

Hezbollah hits Israel's strategic military bases

Haifa Bombing Is Just the Beginning



First responders and security forces gather amid debris and charred vehicles in Kiryat Bialik in the Haifa district, following a rocket attack by Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement on September 22, 2024.

Pezeshkian criticizes UN's response to Israeli actions ahead of General Assembly

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has voiced strong criticism of the United Nations' response to the actions of the Israeli regime in the region.

Speaking to reporters at Mehrabad International Airport before his departure for New York, Pezeshkian expressed hope that his upcoming participation in the UN General Assembly would allow him to amplify the voices of the Iranian people, particularly their calls for justice and rights.

"The United Nations is a significant organization on the global stage," he stated. "If it performs its duties effectively, no country would be able to launch attacks on others under false pretenses."

His remarks came amid the regime's ongoing genocidal war against the Gaza Strip and escalated attacks across the occupied West Bank as well as its intensified deadly aggression against Lebanon.

On Friday, an Israeli strike wrecked two buildings in the Lebanese capital's Dahiyeh district during rush hour. At least 45 people, including three children and seven women, were killed and 68 people injured in the strike. ▶ Page 2

Transit via Iran's roads rises 73% in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - The transit of commodities through the roads of Iran increased by 73 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21) compared to the previous year's corresponding period, according to a report released by the Road and Urban Development Ministry.

This significant increase in road transit can indicate the improvement of the economic situation and increase in commercial activities in the road transport sector.

As previously reported, the transit of commodities through the roads of Iran increased by 70 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20) as compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

As reported, 4.5 million tons of goods were transited via Iran's roads in the mentioned three months.

The continuous trend of recent transit records via the country and the increasing interest of governments, traders, and those active in transport sectors from neighboring, regional, and extra-regional countries in the transit and logistics situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate the fruitfulness of the transformational approach of the government to the strategic issue of transit, with emphasis on the development of all-round economic relations with neighbors. ▶ Page 4

U.S. must stop Israel, Iran foreign ministry says as region teeters on brink of war

TEHRAN - The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has emphasized that the United States must acknowledge its legal and international obligations regarding its collaboration with the Israeli regime in relation to offenses committed against Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria.

In a statement shared on X on Saturday, Nasser Kanaani condemned Washington's unconditional backing of Israel in light of the recent violence in Lebanon and Palestine.

Kanaani pointed out that official reports reveal that the death toll from the Israeli assault in southern Beirut has risen to 31, while the total casualties from the recent attacks in Dahieh and two terrorist incidents in Lebanon and Syria amount to 70.

Furthermore, he highlighted that within the last 72 hours, the Israeli regime has resulted in the deaths of 119 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, with an additional 209 individuals injured. ▶ Page 3

Are electronic devices becoming time bombs?

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN - At least 32 people, including two children, were killed and thousands more injured, many seriously, after communication devices, some used by Hezbollah members, dramatically exploded across Lebanon on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In the blasts on Wednesday, exploding walkie-talkies killed 20 and injured at least 450 people, according to Lebanon's health ministry.

The explosions occurred in the vicinity of a large crowd that had gathered for the funerals of four victims of Tuesday's simultaneous pager blasts, which killed at least 12 people and injured nearly 3,000.

The back-to-back explosion of communication devices has caused anxiety in the society. Now, they are afraid of anyone using a phone.

Two firms based in Taiwan and Hungary accused in media reports of manufacturing the pagers have both denied responsibility, with the Taiwanese government saying the different parts of the pagers were not from Taiwan. ▶ Page 5

Inferno of frustration: Fury sweeps Israel as captive crisis deepens

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Flames of anger have enveloped Israelis in the wake of their army's failure to make good on its promises in the ongoing war against the Gaza Strip.

A large number of people across Israel once again took to the street at the weekend to express their deep frustration with the cabinet of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Organizers said hundreds of thousands of people participated in protests in Tel Aviv on Saturday night. Tens of thousands of others attended rallies in Jerusalem (al-Quds), Haifa and elsewhere.

They are absolutely furious that Netanyahu has not succeeded in securing the release of Israeli captives in Gaza.

Israel launched war on Gaza on October 7 after Hamas carried out Al-Aqsa Storm Operation. It was a surprise attack in southern Israel that humiliated the regime and exposed its vulnerability in the face of growing power of Palestinian resistance. ▶ Page 5

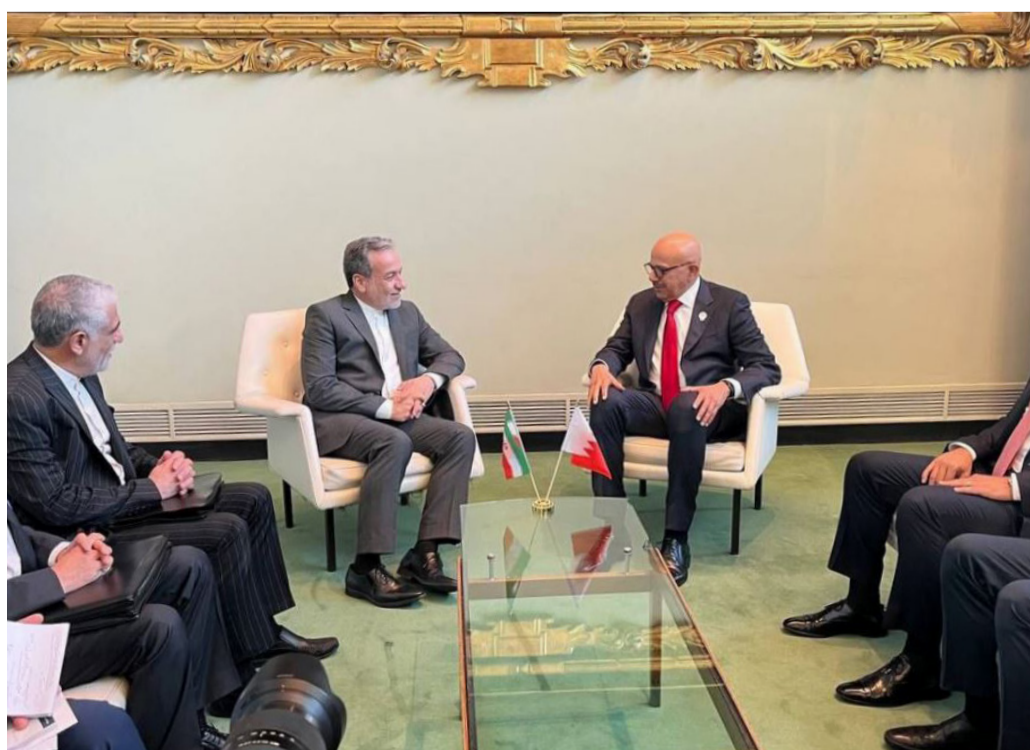
Coal mine blast kills at least 34

TEHRAN - At least 34 people have been killed and 24 others injured after a gas leak explosion in a coal mine in the eastern province of South Khorasan late on Saturday.

Some 30 people are still stuck in the mine, IRIB reported on Sunday. The total number of workers at the time of the explosion was 70, the report added.

A crisis management team has been formed by the interior and industry ministers to investigate the causes of the tragic incident. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent a message to the Iranian nation, saying that the government and people of Pakistan are with the people and government of Iran in this difficult time.

Ammar Hakim, the leader of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan have also expressed condolences over the sorrowful incident.



Gaza takes center stage in Araqchi's talks in New York

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi who is currently in New York to attend the 79th session of the UN General Assembly has highlighted the Gaza crisis in discussions with international officials.

Talking to Iranian reporters on Saturday, the top diplomat said that during meetings with his counterparts from Kuwait, Bahrain, and Cuba, as well as the Secretary-General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, he emphasized the gravity of the situation in Gaza. "The humanitarian conditions described in Gaza are truly unbelievable; the scale of the crimes committed is staggering. Worse still, all routes for delivering humanitarian aid are blocked, and entry and distribution of aid are not permitted." ▶ Page 2

Iran submits family drama "In the Arms of the Tree" to Oscar 2025

TEHRAN - Babak Khajeh Pasha's directorial debut feature film "In the Arms of the Tree" has been officially chosen to represent Iran at the 2025 Academy Awards.

The decision was made after a 10-day review process by the selection committee at the Farabi Cinema Foundation, which evaluated all the eligible movies screened locally since last October, Honaronline reported on Sunday.

According to the announcement by the foundation, which operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the nine-member committee unanimously chose "In the Arms of the Tree," from among the three final contenders.

The other finalists included the feature film "The Silent City" directed by Ahmad Bahrami and the documentary "Isatis" by Alireza Dehghan. ▶ Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Full-scale war and extensive diplomacy

Shargh devoted its editorial to the current sensitive situation in the region and Iran's policy towards it. It wrote: The reality is that the Western world stands behind Israel's crimes. While Israel is trying to push Iran towards a full-scale war, Iran has two ways ahead. First to develop its weapons technology. Second, it should undertake extensive diplomacy with the world. In areas of foreign policy, Iran can direct its negotiations with the United States with the centrality of Europe in the form of extensive diplomacy. This approach can produce positive results. Even if the negotiations in Europe are prolonged, "securitization from the face of the Islamic Republic" will lose color in Europe as an important center of global diplomacy. Gradual moves, de-securitization from the "country's face" and creating a positive balance in international trade are among the cornerstones of diplomacy.

Hamshahri: Iran's patience in response to Israel

Hamshahri wrote in a note: After the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, foreign media have made numerous speculations about the reason for Iran's delay in fulfilling its promise of revenge. The explosion of pagers in the hands of the Lebanese Hezbollah forces last week and the injury of the Iranian ambassador in this incident once again increased the possibility of Iran's retaliation. Israel's repeated efforts to spread the war beyond the borders of the occupied territory and a possible large-scale conflict with Hezbollah and Iran are considered an exit route from the current deadlock that the regime is caught in. Therefore, the delay in Iran's response is of great importance to global media outlets. According to Behnam Ben Taleblou, a senior researcher at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, self-restraint is the highest level of tact that Iran and Hezbollah have been showing. Therefore, Iran and Hezbollah are very eager to continue this strategy and gradually intensify it to Israel's tolerance threshold.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Self-sufficiency is defense industry is a great asset

Siasat-e-Rooz analyzed self-sufficiency in defense industry which has turned Iran into the greatest regional power. The paper said: After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the armed forces achieved self-sufficiency in the defense industry

with the strong belief that Iran can never trust the West. The armed forces also succeeded to turn the Iranian nation into the first power in the region and in some instances first in the world in maritime, land, air, and defense fields. Now even a superpower like America does not dare to take military action against Iran. It admits that any action against Iran means that the entire region will be put on fire. Targeting the American Al-Assad Airbase in Iraq, the missile and drone attacks on Israel in the True Promise Operation and reliance on domestic power have removed the shadow of war on Iran. Another important point is that Iran's defense authority serves the security and stability of the region because Tehran considers the security of its neighbors as its security and emphasizes the need for convergence between neighbors to achieve durable security without the presence of foreigners. Iraq's recent action in disarming and transferring separatist terrorists from Iran's borders to camps is a turning point in this process, which can strengthen the security in the region.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Prospect for nuclear negotiations

The appointment of Abbas Araghchi as foreign minister has increased the hope of reviving the nuclear negotiations. Of course, it is unlikely that the JCPOA will be revived. The most likely scenario is bilateral talks between the United States and Iran instead of multi-state talks. There is also a possibility that the new negotiations will deal with issues beyond the JCPOA and include regional issues as well. Iran's urgent need to reduce sanctions changes the prospect of negotiations. Considering the increasing tensions between Israel and Iran and the groups supported by Iran, Tel Aviv will demand the recognition of its interests. Many political analysts in Iran believe that one of the reasons that Israel targeted Haniyeh in Tehran was to weaken the chances of the Pezeshkian government to improve relations with the West. The increase in the popularity of Kamala Harris in the polls could encourage the White House to revive nuclear talks and even negotiations with Iran on other issues. In fact, if Harris wins, the Biden administration will have three months to work on such difficult issues. Qatar or Oman will be the possible place for such negotiations.

