



# Final Victory Belongs to Resistance

TEHRAN – During a meeting with the veterans of the Iran-Iraq war, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei commented on the events transpiring in Palestine and Lebanon, stating Resistance fighters will emerge victorious in the fight against the Zionist regime.

“The definitive religious ruling is that it is obligatory upon everyone to strive and help to return Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque to the Muslims and its rightful owners,” he asserted.

Ayatollah Khamenei stated, “Lebanon’s Hezbollah, which is standing up for Gaza and enduring these bitter events, is engaging in fighting on the path of God.”

Pointing to the similarities between the current battle and the eight-year imposed war, the Leader stated, “In this battle, the infidel and evil enemy is equipped with the best resources. The U.S. is behind them. The Americans claim that they are not involved and are unaware of things, which is false. Not only are they aware and involved, they also require the victory of the Zionist regime.”

“Because of the upcoming elections, the current US administration needs to demonstrate that it has supported the Zionist regime and helped it achieve victory. However, they also need the votes of Muslims, so they pretend that they are not involved,” he added. ▶ Page 3

## Araqchi calls on EU to take a unified stance against Israeli aggression in West Asia

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has called upon the European Union (EU) to adopt a unified position to halt Israel’s ongoing aggression in West Asia.

During a meeting with the EU’s foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, held on the sidelines of the 2024 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Tuesday, Araqchi emphasized the need for decisive EU action.

In a statement shared on X (formerly known as Twitter), Araqchi described the discussions with Borrell as “useful,” highlighting a broad range of issues of mutual concern.

Among the topics addressed were the continued nuclear negotiations, the escalating crisis in West Asia—exacerbated by Israeli aggression against Lebanon—ongoing issues in Ukraine, and the importance of avoiding double standards in human rights practices.

“I urged the EU to prevent certain members from supporting the Israeli regime and, instead, to take a unified European position to stop Israel’s escalation in the region,” Araqchi stated. His comments come amid rising tensions as Israeli military actions have intensified in Lebanon and Gaza.

On Monday, Israeli forces launched over 330 airstrikes across more than 117 Lebanese towns and cities, particularly targeting the southern regions and the Beqaa Valley. The attacks have resulted in the deaths of at least 569 people, including 50 children and 94 women, with more than 5,000 wounded. ▶ Page 3

## Iran, China stress implementation of long-term strategic co-op plan

TEHRAN – In a meeting between Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnaser Hemmati and Chinese Minister of Finance Lan Fo’an, the two sides emphasized the implementation of the two countries’ long-term strategic partnership plan.

Hemmati met with Fo’an on the sidelines of the 9th ministerial meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) members in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, IRNA reported.

In addition to the issues related to the co-operation of the two countries in AIIB, the two sides discussed the most important issues related to bilateral relations, especially the follow-up of the results of previous agreements.

Holding the two countries’ Joint Economic Committee meeting in the new future was another topic discussed by the two officials.

In this meeting, the ministers of the two countries emphasized that Iran and China have put a more serious and deeper implementation of the comprehensive long-term strategic plan of the two countries on their agenda and will continue this path in the official interactions of the two countries until concrete practical achievements are reached.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021.

The document was signed between Iran’s former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Back in December 2022, Iran and China finalized 16 memorandums of understanding (MOU) under the framework of the two countries’ strategic 25-year agreement.

The MOUs were signed in an Iran-China comprehensive cooperation program summit which was held in Tehran on December 13 in the presence of Iran’s former First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and China’s Vice Premier Hu Chunhua. ▶ Page 4

## “Tel Aviv for Beirut”: Hezbollah hits Mossad headquarters

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Hezbollah on Wednesday targeted the headquarters of the Israeli spy agency Mossad near Tel Aviv.

In what has been described as a historic move, the Lebanese resistance used the Qader 1 ballistic missile for the first time to wage the operation.

The operation marks the first time that Hezbollah has targeted Tel Aviv with a ballistic missile.

The attack came “in response for the Israeli aggression on Beirut” on Tuesday night that led to dozens of casualties.

According to Hezbollah, the strike reinforces the equation of the “[suburb of] Beirut for [the suburb of] Tel Aviv”, restoring military balance. ▶ Page 5

## Biden gives Israel blank check to bomb Lebanon

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- It seems absolutely impossible to believe that Israel’s massive bombing campaign in Lebanon could have taken place without the United States’ carte blanche.

However, speaking at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Tuesday, President Joe Biden attempted to paper over Washington’s complicity.

During his address to the UN General Assembly, Biden said he does not want to see a “full-scale war” in Lebanon.

“A diplomatic solution is still possible. In fact, remains the only path to lasting security..Full scale war is not in anyone’s interest,” he said. ▶ Page 5

## Gaza: the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe

By Dr Hanan Balkhy,

WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean

An entire population cut off from sustained aid. An estimated 40 600 deaths, and the numbers increase daily. Seventy-two per cent of all casualties women and children. Ten thousand people reported missing, most presumed dead under the rubble. Displacement on a colossal scale. Famine and food insecurity. Disease outbreaks. Systematic attacks on civilian spaces and health care. What is happening in Gaza defies belief. It is unconscionable.

On the frontline of the response to this tragedy are the courageous health and humanitarian workers who continue to serve their communities under unimaginable conditions and at great risk. ▶ Page 7



## Pezeshkian demands end to ‘Israeli barbarism’ in UN address

## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## Illusion is forbidden in foreign policy

In an interview with Fouad Izadi, an expert on international affairs, Sobh-e-No wrote about the possibility of resuming negotiations with Europe and the United States on the sidelines of Pezeshkian's trip to New York. Izadi said: There is indeed one year left for the JCPOA's expiration date, but some of Iran's commitments in the JCPOA have no time limits. Some items, such as the trigger mechanism, will be finished by next October, but other parts of the JCPOA are lifetime and have no time limit. Iran's experience with America and Europe was not good and we should learn from this experience and act on it. If we want to talk or communicate with another party, both parties must have this preparation. But the other side not only has not shown the slightest sign of dialogue but also attacks Iran and Iran's friends in the region with various tools and carries out terrorist operations in our country. The important solution of Pezeshkian is to use past experiences and not keep the country waiting for negotiation with America. This solution is to look at past experiences without illusions. Considering the national interests, we can make better decisions.

