

# Iran President: No Nukes, but Missiles Stay



### Hamas chief tells Ansarullah leader: Yemen's missile attack sent a message to Israel

Hamas chief Yehya Sinwar has congratulated Yemen's Ansarullah movement for its missile attack on Israel and said this sent a message to their foe.

The Ansarullah movement hit central Israel with a new hypersonic ballistic missile on Sunday for the first time.

"I congratulate you on your success in reaching the depth of the enemy entity," Sinwar said in a letter to Ansarullah leader Abdel-Malek al-Houthi.

The Hamas chief said that Israel's plans to neutralize the resistance group has failed.

"I assure you that the resistance is fine. We have prepared ourselves to fight a long battle of attrition," he said.

### *Israel continues to commit more massacres in Gaza*

### By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The Israeli military has staged fresh airstrikes on civilians in the Gaza Strip, prompting a top UN agency to condemn the Israeli occupation forces for continuing "to intentionally starve and kill civilians".

For the 346th day since the war on the Gaza Strip began, the Israeli occupation forces continued to commit genocidal war against Gazans, conducting airstrikes and ground assaults on various areas. In the southern part of the Strip, the occupation regime's attacks focused on Rafah, where Israeli artillery shelled the northern and western parts of the city, accompanied by the firing of illumination bombs.

Israeli occupation forces (IOF) invaded an area, west of al-Mawasi (an Israeli declared safe-zone), and opened fire towards refugee camps. Yemen's Ansarullah: A game changer in the Gaza war

#### By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Yemen's Ansarullah movement has dealt crushing and painful blows to Israel and the United States in response to their aggressive actions in West Asia amid the ongoing Gaza war.

The Yemeni army spokesman said on Monday that another American-made MQ-9 Reaper drone was shot down over the country's airspace.

Yahya Saree said the army hit the drone with a locally produced surface-to-air missile over the Dhamar governorate.

He noted that the aircraft "was conducting a hostile operation".

### JCPOA cannot be implemented at the expense of one party, says Iran nuclear chief

TEHRAN – Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), has addressed the 68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), emphasizing that Iran will not be the sole party living up to its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) while Western signatories to the deal continue to shun it.

"The ongoing political and psychological pressures are being exerted with the intention to force Iran into implementing JCPOA obligations, regardless of the commitments related to the termination of sanctions," Eslami stated. "JCPOA should not be implemented at the expense of only one party."

Eslami highlighted Iran's full cooperation with the IAEA, noting that despite comprising only 3% of global nuclear installations, Iran received more than one-fifth of the IAEA's inspections in 2023.

He further stated that Iran's suspension of JCPOA commitments, including halting international oversight of non-nuclear production, followed the U.S. withdrawal from the deal and the failure of European parties to uphold their obligations.

"Iran's suspension of its commitments under the JCPOA followed the illegal U.S. withdrawal from the deal and the failure of the European parties to the JCPOA and the European Union to uphold their obligations," Eslami explained.  $\triangleright$  Page **3** 

### Iran says ready for dialogue with Europeans to clear up misunderstandings on Ukraine crisis

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi suggested on Saturday night that the Europeans can hold talks with the Islamic Republic on the Ukraine war to resolve their concerns.

Speaking to national TV on Sunday night, Araghchi dismissed the European countries' claims regarding Iran's alleged export of advanced weapons to Russia, suggesting that dignified negotiations, not unilateral actions, were the path forward.

"If Europe is truly concerned, the way forward is through respectful discussions, not one-sided demands," he said, making it clear that Iran is ready to engage in dialogue. ► Page **2** 

Yemeni army spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the missile that targeted central Israel travelled 2,040 km (1270 miles) in just 11–1/2 minutes. Air raid sirens sounded in Tel Aviv and across central Israel, sending residents running for shelter.

Israeli media said the regime's air defenses failed to destroy the ballistic missile launched from Yemen although it was an anticipated attack. Residential buildings in the Saudi neighborhood, west of Rafah, were demolished, while artillery shelling targeted areas in the city center and its eastern parts.

An Israeli attack on a residential house in the northern part of Rafah killed at least several people, and injured others, according to Gaza's civil defense. Saree said it was the 10th US drone that the Yemeni army has targeted since the start of the Gaza war in October last year and also the third in a week.

According to the Associate Press, Reapers cost around \$30 million apiece and can fly at altitudes up to 50,000 feet (15,240 meters) and have an endurance of up to 24 hours before needing to land. The US military and the CIA have flown the aircraft over Yemen for years.

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## Knowledge-based companies attend Pharmedi Vietnam

TEHRAN –A total of 12 Iranian knowledgebased companies showcased their latest innovations and achievements in the Vietnam International Medical Exhibition - Pharmedi Vietnam 2024, held from September 11 to 14.

Pharmedi Vietnam is an annual international exhibition on products, equipment, and supplies for medical, pharmaceutical, hospital, and rehabilitation.

The event brought together some 700 companies from different countries including the United States, Brazil, Iran, Germany, India, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey, and Switzerland.

The participants displayed their cuttingedge products in medical technologies and pharmaceutical industries. **Page 7** 



### Supporting Gazans an obligation for Muslims: Leader

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has declared that it is the Islamic Ummah's duty to stand in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza, who are facing brutal oppression and mass killings at the hands of the Israeli regime.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks on Monday during a meeting with a group of scholars, Friday prayer leaders, and directors of Sunni theological schools across the country. **Page 2** 

## Oil Ministry receives executive order to boost oil production by 250,000 bpd

TEHRAN – Iran's Economic Council, in coordination with the Planning and Budget Organization (BPO), has notified the Oil Ministry to start implementing a plan to boost oil production in 34 oil fields.

Based on this plan, Iran's daily oil production will be increased by 250,000 barrels, Mehr News Agency reported.

As reported, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) is going to provide the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) with \$3.0 billion of facilities to implement the plan which was approved in a meeting of the mentioned council in mid-August.

Speaking at the meeting, the 14th administration's first vice-president Mohammadreza Aref referred to the important role and performance of the Economic Council in the framework of the decision-making processes in the country.

He noted the council was in charge of coordinating decisions made by different ministries and other governmental bodies amid planning and directing financial resources toward the country's largest developmental and infrastructural projects. Page **4** 

# POLITICS

### **SEPTEMBER 17, 2024** Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

# **•TEHRAN PAPERS** •

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

### Purpose of the lie is to prevent operation of North-South route

Kayhan addressed the lies by the Western media regarding the claims that Iran is sending arms to Russia in its war with Ukraine by asking the views of Ruhollah Modabber, an expert of Russian affairs. He says: The first document that the Westerners published was a picture of an Iranian ship that had berthed in the port of Olya in Astrakhan. Westerners also declared that this ship was carrying Iran's ballistic missiles to Russia. The reason in the new round of lies by the Westerners is that Olya Port plays an important role in the North-South transit between Iran and Russia, and the purpose behind this lie is to prevent the operation of the North-South route. The second goal of the Americans and the European troika is to put pressure on the diplomatic system ahead of a possible resumption of negotiations between Iran and the West. This is the West's approach: whenever they receive a signal from inside, they intensify their pressure. These have been done to put pressure on Iran, creating a distance between Tehran and Moscow and get concessions in a (possible) new negotiation. Therefore, we should be sensitive to this issue.

#### Donva-e-Egtesad: The West's new claim about transfer of Russian nuclear secrets to Iran

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtesad dealt with the claims of the United Kingdom and the United States against Iran and wrote: The United Kingdom and the United States have claimed that Russia has shared its nuclear secrets with the Islamic Republic of Iran in exchange for receiving ballistic missiles.

According to the Guardian, Iran and Russia are intensifying military cooperation at a time when Iran is enriching uranium close to a breakout. Blinken claimed that Russia, in turn, shares technologies that Iran is seeking. The West's concern is that Iran is getting close to the point to build nuclear weapons. This has been provoking tensions in the Middle East for months as Israel's war on Gaza is going on unabated and tensions are running high. Although Russia and Iran are not historically united, they have become increasingly united in their opposition to the West, and this is worrying for Westerners.

#### Shargh: IAEA board causing challenges for Pezeshkian government

In a commentary, Shargh discussed the recent meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors and said: According to assessments by analysts and reports by Western media, it was predicted that a resolution would not be adopted against Iran by the IAEA Board of Governors in its September meeting as the U.S. presidential election is approaching, but the policy being pursued by the European troika at the IAEA board indicate that the Pezeshkian government will face challenging weeks and months. For this reason, its seems more and more necessary for the government to de-escalate the situation, cooperate with the IAEA and start negotiations with the Westerners as soon as possible. Grossi's positions show that Iran's nuclear case has become more sensitive than the past. In addition to what was said by Grossi as the IAEA director general about Iran's nuclear program, we also witnessed the repetition of some non-constructive positions from the Western countries during the quarterly meeting of the Board of Governors.

#### Sobh-e-No: Repeating a baseless claim to introduce sanctions

Sobh-e-No investigated the issue of sanctions against Iran Air following accusation by the West that Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia in its war with Ukraine. The paper said: The accusation of sending ballistic missiles and drones from Iran to the Russian front has been raised again. By publishing ambiguous documents, they point to Iran's role in strengthening the Russian front. Based on this and considering these baseless accusations, it was said that "Iran Air" company has been sanctioned. Until this moment, no official letter has been sent to Iran Air not to carry out flights. Rght now, Europe refuses to provide fuel and air services, and we are in a difficult situation. Considering what Ukraine and Western officials are saying and the contradictions in their statements about Iran Air, it seems that they are trying to tell Iran that if it sends missiles to Russia, the national airline will be sanctioned. Of course, Western and American sanctions are not a new issue for Iran and we have always faced these bans. However, Ukraine and the West seem to be looking for a preventive measure.

### 'Iran's air defense force vigilantly monitors Persian Gulf skies': commander



"Adversaries are aware of the preparedness of Iran's personnel and defense systems, recognizing that any misstep will provoke a firm reaction," the commander added.

Brigadier General Sabahifard also underscored the self-reliance achieved in training personnel and in the development of detection, reconnaissance, eavesdropping, signaling, interception, and engagement systems, which he identified as a significant strength of the country's air defense.

# Supporting Gazans an obligation for Muslims: Leader

From page **1** > The gathering was held at the outset of Islamic Unity Week, during which the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is also celebrated by Muslims. During this gathering, Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted the critical need to safeguard the invaluable identity of the Islamic Ummah and emphasized the significance of unity among Muslims, while cautioning against the efforts of adversaries seeking to undermine this essential solidarity.

"The issue of the Islamic Ummah's identity is a fundamental one that transcends nationality, and geographical borders cannot alter the reality and identity of the Islamic Ummah," he stated.

Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out that the malicious efforts to make Muslims indifferent to their Islamic identity are "contrary to Islamic teachings, which hold that a Muslim should not be oblivious to the suffering of another Muslim in Gaza or other parts of the world."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution urged Sunni scholars to rely on Islamic identity and the Islamic Ummah while pointing out the longstanding plans and activities of



ill-wishers who aim to fuel religious differences in the Islamic world, especially in Iran. "They seek to separate Shias and Sunnis in our country and other Islamic regions using intellectual, propagational, and economic tools.

