



## Lebanon's Pager Bombings: CIA Working Hand in Glove with Mossad

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A person is carried on a stretcher outside the American University of Beirut Medical Center amid the pager explosions across Lebanon on September 17.

### Iranian officials condemn Israel, the West as Lebanon reels from explosion of thousands of pagers

TEHRAN – Numerous high-ranking Iranian officials have vehemently denounced the Israeli regime and its Western patrons following the detonation of thousands of wireless communication devices, commonly known as pagers, in various locations across Lebanon on Tuesday.

The explosions in Lebanon have so far claimed the lives of at least 12 individuals, including two children and a woman. The Lebanese Ministry of Health reports that the number of injured has surpassed 3000, with approximately 400 of them in critical condition.

While the explosions have hurt military men and civilians alike, it is believed that Israel's main goal was to target members of the Hezbollah Resistance Movement. The group's Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has yet to address the situation directly, but in a statement published on Tuesday Hezbollah vowed to continue its anti-Israeli strikes in support of the Gaza Strip. ► Page 3

### The right to mutilate is employed to suppress resistance to settler colonialism

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Explosions of pagers associated with Hezbollah members rocked Lebanon on Tuesday, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health. The attack resulted in 12 deaths and thousands of injuries, with 200 reported to be in critical condition. Suspicions point towards a possible terrorist act perpetrated by Israel.

The detonations occurred in multiple locations, including the capital city of Beirut, the southern city of Tyre, and the western region of Hermel. Social media circulated images of injured individuals with bloodied ears, faces, or pockets being rushed to the hospital.

Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amani, was also injured in the attack. The embassy has reported that his condition is stable and he has been transferred to Al-Rassoul Hospital in Beirut. ► Page 5

### Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli military revealed on Wednesday that four of its troops have died in the Gaza Strip, with seven others wounded.

The Israeli occupation forces (IOF), under the "permit for publication" clause identified the names of the soldiers, who were ambushed by the Palestinian resistance.

They included a deputy company commander. Seven others were wounded during the ambush in the southern Gaza Strip.

The IOF further revealed that two officers and two soldiers sustained serious injuries, while two additional soldiers were moderately injured in the ambush.

Hebrew media reported that the four soldiers were killed after a previously rigged building exploded in the Tel al-Sultan neighborhood in Rafah, noting that the Israeli military is still "investigating the explosion".

Earlier, Palestinian media sources reported that the resistance in southern Gaza carried out a well-executed ambush against the IOF in Rafah, causing fatalities and injuries. ► Page 5

### IRCS dispatches medical, rescue teams to Lebanon

TEHRAN – Following the terrorist attack in Lebanon, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has dispatched medical teams and rescue forces to help victims of the incident.

At least 11 people were killed and over 3,000 people were injured after hundreds of pagers used by members of Hezbollah exploded across Lebanon on Tuesday.

Early on Wednesday, Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the IRCS, along with a team that encompassed 12 specialists and general practitioners, as well as 12 relief workers headed Lebanon, IRNA reported.

"The rescue team including optometrists are dispatched with the coordination of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the health ministry of Lebanon to provide humanitarian aid to those injured," the IRCS website quoted Kolivand as saying.

The official also announced readiness to transfer injured people to Iran to receive further services if needed.

The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has vehemently denounced the pager explosions, describing the tragedy as an act of mass murder perpetrated by the occupying Israeli regime. ► Page 7

### Iran's GDP growth stands at 3.2% in Q1: CBI

TEHRAN – Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) including oil grew 3.2 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 21), compared to the first quarter of last year, according to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

According to the CBI Economic Accounts Department, GDP to the base price (fixed prices in 2016), the figure excluding oil increased by 2.5 percent, IRNA reported.

As previously announced by the CBI, Iran's GDP grew 4.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year compared to a year earlier. The figure excluding oil increased by 3.6 percent.

In addition, the country's economic growth without oil included in the mentioned period reached 3.9 percent.

The realization of 4.5 percent economic growth in the previous Iranian calendar year indicates the continuation of the growing trend of economic activities in the country.

Earlier, the World Bank (WB), predicted that Iran's economy would grow 3.2 percent in 2024 and the inflation rate would decrease to 35 percent. ► Page 4

### Tourism minister highlights commitment to regional cooperation at ACD session

TEHRAN – The Iranian tourism minister has underlined the new government's dedication to fostering peace, dialogue, and regional collaboration as pillars of tourism progress.

Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri on Tuesday evening emphasized Iran's ongoing efforts to showcase its cultural heritage and expand its diplomatic relations through tourism and cultural exchange.

He made the remarks in a meeting with ambassadors and envoys from member states of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue held at the National Museum of Iran.

Among the attendees were Mohammad Javad Zarif, the vice president for strategic affairs; Mehran Fatemi, the governor-general of Yazd province; and several senior officials from Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

In his speech, Salehi-Amiri stressed that the new Iranian administration under President Masoud Pezeshkian is committed to advancing peace, cooperation, and understanding on both a regional and international scale. ► Page 6

### New mural in Tehran unveiled celebrating Islamic Unity Week with message of Palestinian solidarity

TEHRAN – The latest mural in Enqelab Square, downtown Tehran, was unveiled on Tuesday to commemorate Islamic Unity Week with the slogan "Unity for the Freedom of Palestine."

The mural depicts people from various corners of the world, holding their flags and marching with the slogan "Unity for the Freedom of Palestine" under the shadow of the Mosque of the Prophet (Masjid al-Nabawi), heading towards the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Palestine. ► Page 8



Rafael Grossi, the IAEA director general, toured the pavilion exhibiting Iran's scientific progress in the nuclear industry on the sidelines of the 68th meeting of the IAEA in Vienna. Grossi was accompanied by Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami.

## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## JCPOA does not do magic

In a note, Kayhan says it is not advisable to rely on the JCPOA. It wrote: First of all, we should know that in the JCPOA, Iran is a "creditor" and should be a demander. But some consider Iran a "debtor" in the JCPOA and see life and death in it. The capacity of the country, the achievements, and the youth of this country have repeatedly undermined the plans of the West.

We must remember that the JCPOA does not do magic to compensate for our inefficiency. The expression "JCPOA means employment" is an interpretation that contradicts what has been achieved and ignores the historical memory of the people. With such an interpretation, some people intend to tie the JCPOA to the economy and employment. It is advisable not to tie the programs that lead to growth and development to the JCPOA and not make the country wait for a possible revival of the agreement.

## Etemad: Importance of Kurdistan region for Iran in the war of corridors

In an analysis, Etemad dealt with the importance of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region for Iran. It wrote: The recent visit of the president of Iran to the Kurdistan Region showed the geopolitical importance of this region more than ever. The geostrategic position of the Kurdistan Region is important for Iran.

It can act as a strategic route for energy corridors, including gas pipelines. In a situation in which Iran is under sanctions pressure by world powers, some countries are abusing the situation by seeking to omit Iran from corridors.

This is while both Iran's rival regional actors and world powers have always sought to weaken Iran's geo-economic and geo-strategic position to put the Islamic Republic under economic siege. The idea of the IMEC corridor and the India-Middle East-Europe communication route is supposed to pass through Iraq and the occupied territory without considering Iran's interests.

## Shargh: The new government and challenging diplomacy

In an article, Shargh discussed the hostile behavior of the West, particularly the European troika, towards Tehran. It wrote:

In the past days, the claim that Iran has sent missiles and drones to Russia has become a reason for applying a new round of sanctions on Iran and intensifying anti-Iran policies. Tehran has repeatedly denied reports of sending short-range ballistic missiles to Russia.

The Europeans and the United States have adopted a hostile policy against Tehran regarding the war in Ukraine. This commotion resulted in a new round of sanctions on the country last week. However, Westerners believe the continued anti-Iran approach will not lead to a change in the direction of the foreign policy of the 14th government (sitting government), because the new president of Iran has sent this signal that he is interested in re-engaging with the West, which can probably lead to the re-establishment of relations and the lifting of sanctions. American officials believe that with each passing day, the chances of a major incident and a significant escalation of tension are decreasing. However, the increasing U.S. military presence in the region continues to act as a deterrent. Since the election of Pezeshkian, Iran has shown the Biden administration that it is interested in dialogue.

## Javan: American foreign policy after the election

Javan addressed the U.S. foreign policy if Trump is elected in the upcoming elections. It wrote: The U.S. and the Zionist regime give special priority to Iran's case and are already planning for it. America implements these plans, whether through war or containment, with the coordination of England, Europe, and the Zionists.

Sanctions are a tool of war for America and it will never lay down its weapons and will not be disarmed.

If Trump comes to power in the U.S., he will reassess Washington's policy toward European NATO allies and intensify support for Israel. His threats to regional and global peace will increase and his policy toward the Ukraine crisis and Washington's ties with Europe and China will also become predictable.

## IRGC's effective role in the region provokes enemies of Iran, Islam: commander



TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Center for Iran-Iraq War Documentation and Research, General Ramazan Sharif, highlighted the crucial and inspiring role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on both national and international levels, emphasizing how the force has provoked frustration and hostility among the IRGC's adversaries.

Speaking on the eve of the anniversary of the Sacred Defense—the eight-year Iran-Iraq war—Sharif addressed the Center's staff, describing the IRGC as a foundational pillar established by the late Imam Khomeini.

He emphasized that the IRGC, alongside other armed forces, has played a pivotal role in defending Iran from both external enemies and domestic threats, while upholding the core values of the revolution.

Sharif attributed the IRGC's strength to its deep-rooted connection to the people, its adherence to Islamic values, and the teachings of Imam Khomeini and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

He underscored the spiritual and moral inspiration drawn from these teachings, which continue to energize the IRGC's mission to protect Islam, Iran, and the Revolution.

Citing the ongoing attempts by Iran's enemies to undermine the IRGC's standing, Sharif highlighted their use of false narratives to weaken its credibility.

However, he insisted that the Iranian public remains supportive, recognizing the IRGC's role in national defense, security, and public service, particularly in times of crisis, such as during natural disasters.

Sharif also linked the IRGC's influence to broader geopolitical developments, especially in West Asia.

He pointed to the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation as an extension of the Sacred Defense, crediting the IRGC with inspiring resistance against Zionist forces and supporting the Palestinian cause.

### Across West Asia, Resistance factions draw unwavering inspiration from the steadfast values of Iran's armed forces.

He cited the international backlash against Israeli actions in Gaza as a continuation of the anti-imperialist spirit ignited by Iran's Sacred Defense.

He concluded by reaffirming the mission of the Center for Sacred Defense Documentation and Research to document and share the history of the Sacred Defense and the IRGC's contributions over the past 46 years.

# Eslami talks bilateral nuclear cooperation with key foreign officials

TEHRAN - The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) engaged with high-ranking officials from Iraq, Burkina Faso, Kenya, and Armenia during his recent visit to Vienna.

In the Austrian capital, where he is attending the 68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohammad Eslami held discussions with Naeem Al-Aboudi, Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Two sides highlighted the longstanding and amicable relations between Iran and Iraq, emphasizing the importance of enhancing bilateral nuclear collaboration in areas such as radiopharmaceuticals, nuclear



agriculture, and industry.

During the meeting with the Kenyan Minister of Science, Eslami expressed Iran's willingness to share expertise in the nuclear sector and reiterated the country's readiness to

collaborate with Kenya in nuclear medicine, healthcare, and education.

