



Smoke over southern Lebanon following Israeli strikes, amid ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces on Monday, September 23, 2024.

# Genocide in the Making This Time in Lebanon

## Israeli strikes kill 274, injure more than 1,000 others in Lebanon

### Israel plans to ethnically cleanse northern Gaza: CNN

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is reportedly considering a plan to ethnically cleanse 300,000 Palestinian civilians from northern Gaza, including Gaza City, according to a former Israeli military official cited by CNN.

Netanyahu is said to be studying the prospect of a buffer zone, as part of efforts to encircle up to 5,000 Hamas fighters in northern Gaza, which is already under siege and would see the population being chocked off completely from any humanitarian aid.

The plan would turn the northern Gaza Strip into a closed military zone, meaning any person refusing to immediately leave their home would be killed by Israel.

The plan was made by a group of retired Israeli generals with other reports suggesting it is being promoted by Reserve Major General Giora Eiland, who has been previously condemned for encouraging the spread of disease among civilians in Gaza to help Tel Aviv win the war against Hamas.

According to CNN, it has also been presented to the Israeli cabinet and a key parliamentary committee. ▶ Page 5

### Tehran, Moscow stress expansion of cooperation in INSTC

TEHRAN - In a meeting between the new Head of the Islamic republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) Jabar-Ali Zakeri and Russian Ambassador to Tehran Alexey Dedov the two sides stressed expansion of cooperation in the International North South Transit Corridor (INSTC), IRNA reported.

In this meeting, while emphasizing the need for expansion of future cooperation, Zakeri said: "Due to the high volume of demand from India, we will be able to see an increase in transit through the International North-South corridor."

He further suggested that rail experts from both countries convene to tackle the challenges hindering bilateral cooperation and explore potential investment opportunities for Russia in Iran.

The Russian ambassador responded positively to this suggestion and recommended that Iran organize an international summit involving countries participating in the INSTC initiative, reiterating Iran's consistent call for collaborative efforts in this significant project.

The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a comprehensive transportation network that links India, Iran, Russia, and Central Asia. Stretching approximately 7,200 kilometers (4,474 miles), this corridor integrates various modes of transport, including rail, road, and maritime routes, to facilitate trade and improve regional connectivity. ▶ Page 4

### Pezeshkian calls for end to misrepresentation of Iran in meeting with top U.S. media figures

TEHRAN - In a Monday meeting with senior managers of American media outlets in New York, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addressed the false and negative image that Western media has often projected about Iran.

He emphasized that the country possesses a rich civilization spanning thousands of years, which is frequently misrepresented in Western narratives. "We are ready to live peacefully and securely with the entire world and are not seeking unrest or undermining the position of our people," Pezeshkian stated.

Western media is notorious for the Islamophobic coverage of af-



fairs in West Asia. American media, especially, is often criticized for demonizing Iran and its allies in Israel's favor.

During his meeting with media representatives, Pezeshkian outlined a vision for regional

cooperation, stating, "Our priority in relations with foreign countries is first and foremost our neighbors, so we can reach a clear framework regarding the preservation of each other's borders and territories." He emphasized that any actions

threatening the internal security of nations should be prevented through collaboration with neighboring states.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian president expressed hope for a shift from conflict to

cooperation, stating, "Instead of killing each other and fighting, we work towards welfare and security in all parts of the world." He reiterated his commitment to fostering unity across different political factions, ethnicities, and genders within different parts of the region.

Pezeshkian also called for unity and cohesion within Iran, stressing the importance of maintaining domestic harmony while fostering positive relations with neighboring countries. "We need to maintain unity domestically and establish constructive interactions with the outside world," he asserted. ▶ Page 2

### 4th China Film Week opens in Tehran

TEHRAN-The 4th China Film Week in Iran was launched in Tehran on Monday and will run until September 27, with the screening of five recent Chinese films.

According to the public relations of the Farabi Cinema Foundation, following the extensive cultural and cinematic interactions between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China, the Farabi Cinema Foundation in downtown Tehran hosted the opening ceremony of the event, Honaronline reported.

The war film "The Battle at the Lake Changjin" (2021) co-directed by Chen Kaige, Dante Lam, and Tsui Hark was screened at the opening ceremony.

"The Battle at Lake Changjin" is the most expensive film ever produced in China, with a budget of \$200 million. It grossed \$913 million at the worldwide box office, making it the second-highest-grossing film of 2021, the highest-grossing Chinese film of all time, and the highest-grossing non-English film. ▶ Page 8

### Iranian animations to go on screen at StopTrik festival

TEHRAN- Iranian short animations "The Pearl: Let's Make Peace" by Abdollah Alimorad and "Aquatic" by Shiva Sadeq Asadi will go on screen at the 14th edition of StopTrik International Film Festival in Slovenia and Poland.

"The Pearl: Let's Make Peace" tells the story of two neighbors who discover a valuable pearl hidden within a fish they've caught. However, their desire to claim the pearl for themselves leads to conflict, resulting in both of them ultimately losing it.

"Aquatic" delves into the narrative of a woman whose unique gift of birthing marine creatures becomes a commodity exploited for commercial gain. As the story unfolds, her extraordinary ability propels her into a perilous world of exploitation and manipulation.

StopTrik IFF, a unique international celebration of worldwide stop motion animation, will take place in Maribor, Slovenia from September 25 to 29 and then will continue in Lodz, Poland from December 5 to 8. ▶ Page 8

### Leader appoints Mokhber as advisor

TEHRAN - Mohammad Mokhber, Iran's former vice president and acting president, has been appointed as an advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The appointment was announced on Monday in a directive issued by Ayatollah Khamenei, who cited Mokhber's "committed and influential services" in management and economics, particularly during his time in the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi.

In his decree, the Leader expressed his confidence in Mokhber's ability to serve in this new role and wished him success.

#### Early life and career

Mokhber was born in 1955 in Dezful, Khuzestan. He holds two PhDs, one in international law and one in management and economic development planning. ▶ Page 3





## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## Vague dream about a trip to New York

In a note, Kayhan discussed President Pezeshkian's visit to New York for the annual UN meeting and the hope of the reformists from the trip. It wrote: The reformist media view the trip as an important achievement. It must be said that the term of the Biden administration is coming to an end and possible negotiation and agreement with such a government, whose primary agenda is not the nuclear agreement (JCPOA), produce no result. The next American government will be established less than three months after the election, so agreements with them are nothing more than an illusion. Also, a new agreement with the U.S. and the West makes it convenient for the West, which has not fulfilled its commitments. The reformist media show that the West-leaning radicals have not learned any lessons from the bitter story of the JCPOA and the joint crimes of the U.S. and Israel in the region, and they consider the JCPOA as a salvation. The positions of these media show that they have no objection to the violation of the JCPOA agreement and the betrayals and crimes of the United States. They only expect the Iranian side to neglect its rights!

## Iran: Tehran is the messenger of peace and stability

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper dealt with the importance of Pezeshkian's trip to New York to participate in the United Nations General Assembly. It wrote: For Iran, as a country with a special position in West Asia and the world, attending this global meeting is of double importance. In recent years, Islamic Iran has coped with various challenges in the face of international pressure and economic sanctions. Enemies have used every opportunity to promote "Iranophobia" to block or limit the path of formation and deepening of our country's relations with other countries and nations. In addition to the President's speech at the UN, bilateral and multilateral meetings with other world leaders are also very important, which can serve as the basis for strengthening our country's diplomatic relations with other countries. Emphasizing concepts such as interaction, international cooperation, sustainable development, and peaceful resolution of conflicts, can help strengthen the position of our country in the world and provide a suitable and favorable platform for promoting our country's national interests.

## Etemad: FATF and new government

In a commentary, Etemad wrote about the FATF and how Iran can deal with it: Regarding internal

concerns about Iran's support for liberation movements, it should be said that Iran can join the two conventions of Palermo and the fight against the financing of terrorism by declaring the right to statement and a reservation, provided that the main purpose of the conventions is not overshadowed. Iran can make a reservation regarding Article 24 of the Convention and state that in the case of a dispute, it does not intend to refer the case to the International Court of Justice, as Oman, Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia have also done.

The point that should be kept in mind is that at the international level, there is still no single agreement on the definition of terrorism among countries, and the approach of countries in identifying which group is a terrorist group and which is a liberating group is different. Many countries have joined these conventions by applying the reservation. Finally, it should be noted that at the level of the United Nations, groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah are not recognized as terrorist groups.

## Javan: Continuation of conflict at strategic level

Javan dedicated its editorial to the strategy of the Axis of Resistance against the Zionist regime and said: The White House had the illusion that with the martyrdom of General Soleimani, the Islamic Republic of Iran's plan to advance its regional policies would be slowed down or even stopped. But practically, the story turned out differently. The armed strength of the resistance in Gaza increased, the invasion against Yemen under a coalition resulted in a disgraceful failure, the asymmetric naval power of the resistance emerged in the strategic oceans and straits, and finally the Iraqi resistance groups became an influential transnational and regional actor. The climax of this deep transformation can be seen in the surprising "Operation Al-Aqsa Storm", which is considered a major and irreparable intelligence failure for the military and security structure of the Zionist regime. At the strategic level, the issue of the increasing successes of the Axis of Resistance and the successive failures of the strategies of America and the Zionist regime makes the situation clear. In fact, the Zionists may have taken measures at the tactical level, but at the strategic level, they still could not turn the balance in their favor. It is logical for the resistance to strike Israel tactically, when necessary, but to insist on its strategic approach.

## Military helicopters set for night vision upgrade, commander says

TEHRAN – The deputy commander of the Iranian Army Air Force has revealed that several army helicopters will be outfitted with night vision technology.

During a ceremony honoring the families of martyrs, pilots, and veteran flight engineers, Brigadier General Mahmoud Mohammad Ali Fam discussed the initiatives aimed at the rehabilitation and operational readiness of helicopters.

Mohammad Ali Fam confirmed the installation of night vision cameras on helicopters as part of the Iranian Army Air Force's ongoing enhancements, stating that various army helicopters have now been equipped with this advanced technology.

Additionally, the deputy commander highlighted the significant achievements made by Air Force personnel, including the development of essential



missiles such as the Shafaq and Haidar cruise missiles, which represent advanced weaponry.

The Iranian Army Air Force, referred to as Havanirooz, utilizes a diverse fleet of helicopters tailored for combat and transport operations. These helicopters are essential in bolstering the capabilities of the Iranian Army's air forces, engaging in activities that include strike, anti-tank operations, reconnaissance, liaison, and logistical support.

## Pezeshkian extends congratulatory message to Saudi leaders on National Day

TEHRAN – Masoud Pezeshkian, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has extended his congratulations on the occasion of Saudi Arabian National Day. In his Monday messages to King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Pezeshkian expressed his best wishes to them, as well as to the government and citizens of Saudi Arabia, and highlighted the importance of enhancing relations between the two nations across various sectors.

Earlier, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the Iranian Foreign Minister, also conveyed his congratulations to the

Saudi Foreign Minister on this significant day.

Saudi Arabia observes its National Day annually on September 23, commemorating the unification of the Kingdom.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have been on the path to advancing bilateral ties after they resumed diplomatic relations in March of 2023. Their diplomatic rapprochement was brokered by China. The two Muslim countries are regarded as the most significant powers in West Asia, whose close cooperation could significantly help ensure stability in the region.

## Pezeshkian calls for end to misrepresentation of Iran in meeting with top U.S. media figures

From page 1 ▶ The president is in New York to attend the 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). Before leaving Tehran to appear at the UN headquarters, Pezeshkian emphasized Iran's commitment to peace and security in comments to Iranian reporters.