They incite anger and discord [among Muslims] through measures such as pressuring individuals from both sides to speak ill of each other." he noted. Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that relying on unity is the solution to counter these conspiracies, stating that unity is not a tactic but rather a Quranic principle.

munities. "Of course, despite the multitude

15,000 Sunni martyrs [who sacriremarked.

The Leader of the Islamic Revo-

lution expressed regret regarding certain intentional or unintentional actions aimed at undermining the unity between Shia and Sunni com-

of conspiracies, our Sunni community has diligently countered these hostile motives, as evidenced by the ficed their lives] during the Sacred Defense and other periods, as well as the martyrdom of a significant number of Sunni scholars in the path of the truth and the Revolution," he

Ayatollah Khamenei underscored

### IRGC denies reports of casualties in Syria

TEHRAN- The head of the Intelligence Protection Organization of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has stated that there have been no recent attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran's positions in Syria.

In an interview with ISNA, Brigadier General Majid Khademi addressed the bombing of Masyaf by the Zionist regime, describing it as a deliberate act of aggression that has previously elicited responses.

Khademi emphasized that the claims made by the Zionists are unfounded. Additionally, he highlighted the ongoing violence perpetrated by the Zionists in Gaza and the West Bank, noting, "Following the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, the Zionist regime is under significant pressure and struggling for survival."

In this context, he remarked, "The dissemination of false information by the Zionists is not surprising.'

On September 12, some Western media outlets reported that Israel had apprehended a contingent of soldiers, which included two commanders from the IRGC Ouds Force, during an earlier operation in Syria's Masyaf region.

movements as a necessity.

that achieving the important goal

of upholding the Islamic Ummah's

honor can only be realized through

unity. "Today, it is definitely our duty

to support the oppressed people of

Anyone who neglects this duty will

During this meeting, Mawlavi

surely be questioned by God," he said.

Abdul-Rahman Chabahari, a Sunni

scholar from Sistan and Baluchestan

province and the Friday Prayer Lead-

er of Chabahar, Mawlavi Abdul-Ra-

him Khatibi, a Sunni scholar from

Hormozgan province and the Friday

Praver Leader of Qeshm, and Ma-

mosta Abdul-Salam Imami, a Sunni

scholar from West Azerbaijan prov-

ince and the Friday Prayer Leader

of Mahabad, expressed their appre-

ciation for the unity-promoting ap-

proaches of the Islamic Republic and

the Leader of the Islamic Revolution

as well as Ayatollah Khamenei's sup-

They underscored the importance

of reinforcing the foundations of

unity and leveraging local capaci-

ties, particularly in Sunni-majority

regions, to foster national prog-

ress. They also regarded the issue

of countering extremist and Takfiri

port for the Sunni community.

Gaza and Palestine.

Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen has stated that the Israeli air force's strike on Syria and southern Lebanon on September 10, led to the deaths and injuries of more than thirty civilians.

### Iran says ready for dialogue with Europeans to clear up misunderstandings on Ukraine crisis



From page **1** > He particularly criticized Europe's stance on economic sanctions, arguing that their reliance on such measures has been a failure. "We have an issue with Europe over sanctions. Using failed tools is not the way forward." he said, noting that despite the extensive sanctions imposed on Iran in the past, Europe eventually had to sit down at the negotiating table. "It is clear that the embargo has not worked," he added.

# a new agreement."

The new foreign minister went on to say that it is a "reality" that the United States is not ready for dialogue on crafting a new nuclear deal. While Araghchi acknowledged that the United States is currently unwilling to engage in serious discussions, he noted that contacts with the previous US administration had occurred and could be reestablished with the current one if necessary.

"The fact is, the Americans are not ready for negotiations at this moment," he said, citing the upcoming US presidential elections as a reason for their reluctance. "It

administration in 2018 and the August 2022. Talks had originally Europeans failed to abide by it "is resumed in April 2021, three years still a proper framework to lead us to after the Trump administration unilaterally withdrew from the agreement and re-imposed crippling

economic sanctions on Iran. Tehran has criticized the lack of political will from the US and the E3 to revive the JCPOA and, in response, has ramped up its nuclear activities. At the time of the US withdrawal, Iran had continued to adhere to the deal for a full year before gradually scaling back its commitments.

Araghchi outlined the conditions under which Iran would be willing to return to the negotiating table, stating that a "proper foundation" would need to be created first. "Once that foundation is set, we must reach a point of mutual understanding with the Europeans and the other members of the JCPOA so that we can negotiate from a position of equality," he asserted.

The foreign minister further emphasized that Iran would not compromise its dignity or broader national interests for the sake of sanctions relief. "We are ready for respectful discussions, but we won't sacrifice our dignity or interests," he said. "We will not accept any agreement unless our interests are secured," Araghchi stated. "It doesn't matter who the other party is, we are ready to negotiate as long as the negotiations protect our interests."

Reflecting on the past, Araghchi concluded by stating that while Iran



TEHRAN – The chief of the Iranian Air Defense Force, has announced that the air defense remains vigilant over the heavily trafficked skies of the Persian Gulf.

On Sunday, Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard emphasized that the airspace above the Persian Gulf is under constant surveillance, noting the essential role of domestic systems in enhancing the nation's air defense capabilities.

He pointed out the importance of maintaining readiness in the southeast air defense zone, particularly due to the region's high volume of air traffic, stating, "With divine assistance, this zone is equipped with a vigilant and responsive unit."

The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Defense Force (IRIADF) plays a crucial role in the nation's military framework, tasked with safeguarding Iran's airspace and essential infrastructure from aerial threats. Formed in 1992 as an independent branch distinct from the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF), the IRIADF utilizes various air defense systems and technologies, such as surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft artillery, and radar systems.

The main objective of the Iranian Air Defense Force is to detect, identify, and neutralize hostile aircraft, drones, and missiles operating within the airspace of Iran.

In a show of defiance, Araghchi expressed surprise that Europe continues to rely on sanctions as a tool of diplomacy. "It's astonishing that Europe still believes in the failed policy of sanctions and continues to act based on this defeated experience," he remarked.

Elsewhere in his talks, the foreign minister said the JCPOA. the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal, which was abandoned by the Trump is normal for no country to be open to serious talks during election periods," he added.

Araghchi, however, made it clear that Iran would not remain idle. "If necessary, we will initiate contacts with the Europeans and will not wait for the United States," he reiterated. The Iranian diplomat also pointed out that Europe should take into account Iran's concerns in any future negotiations. "Just as they have concerns, we also have our own concerns.'

The negotiations to revive the JCPOA have remained stalled since respect and equal footing.

can enter negotiations based on the original formula of the JCPOAconfidence-building through nuclear transparency in exchange for sanctions relief," he explained.

He emphasized that the framework of the JCPOA still holds value and could pave the way for a renewed agreement. "In my opinion, the JCPOA remains a viable framework that can lead to a new understanding," he said.

However, Araghchi also underscored that any future talks would need to be based on mutual

"We

is willing to learn from previous experiences, it remains focused on the future. "Our look at the past is to learn, but we don't dwell on it. We are moving forward," he affirmed.

The standoff over the JCPOA has been ongoing since the Trump administration's decision to withdraw from the deal in 2018, a move that has cast a long shadow over efforts to restore the landmark agreement. Iran has consistently pointed out that it adhered to its commitments under the deal, only scaling back after the US and its European partners failed to uphold their side of the agreement.

### Iran, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, and Cyprus establish parliamentary friendship group

TEHRAN – A parliamentary friendship group representing Iran, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, and Cyprus was established during a session of the Iranian parliament on Monday.

As reported by ISNA, the formation of this parliamentary friendship group also included the election of its executive board.

In this context, Hamid Reza Hajibabaei was chosen as the president of the group. Additionally, Mostafa Moieni and Salman Ishaqi were designated as the two vice presidents of the parliamentary friendship group.

Parliamentary friendship groups are informal

gatherings of legislators from different nations, designed to promote mutual understanding, camaraderie, and cooperation among their countries.

The formation of this group, which includes members from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, and Cyprus, demonstrates a dedication to improving bilateral ties and facilitating dialogue on common issues.

These groups offer parliamentarians an opportunity to share perspectives, discuss successful approaches, and investigate possible collaborative initiatives, thus enhancing parliamentary relations among the participating nations.

TEHRAN – Abbas Moghtadaei, Deputy Chairman of Iran's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, has highlighted Israel's defense system vulnerabilities following a missile strike by Yemen's Ansarullah movement.

In an interview with Iranian media on Monday, Moghtadaei asserted that the attack on Israeli soil revealed significant flaws in the Zionist regime's defense capabilities.

Moghtadaei noted that the missile strike marked a growing strength within the Resistance Front. He stressed that the attack was not an isolated incident but part of a broader and ongoing Resistance campaign.

### Yemen's missile attack exposes Israel's defense vulnerabilities: Iranian MP

'These attacks will persist as part of the Resistance's strategy," he said, pointing out that the capabilities of groups like Ansarullah have advanced considerably, enabling them to strike deep within Israeli territory.

Moghtadaei took the opportunity to criticize the West, accusing Western powers of hypocrisy in their handling of international conflicts, particularly in Ukraine and Gaza.

"The West's double standards in dealing with Ukraine and Gaza demonstrate the hollowness of their human rights claims," he remarked, adding that Western nations have been selectively vocal about human rights abuses, while turning a blind eye to the crimes of the Zionist regime.

He also called attention to the material and financial support provided to Israel by Western nations, especially in terms of military aid and media backing. "Western financial, military, and media support for Israel has strengthened the regime's capacity for committing atrocities in Gaza," Moghtadaei added, describing Ansarullah's missile strike as a direct response to these actions.

According to Moghtadaei, Israel's repeated military operations in Gaza have highlighted its vulnerability. He argued that despite Israel's military prowess, the Resistance Front has demonstrated that it can strike back effectively, showcasing Israel's susceptibility to retaliatory attacks.

#### Iran President:

# No nukes, but missiles stay

#### By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – In his first-ever press conference since taking office in July, President Masoud Pezeshkian affirmed Iran's right to possess defensive capabilities, while unequivocally stating that the country is not pursuing to build nuclear weapons.

The press conference, attended by representatives of over 100 media outlets, was held on Monday in Tehran. It encompassed a wide range of issues and topics, including Iran's foreign policy under its new president and the approach it plans to take regarding tensions between Tehran and Western states.

In response to a question from a Russian journalist, Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's commitment to peace, asserting that the country has no intention to build nuclear weapons.

He pointedly stated, "We are not seeking nuclear weapons. It is they [Western leaders] who threaten us." Further addressing the issue of Iran's military capabilities, Pezeshkian challenged Western calls for limitations, stating, "They say we should not have missiles; fine, if we shouldn't have missiles, then disarm Israel."

The official added that Iran has never been the initiator of any war and that it needs to have a robust military to defend itself against notorious aggressors like Israel. "They want to disarm us so they can do to us what they're doing to Gaza."