The Kenyan representative acknowledged the need to improve the healthcare sector, citing the high costs associated

with importing equipment and radiopharmaceuticals from Western nations, and expressed a desire to strengthen cooperation in this area.

Eslami also addressed topics such as training, nuclear regulation, and safety standards in discussions with Burkina Faso Minister of Science and Education, as well as the deputy head of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure from Armenia.

Eslami departed Tehran for Vienna on the evening of September 18, leading a delegation to participate in and deliver a speech at the conference.

The 68th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference is taking place from September 16 to 20, 2024, in Vienna, Austria.

## Iran's envoy to Lebanon recovering well after Israeli pager attack

TEHRAN - The wife of Iran's ambassador to Lebanon has reported that Mojtaba Amani's recovery is progressing well following injuries sustained in a widespread Israeli pager attack in Lebanon.



In a social media update on Wednesday, Narges Ghadirian expressed her gratitude to Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and the Iranian populace for their sup-

portive prayers.

On Tuesday night, the Israeli regime executed a terrorist strike that triggered explosions in communication devices known as pagers across various locations in Lebanon, leading to multiple fatalities and over 3000 injuries.

Iran's ambassador to Lebanon was among those affected by the pager explosions in Beirut.

Additionally, the Iranian embassy in Beirut refuted all speculation regarding the severe injury of the Iranian ambassador in the terrorist incident that rocked Lebanon, as stated

in a message on its X account.

On his own X account, Amani said it is an "honor" that his blood was "mixed" with the blood of the Lebanese people during the Tuesday attack. "This proud country has stood with dignity and pride since the first day of the Battle of al-Aqsa."

Lebanon's Hezbollah movement has been attacking Israeli positions in the occupied territories since the regime began its latest war in Gaza on October 7. The Resistance group has managed to vacate all settlements north of the occupied territories where tens of thousands of Israelis used to reside.

## 'Israel must be held accountable for its heinous crimes': Iran UN envoy

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, Amir-Saeed Iravan, has condemned the Tuesday Israeli pager attack in Lebanon, labeling it as a 'heinous crime and an act of aggression'.

Speaking at an emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly, Iravan expressed condolences to the victims' families and the Lebanese government.

Iravan vehemently condemned Israel's "act of sabotage and terrorism," demanding that the "rogue Zionist regime" be held accountable.

He called for the recognition of Palestine as a full UN member and the revocation of Israel's membership due to its violations of international law and non-compliance with its UN Charter obligations.

The full text of Iravan's speech at the 10th special emergency session of the UN General Assembly is as follows:

Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,

Based on the General Debate held in the previous meetings and the adoption of three resolutions regarding the Question of Palestine in the tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly during the last year, the international community expressed its commitment to addressing the dire humanitarian needs of Palestine and requested an immediate ceasefire in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as well as the realization of the inalienable right of Palestinians to self-determination and a full-fledged membership in the United Nations. As we have witnessed since then, there has been no positive change in Israeli apartheid policies and actions, resulting in Palestinians being left with no choice but to resist massive destructive attacks by Israeli forces and armed settlers against their homeland and people, including their women and children.

We are witnessing impressive resistance by our Palestinian brothers and sisters in the face of the horrific and unfair invasion and bombardment by Israeli forces backed by a few specific countries, emanating from the apartheid and genocidal policies of Israel's authorities. Now, many freedom-seeking nations have found Palestinians' resistance to be an outstanding and admirable effort.

Mr. President,  
Distinguished ambassadors and colleagues,

In light of our first obligation under the UN Charter, we must

take effective collective measures to remove this long-lasting threat to peace.

It is high time for us as United Nations members to fulfill this obligation. The suppression of acts of Israeli aggression and its breach of the peace, as well as an adjustment or settlement to this situation, which is clearly causing a breach of the peace, is essential.

Over the past year, Israeli forces have engaged in a violent act of aggression against the Gaza Strip and other territories under occupation, which has resulted in the death of more than forty thousand Palestinian civilians. Amid ongoing atrocities against civilians in Gaza, the Israeli regime continues its relentless aggression and acts of terrorism against civilians in Lebanon.

Just a few hours ago today, in a cyber-terrorist act, the regime detonated communication devices in Beirut, resulting in the deaths and injury of thousands of people including the Iranian ambassador in Beirut. We extend our sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of Lebanon and strongly condemn this act of sabotage and terrorism by the rogue regime of Israel. The Israeli regime must be held accountable for such aggression and heinous crime.

It is apparent that the brutality and inhumanity of this regime has no boundary. So, is there a certain number of women and children who must be killed before the international community decides to intervene and put an end to this war machine that is warmongering and brutal? On the ground, all of the risk factors and definitions set forth in Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide are present, thereby placing a responsibility on every member state to prevent the crime from ever occurring.

In spite of the fact that Israeli authorities have committed a

wide variety of crimes by occupying Palestinian lands, killing Palestinians, and displacing Palestinian populations, they are enjoying total impunity.

It is regrettable that this regime has violated its obligations under the UN Charter on numerous occasions. In addition to refusing to accept and carry out the decisions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the International Court of Justice, it also rejects complying with international law.

It is the policy and practice of this regime to consistently violate the principles outlined in the Charter and relevant conventions and resolutions. In our view, not only should Palestine be admitted as a full member of the United Nations, but also Israel's illegal acts must trigger the commitment of All United Nations Members to reconsider the membership of this regime in the United Nations, in accordance with Article 6 of the Charter.

I would like to conclude by stating that my delegation will vote in favor of the resolution drafted in this regard, given the urgency of the situation and the importance of terminating the occupation in Palestine and putting an end to Israel's apartheid policies and practices against the Palestinians.

It is also necessary to confirm Israel's obligation to let all displaced Palestinians return to their homeland and give them back their land and other immovable property, as well as make reparations for the damage caused to all persons concerned in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Additionally, I want to state that our support for the resolution is without prejudice to our long-standing and consistent national position on the question of Palestine, which includes the non-recognition of the Israeli regime as well as the date when the occupation is believed to have begun.

# Iranian officials condemn Israel, the West as Lebanon reels from explosion of thousands of pagers



From Page 1 ► 'Western states lie in ceasefire plea'

On Wednesday, Iran's president addressed the events transpiring in Lebanon the previous day, labeling them as a disgrace for Western nations, particularly the United States, which relentlessly pursue their inhumane objectives.

Masoud Pezeshkian pointed out that the repurposing of tools meant to promote human comfort into weapons of terror and destruction against those with differing viewpoints signifies a decline in humanity, overshadowed by savagery and criminal behavior.

The president remarked, "This incident further illustrates that while Western nations and the United States may superficially advocate for a ceasefire, they are, in reality, complicit in the atrocities, massacres, and indiscriminate killings perpetrated by the Zionist regime."

Pezeshkian asserted that the solution to rectify this situation and to dismantle the cycle of oppression and violence inflicted by the Zionist regime and its allies on the oppressed Palestinians and the broader Islamic community lies in the unity and solidarity of Muslims and Islamic nations.



'Zionist regime intertwined with terrorism'

The speaker of the Iranian Parliament denounced the terrorist actions carried out by the Zionist regime in Lebanon, asserting that such acts of terrorism and the murder of innocent individuals are intrinsic to the evil character of the Zionist regime.

In a statement shared on his account on the social media platform X, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf remarked, "The essence of the Zionist regime is intertwined with terrorism and the slaughter of innocent people; as long as this regime persists, its campaign of killings and genocide will continue unabated."

We categorically condemn the terrorist activities of the Zionist regime in Lebanon and, in expressing our solidarity with the victims, we reaffirm our support for the people of Lebanon, as we have consistently done in the past."

Qalibaf, who has been overseeing the Iranian parliament for the past four years, is a former military commander who is known for staunchly supporting Resistance factions throughout his long career in Iranian politics.



'Ready to assist Lebanon with medical aid'

During a phone call with Lebanon's Foreign Minister Abdallah Rashid Bouhabib, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi expressed his deep concern over the tragic incidents unfolding on Tuesday. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the Lebanese government, its citizens, and the families affected by the tragedy.

Araghchi emphasized Iran's solidarity with Lebanon, offering his nation's full support in the aftermath of the deadly explosions.

He pledged that Iran was ready to provide any assistance necessary, including medical aid for the injured and the possibility of transferring those in critical condition to Tehran for specialized treatment.

In separate remarks published by Iranian media, Araqchi strongly condemned the pager explosions as a deliberate attack on civilians. He underscored the culpability of Western nations for providing the Israeli regime with impunity to perpetrate such crimes.

The U.S. and its European allies have poured significant efforts into insulating Israel against the consequences of its crimes in the past 11 months.



'Lebanon attack part of an Israeli pattern'

The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a strong condemnation hours after the pager explosions. Spokesperson Nasser Kanaani described the incident as a "terrorist act" and a clear violation of international humanitarian law.

The diplomat characterized the attack as part of a broader pattern of aggression by the Israeli regime, labeling it an instance of mass killing that threatens regional stability. He asserted that such actions not only represent war crimes against the people of the region but also pose a significant threat to international peace and security.

"This combined terrorist act clearly demonstrates that the Zionist regime, alongside its mercenary agents, continues to undermine ethical and humanitarian principles," Kanaani stated. He called for the international community to take immediate action against the impunity enjoyed by Israeli officials, urging for accountability through international criminal prosecution.

Expressing solidarity with the Lebanese government and its citizens, Kanaani extended condolences to the families affected by the attack.

## IRGC says no personnel killed in Lebanon pager blasts

TEHRAN – Amidst widespread reports and speculation, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has vehemently denied any casualties among its forces in the pager explosions that shook Lebanon on Tuesday. Speaking to the Tasnim news agency on Wednesday, General Ali Mohammad Naeini, spokesperson for the IRGC, categorically refuted rumors circulating on social media and in

certain media outlets that IRGC personnel had been killed in the simultaneous blasts.

General Naeini asserted that no IRGC forces were martyred in the terrorist attack, which involved the detonation of handheld pagers used by Hezbollah forces as well as numerous Lebanese civilians.

The incident left at least 12 people dead, including two children, and caused injuries to over

2,800 others, many with serious wounds.

The explosions have been widely attributed to Israel, with reports from the New York Times and Reuters, citing unnamed officials, suggesting that the Israeli regime planted small explosive devices within the pagers. Footage circulating online on Tuesday showed Israeli settlers cheering after receiving the news of the Lebanon blasts.

## Tehran wants peace and security in Yemen: Araqchi to UN official

TEHRAN – During a meeting with Hans Grundberg, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Yemeni affairs, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi underscored Iran's unwavering support for the establishment of lasting peace and security in Yemen.

The meeting, which took place in Tehran on Tuesday, provided a platform for discussions on regional stability and the ongoing Yemeni crisis. Araghchi, expressing appreciation for the UN's efforts in Yemen, emphasized the interconnected nature of regional developments, highlighting the destabilizing effect of Israel's

ongoing actions in Gaza. He asserted that achieving a ceasefire and ending Israeli aggression in Gaza is crucial for mitigating tensions and fostering peace and stability across the region.