As reported by IRNA, Pezeshkian stated that Iran's commitment to peace and security aligns with the United Nations' mission of fostering a future characterized by development for all. He advocated for the creation of a world free from bloodshed, war, and violence, where individuals can live in comfort regardless



of their color, race, ethnicity, or origin.

Iran's president also lamented the current state of the world, highlighting the existence of

double standards that categorize some as good and others as bad, which contribute to the challenges faced today. "Every individual on this planet should

## 10 km of Iran-Afghanistan border wall completed

TEHRAN – Iran has completed the construction of over 10 kilometers of border wall with Afghanistan, with plans for an additional 50 kilometers, according to the deputy commander of the Iranian Army Ground Force.

Brigadier General Nozar Nemati remarked that the responsibility for securing the border with Afghanistan had been entrusted to the Iranian Army Ground Forces.

Nemati highlighted the collaboration with relevant organizations and the Iranian General Staff of the Armed Forces, emphasizing the importance of ongoing meetings to facilitate necessary partnerships for this initiative.

He elaborated that the operation commenced

simultaneously with the deployment of four combat engineering teams and 14 subordinate engineering units, alongside several capable companies from across the nation.

"The border sealing efforts began in the northern section of the Afghanistan border, where a dedicated headquarters has been established to oversee the operations. This systematic approach is being executed, with significant contributions from the Army Ground Forces," the commander stated.

Additionally, Nemati pointed out, "Five workshops are actively engaged in wall construction, with hundreds of engineering vehicles from the Iranian Army Ground Forces working continuously to ensure the timely completion of the border sealing project."



The deputy commander underscored that sealing the border enhances security and curtails smuggling activities, asserting that this initiative will foster the country's economic growth and facilitate effective management of border crossings.

## Zarif offers condolences to Hezbollah chief on martyrdom of Lebanese commander

TEHRAN – Iran's vice president for strategic affairs and former foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, has conveyed his condolences to the secretary-general of the Hezbollah Resistance movement on the martyrdom of Ibrahim Aqil, a highly venerated Lebanese commander.

The General was martyred during a Friday Israeli strike on a residential building in southern Beirut. Several other Hezbollah commanders were targeted alongside Aqil.

Zarif's Monday message is as follows:

In light of the martyrdom of the esteemed jihadist commander, the resilient martyr Ibrahim Aqil, who remained true to his commitment to God and lost his life in the vicious assault by the criminal Zionist regime, I offer my sincere congratulations and condolences.

This attack resulted in the loss of this courageous commander along with several of his fellow heroic commanders of the Islamic Resistance, who now join their martyred companions, including martyr Imad Mughniyeh, martyr Fouad Shokor, and all the martyrs of the Islamic Resistance in

Lebanon and Palestine, particularly those who sacrificed for the cause of Quds, with General Qassem Soleimani being notably recognized as the martyr of Quds by the valiant martyr Ismail Haniyeh.

May they all find solace in the presence of the Almighty God and be among the righteous in the highest paradise, receiving their rightful place before God.

I pay tribute to the memory of this revered martyr and extend my congratulations to his family, relatives, comrades, friends, and all those who strive in the path of God and Quds—the noble individuals

of sacrifice and martyrdom, the victorious and proud Islamic Resistance in Lebanon, the dignified Lebanese nation, all nations seeking independence and the realization of their right to self-determination, the proud Islamic Ummah, and all defenders of truth and justice globally.

I call upon everyone to unite their efforts in support of Palestine and the nations in the region that face daily atrocities committed by the Israeli regime, urging the international community to put an end to occupation, violence, and aggression."

## Adjusting implementation arrangements of Resolution 598 and the implementation of the 1975 Treaty



## By Abbas Akhondi

TEHRAN – Iraq's long-imposed war against Iran ended in 1988 with the adoption of Resolution 598 with terrible human costs and destruction.

Finally, Saddam Hussein, the then president of Iraq, after inflicting enormous human and material losses on the two nations, in a letter to the President of Iran in August 1990, re-recognized the 1975 Algiers Treaty and said: "With this decision, everything will be clarified and, in this way, everything you wanted and relied on will be realized."

But in practice, 36 years after the end of the imposed war, the implementation arrangements of Resolution 598 have not yet been drafted and signed by the parties based on the provisions of its paragraph 4. Also, the dredging of the Arvand waterway has not been implemented based on the executive arrangements mentioned in the 1975 Algiers Treaty. Therefore, Iran's two largest commercial ports are still out of business. And the task of how Iran will be compensated is still unclear.

Iraq's imposed war against Iran caused irreparable long-term damage to the lives of Iranians and Iraqis. This war was the most damaging war of the 20th century after the Korean War, during which human losses reached three million dead, wounded, and missing. The total human losses of both sides in this war have been reported to be 1.5 to 2 million. The number of Iranian martyrs of this war is more than 197,000, and its veterans are more than 629,000. In addition, the number of Iranian captives was more than 41,000, of whom 527 were martyred during their captivity. There is no accurate information about the number of Iraqis killed. The reported statistics range from 105,000 to 200,000

people. The number of wounded Iraqis ranged from 400,000 to 700,000, and the number of their captives was reported to be up to 70,000. Britannica says the total financial loss of both sides in this war is estimated to be 1200 billion US dollars.

The indirect damage to the soul of the two nations, the wounding, and collapse of the family system of millions of families, the massive population displacement, the change in the demographic composition of the settlements, the environmental and urban ruins and settlements, and other damages are innumerable. Also, the increase in poverty and backwardness from development, the grudges planted in the hearts of people, and the security and economic imbalances formed in the region are other remnants of the war. However, in addition to all these tragedies, the fact that the implementation arrangements of the resolution have not been formulated is not a guarantee that after a generation or two, this wound will not resurface.

Now, more than 36 years after the end of the war, it is time to make a clear assessment of this damaging war and take firm steps to establish a solid peace in the region. In this regard, I would like to point out a few points:

1- From a legal point of view, Resolution 598 is a ceasefire resolution. Therefore, Iran and Iraq are still in a state of acceptance of a ceasefire and a state of neither war nor peace. According to the text of the resolution, establishing peace requires implementing the resolution to end all the disputes between the two countries. In addition to the preamble, paragraph 4 of the resolution states that the Security Council "calls upon Iran and Iraq to cooperate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of this resolution." and to cooperate in mediation efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just, and dignified mutually acceptable solution to all existing

issues, following the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations." It is also stipulated in paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 that the Secretary-General shall take the necessary measures to determine responsibility for the initiation of the war, assess the extent of the damage, make reconstruction efforts with international assistance, and find ways to increase the security and stability of the region in consultation with Iran, Iraq and other countries in the region.

Following the acceptance of the resolution by both sides, the first round of peace talks between Iran and Iraq under the supervision of the United Nations officially began in Geneva on August 25, 1988. In these negotiations, the Iraqi government put forward two preconditions: the dredging of the Arvand River, and the freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf. The First Round of Negotiations failed. Therefore, on September 31, 1988, the Secretary-General of the United Nations proposed a plan consisting of four articles to the governments of Iran and Iraq as follows: 1) freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf, 2) giving priority to resolving the issue of the Shatt al-Arab (Arvand River), 3) Agreement on the procedures for the exchange of prisoners of war, and 4) the withdrawal of the forces of the two countries to the international borders. This attempt also failed.

The point is to emphasize that the need for a peace agreement was and is an internationally accepted issue. Unfortunately, in light of the subsequent developments, this issue has been ignored for 36 years. Notably, one of the reasons for the failure of the Secretary-General's plan was that Iraq postponed the proposal to withdraw troops to international borders until it accepted sovereignty. Eventually, Saddam formally received the 1975 treaty in 1990, removing this obstacle.

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



# Leader appoints Mokhber as advisor

From Page 1 ▶ Mokhber's career in the Iranian political and economic landscape spans over four decades. He started as a medical officer in the IRGC during the Iran-Iraq War.

When the war ended, he transitioned into the telecommunications sector and government administration, becoming the CEO of Khuzestan Telecommunication Company and later the deputy governor of his home province.

After acting as a provincial official for several years, Mokhber's first national tenure began in the early 2000s when he became the Vice President of the Mostazafan Foundation.

In 2007, he was appointed head of the Execution of Imam Khomeini's Order (EIKO), a role he held for 16 years. Under his leadership, EIKO spearheaded numerous privatization efforts and played a role in Iran's response to the COVID-19



pandemic. Mokhber helped develop "Barekat", Iran's domestically produced COVID-19 vaccine.

In 2021, he was appointed First Vice President of Iran by President Ebrahim Raisi. Mokhber focused on strengthening Iran's economy, particularly sectors that could counter Western sanctions.

Following the tragic passing of President Ebrahim Raisi in

a helicopter crash this past May, 69-year-old Mohammad Mokhber stepped into the role of acting president, facing an unprecedented challenge.

He is widely credited with managing the transition smoothly and effectively leading the Raisi administration during this difficult time. Mokhber also declined calls to seek the presidency in the subsequent

snap election, choosing instead to prioritize the country's well-being during this crucial period before a new president was chosen.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution personally thanked Mokhber for his efforts as the acting president, when he held his last meeting with the Raisi administration in July.

"I want to especially acknowledge Mr. Mokhber for his partnership with Mr. Raisi during these three years. He faced numerous challenges and difficulties, but he remained committed and worked well with the late Mr. Raisi and the government.

In these last forty to fifty days, while serving as the acting president, he has truly excelled, putting in a tremendous amount of effort and pursuing tasks with great diligence. He took to heart the idea that 'everything should be completed by the last day.'"

## Iran calls Israel's airstrikes in Lebanon 'insane', warns of regional fallout

TEHRAN – Tehran has issued a stern warning against Israel's "dangerous adventurism" following a series of Israeli airstrikes on towns and villages in southern Lebanon.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Nasser Kanaani, condemned Israel's military actions in southern Lebanon, calling the strikes on residential areas and the killing of hundreds of civilians "insane."

He further criticized the United States and other Western nations for remaining silent in the face of these attacks or, worse, for offering support to Israel.

The Iranian government cautioned that these actions could have severe repercussions for West Asia.

The Lebanese Ministry of Health reported on Monday that the Israeli strikes, which began earlier that morning, have resulted in the deaths of 182 people and left 727 others wounded. The airstrikes represent the most lethal escalation of hostilities between Israel and the Hezbollah Resistance movement in nearly a year.

Kanaani also accused Israel of attempting to provoke a broader regional conflict, pointing to the regime's ongoing military operations in Gaza. He argued that Israel's actions, both in Gaza and Lebanon, are part of a wider strategy

that threatens regional and international peace.

"The continued appeasement of Israel's crimes against Palestinians has emboldened the regime to carry out these genocidal acts," Kanaani remarked. He called on the United Nations Security Council to take immediate action to halt Israel's aggression and prevent further bloodshed.

The latest Israeli strikes were reportedly in retaliation to Hezbollah's most extensive attack in months, which took place on Sunday. Hezbollah fighters launched a barrage of rockets at Israeli military targets, including the Ramat David Airbase, located southeast of Haifa, and a weapons manufacturing facility in the Zevulun region. These strikes triggered widespread alarm, with approximately 300,000 Israelis rushing to bomb shelters.

The escalation followed Israel's detonation of communication equipment in Lebanon and missile strikes that killed dozens of Lebanese citizens, including a high-ranking Hezbollah commander.