IRGC dismantles Israeli-linked network in six Iranian provinces

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has dismantled a network with ties to Israel operating across six provinces in Iran.

The IRGC issued a statement late Sunday night, announcing the arrest of 12 individuals connected to a Zionist-linked network. According to the IRGC, the suspects were plotting anti-security operations targeting the Iranian public.

The IRGC emphasized that these arrests were part of an ongoing effort to counter foreign interference, particularly from Israel, which has been accused of coordinating such activities in response to the failure of its broader strategic goals.

The statement noted that Israel, along with its Western and European allies, especially the United

States, has ramped up efforts to destabilize Iran after its setbacks in Gaza and Lebanon.

The IRGC's intelligence and security units reportedly worked to identify and track the network before making the arrests in six provinces, signaling a widespread operation. The statement did not specify the exact nature of the alleged plots, but it framed the dismantling of the network as a significant victory in the ongoing confrontation between Iran and its foreign adversaries.

The IRGC's statement concluded by reiterating its commitment to protecting national security and preventing any foreign-backed plots aimed at undermining Iran's stability, while also linking the network's activities to larger geopolitical dynamics in the region.

Army reaffirms commitment to national defense on 44th anniversary of Iran-Iraq War

TEHRAN – On the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the Iran-Iraq War, the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran has reiterated its dedication to upholding the dignity, resilience, and territorial integrity of the nation.

In a formal statement, the Iranian Army expressed its readiness to make any necessary sacrifices to ensure the stability and honor of the Islamic Republic. The anniversary, which began on September 21, serves as a poignant reminder of the valor displayed by soldiers during the eight-year conflict.

The Army described the Sacred Defense as a pivotal chapter in Iran's history, emphasizing that throughout the war, not a single part of the country was surrendered to enemy forces, who were ultimately compelled to retreat.

The statement also acknowledged the collaborative efforts of the Iranian Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Basij volunteer forces, and other national entities in successfully repelling the invasion orchestrated by the Iraqi Baath regime, which received substantial military and political backing from major global powers. Furthermore, the Army highlighted that the insights gained from the war continue to inform Iran's contemporary defense strategies.

"With the guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and a strong reliance on domestic expertise, the Army asserts its preparedness to confront any future threats to the nation's sovereignty," the statement reads.

Pezeshkian criticizes UN's response to Israeli actions ahead of General Assembly

From page 1 ▶ Lebanese Resistance movement Hezbollah confirmed that two of its top commanders, Ibrahim Aqil and Ahmad Mahmoud Wahabi, along with 12 other members, were killed in the strike.

Prior to the Friday attack, the sudden explosion of thousands of booby-trapped devices in Lebanon killed dozens of people and left nearly 3,000 others injured, including the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Beirut. Hezbollah, whose members were among the casualties, blamed the unprecedented attacks on Israel.

At least 41,431 Palestinians, mostly children and women,



have been killed and 95,818 people wounded in the war that Israel began on October 7, 2023, following a retaliatory operation by the Palestinian territory's Resistance movements.

Pezeshkian is scheduled to deliver a keynote speech during the UN General Assembly, which will take place on Tuesday, where he aims to outline Iran's perspectives on various international issues. In

addition to his address, he plans to meet with Iranian expatriates living in the United States and engage in discussions with high-ranking officials from other countries.

The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) is set to commence on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, with the high-level General Debate beginning on September 24, 2024.

Pezeshkian's participation underscores Iran's commitment to addressing global concerns and advocating for its national interests on an international platform.

Iranian envoy shares recovery journey after Israeli pager attack in Lebanon

TEHRAN – Mojtaba Amani, the Ambassador of Iran in Beirut, has shared an update on his recovery following injuries sustained during twin Israeli attacks that caused thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies to explode in Lebanon.

In a heartfelt message shared on his official account on X, Amani expressed gratitude for the medical care he received and reflected on the honor he feels in standing alongside the Lebanese people during such challenging times.

Amani stated, "As you are aware, I was injured in the recent explosions in Lebanon, just like many others among the people of Lebanon. Thanks to the initial and important actions of Lebanese doctors and then the valuable efforts of Iranian doctors, my treatment is progressing well."

He characterized his injury as an honor,

emphasizing his solidarity with the people of Lebanon amid what he termed a "war crime."

In his message, Amani extended his heartfelt thanks to officials and citizens alike for their concern and support. "I am very grateful to all the officials, my dear compatriots, and Lebanese friends who were concerned about my well-being, offered their prayers, and expressed their kindness," he wrote.

The ambassador also acknowledged the swift response from Iranian authorities, thanking the President, ministers, and officials for their assistance in ensuring timely medical care. He commended both Lebanese and Iranian medical staff for their dedication in treating him and other injured individuals.

Explosions targeted pagers and other communication devices across Lebanon

on Tuesday and Wednesday, killing more than 30 people, including children, and wounding some 3,500 others. The Lebanese government and the Hezbollah Resistance movement have both identified Israel as the orchestrator of the deadly attacks.

The latest series of Israeli crimes has put the entire region on edge, as analysts and officials warn of the devastating effects of the regime's terrorist policies, alarming that they could eventually lead to an all-out war in West Asia.



Leader orders response after deadly mine explosion



TEHRAN – In response to the tragic coal mine explosion that killed dozens of workers on Sunday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has ordered Iranian officials to the site to assess the situation and prevent future accidents.

A leak of methane gas led to explosions in two blocks of the Madanjoo mine in South Khorasan Province, according to local reports. 31 workers have so far lost their lives with 20 others injured.

In response to the tragedy, Ayatollah Khamenei expressed his condolences to the bereaved families in a heartfelt message. He emphasized the importance of supporting the affected workers and their families during this difficult time.

"In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, I offer my condolences to the families of those dear individuals and the people of that region for the bitter and sorrowful incident at the coal mine in Tabas," the Leader stated.

"I urge the rescue teams sent by government officials to make

every effort to save them and to take any necessary actions to mitigate the impact of this tragedy."

Rescue teams have been dispatched to the site, working tirelessly to locate any remaining individuals trapped in the mine and to provide medical assistance to those injured.

The incident has reignited discussions about workplace safety regulations in Iran's mining sector, with many calling for stricter enforcement and oversight to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Also reacting to the news, Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref issued a heartfelt message expressing condolences for the tragic loss.

In his statement, Aref acknowledged the profound sorrow felt by the nation and emphasized the need for national and provincial officials to take immediate action to address the situation.

"The bitter and sorrowful incident of the death and injury of many workers at the Madanjoo coal mine has plunged the Iranian nation into great grief and

sorrow," Aref wrote, reflecting on the deep grief surrounding the incident. He highlighted the "exhausting hardships faced by this noble and hardworking class," extending his condolences to the families of the deceased and the injured.

The Vice President called for diligent follow-ups to prevent similar tragedies in the future and urged legal action against any negligent parties responsible for this heartbreaking event.

"It is essential for national and provincial officials to make every effort to alleviate this tragedy, reduce its effects, and address the situation of the injured," he stated.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi shared his deep sorrow on the X platform regarding the tragic explosion at the Tabas coal mine.

He expressed that he was profoundly affected by the reports and conveyed his hope that, with divine support and the tireless efforts of rescue teams, there would soon be encouraging news about the recovery of those trapped inside.

In conclusion, Araghchi offered prayers to the Almighty for compassion and forgiveness for the victims of this heartbreaking incident, as well as strength and comfort for the grieving families and a swift recovery for the injured.

Regional states extend condolences

The tragic incident also drew responses from some foreign officials. Shahbaz Sharif, the Prime

Minister of Pakistan, conveyed his heartfelt condolences to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and the citizens of Iran through a post on the X platform. "I extend my sincere sympathies to Pezeshkian and the citizens of the nation for the tragic loss of several mine workers," Sharif stated.

He emphasized that Pakistan stands in solidarity with its Iranian brothers during this challenging period, adding, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families affected by this tragedy."

In a similar gesture, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement expressing condolences to the Iranian government and its citizens.

The statement, shared on their X social media account, read: "We offer our heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Iran, particularly to the families affected by the coal mine tragedy in the Khorasan region."

The ministry also expressed hopes for a swift recovery for those injured and for effective management of the aftermath of this unfortunate event.

On the same social media platform, the Japanese envoy to Iran said he is "deeply saddened" by what has happened.

"I would like to express my utmost respect for all those engaged in the ongoing search and rescue operations and sincerely pray for their success," Tamaki Tsukada wrote.

"I extend my deepest condolences to the Iranian government and nation as well as the families of the victims."

U.S. must stop Israel, Iran foreign ministry says as region teeters on brink of war

From Page 1 ▶ Despite this extraordinary level of violence, Kanaani criticized the steadfast political, military, intelligence, and security support provided by the U.S. government to Israel, as well as its recent defense of the regime's actions in the United Nations Security Council under the false pretense of self-defense.

In separate remarks, Kanaani said that American and Israeli crimes in the region will not help them reach their sinister goals. "These martyrs have given their lives for the cause of al-Quds, and their sacrifice brings the goal of liberating al-Quds closer."

The sacred defense against the Israeli regime is now playing out on a new scale

across the region, the spokesman said, noting that the fate of the Israeli "criminals" will not be different from that of toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

"The enemy, upset and vengeful, continues to repeat its past mistakes, and the outcome this time will be even more humiliating."

Commander declares Iran among world's top 10 space powers

TEHRAN – Brigadier General Ali Akbar Talebzadeh, Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army's Air Force, announced during a military parade in Bushehr on Saturday that Iran has secured its place among the world's top 10 nations in the space industry.

The event was held to make Sacred Defense Week, an annual commemoration of Iran's eight-year resistance against Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein who imposed a devastating war on Iranians in the 1980s.

Talebzadeh's statement celebrated the achievements of Iran's armed forces, highlighting the country's commitment to self-sufficiency and the development of indigenous military technology.

He cited Iran's success in acquiring the expertise to repair the most sophisticated weapons and



related systems, as well as breaking the monopoly on the production of fighter jets and drones.

"This places Iran on equal footing with global military powers in terms of technological prowess," the military official explained.

The commander emphasized the crucial role of unity among

Iran's armed forces – the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and civilian volunteers – in preventing enemies from achieving their objectives during the eight years of the Iran-Iraq War. This unity, he argued, was instrumental in safeguarding Iran's national security.