"Establishing a ceasefire and stopping the crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza is important," Araghchi stated, "It will be effective in reducing tension and establishing peace and stability in different parts of the region." Acknowledging the unwavering support for Palestine by the Yemeni people and government, Araghchi stressed Iran's backing of any ceasefire approved by Palestinian Resistance groups, including Hamas. However, he simultaneously

criticized the continuous support provided by the United States and certain European countries to Israel, labeling it a significant factor contributing to heightened tensions and the complexities of political solutions in Yemen. The top diplomat reiterated Iran's commitment to the UN's humanitarian efforts in Yemen, urging that these critical actions remain unaffected by other ongoing discussions. He expressed appreciation for the UN's efforts in facilitating a prisoner exchange in Yemen, urging continued support for this initiative.

Grundberg, in turn, congratulated Araghchi on his appointment as

Iran's foreign minister, expressing his willingness to continue collaboration with Iran on addressing the Yemeni crisis. He proposed utilizing the upcoming UN General Assembly in New York as a platform for further dialogue and cooperation.

Grundberg acknowledged Iran's commitment to regional stability, specifically in Yemen, and presented a report detailing the UN's ongoing efforts to establish lasting peace in Yemen and reduce tensions in the Red Sea region. He reiterated the UN's goal of achieving sustainable peace in Yemen and underscored the importance of Iran's continued support for the UN's endeavors.

## Iranians gather in support of Lebanon terror victims

TEHRAN – Iranians living in the capital Tehran gathered in front of the Lebanese embassy on Wednesday to express their condolences after 12 died and 3000 got injured in simultaneous pager blasts set off by Israel in Lebanon.

The spontaneous gathering drew a large crowd as people from all walks of life came together to show support for the families of the victims and pray for the swift recovery of the injured. Attendees brought flowers and

candles which they lay in front of the embassy's entrance.

"This is our way of showing that we stand with Lebanon and its people," said one attendee. "In times of tragedy, we must come together to support one another."

Another participant told Iranian media that though the attack was shocking, it wasn't anything Israel could not do. "The regime is built on terrorism and murder. So, nothing it does surprises me



anymore. They want to burn the whole region down and will do anything in their efforts to do so," he said, adding, "the inaction and impotence of international organizations like the United Nations against Israeli crimes is truly disgraceful."

## Iran sitting volleyball need rejuvenation

TEHRAN – Iran's men's sitting volleyball team claimed the Paralympic Games gold medal for the eighth time in Paris but the team need to rebuild if they are to compete for the top titles again.

There are so many experienced players who have competed in the Games since Sydney 2000. Isa Zirahi, Davoud Alipourian, Sadeq Bigdeli, Majid Lashgari and Ramezan Salehi helped Team Melli win the title in Paralympic for the third time in a row but they will be four years older than the last time in Paris in the next Paralympics.

Iran head coach Hadi Rezaei has said the team need rejuvenation for the 2028 Paralympic Games.

"The Asian Para Games and the international tournaments will help us for investment in grassroots as the team need to rebuild. The other countries are investing in the sport and the Iranian officials should be in a hurry if they want to win gold in Paralympics," Rezaei said.

Rezaei was captain of the country's sitting volleyball team that won Paralympic gold medals at Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996.

He was then coach of the team that won gold medals at Sydney 2000, Beijing 2008, Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 and silver at Athens 2004 and London 2012.

Now, the Iranian team face generation change and the young and talented players must be added to the team.

But as soon as possible.

## Sepahan fall short to Al Wehdat in AFC Champions League Two

TEHRAN – Al Wehdat of Jordan came from behind to defeat Iran's Sepahan 2-1 in their opening AFC Champions League Two Group C tie on Tuesday.

Trailing to a Vahdat Hanonov opener, Ousseymou Gueye drew Al Wehdat level before a second half strike from Ibrahim Sabra confirmed the points for the home side at Amman International Stadium.

The visitors gained an early upper hand with a goal in the ninth minute as Mehdi Mohebi held off a defender to lay the ball for Tajikistan international Hanonov to curl beyond Abdallah Al Fakhouri.

Al Wehdat played their way back into the game and found the equaliser in the 22nd minute after a purposeful run from Mohannad Semreen saw him get past Arya Yousefi before playing Gueye through to dink the ball over Payam Niazmand.

Sepahan created an opening with seven minutes left to play in the first half when Saleh Hardani's cross from the right found Javad Aghaeipour, only for the latter's shot to be turned away by Al Fakhouri.

After a scrappy start to the second half, the game burst into life in the 55th minute when Semreen produced an exquisite pass to pick out the run of substitute Sabra, who slotted past Niazmand for Al Wehdat to take the lead.

Forced to respond, Sepahan's Jose Morais made four substitutions at one go, sending on Steven Nzonzi, Reza Asadi, Hossein Goodarzi and Aoubakar Kamara as the Portuguese head coach looked to salvage the game, the-afc.com reported.

However, it was the hosts who came close to increasing their lead in the 72nd minute when Sabra forced Niazmand into a good save before sending his follow-up effort against the post.

Defending comfortably in numbers and with Sepahan's Hadi Mohammadi sent off in stoppage time, Al Wehdat saw off the remainder of the game to claim the win. They will next face UAE's Sharjah FC while Sepahan will host FC Istiklol of Tajikistan with both matches to be played on October 2.

## Sepahan coach Jose Morais lauds Al Wehdat

TEHRAN – Sepahan football team head coach Jose Morais heaped praise on Al Wehdat for its 2-1 win in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Two.

Sepahan lost to Jordanian team 2-1 in Amman in Group C.

"Al Wehdat played teamwork football with high spirit, and therefore deserved to achieve the victory," said Morais.

"The match was difficult for both sides, and our success in scoring the first goal put additional pressure on us. Al Wehdat players' reaction was very distinctive, and I believe that they presented a performance that reflects their club and fans."

Sepahan will face Tajikistan's FC Istiklol next on October 2 while Al Wehdat travel to play UAE's Sharjah FC.

## Nassaji complete four new signings: PGPL

TEHRAN – Iranian top flight football club have completed four new signings in the summer transfer window.

Nassaji, who currently lay bottom of the 2024/25 Iran Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL), have signed Alexander Merkel, Muntadher Mohammed, Mohamed Mamoun Eisa and Kevin Yamga.

Merkel, 32, is a Kazakh professional midfielder, who has signed for Nassaji from Emirati club Hatta.

Iraqi international midfielder Muntadher Mohammed, 23, has joined Nassaji from Mes Rafsanjan.

Sudanese striker Mamoun Eisa, 30, joined Nassaji from English side Exeter City.

And Yamga, who suffered an eye injury in training in January and deemed surplus to requirements in Esteghlal, joined Nassaji for an undisclosed fee.

## Freestyler Yazdani undergoes shoulder surgery

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani underwent shoulder surgery in Nice, France

Yazdani, nicknamed The Greatest, returned to the mat for the first time in eight months in June 2024. After winning the Asian Games in October, he had undergone shoulder surgery.

Yazdani participated in the Ranking Series in Budapest in June to prove his fitness and easily won a gold medal.

Yazdani, 30, was fit for the 2024 Olympic Games and had not a difficult job to qualify for the final match of the 86kg but he lost to Bulgaria's Magomed Ramazanov 7-1 in the final after he seemed to be struggling with pain.

The media reports suggest that the surgery will keep him out for more than a year.

## Sina Asadbeigi, Persepolis part ways: IPL

TEHRAN – Sina Asadbeigi parted ways with Persepolis football team by mutual consent on Wednesday.

Persepolis Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido had previously said the 27-year-old midfielder would face lack of playing time in the team.

Asadbeigi will likely reunite with his former coach Yahya Golmohammadi in Foolad.

Asadbeigi had joined Persepolis in July 2022 on a three-year deal and played 46 times for the team, scoring two goals.

## Iran plans to boost greenhouse output to 10m tons by 2027



To solve this problem, several solutions, including the implementation of pressurized irrigation projects and greenhouse cultivation, have been emphasized by experts and officials in this sector.

Iranian Agriculture Ministry's Greenhouse Development Program is one of the priority projects of this ministry which aims at increasing productivity, efficiency, and water consumption management in the agriculture sector.

The program was approved in the Iranian calendar year 1395 (which ended on March 20, 2017) under the framework of the National Resilient Economy Plan.

The development of the country's agricultural parks and greenhouses not only is going to create new job opportunities but also increases the country's non-oil exports and helps preserve the environment and the national water and soil resources.

Cultivation in the controlled space of the greenhouse will have an average of 10 times higher yield per unit area than outdoor cultivation due to suitable environmental conditions.

For example, in the case of cucumber, each square meter in the greenhouse will have a production capacity of 20 kilograms of cucumber, while compared to an outdoor production, the production capacity of one square meter of arable land will be much lower and about two kilograms.

Significant reduction in water consumption in modern greenhouses is in fact the major advantage of greenhouse cultivation.

In greenhouse cultivation, due to the closed environment, water loss through various evaporation ways is greatly reduced.

Also, through mechanized irrigation methods such as irrigation canvas and irrigation tape, water consumption is minimized.

Increased control over pests, weeds, and diseases is the other advantage of greenhouse cultivation.

In greenhouse cultivation, due to accurate monitoring and control of pests and diseases, especially the use of biological control methods and a sharp reduction in the use of chemical pesticides, we will see an increase in product quality, that will lead to the popularity of the product in the market and increase export capability.

As a result, along with preserving the soil and environment, we will see good foreign currency income.

TEHRAN – The director of Iranian Agriculture Ministry's Greenhouse Development Program says the ministry plans to increase the country's greenhouse output to 10 million tons by the end of the seventh National Development Plan (2027).

Mehdi Lotfizadeh made the remarks in a press conference on the sidelines of the 7th International Agriculture, Horticulture, Greenhouses, Inputs and Agriculture Machinery Exhibition of Iran (IFarm 2024) on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

"To achieve this amount of greenhouse production, 30,520 hectares of greenhouse development has been seen in the seventh National Development Plan," Lotfizadeh said.

According to the official, the Agriculture Ministry needs 7.3 quadrillion rials (about \$14.6 billion) of investment to achieve the above-mentioned goal.

"Currently, the country has reached self-sufficiency in the knowledge and technology of building greenhouses, and this knowledge is exported to other countries where Iranian companies compete in foreign projects with other producers," he said.

Last July, Lotfizadeh announced that 23,000 hectares of lands are under greenhouse cultivation throughout the country.

The official also said that 150,000 hectares of new greenhouses are planned to be set up in the country during a five-year program based on the Seventh National Development Plan.

As stated by the deputy agriculture minister, the development of greenhouse cultivation is a major policy of the Agriculture Ministry.

In this regard, several projects have been defined and introduced to the banks, and as soon as the notification is made, the projects will receive facilities and their implementation will begin, the official added.

In recent years, the water crisis has caused serious challenges in Iran's agriculture sector.

## Iran, Hungary discuss expansion of economic ties

TEHRAN – During a meeting in Tehran on Tuesday, Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh and Hungarian Ambassador in Iran Giola Peto explored ways for further enhancement of economic relations.

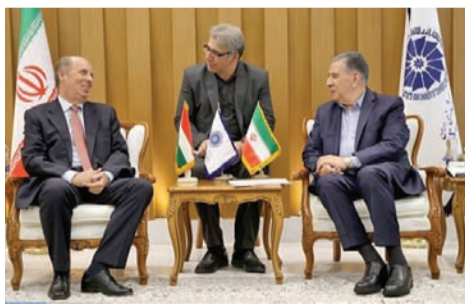
Speaking in the meeting, Hassanzadeh complained that the current \$36 million bilateral exchanges between Iran and Hungary is too low considering the two countries' great potentials for expanding economic relations, the ICCIMA portal reported.