In a call for diplomatic engagement with the West, particularly the U.S., he expressed openness to dialogue,



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian during his first press conference held in Tehran on September 16, 2024

against Israel

Yemen self-reliant in attacks

suggesting that Iran has provided

hypersonic missiles or technology

to the Yemeni armed forces by

refuting the idea that such advanced

weaponry could be transferred

unnoticed, stating, "It takes a week

for human resources to go to Yemen.

How could the missile have gotten

there without being seen? We do not

have any missiles that the Ansarullah

The President asserted that while

Iran possesses sophisticated missile

capabilities, it does not supply

them to Sana'a. "Yemen had already

been developing its own missile

manufacturing technology prior to

the onset of the Gaza war. Their ability

The Yemeni Armed Forces on

in Yemen have used against Israel."

presser,

claims

During the Monday

Pezeshkian addressed

saying, "If the U.S. respects our rights, we have no issues with the U.S. or any other country." However, he cautioned against perceived threats and disdain, declaring, "We should not be threatened; we will not accept contempt and threats."

Despite over four decades of Western sanctions aimed at crippling its economy and hindering its progress in various sectors, Iran has made significant strides, particularly in the military realm, where it has emerged as a leading producer of missiles and drones.

Iran's military advancements seem to be a hard pill to swallow for the West, which has been calling on Tehran to scale back on its capabilities to help preserve "peace" in West Asia.

to resist and manufacture missiles Iran, however, has said numerous did not develop overnight." times that it has the right to defend itself in the face of growing terrorist and Israeli threats.

the Jaffa area, south of Tel Aviv, with a new hypersonic ballistic missile. The attack exposed flaws in Israel's missile systems as the regime's air defenses failed to destroy the ballistic missile. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose army has not yet managed to tackle the Lebanese Hezbollah's continued attacks on northern parts of the occupied territories, blamed Iran for the success of Yemen's attack.

Tehran looking to strengthen ties with neighboring countries, China, and Russia

ln separate Remarks, the president declared his Iranian administration's determination to bolster relationships with neighboring countries and friendly nations, especially China and Russia.

He pointed to his earlier trip to Iraq, stating that the visit resulted in agreements to undertake joint projects, a strategy that the President believes can be replicated with other neighboring nations, including Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey.

The President also addressed the evolving relationship between Iran and China, noting that their ties have been fruitful thus far. He pointed to China's pivotal role in mediating discussions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which he described as a significant step toward regional coordination.

Pezeshkian made similar remarks on Tehran's relationship with Moscow, emphasizing that the two nations share substantial connections across economic, strategic, cultural, and Sunday struck a military target in military dimensions.

### Iran start 2024 **Futsal World Cup** on high

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Venezuela 7-1 in Group F of the 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup on Monday at the Bukhara Universal Sports Complex.

Salar Aghapour, Mahdi Karimi and Behrooz Azimi led the way with a brace each as the Asian champions put on a show of intent right from the start.

Aghapour put the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Thailand 2024 winners ahead after only seven minutes with Karimi (10th, 13th) scoring a quickfire double to put Iran 3-0 up.

Venezuela found some attacking verve and were able to reduce the deficit in the 15th minute through Milton Francia, however, that only served to motivate Iran to move up another gear.

Azimi restored Iran's three-goal lead with his strike in the 19th minute to leave his team in a commanding position at half-time.

Iran dominated the second half with Aghapour getting his second in the 23rd minute before efforts from Amirhossein Davoudi (27th) and Azimi (39th) completed the emphatic win for Iran.

Vahid Shamsaei's team are scheduled to meet Guatemala and France on Sept. 19 and 22, respectively.

The 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup is being held from Sept. 14 to Oct. 6 in Uzbekistan cities Bukhara, Andijan and Humo Arena.

### **French star Ngapeth** satisfied with experience in Iran

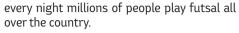
TEHRAN - Star player Earvin Ngapeth shared his satisfaction with the 2024 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship and his experience in Iran.

The French iconic player joined Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi just ten days before the competition and helped the Indonesian team finish in third place.

Foolad Sirjan swept past Shahdab Yazd to win the title for the second time.

"The level of the competition was very high, and while we did not make it to the final, I am happy we finished third.

It is always a pleasure to play in Iran," Ngapeth said.



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Straight Truth

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IRAN IN FOCUS

They analyze our games like real experts and expect the national team to shine.

We are the champions of Asia and winning another world title will surely give them huge joy. We will fight for this goal.

"What makes me happy is that the name of Iran is repeated with each of these records. I'm proud of the country, the people and the futsal players who give their all here.

I hope that my presence in five World Cups will send the message to young players that there is no such thing as impossible, but that no-one gives it to you on a silver plate, you have to work hard for it.

I'm happy to have the opportunity to experience this World Cup in Uzbekistan," Hassanzadeh stated.

### **Rafael Guijosa Castillo named Iran** handball coach

TEHRAN – Spanish coach Rafael Guijosa Castillo has been appointed as new head coach of Iran's men's handball team.

Guijosa, 55, experiences his second stint in the Iran national team.

He helped Team Melli win a bronze medal in the Asian championship in 2014 in Bahrain.

As a player, he won bronze medals both in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta and in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney with Spain.

Guijosa was voted World Player of the Year 1999 by the International Handball Federation

He replaced Montenegrin coach Veselin Vujovic in the national team.

### Al Wakrah to host **Tractor at AFC** Champions League Two

TEHRAN - Al Wakrah of Qatar will host Iranian side Tractor at opening match of the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Two with both teams going into the tie having suffered defeats on the domestic front.

Al Wakrah lost 2-0 to Oatar Stars League leaders Al Duhail - which left the team seven points off the pace - while Tractor lost ground on table-topper Sepahan after a 1-0 loss to Zob Ahan.

## JCPOA cannot be implemented at the expense of one party, says Iran nuclear chief

From Page 1 > Eslami also condemned the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists, acts of sabotage, and Israeli-led terrorism against Iran.

Heaccused Israel of orchestrating propaganda against Iran's peaceful nuclear program to distract from its own nuclear weapons program and atrocities.

"The regime is spearheading propaganda against Iran's peaceful nuclear program in a bid to divert the world public opinion away from its atrocities," Eslami stated.

He stressed that nuclear disarmament is the international community's main priority and that nuclear-weapon states must fulfill their

obligations under Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"Nuclear disarmament is the main priority of the international community, stressing that nuclear-weapon states are required to fulfill their obligations under Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," Eslami emphasized.

Eslami also called for the creation of a nuclearweapon-free Middle East, noting that Israel has repeatedly threatened Iran and Palestinians in Gaza with nuclear attacks while refusing to join the NPT.

"Israeli authorities, over the past year, have

frequently threatened the Iranian nations and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip with nuclear bombardment while continuing to refuse to join the NPT," Eslami said.

"Israel's continued refusal to join the NPT and subject its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards poses a serious threat to international peace and security."

Eslami concluded by stating that Iran is committed to increasing its nuclear electricity generation capacity to 20,000 megawatts by 2040 and that the IAEA should support all member states' access to necessary technology and equipment without discrimination.

### Kazem Gharibabadi appointed as Deputy FM for **Legal and International Affairs**

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has named Kazem Gharibabadi as the new Deputy for Legal and International Affairs.

rights positions on the global stage. Gharibabadi has also held

key diplomatic posts, including serving as the Ambassador of

Agency (IAEA).

His role in nuclear diplomacy has been pivotal, having worked as a Nuclear Affairs Advisor to the Foreign Minister and Secretary



The decision, announced late Sunday night, is seen as a strategic move, given Gharibabadi's extensive experience in both legal and international roles

Gharibabadi's previous roles include serving as the Deputy for International Affairs at the Judiciary and as Secretary of the Human Rights Headquarters, where he played a key role in advocating for Iran's human

the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Netherlands, and as Iran's Representative Permanent various international organizations based in The Hague.

to

Additionally, he served as Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna, a critical diplomatic hub, especially for Iran's engagements with the International Atomic Energy

of the JCPOA Committee within Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

In a related development. Araghchi also announced the appointment of Reza Najafi, the former Deputy for Legal and International Affairs, as an advisor to the Foreign Minister.

various key diplomatic roles, will continue to offer his expertise to the ministry as



Najafi, who has served in Iran navigates its foreign policy challenges, particularly in light of international sanctions and complex geopolitical dynamics.

### 'Zero tolerance for territorial violations': military advisor to Leader

TEHRAN – A military advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has affirmed Iran's commitment to peace, while simultaneously stating that the country will respond decisively and swiftly to any actions that threaten its security, national integrity, or sovereignty.

Brigadier General Amir Hatami, who served as Iran's defense minister for four years, made the statement in remarks to military students.

Hatami noted that peace has consistently been a core principle in political and social discourse, particularly among scholars, as human history is replete with wars and conflicts.

He pointed out, "September 21, recognized as the International Day of Peace, aligns with September 22, 1978, which marks the onset of Saddam's imposed war and the Ba'ath Party's aggression against Iran."

"This conflict, supported by both Eastern and Western powers during that bipolar era, stands as one of the most challenging and significant examples of oppression and injustice faced by the peoples of Iran and Iraq," the commander added.

Brigadier General Hatami stated that the primary takeaway from this conflict for the Iranian people is the recognition that the global community, hindered by a lack of equitable peace models and the presence of authoritarian and aggressive leaders, has a significant journey ahead to attain peace.

"This journey necessitates safeguarding peace, independence, and genuine strength,"

Hatami underscored.

He further remarked, "Another pertinent example is the ongoing struggle between the Palestinian people and the Zionist regime. Despite over 70 years of occupation and the continuous perpetration of crimes by the Zionist regime and its allies, which have failed to avert war and strife, the world now observes the egregious infringement of the rights and safety of the vulnerable Palestinian population, particularly in Gaza."

Hatami underscored that while the Zionist regime may claim to ensure Iran's security, the Iranian armed forces are resolute in their commitment to prevent any form of encroachment or violation of borders by adversaries, thereby safeguarding Iran's territorial integrity.

"The atmosphere here is incredible, and the fans are amazing." Ngapeth said, reflecting on his previous experience playing in Iran in 2022, where he helped Paykan win the Asian Men's Club Championship in Tehran.

### Iran aim futsal World Cup title: Hassanzadeh

TEHRAN – Iran veteran futsal player Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh says that they want to win FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Team Melli will start the campaign on Monday with Venezuela in Group F.

Vahid Shamsaei's team will meet Guatemala and France on September 19 and 22, respectively.

"Every team here must dream of winning the title. Without this dream, competition has no meaning. Brazil, Portugal and Argentina are always contenders," Hassanzadeh said in an interview with FIFA.com.

"Our goal is to gain pride and honor for our people. We will go on to the court with all our heart and play in such a way that there will be no regrets. We've been training like this, we've been through tough times, and the World Cup is where you have to give your best performances. Iran is not easy opponent for any team. We have big dreams but we need to work hard," he added.

"People in Iran love futsal. Every day and

The match will be held in Group A at the Al Janoub Stadium. Top two teams from each group qualify for the knockout stage.

