year national development plan (2016-2021) has predicted a total budget of \$3 billion to be allocated for rebuilding and retrofitting old schools across the country, director of the organization for renovation, development and equipment of schools has said. There are some 107,000 schools nationwide with 530,000 classes, 160,000 of which are dilapidated, not meeting safety standards, ISNA quoted Mehrollah Rakhshanimehr as saying on Wednesday.

"However, after 2 years the budget has not been allocated yet," he lamented. He went on to explain that 30 percent of the schools nationwide are old, of which some 12 percent must be completely rebuilt and 18 percent must be retrofitted.

## درخواست تخصیص ۳ میلیارد دلار برای ایمن سازی مدارس

رئیس سازمان نوسازی، توسعه و تجهیز مدارس کشور با اشاره به وجود ۱۶۰ هزار کلاس درس ناایمن در سطح کشور خواستار تخصیص بودجه سه میلیارد دلاری تصویب شده در قالب برنامه ششم توسعه برای ایمن سازی مدارس شد. مهراوه رخشانی مهر در گفتگو با ایسنا، با بیان اینکه حدود ۱۰۷ هزار مدرسه با ۵۳۰ هزار کلاس درس در کشور داریم اظهار کرد: از این میزان، ۳۰ درصد مدارس نیازمند مقاوم سازی و تخریب و بازسازی اند که به تفکیک می توان گفت ۱۸ درصد مدارس باید مقاوم سازی و ۱۲ درصد تخریب و بازسازی شوند. وی افزود: به عبارت دیگر ۳۲ هزار مدرسه مشتمل بر ۱۶۰ هزار کلاس درس در سطح کشور ناایمن بوده و باید مقاوم سازی یا بازسازی شوند.



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## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Kindness is a mark of faith and whoever is not kind has no faith.*

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times > Noon: 11:59 Evening: 18:28 Dawn: 4:24 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:49 (tomorrow)

## Tehran theater to host reading performances of “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike”

TEHRAN- Shahrzad Theater Complex in Tehran will be playing host to reading performances of American playwright Christopher Durang's play “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike”.

The performances will take place on Thursday and Friday and will be directed by Ali Firouzi.

The cast will include Hassan Khazai, Harila Nourani, Ali Jafari, Negin Afsari and Aida Yavari.

“Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” is a comedic play that artfully explores the complexities of sibling relationships, touching on themes of identity, aging, and familial dynamics. Set against the backdrop of a decrepit family home in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the narrative unfolds around three middle-aged siblings whose lives have become a tapestry of unfulfilled dreams and nostalgia.

The play centers on Vanya and Sonia, who have spent their adult lives tending to their dying parents. Now, they find themselves living together in a home that, while once vibrant, is now filled with remnants of the past.

Dependent on their wealthy sister Masha, a glamorous movie star, they reflect on missed opportunities and wasted years.

Masha's unexpected return disrupts this stagnant environment. Her vibrant personality and over-the-top drama introduce chaos into Vanya and Sonia's lives. Accompanying her is Spike, a younger and attractive but rather dim-witted boyfriend, whose presence exacerbates existing tensions amongst the siblings.

The arrival of Nina, the neighbor's eager and aspiring actress niece, further complicates the dynamics. Nina's youthful ambition ignites envy in Masha, who feels threatened by the girl's potential and beauty. Spike, captivated by Nina, becomes the source of rivalry, intensifying Masha's insecurities and allowing Sonia's suppressed resentments to surface.

As the siblings prepare for a costume party at an influential neighbor's home, Masha insists they all dress as characters from Disney's “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.” This playful rebellion mirrors the deeper conflicts within them, leading Masha to reveal her intention to sell the family home—a bombshell that leaves Vanya and Sonia reeling.

The plot thickens when Vanya decides to share a play he has written, inspired by themes from Chekhov's “The Seagull.” This moment becomes a turning point, as he reflects on his own artistic aspirations and laments the cultural decline he perceives in modern society. While presenting his work, which imagines a world post-apocalypse, Vanya's moment of vulnerability is interrupted by Spike, whose disrespectful behavior highlights the generational divide. Fueled by emotion, Vanya delivers a heartfelt monologue lamenting the loss of meaningful connections in an increasingly superficial world.

In a dramatic twist, Masha discovers Spike's infidelity via text messages and ends their tumultuous relationship, announcing her decision to keep the family home. This revelation brings newfound hope to Vanya and Sonia.