He referred to Hungary's advanced auto industry, adding that Iran is also producing auto spare parts with internationally accepted standards which paves the way for further cooperation between the two countries to gain a foothold in the global auto market.

The ICCIMA head also said that food industries, home appliances, electric equipment, petrochemicals, tourism and student exchanges are among other areas Iran and Hungary can cooperate.

Hassanzadeh believed that lack of familiarity with each other's capacities has been hindering Iran and Hungary from upgrading the level of their trade exchanges.

The Hungarian ambassador, for his part, said that the fifth meeting of Iran-Hungary Joint Economic Committee is scheduled to be held in the first half of the next year while the two countries are making the necessary planning for the meeting.



ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh (R) and Hungarian Ambassador in Iran Giola Peto meet in Tehran on Tuesday

The Hungarian embassy is making every effort to find new ways for upgrading the level of ties between the two nations, Giola Peto said.

Highlighting the necessity of making the businesspeople of the two countries familiar with each other, Peto said that a business forum was held on the sidelines of the fourth joint committee of Iran and Hungary and the next committee meeting should also include a business forum.

He noted that Hungary as the rotatory chairman of the European Union will support the existing mechanisms to resolve the international restrictions imposed on Iran through negotiations and diplomacy.

The ambassador noted that as long as the restrictions on Iran remain in place, Iran and Hungary can focus their relations on non-sanctioned areas, including food, pharmaceuticals and agricultural areas.

## Iran's GDP growth stands at 3.2% in Q1: CBI



From page 1 ▶ According to the estimate of the international body, Iran's economy experienced a five percent growth and a 40.8 percent inflation in 2023.

The bank has forecast that the industrial sector in Iran will take the lead in 2024, experiencing a 4.9 percent growth, followed by the services and agricultural sectors with a 2.7 and 0.9 percent growth.

In addition, the World Bank has predicted that Iran's export of goods and services will exceed 71 percent in 2024 compared to the preceding year.

Also, the bank expects that import of products into the country will experience a 1.8 percent growth in

2024 compared to a year earlier.

The balance of Iran's current accounts will also experience positive growth and reach 2.7 percent of the GDP in 2024.

In late February, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported the Iranian economic growth in 2023 to be 5.4 percent.

The head of Iran's Plan and

Budget Organization (PBO) said the country's 5.4 percent economic growth in 2023 was the second-highest rate in the world.

IMF also increased its estimate of Iran's economic growth in 2024, citing a higher-than-expected surge in the country's oil production.

The IMF, in its report published on February 22, forecast a 3.7 percent economic growth for Iran in 2024 while the figure in its October prediction was 2.5 percent.

The IMF data showed that Iran's economic growth reached 5.4% in 2023 while the international agency had predicted a three percent growth for the country in the previous year.

## Iran-Oman 5-month trade stands at \$938m

TEHRAN – The value of non-oil trade between Iran and Oman stood at \$938.004 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 non-oil trade between the two countries at 2.962 million tons.

As reported Iran-Oman five-month non-oil trade indicates one percent fall in value and 37 percent rise in weight, year on year.

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

In early July, the former Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mehdi Zeighami met the director of trade, industry, and investment development from the Sultanate of Oman to discuss areas of joint investment, industrial matters, and financial affairs between the two countries.

Zeighami said at the time that the first round of the talks to establish a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Iran and the Sultanate of Oman was held in Muscat.

The trade and economic relations between the two countries have been consistently improving in recent years, he said, adding that the conclusion of the Preferential Trade Agreement and the establishment of close trade and economic relations in all fields are of paramount importance.

He characterized the trade volume between

the two countries in the last Iranian calendar year (ending March 19, 2024) as "unprecedented".

He noted that the initiation of the PTA between the two countries aligns with objectives like bolstering economic relations, augmenting trade volume, creating a safer environment for trade growth, diversifying traded goods, fostering greater competition among businesses, and eliminating trade obstacles faced by both countries.

Also, a business delegation from Oman visited Iran's Imam Khomeini Port in southwestern Khuzestan province last week during which they expressed interest in using the commercial capacities of the port for expanding economic ties with Iran.

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

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

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



among the issues that were discussed during the visit.

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

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

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

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

## Over 2,300 ha of land allocated to National Housing Movement in 5 months

TEHRAN- According to the statistics released by the Planning and Resources Management Department of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, 2,333 hectares of land has been allocated to the National Housing Movement projects through the approvals of the Urban Development and Architecture Supreme Council during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

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

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

Mehrdad Bazrpash said that these units in different models are being built in the country, some of them

have been delivered and the rest are in different stages of progress.

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

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

Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Hadi Abbasi-Asl has emphasized the acceleration in implementing the Housing Construction Leap Law to achieve the goals of the 13th government.

In late September 2023, Bazrpash announced the launching of a program for allocating free land (in the framework of the National Housing Movement) to young couples in order to help them build houses.

The National Housing Movement

to construct four million housing units in four years is one of the major plans of the current government in the housing sector.

According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages.

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

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

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

Also, in July 2022, the minister inaugurated a project for the

construction of the first group of affordable housing units for laborers under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

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

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

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

According to Norouzi, the headquarters also completed and handed over 2,000 such units back in April, 2023.

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

## Improving stock market efficiency, a priority of SEO in 14th government: Seyedi

TEHRAN – The newly appointed head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) said improving the stock market's efficiency is the main priority of the SEO in the current government administration, IRNA reported.

"In the 14th government, our mission is to protect the rights and interests of shareholders, facilitate the formation of capital, and improve the efficiency of the market which is the priority of the SEO programs," Hojatollah Seyedi said on Tuesday in a ceremony held for his introduction.

"The capacities of the capital market are huge and I believe that this market has room for a leap

and now we are on the threshold of that leap," Seyedi said.

"Now, in addition to great capital and capabilities of the companies, we have powerful workforces, investors and competent managers in the market, so there is no reason why our capital market should not develop and reach at least 300 to 400 billion dollars of gross domestic product," he added.

Emphasizing that big steps should be taken in this regard, the official continued: "I have decided to work to this end with high motivation to play a small role in the development of the country."

The head of the Securities and Exchange Organization pointed to the capital market as a regulatory and supervisory body and said: "In this regard, our mission is to protect the rights of shareholders, promote market efficiency and facilitate capital formation, which are connected to each other like the sides of a triangle. But the question is, which of these factors can be the driving force as a more independent variable?"

"The important variable is the improvement of market efficiency, that is, the formation of more capital, which, in addition to increasing capital, also preserves the rights of shareholders," he finally said.

# Lebanon's pager bombings: CIA working hand in glove with Mossad

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN— Israel not only massacres Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank but it also has a long history of carrying out deadly operations in countries such as Lebanon and Syria.

In addition to targeting civilians and resistance fighters, Israel employs electronic warfare tactics to quench its thirst for blood in Palestine and beyond.

The deadly en masse explosion of pagers in Lebanon has demonstrated that Israel has a complete disregard for the lives of civilians.

Thousands of people, including members of the Hezbollah resistance movement, were injured and over a dozen others were killed on Tuesday after pagers used by Lebanese people simultaneously blew up.

As people were shopping or sitting in cafes or driving cars and motorcycles, the pagers in their hands or pockets started heating up and then exploding.

According to the Associated Press, at overwhelmed hospitals, wounded were rushed in on stretchers, some with missing hands, faces partly blown away or gaping holes at their hips and legs.

More communication devices also exploded in Beirut on Wednesday causing further injuries and deaths.

The pager bombings have been widely attributed to Israel but the regime has not officially claimed responsibility.

A US official said Tel Aviv briefed the United States on Tuesday after the conclusion of the operation, AP reported. The report said the person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the information publicly.

## Incriminating evidence

Strong evidence has implicated Israel in the abhorrent act. According to the Reuters news agency, Israel's Mossad planted a small amount of explosives inside 5,000 Taiwan-made pagers imported by Hezbollah before the detonations on Tuesday.

Citing informed sources, it reported that the plot appears to have been many months in the making.

The sources also told Reuters that the devices had been modified by Israel's spy service "at the production level."

"The Mossad injected a board inside of the device that has explosive material that receives a code. It's very hard to detect it through any means. Even with any device or scanner," they said.

According to the Reuters re-



Smoke rises from a mobile shop as Civil Defense members gather in Sidon, Lebanon [Hassan Hankir/Reuters]

port, 3,000 of the pagers exploded when a coded message was sent to them, simultaneously activating the explosives.

## Blame game

Gold Apollo, the Taiwanese manufacturer of the pagers has said the devices were made by European firm BAC based in Hungary's capital Budapest.

"According to the cooperation agreement, we authorize BAC to use our brand trademark for product sales in designated regions, but the design and manufacturing of the products are solely the responsibility of BAC," the Taiwanese tech industry said in a statement without showing any proof of the agreement.

The statement indicates that the company is shirking its responsibilities.

Taiwan and the US have maintained a strong friendship and vital partnership. The CIA also maintains strong connections with Mossad.

## Pager bombings suggest that Hezbollah's attack on Unit 8200 HQ near Tel Aviv was successful and effective

Considering the Reuters report regarding the amounts of explosives secreted in the pagers by Mossad, Taiwan and the United States are Israel's partners in crime.

US media have acknowledged that Israel has used American bombs during its war of genocide in Gaza which has claimed the lives of more than 41,000 Palestinians since October 7.

Both Washington and Tel Aviv also want to deter Hezbollah from continuing its attacks against Israel which are carried out in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. Hence, the Israeli and US spy agencies may have

port, 3,000 of the pagers exploded when a coded message was sent to them, simultaneously activating the explosives.

## Revenge on civilians

The tragic incident also comes three weeks after Hezbollah hit the Israeli military's intelligence and surveillance agency, Unit 8200, near Tel Aviv that left nearly 100 casualties. It was a sensitive and strategic Israeli site that was targeted by the Lebanese resistance movement. That was in response to the Israeli assassination of Fuad Shukur, a senior Hezbollah commander, on July 30.

Hezbollah humiliated Israel by targeting its strategic military base and the regime took revenge against Lebanese people through the explosion of pagers.

## Hezbollah vows revenge

Hezbollah has blamed Israel for the Tuesday pager bombings and pledged to persist in its defense of the Lebanese nation and the people in Gaza.

"The Islamic Resistance in Lebanon will continue today, as in all the past days, its blessed operations to support Gaza, its people, and its resistance, and to defend Lebanon, its people, and its sovereignty. This path is continuous and separate from the difficult reckoning that the criminal enemy must await for the massacre it committed Tuesday against our people, our families, and our mujahideen in Lebanon. This is another reckoning that will come, God willing."

The movement added, "What happened yesterday (Tuesday) will increase our determination and resolve to continue on the path of jihad and resistance, and we are absolutely certain of God Almighty's promise to the faithful, patient mujahideen of victory, God willing."

## Israeli war crime

The Lebanese government also condemned the pager explosions.

Prime Minister Najib Mikati blamed Israel for the blasts, saying they represented a "serious violation of Lebanese sovereignty and a crime by all standards."