The 2024–25 AFC Champions League Two group stage will be played from September 17th to December 5th, 2024.

### **AFC Champions** League Two: Sepahan to face Al Wehdat in Amman

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Sepahan will play Jordan's Al Wehdat in Group C of the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Two on Tuesday.

Tajikistan's Istiklol will also host Emirati club Sharjah in another match in the group.

Al Wehdat has kicked off the domestic season strongly, Sepahan has been also impressive in the Iran Pro League - four wins on the trot giving the team a five-point lead at the top. The match will be held at the Amman International Stadium in Amman, Jordan.

Top two teams from each group qualify for the knockout stage.

The 2024–25 AFC Champions League Two group stage will be played from September 17th to December 5th, 2024.

# ECONOMY

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

## Iran produces 55,000 tons of organic horticulture products annually



TEHRAN - Iranian farmers produce 55,000 tons of organic horticulture products every year, Deputy Agriculture Minister Mohammad Mehdi Boroumandi said.

Based on official statistics, every year 55,000 tons of organic products are produced in the horticulture sector, which is not much compared to the total amount of production in this area which is 26 million tons, Boroumandi said.

Speaking at a conference on organic agriculture on Monday, the official said: "The production of organic products has its own conditions and now we are going through the transition period for the production of such products."

Stating that the Agriculture Ministry is working on special programs regarding organic products to be followed up in the seventh National Development Plan, he said: "According to statistics, horticulture products are cultivated in 3.3 million hectares equal to 18 percent of the lands under agricultural cultivation in the country."

According to the official, Iran is self-sufficient in producing all horticultural products except four tropical fruits including coconuts, pineapples, bananas, and mangoes.

Boroumandi further noted that the Islamic Republic is currently exporting horticultural products to more than 200 countries across the globe.

According to the head of the Iran Organic Association, the country currently ranks 79th in the world in terms of production of organic products, while it can be among the top 20 countries in the world.

According to Reza Nourani, over 90,000 hectares of land are under the cultivation of organic crops in the country.

"Based on the 6th National Development Plan, two percent of the total area under cultivation of agricultural crops in the country should have been allocated to organic crops, which has not been realized," he said.

He mentioned saffron, pistachio, and medicinal herbs as Iran's top exported organic products and said: "The majority of these products are exported to European countries such as Austria, Germany, France, and Italy."

### Loading, unloading of goods in Shahid Bahonar port up 34% in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – As announced by a provincial official, loading and unloading of goods in Shahid Bahonar port, in southern Hormozgan province, increased by 34 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.

Hamid-Reza Mohammad-Hosseini Takhti, the director-general of East Hormozgan Ports and Maritime Department, said that 984,058 tons of products were loaded and unloaded in this port during the five-month period.

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

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

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

commodities, there.

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

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

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

In July, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei said over the past few years the organization has managed to attract nearly \$1.7 billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country's ports and maritime sector.

Speaking in a press conference on July 10, Safaei said some 620 trillion rials (about \$1.24 billion) of domestic investment and \$470 million of foreign investment have been

# **Oil Ministry receives executive order to** boost oil production by 250,000 bpd

From page **1** • "Regarding the role and performance of the Economic Council and prompting its status, it is necessary to avoid creating parallel councils and committees, so that the government will be able to realize the president's announced strategies, promises, and programs as soon as possible." The first vice-president said.

Back in August, a Reuters survey showed that Iran's oil production in July reached 3.22 million barrels per day (bpd), the highest level since the U.S. withdrew from the nuclear pact with Iran and re-imposed sanctions on the country in 2018.

Based on the Reuters survey,



Iran has been boosting exports in the last few years despite U.S. sanctions remaining in place.

OPEC in its latest report released last week said Iran produced 3.277 million bpd of crude oil in August, registering a 4,000-bpd increase compared to the previous month.

Based on secondary sources,

Iran produced 3.273 million bpd of crude oil in July, the report said.

The Islamic Republic's average crude output for the second quarter of 2024 stood at 3.238 million bpd indicating a 59,000 bpd increase compared to the figure for the first quarter of the year, the report said.

The report put the average Iranian crude output for 2022 at 2.554 million bpd, while the average output in 2023 was 2.859 million bpd.

These statistics show that the Islamic Republic has maintained its place as the third-largest oil producer among the OPEC members.

### Value of 5-month trade between Iran, Russia stands at over \$968m

TEHRAN - The value of non-oil trade between Iran and Russia stood at \$968.772 million 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 nonoil trade between the two countries at 2.09 million tons.

As reported Iran-Russia five-month nonoil trade indicates 19 percent fall in value and 15 percent drop in weight, year on year.

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

In early July, Governor of the Central Bank

Russian counterpart had a meeting in Saint Petersburg where they finalized agreements already signed between the two countries.

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

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

He added that based on agreements between the specialized delegations of the two countries. Iran's Shetab banking system will link Russia's MIR interbank system by the end of August.

The official said that the new scheme would allow Iranian nationals to take ruble from Russian ATMs using their Iranian banking cards.

"During the meeting, the two sides finalized the requirements to connect Russia's Mir payment system to Iran's Shetab and this project has entered the operational phase," Farzin said.

He added that the scheme will further develop in the next phases to allow Russian nationals to use their banking cards in Iranian ATMs and will then enable using Iranian cards at the Russian poses.

"The second stage [involves the possibility of] paying with Russian citizens' cards in Iran," Farzin said, adding that in the third stage, Iranians will be able to pay with a Shetab card in Russian stores via an ordinary bank terminal.

In April 2024, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced that the project to use Mir cards had entered the implementation stage. In May 2022, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said that the countries were discussing how to connect the Mir and Shetab payment systems.

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.

### Mohsen Tarztalab appointed new SATBA head



## since October 2021. SATBA has In July, SATBA reported that the generation capacity stood at

announced that 600 renewable capacity of Iran's renewable power about 800 MW when the current

power plants with a total capacity plants has reached 1,199.71 MW. government took office in August 2021, the mentioned increase in renewable energy capacity would mean a 13-fold rise.

trade exchanges. Farzin told reporters that he and his

of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin said a monetary contract has been signed between Tehran and Moscow for carrying out bilateral

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

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

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

attracted in the mentioned sectors

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

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

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

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

\_ Iranian Energy TEHRAN Minister Abbas Ali-Abadi has appointed Mohsen Tarztalab as the new head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), Mehr News Agency reported.

Tarzetaleb holds a master's degree in MBA and economics and has served in various executive positions including head of the Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH) and the head of the Iran Water and Power Resources Development Company.

Tarztalab replaced Mahmoud Kamani who was in the position of 13,500 megawatts (MW) are under construction across the country after completion which the share of renewables in the Iran's power generation will reach 15 percent.

It is hoped 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, the organization has declared.

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-scalded hydropower plants generate 13 percent of the total renewable capacity.

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

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

The electricity generated by renewable sources 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.

### About 20,000 passenger cars imported in nearly 6 months

TEHRAN – About 20,000 brand-new passenger cars have been imported and cleared from the customs of the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20) up to September 15, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Based on the IRICA data, the value of the

imported cars is estimated to be about \$390 million, Mehr News Agency reported.

As reported, some 1,647 passenger cars, valued at \$35 million, were imported into the country in the past Iranian calendar year's same period.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry lifted the ban on car imports in late May 2022.

TEHRAN – The head of Iran Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said the entity will take the necessary measures to ensure that the direct and indirect interests of the stock market be considered in the next year's budget bill.

### 'SEO to pursue interests of stock market in next year's budget bill'

"We are taking special measures in relation to the budget bill and issues that directly or indirectly affect the capital market," newly appointed SEO Head Hojatollah Seyedi said.

Members of Iran's Securities and Exchange September 13.

Council have elected Seyedi as the new head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization earlier this month.

Seyedi replaced Majid Eshqi during a meeting of the mentioned council on

# Yemen's Ansarullah: A game changer in the Gaza war

Ansarullah is a painful thorn in the side of Israel and US

From page 1 The downing of the US drone has thrown a spotlight on the military capabilities of the Ansarullah movement despite the strikes that the US, Britain and Israel have carried out against Yemen over the past months.

It also came a day after a long-range ballistic missile fired from Yemen hit central Israel triggering air raid sirens in Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion international airport. It caused panic and local media aired footage of people racing to shelters at the airport.

Saree said on Sunday that the Yemeni army "targeted a military position of the Israeli enemy in the Jaffa area" with a "new hypersonic ballistic missile" that had managed to evade Israel's air defense systems.

He added that the projectile travelled 2,040 kilometers (1270 miles) in just 11 1/2 minutes.

On Sunday, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, Ansarullah's leader, also warned of further attacks on Israel. "The operation our forces carried out today (Sunday) with an advanced Yemeni missile is part of the fifth stage of the escalation. What is to come will be greater," he said in a speech.

Israeli media acknowledged the regime's weakness in the face of the Yemeni missile attack.



### Yemeni Armed Forces successfully downed another US spy drone, bringing the total number of American aircraft targeted since October last year to 10

"The warhead of this missile is separate from the body, and with the help of wings and jam-proof navigation systems it zigzags its way towards the target, which can make interception systems very difficult," said a report on the Ynet newspaper website.

The Yemeni army has repeatedly fired drones and missiles toward Israel since the start of the war in Gaza in solidarity with Palestinian people.

Yemen also started targeting Israeli-linked ships in November last year. Attacks by the Ve

Attacks by the Yemeni army later expanded to cover vessels linked to the United States and Britain after the two countries launched airstrikes on the country to force it to stop its anti-Israeli operations.

Israel also carried out a strike against Yemen's Hodeidah in July after Ansarullah hit Tel Aviv with a drone attack.

Ansarullah officials have stressed attacks against Israel will not stop unless the regime ends its war of genocide in Gaza which has claimed the lives of more than 41,000 Palestinian over the past 11 months.

For now, the Yemeni army's missile attack in central Israel and the downing of US drones clearly indicate that Ansarullah and other regional resistance movements remain undeterred in the face of American and Israeli acts of aggression.

# Israel continues to commit more massacres in Gaza

Horrendous acts continue despite ICJ provisional measures to prevent genocidal acts

From page 1 ► Israeli attacks also extended to the central part of the Gaza Strip, where the IOF committed a massacre near the al-Qassam Cemetery in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing at least ten people and wounding almost two dozen others, some of whom left in critical condition.

The occupation army targeted northwestern Nuseirat with artillery shelling and demolished residential buildings in the northeastern part of the al-Bureij camp, which was also hit by an Israeli airstrike.

In the Zaytoun neighborhood, southeast of Gaza City in the northern part of the enclave, Israeli airstrikes targeted a house, killing at least five people and injuring several others.

Palestinian officials say they have identified the bodies of nearly 20 people, including five women and four children, massacred in Israeli airstrikes. Residential buildings in the neighborhood were also demolished, coinciding with heavy gunfire by the IOF in southwestern Gaza City.

The new casualties have increased the death toll in Gaza to 41,226, with 95,413 others injured, since October 7 last year. These are the figures published by the Ministry of Health in Gaza.