Talebzadeh reiterated that Iran's armed forces remain vigilant, carefully observing regional and global developments to ensure the continued protection of the nation's interests.

Iran's space program has achieved a series of notable milestones in recent months. The country successfully launched the domestically-developed Chamran 1 research satellite into orbit earlier this month.

Earlier this year, the homegrown Mahda research satellite and two research cargoes were sent into space aboard the Simorgh satellite launch vehicle.

These launches followed the successful deployment of the Soraya satellite by the IRGC Aerospace Force, which reached an orbit 750 kilometers above Earth in just 11 minutes.

Iran beat France in 2024 Futsal World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran defeated France 4-1 and advanced to 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup and advanced to the Round of 16 as the table toppers.

Salar Aghapour scored twice and Moslem Oladghobad and Alireza Rafiepour was on target each.

Team Melli had previously defeated Venezuela 7-1 and Guatemala 9-4.

Iran will meet Morocco on Thursday.

"Morteza can be considered as one of the most important players in the world," said Iran's Meisam Ali Pour.

"He knows what to do, he's the best spiker, and whenever possible he will be able to get points.

"But it doesn't mean that he's going to do it all by himself. We have another player, Ramezan Salehijajikolaei who is a good setter. He sets the ball for Morteza to spike."

While Bosnia and Herzegovina won the first set at North Paris Arena, it was all Iran for the remainder of the game, taking the win 22-25, 30-28, 25-16, 25-14.

"Our team deserved to win this Paralympic gold medal," said Ali Pour, who was named the tournament's MVP. "It was somewhat hard, but it was one of the most interesting matches."

Gaza takes center stage in Araqchi's talks in New York

From Page 1 ▶ He noted that the situation is severely hampering efforts to provide relief to those in desperate need. "The hospitals established by the Red Cross are suffering from a lack of resources, and they are not allowed to receive supplies," he stated, adding that the conditions in Gaza have created what he termed a "real hell."

The Iranian Foreign Minister said in remarks to the officials it was pointed out that despite Israel's military actions, none of its objectives—such as defeating Hamas or freeing prisoners—have been achieved. This failure, he said, was attributed to the unwavering support Israel receives from certain countries, particularly the United States. "The main obstacle to establishing a ceasefire and halting this war is the support that the U.S. and Western countries provide."

In his remarks to foreign officials, Araqchi

also urged the international community and the UN Security Council to take decisive action to address the situation, criticizing Western nations for their complicity in the ongoing violence. "The humanitarian situation in Gaza is extremely dire. The regional situation is precarious. The international community and the Security Council must address this situation; unfortunately, we are witnessing how it stands due to the policies of Western countries."

In discussions with UN representatives regarding humanitarian assistance to Gaza and the situation in Syria, Araqchi reiterated the need for global awareness and sensitivity towards the "truly criminal policies" of the Israeli regime. He warned that these actions pose risks not only to regional stability but also to international peace.

"Further meetings and discussions will be held with foreign ministers and international

organizations. The main topics of our discussions will be Palestine, Gaza, and southern Lebanon, encouraging the international community and global countries to fulfill their responsibilities in this regard," the top Iranian diplomat concluded.

Israel's deadly military campaign in the besieged Gaza Strip, which began in October, has so far resulted in the death of over 40,000 Palestinians, and the injury of tens of thousands more civilians.

The regime says it is now looking to begin a possible incursion into Lebanon, where the Hezbollah Resistance Movement has been carrying out attacks against Israeli positions in the occupied territories in support of Gazans.

Analysts are warning that if not reined in, the regime will plunge the entire region into a deadly and devastating conflagration.

Saipa lose to Monolith in 2024 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran's Saipa lost to the Philippines' Monolith Sky Risers 3-1 (25-19, 25-18, 19-25, 25-18) in Pool B of the 2024 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship on Sunday.

Alyssa Jae Solomon scored 22 big points with captain Mhicaela Belen adding 22 markers in Sunday afternoon's victory at the Chartchai Hall.

"We came here not just to play and gather experience, but we also wanted to showcase our skills as a team. We knew that we would be up against really strong teams, and we need to be an equally strong team to compete in this field," said Belen, who is leading a team of university stand-outs.

Saipa will meet NEC Red Rockets Kawasaki of Japan and Vietnamese side LP Bank Ninh Binh on Monday and Tuesday, respectively.

Pool A consists of Thailand's Nakhonratchasima Qmin, Hong Kong's Kwai Tsing, Kuanysh of Kazakhstan and Duc Giang Chemical Club of Vietnam.

The competition is being held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand from Sept. 22 to 29.

The top two teams will qualify for the 2024 FIVB Women's Club World Championship, due to be held in China from Dec. 17 to 22.

Persepolis winger Urunov fit for Tehran derby

TEHRAN – Persepolis iconic winger Oston Urunov will be fit for the match against Esteghlal, slated for Wednesday.

The Uzbek star was substituted off before the break in the match against Aluminum due to the injury.

Persepolis club announced that Urunov has no serious problem and will be ready for the match against Esteghlal.

The Tehran derby will be very crucial for two teams, especially for Esteghlal, who have earned just five points out of five matches.

Esteghlal captain Rouzbeh Cheshmi will be absent against Persepolis after he was shown a red card in the match against Nassaji in 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) Matchday 4.

Mehrزد led Iran sitting volleyball to eighth Paralympics gold

TEHRAN – Iran won an eighth Paralympic men's sitting volleyball gold, with Morteza Mehrزد leading the way.

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games were packed with memorable moments, including athletic feats and historic firsts, that took place at stunning venues in front of a vocal crowd.

Mehrزد led Iran to an eighth Paralympic men's sitting volleyball gold, leading his team in points in the gold medal match against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Goalball coach Doosti dissatisfied with result in Paralympics

TEHRAN – Iran's men's goalball team head coach Bahman Doosti Vala is unhappy with his team's fifth place in the 2024 Paralympic Games.

Doosti Vala had previously said they would return to the country with a medal but failed to advance to semifinals after losing to eventual runners-up Ukraine.

"I am satisfied with our performance but not with our result. In the match against Ukraine, we played well but one of our players showed a poor performance and his mistakes cost us medal," Doosti Vala said in an interview with Tehran Times.

"We could have won a medal if we had qualified for the semifinals but as I told you our player's blunder prevented us from the podium. Team Melli were well-prepared for the Games and I believe that we did good job in Paris and I am satisfied with the way my team played," he added.

"Also, I think the atmosphere of the Games was a reason to impact our players. They would compete in the noisy field for the first time and their performance were affected by large number of the spectators attending the matches," Doosti Vala concluded.

Foolad edge Havadar: IPL

TEHRAN – Foolad football team edged past Havadar 1-0 in Matchweek 5 of 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL) on Saturday.

Moussa Coulibaly scored the solitary goal of the match in the 40th minute.

Esteghlal Khuzestan and Chadormalu shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw.

Aram Abbasi scored for Esteghlal Khuzestan and Silva equalized the match.

Azmoun nets brace as Shabab Al Ahli defeat Al Wahda

TEHRAN – Shabab Al Ahli football team defeated Al Wahda 5-4 in Matchweek 3 of UAE Pro League on Sunday.

Omar Khribin scored an early goal for Al Wahda in the third minute at the Al-Rashid Stadium but Sardar Azmoun leveled the score four minutes later.

Yuri Cesar was on target for the host in the 13th minute but Khribin canceled out his goal in the 33rd minute.

Azmoun completed his brace before the break to give Shabab Al Ahli 3-0 lead.

With nine minutes remaining, Syrian forward Khribin made his hat-trick but two goals from Mu'nas Dabbur made the scoreboard 5-3 in the last minutes of the match.

Lucas Pimenta pulled a goal back in the dying moments of the match.

Shabab Al Ahli moved up to second place in the table while Al Wahda remained in fifth place.

World's patience wears thin as Israeli strikes in region peaks: IRGC commander

TEHRAN – General Mohammad Reza Naqdi, Deputy Coordinator of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), has emphasized that the patience of nations has reached its limit in light of Israel's recent missile strikes against occupied territories and Lebanon.

Naqdi made the remarks during a visit to Bandar Abbas on Sunday, coinciding with the Sacred Defense Week which marks the anniversary of the beginning of Iran-Iraq War.

He noted that people around the world have come to understand the importance of resisting oppression and refusing to be subjugated by aggressors, a point that as the Iranian commander remarked, was inspired by Iran's own defensive initiatives during the eight years of Iran-Iraq War.

Naqdi highlighted the growing movement of Resistance, stating, "The message from the Iranian people has reached the occupied territories, Lebanon, and Palestine, galvanizing Jordanian youth to take

up arms against their oppressors.

Many are even willing to sacrifice their lives as martyrs for the cause." He underscored that this spirit of resilience extends to students at universities in the United States, showing a unified front against the ongoing injustice.

He further expressed hope that the second fundamental message of the Sacred Defense, which he described as "unity," would resonate among all freedom-seekers in the Islamic community.

"It's time for us to unite and finish the job together," he urged, stressing that nations can no longer tolerate the actions of the Israeli regime, which as he noted, "has left no alternative but complete eradication."

General Naqdi also reflected on the consequences of Israel's military actions, asserting that each attack on Resistance movements ultimately backfires, dismantling the very foundations of the



oppressor's power.

He warned that the ongoing brutal actions of the Zionist regime would ultimately lead to its own destruction, framing the IRGC's response as a decisive shift that transcends traditional notions of retaliation.

Since October 7 of last year, Israeli strikes in the occupied territories have killed 41,431 Palestinians, the Health Ministry in the enclave reported on Sunday.

A ministry statement added that a total of 95,818 people has been

injured in Israeli attacks since last October.

Additionally, Israel carried out a terrorist attack on a residential building in a heavily populated area in Beirut during rush hour on Friday, which resulted in the killing of at least 45 individuals.

Friday's air attack on the densely populated area followed explosions of thousands of communication devices in Lebanon on Tuesday and Wednesday, which was also blamed on Israel and killed at least 39 people while wounding close to 3,000 others.

Former IRGC chief says Resistance Front on verge of major victory

TEHRAN – Major General Mohsen Rezaei, former chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) and current secretary of Iran's Expediency Council, stated that Iran and the broader Resistance Front are "on the verge of a great victory" that could lead to the expulsion of the United States and its allies from the West Asia region.

Rezaei made these remarks during a news conference held in Lorestan on Sunday, coinciding with Sacred Defense Week, a commemoration of Iran's resistance during the eight-year Iran-Iraq War.

Rezaei highlighted that Iran is entering a new era, drawing upon the lessons of the Sacred Defense era against Iraq's Ba'athist regime. "This victory will be significant because West Asia will be liberated from the clutches of Western powers," he declared, suggesting that Western influence in the region is nearing its end.

During his remarks, Rezaei emphasized that Iran has consistently sought to avoid war, but

cited provocative actions by the Israeli regime, such as the assassination of a high-ranking Iranian guest in Tehran, as acts that demand a response.

He warned that while Iran remains resistant to foreign aggression, it must be vigilant in the face of attempts by external powers to draw the nation into armed conflict.