Lebanon's UN envoy Hadi

Hachem also said Israel's detonation of devices in Lebanon and Syria amounted to "aggression which rises to a war crime."

## Telecom Trojan

The pager explosions are redolent of the plots that Israel has hatched to execute targeted killings via infiltrating the telecom sector.

Yahya Ayyash, a senior Hamas field commander, was one of the first victims of the Israeli military's strategy of using cell-phone data.

Ayyash was killed in Gaza City on January 5, 1996, when his cell phone exploded during his weekly phone call to his father in the West Bank. The Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, intercepted the call, confirmed his identity, and detonated the explosives remotely.

## The detonation of communication devices in Lebanon on Tuesday and Wednesday injured thousands of people and killed over 20 others including children

Ayyash was widely known as "the engineer" for his bomb-making skills.

In January 2024, a drone strike in the southern suburbs of Dahiyeh in the Lebanese capital Beirut also killed senior Hamas official Saleh al-Arouri.

According to Lebanese media, he was killed in an Israeli drone attack on Hamas' office alongside six others.

The office was furnished with at least one computer with a Wi-Fi connection, potentially giving Israeli forces a method of locating the men.

"Once the laptop started, the strike hit the office," senior Lebanese officials said.

The 57-year-old was the deputy head of the Hamas political bureau who helped establish the resistance group's military wing, the Qassam Brigades.

## The right to mutilate is employed to suppress resistance to settler colonialism

From page 1 ▶ While some media outlets attempt to exclusively link the detonated pagers to Hezbollah, several local sources suggest that the attack targeted a commonly used pager model, affecting civilians indiscriminately. Consequently, numerous healthcare workers, teachers, and children sustained varying degrees of injury.

This indiscriminate nature of the attack contrasts sharply with the enthusiastic descriptions from some U.S. media, such as CBS and CNN, which have praised the "incredible operation." This disparity highlights the minimal consideration given to non-white and/or Muslim lives. Politically, it underscores how modernity's machinery perpetuates a cycle of inclusion and exclusion, where international law and human rights collapse at the divide between those deemed "human" and those who are not.

Lebanese journalist Séamus Malekafzali remarks, "Despite all the propaganda about Israel being a center of innovation, the only true innovation from Israel has been in the field of terror: blowing up hotels, hijacking civilian planes, bombing passenger aircraft, using lethal drones, and now, exploding phones and pagers." Israel's primary export appears to be death and mutilation.

It is worth noting that in June, Israeli Lieutenant Colonel Yaron Buskila discussed the need to attack civilian infrastructure in Lebanon to "pressure Hezbollah." This reinforces the conclusion that the conflict with Israel, due to its genocidal nature that disregards laws and rules, cannot be managed diplomatically or with low intensity. Its only language is force, and it is the only grammar it understands when turned against itself.

According to several cybersecurity experts, it is unlikely that the pagers used in the recent attacks in Lebanon were "hacked" remotely. Instead, they suggest that explosives may have been planted in the devices before delivery and could have been activated by some type of pulse, signal, or code sent to the pagers. Lebanese security sources indicate that the explosive devices were imported five months ago and implanted with 20 grams of explosive material.

The Taiwanese manufacturer of the pagers involved in the recent explosions, Gold Apollo, asserts that the devices in question were actually produced by a European company licensed to use their brand. According to various reports, this company is BAC Consulting based in Budapest, Hungary. Some sources speculate that BAC Consulting might serve as a front for Israeli terrorist activities.

From an ethical and political standpoint, the mere debate over whether the attack was

a "stroke of genius" highlights a profound dehumanization of the Lebanese victims. This discourse overlooks decades of occupation, murder, torture, and mutilation perpetrated by Israel.

As Jasbir Puar explores in her seminal book *The Right to Maim*, mutilation can be a fate worse than death. Puar examines how "debilitation"—distinct from disability, which she views as an identity—is deliberately inflicted upon marginalized populations. Debilitation, or sometimes the slow death of these individuals, serves as a means to dispose of a population marked as "Other," dehumanized to the extent that inflicted harm is seen as a "natural" byproduct. As Puar notes, the dehumanization is so extreme that "[i]t is as if withholding death—refusing to let or make die—becomes an act of dehumanization [in itself]: Palestinians are not even human enough to die."

This analysis also has a material dimension. If roads are impassable due to rubble, if healthcare systems are collapsing due to constant attacks, if the population faces starvation, lacks public hygiene, and is deprived of painkillers, anesthetics, and dressings, they will be thoroughly debilitated, even if there are no immediate physical or mental injuries.

Lena Obermaier, analyzing the situation in Palestine through Puar's framework, explains that violence against the Palestinian (or Lebanese) population essentially functions as a form of advertisement for new Israeli military technology, which sees a boost in sales during and after conflict escalations.

Obermaier also discusses the "broken bones" policy implemented by Israel during the First Intifada under then-Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Palestinian Wael Joudeh described it as: "They beat us with all their energy. They not only wanted to break our bones and inflict physical pain, they also wanted to humiliate us and shatter our spirit." The same article recounts the story of Khadija Abu Shreifa, who defended herself against an Israeli soldier sexually harassing young Palestinian girls at a protest. As a result, she was beaten and shot at close range in the shoulder and foot, leaving her permanently debilitated.

This analysis frames the recent large-scale attack in Lebanon by Israel. Just as in Palestine, all civilians are marked as complicit and are no longer considered "innocent." They are all seen as militant resistance against Israel. Therefore, the right to mutilate is employed to suppress any resistance to Israeli settler colonialism and its ethnic cleansing agenda.

## Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza

From page 1 ▶ Video footage showed the occupation army's helicopters evacuating wounded soldiers in the aftermath of the operation.

In a separate incident on Wednesday, the IOF revealed that one of its officers serving with the Givati Brigade was seriously injured by a shell fired from a rocket-propelled grenade launcher at a Namer troop carrier in the al-Shaboura camp in Rafah.

According to the Israeli military, 343 Israeli soldiers have been killed since the beginning of the regime's ground invasions and occupation of the Gaza Strip. Hundreds of others died on October 7, 2023.

Experts say the true figure is much higher and only special cases of Israeli military fatalities are announced, in particular IOF soldiers who hold another nationality.

There have been media leaks by Israeli media opposed to the cabinet of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu which have suggested a much higher casualty rate.

An Israeli media report on Wednesday said "713 soldiers have been killed" since the beginning of the ground invasions of the Gaza Strip in late October last year.

This comes as Palestinian resistance continues to engage in fierce battles with Israeli occupation forces inside the Gaza Strip for the eleventh consecutive month.

The armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement, the al-Quds Brigades, announced that their fighters had destroyed an Israeli Merkava tank near the Adnan Abu Taha junction, east of Rafah, by detonating a highly explosive device.

The IOF committed two more massacres on Wednesday, leaving scores of Palestinians dead and injured.

According to health officials in Gaza, the IOF has killed more than 41,250 Palestinians and injured approximately 95,500 others in the besieged enclave since October 7 last year.

During the same timeframe, at least 706 Palestinians, including 159 children, 10 women, and 9 elderly have been killed in the occupied West Bank.

The Israeli occupation has been accused of deliberately targeting the health sector in Gaza in order to prevent the treatment of those injured as a result of the Israeli genocide.

Since the beginning of the U.S.-backed genocidal war, the IOF has killed close to 1,000 workers through intentional strikes targeting hospitals and residential buildings.

The victims include doctors, nurses, and ambulance drivers, all of whom were trying to rescue fellow Palestinians before being killed by the IOF.



A prominent Iraqi resistance group offered support to Lebanon's Hezbollah in the wake of pager attacks in Lebanon.

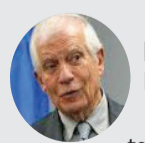
"We ... are putting all our capabilities in the hands of our brothers in Lebanon, and we are fully prepared to go with them until the end, sending fighters and equipment and support, whether on the technical or logistical level," Kataib Hezbollah said in a statement.



Jordan has offered to provide any medical assistance needed to "treat the thousands of Lebanese citizens who were injured in the mass bombing in Lebanon," Jordan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on X. Jordan's caretaker Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi also stressed the need to stop "dangerous escalation" in the region, by immediately ending "Israeli aggression on Gaza and the escalation in the West Bank."



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed sadness over the deadly pager blasts in Lebanon in a phone call with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati. He wished a speedy recovery to those injured in Lebanon. According to Turkey's state Anadolu news agency, Erdogan also told Mikati that Israel's attempts to escalate its war on Gaza to the wider region was dangerous and that efforts to stop Israel would continue.



The EU foreign policy chief has decried the pager blasts in Lebanon. "Even if the attacks seem to have been targeted, they had heavy, indiscriminate collateral damages among civilians, including children among the victims," Josep Borrell said. "I consider this situation extremely worrying. I can only condemn these attacks that endanger the security and stability of Lebanon, and increase the risk of escalation in the region."



Russia described the pager bombings in Lebanon as a hybrid warfare. "We regard what happened as yet another act of hybrid warfare against Lebanon, which has harmed thousands of innocent people," the Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said. Maria Zakharova added, "It appears that the organizers of this high-tech attack deliberately sought to foment a large-scale armed confrontation in order to provoke a major war in the Middle East."



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in the wake of the pager explosions in Lebanon and Syria that Cairo rejects any attempts aimed at escalation in the region. In a meeting with Blinken in Cairo, el-Sisi said his country supported Lebanon after the pager blasts incident. Blinken is on his 10th trip to West Asia since Oct. 7.

## Persepolis to host stone carving event ahead of cultural heritage festival



TEHRAN - An educational event focused on stone carving and cutting will be held on Thursday evening, at the UNESCO-listed Persepolis.

The event, which will feature hands-on workshops, is aimed at teaching traditional stone-working techniques to local communities while promoting the revival of handicrafts in the region.

"The workshop will provide participants with practical knowledge on the intricate craft of stone carving, a tradition deeply embedded in Iran's historical and cultural legacy," Mohammad Sabet Eqlidi, the tourism chief of Fars province, said on Wednesday.

"This workshop is one of the preliminary events leading up to the International Multimedia Festival of Cultural Heritage, which will be hosted by Shiraz in the near future," he said.

"This specialized workshop is organized with the goal of reviving traditional crafts, empowering local artisans, and boosting the local economy through the promotion of handmade products," the official added.

### Persepolis, a masterpiece of stone architecture

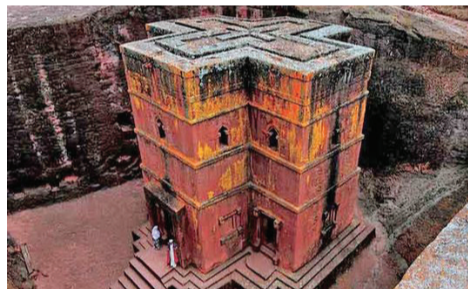
Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire, stands as one of the greatest architectural achievements of the ancient world and is an iconic example of advanced stone carving and cutting techniques.

Constructed some 2,500 years ago, the site features vast palatial structures, intricate bas-reliefs, and towering stone columns, all of which display the extraordinary skill and craftsmanship of ancient Persian artisans.

Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979, Persepolis remains a testament to the Achaemenid dynasty's wealth, power, and artistic prowess. The site's enduring stone monuments are not only significant for their historical value but also for their role in showcasing ancient Persian innovations in stonework. From detailed carvings of soldiers and dignitaries to elaborate decorative motifs, the artistry of Persepolis has inspired generations of artists, architects, and historians.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites

### Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela



In a mountainous region in the heart of Ethiopia, some 645 km from Addis Ababa, eleven medieval monolithic churches have been carved out of rock.

The UNESCO-designated site contains churches that were not constructed traditionally but rather were hewn from the living rock of monolithic blocks. These blocks were further chiseled out, forming doors, windows, columns, various floors, roofs, etc. This gigantic work was further completed with an extensive system of drainage ditches, trenches, and ceremonial passages, some with openings to hermit caves and catacombs.

According to the UN cultural body, their building is attributed to King Lalibela who set out to construct in the 12th century a 'New Jerusalem', after Muslim conquests halted Christian pilgrimages to the holy Land. Lalibela flourished after the decline of the Aksum Empire.

There are two main groups of churches - to the north of the river Jordan: Biete Medhani Alem (House of the Saviour of the World), Biete Mariam (House of Mary), Biete Maska (House of the Cross), Biete Denagel (House of Virgins), Biete Golgotha Mikael (House of Golgotha Mikael); and to the south of the river, Biete Amanuel (House of Emmanuel), Biete Qeddus Mercoreus (House of St. Mercoreus), Biete Abba Libanos (House of Abbot Libanos), Biete Gabriel Raphael (House of Gabriel Raphael), and Biete Lehem (House of Holy Bread). The eleventh church, Biete Ghiorgis (House of St. George), is isolated from the others, but connected by a system of trenches.

Biete Medhani Alem, with its five aisles, is believed to be the largest monolithic church in the world, while Biete Ghiorgis has a remarkable cruciform plan. Most were probably used as churches from the outset, but Biete Mercoreus and Biete Gabriel Rafael may formerly have been royal residences. Several of the interiors are decorated with mural paintings.

Near the churches, the village of Lalibela has two-storey round houses, constructed of local red stone, and known as the Lasta Tukuls. These exceptional churches have been the focus of pilgrimage for Coptic Christians since the 12th century.

## Tourism in Japan still seen in a positive light despite overcrowding

Almost one third of people living in Japan's most popular tourist destinations are feeling overtourism to some extent, but most remain positive about tourism's overall impact, according to a recent study by EY Japan.

The report Leading the Japanese economy towards growth in the tourism industry explores perceptions of tourism based on a survey carried out in 10 of the country's top spots, including Kyoto, Nara, Asakusa (Tokyo), Shizuoka, Miyajima (Hiroshima), and Asahikawa (Hokkaido). It also considers how Japan can continue to promote tourism as a foundation for economic growth.

Around 40 percent of respondents reported a positive view of the number of tourists in their area, and 60 percent said tourism plays an important role in enriching their lives and boosting the economy in their region. Only 15 percent said tourism plays a negative role.

Respondents also noted that their area's popularity had sparked their own interest in local attractions including nature, history,

culture and food, while giving them a sense of hometown pride.

The highest proportion of those witnessing overtourism were in Kyoto, followed by Asakusa, Nara and Miyajima, citing problems such as bad manners, traffic congestion and difficulty riding public transport due to overcrowding.

While opinions on tourism remain largely positive, the report noted that disruptions to daily life caused by visitors "highlight the challenge of tourism becoming the growth engine of the Japanese economy" in the longer term.

It recommends proper management of tourism destinations, such as by a destination management organization, to ensure local communities receive sufficient economic benefit, thereby helping to counteract any negative impacts that residents may experience.

(Source: TIG Asia)

# Tourism minister highlights government's commitment to regional cooperation at ACD session

From Page 1 ▶ "The path set by the fourteenth government is one that leads to peace, dialogue, interaction, agreement, and consensus," Salehi-Amiri said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister expressed his gratitude to the foreign ambassadors present, highlighting their attendance as a symbol of the importance of tourism and cultural cooperation.

"The presence of each and every one of you is an acknowledgment of the significance of tourism, and it also emphasizes the Islamic Republic of Iran's commitment to fostering relationships in cultural domains, including tourism," he said.

The session was part of the lead-up to a major upcoming ACD event, set to be hosted in the ancient city of Yazd, which has been selected as the tourism capital of the ACD for 2024.

Salehi-Amiri emphasized that the upcoming event would not just be about promoting tourism but also serve as a platform for diplomacy. "Our vision goes beyond tourism. Tourism is a space for dialogue among na-



tions alongside the interaction of governments. The ACD summit will be an opportunity to foster a deeper connection between cultures, promoting peace and co-existence through the tourism sector," he stated.

Furthermore, the minister highlighted the immense potential of the ACD as a platform for regional integration. The organization, which consists of 35 member countries, represents a significant portion of the world's population and has the capacity to promote public and cultural diplomacy. "The combined capacity of ACD member countries

is immense, with a population that spans hundreds of millions."

This demographic can play a pivotal role in advancing public and cultural diplomacy, creating new opportunities for cooperation and mutual understanding across Asia, the minister added.

Yazd, a UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its ancient architecture and rich cultural history, has been chosen as the tourism capital of the ACD for 2024. The upcoming event in Yazd will be attended by ministers, ambassadors, and representatives from ACD member countries.

The event in Yazd is seen as an opportunity for Iran to highlight its tourism offerings to the international community. Salehi-Amiri echoed this opportunity, calling on ACD member states to work together to promote the country's cultural heritage. "I ask all of you to join us in showing the world a beautiful, real, and safe image of Iran by participating in this important event," he urged the attendees.

Some local officials, including the head of the Yazd Islamic City Council, have expressed their enthusiasm for the international exposure this event will bring to the city. According to Seifi, "Yazd's selection as the tourism capital presents a unique opportunity for both the province and the country to harness the tourism, economic, and cultural potential of this ancient city."

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue, established in 2002 in Cha-Am, Thailand, aims to enhance regional integration and cooperation among Asian governments and organizations.

## Archaeologists tracing Bronze Age settlements in southeast Iran

TEHRAN - An archaeological team has initiated a comprehensive survey in southeast Iran as part of efforts to trace further Bronze Age settlements.

Authorized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, the survey is being conducted on the historical region of Girdi, situated near the once-flowing Helmand River in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province.

It is aimed to shed new light on the possible interconnectedness of ancient civilizations along the Helmand River and its ancient wetland.

The investigation, in particular, seeks the remnants of human activity that once thrived in relation to Shahr-e Sukhteh, aka Burnt City, which was a prosperous Bronze Age site and is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

On Tuesday, archaeologist Mojtaba Sa'adatian, who leads the survey, noted that his team is conducting methodical surveys across the region, characterized by its sandy hills, to identify and document ancient sites.

"We expect to find remnants from the Bronze Age that correlate with Shahr-e Sukhteh, alongside historical mounds and various Islamic-era artifacts such as fortifications, tombs, and irrigation channels," Sa'adatian explained. The project is designed



to map the relative chronology of these findings, shedding light on the evolution of settlements in the region.

The survey's outcome may hold the key to unraveling the mysteries surrounding the rise and fall of Shahr-e Sukhteh and its contemporaries.

Shahr-e Sukhteh, which flourished between 3550 and 2300 BC, is recognized for its significant contributions to understanding Helmand culture and the complexities of ancient urban life. Artifacts unearthed from Shahr-e Sukhteh reveal a distinct culture that appeared independent of neighboring civilizations in ancient Mesopotamia.

Burnt City, which was once situated at the junction of Bronze Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau, was populated during four main periods up to 1800 BC. Previous rounds of excavations showed that its resi-

dents had great skills in weaving, and creating fine arts such as decorative objects, stone carving, and pottery painting.

According to the UN cultural body, changes in water courses and climate change led to the eventual abandonment of Burnt City in the early second millennium. The structures, burial grounds, and many significant artifacts unearthed there and their well-preserved state due to the dry desert climate make this site a rich source of information regarding the emergence of complex societies and contacts between them in the third millennium BC.

Last year, Iranian archaeologist Seyyed-Mansour Seyyed-Sajjadi announced that the earliest period of human settlement in Burnt City might have occurred in about 3500 BC, more than 300 years before what was previously thought. "In recent research and tests, based on the evidence and findings, we found out that the burnt city, contrary to what we thought, does not belong to 3200 BC," Seyyed-Sajjadi said.

"The site is at least 300 years older than what we thought, which means that this city was founded at least 3500 BC."

## Tiran-Karvan's pigeon towers in need of restoration



TEHRAN - The historical pigeon towers in Tiran-Karvan county, once used for collecting droppings as fertilizer centuries ago, are now in urgent need of restoration.

On Wednesday, the head of the cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts office of Tiran-Karvan, Mohsen Mazaheri, stated that a budget of 20 billion rials (approximately \$40,000) is required to preserve and reinforce these architectural landmarks.

Mazaheri explained that Tiran-Karvan is home to seven pigeon towers, each with its own unique architectural design.

"While most of the towers are circular in structure, some are multi-tiered, and others are cylindrical without floors. Among these towers, the most significant is the Tondaran tower, a three-story structure that has

been registered as a national heritage site in Iran."

Mazaheri noted that while some restoration work has already begun, particularly on the Tondaran tower, about 50% of the repairs are still unfinished. "With the cooperation of local investors, parts of the Tondaran tower have been restored. However, many of the towers still require significant repair work," he said.

### Historical significance and tourist appeals

Pigeon towers, or "kaboutar khanehs," were once common across Isfahan province, serving as structures where pigeons nested, and their droppings were collected for use as fertilizer in agriculture. However, Tiran-Karvan is one of the few remaining areas where these historical towers still exist, making their preservation vital for both cultural and tourism purposes.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mazaheri highlighted that these pigeon towers, especially those located in rural areas, hold immense potential for boosting local tourism. "After Tiran-Karvan,

there are very few pigeon towers left in Isfahan province. These towers not only represent a valuable part of our agricultural and architectural history but also serve as a significant attraction for rural tourism," he noted.

The official also emphasized the importance of preserving these structures not only for their historical value but also for their role in supporting the local economy through tourism. "We aim to restore and revive the pigeon towers to serve as a part of our rural and nomadic tourism programs. Currently, we do have tourists visiting the pigeon towers, but due to safety concerns and structural instability in some of them, we've had to restrict access to certain sites," Mazaheri explained.

"The restoration process not only aims to reinforce the towers structurally but also to revive their original function and integrate them into the local tourism industry."

### Contributions to agricultural

Historically, pigeon towers played a crucial role in the agricultural system of central Iran.

Farmers would collect pigeon droppings from these towers and use them as an organic fertilizer to enrich their soil. The architecture of the towers was designed to attract large numbers of pigeons, with each structure capable of housing hundreds, if not thousands, of birds.

The towers were built in different shapes, often cylindrical or conical, with interior designs that provided ample space for pigeons to nest. The droppings, rich in nutrients, were then collected from the base of the towers and distributed among local farmers to enhance crop yields.

Today, these towers are viewed as architectural and cultural treasures, offering insight into the ingenuity of past generations who found practical uses for such structures. However, as time has taken its toll on these historical buildings, and that is why immediate restoration efforts are crucial to ensure their survival for future generations.