Many victims remain trapped under the rubble and in the streets, as rescue and civil defense teams are unable to reach them as a result of ongoing Israeli shelling and the ever-growing level of debris.

On Monday, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which is the leading United Nations entity in the field of human rights, strongly condemned the Israeli military for continuing "to intentionally starve and kill civilians".

"This horrendous situation continues despite provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) aimed at preventing acts of genocide in Gaza and the illegal occupation of Gaza," OHCHR stated.

The UN Human Rights agency also decried Israeli measures to prevent parties from documenting rights abuses being committed against Palestinian in the blockaded enclave.

"There is literally no place left for human rights defenders and civil society actors to continue documenting the litany of human rights violations to which Israel is subjecting the people of the Gaza Strip," OHCHR added.

The Gaza Media Office has warned of a humanitarian disaster for displaced Palestinians in the Strip, pointing out that 74 percent of the tents used for displaced people are no longer suitable for use.



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### · WORLD HEADLINES ·

### Hezbollah: Yemeni operation exposed Israel's weakness

Hezbollah lauded the precision missile attack carried out by the Yemeni armed forces against Israel, describing it as a significant and effective strike.

In a statement, Hezbollah emphasized that the Yemeni attack "exposed the vulnerability and weakness of this temporary entity on all fronts" and was carried out with high accuracy under challenging military conditions, achieving its objectives, Al Mayadeen reported.

The statement also praised Yemen's "courageous decision" to retaliate, framing it as a clear reflection of the unified stance of the Axis of Resistance, which supports the oppressed Palestinian people and their resistance, aims to end injustice and suffering, and aims to halt the racist and criminal Israeli aggression, according to the statement.

### Netanyahu preparing to dismiss Gallant: report

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is preparing to fire war minister Yoav Gallant and is considering appointing New Hope chairman Gideon Sa'ar as his replacement, broadcaster Kan reported, citing an official within the Prime Minister's office.

Following the report, far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir tweeted that he had been demanding Gallant's ouster for months "and the time has come to do so immediately."

Rumors that Netanyahu would replace Gallant have been circulating for months, with Sa'ar denying in July that he had received an offer that would bring him back into the coalition.

Relations between Gallant and Netanyahu have been tense ever since Netanyahu announced he was firing Gallant in March 2023 over his criticism of the cabinet's judicial overhaul — before reversing course two weeks later under intense public pressure.

Members of Netanyahu's cabinet have been calling for Gallant's termination for months, angered, among other issues, by his opposition to an ultra-Orthodox enlistment bill backed by the cabinet and his public break with the prime minister over a captive deal and control over the so-called Philadelphi Corridor in Gaza.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office said reports of negotiations with Gideon Sa'ar "are in-correct."

Sa'ar also denied the report, with a spokesman stating "there is nothing new in this matter."

threatening people's health and wellbeing in the besieged and bombarded territory.

"UNRWA teams are working to help displaced families in shelters stop them from invading people's already crammed living spaces," UNRWA said in a post on X.

Rubbish has been piling up across Gaza after Israel seized control of the territory's two main landfills, east of the cities of Khan Younis and Gaza City.

### Russia: Playing with fire has its consequences

The Kremlin on Monday said "playing with fire has its consequences" amid reports about the link between Ukraine and the suspect of an apparent assassination attempt against Republican candidate and former US President Donald Trump a day earlier.

"It is not us who should think about this, but US intelligence agencies. In any case, playing with fire has its consequences," spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in a press briefing when asked whether the Kremlin considered these links, as well as its thoughts on the matter, Anadolu reported.

Expressing that Russia is closely monitoring the situation in the US, Peskov said the situation surrounding the US presidential race is "tense."

He went on to deny Russia's interference in the situation in the country.

Trump was the target of what the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said "appears to be an attempted assassination" at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Law enforcement officials in Florida told reporters that they apprehended a suspect who was spotted by US Secret Service agents with an AK-47-style assault rifle outside Trump's golf club.

The suspect was identified as Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, of Hawaii, The New York Times and Fox News reported, citing unnamed law enforcement officials.

Routh previously told The New York Times that he went to Ukraine soon after the start of Russia's "special military operation" in February 2022 to encourage people to fight for the country.

### Death toll rises in flood-hit central Europe

### Names of 710 Palestinian newborns killed by Israeli forces in Gaza published

The names of 710 Palestinian newborn babies killed by Israeli forces during the ongoing war on Gaza were released by the Palestinian health ministry on Monday.

They are among more than 16,700 Palestinian children killed in Israeli attacks since 7 October, according to the Gaza-based government media office.

The Palestinian health ministry has recorded more than 41,200 Palestinian deaths in total as a result of Israeli attacks since the war began.

It previously published the names of nearly half of them and said it was completing the collection of personal data for the rest before releasing their names.

The list published on Monday included the names of 34,344 people who were killed up to August 31, as the process to collect data for nearly 7,000 more people continues.

Among them were 11,355 children, 6,297 women, 2,955 elderly and 13,737 men.

A total of 710 people were aged zero on the list, meaning they were under the age of one when they were killed.

The majority of them were born and killed during the war.

Last month, newborn twins were killed in an air strike as their father was on his way to register their birth at the hospital.



Israel killed twins in Gaza in August as their father went to get birth certificates

The twins, a boy and a girl, were just three days old when they were struck.

They were killed alongside their mother and grandmother in the attack.

Muhammad Abu al-Qumsan, their father, told Middle East Eye he had just left Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza, when he received a call telling him to return to the hospital.

"I tried to get in the car and came back right away and found them in the refrigerators, martyred," Qumsan, 33, told MEE.

"Five minutes after getting the birth certificate, I was getting their death certificates."

Since the early days of the war, international bodies and human rights groups repeatedly raised alarm over the high death toll among Palestinian children and urged Israel to avoid targeting civilians.

The Palestinian Health Ministry has released a document giving details on more than 34,000 people killed in Gaza between October 7 and August 31, 2024.

Weeks after the Israeli bombing campaign began, James Elder, spokesperson for the UN children's agency, UNICEF, warned that Gaza had become a "graveyard for children".

"Our gravest fears about the reported numbers of children killed becoming dozens, then hundreds, and ultimately thousands were realized in just a fortnight," Elder said on October 31.

"The numbers are appalling... Gaza has become a graveyard for thousands of children. It's a living hell for everyone else."

### Nearly 100 Palestinian women held in Israeli prisons

At least 94 Palestinian women are behind bars in Israeli jail, according to the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoners' Society.

The organizations said most are in Damon Prison in northern Israel.

They added that the number is likely an underestimate because Israeli authorities are holding many women in various detention camps and have not given any information about them.

"Women are being subject to torture, starvation, and medical crimes. Some are being placed in isolated cells and subject to strip searches," the organizations said."Twenty-three women are being held under administrative detention without charge or trial, while most of the rest are detained for alleged 'incitement', including students, lawyers, journalists, activists and mothers."

### Sanitary conditions in Gaza worsening by the day: UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has warned that disease-spreading insects and rodents are The death toll from the floods that hit central Europe over the weekend has risen, with more casualties recorded in the Czech Republic, Poland and Austria, BBC reported.

In the Czech Republic, one person drowned in a stream close to the town of Bruntal in the northeast of the country, while seven people are still missing.

Four people are known to have died in Poland, although a spokesman for the interior ministry said the precise cause of death was still to be determined in at least one case.

And in Austria, two people aged 70 and 80 died in the north-east of the country. One of them, a resident of the town of Höbersdorf, was apparently trying to pump water out of his apartment when he drowned, Austrian media reported.

Eight deaths were recorded over the weekend in Poland, Romania and Austria, where a firefighter was killed during a flood rescue operation.

Although conditions have stabilized in some parts of central Europe, others are bracing themselves for more disruption and danger.

In Slovakia, the overflowing of the Danube River caused flooding in the Old Town area of the capital, Bratislava, with local media reporting that water levels exceeded 9m (30ft) and were expected to rise further.

Hungary is bracing itself for floods in the coming days. Warnings are in force along 500km (310 miles) of the Danube.

# TOURISM

### SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

### Urartu-era cuneiform inscription vandalized in northwest Iran



TEHRAN - Treasure hunters have vandalized an ancient cuneiform inscription and Iron Age cemetery in East Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran.

The 2,800-year-old inscription, carved during the Urartu period, has suffered significant damage, while the surrounding cemetery has been plundered by looters, ISNA reported on Monday.

The archaeological site, known as Nashtiban, located in the village of the same name, contains a fortress, a unique cemetery with standing stones, and the now-damaged Urartu cuneiform inscription. According to archaeologists, this inscription dates back to the 8th century BC and was registered in Iran's National Heritage list in 1968 under entry No. 792.

Archaeologist Hayyan Jabbarzadeh, who recently conducted a field survey at the site, described the situation as "critical."

He noted that the graveyard, marked by bulky, upright stones rare in Iran, has been severely disturbed by looters. The ancient inscription, which holds significant historical value as one of the most important written records in northwest Iran, bears clear signs of vandalism, including marks from pickaxes and power drills.

The site's poor preservation conditions, exacerbated by weathering and the continuous actions of treasure hunters, have prompted concerns among experts.

"This site, containing one of the most valuable cuneiform inscriptions from the Urartu Empire, is in a precarious state," Jabbarzadeh told ISNA.

The Urartu kingdom, which thrived during the Iron Age, was centered around the highlands between Lake Van, Lake Urmia, and Lake Sevan.

Despite the site's cultural importance, local officials have reportedly not taken adequate action to protect it from ongoing looting. Jabbarzadeh expressed concern over the lack of intervention to prevent further destruction, calling for urgent measures to safeguard the remaining artifacts.

# Climate change impact on Iran's cultural heritage debated by task force

TEHRAN – On Monday, the first meeting of the Climate Change and Cultural Heritage Task Force was convened in Tehran.

Composed of various experts and officials, the special task force addressed growing threats to Iran's cultural heritage posed by phenomena such as global warming, groundwater depletion, land subsidence, moss growth, and acid rain.

Initiated by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, the task force is intended to assess the cited challenges and propose solutions to mitigate the risks to the historical and cultural sites of the ancient country.

According to ISNA, the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism hosted the meeting, which brought together representatives from various relevant organizations.

Mostafa Dehpahlavan, head of the institute, emphasized that climate change poses a significant threat to the nation's cultural heritage. He stated, "We are obligated to address the impact of climate change on our heritage, and the institute is committed to leading these efforts."

Dehpahlavan highlighted the growing impact of climate change on historical sites, noting that rising temperatures, groundwater reduction, and acid rain have created dangerous conditions for preserving Iran's rich cultural legacy.

He also pointed out that the country's cultural heritage has faced climate-related crises for decades and stressed the need for systematic monitoring and damage assessment.

Hamid Fadaei, deputy director of the institute's conservation cultural heritage globally and in



and restoration department, warned that climate change is putting cultural landmarks like the Qazvin Plain and Marvdasht Plain in danger.