Rezaei also spoke on the broader geopolitical landscape, accusing the United States and Israel of trying to provoke a regional war by targeting Iran through their actions in Lebanon. He stressed that Iran, along with its allies in the Resistance Front, would not allow Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to move unchallenged in the region.

In a separate message posted on his social media account on X (formerly Twitter), Rezaei commented on the strength of the Lebanese Hezbollah, stating that the group's manpower is "almost inexhaustible."

His remarks came after Hezbollah

launched an attack on the Rafael weapons manufacturing facility in Haifa, Israel, in what was described as an "initial response" to recent Israeli military actions in Lebanon.

"Hezbollah is a model of innovation and resilience. The depth of its manpower will not be exhausted for the next hundred years," Rezaei said, praising the group's ability to withstand Israeli military pressure over decades.

Hezbollah said that it targeted Israeli military industry complexes north of Haifa with rockets, including Fadi 1, Fadi 2, and Katyusha models. The group stated that the attack is both a gesture of solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza and a response to Israeli strikes in Lebanon, which resulted in the deaths of 42 people and left thousands injured due to explosive devices targeting telecommunications infrastructure.

Hezbollah has vowed continued retaliation, particularly as Israel's military operations intensify in both Gaza and Lebanon.

GECF secretary general writes appreciation letter to Iranian oil minister



GECF Secretary General Mohamed Hamel (R) and Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad are seen in a meeting in Tehran on September 10.

TEHRAN - Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) Mohamed Hamel, who visited Tehran earlier this month to discuss and coordinate holding the 26th Ministerial Meeting of the forum in late October, has written a letter to Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad thanking him for his hospitality.

As Shana reported, in his letter, Hamel thanked Paknejad for holding coordination meetings for the upcoming GECF meeting in Tehran.

Mohamed Hamel paid a visit to Iran on September 10 and met with Iranian Oil Minister to discuss the preparations for the 26th GECF Ministerial Meeting.

During that meeting, Paknejad said Iran is one of the main founders of the GECF forum, adding "We consider the hosting of the 26th Ministerial Meeting in Tehran at the start of the 14th administration office as positive."

"Just as the first Ministerial Meeting of the forum was held in Tehran in 2001 and brought positive outcomes for the members, it is expected that this meeting will also yield valuable collective achievements with the maximum participation of the members," he added.

Paknejad also said Iran can be a suitable gateway and crossroad for energy trade and transit in the region, given its geopolitical position.

ICCIMA calls for enforcing law on business environment improvement

TEHRAN - Mohammad Reza Ramezani, the Deputy head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) for Legal Affairs has called for the full implementation of the law on continuous improvement of the business environment.

Pointing to the fact that the mentioned law was approved in 2010 and hasn't been fully implemented yet, the official called for its implementation especially with regard to supplying electricity and gas to industries, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Speaking in a meeting between the private sector representatives of Fars Province with the members of the Parliament Economic Committee on Sunday, Ramezani said: "This issue is one of the important concerns of economic operators, and steps must be taken to resolve it."

"One of the articles included in this law is Article 25, which emphasizes that cutting off electricity and gas in production units should not be considered during peak consumption periods, while today this issue has been reversed and we are witnessing the cutting of electricity in production units," he said.

Emphasizing the need for the participation of the members of provincial chambers of commerce in expressing their opinions about the parliament plans and bills, he said: "We will send these plans and bills to all provincial chambers of commerce when they are announced in the parliament, and economic operators are expected to provide their opinions about them to the Iran chamber of commerce so that the submitted opinions will be provided to the relevant committees of the parliament after summarizing."

Iran's Business Environment Index which was 6.04 last winter (Dec. 22, 2023-March 19, 2024) stood the same in the spring of the current year (March 20-June 20), according to a recent report published by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

The index calculated by ICCIMA seeks to measure the business friendliness of Iran's

Elsewhere in his remarks, the oil minister said: "Considering the geopolitical situation of the world and the specific conditions of global gas markets, especially during energy crises, special support should be given to the GECF Secretariat, so that this forum can play a prominent role in stabilizing global energy security through the comprehensive participation and cooperation of its members."

Referring to the GECF's specialized reports, such as the gas market outlook, and its important place in depicting an outlook of the gas market, the minister stated: "Given its geopolitical position, Iran can play the role of a crossroad for energy trade and transit in the region."

Paknejad further emphasized that the role of natural gas is crucial not only for energy security but also for advancing global climate policies, especially during the transition to clean energy noting that the GECF Secretariat, in coordination with the OPEC Secretariat, can effectively participate in the meetings and negotiations of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 29) which is planned to be held in Azerbaijan Republic.

Expressing gratitude for the efforts of the GECF Secretariat in recent years, he continued: "Among these initiatives is the establishment of the Gas Research Institute (GRI), which can provide a significant foundation for member countries to cooperate in the fields of technology, education, and human resources."

"I hope the collaboration between the GECF Secretariat and Iran's Research Institute of Petroleum Industry will progress, and research cooperation will take place in emerging areas such as hydrogen, artificial intelligence, and other contemporary issues," Paknejad emphasized.

"We have made great efforts so that the Ministerial Meeting of GECF in Tehran will be effective and fruitful," he said.

economy, with 10 indicating the worst grade. The lower the figure, the better the business environment.

Economic operators who took part in the ICCIMA survey believe that difficulties in getting banking facilities, unpredictability and price changes of raw materials and products, and instability of policies and regulations were the main stumbling blocks in the way of their business.

Iran's National Business Environment Index is fashioned after the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business" index.

Iran Chamber also measures the index for each of the 31 Iranian provinces. The provinces of Markazi, Khuzestan, and Hamedan had the best scores while Hormozgan, Kordestan, and Fars had the worst scores.

In early August, the 103rd meeting of the dialogue council of the government and the Tehran Province's private sector was held at the place of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), in which ways of improving the business environment and the challenges and solutions in this regard were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Governor-General of Tehran Province Alireza Fakhari and TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi Arab, as well as some MPs and the representatives of the province's private sector.

During the gathering, the government and private sector representatives also discussed some restrictions imposed on the activities of business persons, and described such restrictions as disrupting production and trade.

Speaking at the meeting, Fakhari emphasized on accelerating the processes of improving the business environment, and added: "What is clear and obvious is that we do not lack laws and regulations in the country, but the law enforcers do not perform their duties properly and we are faced with negligence in the executive bodies that enforce the laws, and this issue must be corrected."

Transit via Iran's roads rises 73% in 5 months yr/yr



From page 1 ▶ As stated by the former Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, the "Iran Way" initiative made by the current Iranian government, lets the neighboring countries use Iran as a route or a solution that facilitates their access to international waters.

Iran Way initiative is the gateway to Iran's land of transit opportunities, the minister has underlined.

As previously announced by the Transport Ministry, 10.8 million tons of commodities were transited through the country in the Iranian calendar year 1401

(ended on March 20, 2023).

Iran is one of the countries with a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special

geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a

significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

Paying attention to upstream documents, especially the country's development plans, and the government's decision to develop transit, paying special attention to infrastructure development, reducing transit time, making it cheaper to cross Iran, and making more advantages over competitors, due to the short path for customers, can lead to facilitating the development of transit so that the country can reach the desired growth in this due.

Sponge iron production up 11.6% in 5 months on year

TEHRAN- Production of sponge iron in Iran rose by 11.6 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the data released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

The ISPA reported that 17.506 million tons of sponge iron was produced in the country during the five-month period of this year, while the figure was 15.693 million tons in the same time span of the past year.

Direct reduced iron (DRI), also called sponge iron, is produced from the direct reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps, pellets, or fines) into iron by reducing gas or elemental carbon produced from natural

gas or coal. Many ores are suitable for direct reduction.

While Iran is fighting the U.S. severe sanctions on its economy, and the country's different industrial and economic sectors have been affected by the limitations and difficulties caused by the sanctions condition, the country's mining sector is moving forward noticeably, overcoming such barriers.

Among the mining sector's different products, sponge iron is an outstanding example, as the production of this item is rising more and more in the country.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has stated that one of the most



important reasons for the increase in sponge iron production in Iran is the establishment of new sponge iron plants, adding that in recent years, with its new strategy and with the participation of the private sector, the organization has been able to launch several projects to produce sponge iron.

Tavanir calls for policy package to support developing renewables

TEHRAN - The optimization projects manager of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has said the country needs a policy package in which all issues such as currency supply, imports, licenses, measures to support investors, etc. have been seen in order to develop renewables.

"If the government has come to the conclusion that renewables should have a proper share in the country's energy portfolio as one of the most important solutions to resolve the energy imbalance, then a specific policy package should be developed not only in the Ministry of Energy but also in a general and supra-institutional way," Mehr News Agency quoted Masoud Khani as saying.

Currently, the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) has solved many problems through inking memorandums of understanding with various institutions, but the most important problem in this industry is financing, which must be seriously resolved, Khani said.

Underlining the need for the allocation of subsidized foreign currency for the import of parts needed for the development of renewable projects, he said: "In solar power plants, the production of the panels is currently done in the country, but inverters must be provided through imports, which requires the allocation of foreign currency and facilitating the order registration by the Industry Ministry."

Based on the Energy Ministry data, renewables, currently, account for nearly seven percent

of the country's total electricity generation capacity.

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

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

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

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

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

The electricity generated by renewable sources also increased by 28 percent in the third Iranian calendar month of Khordad

(ended on June 20) compared to the same month last year.

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

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

In late July, SATBA Head Mahmoud Kamani said 600 renewable power plants with a total capacity of 13,500 megawatts (MW) are under construction across the country and with these power plants going operational the share of renewables in Iran's power generation will reach 15 percent.

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

The members of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Energy Committee have called for attracting foreign investment to develop the country's renewable power plants.

During a meeting held in early July, the members of the mentioned committee emphasized that it is possible to use the capacities of foreign investors with proper planning to develop the country's renewable sector, the ICCIMA portal reported.

"We must prepare a development roadmap for the country's renewable energy industry [and to this end] we need

joint investment," a committee member said in the meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hemmati calls on ministries to help fund private sector projects

TEHRAN - Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Abdolnasser Hemmati has written a letter to five other ministers asking them to help fund private sector projects, Tasnim News Agency reported.

In his letter, Hemmati said his ministry is ready to provide

government guarantees for private sector economic projects to facilitate production and realize the slogan of the year.

As reported, the mentioned letter has been sent to the ministries of energy, oil, industry, transport, and labor.

Iran 80% self-sufficient in bag production raw materials

TEHRAN - Head of the Tehran Leather Producers Union Mahmoud Mousavi says Iran is self-sufficient in producing 80 percent of the raw materials needed in producing different kinds of bags, IRIB reported.

"80 percent of the raw materials for bag production, including artificial leather and fittings, and

zippers, are produced in domestic factories, and 20 percent is imported," Mousavi said.

"Many producers of this industry are trying to improve the quality and quantity of their products by importing new industrial machines from China and Italy and establishing new factories," the official added.

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Hezbollah has announced it has targeted the Ramat David Airbase and other sensitive sites in the northern Israeli city of Haifa.