# Iran among top two countries in cognitive sciences among Islamic nations

TEHRAN –According to Web of Science data, over the course of a decade (from 2014 to 2023), Iran ranks either first or second in most fields of cognitive sciences among Islamic countries.

The country ranks first in cognitive neuroscience, cognitive rehabilitation, and cognitive linguistics with 387, 156, and 30 documents respectively.

It ranked second in cognitive psychology (124 documents), cognitive education (561), philosophy of mind (34), and cognitive evaluation (898).

The country's best ranking globally is in cognitive neuroscience; it ranked 15.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences with 73 documents, University of Tehran with 39 documents, and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences with 32 documents, ranked first to third in cognitive neuroscience.

In cognitive psychology, University of Tehran (10), Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (7), and Allameh Tabatabaee University (6) are the top three universities.

In cognitive linguistics, University of Tehran (with 3 documents), Al-Zahra University (3), Allameh Tabatabaee University (2) ranked first to third.

In cognitive education, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences were placed first to third, respectively.

In cognitive rehabilitation, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (21), University of Tehran (16), and Iran University of Medical Sciences (12) ranked first to third.

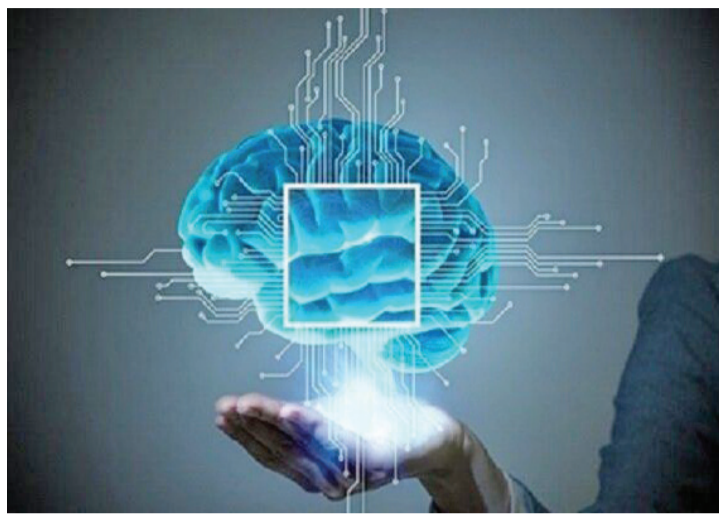
The best three universities in philosophy of mind are University of Tehran, Isfahan University, and Amirkabir University of Technology.

In cognitive evaluation, Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranked first with 196 documents. Iran University of Medical Sciences (105) and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (91) ranked second and third.

## Recent rankings

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

These institutions from 104 countries have been ranked based on 13 indicators that measure their academic research performance and their global and regional reputations which helps students to explore the



higher education options that exist beyond their own countries' borders and to compare key aspects of schools' research missions.

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

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

## The country ranks first in cognitive neuroscience, cognitive rehabilitation, and cognitive linguistic.

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

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

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

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

placed top in the country.

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

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

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

According to data released by Web of Science (WoS), Iran's ranking in Quantum Science and Technology publications improved from 23 in 2014 to 16 in 2023, placing the country top among Islamic nations in all quantum technology fields.

Iran's best global ranking was in quantum remote sensing technology. The country was ranked eighth worldwide.

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

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

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

A total of 29 Iranian universities were mentioned in the overall table including Alzahra University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Kerman University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401–600); Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, and University of Tehran (ranking

601–800); Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University, Sharif University of Technology, University of Kurdistan, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences (ranking 801–1000), Mehr news agency reported.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Malaysia, Indonesia, and Turkey ranked first to third respectively in terms of the number of universities. Iran ranked 11th among Islamic nations in this year's QS ranking.

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

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

In the latest ranking, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (5) and the University of Tehran (10) were among the top 10 institutions in West Asia. They ranked 6th and 11th, respectively, in the 2023 ranking.

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

## BRICS welcomes Iran's proposal for establishing joint SDI

TEHRAN – All the participants in the third meeting of the BRICS working group on Geospatial Technologies and its application have welcomed the proposal presented by the director general of the National Cartographic Center of Iran (NCC) to establish BRICS spatial data infrastructure (SDI).

Hosted by Moscow, the meeting was held from September 16 and 17.

The third working group meeting aimed to organize a suitable platform for providing modern and important opportunities to develop geospatial technologies, foster cooperation, and discuss some key issues.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the meeting, Ali Javidaneh said maps and spatial data are critical tools in the sustainable development of communities which provide the information needed for informed decision-making, effective planning, and economic growth, ISNA reported.

The official also presented several proposals, among which BRICS SDI drew the attention of the participants who agreed to lay the ground for its implementation.

Moreover, on the second day of the meeting, the memorandum of understanding previously signed by the working group on the spatial data infrastructure was finalized with the active participation of Iranian representatives.

Geospatial technology is a term used to describe the range of modern tools contributing to the geographic mapping and analysis of the Earth and human societies.

They play an important role in today's interconnected world and provide valuable assistance to individuals, governments, and various sectors of the economy.

The combination of spatial technologies with artificial intelligence, deep learning, and big data analytics creates favorable outcomes in communications, navigation, transportation, cadaster, cartography, and other applications.

Examples of geospatial technologies include remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS). Geospatial technologies can be used for all sorts of activities, such as military use, environmental use, and everyday use.



## First exhibition of spatial information

The third international Iran Geo exhibition, which is the first exhibition of spatial information in West Asia, opened in Tehran on December 23 and concluded on December 26.

The exhibition was organized with the theme of 'geographical information underpinning sustainable development'.

Knowledge-based companies showcased their products in various fields of space affairs, remote sensing, geopolitics, geodesy, land mapping, GPS systems, metrological navigation, airplanes, and drones.

Different technical engineering equipment and services such as different sensors and mapping cameras, lasers, photogrammetric airplanes, and drones, various types of tracking systems, data processing software and hardware, location determination and location-based services, and related industries and equipment were displayed and exposed to the audience.

The exhibition aimed to improve the level of technology by expanding Iranian businesses in the field of geomatics and geoinformatics inside the country and expanding technical and engineering services export using synergy and the maximum available inter-departmental capacity.

In this exhibition, several new knowledge-based achievements, including sea-flower hydrographic equipment, physical parameters measurement of water and sea currents, various measuring instruments, technologies of space affairs and remote sensing, satellite images, and equipment related to the field of geodesy and geophysics were presented and introduced for the first time.

## IRCS dispatches medical, rescue teams to Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ "Today's terrorist attack in Lebanon is a continuation of hybrid operations being conducted by the Zionist regime and their mercenaries, runs counter to all moral and humanitarian principles as well as international laws, particularly the international humanitarian law, and deserves international criminal prosecution, trial, and punishment," Nasser Kan'ani said in a statement late on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

He went on to term the act of terror as a clear example of mass murder, stating that the incident clearly proves that the Zionist regime has exposed regional and international peace and security to serious threats at the same time as it is committing war crimes and genocide against Palestinian people.

Kan'ani then called upon the international community to take immediate action against the impunity of criminal Israeli authorities.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols to protect teachers, staff, and students against the coronavirus pandemic.

Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Education Minister, symbolically attended the virtual festival.

More than 15 million students started the new school year in 116,000 schools across the country, Haji Mirzaei stated.

"This year, education is followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based, but our priority is school attendance. All schools should strictly follow the health regulations so that the students are protected."

## بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه آغاز کردند.

امسال آموزش دانش آموزان به سه شکل حضوری، مجازی، و تلویزیونی دنبال می شود، اما اولویت ما آموزش حضوری دانش آموزان است. همه مدارس باید شیوه نامه های بهداشتی را به طور جدی رعایت کنند تا مشکلی برای دانش آموزان پیش نیاید.



## First graders attend schools in Tehran

During a ceremony on Tuesday, September 17, students in the first year of education in Tehran, attended elementary schools.

Some 16.5 million students will attend schools in the 2024–2025 school year, which will officially commence on September 22.



SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*What actions are most excellent? To gladden the heart of human beings, to feed the hungry, to help the afflicted, to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful, and to remove the sufferings of the injured.*

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times > Noon: 11:58 Evening: 18:23 Dawn: 4:27 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:51 (tomorrow)

## Brian Friel's "Afterplay" on stage in Ahvaz

TEHRAN- an adaptation of Irish dramatist Brian Friel's play "Afterplay" is currently on stage at Aftab Hall in Ahvaz, southwestern Khuzestan province.

Mohammad Hayati is the director of the play, which will remain on stage until September 27.

Vahid Faqih and Mahsa Bayat are the main members of the cast for the play.

The one-act play revisits two beloved characters from Anton Chekhov's works, unfolding their lives two decades after their initial appearances. Set in a Moscow café, the narrative brings together Sonya from "Uncle Vanya," a steadfast and devoted niece, and Andrey, the soft-spoken sibling from "The Three Sisters," who has always been overshadowed by the dominant personalities around him. The choice of a café as the setting emphasizes a space of reflection and connection amidst the bustling backdrop of revolutionary changes taking place in Moscow.

As they engage in conversation, Sonya and Andrey reminisce about their pasts, sharing stories that reveal their dreams and desires. In their dialogue, they weave intricate fantasies, constructing visions of lives that could have been.

Andrey, with his characteristic introspection, quickly acknowledges that his aspirations are mere illusions, flights of fancy that provide temporary solace. He embodies a sense of resignation to his reality, illustrating a deep-seated cynicism born from his experiences and disappointments.

In stark contrast, Sonya remains resolute in her optimism. Clinging to her dreams, she embodies hope and the belief that life still holds possibilities for fulfillment.

Her character, marked by resilience, actively seeks to uplift both herself and



Andrey, embodying the spirit of perseverance even in a changed world.

Their exchanges become a refuge, a comforting embrace against the harsh realities of their lives in a Moscow that has dramatically transformed over the years.

The dialogue between Sonya and Andrey serves as a vehicle for exploring themes of loss, longing, and the passage of time.

They reflect not only on their personal tragedies and heartaches but also on the broader societal shifts occurring around them.

The café, once an ordinary meeting place, is imbued with a deeper significance as it symbolizes a crossroads, encapsulating the remnants of their past lives alongside the fragmented hopes for their futures.

Friel masterfully captures the essence of Chekhov's characters while infusing them with a new life and urgency.

"Afterplay" is both a tribute to the original works and an exploration of the enduring human condition, illustrating how the passage of time can shape our dreams and relationships.

Through Sonya and Andrey, the play delves into the complexities of nostalgia, the interplay of fantasy and reality, and the profound comfort found in connection, even amidst revolutionary upheaval.

The play premiered in 2002 at the Gate Theatre in Dublin. It has seen various revivals, including a notable production at the Gielgud Theatre in 2002, directed by Robin Lefevre and featuring John Hurt as Andrey and Penelope Wilton as Sonya.

Another revival took place at the King's Theatre in Edinburgh, and in 2009, it starred Frances Barber and Niall Buggy, with a reviewer noting the heavy emotional burden of past traumas in their chance encounter.

# Book on history of Iran-Iraq war to be unveiled at University of Tehran

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "The Unfinished History of the Iran-Iraq War: Faith, Firepower, and Iran's Revolutionary Guards" written by Annie Tracy Samuel will be unveiled at the University of Tehran on September 23.

Nashr-e Tarikh-e Iran (Iran History Publication) has published the book with a translation by Mohammad Maleki, Mehr reported.