Fadaei pointed to the over-extraction of groundwater, which has caused irreversible damage to the areas surrounding the UN-ESCO-registered Persepolis and Naqsh-e Rustam, which is a royal necropolis with impressive rockhewn tombs and bus-reliefs.

Fadaei also noted that intangible cultural heritage is at risk and called for continued efforts to reduce the negative effects of climate change.

Morteza Razani, head of institute's conservation and restoration department, stressed the need for a comprehensive understanding of the various aspects of climate change. He advocated for preventive conservation strategies and emphasized the importance of raising awareness among researchers about the risks posed by climate change.

Other experts, such as Professor Mehdi Zare of the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, echoed these concerns. Zare explained that climate change has had a significant impact on Iran, with visible consequences such as ground subsidence and cracks in historical structures. Zare highlighted extreme weather events like floods as direct manifestations of climate change's effects.

Additionally, Mohammadreza Habil, head of the crisis management department of the National Cartography Organization, emphasized that climate change is a cross-sectoral issue that requires data-sharing and collaboration among institutions.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Habil referred to efforts made by the cartography organization and then suggested creating prioritized maps of cultural heritage sites to monitor subsidence rates and inform conservation efforts.

The meeting concluded with discussions by other officials and experts on potential solutions, with experts agreeing that more coordinated efforts and urgent action are needed to protect Iran's cultural heritage from the escalating effects of climate change

Threat to Achaemenid treasures

Last month, the head of the Hydrogeology Department at the Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration of Iran raised concerns about the dual threats facing the prehistorical Achaemenid structures located in the Marvdasht plain, including Persepolis and Nagsh-e Rostam.

Iman Entezam-Soltani said the region has experienced significant land subsidence over the past two years, amounting to 21 centimeters, and is also subject to deep geological fissures that pose a risk to these historically significant sites.

Entezam-Soltani explained that while the core infrastructure of Achaemenid monuments rests on solid bedrock and is thus not directly impacted by soil subsidence, those parts situated on earthen foundations are increasingly vulnerable due to soil subsidence and the resulting fissures

The Marvdasht plain has experienced noticeable subsidence, particularly in its central areas where [Achaemenid] structures are primarily located, he said. "This phenomenon tends to decrease in areas close to the mountainous regions."

The expert underlined that cracks form at the intersection of bedrock and soil, posing a particular risk to the structural integrity of sites like Persepolis and Nagsh-e Rostam.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the expert emphasized the role of agricultural practices in exacerbating subsidence issues, particularly in plains where groundwater is extracted for irrigation due to the absence of nearby rivers. "The over-extraction of groundwater in restricted plains, where drilling new wells is prohibited due to the decline in groundwater levels, further aggravates the situation."

### Ancient clay canteen discovered in western Iran



TEHRAN - A local hiker has accidentally discovered a clay canteen believed to date back to the Parthian era during an outing on the heights of Darreh Shahr, a historically significant city in Ilam province, western Iran.

Farzad Sharifi, who presides over the cultural heritage directorate of Ilam province, on Sunday confirmed the discovery, stating that the artifact was found by a local resident who promptly reported it to the authorities.

"The individual claims that while hiking in a mountainous region of Darreh Shahr, he dis-

Parthian Empire, has now been transferred to the provincial directorate for further study and [possible] registration.

"The artifact will undergo a detailed analysis to confirm its historical significance," the official said.

Sharifi also expressed gratitude to the local for responsibly turning in the artifact, urging the public and heritage organizations to continue collaborating in safeguarding historical treasures.

Darreh Shahr, believed to have been the ancient city of Madaktu in the Elamite Kingdom, has a rich archaeological history. Once a key post for Mesopotamia, the city experienced several periods of rise and fall, particularly following the Assyrian conquest in 693 BC. Though it never regained its former prominence under the Achaemenid Empire, the city saw a revival during the Parthian and Sasanian periods. Today, Darreh Shahr is renowned for its abundance of ancient artifacts, many of which are displayed at the Darreh Shahr Museum.

Tepe Quheh to recognize legal boundaries for enhanced protection

TEHRAN - A team of archaeologists has commenced work on Tepe Quheh, situated in the Chahardangeh rural district of Alborz province, as part of an effort to define the legal boundaries of the historical hill.

The project is aimed to help protect the site from modern encroachment and provide clarity about future urban developments, CHTN reported on Sunday.

Rahim Khaki, the provincial tourism chief. on Sunday said that the trenching operation is led by Dr. Hamid Haririan, with authorization from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

To enhance the protection of [lesser-known] archaeological sites, the official stressed the need for inter-agency cooperation to protect these valuable historical areas

The establishment of clear legal boundaries around Tepe Quheh will play a key role in preserving the site and preventing unauthorized construction within its vicinity, the official explained.

Khaki also expressed hope that this initiative will not only help safeguard the hill but also alleviate concerns for local residents seeking to build homes in the area, who may be unsure about the legal status of the land.



According to the available data, the first well-documented evidence of human habitation on the Iranian Plateau was found in several excavated caves and rock shelters, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of

covered the clay canteen and handed it over to the local cultural heritage office," Sharifi explained.

The clay canteen, believed to date from the

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power centered in ancient Iran from 247 BC to 224 CE.

### **Glimpses of World Heritage sites**

### **Chartres Cathedral**

Notre-Dame de Chartres Cathedral, located in the Centre-Val-de-Loire region, is one of the most authentic and complete works of religious architecture of the early 13th century.

It was the destination of a pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgin Mary, among the most popular in all medieval Western Christianity. Because of the unity of its architecture and decoration, the result of research of the first Gothic era, its immense influence on the art of Middle Age Christianity. Chartres Cathedral appears as an essential landmark in the history of medieval architecture.

The outstanding stained-glass ensemble, monumental statuary of the 12th and 13th centuries and the painted decorations miraculously preserved from the ravages of humankind and time, make Chartres one of the most admirable and the best-preserved examples of Gothic art.

The west façade built around the middle of the 12th century, with its three portals whose splays are decorated with statue columns (Royal Portail), its two towers, its southern spire and its three large incomparable

stained-glass windows, comprise an authentic and complete example that remains with us of this art created at St Denis, and which marked the advent of an original mode of plastic expression, known as the Gothic style.

A little later, the nave and the choir, reconstructed as of 1194, effected for the first time an architectural formula which would be widely employed throughout the 13th century.

The monumental sculptures of Chartres Cathedral are valued both for their abundance and for their quality: the large ensembles, reliefs and statues, of the Royal Portail at the entrance to the nave, the six portals and two porches dating from 1210 at the north and south entrances to the transept, offer a complete panorama of Gothic sculpture from the moment when it broke from Romanesque traditions to attain the subtle balance of idealism and realism that characterizes its apogee. In this cathedral, seat of a renowned school, technical and artistic mastery were at the service of a highly developed iconographic science.

(Source: UNESCO)

According to Khaki, the purpose of the survey is to accurately determine the historical timeline of the site and propose legal restrictions to safeguard it from illegal construction.

Tepe Quheh, known for its prominent height, has historically attracted attention from various civilizations. Over the years, a number of artifacts, including prehistorical, historical, and Islamic-era pottery shards, have been uncovered in and around the site.

One of the major challenges facing archaeological sites in Iran, as highlighted by Khaki, is the rapid urban expansion.

Tourism has long been a driving force for the economies of many Greek islands, drawing international visitors to their sun-soaked beaches, historical sites, and vibrant summer nightlife.

However, behind the scenes of this booming industry, locals are increasingly raising concerns about the impact tourism is having on their communities, particularly in the off-season. Islands like Syros, once thriving yearround hubs of cultural activity, are seeing their local shops and traditions pushed out, leaving what many describe as "ghost

Tepe Quheh, a hill registered on the National Heritage List of Iran in 2003 under registration number 10830, remains a significant focus of historical and archaeological research.

Alborz province embraces a number of significant prehistorical sites such as Tepe Ozbaki, which has yielded cultural relics dating from the first half of the 7th millennium to the first half of the first millennium BC, i.e. the Medes period.

Ozbaki archaeological zone, also called Ozbaki Tappeh or Uzbaki Teppeh, is situated near Nazarabad, some 80 km west of Tehran. western Iran, dating to the Middle Palaeolithic or Mousterian period (c. 100,000 BC).

From the Caspian Sea in the north to Baluchestan in the southeast, the Iranian plateau extends for close to 2,000 km. The land encompasses the greater part of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan west of the Indus River, containing some 3.700.000 square kilometers. Despite being called a "plateau", it is far from flat but contains several mountain ranges, the highest peak being Damavand in the Alborz mountain range at 5610 m, and the Dasht-e Loot east of Kerman in Central Iran, falling below 300 m.

### Syros and Mykonos in Greece face over-tourism at large scale

towns" during the winter months.

Tourism is a double-edged sword for many Greek islands. While it brings financial benefits, especially during the peak summer months, the long-term impacts on local communities can be deeply concerning. According to locals, many houses on these islands are being purchased as second homes or vacation rentals, leaving villages empty during the off-season. Local businesses, once family-owned shops catering to year-round residents, are increasingly replaced by bars and restaurants that cater exclusively

to tourists.

A key voice on this issue is losif Stefanou, an architect, urban planner, and professor at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). In an interview with ekathimerini.com, Stefanou emphasized the shift in local businesses toward catering primarily to the tourist industry.

"They don't understand they're cutting the branch they're sitting on." He notes that while some residents aspire to the success of tourism-driven destinations like Mykonos, they fail to learn from the downsides-seasonal emptiness and the strain on community resources.

The situation in the Greek islands raises important questions about how tourism should be managed to ensure it benefits local communities without eroding their cultural identity or turning them into seasonal "ghost towns." Sustainable tourism practices, such as encouraging year-round travel, promoting local businesses, and preserving cultural heritage, are crucial for the longterm survival of these islands as vibrant, living communities.

(Source: Travel and Tour World)

# Iranian students grab medals at WorldSkills Competition

TEHRAN –A total of 18 students from Iran attended the 47th WorldSkills Competition, winning 9 medals including a silver medal and medallions for excellence.

The competition was held from September 10 to 15 in Lyon, France. Some 1,500 competitors from more than 65 countries and regions around the world gathered in Lyon to compete in different skills.

Hasan Mohammadi and Hamid-Reza Hamidi won the silver medal, IRIB reported.

Also, Alireza Pouchali, Arian Taheri, Armin Taheri, Amir-Mohammad Abouei, Mohammad Hosseini, Amir-Abbas Qasemi, Mehrdad Shirvani, and Reza Gholami received the medallion for excellence in Cloud Computing, Graphic Design Technology, IT Network Systems Administration, Refrigeration and air conditioning, Jewellery, Web Technologies, IT Software Solution for business, and Mobile Applications Development, respectively.

The medallion for excellence is awarded to Competitors who obtain a high level of excellence, with 700 or more points.

The WorldSkills Competition, the world's largest skills Competition, is held every two years. It is a true opportunity for young professionals from all over the world to participate in an international competition, measure, and showcase their skills.

The competitors must not be older than 22 in the year of the Competition. There are 62 skill competitions, including 59 Official skills and 3 Exhibition skills.