**'Al-Aqsa Storm reshaped regional landscape in favor of Palestinians'**

Additionally, in an interview with Iranian media, Kanaani reflected on the broader geopolitical shifts in the region, linking them to

the ongoing conflict.

He highlighted the recent "Al-Aqsa Storm" operation, which he said had reshaped the strategic landscape in favor of the Palestinian people and Resistance groups.

Speaking to Iran's Tasnim News Agency, the spokesperson explained that the operation had revived the Palestinian cause on both regional and international stages.

"Today, no one considers the Palestinian issue a forgotten cause or something that can be resolved through normalization with the Zionist regime," Kanaani said, stressing that the operation had recalibrated regional power dynamics.

Kanaani reiterated Iran's longstanding support for Palestine, a policy that has been central to the country's foreign agenda since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He also affirmed that while Iran advocates for diplomatic efforts to halt the violence in Gaza, it does not dictate the Palestinian response to Israeli aggression.

"The war imposed on the Palestinian people is cruel and unjust. The international community must work to halt the Zionist regime's war machine as soon as possible," he concluded.

## Tehran ready to restart nuclear talks if other parties are prepared: FM

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has indicated that Tehran is ready to restart nuclear negotiations if the other signatories to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) are also prepared.

Speaking during a trip to New York, Araqchi highlighted that Iran remains open to dialogue aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal.

He, however, ruled out the possibility of meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken during his trip, stating that current circumstances do not support such a dialogue.

"At this time, I do not see the possibility of a meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State," Araqchi said, adding, "In my opinion, it would not be advisable for such a conversation to take place right now."

Araqchi reflected on past talks, noting that during previous negotiations on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), there were opportunities for direct discussions between Iranian and U.S. officials. However, he stressed that the current situation is different, and conditions are not favorable for a similar exchange.

In an interview, Araqchi addressed broader regional concerns, particularly the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian groups in Gaza.

He condemned Israel's actions in Gaza, where the regime has been engaged in a genocidal war for over 11 months. Araqchi argued that the Israeli government, despite its advanced military capabilities, has failed to defeat Hamas, the Palestinian resistance movement based in Gaza.

"The Israeli regime is stuck in a quagmire in Gaza," Araqchi said, adding that Israel's failure



to destroy Hamas has led to an expansion of violence across the region, including escalations in the occupied West Bank and Lebanon.

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

## Iran, China talk regional stability as West Asia grapples with widespread Israeli violence

TEHRAN – The senior advisor to Iran's foreign minister sat down with the special envoy of the Chinese government for West Asian affairs on Monday. The two addressed pressing regional issues including Israel's ongoing massacre in Gaza.

The meeting, held in Tehran, focused on the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where Ali Asqar Khaji condemned the "brutal attacks" by the Zionist regime, which he attributed to comprehensive support from the United States and certain Western nations.

He called for urgent international intervention to halt what's been termed by international bodies as a genocide against

the Palestinian people.

Khaji emphasized that the silence of international organizations has emboldened further military aggressions by Israel into Syria and Lebanon.

The discussion also touched on the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Syria.

Khaji urged for active participation from the international community, including China, to aid in humanitarian efforts and reconstruction projects. He highlighted the dire need for assistance as the country continues to grapple with the aftermath of prolonged conflict.

On the topic of Yemen, Khaji criticized the

illegal military actions by the United States and the UK, which have hindered peace efforts.

He reaffirmed Iran's commitment to supporting peace negotiations, addressing the humanitarian crisis, and facilitating a Yemeni-led political dialogue.

China's Zhai Jun echoed Khaji's sentiments, underscoring the necessity for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon as a primary objective for regional stability.

He reiterated China's support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and expressed Beijing's readiness to engage actively in resolving the political and humanitarian crises in Syria.

### Roberto Piazza aims at lifting Iran back to top eight

TEHRAN – Roberto Piazza, the new head coach of the Iranian men's national team, has already stated a clear goal that he has set for himself on the new job and that is to bring the team back up among the top eight teams in the FIVB Volleyball World Ranking and keep them there permanently.

The Italian trainer took over the Iranian team on a four-year contract earlier this month, replacing previous head coach Mauricio Paes of Brazil, who was in charge during the 2024 season and under whose term, Iran finished 15th in the 2024 Volleyball Nations League.

Iran are currently 15th in the World Ranking as well and this is not the place where their new head coach wants them to be. For the most part of the 2023 season, they were a top 10 team, and the last time they were in the top eight was during the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship.

"My first dream and desire is to be constantly in the first eight teams in the World Ranking," Roberto Piazza told Volleyball World shortly after accepting the new job.

The 56-year-old Italian is taking over the Iranian national team with a four-year perspective, geared towards the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, and the long-term target being the team's return to Olympic participation after missing out on Paris 2024 this year. Iran made their Olympic debut at Rio de Janeiro 2016, where they reached the quarterfinals, and also played at Tokyo 2020, registering a ninth-place finish. Short term, Piazza's first objectives will be associated with next year's Volleyball Nations League and, of course, the 2025 World Championship in the Philippines.

At this point, Piazza did not reveal whether any major changes in the squad should be expected under his mandate.

"It's really too soon to talk about the players," he said. "Many of them will play in different leagues and we have to select the best ones for each position."

Before taking over Iran, coach Piazza had been at the helm of the Netherlands since 2019. His previous national team jobs include coaching Qatar in 2016 and assistant-coaching Russia to an FIVB Volleyball World League bronze in 2009 and silver in 2010, [asianvolleyball.net](http://asianvolleyball.net) reported.

### Sepahan, Zob Ahan share spoils in Isfahan derby: PGPL

TEHRAN – Sepahan and Zob Ahan football teams shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in Isfahan derby on Sunday.

Arya Yousefi was on target for Sepahan in 31st minute his goal was canceled out by Kamal Kamyabinia in the 83rd minute.

Also, Kheybar lost to Tractor 2-1 in Khorramabad's Takhti Stadium. Tractor Portuguese winger Ricardo Alves gave the visiting team a lead in the 12th minute but Mehrdad Ghanbari leveled the score from the penalty spot in the 20th minute. Dania Esmailifar scored the winner for Tractor in the 61st minute.

Sepahan remain top of 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) with 13 points out of five matches, followed by Tractor with 10 points.

### Saipa fall short to NEC in 2024 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Japan's NEC Red Rockets Kawasaki captured their second win in Pool B of the 2024 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship after a 3-1 (25-27, 25-12,

25-18, 25-14) defeat of Iran's Saipa Club at Chartchai Hall.

Lorraina Da Silva started for the Japan club on Monday and led all scorers on the board with 21 points.

"I'm really happy for today's match. It's the first time for me to play wearing the NEC jersey. My objective is to also play well in defense as the Japanese are known for this, so I will try to achieve this while I'm here. I'm just excited to keep playing match after match," she said.

The Japan club started off with their trademark rhythm of fast plays, and utilizing Lorraina's heavy, yet speedy hits.

Saipa Club started to find their rhythm in setting up their offense. They passed the ball well and enabled their hitters to score. They also performed well from the service line to keep the scores close and help extend the set. During the closing plays, they played so well in both first and second line of defense that they could properly set up their transition plays. The opponents later succumbed to errors to close out the first set to Saipa Club's favor.

NEC Red Rockets Kawasaki rushed to establish a huge lead in the second set, relying on Yoshino Sato, who delivered from the wing and the backrow. Haruyo Shimamura was also performing well with the middle attack.

By the third set, the Japan club carried over their quality of play, employing a quicker pace to outrun the opponents. They maintained the energy and speed in every aspect of their game, which found their opponents chasing the ball or completely missing it.

NEC Red Rockets Kawasaki stuck to keeping its key hitters on the floor, as they continued to show consistency in play and point contribution. They closed out with 5 of their players charting double-digit markers for the victory in four sets.

The competition's pool play will conclude on Tuesday, September 24. NEC Red Rockets Kawasaki will play against the Philippines' Monolith Sky Risers, while Saipa Club will face Vietnam's LPBank Ninh Binh in the opening match.

### Morteza Sharifi joins Istanbul Genclik Spor Kulubu

TEHRAN – Iranian international outside spiker Morteza Sharifi joined Turkish side Istanbul Genclik Spor Kulubu.

The 25-year-old player was part of Shahdab Yazd in the 2024 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, where the team became runner-up after losing to Foolad Sirjan.

Sharifi has previously played in Turkish sides Bursa B.B. SK, Halilije Belediye Spor, Spor Toto Spor Kulubu and Galatasaray.

Iranian outside hitter Arman Afshinfar also joined Genclik Spor Kulubu.

### Football federation files protest against head coach of Thai futsal team

TEHRAN – The Iranian Football Federation lodged a complaint with FIFA and the AFC regarding inappropriate remarks made by the head coach of the Thai national futsal team.

Miguel Rodrigo, the head coach of the Thai team at the 2024 Uzbekistan Futsal World Cup, published an insulting post against Iran, which prompted reactions from legal and international bodies.

In unusual, unprofessional, and inappropriate remarks, Rodrigo insulted Iran.

According to clause 11 of the FIFA disciplinary code, the Iranian Football Federation considered these remarks offensive.



## Iron ore concentrate output increases 9.6%

TEHRAN- The production of iron ore concentrate in Iran increased by 9.6 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 -August 21), as compared to the same period in the past year, according to the data released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

As ISPA reported, 27.417 million tons of iron ore concentrate was produced in the first five months of this year, while the figure was 27.007 million tons in the same period of the

previous year.

Iron ore concentrate is an output product from processed iron ores that have been milled (crush, grind, magnetic separation, flotation) to separate deleterious elements and produce a high-quality product.

Iron ore concentrates are deep beneficiated iron ore products, used for sintering and blast furnace production, as well as pellet production.

## Iran-Armenia trade rises 6% in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - The value of non-oil trade between Iran and Armenia rose 6 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

The IRICA report put the non-oil trade between the two countries at 885,719 tons worth \$192.108 million, with 60 percent growth in weight, year on year.

Armenia was the 10th top trade partner of Iran among the Islamic Republic's neighbors in the first five months of the present year.

The 18th meeting of the Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee was held in Tehran during February 14-15, in which the two sides signed 19 documents and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to enhance cooperation in various areas.

The mentioned documents covered a variety of areas including trade development, customs cooperation, maritime transportation, food, and medicine.

The 18th meeting of the Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting, hosted by Iran's Plan and Budget Organization (PBO), was attended by senior officials and ministers from the two sides including the PBO former Head Davoud Manzour, Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Mher Grigoryan, Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan, Armenia's Deputy Minister of Economy Narek Teryan, and the former Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mehdi Zeighami.

Speaking at the meeting, Mher Grigoryan said Iran and Armenia can increase their annual trade to \$3 billion.

Underlining the significance of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting, Grigoryan said: "Considering the relations and cooperation between the two countries, we can implement the agreed matters with joint efforts and take the necessary steps for ensuring the interests of the people of the two countries."

"Iran is not just a neighboring country for us, but a very important partner and we have to deepen the relations between the two countries," he stressed.

Prior to attending the second day of the Joint Committee meeting, Grigoryan held a meeting with Iranian Late President Ebrahim Raisi, during which Raisi said his government fully supported the agreements reached with Armenia.

"We support the implementation of all agreements made between Tehran and Yerevan, and (implementing these agreements) requires efforts and diligent follow-up of the Joint Economic Committee of the two countries," the president said.

On the sidelines of the meeting, TPO former Head Mehdi Zeighami held a meeting with Narek Teryan to discuss ways of expanding trade relations.