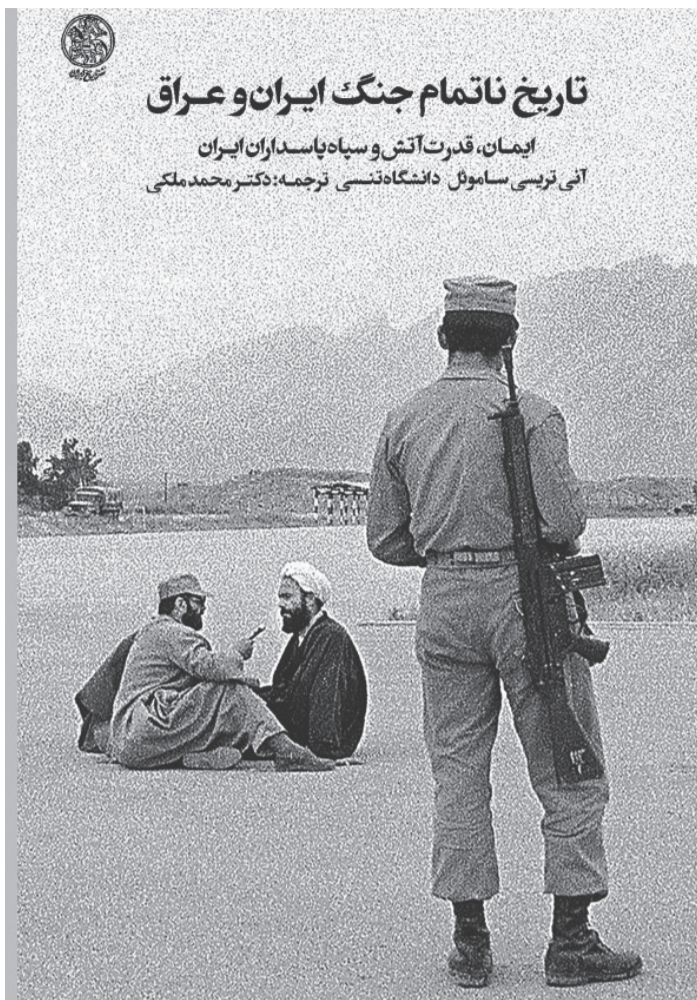
The unveiling ceremony will have guest speakers including Hossein Alaei, a retired senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander, and Mohammad Doroudian, a writer, historian, researcher, and theorist, who has been working mostly on the history of the Iran-Iraq war. Mohammad Maleki, the book translator, will also attend the session. A university professor, he holds a master's degree and a Ph.D. in ancient Iranian history from the University of Tehran.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), founded after the Islamic revolution in 1979, is one of the most powerful and prominent but least understood organizations in Iran.

In this book, originally published by the Cambridge University Press in 2021, the author presents an innovative and compelling history of this organization and, by using the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war as a focal point, analyzes the links between war and revolution.

Tracy Samuel provides in-depth coverage of IRGC history, its organizational development during the eight-year long war and by extension the consequences of the Iran-Iraq War on the IRGC's present role and power in the Islamic Republic. She explores this through the IRGC's own perspective by paying particular attention to volumes of available material and publications linked with the IRGC's Holy Defense Research and Documentation Centre, while touching occasionally on other primary Persian sources like press and memoirs, as well as the second-hand English material.

Central to the author's argument is that the birth of the IRGC and its development reflected pragmatic necessity of the revolution and defense of the country during the Iran-Iraq war and afterwards in its relations with the region and



Iran. This was made more difficult by what Tracy Samuel refers to as pluralization of the war, namely the aerial bombardment of the cities by Iraq using its superior air power, its chemical and psychological warfare against the Iranian forces and the 'extensive support' Iraq obtained from third parties, namely the United States following the Tanker War in the Persian Gulf.

Chapter eight discusses Iran's acceptance of the ceasefire in the summer of 1988 from the perspective of the IRGC. Pressure on the Iranian economy, difficulty to procure weapons and declining morale of the Iranian forces all contributed to this. But it was portrayed as a victory by the IRGC, as Iran did not lose any territory to Iraq. In Chapter nine, Tracy Samuel argues that both the Islamic Republic and the IRGC were pragmatic in their war efforts and strategies, drawing both on ideology and firepower.

Chapter 10 turns to political and strategic lessons that the Islamic Republic and the IRGC learnt from Iran-Iraq war, giving rise to its more recent foreign policy relations in the region, and a security doctrine based on asymmetric and soft power, via ties with and support for proxies in the region in order to ensure the protection of Iran and its independence. Chapter 11 looks at the IRGC's expansion as a professional military as a result of the Iran-Iraq war, its expansion into non-military spheres, particularly countering political threats, and its recent role dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic.

This book is of interest to anybody seeking a better understanding of Iran's place in the region and the world today. The author's work is praiseworthy for drawing on the plethora of Persian sources and documents mainly of the IRGC's Iran-Iraq chronology of war published a few years after the war.

Annie Tracy Samuel is a scholar specializing in the modern history of Iran and the Middle East. She is Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and previously served as a research fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

the West. Central to the thrust of her argument is that ideology was important in Iranian defense: that it was not used to inform policy, but to strengthen morale. In sum, the author contends that both ideology and firepower were used by the IRGC, and that the strategy and rationale of the Iranian civil and military decision makers in the war were all the product of pragmatic thinking.

The book is set out in 12 chapters. The first two chapters introduce the main subject of the book, the establishment of the IRGC, its units, its roles and its historians. Chapter one looks at the birth of the IRGC in the early days of the revolution's history, its domestic security functions to safeguard the new revolutionary regime and serve as a loyal paramilitary organization in parallel to the regular army.

Chapter two discusses the history of the IRGC and explains the Iran-Iraq war from the perspective of the IRGC's own publications, primary sources and oral history.

Chapter three discusses the outbreak of the war from the perspective of the IRGC historians

and authors, and Iranian views on Iraq's decision to invade Iran. Chapter four turns to the early stages of the war.

A turning point in the Iranian forces' defense is discussed in chapter five "The Epic of Khorramshahr" along with the ousting of Iranian President Abolhassan Banisadr, which according to the IRGC authors brought about more cooperation and cohesion to Iran's armed forces, while the IRGC's role in the war was augmented.

Iran's decision to continue to pursue the war by invading Iraq (in 1982) is discussed in chapter six. Drawing on the IRGC authors and documents, Tracy Samuel maintains that this decision was made via consultation based on the IRGC's assessment of the likelihood of further aggression by Saddam Hussein and Iran's distrust of his regime and the unwillingness of the United Nations Security Council to recognize him as an aggressor as the Islamic Republic demanded.

Chapter seven shows that successive operations fell short of producing the desired result for

## New mural in Tehran unveiled celebrating Islamic Unity Week with message of Palestinian solidarity

TEHRAN- The latest mural in Enqelab Square, downtown Tehran, was unveiled on Tuesday to commemorate Islamic Unity Week with the slogan "Unity for the Freedom of Palestine."

The mural depicts people from various corners of the world, holding their flags and marching with the slogan "Unity for the Freedom of Palestine" under the shadow of the Mosque of the Prophet (Masjid al-Nabawi), heading towards the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Palestine.

Last week, the Palestinian Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip reported that since the outbreak of war on October 7, 2023, a grim total of 41,226 Palestinians have been martyred. The ministry also stated that an additional 95,413 Palestinians have sustained injuries due to Israeli attacks on the region.

Beginning on October 7, Israel launched what many describe as a genocidal war against the already besieged Gaza Strip. This military escalation followed a significant operation by



the Palestinian Hamas Resistance group, which was executed as a response to increasing violence and systemic atrocities inflicted by the Israeli regime on the Palestinian people.

The situation in Gaza has deteriorated dramatically as Israel has enforced a complete siege on the territory, home to more than two million residents. This blockade has effectively cut off essential resources, including fuel, electricity, food, and water, leading to a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions. The ongoing conflict has

exacerbated the suffering of Palestinians, who are grappling with severe shortages of basic necessities, medical supplies, and shelter.

As tensions continue to escalate, the plight of the Palestinian population in Gaza remains dire, drawing international attention and raising urgent calls for a ceasefire and humanitarian aid to alleviate the catastrophic conditions they face.

The Islamic Unity Week refers to a ceremony held every year both by Sunnis and Shia. Shia tradition holds that the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was born on the seventeenth day of the lunar month of Rabi' al-Awwal. On the other hand, according to Sunni tradition, he was born on the 12th of Rabi' al-Awwal. The event is held between two dates of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Marked first time in Iran in the mid-1980s and based on the decree of the late Imam Khomeini, the Muslims around the world observe Islamic Unity Week between these dates.

## Ailan ensemble to go on stage at Vahdat Hall for women-only audience

TEHRAN- The all-female troupe Ailan plans to go on stage at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Friday to perform a repertoire of Azeri music and traditional dance during a program entitled "Sonay" for an audience of women.

The ensemble, comprising 80

musicians specializing in Azeri music and dance, will perform under the direction of Adeleh Ziai.

"Sonay" in Azeri signifies the closest moment of alignment between the moon and the sun. It also refers to the last moon, particularly the full moon marking the final month of

summer.

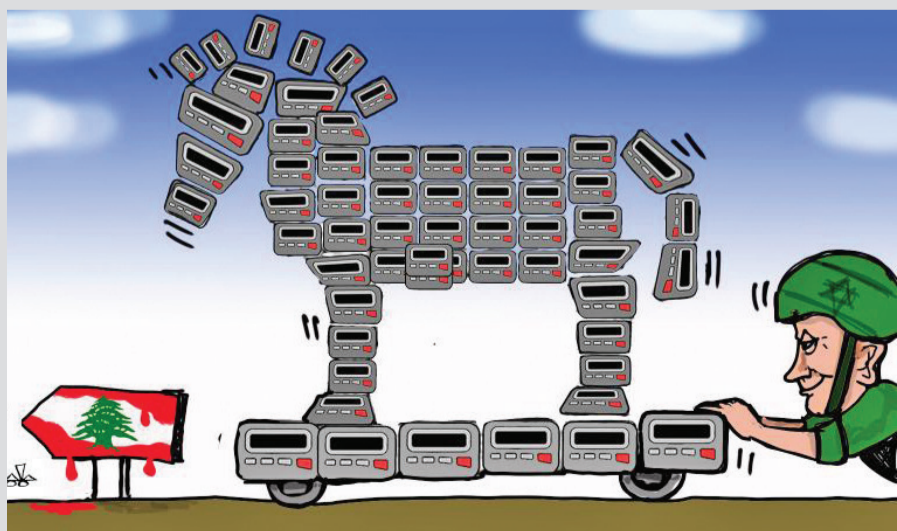
With this moonlight, the time for the sacred festival of Shayinliq, symbolizing tranquility, begins. Ay, meaning moon and Shay, another name for the sun, represent two halves of a whole.

In this tale, Ay and Shay are

each other's lost halves. As the full moon rises on the fourteenth day at the end of summer and the sun sets, they momentarily gaze upon each other.

They are eternal lovers destined for separation, for if they were to unite, darkness would envelop the land once more.

## Cartoon of Day



Pagers Attack

Cartoonist: Hassan Bleibel from Lebanon