The play concludes with a heartwarming scene, where the three siblings sit quietly together, listening to The Beatles' uplifting song “Here Comes the Sun,” symbolizing their shared resilience and renewed optimism after a long period of despair.

First performed in 2012 at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, Durang's “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” has garnered critical acclaim, won the Tony Award for Best Play and resonated with audiences across various productions. Through humor and poignancy, the play effectively captures the intricacies of family life and the universal quest for identity and belonging.

## Cartoon of Day



Palestine, Israel, USA, EU & UN  
Cartoonist: Exprai from Spain

# 10th Iranian Film Festival Zurich underway in Switzerland

TEHRAN-The 10th Iranian Film Festival Zurich (IFFZ), which kicked off on September 11 in Switzerland, is showing contemporary and classic films of Iranian cinema in different sections.

The highlights of the festival include contributions from emerging women filmmakers and an all-female jury evaluating 12 films, including world premieres, ISNA reported.

The notable films in competition include “The Last Birthday” written and directed by Navid Mahmoudi, “In the Arms of a Tree” by Babak Khajehpasha, “The Great Yawn of History” by Aliyar Rasti, “Green Plum Season” by Ali Bayat, “Melody” by Behrouz Sebt Rasoul, and “Cause of Death: Unknown” by Ali Zarnegar.

This year's edition of the festival is dedicated to the memory of Dariush Mehrjui, the master of Iranian New Wave cinema, and his wife Vahideh Mohammadifar.

In the Classic Films section, seven milestones of Iranian cinema are explored. They include “The Cow” by Dariush Mehrjui, “The Brick and the Mirror” by Ebrahim Golestan, “A Simple Event” by Sohrab Shahid

Saless, “Chess of the Wind” by Mohammad Reza Aslani, “Captain Khorshid” by Nasser Taqvai, “Close-Up” by Abbas Kiarostami, and “Travelers” by Bahram Bayzaie.

By building a cultural bridge between nations in Switzerland, IFFZ showcases a diverse selection of contemporary Iranian films, making it the only festival in Switzerland dedicated to Iranian cinema.

The IFFZ is being organized to fill the cultural gap between Iranians and Swiss as well as the many foreigners living in Switzerland.

Each year the festival presents the Swiss audience a selection of the best contemporary feature films, fictions and documentaries from all generations of Iranian filmmakers in Zürich.

The IFFZ define itself as a platform for presenting the Iranian culture and tradition and for building a bridge between different cultures by the means of the universal language of art – and especially the 7th art, cinema.

The nine-day celebration of Iranian cinema and culture will conclude on September 19.



## Veteran actor Sadreddin Hejazi dies at 76



TEHRAN- Sadreddin Hejazi, a distinguished actor in the fields of cinema, theater, and television, passed away on Saturday at a Tehran

hospital after a long battle with lung cancer. He was 76.

The veteran actor was hospitalized in recent weeks due to a stroke, remaining in a coma throughout.

Born in 1948, he enrolled in the University of Art in 1963. During his student years, he directed several plays and also performed in plays focused on war and teachers. In 1977, Hejazi was recognized as the Best Actor in a Leading Role and received the Golden Horse Award at the International Theater Festival, which was only held that year.

From 1980 to 1984, he served as the head of the Art Colleges Complex and became the manager of the Abgineh Hall in 1985. He appeared in films such as “Captain Khorshid” by Nasser Taqvai, “Doubt” by Varuzh Karim Masihi, and “Santouri” by Dariush Mehrjui.

In addition, Hejazi's impressive portfolio includes memorable roles in iconic television series such as “Kuchake Jangali” by Behruz Afkhami, “Mokhtarmameh” by Davud Mirbaqeri “The Loneliest Leader” by Mehdi Fakhimzadeh and “The Gun Loaded” by Amrollah Ahmadijoo.

## Three awards for Iran from 20th Kazan International Film Festival

TEHRAN-Three Iranians won awards at the 20th “Altyn Minbar” Kazan International Film Festival, which was held in Russia last week.

An actress, a filmmaker, and a screenwriter from Iran were among the winners of this year's edition of the Russian festival, IRNA reported.

For playing the lead role in the film “Gazelle,” actress Sepideh Arman won the best in performing skills together with the actor Ulmas Oraev from Uzbekistan.

Directed by Houshang Golmakani, “Gazelle” is the story of the self-inflicted isolation of a

girl who sees her dreams in vain but has not lost her hope yet.