The Lebanese resistance movement said it fired dozens of missiles at the Ramat David Airbase as part of its initial retaliation after the Israeli massacre against Lebanese civilians on Tuesday and Wednesday. The same airbase was attacked for a second time on Sunday.

Hezbollah also shelled the Israeli Rafael Advanced Defense Systems military-industrial complex, using Fadi-1, Fadi-2, and Katyusha rocket weapons.

The industrial complex specializes in the production of electronic warfare and related equipment and is located in the Zvulun Valley in northern Haifa.

The Lebanese resistance targeted the Ramat David Airbase and the Rafael Advanced Defense Systems in three operations with rocket barrages.

On Sunday morning, the Israel Occupation Forces (IOF) said that the Lebanese armed group had launched 115 "aerial targets" at areas in northern Israel in the space of a few hours.

The IOF acknowledged that some of the missiles landed near Haifa, evading Israeli missile interceptor systems.

Furthermore, Israeli media reported that around 30 rockets were launched at Krayot since early Sunday morning.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Tel Aviv waged brutal massacres detonating thousands of wireless communication devices across the Lebanese territory.



The rocket barrage also came after an Israeli raid on the Lebanese capital Beirut that flattened two eight-story residential buildings on Friday, killing dozens of people and injuring scores of others.

In its latest update, Lebanon's health ministry said a total of 37 people had been killed in at least two Israeli airstrikes in the southern suburbs of Beirut on Friday, including seven women and three children.

Among those killed were also senior Hezbollah commanders Ibrahim Akil and Ahmed Wahbi.

The Israeli military and Hezbollah have been trading fire since the outbreak of the U.S.-backed Israeli genocidal war in Gaza nearly a year ago, when the Lebanese resistance began firing rockets in solidarity with the Palestinians people and resistance in Gaza.

Hezbollah has vowed to continue supporting Gaza no matter "what the cost".

After raining down missiles on Haifa, the movement issued a statement that said:

"In support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in support of their valiant and honorable resistance, and in an initial response to the brutal massacre committed by the Israeli enemy in various Lebanese regions on Tuesday and Wednesday (the massacre following detonation of pager and wireless devices), the Islamic

Resistance bombed the military industrial complexes of the Rafael Company, which specializes in electronic devices and equipment, located in the Zvulun area north of Haifa, with dozens of Fadi 1, Fadi 2, and Katyusha missiles, at 6:30 am on Sunday morning, September 22, 2024."

According to Hebrew-language media, more than one million people came under Hezbollah fire on Saturday night and Sunday.

A settler from Kiryat Bialik, north of Haifa, told Maariv: "We have never seen anything like this before, not even in 2006. We all assumed that there would be a response from Hezbollah, but we did not think it would be this strong, especially when there is Iron Dome, which is supposed to protect us."

Hezbollah strikes deep into Israel by targeting new bases for the first time with missiles.

A second statement was also issued later in the day that said:

"In support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in support of their valiant and honorable resistance, and in an initial response to the brutal massacre committed by the Israeli enemy in various Lebanese regions on Tuesday and Wednesday (the massacre following detonation of pager and wireless devices), the Islamic

The industrial complex targeted by Hezbollah was involved in the production of electronic warfare and related equipment.

Also on Sunday, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq issued multiple statements announcing that it had struck Haifa as well southern Israel in solidarity with Gaza.

Inferno of frustration: Fury sweeps Israel as captive crisis deepens

From page 1 ▶ More than 1,100 Israelis and foreigners were killed in the Hamas operation and around 250 others were taken captive.

The ensuing Israeli war of genocide on Gaza has also claimed the lives of more than 41,300 Palestinians.

Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until achieving "total victory" over Hamas and destroying the resistance group. However, Israeli officials have acknowledged that the objectives set by the prime minister will remain unattainable.

Israeli war minister Yoav Gallant has dismissed Netanyahu's "total victory" slogan as "gibberish".

Netanyahu, known as Bibi, has asserted that military operations are the only means to create the conditions necessary for the release of captives in Gaza.

But Israel was only able to release more than 100 captives through a swap deal with Hamas in November last year.

It is believed that about 100 captives remain in Gaza, including the bodies of at least 33 confirmed dead by the Israeli army.

The army has recovered the bodies of 37 captives who were killed during the regime's attacks in Gaza. It has also freed eight other captives following deadly raids in Gaza.

Israel's ongoing war on the enclave comes as the regime has intensified its attacks against Lebanon under the pretext of targeting the positions of the Hezbollah resistance group.

Einav Zangauker, whose son is held cap-

tive in Gaza, said during the Saturday rallies that Netanyahu has faced with the choice of agreeing to a deal for the return of the captives or escalating the fighting with Hezbollah. Zangauker added that the premier has chosen "regional escalation, and decided to sacrifice the hostages on the altar of keeping his seat."

Israeli protesters are fed up with army's inability to secure the release of captives held in Gaza.

Another protester also accused far-right ministers in the Netanyahu coalition of intentionally preventing a deal with Hamas. "Throughout the year there were opportunities for a deal, and you [the Netanyahu cabinet] didn't take them."

Clashes erupted during the protests and police made arrests.

In Caesarea, protesters gathered in front of Netanyahu's private residence and blocked traffic until they were forcibly dispersed by police.

Protests demanding a captive deal with Hamas have been held every Saturday night since the first weeks of the Gaza war.

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

In recent days, relatives of captives have stressed that they are increasingly pessimistic about the prospects for a deal, in part because of the shift in the focus of the war toward Lebanon.

They have realized that the Israeli army is not capable of bringing regional resistance movements to their knees. Hence, they have exerted pressure on officials to engage in dialogue with Hamas to protect the lives of the remaining captives.

But Netanyahu has remained defiant in the face of public demands to reach a ceasefire with Hamas. This is because his political survival depends on prolonging the conflict. A permanent state of war helps Netanyahu evade responsibility for his failure to prevent the Al-Aqsa Storm.

As soon as the onslaught ends, the Israeli prime minister will be held accountable for his regime's military fiasco on October 7. He is also trying to distract from his corruption charges and controversial judicial reforms which had sparked huge protests in Israel.

But in the eyes of Western countries including the US, Israel's survival is a priority. Another person may succeed Netanyahu, but such a replacement will not improve the circumstances of Palestinians who have endured the Israeli system of apartheid for decades. This is because the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians is inherently linked to the fundamental characteristics of Israelis, regardless of their political affiliations.

Sri Lanka picks Marxist-leaning Dissanayake as president to fix economy

Sri Lanka elected Marxist-leaning Anura Kumara Disanayake as its new president on Sunday, putting faith in the 55-year-old's pledge to fight corruption and bolster a fragile economic recovery following its worst financial crisis in decades.

Disanayake, who does not possess political lineage like some of his rivals in the presidential election, led from start to finish during the counting of ballots, knocking out

incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe and opposition leader Sajith Premadasa to become Sri Lanka's 10th president.

The election was also a referendum on Wickremesinghe, who led the heavily indebted nation's fragile economic recovery from a meltdown in 2022 but the austerity measures that were key to this recovery hindered his bid to return to office. He finished third with 17% of the vote.

Disanayake polled 5.6 million or 42.3% of the votes, a massive boost to the 3% he managed in the last presidential election in 2019. Premadasa was second at 32.8% after the first round of counting of ballots on Sunday.

It was the first time in Sri Lanka's history that the presidential race was decided by a second round of counting after the top two candidates failed to win the mandatory 50% of votes to be declared winner.

Hezbollah: Resistance movement in 'new phase' of battle with Israel

Hezbollah deputy chief Naim Qassem said on Sunday that the Lebanese resistance movement was in a "new phase" in its battle against Israel.

"We have entered a new phase, namely an open reckoning" with Israel, Qassem said at the funeral ceremony of a senior Hezbollah commander killed in an Israeli strike on Friday, Middle East Eye reported.

"Threats will not stop us... We are ready to face all military possibilities," he said, in the first comments from a senior Hezbollah official since the strike on Beirut's southern

suburbs killed Ibrahim Aqil, the head of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force.

Dozens of people including at least 16 Hezbollah members were killed in the strike.

Qassem said Hezbollah attacks on Israeli military production facilities and an air base near northern Israel's Haifa on Sunday were part of the new "open reckoning".

He repeated that only a ceasefire in Gaza would put a stop to Hezbollah's cross-border attacks, warning that "the Israeli military solution increases the dilemma for Israel and the residents of the north" of Israel.

Yemen's Ansarullah warns that Israel will face more 'painful strikes'

The defense minister of Yemen's Ansarullah said the group is prepared to launch many more missiles, including hypersonic ballistic missiles and explosive-laden drones, that they have used before to target Israel in support of Palestinians.

"Just as we knocked on the doors of occupied Jaffa and Umm al-Rashrash, we will continue to destroy the Zionists' dens," Mohamed

Nasser al-Atifi said in a statement in reference to previous attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa, Al Jazeera reported.

"We are working to continue directing painful strikes deep inside the Zionist enemy forces," he said. "We are living in a phase of open, sensitive and long-term war, and we are taking all possibilities of confrontation into consideration."

Israel closes Al Jazeera bureau in Ramallah

On live television, heavily armed Israeli soldiers raided Al Jazeera's occupied West Bank bureau in Ramallah at the weekend and handed the bureau head, Walid al-Omari, a notice to shut it down.

The soldiers ordered everyone working the overnight shift at the bureau to leave, telling them they could take only their personal belongings.

The order came from the Israeli military authority despite the bureau being in Area A, an area delineated as being under Palestinian control in the Oslo Accords.

This is not the first time Israel has undertaken actions in the Oslo Accords-defined

Area A, where Ramallah is and where the Palestinian Authority (PA) has its seat.

One year ago, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland reported that, just between June and September last year, there had been many Palestinian casualties caused by Israeli operations in Area A.

Regardless of legal jurisdiction, Israel has acted with impunity across the occupied West Bank.

Israel has often targeted Al Jazeera and its journalists, at times going as far as killing them - as it did Shireen Abu Akleh, Samer Abudaqa, Ismail al-Ghoul and Rami al-Rifi.

Are electronic devices becoming time bombs?

From page 1 ▶ "The components are low-end IC (integrated circuits) and batteries, I can say with certainty they were not made in Taiwan," Economy Minister Kuo Jyh-huei said.

A Japanese company which apparently makes the walkie-talkies said it stopped producing that model 10 years ago.

Citing US officials, the New York Times said that the pagers received messages that appeared to be coming from Hezbollah's leadership before detonating. The messages instead appeared to trigger the devices, the outlet reported.

The walkie-talkies that were blown up on Wednesday were devices that were purchased by Hezbollah five months ago, according to a security source speaking to Reuters.

At least one explosion was close to a funeral being held in Beirut for some of the victims of Tuesday's attack, creating panic among those near the procession. This move by Israel reminds one about terrorist groups who detonate bombs among mourners who are burying their love

Details about the walkie-talkies detonated in Wednesday's explosions are still coming to light.

Footage shot in the aftermath showed destroyed devices bearing the brand Icom, a Japanese company. A statement from the firm describes the IC-V82 model as a handheld radio which was exported to the Middle East from 2004 to 2014 and has not been shipped since then.