In 2024, six skill competitions debuted at a centralized WorldSkills Competition including Additive Manufacturing, Digital Construction, Industrial Design



Technology, Optoelectronic Technology, Renewable Energy, and Robot Systems Integration.

#### Intl. achievements

Iran grabbed a gold medal, two silver medals, and a bronze medal at the 36th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI), ranking 9th among 96 countries.

Hosted in Alexandria, Egypt, the event started on September 1 and concluded on September 8, IRNA reported.

Each participating country selected a team of up to four contestants to represent their nation.

The team competed in a twoday competition. Each contestant competed individually to maximize their score by solving three algorithmic problems within five hours.

Iranian students attended the event online and ranked ninth globally. Amir-Ali Asgari grabbed the gold medal, Amir-Hossein Farkhondeh-Far and Amir-Reza Dorosti won the silver medals, while Parsa Farajpour-Sarabi received the bronze medal.

In a remarkable achievement, Iranian students won five gold medals, ranking first in the 17th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) which was held from August 17 to

ch- 27 in Vassouras, state of Rio de Jaand neiro, Brazil. The five-member team com-

prised Hannaneh Khorramdashti, Mohammad-Mehdi Keshavarzi, Arya Fateh-Kerdari, and Ali Naderi-Lordjan, Mehr news agency reported.

This year, over 250 students from 57 countries participated in the event.

Five Iranian students who attended the 54th International Physics Olympiad managed to win a gold medal and four silver medals, improving the country's ranking from 17th in 2023 to fourth this year.

The 54th edition of the IPhO commenced on July 22 in the city of Isfahan and concluded on July 28.

A total of 200 elite students from 47 countries including Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Mexico, Turkey, and some other countries participated in the nineday event, IRNA reported.

A team of Iranian students won five gold medals in different fields of research in the 9th edition of the 'Ildea 1World' International Innovation, Design & Startup Competition.

The event, which is considered

one of the biggest international idea and technology competitions in the world, was held in the city of Istanbul, Turkey, on April 28-29.

Participants from 24 countries including Iran, Canada, China, Taiwan, The United States, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the United Arab Emirates participated in the competition both in person and online to showcase their innovative projects in 10 different subgroups such as medicine and agriculture, IRNA reported.

From among 273 different innovative ideas, the top five ideas received special awards, with two of the awards going to Iranian participants.

In the Taiwan International Science Fair (TISF) 2024, which was held from January 28 to February 2, the Iranian team ranked fourth among 28 countries.

Mehrad Faridi and Ilya Haji from Iran competed with 41 teams during the five-day event which was hosted by the capital city of Taipei, IRIB reported.

Iran ranked fourth next to Taiwan, the United States, and Russia.

Attending the 40th Annual Science Olympiad Tournament at Michigan State University, Iranian students managed to win a bronze medal and two diplomas of honor.

A total of 114 teams from 84 countries presenting 310 scientific projects participated in the competition, Mehr news agency reported.

The competition is held annually for students aged 12 – 18 from June 1 to 15.

Supported by Oxford University, the competition was held in two stages in the fields of technical engineering, computer science, energy, biological science, social science, art, and robotics.

# Belarus interested in boosting medical ties with Iran

TEHRAN -The Belarusian ambassador to Iran, Dmitry Koltsov, has said his country is interested in boosting ties and cooperation with Iran in the fields of medicine, health, and treatment.

Describing the relations between Belarus and Iran as friendly at any level, Koltsov said that cooperation between the two countries is progressing rapidly in various fields, and enhancing medical collaborations is a key focus of joint activities as well, the health ministry website reported.

The official made the remarks on Sunday while paying a visit to Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences to become familiar with the university's medical, educational, and research capabilities.

Referring to the fact that approximately a thousand Iranian students have been studying at the Belarusian University since last year, the official highlighted Belarus is home to one of the largest universities of medical sciences, he proposed fostering cooperation between the two universities by preparing a draft agreement to be signed later. The officials can follow up on the educational issues via video calls.

Farhad Gholami, Chancellor of Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, for his part, welcomed the idea and expressed optimism for the development of ties in medicine and paramedicine fields to promote and excel the two universities in the fields of health and prevention, treatment, and education.

Iran's health system a role model

In August 2023, former Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said Iran's health system is one of the most successful models in the world.

The World Health Organization has always had an effective collaboration with the country, he added, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks in a meeting with ambassadors and representatives of international organizations in Tehran. "Cooperation among countries for health development depends on their inter-sectoral interactions and collaborations.

After the coronavirus pandemic, health diplomacy has improved a lot. Health plays a key role in the diplomacy of countries because it is a common concern and pivotal point for all," IRNA quoted Einollahi as saying.

"The sustainable development of countries depends on the health issue. Therefore, promoting cooperation among nations in medical education, sharing new health technologies, developing health and treatment systems, supplying needed medicines and medical equipment, and securing fair access to health care services should be set as priorities for countries," he added.

He went on to say that based on international organizations and global standards, Iran's medical education has reached a good point.

Domestic knowledge-based companies have made the country self-sufficient to a great extent, he said, adding that advanced medical equipment and 95 percent of the needed medicines including six approved coronavirus vaccines have been supplied by knowledge-based companies which is a source of pride.

"Health tourism in the country is developing. Some 1.2 million foreign patients suffering from chronic diseases come to Iran annually for treatment," Einollahi highlighted.

"Having received accreditation in the field of medical education, we are honored to share our experiences with other nations."

In May 2023, Ricardo León-Bórquez, the president of the World Federation of Medical Education, praised Iran for progress in the health sector.

"Iran has paid much attention to the importance of medical education and can be one of the key members of the World Federation of Medical Education in the accreditation process," he added.

### Knowledge-based companies attend Pharmedi Vietnam

From page **1** > The exhibition featured modern medical equipment, pharmaceutical raw materials, diagnostic imaging equipment, dental equipment, disposable devices, and other medical tools.

It also provided a great opportunity for scientists and experts from different countries to exchange ideas, share experiences, learn about the latest products and advanced technologies, boost network collaboration, as well as conclude contracts.

Over 60 countries import Iranian medical equipment

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 counbeds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment such as anesthesia machines and other equipment are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

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

#### Medicine exports to increase

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is developing a plan to increase pharmaceutical exports by 30 percent in the mid-term, an official with the FDA has said.

"In the past years, medicine exports in Iran accounted for a small share of non-oil exports. However, over the past year, it experienced a growing trend," IRNA quoted Seyyed Ali Maboudi as saying.

ing than 100 million dollars.

"The Food and Drug Administration is planning to double the medicine exports in the short term and tenfold in the long term," the official added.

Given the impacts of drugs on the health of society in all countries, they are one of the most complicated types of goods to export as they require registration and quality approvals in each destination country, Maboudi stressed.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market. Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of labo-

# IFRC, IRCS finalizing roadmap for cooperation

TEHRAN -The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) have agreed to maintain the process of finalizing a joint action plan as a roadmap for cooperation.

The IFRC project manager, Faisal Mahboob, said one of the objectives of the meeting is to discuss the details and review the implementation of the action plan which can effectively demonstrate the capabilities of the IRCS in various fields, the IRCS website reported.



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tries annually.

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

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU

The official went on to point out that the exports of raw materials and pharmaceutical products over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2023-March 2024) were valued at more

ratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

Iranian knowledge-based companies have succeeded in producing recombinant drugs which are mainly used for treating hard-to-treat diseases such as cancers, MS, hemophilia, and viral diseases.

"Once finalized in Geneva, the document will act as the roadmap of cooperation," the official noted.

Razieh Alishvandi, the IRCS director for international affairs, for her part, stressed the need to train experts and support technical and operational sectors. She went on to say, "There is a constructive interaction between the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross, we look forward to fostering the same relationship with the International Federation of Red Cross."

Referring to the capabilities of the IRCS in manufacturing medical and pharmaceutical products and rescue devices, the official said the IRCS seeks to showcase its products to other national societies.

The official also highlighted the IRCS's readiness to share its experience in the successful management of mass gatherings, particularly in Haj and Arbaeen pilgrimages.

In May, the IFRC expressed willingness to expand collaboration with the IRCS.

During a meeting on the sidelines of the preliminary session of the 34th IFRC international conference, Alishvandi and Xavier Castellanos Mosquera, the IFRC undersecretary general for national society development and operations coordination, discussed ways to enhance cooperation.

During the meeting, Alishvandi elaborated on IRCS capabilities in various fields of san-

itary, treatment, rehabilitation, rescue and relief, logistics, education, volunteers, youth, climate change, crescent houses, mass gathering management, textile production, medical organizations, and many other things.

Castellanos Mosquera, for his part, acknowledging that the IRCS is one of the strongest members of the IFRC, said the IRCS could be a role model for other societies.

"Hygiene and medical services provided during Arbaeen and Hajj pilgrimages and other mass gathering management are totally unique," he said.

The official went on to ask the IRCS to share its expertise with IFRC by holding a webinar session and proposed the IFRC managers of different sectors, particularly logistics, and health, visit the IRCS medical equipment, artificial organ and prostheses production, and pharmaceutical companies, as well as rehabilitation centers to learn more about the IRCS experiences and knowledge.

"Despite the fact that the information of the Iranian Red Crescent Society has not yet been fully registered in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent health map, the range of services provided by the organization at the national level has placed it among the top societies compared to 107 national societies that have registered their information, Castellanos Mosquera noted.

He also suggested the full membership of the IRCS in a think tank that is formed to investigate the adverse impacts of sanctions.

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### Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

The country is predicted to receive above normal rainfall over the next three months (February 20-May 21), head of the climatological research institute affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO) has said. The whole country will meet normal and above normal rainfalls, the northern parts will receive above normal rainfall while southern provinces will receive normal to lower-than-normal rainfall, IRNA quoted Iman Babaeian as saying on Sunday. This month, northern and eastern provinces will receive rain above normal averages, while in the first month of spring precipitation will be at normal amounts across the country, he noted, adding, during the second month of spring rainfall will reach its peak.

بارشهای کشور در سه ماه پیشِ رو بیش از نرمال است

رئیس پژوهشکده اقلیمشناسی سازمان هواشناسی گفت: پیش,بینیها نشان میدهد میزان بارش در کشور در سه ماهه پیش رو (اسفند ۹۷، فروردین و اردیبهشت ۹۸) در حد نرمال و متمایل به بیش از نرمال خواهد بود.

ایمان باباییان روز یکشنبه در گفتو گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: مجموع بارشها در سطح کشور نرمال و متمایل به بیشتر از نرمال است اما در نیمه شمالی، بیشتر از نرمال و در نیمه جنوبی در محدوده نرمال تا کمتر از نرمال خواهد بود.

وی اظهار داشت: بارشها در اسفندماه ۹۷ در نیمه شمالی و شرقی بیشتر از نرمال است ، در فروردین ماه ۹۸ نیز بارشها در محدوده نرمال و برای اردیبهشت بیشتر از نرمال پیشبینی شده است.