In this meeting, Zeighami said Iran and Armenia could be the gateway to link east to Eurasia by developing their transportation infrastructure at borders.

"Having a common land border, Iran and Armenia can act as a gateway to Eurasia by developing road infrastructure and transit routes," he said.

In another meeting on the sidelines of the event, Armenian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Vahan Kostanyan met with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari in which he called on Iranian companies to participate in Armenia's road construc-



tion and infrastructure projects.

Earlier on February 13, Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan said that Armenia and Iran could soon increase the volumes of the gas for electricity swap deal.

The gas-for-electricity agreement between Armenia and Iran has been extended until 2030 and enables Armenia to import greater volumes of natural gas and export more electricity.

"I believe that in terms of the legal documentation we have implemented the important phase and soon, as required, according to needs and also infrastructures, we will be able to use that opportunity. New power transmission lines are under construction in order to be able to export greater volumes of electricity to Iran. Both sides have the desire to increase the volumes, and the changes will be visible in various stages," Sanosyan told Armenpress.

The minister also spoke about the involvement of Iranian companies in construction projects in Armenia. He said that the bigger the project the harder it is to find contractors.

Also during the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting, the Head of Iran's Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) Heidar Mohammadi voiced the country's readiness to export domestically produced drugs to Armenia.

Iran enjoys self-sufficiency in the production of drugs and pharmaceutical equipment, he said.

For her part, Deputy Minister of Healthcare of Armenia Lena Nanushyan said that Iran has made significant progress in the production of medicines and medical equipment.

Armenia welcomes cooperation with Iran in the field of health tourism, pharmaceutical insurance, and healthcare, the official added.

In early May, the Armenian government announced that it was going to borrow \$254 million from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to build a 24-kilometer section of a new highway leading to the Iranian border.

The planned 60-kilometer road will be constructed in the southeastern Syunik province bordering Iran. It will connect the provincial towns of Sisian and Kajaran through a much shorter route. This will in turn shorten travel time between the two neighboring countries.

The new Sisian-Kajaran road is to be cut through mountainous terrain, hence, the high cost of its construction.

Work on the road's first, southern section is slated for completion in 2032.

Last October, the government awarded a \$215 million contract to a consortium of two Iranian companies to upgrade a 32-kilometer road stretching from the Armenian-Iranian border to the Kajaran mountain pass, the highest in Armenia. About two-thirds of the road is to be expanded and modernized while the remaining 11 kilometers will be built from scratch over the next three years.

The contract was signed in Yerevan in the presence of Iran's former Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash.

# Annual export of services rises 20%

TEHRAN - Iran's export of various services including tourism, transit, and technical engineering reached about \$12 billion in the previous Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), registering a 20 percent rise compared to a year earlier, an official with the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

Mohammad-Sadegh Ghanadzadeh, the TPO's deputy head for international business promotion, put the country's exports of services in the year 1401 at \$10 billion, IRIB reported.

According to the official, the Islamic Republic exported about \$2.5 billion of technical engineering services to other countries in the previous year, noting that in case of removing the obstacles the export of such services could increase up to \$6.0 billion.

"One of the most important obstacles to the export of technical engineering services is the issuance of guarantees for the participation of companies in tenders in the target countries. Last year, a proposed package was prepared by the Trade Promotion Organization with the help of the Union of Technical and Engineering Services Exporters and proposed to the government, which we expect



to solve many of such problems when implemented," Ghanadzadeh said.

Last month, Mohammadreza Karimzadeh, the director-general of TPO's Knowledge-Based Products and Technical and Engineering Services Office, said Iran's export of technical engineering services exceeded \$200 million in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21) from the same period of time in the previous year.

According to Karimzadeh, the exports of the mentioned services increased by 18 percent compared to the previous year's same period.

The implemented projects in other countries were in various fields including oil and gas, energy transmission lines, information and communication technology as well as water and

sewage projects, he noted.

The country exported about \$2.5 billion of technical engineering services to other countries in the previous year.

Back in April, the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Iran Water Industry Federation said the country exported \$1.8 billion worth of technical and engineering services over the past two years.

Stressing the importance of

exporting technical and engineering services, Reza Haj Karim said giant steps have been taken in the administration of late President Ebrahim Raisi in the field as compared to the previous years.

Domestic knowledge-based companies have a high potential to export technical and engineering services and can do even better with due support from the government, he underscored.

Haj Karim further noted that Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and East Asian countries are among those whose economic growth is higher than the world average so this Asian market can be a lucrative market for Iranian domestic companies.

As a leading country in the water and electricity industry, Iran stands in the first rank in the region in the export of technical and engineering services in this industry, and this shows the high technical and engineering knowledge and ability of Iranian specialists and companies.

Thanks to the efforts of the country's specialists in the years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran is now among the top five power plant turbine manufacturing countries in the world.

## Water inflow to dam reserves up nearly 7%

TEHRAN - Water inflow to Iran's dams has increased by 6.9 percent since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2023) up to August 21, 2024, compared to the same period last year, according to the Energy Ministry.

As reported, following the perspirations across the country in winter, the total volume of water in dam reservoirs also experienced a 10.7 percent increase compared to the previous year, IRNA reported.

The amount of water outflow from the dams in the aforesaid period has also increased by 7.5 percent.

According to the previous report released by the Water Resources Management Company, water inflow to the country's dams had increased by six percent since the beginning of the current water year up to June 1, com-

pared to the same period last year.

According to the said report, during the mentioned period, 35.68 billion cubic meters of water entered the country's dam reserves, while the figure stood at 33.62 billion last year.

Following the recent perspirations across the country, the total volume of water in dam reservoirs has experienced an eight percent increase compared to the previous year.

The report indicates that the volume of water in the country's dams from the beginning of the current water year up to June 1, has reached 35 billion cubic meters, while the figure stood at 32.39 billion cubic meters last year.

The amount of water outflow from the dams in the aforesaid period also increased



by 10 percent to reach 22.86 billion cubic meters. Last year and in the same period, the amount of water outflow was 20.83 billion cubic meters.

The total capacity of the country's dams stands at 50.5 billion cubic meters, showing that only 67 percent of the dams' capacity was full in June.

## Tax collection increases 49% in H1

TEHRAN - The Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA) collected 5.1 quadrillion rials (about \$10.227 billion) of taxes during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21),

registering a 49 percent rise year on year, IRNA reported.

According to INTA Head Mohammad Hadi Sobhani, the main approach of the organization in the current year is to

award tax payers who pay their tax on time.

Iran has introduced measures in recent years to crack down on tax evasion as part of plans to rely more on domestic resourc-

es of the economy and to offset the impacts of U.S. sanctions.

INTA managed to realize the goals set for the organization in the previous Iranian calendar year by 104 percent.

## Tehran, Moscow stress expansion of cooperation in INSTC

From page 1 ► The corridor initiates at the Mumbai port in India, crosses the Arabian Sea to reach Bandar Abbas in Iran, and then proceeds overland through Iran and across the Caspian Sea to Russia. It effectively connects St. Petersburg and other northern European regions with the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

Development of the INSTC has been in progress for more than twenty years, encountering numerous challenges along the way. Nevertheless, recent geopolitical developments and increasing economic motivations have sparked renewed interest in the corridor, highlighting its potential as an alternative trade route and a means to foster collaboration among the involved nations.

In recent years, additional countries have joined this significant initiative, including the Republic of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, Oman, and Bulgaria.

Last week, Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnaser Hemmati said that Iran and Russia are determined to implement the International North-South Transport Corridor as soon as possible.

Referring to a meeting with Igor Levitin, an aide to the Russian president, in Tehran, Hemmati said, "In this meeting, we discussed the important issue of implementing the North-South Corridor project."

In this meeting, Russia emphasized that it is determined to complete this project because it is beneficial for both Iran and Russia,



while other Asian countries, including India and the Persian Gulf nations, will also benefit from it, Hemmati said.

"We called on President Putin's aid to invite the countries on the way of the International North-South Transport Corridor project to Iran in order to achieve the desired result for implementing this corridor as soon as possible," the Iranian Economy Minister said.

Mentioning the agreements and memorandums reached between Iran and Russia in recent years, Hemmati said he has urged Russia to take the necessary measures to implement those agreements noting that only 20 percent of them have been implemented so far.

After the imposition of Western sanctions on Iran and Russia, the two countries have been working to strengthen their trade ties and improve joint transportation infrastructure. One of the key trade routes between Iran and Russia is the International North-South Transport Corridor.

Railways are expected to play a key role in

the development of the INSTC, with the completion of the Rasht-Astara railway which is a crucial component of the corridor.

This railway will link the Iranian port of Bandar-e Anzali to Russia's railway network and beyond, providing a direct and efficient route for goods to travel.

Russia has for the first time sent two trains laden with coal to India via the International North-South Transport Corridor, which connects Russia to India via Iran, according to a statement by Russia's national railway company released in late June.

"For the first time, two trains with Kuzbass coal headed to India along the International North-South Transport Corridor.

The trains set off from the Kemerovo region. They followed along the eastern branch of the INSTC through Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas," Russian Railways stated in its Telegram channel.

In last October, Iran's Maritime News Agency (MANA) reported that Iran and Russia were going to invest about \$38 billion in the development of Trans Caspian shipping lines as part of the International North-South Transport Corridor.

Addressing an international conference dubbed "The North-South Corridor; a New Concept" in the Russian city of Astrakhan at the time, the Iranian director of the Russian Port of Solyanka, Dariush Jamali, branded the corridor as "a key element of the Eurasian transport network".



## Arab and Muslim countries must refer the United States to the ICJ

### America is complicit in Israeli crimes of genocide and ethnic cleansing

By Prof Hossein Askari

PORTLAND - In December of 2023, the Republic of South Africa lodged a case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel for the crime of Genocide, a case that has been joined by many member countries of the United Nations (<https://www.icj-cij.org/case/192>). As the case has been moving ahead at the world's highest court, two countries—Israel and the United States—have not been silent but in contravention to global opinion have attacked the Court and its proceedings.

While a final decision from the Court is not expected for months and most likely for years, it is hypocritical for the United States, a country that brags about its support for the international rule of law, to voice such admonitions against the court as it proceeds with a case brought to its attention by so many member countries of the United Nations.

What is also striking about this case, but not directly brought to the attention of the Court, is that the United States is a country that is fully complicit in these crimes but has dodged legal scrutiny. Anyone with eyes and a brain cannot escape from this fact. The United States supports Israel's prosecution of the Gaza war in every imaginable way:

The U.S. arms, and continues to arm, Israel with its most sophisticated lethal weapons of war and with little or no oversight and scrutiny—restocking arms that Israel has needed to continue its carnage.

The U.S. shares, and continues to share, its most sensitive intelligence with Israel.

The U.S. donates, and continues to donate, financial assistance to Israel, a country that has a higher per capita GDP than France or Germany.

The U.S. gives, and continues to give, political supports to Israel—at the UN Security Council, by vetoing any and all reprimands of Israeli crimes, most of which contravene international rule of law.

The U.S. pressures, and continues to pressure, countries around the world to refrain from any actions that might force Israel to change course, such as the imposition of sanctions (something that the U.S. itself uses with abandon as a policy tool).

### What we are witnessing is a global humanitarian disaster. It is our collective shame.

The U.S. has shown its willingness to intercede on behalf of Israel, even in a case where Israel was the instigator and aggressor action, potentially directly embroiling the United States in future wars.