Icom said production on that model stopped 10 years ago. The manufacturing of the batteries has also stopped, it says.

The company says it is not possible to confirm whether the IC-V82s that exploded in the Wednesday attacks were shipped directly from Icom, or via a distributor. It said

any products for overseas markets were sold only to the firm's authorised distributors.

But the models may not even be from Icom.

Earlier, a sales executive at the US subsidiary of Icom told AP news agency that the devices which exploded in Lebanon appeared to be a knock-off product - adding it was easy to find counterfeit versions of the product online.

The pagers that exploded on Tuesday were a new brand that Hezbollah had not used before, a Hezbollah member told AP. A Lebanese security official told Reuters that around 5,000 pagers were brought into the country about five months ago.

Labels seen on fragments of exploded pagers point to a pager model called the Rugged Pager AR-924. But its Taiwanese manufacturer Gold Apollo has denied any involvement with the explosions. When the BBC visited Gold Apollo on Wednesday local police were searching the company's offices, inspecting documents and questioning staff.

The founder, Hsu Ching-Kuang, said his company had signed an agreement with a Hungarian-based company - BAC - to manufacture the devices and use his company's name. He added that money transfers from them had been "very strange", without elaborating.

BBC Verify has accessed BAC's company records, which reveal it was first incorporated in 2022.

Its CEO Cristiana Barsony-Arcidiacono told NBC that she knew nothing about the explosions. "I don't make the pagers. I am just the intermediate. I think you got it wrong," she said.

The Hungarian government said the company had "no manufacturing or operational site" in the country.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran promotes tourist destinations to Russian visitors with new guidebook

TEHRAN - Mohammad-Amin Tavakolizade, the deputy mayor of Tehran for social and cultural affairs, has highlighted the potential for expanded tourism ties between Iran and Russia during a meeting with Moscow's deputy mayor and BRICS tourism committee officials.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, where Tavakolizade also presented a Russian-language book promoting Tehran's tourist attractions to Russian counterparts, ILNA reported on Friday.

Speaking with Russian journalists, Tavakolizade praised BRICS as a successful initiative led by the Russian Federation, emphasizing its role in fostering global diplomatic interactions.

He noted that BRICS demonstrates how international cooperation can transcend restrictions or sanctions, expanding opportunities for collaboration across various sectors.

Reflecting on the outcomes of Iran's participation in the BRICS summit, Tavakolizade underscored the importance of shared interests between Iran and Russia. "We have deepened our understanding of one another's strengths and areas for cooperation, laying a foundation for future joint ventures that will benefit both nations," he stated.

During a special session on tourism, officials from both countries discussed increasing collaboration between Iranian and Russian travel

agencies to encourage mutual tourism.

Tavakolizade introduced a newly published book, written in Russian, that highlights Tehran's rich cultural and historical sites, and presented it to the Russian delegation. "We hope this book will inspire more Russian tourists to visit Tehran's attractions," he said.

The deputy mayor also expressed hopes that a Russian delegation would visit Tehran soon for further discussions on tourism development.

In addition to promoting Tehran as a tourist destination, Tavakolizade spoke about Iran's vast cultural and historical heritage, describing it as "an ancient country with a rich history, ancient monuments, and diverse natural landscapes."

He stressed that with proper promotion, Iran's attractions would be warmly welcomed by Russian citizens and intellectuals.

Tavakolizade also highlighted the significance of cultural exchanges between the two nations, noting plans to hold cultural weeks in both Tehran and Moscow, showcasing the art, history, and notable figures of both countries. He emphasized that these initiatives, which focus on family and cultural values, have been well received by both sides and are set to be implemented.

Kondazi village near Persepolis undergoes restoration



TEHRAN - The historical village of Kondazi, located a few kilometers away from the UNESCO-listed Persepolis, is currently undergoing a restoration project aimed at preserving its traditional architecture and cultural heritage.

The initiative, led by the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of Fars province, focuses on revitalizing the facades of the village's historic structures.

Mohammad Sabet Eqlidi, the provincial tourism director, announced the project's launch on Sunday, saying: "Kondazi is one of the region's tourism-focused villages, drawing visitors interested in its historical, natural, and cultural attractions."

"The preservation of the village's traditional layout, natural surroundings, and geographical features are key to its tourism potential," the official added.

The restoration project, which will be completed within two and a half months, is aimed to safeguard the integrity of the village, with its

mud-brick and stone buildings, wooden doors and windows, and unique hillside architecture surrounded by terraced gardens, he explained.

Kondazi, situated about 95 kilometers from Shiraz, is set in a mountainous region within a small, uneven plain. The village's remote location and difficult-to-access roads have helped preserve its untouched natural beauty and traditional lifestyle.

Some tour guides say its steep, narrow streets, sometimes covered with vaulted roofs, along with wooden-beamed ceilings and mud-plastered rooftops, provide a stunning example of the deep connection between human settlement and nature.

The village, believed by locals to have served as a resting place for Persian kings in ancient times, is home to various historical and natural attractions, including old watermills, an ancient burial ground, fruit orchards, and mysterious caves once used by village guards and hunters.

Significance of Marvdasht plain

Marvdasht plain, where Kondazi is located, is a region of immense archaeological significance. It is home to some of the most renowned UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the ancient ceremonial capital of Persepolis and the historic site of Pasargadae, the resting place of Cyrus the Great. Other notable sites such as Naqsh-e Rostam, with its ancient rock reliefs and royal tombs, add to the region's prestige.

Bam-e Tehran, a panoramic escape for travelers exploring the capital

TEHRAN - For travelers visiting Tehran and seeking a break from the city's hustle and bustle, Bam-e Tehran (Tehran's Roof) offers a peaceful and refreshing retreat with stunning panoramic views of the metropolis.

Located at the base of the Alborz Mountains, this elevated spot in northern Tehran is part of the Tochal Complex and serves as a popular destination for both locals and tourists looking to enjoy nature, outdoor activities, and breathtaking vistas.

The journey to Bam-e Tehran begins on Velenjak Street, where visitors can either walk along the scenic "Health Road" or opt for electric vehicles if they prefer not to hike.

The path is lined with cafes, waterfalls, and recreational spots, offering a leisurely introduction to



the area. As travelers ascend, they are greeted with a sweeping view of the capital, framed by the surrounding hills and valleys.

Bam-e Tehran offers a range of activities for adventure seekers and leisure visitors alike. For those

looking for excitement, options include zip-lining over the hillside, bungee jumping, rock climbing, and sledding on Iran's longest sled railway. There is also a trampoline court and a bag-jumping platform for adrenaline enthusiasts. The complex's bungee-jumping

and bag-jumping experiences are particularly popular among thrill-seekers who want to challenge their acrophobia.

For those seeking less intense activities, Bam-e Tehran has a 5D cinema, where visitors can enjoy immersive simulation films, among many other amusements.

A year-round destination

Whether visiting in the warmer months or during the winter season, Bam-e Tehran offers year-round appeal.

In winter, the Tochal Complex is known for its ski resort, making it a perfect winter destination for skiing enthusiasts. The cooler months also bring a fresh, crisp air that contrasts with the heat of Tehran's city center, providing a welcome escape.

Untapped potential of war tourism in Kermanshah province

TEHRAN - Kermanshah province, located on the border with Iraq and a significant battleground during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War, remains a lesser-known destination for war tourism despite its rich historical and cultural significance.

While most people associate tourism with relaxation and visits to cultural sites, war tourism—classified as a form of "dark tourism"—offers a unique opportunity for future generations to connect with the historical impacts of war.

Despite the growth of tourism in recent years, this sector, particularly war tourism, has yet to be fully developed in Kermanshah, a province that played a central role during the eight-year conflict, which is better known as Sacred Defense in Iran.

The province's strategic location and historical significance, combined with changing landscapes, make it a prime candidate for developing this niche tourism market.

According to a recent report by IRNA, Kermanshah has not fully embraced this opportunity, even though it holds significant potential for economic and cultural development.

Kermanshah, which shares a long border with Iraq, was a frontline region during the Iraqi-imposed war, witnessing numerous battles and acts of bravery by its Kurdish men and women.

These heroic events have left a lasting mark on the province, offering ample material for war-related tourism. Monuments and battlefield sites from wartime are scattered throughout the province, and these can be integrated into war tourism packages, the report added.

Additionally, Kermanshah's historical sites, such as the UNESCO-listed Bisotun, Taq-e Bostan, and the Temple of Anahita, provide further opportunities for a combined cultural and war tourism experience.

The province's diverse landscape, enriched by a mix of ethnicities, languages, and cultures, adds to its unique appeal as a multifaceted tourism destination.

War tourism can be a vital driver of economic growth in regions like Kermanshah, particularly in border towns such as Qasr-e Shirin and Gilan-e Gharb. These areas have long relied on agriculture, but persistent drought, poor soil fertility, dust storms, and weak infrastructure have hindered their economic growth.

As Dr. Ruhollah Fallahi-Gilan, a sociologist and university professor, noted in a recent interview with IRNA, the economy of these cities remains fragile, and the introduction of war tourism could play a critical role in empowering local communities and promoting sustainable development.

Fallahi-Gilan emphasized the importance of leveraging the region's wartime heritage, which includes battlefield sites, memorials, and stories of local heroes.

"Proper management and promotion of these sites could attract both domestic and international tourists, creating new economic opportunities for the region," the expert said.

A missed opportunity for Iran

Despite the high potential for war tourism, Iran has yet to fully exploit this opportunity due to inadequate planning, weak strategy development, and lack of entrepreneurship in this sector.

While many countries with a history of conflict—such as Russia, France, and Vietnam—have successfully tapped into the war tourism market, Iran's efforts remain limited, the report said.

Boundaries set for 5000-year-old hill in western Iran after Chalcolithic and Parthian remains found

TEHRAN - Archaeologists have proposed legal boundaries of Tape Bor in western Iran after discovering evidence from the Chalcolithic period, the 2nd millennium BC, and the Parthian era.

The site, situated in Javanrud county of Kermanshah province, was under threat from local construction, ISNA reported.

Tape Bor was first identified in 2005 by Dr. Yaghoob Mohammadi-far, a prominent Iranian archaeologist. It then was added to Iran's National Heritage List in early 2024 under registration number

3408, local residents have consistently requested permits for construction near the hill.

Due to these demands, cultural heritage officials launched a research project in the summer of 2024 to establish the hill's legal boundaries.

According to the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Institute, this fieldwork has concluded, and a protection plan for the site has been proposed.

Farhad Fattahi, head of the Tape Bor archaeological team, said that

23 test trenches were excavated, which helped define the site's boundaries and suggest appropriate protections.

Fattahi emphasized that pottery fragments from the site indicate the earliest human settlement at Tape Bor dates back to the Chalcolithic era, along with significant findings from the 2nd millennium BC and the Parthian period.

These discoveries highlight the historical importance of the site for regional archaeological studies, the archaeologist underlined.

He expressed hope that the completion of this project would resolve the issues faced by local villagers in obtaining construction permits while ensuring the preservation of the hill's archaeological significance.

In addition to the artifacts, the team encountered remains of architectural structures in some of the trenches. However, the quality and exact period of these structures remain undetermined, necessitating further archaeological excavation and study.