## Donya-e-Eqtesad: Effects of escalation of war

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtesad addressed the war between Lebanon and Israel and the escalation of tensions in the region and said: Despite the escalation of tensions in the region, there are still ways to prevent a full-scale war. America's diplomatic strategy needs to change and convey de-escalation messages in more tangible ways instead of traditional diplomatic channels and be more coordinated with main European capitals such as Paris and Berlin. As the United States tries to de-escalate tensions, it must also continue to review its commitment to Israel. Lebanon must understand that escalation of tensions will not create a gap between Tel Aviv and Washington. This can lead Hezbollah and its supporter Iran to think more about de-escalation. Iran has spent the last 11 months putting pressure on Israel while trying to stay away from a full-scale war. The parties should know that if Iran enters this conflict, the United States will probably do the same. Finally, the United States should continue to press Israel to express its plan to end military operations against Hamas and prioritize Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

## IRGC Fatehin unit conducts military drill in Tehran to boost security readiness

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC)'s elite Fatehin (Conquerors) Special Unit held its Nabi Akram-3 military exercise in Tehran, bringing together all brigades of the unit.

The drill took place in conjunction with Sacred Defense Week, a commemoration of Iran's resistance during the Iran-Iraq War, which emphasizes the importance of national defense and security.

Mahmoud Hashemi, the Commander of the Fatehin Unit in Tehran province, stated that the exercise was designed to enhance the combat readiness and defense capabilities of the unit's brigades.

"The military drill aimed to improve their ability to maintain security, counter

## Iran's new indigenous helicopters set for operational launch by 2026

TEHRAN – Iran's Army Ground Forces announced that the development of a new domestically-produced helicopter is 80% complete, with the indigenous project expected to be operational within two years.

Deputy Coordinator Major Yousef Ghorbani shared details about the construction of the national helicopter in an interview with Iranian media.

Iran has made substantial progress in developing and introducing several homegrown helicopters, including the IAIO Toufan, which is derived from the U.S.-manufactured AH-1J International.

This helicopter incorporates cutting-edge technologies such as laser systems, digital

## Hamshahri: Behind the scenes of fake news

In a commentary, Hamshahri discussed the fake claim of Bloomberg about the president's words and wrote: Western media and opponents tried to manipulate Pezeshkian's words that Iran is ready to de-escalate tensions with the Zionist regime from a position of weakness. The issue of the war in Gaza, the condemnation of the Zionists' crimes in the region, and the necessity of building a global consensus to confront the genocide of this regime have been the main focus of the consultations of the Iranian delegation in New York. Therefore, the triangle of Western, Hebrew and opposition media tried to influence the diplomatic activity of the Islamic Republic in the United Nations General Assembly with fake news. Also, they wanted to provide a suitable platform for creating disputes inside Iran. Spreading such fabricated reports comes as Pezeshkian has shown that the approach of his government is to continue supporting the Axis of Resistance and defending the legitimacy of the oppressed Palestinian nation.

## Arman-e-Melli: Emphasis on Muscat negotiations

In an article, Arman-e-Melli dealt with the messages exchanged between Iran and the Western sides at the United Nations on revitalizing the 2015 nuclear deal. It said: It seems that the messages exchanged between the parties have worked to revive the nuclear negotiations at the United Nations. This means that the parties have emphasized the same negotiations that were held in the previous government about reducing tension and resolving some challenges. Therefore, Iran's achievement in the United Nations can be seen probably in the future along with the Muscat talks. However, there is a very big obstacle in this path, and that is the American election and the result of the election in the United States. About 40 days left until the American elections, and of course, during this time, Netanyahu may take any action to turn Iran's nuclear case into a second-hand case for Iran and the United States. But it seems that according to the published news, Iran and America have made decisions related to the revival of negotiations because Abbas Araghchi has declared that he will probably stay in New York for more days.

disturbances, and respond to potential threats, including terrorist activities," he noted.

The exercise unfolded in four key phases each focusing on critical scenarios. According to Hashemi, the unit trained in responding to riots and unrest, while also preparing to address security threats through specialized operations.

These included practicing hostage rescue missions, neutralizing suspicious packages, and combating terrorist cells.

By focusing on practical, real-world scenarios, the Nabi Akram-3 drill demonstrated the IRGC's readiness to respond to various security challenges, ensuring a higher level of protection for the nation.

control mechanisms, and centralized smart arms management systems.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ghorbani highlighted the Army's commitment to border security, stating that engineering teams are actively involved in the border closure initiative.

"Significant advancements have been made in infrastructure development, including road construction and the fortification of walls, which is currently in progress.

Efforts to enhance border security are being expedited, and there is optimism that these initiatives will be completed more swiftly," the commander stated.

## Pezeshkian demands end to 'Israeli barbarism' in UN address

TEHRAN – During the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian delivered a scathing condemnation of the Israeli regime's actions in Lebanon and Gaza, calling them "insane barbarism" and demanding an end to the aggression.

Pezeshkian asserted that the Israeli regime, weakened by its defeat in Gaza, is attempting to "repair its myth of invincibility" through escalating attacks against Lebanon. "The insane Israeli barbarism in Lebanon should be stopped before setting the region and the world on fire," the president said.

"Naturally, the blind and terrorist crimes of the past days and the extensive aggression against Lebanon that shed the blood of thousands of innocent people will not remain unanswered," he added.

"Those governments that stand in the way of cessation of this terrible catastrophe and still call themselves defenders of human rights, have to bear the consequences [of these atrocities]," the president noted.

Elsewhere in his speech, Pezeshkian addressed the issue of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, lambasting the Israeli regime and its supporters for trying to identify the Palestinians, "who have risen [to claim the right] after seven decades of occupation and humiliation, as 'terrorists.'"

He further condemned the international community's response to the Israeli regime's



actions, citing the branding of protesters against the Israeli war as "anti-Semites." Pezeshkian declared the Islamic Republic's unwavering support for these protesters and called for an end to the labeling of Palestinian resistance as terrorism.

Pezeshkian proposed a referendum for all Palestinians, past and present, as a means to achieve a lasting peace in the region. This proposal, mirroring the vision of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, aims to allow Palestinians to self-determine their future and create a peaceful coexistence among Muslims, Jews, and Christians in the region.