After all is said and done, if the United States does not support Israel's war, the savage war, would end in short order. Yes, the U.S. publicly urges Israel to avoid civilian deaths as it supplies Israel with more 1,000 and 2,000 pound bombs that are not targeted but kill and destroy indiscriminately over a wide area! And Israel brands Hamas as terrorists and feels free to do as it will, with little regard for innocent human lives.

Around 42,000 Palestinians are known to have been directly killed in Gaza. About 70-75 percent of the dead are women and children, thousands more lie buried under the rubble that is now Gaza's landscape and even more are dying every day from the fallout of the war—from lack of nutrition and water, simple medicines and medical care to treat disease and infections. Israeli carnage is not limited to Gaza, under the cover of the Gaza war Israel's illegal settlers in the West Bank are killing Palestinians in the hundreds with the complicity of IDF forces and are evicting many from their land and homes with impunity.

The United States uses its bully pulpit and power to protect Israel's intransigence to a ceasefire something Israel had initially agreed to with the return of some hostages brokered by the United States. The U.S. media, by and large, refrains from covering the horrors of Israel's carnage of civilians and from criticizing its policies in order to preempt a domestic backlash to U.S. government policies.

What we are witnessing is a human crisis, not

just Palestinian or Israeli but a global humanitarian disaster. It is our collective shame. We are witnessing an ongoing genocide and we are doing little to prevent it. We cannot credibly say that we didn't know. We knew and we know. It is particularly ironic and horrific to witness the role of Israel and the United States. Jews were victims of genocide under Nazi rule and now they are the party that is committing the genocide! The United States, always the sanctimonious, was a bystander to the genocide of Jews but is now the shameful enabler in chief of today's genocide! Israel and the United States seem to be oblivious to their past and the lessons of history!

Several conclusions are evident. If there is not a radical shift in U.S. policies, Israel will continue to do as it has done up to now.

Israel will not listen to world opinion or to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Israel is akin to a spoilt child of wealthy and powerful parents who does as he wishes knowing full well that mommy and daddy will bail him out.

The United States will not rein in Israel unless it is under overwhelming pressure to do so. The United States has essentially subcontracted its Mideast policy to Israel because of pro-Israeli domestic pressures, brandishing criticisms of Israel as anti-Semitism to mute valid discourse, and even appointing a former member of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to negotiate a ceasefire along with a cadre of officials sympathetic to Israeli policies serving in the U.S. Department of State and in the National Security Council.

How can we put an end to hostilities and uphold humanity?

If Americans will not force a change in their government's policies, Arabs, Muslims and yes even the rest of the world must step up to the plate. Arabs and Muslim countries must pressure their rulers to refer the U.S. to the ICJ for complicity in Israeli crimes. The evidence for such a case is compelling and is based on the strong South African case. One or more Arab or Muslim countries could appoint a few accomplished legal minds to draft the necessary case that piggybacks and mimics the South African case to show how the United States' entangled web of assistance is directly connected to each and every Israeli crime. This will require some courage as most rulers in the global south are reluctant to face an American president head on. Although any single member of the United Nations can lodge a case, the fear would be greatly lessened if a few countries could unite and file a joint case. While this important step by itself may not directly rein in Israel, it would put pressure on the United States to act as it would be a dramatic wake up call to the United States and all Americans—how they are sleep walking into an ongoing genocide and harming the United States as nothing has ever done before.

While this action would in my opinion bring about the needed change to restore balance to U.S. Mideast policies and rein in Israel, Arab or Muslim countries could also indicate and initiate a number of other policies to further pressure the United States:

The few Arab or Muslim countries that have relations with Israel should suspend them

All Arab and Muslim countries could recall their ambassadors to Washington

They could close U.S. bases on their soil

The United States could not tolerate such isolation and it would be forced to do a U-turn in its pro-Zionist policies.

Israel is doomed if it continues with its ongoing genocide and policies of settler colonialism; and it could take the United States and maybe even the world down with it.

We must unite to save humanity from itself! After addressing the genocide of Palestinians head on at the ICJ, the world should find the courage to bring other cases, such as the carnage in Sudan and its foreign participants, to the attention of the Court. The world must begin to act instead of looking the other way.

A dear friend yesterday made an apropos comment to me: Israel has a case of bad timing. If it had been around and had started its colonial settler project 150 or so years ago, it would today be in good company with the likes of the United States, Australia, Canada, England, France, Belgium, Portugal...Just a bad case of timing!!

How the world conveniently forgets and moves on!

## Israeli strikes kill 274, injure more than 1,000 others in Lebanon

# Genocide in the making, this time in Lebanon

Israel and Hezbollah since the start of the Gaza war which has so far claimed the lives of more than 41,400 Palestinians, including over 16,000 children.

Israel's brutal strikes on Lebanon follow last week's attack in Beirut and the explosions of pagers and other communication devices which killed scores of people.

On Friday, an Israeli air attack in Beirut's southern suburbs killed nearly four dozen people including children and women. It also claimed the lives of Hezbollah members including its top commander, Ibrahim Aqil.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the explosion of thousands of pagers and other electronic devices also killed dozens of Lebanese people including Hezbollah members. The detonations have been blamed on Israel but the regime has neither confirmed nor denied responsibility.

Hezbollah launched a barrage of some long-range rockets at Israel on Monday, setting off sirens in several West Bank settlements east of Tel Aviv. The movement also launched dozens of missiles at a military base in northern Israel. It further hit Israeli bases in Haifa among other targets.

### "War of extermination"

Following the latest Israeli strikes on Lebanon, Prime Minister Najib Mikati came down hard on the regime.

"The continuing Israeli aggression on Lebanon is a war of extermination in every sense of the word and a destructive plan that aims to destroy Lebanese villages and towns," he told a cabinet meeting.

Mikati called on "the United Nations and the General Assembly and influential countries ... to deter the [Israeli] aggression".

The premier said he would work "to stop the new Israeli war and avoid as much as possible falling into the unknown".

The massacre of 274 people in Lebanon is in line with Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. The regime has failed to achieve any of its goals in the Gaza war which mainly include the elimination of Hamas. The regime's sole accomplishment lies in the brutal slaughter of civilians.

The Benjamin Netanyahu regime is also well aware that it won't be able to defeat Lebanon's Hezbollah. As a result, it has launched a bloodbath in Lebanon in a desperate attempt to

pit Lebanese people against the resistance group.

But as Hamas' popularity has grown in the wake of Israel's savage attacks in Gaza, brutal strikes against Lebanon will also strengthen unity among people in the country and further encourage them to throw their full weight behind Hezbollah.

Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant have previously pledged to "turn Beirut into Gaza". But they should wake up to the fact that growing resistance against Israel's occupation and barbarism will lay the foundation for razing Tel Aviv and Haifa to the ground.

Israel is facing domestic backlash over its military setbacks on the Gaza battlefield and its inability to avert Hezbollah's retaliatory strikes.

Israel's global isolation is also growing. The regime stands accused of genocide in Gaza at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The International Criminal Court (ICC) has also requested arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant over committing war crimes and crimes against humanity.



Iraq's top Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani appealed for "every possible effort" to end Israeli "aggression" against Lebanon following the regime's brutal strikes in Lebanon.

The top religious authority called for "the exercise of every possible effort" to end this "barbaric aggression and to protect the Lebanese people".

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Israel persists in committing barbaric acts of aggression against Lebanon in an attempt to shift attention away from the regime's military setbacks in the Gaza war as well as its growing domestic and international isolation.

On Monday, the Israeli army said its warplanes launched hundreds of strikes in Lebanon.

Lebanon's health minister said Monday afternoon that 274 people have been killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon, including 21 children and 31 women. Firas Abiad added that more than 1,000 people have also been injured.

Israel has warned of further action against Lebanon. Meanwhile, army spokesperson Daniel Hagari has not ruled out the possibility of a ground invasion into Lebanon.

"We will do everything necessary to return the residents of the north to their homes safely," Hagari said.

His comments echo a declaration issued by Israel's security cabinet on September 17, which outlined an expansion of the regime's military objectives.

The declaration said halting attacks by the Hezbollah resistance movement in northern Israel to allow Israelis to return to the evacuated areas is an official war goal.

Tens of thousands of people have become displaced in northern Israel and southern Lebanon amid the exchanges of fire between the Tel Aviv regime and Hezbollah since October 8. That is a day after Israel launched a war on Gaza.

The Lebanese resistance movement has said it would halt the attacks if there is a ceasefire in Gaza. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sabotaged talks aimed at ending the Gaza war by setting new conditions.

Monday's salvo was among the heaviest fire exchanges between



The UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) issued a statement on Monday afternoon expressing "grave concern for the safety of civilians in southern Lebanon."

It said the "attacks on civilians are not only violations of international law, but may amount to war crimes" in unusually stern wording for the peacekeeping body.



The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement has denounced the Israeli air raids on south Lebanon, which have killed hundreds of people.

"We, in the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, affirm that this wide-scale barbaric aggression is a war crime," Hams said in a statement. It reaffirmed solidarity with Hezbollah and the Lebanese people.

## Telecommunications crime against humanity

By Vahid Soltani Paji  
criminologist

TEHRAN - The explosion of wireless telecommunications devices over two consecutive days in Lebanon, resulting in the martyrdom of at least 39 people and injury of about 3,500 innocent civilians, demonstrated a new form of crime against humanity committed by the inhumane Zionist regime.

This massacre, conducted in the form of terrorism, involved planting explosives in devices used by various strata of the population and rescue workers for daily tasks.

Apart from the security issues discussed in connection with this crime, we point to the legal aspects of the matter.

According to Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 'a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population in pursuit of or in furtherance of a state or organizational policy constitutes a crime against humanity.'

The Israeli regime, to advance its terrorist agenda, had pre-planned and systematically embedded explosives in telecommunica-

tions devices and delivered them to Lebanon through intermediaries. At a specific time, technical measures were taken to detonate all of them, leading to this tragedy against civilians.

Under Article 25 of the Rome Statute, individuals who directly or in collaboration with others commit this crime bear criminal responsibility.

Those who ordered, encouraged, aided and abetted or attempted to commit it are also accountable.

Furthermore, those who facilitated, assisted, cooperated, or in any way aided the crime and provided the means for its commission will be prosecuted.

A group of people who, with a common purpose, participated in or attempted to commit the crime in any way are also criminally responsible.

Let us remember that in this war crime, the behavior of the perpetrators was inhumane, and the scale of the massacre, due to the explosions in different locations in Lebanon, the number of victims and wounded, the gender

and age of the victims, and the organized nature of the crime targeting civilians, proves the materialistic element of this crime.

The perpetrator's intentions were also obvious. When such a crime is committed against victims, the perpetrator knowingly and intentionally carries out these actions.

Under Article 314 of Lebanon's Penal Code, any act that creates public fear and utilizes explosive devices, incendiary materials, or contagious and contaminating agents capable of causing a public threat are categorized as acts of terrorism.

What has occurred is a serious threat to the world and global technology, as devices and equipment meant to aid humanity have now become tools of terrorism and crimes, used against people themselves.

It seems that nothing in this world is safe or secure anymore.

Advocates of humanity must take swift action and not allow scenarios we had previously seen in movies to unfold before our eyes, lives and societies, endangering the physical and mental well-being of people.

Hamas has been defeated and only several thousand fighters remain in the south.

It is becoming growingly evident that in the north, by Israeli admissions, at least 5,000 Hamas fighters remain.

This is the same northern Gaza that the Israel Occupation Forces (IOF) bombarded nearly one year ago and has been subject to repeated ground

invasions ever since.

Experts say it is becoming increasingly evident that the Israeli military has been defeated in northern Gaza. It appears that the occupation forces have run out of ideas on how to defeat the armed Palestinian group and are resorting to more war crimes.