Second Announcement



Brief Notice of International Tender No.449475

It is hereby notified that Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) intends to purchase 1500 pcs. Long Ladle Shroud as per the required conditions and technical specifications through two-stage international Tender. Accordingly, all the prospective bidders are kindly requested to visit ESCO's website www.esfahansteel.ir so as to obtain the tender document and upload their techno-commercial offer to ESCO's website (through Sourcing Field) max. up to 29.09.2024 at 14:00 p.m. It is noteworthy that the opening date of technical offer will be 30.09.2024.

It is evident that this letter is only for notification purpose.

Yours Respectfully,

S.Sanaei

Commercial Senior Manager

Esfahan Steel Company

Second Announcement



Brief Notice of International Two-Stage Tender No. 371518

It is hereby notified that Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) intends to purchase Refractory Material for Tundish's FNC Mechanism as per the required conditions and technical specifications through two-stage international Tender. Accordingly, all the prospective bidders are kindly requested to visit ESCO's website www.esfahansteel.ir so as to obtain the tender document no later than 10.10.2024 and upload their techno-commercial offer to ESCO's website (through Sourcing Field) max. up to 10.10.2024 at 14:00 p.m.

It is evident that this letter is only for notification purpose.

Yours Respectfully,

S.sanaei,

CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER

Esfahan Steel Company

'Sign up for Sign Language Rights'

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN –The International Day of Sign Languages is observed annually on September 23 globally to celebrate the richness of sign language culture and highlight the preservation and promotion of the linguistic identity of all deaf people.

This year's theme "Sign up for Sign Language Rights" encourages global support for the legal recognition of national sign languages.

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed September 23 as the International Day of Sign Languages in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf.

The resolution establishing the day acknowledges that early access to sign language and services in sign language, including quality education available in sign language, is vital to the growth and development of the deaf individual and critical to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

It recognizes the importance of preserving sign languages as part of linguistic and cultural diversity. It also emphasizes the principle of "nothing about us



without us" in terms of working with Deaf communities.

Approaching the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted in December 2006, let us strive towards a better implementation of the CRPD at the national level through the linguistic human rights of deaf people.

According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are more than 70 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80 percent of them live in developing countries. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages.

Sign languages are fully fledged natural languages, structurally distinct from the

spoken languages.

There is also an international sign language, which is used by deaf people in international meetings and informally when traveling and socializing. It is considered a pidgin form of sign language that is not as complex as natural sign languages and has a limited lexicon.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes and promotes the use of sign languages.

It makes clear that sign languages are equal in status to spoken languages and obligates state parties to facilitate the learning of sign language and promote the linguistic identity of the Deaf community.

The choice of 23 September

commemorates the date that the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was established in 1951.

This day marks the birth of an advocacy organization, which has as one of its main goals, the preservation of sign languages and Deaf culture as pre-requisites to the realization of the human rights of deaf people.

The International Day of Sign Languages was first celebrated in 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf.

September 23, the International Day of Sign Languages, aims to raise awareness about the rights of deaf people.

The International Week of the Deaf was first celebrated in September 1958 and has since evolved into a global movement of Deaf unity and concerted advocacy to raise awareness of the issues deaf people face in their everyday lives.

IRCS expertise 'an added value' for BRICS: Russia's Ryabkov

TEHRAN –The extensive and acknowledged activities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) at the national and international levels can be an added value for the BRICS member states, Sergei Alexeyevich Ryabkov, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, has said.

The official has also requested the IRCS to share its knowledge and experiences with member states, the IRCS website reported.

Ryabkov made the remarks in a meeting, held on the sidelines of the fourth Eurasian Women's Forum, with Razieh Alishvandi, the IRCS director for international affairs.

Alishvandi represented Iran in the fourth forum which was held from September 18 to 20 in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Presenting a speech on the empowerment of Iranian women in the forum, the official emphasized the importance of fostering women's participation in social, economic, and political decision-making.

Referring to the successful activities and experiences of the IRCS in empowering vulnerable women and heads of households, Alishvandi said a large number of women in Iran have benefited from the IRCS training courses including first aid, relief skills, entrepreneurship, resilience in crises, and basic psychological support in Helal (community-owned Red Crescent) Houses.

"They have also been equipped with required job skills. Most of them become entrepreneurs while mastering job skills," she further noted.



Eurasian Women's Forum

The Eurasian Women's Forum is a major influential international platform that enables women leaders from all continents to engage in a dialogue and adopt joint decisions on key issues concerning international cooperation, sustainable economic development, the assimilation of new technologies, a healthy lifestyle, environmental safety, and the promotion of social charitable projects.

The main theme of the Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum was 'Women for Strengthening Trust and Global Cooperation'.

The discussions were held within several thematic platforms including Women Shaping a New Agenda for Peace and Trust; Technologies and Innovations; Women for a Healthy Society and Social Well-Being.

The event was attended by politicians, entrepreneurs, scientists, journalists, and non-profit organization members from Russian regions and more than 120 countries, including Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand,

Turkey, and Tunisia.

IFRC lauds IRCS

In September, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) project manager, Faisal Mahboob, lauded the capabilities of the IRCS as outstanding.

The official said he was really impressed by the capacity and the wide range of activities carried out by the IRCS.

"The International Federation will support the activities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society to commence a new phase of collaboration with the society," Mahboob added, the IRCS website reported.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of a meeting held to follow up on finalizing a roadmap for cooperation.

During the visit, Vincent Cassard, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran, said the activities of the ICRC in Iran have been defined in three sectors including locating missing people in the Iran-Iraq war in the 80s, supporting foreign nationals in Iran through health, rehabilitation and family reunification projects; and promoting international humanitarian law.

Considering the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region, he added that one of the committee's main activities is to establish effective interactions with the country to meet humanitarian needs and provide aid in the region.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

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

بارش‌های کشور در سه ماه پیش رو بیش از نرمال است

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

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

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

Iran prioritizes co-op with Iraq to mitigate SDSs

TEHRAN –As sand and dust storms (SDSs) hotspots in Iraq severely affect western and southwestern regions, the administration underscores cooperating with Baghdad to address the problem.

On September 15, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi in a meeting with the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, highlighted that one of the main axes of cooperation with Iraq will focus on conducting joint environmental activities as well as following up on previous agreements made in this regard, IRNA reported.

A report published by four Iranian researchers suggests that the main sources of sand and dust storms affecting Iran are emerging from Iraq, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

Titled 'Dust in Western Iran: the emergence of new sources in response to shrinking water bodies', the report written by Azar Beyranvand, Ghasem Azizi, Omid Alizadeh, and Ali Darvishi Boloorani was published by Nature on September 27, 2023.

"The most influential sources affecting Western Iran are located on the shore and northwest of Lake Tharthar, Hour-al-Azim Marsh, the shore of Razzaza, Habbaniyah Lakes, and West Hammar Marsh, which contributed to 110, 79, 59, 56, and 51 dusty days, respectively."

Indeed, the peak dust activity in Western Iran was during the period 2008–2012 in response to the substantial shrinkage of the main water bodies in Iraq.

The main sources of dust influencing Western Iran are located in northern and eastern Saudi Arabia in spring, Deir ez-Zur in Syria's Aleppo and Raqqa in summer, and Syria's Homs and Al-Hasakah in winter and spring.

Western Iran here refers to the western half of Iran, which encompasses northwest, west, and southwest Iran. To identify dust events in western Iran during the period 2000–2016, meteorological data from 33 synoptic stations were obtained from the Meteorological Organization of Iran.

About 1133.5 km2 of regions in West Asia with permanent surface water in 1984 completely dried up in 2015 and acted as potential sources of dust.

Decreased precipitation in West Asia from autumn 2007 to 2012 and the occurrence of severe droughts have also contributed to the shrinkage of lakes and wetlands, as well as the reduced agricultural productivity in West Asia, all of which contributed to the intensification of dust activity in Western Iran in recent decades.

According to the results, the main sources of dust that influence Western Iran are located in Iraq. Decreases in the surface water of lakes in Iraq have led to the emergence of some new sources of dust, which contributed to a substantial increase in dust activity in western Iran in recent years.

Taken measures

Sand and dust storm, in general, is a global crisis and most of the dust storm hotspots affecting the country are located in neighbor-

ing countries, ISNA quoted Ali-Mohammad Tahmasbi-Birgani, an official with the DOE as saying.

Holding the international conference on dealing with sand and dust storms in September last year with the presence of representatives of more than 50 countries and international agencies was our most important measure that was taken in line with the policy of environmental diplomacy, he explained.

The measure became more important when the Tehran conference's resolution was approved by the United Nations and became a global requirement for action against sand and dust storms, the official stressed.

"Special regulations for the management of sand and dust storms in emergency conditions as well as environmental considerations for the development and exploitation of mines have also been prepared."

More than 2.7 trillion rials (about \$5 million) was allocated last year to projects for combating sand and dust storms, he concluded.

The 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) which was held from February 26 to March 1 approved a resolution adopted at the international summit on dealing with sand and dust storms which was held in Tehran in September 2023.

The UNEA-6 was held at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It is the world's highest decision-making body on the environment.

A total of 180 countries attended the UNEA-6 meeting with a focus on how multilateralism can help tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, IRNA reported.

The Tehran conference was a turning point in making serious decisions for implementing sub-regional programs in West Asia and Central Asia.

Climate change with all its dimensions and consequences has caused serious challenges to life on the earth. One of the consequences of climate change, which has increased in intensity and occurrence, is the phenomenon of SDSs with severe harm to the world's biological and economic resources.

According to surveys, 150 countries are affected by SDSs, and most of these countries are located in Africa and Asia.

Two out of the seven main sources of dust production in the world are located in Asia, with the Great African Sahara being the first one.

The studies by the Islamic Republic of Iran show that the dust centers in West and Central Asia are more than 3.3 million square kilometers.



President Pezeshkian officially starts school year

On Sunday, September 22, President Masoud Pezeshkian officially started the new school year by attending a girls' school in Tehran. Some 16.5 million students will attend schools in the 2024–2025 school year.



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SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The most deserving person is he who can punish the guilty, but shows indulgence and forgiveness.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:57 Evening: 17:59 Dawn: 4:30 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:54 (tomorrow)

Iranian films to compete at Ojai film festival



A scene from "The Last Birthday" by Tehran-based Afghan director Navid Mahmudi

TEHRAN- A lineup of six Iranian films will go on screen at the different sections of the 25th edition of Ojai Film Festival, which will run in the U.S. city from October 31 to November 4.

"The Last Birthday" by Tehran-based Afghan director Navid Mahmudi will be screened at the Narrative Feature section of the festival.

A joint production of Iran and Afghanistan, the film tells the story of Soraya, a female journalist, who has been trying to spread news of the difficult situation of Afghan women to the world for years. This issue exposes her career. Taliban forces surprise Soraya and her friends once they arrest her at home on her birthday.

Iranian shorts "The Last Whinny of a Horse that Had Dreamt of Becoming a Butterfly" directed by Mahdieh Mohammadi, "The Gray, The Black" by Ashkan Sepehr and "My Beautiful Doll" by Hesam Dehghani are among the films.