"We believe that through such mechanism, sustainable peace can be achieved. It is only through this course that Muslims, Jews, and Christians can end up living in one land alongside one another amid calm and away from racism and apartheid," the president stated.

## France affirms Iran's stance on Lebanon attacks

During a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, Pezeshkian

and French President Emmanuel Macron discussed the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Pezeshkian urged France to play a more active role in stopping the "crimes of the Zionist regime," emphasizing the devastating impact of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and the wider region. He warned that the situation could escalate further if these crimes are not stopped.

In response, Macron stated that France "strongly condemns the aggression against Lebanon" and has been actively working to exert pressure and end the violence. He also reiterated France's commitment to de-escalating the conflict and achieving peace in the region.

Macron also called for the release of three French nationals currently detained in Iran for their involvement in the 2022 riots.

This meeting marked the first time that Macron and Pezeshkian have met since the latter assumed office.

## 'China's intervention essential in halting Zionist aggression'

Pezeshkian also met with

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to discuss pressing regional issues, particularly the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

During their meeting, the Iranian president emphasized the critical role China plays in promoting global peace and security. He described the ongoing violence in Gaza and Lebanon as a "humanitarian catastrophe," asserting that China's condemnation and intervention are essential in halting the crimes committed by the Zionist regime.

"The events in Gaza and Lebanon, backed by nations claiming to uphold human rights, are unacceptable," stated Pezeshkian. He called for a united front among countries that resist oppression, asserting that such solidarity would deter further aggression from the Zionist regime.

Wang Yi also condemned the actions of the Israeli regime in Gaza, labeling them unjust and harmful to the Palestinian people. He reiterated China's support for Iran's efforts to lift sanctions and emphasized the importance of Islamic countries fulfilling their responsibilities in advocating for Palestinian rights.

As discussions continued between Iranian officials and their Chinese counterparts, both sides expressed optimism about their collaborative efforts to address regional challenges and foster mutual development.

Pezeshkian met with multiple other foreign leaders on his last day of visit to New York, including the Presidents of Serbia, Norway, and Pakistan.

## 'Fake and propagandistic', Iran denies it sent messages to Swedish demonstrators protesting Quran burning

TEHRAN – The Iranian embassy in Stockholm has issued a statement refuting government allegations that Iran sent text messages to Swedish citizens, urging them to take action against individuals involved in Quran burnings during the summer of 2023.

On Tuesday, the Swedish Prosecutor's Office asserted that in 2023, the Iranian Intelligence Service (VAJA) had compromised an SMS provider in an attempt to incite individuals to take action against the protesters responsible for the Quran burning. The Swedish authorities did not provide any evidence.

Additionally, Sweden's intelligence agency, Sapo, reported in a separate statement that a hacker group had initiated a campaign aimed at depicting Sweden as an Islamophobic nation – a notion that became popular among Muslims due to Swedish authorities' firm

support for the Quran burners.

In its statement, the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly rejected Stockholm's claims and characterized the accusations as unfounded. "Paying attention to the source of these news is enough to clearly understand that all these news are fake and propagandistic."

The statement pointed out Sweden's history of falsifying reports, criticizing the state for choosing to pressure Iran with unfounded assertions instead of paying attention to the plight of Palestinians in Gaza.

"In such a way, the Israeli regime and its spy services absolve themselves of the brutal killing of innocent people by producing fake news and reports with full confidence and shamelessly justify their shocking crimes."

## 'Committed to joining forces with Hezbollah against Zionist aggression': Imam Khomeini's grandson

TEHRAN – A grandson of the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, expressed in a letter to the secretary-general of Lebanon's Hezbollah Resistance movement, his commitment to support the group in their struggle against the Zionist regime.

In his correspondence with Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, Seyyed Hassan Khomeini commended the courageous efforts of the Lebanese people and declared his willingness to stand alongside them in defending the Islamic

cause and engaging in jihad against the illegitimate Zionist regime.

The complete text of the letter is as follows:

"Dear Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah,

Your relentless efforts and those of the brave Lebanese people against the oppressive Zionist regime continue to inspire pride among Muslims and honor for all who cherish freedom.

As Imam Khomeini articulated, "Martyrdom is the art of the men of God," and today you and your

comrades confront the epitome of cruelty and injustice.

Those who communicate solely through force and lack any sense of humanity are, with the backing of Western powers and the disgraceful silence of Arab nations, perpetrating acts of violence and crime.

The determination and resilience of Hezbollah's fighters in Lebanon and the defenders of Palestine in Gaza symbolize the essence of truth and the unparalleled representation of honor and

freedom.

Will not the voices, writings, and weapons that remain silent in advocating for your cause and opposing your oppression be rendered speechless on the Day of Judgment?

I, alongside all the followers of Imam Khomeini, proudly affirm to you, my readiness to contribute in any capacity to the defense of the Resistance Axis and to engage in war against the illegitimate Zionist regime, prepared to stand in any frontline."



The embassy also called on Swedish media to maintain "professional independence" and refrain from trusting claims that are very obviously made under the influence of the Israeli regime. "Instead of deviating from the public opinion of the Swedish people, in line with the huge global trend, Swedish media should use its capacity to stop the crimes of the Zionist regime in Palestine."

## Tehran open to resume nuclear negotiations: envoy

TEHRAN – The Iranian ambassador to Rome has stated that the country remains open to negotiations regarding the revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) if the discussions are grounded in mutual respect.

According to Mohammad Reza Sabouri, in an exclusive interview with Italy's AGI news agency on Tuesday, the outcome of the upcoming U.S. elections whether a Republican or Democrat wins does not impact Iran's stance.

Sabouri emphasized that Iran is primarily concerned with the respect shown by U.S. administrations towards the rights of the

Iranian people.

Sabouri referenced the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and the major world powers, which includes the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany, noting that it was the United States that withdrew from the agreement.

The JCPOA often known as the Iran nuclear deal, is a landmark agreement established in July 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 nations, which include China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

As part of the JCPOA, Iran committed to substantial restrictions and monitoring of its nuclear activities in return for the termination of Western sanctions.

Nevertheless, the agreement has encountered significant difficulties since its inception, particularly after the United States exited the deal in 2018 during President Donald Trump's tenure.