## Israel plans to ethnically cleanse northern Gaza: CNN

From page 1 ▶ However, it remains unclear how many Palestinians still reside in northern Gaza or whether, when, and how civilians would be permitted to return.

"Those who leave will receive food and water," Eiland, has been cited as saying.

The irony is that Israeli politicians and generals have been saying for months on live TV that



## 1,700-year-old paintings unearthed in southern Iran



TEHRAN - A team of archaeologists has discovered a series of 1,700-year-old paintings in the ancient city of Gur, located three kilometers from Firuzabad, Fars province, southern Iran.

These remarkable findings, dating back to the early 3rd century CE, provide new insight into the artistic and cultural life during the Sassanian Empire.

The discovery was announced on Monday by Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi, the tourism chief of Fars province. According to him, the paintings were found during excavation and restoration work on a burial site in the ancient city.

"These paintings were uncovered on the surface of two Sassanian-era coffins during the work to organize and protect a burial site in Gur," he said.

The artworks were created using mineral pigments on a gypsum base, a technique typical of the period, ILNA reported on Monday.

The paintings depict figures in profile and three-quarter views, rendered with great detail and vivid colors, the report said.

These images offer a rare glimpse into the artistic traditions and social customs of the time, likely representing members of the Sassanian aristocracy or specific rituals.

One of the most prominent finds is a 60 by 90 cm wall painting located in a small chamber on the northwestern side of Gur. The chamber's walls are plastered with gypsum, and on the eastern wall, the painting was discovered.

When comparing it with similar examples in the Palace of Ardashir (which is a Sassanid element of a UNESCO-registered ensemble in Fars province), experts believe the scene por-

trays a part of aristocratic life or a ceremonial ritual involving prominent Sassanian figures.

According to the report, the wall painting features two distinct human figures: on the right, the image of a young man, although partially damaged, is obvious. His face is painted in profile, but his body is fully frontal, showcasing the detailed craftsmanship. On the left, adjacent to the man, is the image of a woman, portrayed in a similar style but wearing different-colored clothing. She is depicted holding what appears to be a lamb in her arms.

Both figures are framed within a bright green rectangular panel, and five centimeters to the left, a parallel panel containing two additional human figures was found. These figures share the same artistic execution as the ones on the right, and their portrayal offers clues to the symbolic or cultural significance of the scene.

In addition to the wall paintings, geometric floor patterns were discovered. The floor mosaics are characterized by intricate triangular designs, symmetrically arranged in shades of red, green, and orange.

The paintings and mosaics provide an invaluable window into Sassanian art and culture, as it is suggested that they depict aspects of the lives of the empire's nobility.

The Sassanid epoch is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under the Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as some palaces located in Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians. The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

zakh community has maintained its distinctive cultural practices and traditions within the region for decades, and this event will shine a spotlight on their contributions to the cultural fabric of Golestan.

"One of the standout ethnic groups residing in Golestan is the Kazakh community," Saravi said.

"Their lifestyle, from their traditional clothing and handicrafts to their customs and rituals, is a vital part of the cultural landscape here."

The idea for the event emerged from a recent meeting between Saravi and the consul general of Kazakhstan in Gorgan.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Saravi proposed hosting the Golestan and Kazakhstan cultural night to further foster mutual understanding and cooperation, given the deep religious, cultural, and political ties.

Gorgan, formerly known as Astarabad, is located on a small tributary of the Qareh River, 37 km from the Caspian Sea.

work metal, and made tools from stone, bone and wood.

Among the most striking burials, archaeologists have identified two. The first is a woman with a five-year-old child between her legs. In addition, scientists found the skeleton of an adult individual whose grave contains a necklace made of polished tusks of the same animal.

In addition to burials, sacrificial complexes were recorded at the necropolis site. They are pits sprinkled with ochre, in which offerings were placed. There the researchers cleared 114 bone pendants, serpentinite jewellery and an arrowhead.

## Golestan, Kazakhstan cultural night to be held in northern Iran

TEHRAN - To celebrate the shared cultural heritage of Golestan province and the Republic of Kazakhstan, a special cultural night is set to take place in the historical city of Gorgan, which is Golestan's capital.

Scheduled for September 29, the event coincides with Iran's National Tourism Week and aims to strengthen cultural ties between the two regions, both of which boast rich historical and ethnic diversity.

On Monday, Golestan's tourism chief Mohammad-Javad Saravi, announced the event, highlighting the province's unique status as a "treasure trove of Iran's ethnic diversity."

He noted that Golestan is home to a wide array of cultural traditions, evident in the province's traditional handicrafts, attire, languages, and local cuisine.

### Celebrating Kazakh culture in Golestan

Golestan province is notable for its population of approximately 10,000 nomadic Kazakhs, a Turkic ethnic group originally native to Central Asia and Eastern Europe. The Ka-

## Stone Age burial site unearthed in Russia

TEHRAN - Russian archaeologists have unearthed a burial site expected to date from the Stone Age during an excavation recently completed in Tatarstan.

The burial ground was created from 4500 to 4000 BC, TV BRICS reported.

Scientists during excavations revealed nine burials of primitive people. There were found stone arrowheads, and jewellery made of animal tusks and stone.

Researchers believe that the burials may be older than the Egyptian pyramids by more than 1,500 years. It probably belongs to primitive people who did not yet know how to

# 17th-century Imam Mosque in Isfahan at serious risk

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - Isfahan's historical Masjed-e Jameh Abbasi, also known as the Imam Mosque, is facing a looming crisis, with its structural integrity severely threatened by deep cracks caused by land subsidence and prolonged drought.

Despite years of warnings from experts and cultural heritage advocates, no significant action has been taken to address the growing threat to one of the most iconic examples of Safavid-era architecture.

Formerly named the Shah Mosque, that elegant place of worship dates back to the 17th century when Isfahan was the capital of Persia under the Safavid rule.

Experts say without urgent intervention, this architectural masterpiece could soon crumble. It suffers from large cracks that have opened up across its floral domes and load-bearing walls, while some of its columns have already begun to tilt, signaling a potential collapse if left unaddressed.

Concerns over the mosque's deteriorating condition have been voiced for several years. Bahram Nadi, a member of the specialized land subsidence task force in Isfahan, has repeatedly warned about the deepening cracks in the mosque's domes and walls. According to Nadi, these cracks have worsened over time, becoming increasingly dangerous, yet authorities have failed to take the necessary steps to protect the monument.

"The cracks are getting deeper, and some columns have tilted,"



Nadi explained during a recent tour of the mosque for journalists. He also demonstrated the extent of the damage using monitoring tools, illustrating just how critical the situation has become. "If urgent action is not taken, we risk losing this invaluable piece of our heritage."

### Government inaction despite promises

Despite the visible and worsening damage, there has been little follow-up from the government or local authorities.

During a previous administration, top officials from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts along with provincial authorities, visited the mosque and promised to address the issue. However, these promises were never fulfilled, leaving the mosque vulnerable to further deterioration.

The lack of action has left many wondering why such an important site is being neglected. The Imam Mosque, with its breathtaking blue-tiled mosaics and intricate Safavid-era artistry, has long been a source of pride

for Isfahan, Iran and even the world because it is one of the Key elements of the UNESCO-listed Imam Square (better known as Naqsh-e Jahan Square).

Its architectural innovations, such as the monumental porticoes and the exquisite muqarnas, have influenced Islamic architecture worldwide. The fact that it is now in danger of collapse has alarmed both heritage enthusiasts and the public.

### The broader issue of land subsidence in Isfahan

The crisis facing the Imam Mosque is part of a broader problem affecting Isfahan. The city has been grappling with land subsidence for years, primarily due to the over-extraction of groundwater to meet the needs of its growing population and agricultural demands.

This excessive water extraction has significantly lowered the groundwater levels, causing the land to sink and putting many of Isfahan's ancient structures, including the Imam Mosque, at risk.

According to Nadi, the land

subsidence in Isfahan is "one of the most severe cases in the world." The combination of a sinking earth and drought conditions, which have extremely reduced the water levels of the Zayandeh River, has worsened the problem.

Nadi explained that while land subsidence is a slow process, its impact on structures like the Imam Mosque is devastating without immediate intervention.

### A call for immediate action

The situation has reached a critical point, and many are calling for immediate action to save the mosque.

Nadi, along with other heritage advocates, has arranged several tours for officials and experts, showing them the extent of the damage and presenting evidence of the mosque's instability. Despite their efforts, there has been little movement from the authorities.

"The Imam Mosque is not just a building; it's a part of our identity," a cultural heritage enthusiast told the Tehran Times. "If we do not act now, we will lose it forever. This is a matter of national importance, and the world is watching."

The mosque, however, is a reminder of the broader challenges facing Iran's cultural heritage. Many of the country's historical sites, from Persepolis to the bridges of Isfahan, are at risk due to environmental factors and a lack of funding for proper preservation. Experts warn that without a coordinated effort to address these issues, Iran could lose much of its rich architectural legacy.

## Izeh capable of becoming world city of Kilims, handicrafts expert says

TEHRAN - Izeh, a city in southwestern Iran, has considerable scope to be recognized globally for its rich tradition of kilim weaving.

According to Abbas Rahimi, a handicrafts researcher, Izeh holds significant potential to be registered as a world city of kilims by the World Crafts Council (WCC), provided certain infrastructural improvements are made.

Located in the northeastern Khuzestan Province, Izeh has long been a hub for weaving kilim carpets, whose essential skills are passed down from generation to generation.

In an interview with ISNA, Rahimi highlighted that Izeh's kilims are already in the process of being nationally registered.

He emphasized that for the city to gain in-

ternational recognition, the existing facilities simply need to be better organized.

Izeh even has more potential than Dezful (another ancient city within the province), which was recognized as a world city for its basket-weaving craft, Rahimi stated.

He pointed to the abundance of kilim weaving workshops and cooperatives businesses across the city as evidence of its capacity. "Currently, Izeh boasts 12 kilim-weaving training centers and 12 cooperatives, further underlining the town's strong foundation in the craft."

The kilims produced in Izeh are not only decorative but highly functional, Rahimi noted. He explained that international recognition could greatly enhance the city's prospects for development and progress, turning

Izeh into a global hub for kilim artistry.

For Izeh to achieve WCC recognition, Rahimi stressed the importance of inviting World Crafts Council evaluators to visit the city's kilim-weaving workshops, cooperatives, markets, and training centers.

Izeh, located 180 kilometers from Ahvaz and known for its rich eco-tourism, is home to the Bakhtiari tribe, whose members speak the Bakhtiari dialect. Situated in a semi-mountainous region, the city plays a vital role in Khuzestan's cultural and handicraft landscape.

Kilims, which are flat tapestry-woven carpets or rugs, have been traditionally produced in Iran and other countries of the former Persian Empire.

## Tourist arrivals in Kazan from BRICS countries soar 60%

TEHRAN - The Russian city of Kazan has witnessed a record increase in the number of tourists from BRICS countries this summer, with a remarkable 60 percent rise compared to the same period last year.

This growth was reported by Vechernyaya Kazan, highlighting the city's growing appeal as a destination for international visitors.

Particularly notable is the surge in tourists from Brazil and South Africa, whose numbers have increased by 3.8 and 3.1 times, respectively. These figures underline the expanding interest in Kazan among travelers from the southern hemisphere.

Meanwhile, China continues to dominate the tourist flow from BRICS nations, accounting for approximately 63 percent of all visitors from this group. The steady influx of Chinese tourists underscores China's

role as a key driver in the city's booming tourism sector.