In "The Last Whinny of a Horse that Had Dreamt of Becoming a Butterfly," Yalda yearns to witness wild horses in their natural habitat before her time runs out.

With unwavering dedication, her husband assists her in fulfilling this poignant final wish. This beautifully crafted narrative explores the beauty of fleeting moments and the enduring value of cherished memories, serving as a poignant reminder of life's

preciousness.

The film "The Gray, The Black" tells the story of two young café owners, Behnam and Shayan, who run a café together. Behnam aspires to be a writer, while Shayan aims to grow the café's success to support his family living in a small town. To gain fresh ideas for his stories, Behnam begins eavesdropping on the conversations of customers in the café without their permission. This ill-advised action leads to dire consequences for both him and his partner.

"My Beautiful Doll" follows the story of Rojan, a 14-year-old Kurdish girl who is forced to marry an older man on her wedding night. In a desperate bid for freedom, she makes a perilous decision that will change her life forever.

The festival will also screen "It Turns Blue" directed by Shadi Karamroudi and "Destiny" by Yasser Talebi.

"It Turns Blue" tells the story of Morteza, who beats up his 3-year-old daughter during one of her weekly visits. In an effort to manage the fallout, he turns to his older sister, Pari, for help.

Pari tends to the child's injuries and then attempts to manipulate the girl's memories, framing the traumatic incident as a harmless game with her father.

The short documentary "Destiny" depicts the life of 18-year-old Sahar, who after the death of her mother, is left in charge of her poor, mentally disabled father in an isolated village in Iran. She dreams of going to university and becoming a doctor, but must play the role of caretaker unless her father remarries.

Now in its 25th year, the Ojai Film Festival has solidified its status as one of the nation's premier destination festivals, gaining both importance and prestige along the way.

This four-day event is known for showcasing exceptional new films from both emerging and established filmmakers, playing a significant role in launching numerous careers over the past two decades.

Cartoon of Day



Children's Dreams in Gaza

Cartoonist: Ahmed Rahma from Turkey

Iran submits family drama "In the Arms of the Tree" to Oscar 2025

From Page 1 ► The nine-member panel comprised of figures in Iranian cinema including filmmakers Narges Abyar, Fereydoun Jeyrani, and Behrouz Shoeibi, actors Shabnam Moghadami and Ali Dehkordi, film producer Morteza Razzagh Karimi, scriptwriter Mehdi Sajadechi, researcher and film critic Akbar Nabavi, and managing director of Farabi Cinema Foundation Majid Zeinolabedin.

Also written by Khajeh Pasha, "In the Arms of the Tree" tells the story of Kimia and Farid, a couple married for twelve years, whose life crisis shatters their children's world, children who know nothing but simplicity and kindness in life.

The film explores themes of familial relationships and emotional reconnections between parents and children.

At the heart of the story is Kimia, a northern mother grappling with the trauma of past abuse and a debilitating fear of distance.

Her husband, Farid, an Azeri father with a passion for travel and medicinal plants, adds to the tension as the couple prepares for a separation exercise.

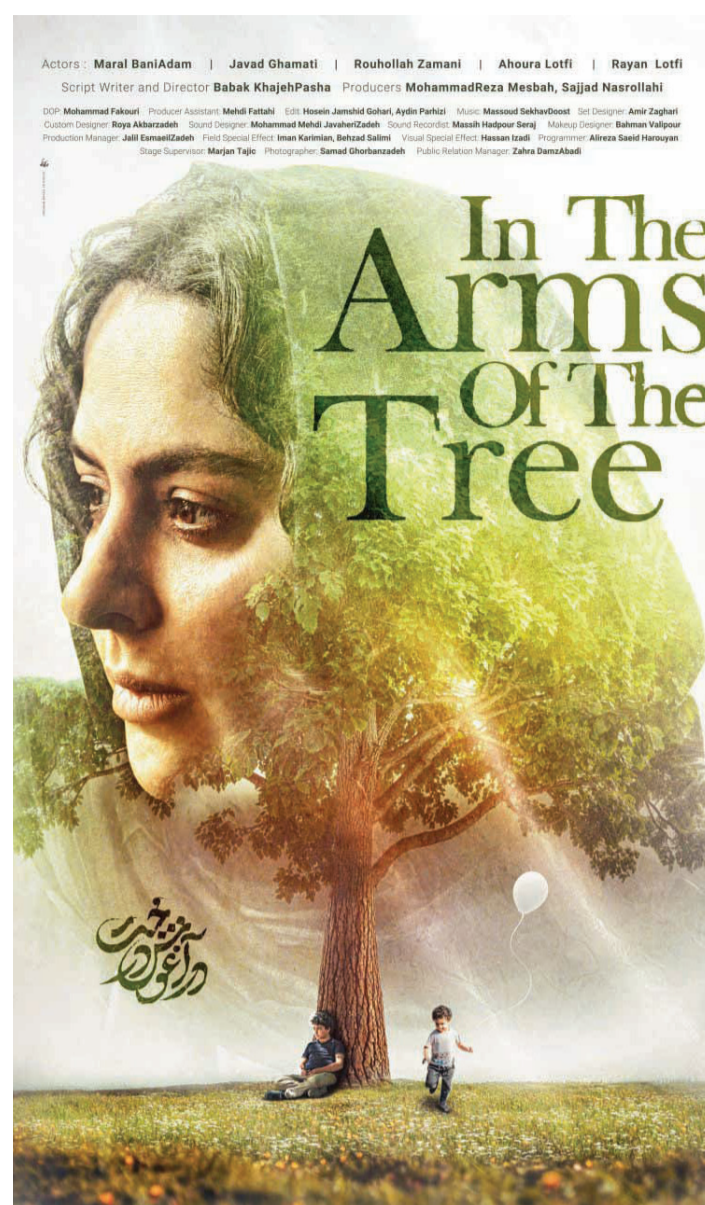
As Kimia and Farid's relationship deteriorates, their two sons, 11-year-old Taha and his five-year-old brother Alisan, become unlikely heroes in this emotional turmoil.

Taha, deeply caring and protective, is determined to shield Alisan from the fallout of their parents' crises.

The boys' strong bond and friendship serve as a beacon of hope amid the tumult, highlighting the innocence of childhood and the power of familial love in the face of adversity.

The film captures the impact of marital discord on children, illustrating how their lives can be disturbed by their parents' struggles. Ultimately, it underscores the importance of love, connection, and the delicate balance needed to preserve a family in crisis.

Maral Baniadam, Javad Ghamati, Rouhollah Zamani, Ahoura Lotfi, and Rayan Lotfi are in the cast among others.



A production of 2023, the film won two Crystal Simorgh awards for Best First Film and Best Screenplay upon its premiere at the 41st Fajr Film Festival.

Moreover, it was named the best film in the international section of the first edition of Iran's Havva International Film Festival in 2023.

The movie has been screened in several international festivals in countries such as China, Switzerland, and the UAE.

Earlier this month, "In the Arms of the Tree" opened the Kazan International Film Festival Alтын Minbar in Russia.

Entries for the 2025 Oscar for best international feature are underway. The 97th Academy Awards is set to take place on March 3, 2025 in Los Angeles.

An international feature film is defined as a feature-length

motion picture (over 40 minutes) produced outside the US with a predominantly (more than 50 percent) non-English dialogue

"In the Arms of the Tree" won two Crystal Simorgh awards for Best First Film and Best Screenplay upon its premiere at the 41st Fajr Film Festival.

track and can include animated and documentary features.

Submitted films must have been released theatrically in their respective countries between November 1, 2023, and

September 30, 2024.

The deadline for submissions to the Academy is October 2, 2024.

A shortlist of 15 finalists is scheduled to be announced on December 17, 2024, with the final five nominees announced on January 17, 2025.

With only one week till the deadline, 58 countries have submitted their candidates to the 2025 Academy Awards in the international feature film category.

The 2024 awards saw 88 submissions.

The record of nominations was set for the 92nd Oscars in 2020 when 93 countries submitted their entries.

The Academy Award for Best International Feature Film (known as Best Foreign Language Film prior to 2020) is one of the Academy Awards handed out annually by the U.S.-based Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

Iran has submitted films for this category regularly since 1994, except for 2012.

Prior to the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the country sent a single film in 1977.

Iran has submitted a total of 26 films for Oscar consideration and three films have received an Oscar nomination including Majid Majidi's "Children of Heaven" in 1998 and Asghar Farhadi's "A Separation" and "The Salesman" in 2011 and 2016 respectively.

Of the three films, both of Farhadi's movies won the award.

With his two awards, Farhadi is among the multiple best foreign language film Oscar winning directors.

In the history of the Academy Awards, only six directors have won this award more than once.

At the top of the list, there are Italian directors Federico Fellini and Vittorio De Sica, who have won the award four times each. Swedish director Ingmar Bergman is next with three awards.

They are followed by Farhadi, the French director René Clément and Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa, who have won two Oscars each.

Iran, Iraq sign coop. agreement at Baghdad International Book Fair

TEHRAN- A bilateral cooperation agreement was signed between the Tehran International Book Fair and the Baghdad International Book Fair (BIFF) during the 25th edition of the BIFF, which was held in Baghdad, Iraq, from September 12 to 22.

According to the terms of the agreement, which marks a significant cultural collaboration between the two nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq will offer each other a 24-square-meter pavilion at their respective book fairs, free of charge for a period of five years, IRNA reported.

The agreement also includes provisions to facilitate the participation of publishers from both countries in each other's fairs, promote collaborative book-related events, and hold specialized meetings aimed at enhancing the



book publishing industry in both countries.

Iran participated in the 25th Baghdad International Book Fair for the fourth time.

Iran Book and Literature House represented the country at the event, showcasing 1,500 titles on various subjects including Islamic studies, literature, children's books, Persian education, religious and academic books,

the resistance movement, and the Sacred Defense, as well as martyrs Qasem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

There was also a special section dedicated to the Holy Quran.

In addition, 23 Iranian publishers and cultural institutions took part in the book fair and presented their publications.

The fair's organizer, Sada Al-Aref Company, brought together 600 publishers from 21 countries, as well as writers and intellectuals from Iraq, the Arab world, and beyond.

The event also featured seminars, art exhibitions and play reading sessions.

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

Book on classical liberalism available in Persian

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of the book "Classical Liberalism: a Primer" written by Eamonn Butler has been released in the Iranian book market.

Soroush Publication has published the book with a translation by Mohammad Amin Keshavarz and Mohammad Vahid Jokar, Mehr reported.

Classical liberalism is one of the most important political and

social philosophies.

Indeed, this set of ideas was crucial in bringing the modern world into existence.

It fostered a political climate in which economies were free to develop and government limited in scope, essential conditions for the unprecedented increases in living standards seen over the last two centuries.

Yet despite its huge contribution, today classical liberalism is poorly understood and often misrepresented, its insights neglected in an era of pervasive state intervention.

Butler's primer, first published in 2015, is therefore extremely welcome.

It is an extremely clear and well set out introduction to this way of thinking.

As such, it is highly suitable for students of the social sciences and makes a valuable contribution to greater understanding of a perspective that is enjoying a long overdue revival.

Eamonn Butler, 71, is a British economist. He is the co-founder and director of the Adam Smith Institute in London.