This withdrawal resulted in the reinstatement of sanctions against Iran, prompting the country to begin scaling back its compliance with the JCPOA in 2020.

# Final victory belongs to Resistance: Leader

From Page 1 ▶ The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also highlighted the Zionist enemy's access to substantial financial resources, weaponry, and global propaganda, stating, "The equipment and resources of the believers and the Mujahideen are a fraction of what the opposite side possesses. Nevertheless, victory lies with those who fight in the path of God, namely the Palestinian Resistance and Lebanon's Hezbollah."

Ayatollah Khamenei attributed the successes of the Resistance Front to the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist regime, which include large-scale massacres of innocents, women, and children, alongside the bombings of schools and hospitals.

He emphasized that had the Zionist regime the capability to vanquish fighters in Gaza, the West Bank, or Lebanon, it would not resort to such heinous acts as a means to project an illusion of dominance and superiority.

He regarded the blows inflicted on the Resistance forces and the martyrdom of leading commanders of Lebanon's Hezbollah as a loss for the valiant resistance movement.

"These losses will not bring Hezbollah to its knees, for its organizational and military prowess, as well as its authority, far exceed these matters," he noted.

The Leader emphasized, "Up until today, the Resistance Front has emerged victorious, and by God's grace, the ultimate victory in this battle will belong to the Resistance Front."

Elsewhere in his speech, Ayatollah Khamenei elaborated on the motivations behind Saddam Hussein's war against



the Iranian nation in 1980, saying, "The impetus for the attack on Iran's borders was not limited to Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Party. Rather, the leaders of the global order at the time, namely the United States and the Soviet Union, along with their allies, also had strong motivations for the invasion."

## Today no adversary dares to attack Iran's borders.

He attributed the hostility of superpowers towards the unrivaled popular Iranian Revolution to the "unbearable" nature of its new ideology and message.

"Their animosity stemmed from the fact that the Islamic Revolution was a clear cry against the false and destructive order prevailing in the world as well as the imperialist system, that divides the world into oppressors and the oppressed, imposing the culture and views of the oppressors on other countries."

Highlighting the unwillingness of superpowers to accept the new

message of the Islamic Revolution – one that possessed the potential for widespread appeal across nations – the Leader remarked, "These nations were poised to seize any opportunity to launch an attack on Iran."

At the same time, Saddam, who was an ambitious, greedy, impudent, oppressive, and reckless person, provided the powers with this opportunity, and by instigating them, he initiated an attack against Iran."

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that today, owing to the steadfastness and active participation of the Iranian nation in various arenas, no adversary dares to attack Iran's borders.

"Today, they are engaged in mischief and hostility in a different form, and we must understand deeply that the reasons for their animosity derive not from pretexts such as nuclear energy, human rights, or women's rights.

Rather, it stems from their opposition to the Islamic Republic's new narrative that challenges the corrupt global order," he asserted.

In reflecting upon Iran's unfavorable circumstances at the onset of the imposed war in terms of military equipment and combat readiness, the Leader noted,

"According to predictions and conventional material standards, the invading forces should have reached Tehran within one to several weeks.

However, after a year had passed, our initially disadvantaged troops secured remarkable victories and delivered lethal blows to Saddam's well-equipped army. Ultimately, after eight years, they were expelled from our country's borders.

The main factors underpinning this victory were faith and struggle."

The Leader highlighted that the war was not limited to the defense of the nation, which is a noble endeavor in itself, rather it was a sacred duty, a defense of Islam, and a fulfillment of a Quranic command, known in Islamic literature as "fighting on the path of God."

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the Sacred Defense was instrumental in keeping the Revolution and Islam alive.

"As a result, the battlefields turned into places of worship, prayer, supplications, midnight weeping, and selfless service. It was due to this spiritual fervor that the Almighty God bestowed dignity, support, and victory upon the Iranian nation," he remarked.

## Ukraine says it has no information on alleged Iranian missile supply to Russia

TEHRAN – The Ukrainian Defense Intelligence has stated to British media that it has no knowledge of any Iranian missile transfers to Russia, contradicting claims made by Western states and strongly denied by Tehran.

"The Defense Intelligence of Ukraine has no

intelligence information on Iran's supply of about 220 Fath-360 short-range ballistic missiles (maximum range up to 120 km) to Russia in early September 2024," Defence Express quoted the Ukrainian agency as saying.

Early this month, Reuters reported that Iran has supplied Russia with hundreds of short-

range ballistic missiles.

The allegations were repeated by leaders in Washington, London, Berlin, and Paris, who imposed new sanctions against Tehran based on the unsubstantiated claims.

Iran has repeatedly denied military involvement in the Ukraine war.

## Araqchi calls on EU to take a unified stance against Israeli aggression in West Asia

From Page 1 ▶ Meanwhile, in Gaza, Israel's military campaign has caused significant devastation. Since October 2023, over 41,460 Palestinians have been killed, and nearly 1.9 million—approximately 90% of Gaza's population—have been displaced.

The deteriorating situation has drawn international concern. During the same UNGA session, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned world leaders that Lebanon stands "on the brink" due to the escalating violence. He called for immediate action, stressing that the conflict in Gaza posed a severe threat to regional stability.

"Gaza is a nonstop nightmare that threatens to engulf the entire region. Look no further than Lebanon, which risks becoming the next Gaza," Guterres cautioned in his address.

Araqchi's meeting with Borrell was just one of several bilateral discussions the Iranian foreign minister held during his visit to New York.

On Wednesday, he met with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis to discuss bilateral ties and key regional and international issues.

He also held talks with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy and



Foreign Minister Araghchi holds talks with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell (left)

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, where they exchanged views on regional dynamics and broader international concerns.

The 79th UN General Assembly, marked by these high-level

diplomatic exchanges, has been overshadowed by the mounting violence in West Asia, with many world leaders calling for urgent de-escalation to prevent further destabilization of the region.

## Tehran criticizes crackdown on US, European protesters opposing Israeli policies

TEHRAN – Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Ali Bahraini, has delivered a sharp rebuke of the United States and European nations for their handling of protests and support for Israeli actions during the 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

Bahraini criticized U.S. backing of Israel, labeling it a direct violation of the Genocide Convention.