“Paper Flowers” by Ramak Amin Kazemi won the short animation award. Produced by the Documentary, Experimental, and Animation Cinema Development Center, the 17-minute animated film narrates the internal transformations of a successful female writer who experiences a setback in one of her works. To overcome this failure, she leaves her home and family, seeking refuge in an abandoned mansion to focus on writing her new work.

However, the festival's events were not limited to just film showings. The Kazan State

Institute of Culture hosted an International Pitching of Film Projects. The winner was a screenwriter from Iran, Javid Sobhani with the project “White Horse”.

Sobhani received 500,000 rubles (\$5,500) to shoot the film. The plot of the future film is tied to the story of a young Moscow journalist who tries to uncover the secret of her mother's marriage to a Tatar of Iranian origin.

The festival was held in Kazan from September 6 to 11. The Iranian drama “In the Arms of a Tree” directed by Babak Khajehpasha was the opening film of the festival.

The event's motto was “Through the dialogue of cultures to the culture of dialogue,” calling on the entire world in the language of cinema to friendship and cooperation between representatives of all nationalities and religions.

The festival brought together filmmakers from 40 countries, and more than 140 films were shown to the audience. The film festival was held with the support of the Ministry of Culture of Russia and the Head of the Republic of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov, in partnership with the Group of Strategic Vision “Russia - Islamic World”.

## Literary prize drops sponsor name for ties with Israeli arms firm

A major Canadian literary award has dropped the name of Scotiabank, its main sponsor, from its title after months of protests concerning the bank's investment in an Israeli arms manufacturer amid the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Despite the award's rebrand to the Giller Prize, formerly known as the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the bank will remain the event's primary sponsor, according to Almayadeen.

The bank's asset management subsidiary has shares in Elbit Systems, “Israel's” largest arms manufacturer, which supplies military equipment to the Israeli security ministry for its aggression in the Gaza Strip.

Artillery, munitions, and technological warfare systems are among the supplied weaponry, including the Hermes 450 drone, which was involved in the killing of seven aid workers from the World Central Kitchen in April.

“The decision to remove [Scotiabank's] name was made so that the focus would be on these exceptional authors and their achievements, and to give the stage to Canada's best storytellers of today and tomorrow”, Executive Director of the Giller Foundation Elana Rabinovitch told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Demonstrators interrupted the Giller prize ceremony twice in November 2023, protesting against Scotiabank and Elbit Systems, one

month after the occupation began its daily bombardment of Gaza. Over 2,000 writers and publishers signed an open letter urging for charges to be dropped against the protesters.

Sarah Bernstein, the prize's 2023 winner, withdrew from a Giller Book Club appearance after organizers informed her that audience questions about the demonstration or Gaza could be edited out.

Over 30 authors eligible for the award withdrew their work from consideration, signing a statement in July.

Scotiabank's 1832 Asset Management decreased its investments in the arms company over the past year, denying that the protests informed its decision. In mid-2023, the asset manager held a 5.04% stake in Elbit Systems, making it its third-largest shareholder. According to Bloomberg, as of mid-August, the bank is the seventh largest shareholder with a 1.44% investment.

In an August filing released by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the fund revealed it held 61,673 shares in Elbit Systems, valued at \$113 million. This is a significant reduction compared to its investments in May, when it owned 1,130,200 shares worth \$237 million.

“Scotiabank cannot interfere in the independent investment decisions of its portfolio managers who are fiduciaries that are duty-bound to make decisions in good faith in

the best interest of the funds they manage,” a spokesperson said.

Protests across the globe have been taking place for months against the arms company, including in Britain and the United States, prompting closure and divestments.

A U.S. branch of Elbit Systems announced the termination of its office lease in Cambridge following months of pro-Palestinian demonstrations led by Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Boston.

A subsidiary of the Israeli-based company, KMC Systems, had moved into a building at 130 Bishop Allen Drive in December 2021, where the lease was expected to end next year.

The BDS organization described the end of Elbit's lease as “a testament to our collective power,” attributing “varied community efforts” for the disruption of Elbit and its landlord, Intercontinental Management Corp.'s operations and “forcing the early termination of the lease.”

The movement pledged to keep fighting to “prevent Elbit from moving to another nearby location,” as well as attempt to “sever Elbit's ties with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and other actors in the Boston area.”

“We will not consider ourselves victorious until Elbit Systems is dismantled and until Palestine is liberated,” BDS Boston asserted.