The increasing number of visitors from BRICS

countries coincides with the group's growing global influence. Last year, 23 countries expressed interest in joining the BRICS alliance, further boosting its prominence on the world stage.



### INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Since ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY intend to purchase 50,000 tons of Metallurgical Coke with tender no 48601537, hereby informs whom is interested in that tender documents can be received by sending a request to below contact details (Email or WhatsApp), the sealed and closed envelopes according to what has been mentioned in tender documents must be submitted to ESFAHAN

MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY- Raw Materials Purchasing Department (RMP) until 1:00 PM (According to Tehran time Saturday 12. Oct .2024 (Saturday 21.07.1403)

#### Contact Details:

Contact Person: Ms. Khorasani Email: [n.khorasani@msc.ir](mailto:n.khorasani@msc.ir)

Cell Phone/WhatsApp: 00989134083545

#### Note:

ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY reserves the right of return or rejection of those tender

documents in which haven't observed at least one of items of covering letter.

ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY PUBLIC RELATONS (1403-29)



# National Organization for Migration, UNHCR discuss refugees

TEHRAN – The head of the National Organization for Migration, Abdollah Mobini, and the Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Hai Kyung Jun, met on Sunday to enhance collaborations and find solutions to the problems related to refugees.

Lauding Iran's generous hosting of refugees, displaced individuals, and immigrants, Kyung Jun announced that the UNHCR is trying to expand its support to Iran in various ways by assigning resources to compensate for the budget deficit, IRNA reported.

Mobini, for his part, stressed the presence of several million displaced immigrants and foreign refugees in Iran, as well as the extensive and generous services provided to them despite the unfair sanctions and the dual policy of the West.

The official further highlighted the fair responsibility of the international community to support refugees and facilitate the conditions for their return to their home countries.

## Iran's support for refugees

Iran's support for refugees is demonstrated through its inclusive policies, which encompass protection, assistance, education, and healthcare, inspiring the global community and positively impacting the lives of refugees.

As the second-largest refugee-hosting country, Iran is currently host to one of the largest and most protracted refugee



populations in the world, the majority of whom are Afghan refugees.

The country is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans.

Currently, more than 500,000 Afghan children – including undocumented Afghans and those who have newly arrived in Iran following the Taliban takeover – are benefitting from Iran's inclusive education policies, one of the most progressive in the world.

In total, Iran hosts some 4.5 million Afghans of varying status – including resident permit holders, undocumented Afghans, and family passport holders – many of whom have been in the country for an extended period and require support to strengthen their resilience.

Iran's generous and exceptional services for refugees despite unfair economic sanctions have exceeded expectations and international responsibilities.

The government of Iran has

representative of UNHCR in Iran, lauded Iran's commitment to inclusive health services: "For over four decades, Iran has ensured that millions of vulnerable individuals, including about 3.8 million displaced Afghans, have access to essential health services alongside the local population.

This handover marked another critical step in the ongoing collaboration between UNHCR, the National Organization for Migration, and the Ministry of Health.

Japan has been a leading supporter of UNHCR's activities in the country for over a decade, particularly in the areas of education and healthcare for refugees, the UNHCR website announced in a press release on July 10.

The Government of Japan continues supporting UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, through its Supplementary Budget, and Partnership Grant Aid amounting to over US 4 million dollars, which helps Afghan refugees access health care in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This generous funding will allow UNHCR to enhance access to quality education and healthcare services for Afghan refugees through Iran's national educational and healthcare systems.

In February, some 200,000 foreign nationals in the country were provided with free health insurance with the financial support of the UNHCR, Mehr news agency quoted Mohammad-Mehdi Nasehi, the managing director of Iran Health Insurance Organization, as saying.

made a very generous effort to provide services to millions of refugees and foreign nationals despite difficult living conditions and oppressive economic sanctions imposed on the country.

## UNHCR services

In August, the UNHCR donated a consignment of essential medical equipment and supplies to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) to enhance the quality of healthcare services for both refugees and communities that generously host them.

It bolsters Iran's healthcare capacity in managing critical health challenges including communicable diseases that are a public health concern and affect people, regardless of their nationality or documentation situation, the UNHCR website announced in a press release on August 28.

The consignment was part of a USD 30 million multi-year initiative to support refugee-inclusive health policies in Iran.

Inna Gladkova, Deputy Rep-

## Collaborative conservation key to preserving, reviving caves

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN – Observed annually on September 23, the National Clean Cave Day highlights the significance of conserving caves by raising public awareness.

This year the day is celebrated under the theme of 'collaborative conservation is the key to preserving and reviving caves', IRNA reported.

Caves are the first places humans took refuge in to protect themselves against threats such as animal attacks, heat, and cold. Having hosted early humans, the caves are narrators of their lives, and due to their stability, caves can provide valuable information about our ancestors.

Having unique ecosystems, caves are known as key places in human history. However, a wide range of factors including tourism beyond the capacity of the caves, pollution, mining activities, and road construction are threatening them.

Caves play a significant role in providing underground water resources. They are indeed the main water supply of the earth, so it is essential to protect them.

By studying them, the level of underground

water resources, as well as their current and future conditions can be measured. Moreover, it can help forecast areas that are more likely to suffer drought in the future.

Caves are the habitats of different kinds of animals and insects whose presence is useful for the survival of human life, without whom farming may not even be possible.

One of the valuable species that resides in caves is the bat. Different species of bats consume different insect pests which boost agricultural prosperity. Unfortunately, in the last few years, human indulgence and limitless activities in nature have damaged caves.

For the same reason, in the Iranian year 1395 (2016 -2017), the National Clean Cave Day was registered in the country's national calendar to draw public attention to the importance of preserving caves.

This year, the same as in previous years, officials in the cave and speleology association and the Department of Environment along with people plan to clean up the caves in each province of the country.

There are also plans to raise individuals, local communities, and tourists' awareness of the importance of preserving caves' biodiversity,

and water resources. They are planning to utilize the capacity of collaborative conservation to protect sensitive and important cave ecosystems.

Constant monitoring of caves, particularly tourist caves, preparing caves' database, identifying and prioritizing caves in terms of protection, assessing the capacity of tourist caves, protecting the biological and physical diversity of caves, and protecting water resources are among the plans to be conducted collectively.

The following are the main detrimental factors affecting caves: tourism activities beyond the capacity of caves; sports and recreational activities; environmental pollution; development of urban, rural, and industrial areas; agricultural development; dams and road constructions; destruction of pastures, and deforestation.

Other factors such as mining and illegal extraction of underground water; hunting and illegal trafficking of cave species; irregular sampling for the purpose of carrying out research activities; introduction of non-native species; destruction of stalactites and stalagmites and making noise have adverse impacts on caves.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## 56% of motorcycles running in only 5 provinces

Some 56 percent of the total motorcycles in the country are running in only five provinces.

Of all 32.9 million vehicles in the country, motorcycles amount to 11.6 million, accounting for 35 percent of the total vehicles moving in the country.

Some 56 percent of motorcycles are plying the roads in 5 provinces of Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, Fars and Khuzestan.

There are 2 million motorcycles in Tehran, 1.3 million in Khorasan Razavi, 1.2 million in Isfahan, 916,000 in Fars, and 564,000 in Khuzestan.

## ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها در ۵ استان تردد دارند

بنابر آمارها، ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت ها تنها در ۵ استان تردد می کنند.

از ۳۲ میلیون و ۹۰۰ هزار دستگاه انواع وسایل نقلیه در کشور، ۱۱ میلیون و ۶۵۰ هزار دستگاه یعنی معادل ۳۵ درصد را موتورسیکلت ها شامل می شوند.

تهران بزرگ، خراسان رضوی، اصفهان، فارس و خوزستان ۵۶ درصد موتورسیکلت های کشور را در خود جای داده اند.

تهران بزرگ با حدود ۲ میلیون دستگاه موتورسیکلت، خراسان رضوی ۱.۳ میلیون دستگاه، اصفهان ۱.۲ میلیون دستگاه، فارس ۹۱۶ هزار دستگاه و خوزستان با ۵۶۴ هزار دستگاه موتورسیکلت بیشترین موتورسیکلت های کشور را به خود اختصاص دادند.

## National Conference of Elites slated for October

TEHRAN –The 14th National Conference of Elites is scheduled to be held from October 1 to 2 in Tehran.

The event will bring together 600 elites from all over the country, 200 of whom are women, IRNA reported.

The annual event provides an opportunity for elites, researchers, and scientific experts to get familiar with each other and share ideas on new scientific and research achievements in various fields.

On the first day of the conference, the participants are scheduled to meet President Masoud Pezeshkian and on the second day, they will meet Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

The conference focuses on different topics such as money and finance, governance and policy making, environment and natural resources, health system, food security, science, technology and knowledge-based economy, technologies, leading and strategic industries, new world order including issues such as regional developments and Iran's position, as well as soft technologies.

From the Iranian year 1395 (2016-2017) to 1400 (2021-2022), a total of 2,240 Iranian specialists and graduates returned to the country from the top 200 universities abroad, while in the next two years, 1,191 experts and elites got back to the country, Mehr news agency reported.

Some 170 elites who have returned to the country are recruited as faculty members in universities.

Also, around 250 projects were defined for cross-border cooperation with overseas elites instead of passing military service.

### National network for elite women

A national network is planned to be launched with the aim of empowering elite women and female technologists in the country.

On July 14, the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy organized a meeting attended by more than



30 technologist women including university professors, CEOs of companies, as well as experts in fields of oil and gas, artificial intelligence, medicine, research, technology, and Telecommunications.

During the meeting, the participants discussed challenges faced by women experts in the mentioned fields, IRIB reported.

They also explored different levels of goals of the network such as enhancing women's technical capabilities, providing targeted and fair contributions, as well as creating transnational connections, and promoting their technical activities.

### Iranian women among top 1% most cited researchers

Some 135 out of 938 Iranian researchers who were recognized among the world's top one percent most-cited researchers in 2023 were female scholars. In 2023, 938 top researchers affiliated with Iranian organizations were identified, which showed a 12 percent increase compared to the previous year.

Over the past decade, the number of highly-cited researchers in the country has been growing. Women are an important part of society, playing an important role in the development of human societies, IRNA quoted Ahmad Fazlzadeh, the head of the Islamic World Science and Technology Monitoring and Citation (ISC) Institute, as saying.

One of the indicators of scientific authority is the number of highly cited scientists in each country, and Iranian women researchers have a special place in the field of scientific authority at the national and international level, Fazlzadeh added.

## Water year ends with receiving 252.7mm of precipitation

TEHRAN –The water year (September 22, 2023 - September 22, 2024) came to an end with receiving 252.7 millimeters of precipitation, showing a 19 percent increase compared to a year before.

The low precipitations at the beginning of the previous water year were worrisome, but the volume of precipitation improved with the passage of time.

Due to successive years of drought, the increase in rainfall amounts did not compensate water deficit in the country, some provinces are suffering from water shortage, IRNA reported.

### A total of 10 provinces received less than normal rainfall.

According to the latest reports, the total amount of recorded rainfall in the previous water year (ended on September 23) amounted to 252.7 mm, which signifies a 19 percent increase compared to 212.9 mm rain received in the water year before (September 2022 -September 2023).

Compared to the long-term figure, 248.7, it shows a two percent increase.

### Low rainfall forecast for fall

According to numerical weather prediction modeling, the fall weather is forecast to be warmer than normal with low precipitation, Metrological Organization has reported.