The Iranian envoy voiced particular concern about the mass arrests of over 3,000 demonstrators, including university professors, across more than 60 U.S. campuses, many of whom were protesting against Israeli policies.

Bahraini argued that the U.S. response, which

involved cracking down on these protests, constituted a grave infringement on the freedoms of speech and assembly, both of which are fundamental human rights.

Bahraini didn't limit his criticism to the U.S., as he also took aim at European nations. He condemned the British police for violently suppressing peaceful student protests in Newcastle and Oxford, calling these actions blatant violations of human rights.

Additionally, Bahraini pointed to similar repressive measures in Germany, where anti-Israel protests have been met with force, leading to arrests and legal actions against demonstrators.

He condemned the expulsion of thousands from Germany, asserting that such actions breach Articles 31 and 33 of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

He further argued that the European Union's new migration policies are in direct conflict with international refugee laws.

Bahraini urged the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms to take these serious violations into account and act swiftly to address the ongoing breaches of human rights in the U.S. and Europe. His speech called for greater international attention to the treatment of protesters and the complicity of Western nations in Israel's controversial policies in the region.

### Iran wary of Morocco Threat in 2024 Futsal World Cup Last 16

TEHRAN – Iran will be confident yet wary when they face Morocco in their FIFA Futsal World Cup Uzbekistan 2024 last 16 tie on Thursday.

At stake for the winners will be a mouth-watering clash with Brazil in the quarter-finals, with the five-time champions having booked their last eight ticket with a 5-0 defeat of Costa Rica on Tuesday.

Iran, seeking to better their bronze medal finish of 2016, enjoyed serene passage to the knockout stage by topping Group F.

Having opened their campaign with a 7-1 defeat of Venezuela, the 13-time AFC Futsal Asian Cup™ winners followed that up with wins over Guatemala (9-4) and France (4-1).

Salar Aghapour has led their challenge, with the midfielder having already netted six goals at Uzbekistan 2024 while the likes of Mahdi Karimi and Moslem Oladghobad have also played pivotal roles in Iran's bid for a first ever world title.

Morocco progressed to the knockout stage as the Group E runners-up, their 4-1 defeat to defending champions Portugal costing them top spot.

While Iran will be confident of advancing, they know the threat Morocco pose with the African side's world ranking of six just two behind the Asian champions.

### Climber Alipour auctions his smart phone for children

TEHRAN – Iranian speed climber Reza Alipour auctioned his smart phone in support of destitute children.

The coveted phone went up for auction to raise money for the children in need and child labour.

Alipour finished in the fourth place in sport climbing at the 2024 Summer Olympics.

He lost to his American rival Sam Watson in the bronze medal match.

Watson won bronze with a time of 4.74 seconds. Alipour finished fourth with 4.88 seconds.

Alipour auctioned his smart phone in support of children, who work in his hometown Qazvin.

The Iranian media reports that he has raised fund to buy 600 pairs shoes for child labour.

Alipour has also provided 1,200 bags and stationeries for destitute children.

### FIFA to investigate Futsal World Cup match between France and Iran

TEHRAN – The Uzbekistan World Cup is under scrutiny as the governing body of football confirms that "an ongoing process is underway."

FIFA has confirmed the opening of an investigation amid allegations of match manipulation in the controversial Futsal match between France and Iran, part of Group F of the Futsal World Cup currently being held in Uzbekistan.

The International Football Association has stated it is "aware of complaints filed by several federations."

The match, which ended in a 4-1 victory for Iran, has sparked a wave of criticism and suspicion among the participating teams, including Libya, Paraguay, and Thailand, all of whom have requested a formal investigation, www.footboom1.com reported.

Reports suggest that the conduct of the match was characterized by passive attitudes and an apparent lack of competitiveness from both teams, particularly in the first half, raising suspicions of a potential agreement between the nations.

The most contentious moment of the match

came when Iran's Salar Aghapour scored the first goal under circumstances that many have deemed unusual. Thibaut Garros, France goalkeeper, appeared to show no resistance to what seemed to be an easy shot to save, further fueling suspicions of possible collusion.

The goalkeeper's performance has been labeled as "a disgraceful spectacle" on social media, with netizens and experts suggesting that the French team were not approaching the match with the seriousness required in a world competition.

The final result placed Iran at the top of the group, allowing them to avoid a premature clash against Brazil, the tournament's top favorites. Instead, Iran will face Morocco in the round of 16, while France will play against Thailand, a matchup that seems more favorable.

This controversy has emerged at a crucial moment in the tournament, just as teams prepare for the knockout stage. The confirmation of the investigation has sent shockwaves through the three venues hosting the World Cup in Uzbekistan, where decisive matches will take place this week.

The teams that have already qualified are under scrutiny as FIFA attempts to preserve the integrity of the competition.

### Persepolis earn late win over Esteghlal in Tehran derby

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team defeated Esteghlal 1-0 in Tehran derby courtesy of Hossein Kanaani's late goal in Matchweek 6 of the 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) on Wednesday.

In the match held in Arak's Imam Khomeini Stadium, Persepolis were the dominant team and created several opportunities but their players failed to capitalize on their chances.

In the 90th minute, substitute Saeid Mehri was brought down by Ramin Rezaeian in the penalty area and Kanaani found the back of the net from the spot.

Persepolis moved up to second place, while Esteghlal remained ninth in the table.

### Iran defeat Laos in 2025 AFC U20 Asian Cup qualification

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Laos 8-0 in their 2025 AFC U20 Asian Cup China qualification tie on Wednesday.

The Persians took the lead after eight minutes with Farhan Bozorgi nodding in at the far post from a deep outswinging corner kick delivery.

The four-time champions continued to be on the attack and doubled their advantage in the 29th minute from another set-piece, this time from a free-kick that Amirmohammad Razaghinia powered into the net.

Defender Yaghoob Barajeh increased their lead in the 31st minute with a Laos mistake five minutes later allowing Esmaeil Gholizadeh to get on the scoresheet with Kasra Taheri capping an impressive first half for Iran with the fifth goal in the 41st minute, the-afc.com reported.

Despite showing improved defending at the start of the second half, Laos were undone again by Iran in the 63rd minute, Abbas Kahrizi producing a clever turn inside the box before slamming past Kop Lokphathip.