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#### GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Overlook and forgive the weaknesses of the generous people because if they fall down, Allah will help them.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:59 Evening: 18:26 Dawn: 4:25 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:49 (tomorrow)

### Loose adaptation of "Twelve Angry Men" on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN- A loose adaptation of American screenwriter and playwright Reginald Rose's "Twelve Angry Men" is currently on stage at Shahrzad Theater Complex in Tehran.

Director Mohammadreza Pourhakimi has renamed the play "Infinity" to perform it in Iran.

Avishan Sedqi, Raha Jafari, Yasaman Rastegar, Shadi Agai and Tahura Mogaddasi are the main members of the cxast for the play, which will remain on stage until September 26.

"Twelve Angry Men" is a powerful play by Reginald Rose, adapted from his original 1954 teleplay created for the CBS Studio One anthology series.

The work first took the stage in San Francisco in 1955, and it made its Broadway debut nearly 50 years later, in 2004, through the Roundabout Theatre Company at the American Airlines Theatre, running for an impressive 328 performances.

The play centers around a jury tasked with deliberating the fate of a young man accused of murdering his father. Set immediately after the closing arguments, the story unfolds in the jury room as the jurors begin their discussions.

In accordance with American judicial standards, a unanimous decision is required for a verdict of 'guilty' or 'not guilty.' The stakes are high, with a guilty verdict leading to a mandatory death sentence.

The initial vote shows a strong consensus for a 'guilty' verdict, with only one juror expressing uncertainty.

Throughout the deliberations, this introducing reasonable doubt about the evidence presented during the trial.

The dissenter's analytical approach gradually persuades his fellow jurors to reconsider, ultimately leading to a unanimous 'not guilty' verdict.

Interestingly, the characters are not identified by name but by number, underscoring their roles as representatives of broader societal issues.

Multiple productions and adaptations of "Twelve Angry Men" have taken place since its inception.

The first adaptation was staged in San Francisco in 1955, followed by performances in Europe, including a notable version by André Obey in Paris in 1958. In 1964, a London rendition featuring actor Leo Genn and directed by Margaret Webster garnered significant attention.

One notable production was directed by Harold Pinter, which premiered at the Bristol Old Vic in 1996.

This production featured a talented cast and transferred later to the Comedy Theatre in London due to its success.

"Twelve Angry Men" has become a cornerstone of American theater, renowned for its incisive exploration of justice, prejudice, and the moral obligations of jurors.

Its compelling narrative continues to resonate in both theatrical and cinematic contexts, influencing audiences and encouraging thoughtful discourse on the justice system and societal values.

Reginald Rose (1920 - 2002) was an influential American screenwriter known for tackling controversial social and political themes in his work. His realistic storytelling lone dissenter raises critical questions, style had a significant impact on the anthology programs of the 1950s.

# **Italy's Religion Today Film Festival** to screen 4 Iranian movies

TEHRAN-Four films from Iran will be screened during the 27th Religion Today Film Festival, to be held in Trento, Italy, from September 18 to 25.

"Passion of Love" directed by Dariush Yari is the only Iranian feature film to participate in the event while the festival will also host short films "Bolour" by Helia Behrooz, "Phoenix" by Mona Shams, and "Numan" by Zohreh Zamani from Iran, ILNA reported.

"Passion of Love" narrates the poignant journey of the Karbala captives as they travel from Kufa to Sham.

The story centers around Selma, a woman entrusted with the vital role of acting as the voice for the caravan of Karbala prisoners, particularly for Hazrat Zainab (SA). Selma is determined to educate and enlighten those who have been misled by Shimr and his deceived agents.

Her mission is to ensure that the distinction between the oppressor and the martyr remains clear, preventing the truth from becoming obscured once again. As she raises the flag of Imam Hossein (AS) and leads the caravan alongside Hazrat Zeinab (SA), Selma ultimately becomes one of the loyal companions of Karbala, embodying the spirit of resilience and resistance.

Payam Ahmadinia, Reza Khodadad Beigi, Behzad Dorani, Bahram Ebrahimi, Nader Fallah, Roohollah Mitra Khajeian, Mehrabi, Shohreh Mousavi, Alireza Ostadi, Siamak Safari, Babak Vali, Mahdi Zaminpardaz, Shohreh Mousavi, Payam Ahmadinia, Behzad Dorani, Bahram Ebrahimi, Nader Fallah, Roohollah Mitra Khajeian, Mehrabi, Alireza Ostadi, and Siamak Safari are in the cast among others.



#### A scene from "Passion of Love" by Dariush Yari

the winner of Best Film in the Interfaith Section at the 42nd Fair Film Festival earlier this year.

"Bolour" is the second directorial and Production debut of Iranian-American filmmaker Helia Behrooz, which she has made in Iran.

It tells the story of Bolour, a 19-year-old music instructor, who in the wake of the Taliban's return to power in the summer of 2021, was urged by her family to swiftly depart Afghanistan.

The one cherished item she insisted on bringing with her was a Robab, a musical instrument, that had been passed down to her from her father and grandfather.

Roshana Ebrahimi, Arash Azarm, and Sargol Lavasani are the key members in the cast of the 16-minute film.

"Phoenix," produced by the Documentary, Experimental, and Animation Cinema Expansion Center, delves into the concept The 96-minute drama was of migration and leaving one's

homeland. It was crafted using the actual voices of Iranian migrants across the world.

It is an animated documentary, six minutes, based on real sounds. The story of the film is about a person who decides to immigrate, and different voices of immigrants collected in documentary form narrate the feelings and events of the hero of the film.

The 23-minute "Numan" depicts a man from nowhere, with no background and no destiny, who is lost in his thought, living his spiritual death.

There will be 64 films in competition, coming from 32 countries, bringing guests and artistic works of global scope to Trento, speaking of faith and religion and winking at current events, involving the younger generations.

The international jurv leading is composed of professionals from international film industry including producer

researcher Fateme Javhersaz from Iran.

Born in 1997 as the first Italian festival of spiritual cinema and inter-religious dialogue, the Religion Today Film Festival has come a long way, and today this appointment with religious cinema is well known and appreciated all over the world.

Religion Today is an international and itinerant film festival dedicated to religious diversity for a culture of peace and interfaith dialogue.

It promotes a journey "exploring the differences", both in religious practices and beliefs and in cinematic styles and languages, towards a mutual enrichment through reciprocal knowledge and comparison.

Together with the world cinema competition, open to any film with a religious connection, it offers a platform for exchanging ideas and viewpoints, including a "living workshop" involving filmmakers of different faiths and nationalities.

### Iranian translator Ebrahim Eqlidi passes away at 76

TEHRAN- Ebrahim Eqlidi, the esteemed translator and researcher known for his work on "One Thousand and One Nights," passed away in Tehran on Sunday following a prolonged illness. He was 76.

Born in 1948 in Eglid, southern Fars province, Eqlidi held a bachelor's degree in law from Tehran University. He gained significant recognition for his translations and research on "One Thousand and One Nights."

"One Thousand and One Nights" is the story of the Persian king Shahriar who marries a girl each night and the next morning he beheads her to take revenge from his unfaithful wife.



begins to tell a fascinating story during the night for the king but she does not finish it, so the king keeps her alive to find out the end spared her life and made her his queen.

Eqlidi's other notable works include translations of "Tales of Ancient Egypt" by Roger Lancelyn Green, "Tales and Legends" by Leo Tolstoy, "The Midnight Museum" by Annie Dalton, "Scottish Folk-tales and Legends" by Barbara Ker Wilson, "The Happy Prince and Other Tales" by Oscar Wilde, "The Emerald City of Oz" by L. Frank Baum, "Indian Tales and Legends" by J. E. B. Gray, "Maigret Stonewalled" by Georges Simenon, "Japanese Tales and Legends" by Helen and William McAlpine, " A Martian Comes to Stay" by Penelope Lively.

As the discussions progress, the jurors reveal their own backgrounds and biases, influencing their views on the case.

Interactions expose elements of racism, personal conflicts, and various prejudices against the defendant.

Cartoon of Day

Aletihad

Back to School Cartoonist: Sherif Arafa from Egypt

Born and raised in Manhattan, Rose gained widespread recognition for his courtroom drama "Twelve Angry Men", which delves into the dynamics of a jury in a murder trial.

This acclaimed play was later adapted into a film of the same name, directed by Sidney Lumet and released in 1957.

of the stories.

Over the course of 1001 nights, the king He finally marries Scheherazade, who had fallen in love with Scheherazade, so he

the

and

Eqlidi was also involved in the translation of political works, including "Fascist Italy" by Alan Cassels and works by Noam Chomsky.

### 14 prizes for Iran at Girona Film Festival

TEHRAN-A short film and 13 animations from Iran received prizes at the 36th Girona Film Festival, held in Spain from September 12 to 14.

The Iranian short film "Adjustment" directed by Mehrdad Hasani was among the 22 winners of the Spanish festival, Honaronline reported.

The 13 Iranian animations received honorable mentions, among which there are two animated feature films and the rest are short animations.

"Loupetoo" directed by Abas Askari and "Black Gem" by Mohammad Ali Sajadi are the two feature-length animations from Iran that were acclaimed at the event.

The Iranian short films grabbing the honorable mentions include "Why did the Giraffe's Flower Fade?" by Kaveh Kanani, "The Melody of Loneliness" by Samira Azimian, "King's Garden" by Iraj Mohammadi Razini, "Dance of the Wolf" by Behzad Yaghmouri, "Dehbaraftab" Village by Ziba

Arzhang, "Absurd Machine" by Reza Arzhang, "Dear Animal" by Younes Kafashian, "The Lovely Sky" by Amir Mehran, "Being Ten" by Fatemeh Jafari, "Yaar" by Nahid Malayeri, and "Lost" by S. M. Ali Vaziri.

A total of 2,000 works from around the world were submitted to this year's festival, out of which 500 were selected for various sections.

The Girona Film Festival promotes the talent of filmmakers and their artistic creation, with a noble content of human values and deep thought.

Since 1989, it has been a film festival dedicated to talent from all over the world, without limitations of any kind, nor of genre, style, theme, duration, format... talent cannot be limited.

The event is aimed at everyone, from whoever generated the idea, the first synopsis, to the last viewer; this is the long drive of the film; to the creation that everyone participates in.

Book on history of religion, philosophy in

Germany hits bookstores

Heine (1797–1856), famous poet, journalist,

and political exile, studied with Hegel and

was personally acquainted with the leading

figures of the most important generation of

In his groundbreaking work, he discusses

the history of religion, philosophy, and

literature in Germany up to his time,

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "On the History of Religion and Philosophy in Germany" by Heinrich Heine has been released in Iran.

Translated by Saman Moradkhani, the book has been published by Lega Press in 273 pages, Mehr reported.

The book presents an entertaining overview of German intellectual history by a

central figure in its development.

German writers and philosophers.

seen through his own highly opinionated, politically aware, philosophically astute, and always ironic perspective.

This volume also includes an introduction by Terry Pinkard, an American philosopher and professor at Georgetown University, which examines Heine both in relation to Hegel and Nietzsche and as a thinker in his own right.