"During the past 13 months, the average temperature in each month has been the highest on record which is caused by extreme temperature anomalies," ISNA quoted Ahad Vazifeh, an official with Metrological Organization, as saying.

The warm and cold phases of the Pacific Ocean affect the weather, but this indicator cannot be relied on this year because the transition from El Niño (warm phase) to La Niña (cold phase) is going on slowly, he added.

Most models indicate weak La Niña con-

ditions from November to February. In this condition, indicators that change in the short term such as the North Atlantic Oscillation (Nao), and Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) become more effective and impact, he further noted.

According to recent forecasts, there is the possibility of either neutral conditions or a transition into La Niña.

Concerning the fact that the cycle is currently moving from El Niño to La Niña, Sadeq Ziaiean, an official with national center for forecasting Iran metrological organization, said: "There is over 60 percent chance for neutral conditions and 38 percent chance for experiencing La Niña in the country by August 20," ISNA reported.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a climate phenomenon that has three parts El Niño, La Niña, and neutral phases.

El Niño and La Niña are opposite extremes of the ENSO, which refers to cyclical environmental conditions that occur across the Equatorial Pacific Ocean.

La Niña is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific, compared to El Niño, which is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific.

These changes are due to natural interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere. Sea surface temperature, rainfall, air pressure, and atmospheric and ocean circulation all influence each other.

Ziaiean pointed out that in addition to the ENSO, other cyclonic events such as Acetic Oscillation (AO), NAO, MJO, and the Indian Ocean bipolar affect Iran's atmospheric condition.

Under optimal conditions, when La Niña dominates, there is a 60 percent likelihood that the fall season in Iran begins later, and the probability of facing a dry year increases.





Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**  
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
Email: info@tehrantimes.com  
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
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SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Love children and be kind to them and keep your promises to them since they only know you as their providers.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:56 Evening: 17:58 Dawn: 4:31 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:55 (tomorrow)

## Oscar winning actor Javier Bardem denounces Israel for crimes against Gaza

Javier Bardem gave a lengthy and eloquent assessment of Israel's current military attacks in Gaza during a press conference at the San Sebastian Film Festival in Spain on Friday.

Bardem attended the event to finally pick up his 2023 Donostia award for career achievement after he was unable to attend the festival last year due to the US actors' strike, Deadline reported.

He began his answer to a question about politics and Israel by saying: "What is happening in Gaza is totally unacceptable, it is terrible, it is dehumanizing. I believe that this Israeli government is the most radical government that Israel has ever had."

Bardem continued to say that he believed the country's government "is committing crimes against humanity."

"Obviously, the attacks on October 7, do not justify this massive punishment that the Palestinian population is suffering," he added.

"The impunity that the current Israeli government enjoys in its actions in Gaza and the West Bank has to change.

I think that countries like the United States, Germany, and England in particular have to rethink their unconditional support when we see crimes. Prohibiting the entry of food, water, medicine, and electricity, as UNICEF says, is a war against children, and continues this trauma for generations."

The "No Country for Old Men" actor and Oscar winner said he knows nothing he says will change anything but he believes as a society we have a "moral and ethical obligation to denounce that which we consider unjust."

"Israel's extreme right-wing nationalist government is not at all representative of the Jewish community or Israeli society," he added. "It is our responsibility to be able to observe

and denounce those situations that we consider unacceptable, and to ask the International Criminal Court, the international justice of the United Nations, to condemn and judge those responsible. In this case, Netanyahu. To give unconditional support is more than giving wings to the abuse of international law."

Bardem was given a rousing round of applause from the journalists in the room following his statement.

More than 41,300 people have been killed and 95,413 wounded in Israel's war on Gaza in the past 11 months, according to the latest figure announced by the Gaza Health Ministry. Most of the dead are civilians with about half of them being women and children. Thousands more are missing under the rubble of bombed buildings.

At least 10,700 people have been arrested in the occupied territory, including East Jerusalem since Israel's war on Gaza started last October.

Gaza's schools have been closed since last October and most have been transformed into shelters. About 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million has been displaced, often multiple times.

According to Gaza's health ministry, 70% of stockpiled medications and 83% of health supplies have been used up, forcing hospitals and healthcare facilities to suspend services.

Since Israel launched its Gaza offensive, damage to infrastructure and lack of fuel and electricity have also led to a severe water shortage.

According to damage assessments from researchers at the CUNY Graduate Center and Oregon State University, more than half of all buildings across the Gaza Strip have suffered damage, rising to nearly 80 percent in Gaza City.

The damage in Khan Younis and Rafah has also increased as Israel expanded its offensive from northern Gaza to the rest of the territory.

## Cartoon of Day



Israel As A "Jewish State"

Cartoonist: Mohammed Afefa from Palestine

# 4th China Film Week opens in Tehran

From Page 1 ▶ Starring Wu Jing and Jackson Yee, the film depicts the story of the North Korea-allied Chinese People's Volunteer Army, forcing U.S. forces to withdraw in a fictionalized retelling of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War.

The other four films will be screened at the Iranian Cinema Museum in northern Tehran from Tuesday until Friday.

They include the spy thriller movie "Cliff Walkers" (2021) by Zhang Yimou, the action-adventure feature "Cloudy Mountain" (2021) by Li Jun, the comedy drama "Nice View" (2022) by Wen Muye, and the family animation "Bonnie Bears: Back to Earth" (2022) by Lin Huida.

"Cliff Walkers" is set in the Imperial Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo in the 1930s before World War II erupts.

Zhang Yi, Yu Hwei, and Qin Hailu star in the film that follows four Chinese Communist Party agents who, after returning to China, embark on a secret mission. Sold out by a traitor, the team find themselves surrounded by threats on all sides.

"Cloudy Mountain" tells the



A scene from Iranian short animation "The Pearl: Let's Make Peace" by Abdollah Alimorad



story of a father and son who try to save a small town and its newly-built tunnel that is threatened by natural disasters.

Yilong Zhu, Zhizhong Huang, and Shu Chen are in the cast among others.

"Nice View" mainly tells the story of a young man named

Jing Hao who, in order to save his sister, desperately seizes the opportunity he found to start a business, changes his fate, and affects the people around him.

The cast includes Jackson Yee, Yu Tian, and Halin Chen among others.

The eighth film in the Boonie

Bears series, "Boonie Bears: Back to Earth" follows Bramble who gains new abilities and an extraterrestrial sidekick when an unknown object from space lands on Earth.

Watching the films of the 4th China Film Week is free for cinema lovers.

## Iranian animations to go on screen at StopTrik festival

From Page 1 ▶ Every year, the cities of Maribor and Lodz transform into alternative capitals of animation, hosting the festival that showcases a premier film program, alongside a variety of inspiring events and innovative professional workshops in stop motion filmmaking.

The StopTrik vibe dissolves typical red carpet barriers, allowing audiences, guest

filmmakers, and organizers to come together to watch films, discuss animation traditions and trends, collaborate on new projects, and celebrate at the end of the day.

This atmosphere fosters a unique relationship between viewers and artists, as the audience takes on the role of jurors who help decide the festival's top awards.

## IAF cinemathèque to screen Royal National Theater's "Fleabag"

TEHRAN- The Cinemathèque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen a recorded stage performance of the 2019 Royal National Theater's production of "Fleabag" on Wednesday.

The screening will be followed by a review session by Iranian theater critics Abbas Ghafari and Mohsen Kheimehduz.

Directed by English theater director Vicky Jones, this National Theater production stars Phoebe Waller-Bridge as the main character.

"Fleabag" offers a vibrant and candid glimpse into the life of a woman navigating the complexities of modern existence in London. This one-woman show

achieved box office success in 2019, breaking records and captivating audiences.

"Fleabag" offers a vibrant glimpse into the life of a woman navigating the complexities of modern existence.

The protagonist, known simply as Fleabag, is sharp-witted and unapologetically blunt as she grapples with love and loss while haunted by personal tragedy.

Despite her anger and grief, she struggles to embrace healing, often pushing away those who genuinely care for her. Yet, Fleabag maintains a façade of confidence, navigating her chaotic life with an unyielding bravado.

At first glance, "Fleabag" may appear overly sexualized, emotionally raw, and self-absorbed, but this portrayal only scratches the surface.

Fleabag faces a myriad of challenges, from strained family relationships to a failing guinea pig café, leaving her feeling as if she has nothing to lose.

The critically acclaimed play served as the inspiration

for the BBC's award-winning television adaptation of the same name, solidifying its place in contemporary storytelling. Fleabag's journey resonates with audiences, reminding us of the complexities of human emotions, the struggle for connection, and the pursuit of self-acceptance.

In 2020, "Fleabag" received two nominations at the prestigious Laurence Olivier Awards, competing for the title of Best Entertainment or Comedy Play, while Phoebe Waller-Bridge was nominated for Best Actress for her outstanding performance in the title role, however, the show ultimately failed to win in either category.

## Adaptation of "Treasure Island" to go on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN- A loose adaptation of Scottish novelist Robert Louis Stevenson's classic adventure novel "Treasure Island" is set to go on stage at Iranshahr Theater in Tehran on September 28.

Director Setareh Pesiani has renamed the play "Lulu Island" to perform it in Iran.

Kazem Sayyahi, Khosro Pesiani, Elnaz Habibi, Fatemeh Naqavi and Navid Jahanzadeh are the main members of the cast for the play, which will remain on stage until November 1.

"Treasure Island," set in the mid-18th century, begins at the Admiral Benbow Inn, where an old sailor known as The Captain takes refuge.

He warns young Jim Hawkins, the innkeeper's son, to watch for a one-legged man.

This man turns out to be a former shipmate named Billy Bones, who is confronted by a sailor named Black Dog, leading to a sword fight that leaves Bones incapacitated.

Following the death of Jim's father and the arrival of Pew, a blind beggar who delivers a dire summons called "the black spot," Bones succumbs to a stroke.

In the chaos, Pew's gang storms the inn but are quickly overpowered by excise officers, resulting in Pew's death as well.

Jim and his mother manage to escape with a treasure map found in Bones' chest, indicating where the notorious pirate Captain Flint hid his fortune.

With the map, Jim, along with the local doctor, Dr. Livesey, and squire John Trelawney, sets off for adventure on the Hispaniola, a ship chartered by Trelawney, under the command of Captain Smollett.

During the voyage, Jim befriends the ship's cook, Long John Silver, who has a mysterious past. Tragedy strikes when the first mate, Mr. Arrow, is lost overboard.

While hiding in an apple barrel, Jim overhears conspiratorial discussions among the crew—they are pirates planning to mutiny and kill their captain after finding the treasure.

Upon reaching the island, Jim witnesses a murder committed by Silver and flees. He encounters Ben Gunn, a marooned pirate who once served on Flint's ship.

After Silver's crew successfully mutinies and takes control of the Hispaniola, Jim and a loyal group find refuge in an abandoned stockade.



A fierce skirmish ensues, leading Jim to take action by seizing the ship, dueling with the pirate Israel Hands, whom he ultimately kills.

Jim discovers Silver's party intends to return to the ruined stockade under a truce, leading to a joint expedition for the treasure.

However, they find only an empty cache, which leads to tense moments where Jim's life is threatened. Miraculously, he is rescued by Livesey and his allies. Eventually, they uncover the real treasure, which Ben Gunn had long ago stashed away.

After loading it onto the Hispaniola, they head for home, but Silver betrays them at the first port, escaping with some money.

As the remaining crew returns to Bristol, Jim resolves never to return to the treacherous island, leaving behind any unclaimed fortune.