Iran were awarded a penalty with two minutes left to play, Barajeh sending his spot-kick into the bottom corner for his second of the game before another penalty in stoppage time was tucked away by Taheri to seal the resounding win.

Hossein Abdi's side will meet India and Mongolia in Group G on Friday and Sunday, respectively.

The 2025 AFC U20 Asian Cup qualification is an international men's under-20 football competition which will be held to decide the participating teams of the 2025 AFC U-20 Asian Cup.

45 out of 47 AFC member associations are expected to enter the competition. China as hosts of the final tournament will not participate.

## Iran's non-oil export to neighbors up 12% in 6 months on year

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's non-oil export to its 15 neighboring countries increased by 12 percent during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), compared to the same period in the past year, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mohammad Rezvaniyar said the country exported 39 million tons of non-oil products valued at \$15.6 billion during the first six-month of this year, also registering four percent growth in terms of weight, year on year.

Iran's total non-oil trade with the neighboring countries was 50 million tons worth \$32.6 billion in the mentioned six months.

According to Rezvaniyar, the Islamic Republic's non-oil trade with neighboring countries increased by five percent in terms of weight and 15 percent in terms of value in H1 compared to the same period last year.

The country's imports from its neighbors in the said six months also showed an increase of eight percent in terms of weight and 18 percent in terms of value compared to the first half of the previous year.

The United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan and the Russian Federation were

the main trade partners of Iran among the neighboring countries in the mentioned six months, according to the IRICA head.

The value of Iran's non-oil trade with its neighbors also increased by 16 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21) to reach \$26.857 billion.

The trade between the two sides also increased by 10 percent in terms of weight.

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

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

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

## Iran ready to expand energy cooperation with BRICS

TEHRAN- Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Ali-Abadi said that the Islamic Republic is ready to expand cooperation with BRICS in the field of energy.

"Considering that there are very good technologies and capacities in the field of energy generation in Iran; We are ready to develop cooperation in this field with Russia and other BRICS members", the minister stressed.

Ali-Abadi, who traveled to Russia on

Wednesday to participate in the meeting of energy ministers of the BRICS member countries, upon his arrival in Moscow, referring to Iran's privileged geographical position to strengthen and develop cooperation with the BRICS members, said: "Iran offers suggestions in this meeting in order to develop industrial and technical cooperation with BRICS members, while special attention is paid to renewable energy and a comprehensive program is foreseen in this field."

## China's high-standard opening-up: New opportunities for global growth

At the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in 2023, more than 50 Iranian companies and more than 250 Iranian businessmen exhibited their abundant products, including Iran's featured agricultural products, traditional handicrafts, and cutting-edge technology products in fields of petrochemicals, nanotechnology and medical care, attracting a large number of visitors to stop and discuss business opportunities.

The CIIE is started from 2018 and held in China's Shanghai annually. Unlike other long-existing exhibitions that focus on export, the CIIE is about boosting import and is the first national exhibition with import as its theme of the world, which was personally initiated, promoted and guided by Chinese President Xi Jinping, serving as a major move of China to open up wider to the world and share development opportunities with partners globally. President Xi Jinping said: "We should commit ourselves to openness to meet development challenges, foster synergy for cooperation, build the momentum of innovation, and deliver benefits to all. We should steadily advance economic globalization, enhance every country's dynamism of growth, and provide all nations with greater and fairer access to the fruits of development."

Today, the CIIE has become a showcase of China's new development paradigm, a platform for high-standard opening up, and a public good for the whole world. It has been held six times since its launch in 2018. Given the market size of China, the CIIE helps foreign firms showcase and sell their products and services in China and plays multiple roles including scaling up international procurement, promoting investment, facilitating people-to-people interactions and advancing global cooperation, contributing significantly to the growth of the world economy. Now the 7th CIIE is upcoming, and it is learned that the number of Iranian companies participating in the expo is going to exceed that of the previous year.

At the recently concluded third plenum of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the importance of improving the institutions and mechanisms of high stan-

dard opening-up was once again emphasized. A more open China is going to deliver greater benefits to the rest of the world.

Home to a huge population, an expanding middle-class and well-sustained economic growth, China has the deal consumer market for quality products from around the world. In addition, China owns a world-class manufacturing ecosystem constantly fortified by increasing input in innovation and R&D. The country once known for "Made in China" goods is now taking on new features such as "Created in China" and "Designed by China". To trade in China is to trade for the future.

The CPC also adopted a resolution at its recent central committee plenum on reform measures designed to advance Chinese modernization, including systematic steps to build a unified national market. By removing the inconveniences that foreign firms might encounter entering China, this will help them do better as they explore the enormous market of the country. That also promises more opportunities for global growth.

China has done a lot to liberalize and facilitate trade over the years. The government has been conducting reforms to facilitate trade and investment in the country's Pilot Free Trade Zones. Its customs authorities and other related departments have launched 27 specified measures to improve port services. Its tax administration has been moving to strengthen interdepartmental information sharing, streamline tax refund declaration, and speed up tax refunds for exports. And the list goes on. It is thanks to these measures that in the first half of 2024, China's trade in goods hit RMB 21.17 trillion yuan, up by 6.1 percent year on year.

Despite the headwinds of protectionism and decoupling faced by the world economy, the trend of economic globalization is irreversible. As an engine for global growth, China will leverage its market size and opening-up measures to contribute new impetus to the world economy, which will definitely bring broader space and greater opportunities for China-Iran cooperation and the development of Iran.

# Export of agricultural products up 26% in H1

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 26 percent during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

According to the IRICA report, the country exported 3.2 million tons of agricultural products worth \$1.7 billion in the first half of the current year, also indicating 20 percent rise in terms of weight, year on year.

Pistachios with \$374 million of exports, tomatoes with \$207 million, watermelons with \$128 million, apples with \$114 million and dates with \$78 million of exports were the top five exported items in the mentioned period.

As previously announced by the IRICA, Iran exported about



2.657 million tons of agricultural products valued at \$1.453 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), registering an increase of 33 percent in value year on year.

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

weight.

The value of Iran's exports of agricultural and foodstuff products increased by 22.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade has said.

According to Ruhollah Latifi,

## Iran, China stress implementation of long-term strategic co-op plan

From page 1 ► The summit was focused on four areas explored by four committees between the two countries with the aim of paving the way for the implementation of the 25-year agreement.

Iran and China also signed 20 memoranda of understanding in the presence of the presidents of the two countries in Beijing in mid-February, 2023.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Iran's late President Ebrahim Raisi was on a three-day state visit to China starting February 14.

During President Raisi's visit to China, Tehran and Beijing signed a number of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of agriculture, trade, tourism, environmental protection, health, disaster relief, culture, and sports.

The documents include agreements in the field of transportation and industry worth \$12 billion and \$3.5 billion, respectively; the agreements cover various joint projects like the high-speed rail link between Tehran and Mashhad, and investment in the Imam Khomeini Airport City.

Investment in Iran's southeastern Mokran Coast and the purchase of Iranian oil were also mentioned in the documents.

Raisi's visit served as an example of the high level of mutual trust between China and Iran, as well as a milestone for bilateral ties.

Then in mid-July, 2023, the agreements signed between Iran and China during President Raisi's trip to Beijing in mid-February were turned into specified projects during the two countries' joint cooperation committee meeting, the Iranian finance and economic affairs minister announced.

Then in early November last year, Iran's former Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said the 25-year strategic partnership plan between Iran and China had entered a new phase with new agreements being reached between various ministries of the two countries.

According to Khandouzi, the mentioned agreements had been reached between the two sides during the visit of Iran's delegation to the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE).

"Specific projects were defined between the government departments of the respective ministries of Iran and China, and agreements were reached on the details of the implementation of the mentioned projects,"



*Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnaser Hemmati (L) and Chinese Minister of Finance Lan Fo'an*

Khandouzi said.

Regarding the private sectors of the two countries, some Iranian companies operating in China and some large Chinese companies operating in Iran faced obstacles, which were discussed and resolved by the relevant authorities, he explained.

"We are going to witness a significant growth in economic cooperation and investment between the two sides with the implementation of these projects," the minister noted.

And in late August this year, the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) called for the implementation of the Iran-China 25-year strategic agreement in a meeting with China's Ambassador to Tehran Cong Peiwu.

In the meeting, Samad Hassanzadeh emphasized the need to implement the provisions of the 25-year agreements between the two countries and said: "Iranian economic operators will be present at the China import exhibition that will be held in November."

Noting that Iran and China can cooperate in various fields, Hassanzadeh stated: "There are suitable areas for cooperation including maritime transport and economic and commercial infrastructure."

According to the ICCIMA head, Iran will have a strong presence at China's Import Exhibition which is going to be held in November, because this exhibition provides an opportunity for Iranian businessmen to get to know the possibilities and ways of cooperation with China.

Mentioning the beginning of the work of the 14th government in Iran and the changes that have occurred, Hassanzadeh said: "Iran's new president can add more depth to the economic and commercial relations between Iran and China. He has a special focus on international relations and believes that efforts should be made to implement all the

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

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

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

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

The value of Iran's total foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.178 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

provisions of the agreement between Iran and China."

He also emphasized joint investment between the two countries and said: "Iran and China have high capabilities in the petrochemical, gas, oil, automotive, space, etc., and should have joint investments in such fields."

Hassanzadeh further suggested that Iran needs investment in the downstream sector of copper industries and China can invest in this sector.

He also said there are such capacities in the aluminum sector and power plant construction.

The Chinese ambassador for his part, referred to the unilateral sanctions and economic pressures that are being imposed on Iran, saying: "Despite all these problems, Iran's economy is moving forward with high power because there are professional economic experts who drive the economy."

Referring to his meeting with Iran's new president, he described what was discussed in this meeting as hopeful.

According to Peiwu, Iran and China can improve the level of their relations within the framework of the economic and political approaches of both countries.

He further emphasized the favorable economic situation of his country and the development of its trade exchanges, saying: "China has been able to increase its production with more added value and at the same time move towards green production with higher quality and a significant reduction in energy consumption. Therefore, the cooperation between Iran and China can now have significantly better results."

Also speaking at the meeting, Hamed Asgari, the ICCIMA deputy for International Affairs pointed to the capabilities of the Iran-China joint chamber and suggested that the two sides should prepare a measurable and targeted roadmap based on the 25-year agreements concluded between Iran and China, and with continuous follow-up, ensure the implementation of the provisions of the agreement.

"To this end, it is necessary to hold meetings between the head of the Iran-China joint chamber and the commercial advisor of the embassy in order to identify and remove the obstacles in this direction," Asgari said.

## Tehran calls on AIIB to facilitate financing Iranian projects

TEHRAN - In the meeting between Iran's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs with the head of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Iranian minister called for facilitating financing projects through this bank.

Abdolnaser Hemmati met with Jin Liqun on the sidelines of the 9th AIIB members ministerial meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, Liqun acknowledged that Iran is one of the effective members of this financial institution, saying: "We are trying to provide the conditions for Iran to receive financing."

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank and international financial institution that aims to collectively improve economic and social outcomes

in Asia. It is the world's second largest multi-lateral development institution.

Headquartered in Beijing, China, the bank currently has 109 members, including 13 prospective members from around the world. The breakdown of the 109 members by continents are as follows: 42 in Asia, 26 in Europe, 22 in Africa, 9 in Oceania, 8 in South America, and 2 in North America.

The bank started operation after the agreement entered into force on 25 December 2015, after ratifications were received from 10 member states holding a total number of 50 percent of the initial subscriptions of the Authorized Capital Stock.

The Islamic Republic of Iran became a member of AIIB in 2015 by purchasing capital shares.

# “Tel Aviv for Beirut”: Hezbollah hits Mossad headquarters

From page 1 ▶ The resistance movement in southern Lebanon pointed out that the Mossad headquarters in Tel Aviv's suburbs was responsible for assassination operations and the waves of explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies.

As the geographic scope of fire between Israel and Hezbollah widens, the unprecedented attack saw the regime's military acknowledge that a surface-to-surface missile from Lebanon evaded air defense systems and reached Tel Aviv.

The command center of the Israeli intelligence base is responsible “for the electronic terrorist attacks and the assassination of the Resistance leaders,” Hezbollah declared.

The Israeli military claimed to have intercepted the missile but also censured Hebrew media from reporting details of the attack.

The air raid sirens in the suburbs of Tel Aviv were heard during the Channel 13 live broadcast, which appeared to take the anchors and pundits aback.

According to experts, the Israeli security apparatus was shaken by the operation.

It also led Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to delay his trip to New York, where he was set to address the United Nations General Assembly.

Israeli media reported that Netanyahu's trip may be canceled altogether.

An official told The Times of Israel that the chances of the trip being canceled entirely are “50/50”.

Amid the indiscriminate bom-



bardment of Lebanon, Hezbollah continues to strike the depth of Israel. Experts believe the resistance movement has used only a small fraction of its military arsenal so far.

As Hezbollah intensifies its operations on Israeli military sites, barracks and posts, the resistance movement is still declaring that its attacks are in support of Gaza in addition to the defense of Lebanon.

24 hours earlier, the formidable Lebanese resistance declared:

“In support of the steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in support of their valiant and honorable resistance, and in defense of Lebanon and its people, the Islamic Resistance carried out a number of operations against the sites, bases and positions of the Israeli enemy army in northern occupied Palestine”

1- Targeted Megiddo Military Airport, west of Afula, with volleys of Fadi 1 and Fadi 2 rockets.

2- Targeted Ramat David base and airport with a barrage of Fadi 2 rockets.

3- Targeted Megiddo Military Airport, west of Afula, for the second time with a barrage of Fadi 2 rockets.

4- Targeted the Amos base (the main base for transportation and logistical support for the northern region) with a salvo of Fadi 1 rockets.

## The Tel Aviv strike sends an important message to the Israeli political, military, and intelligence leadership.

5- Targeting the explosives factory in the Zikhron Ya'akov area, 60 km from the border, with a salvo of Fadi 2 rockets.

6- Targeted Megiddo Military Airport, west of Afula, with a salvo of Fadi 2 missiles.

7- Targeting the settlement of Kiryat Shmona with a barrage of rockets.

8- Targeted the logistical warehouses of the 146th Division in the Naftali base with a rocket salvo.

9- Targeting the Elyakim camp, affiliated with the Northern Command, south of Haifa, with a salvo of Fadi 2 missiles.

10- Targeted the main warehouses of the northern region at the Nimra base with dozens of rockets.

11- Targeted the Rosh Pinna settlement with rockets.

12- Targeted the Samson base (a command and equipment center and a regional equipment unit) with Fadi 3 rockets.

13- Targeted the Hagoshrim settlement with a rocket barrage.

14- Targeted the Katzrin settlement with a rocket barrage.

15- Targeted the settlement of Geshor HaZiv with rocket barrages.

16- Targeted the headquarters of the Northern Command of the Israeli enemy army in the Dado base with 50 rockets.

17- Targeting the headquarters of the Northern Command of the Israeli enemy army in the Dado base for the second time with 40 rockets.

18- Launched a swarm of attack drones at the headquarters of the special naval mission unit “Shayetet 13” at the Atlit base, targeting the locations of its officers and soldiers and hitting the targets accurately.”

With Israel shaken and Netanyahu delaying his trip to the UN, Hezbollah's message has been very clear: no region in Israel is safe from its fire.

## Biden gives Israel blank check to bomb Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ Israel has unleashed hundreds of airstrikes on Lebanon since Monday under the pretext of hitting Hezbollah targets. The attacks have claimed the lives of about 600 people, including over 50 children in the Mediterranean country.

Biden's comments were a blatant demonstration of double dealing because Israel would not dare launch such extensive strikes without the approval of the White House in the face of the regime's extreme vulnerability.

### The White House defended Israel's January strike in Lebanon that resulted in the killing of Hamas official Saleh al-Arouri.

The slaughter of Lebanese and Palestinian people by Israel has elicited a global outcry. In addition to the recent massacre of Lebanese people, Israel has butchered about 41,500 Palestinians in Gaza since launching war on the enclave on October 7.

Many world leaders denounced the regime's ongoing crimes in Gaza and Lebanon during their speeches at the UN General Assembly.

But the United States has kept mum on the Israeli carnage.

Washington also remained silent when the wireless communication devices blew up across Lebanon on September 17 and 18. Dozens of people were killed and thousands including women and children were injured due to the explosions attributed to Israel.

Two days later an Israeli airstrike on a Beirut suburb killed dozens of people including a senior Hezbollah commander.

But the US has not condemned Israel for committing these heinous crimes.

Besides, the US had previously defended Israel's terror attacks in Lebanon.

The Biden administration threw its weight behind Israel when the regime assassinated Hamas official Saleh al-Arouri during an airstrike in Beirut in January this year.

“Israel has a right and responsibility to go after the threat that Hamas poses, which means they have a right and responsibility to go after the leadership of Hamas,” White House national security spokesman John Kirby said following al-Arouri's assassination. “We expect that they will do that in accordance with international law.”

In other words, Kirby suggested that international law serves as an instrument for Americans and Israelis to fulfill their objectives.

For the US, the end justifies the means. In line with that, the Israeli carnage in Lebanon is justified because Tel Aviv and Washington

both want to eliminate resistance groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas.

The calls by the White House for de-escalation in Gaza and Lebanon are just aimed at appeasing domestic opposition to Washington's unflinching military support for Israel in the run-up to the US presidential election.

On one hand, the US opposes Israel's war-mongering in Gaza. On the other hand, it gives the regime the green light to conduct extensive attacks in Lebanon.

### Israel began terror attacks in Lebanon on September 17, a day after Biden's envoy began his West Asia tour.

A day before the detonation of communication devices in Lebanon, Biden's envoy landed in the West Asia region with the aim of preventing a full-blown conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

But Amos Hochstein's regional visit resulted in an Israeli massacre in Lebanon.

In fact, his trip was a smokescreen for expanding Israel's genocidal war from Gaza to Lebanon.

## Egypt, Jordan, Iraq accuse Israel of ‘pushing region into all-out war’

Egypt, Jordan and Iraq accused Israel on Wednesday of pushing the region into an all-out war amid deadly airstrikes launched by Tel Aviv on Lebanon.

The foreign ministers of the three Arab countries held a meeting on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Anadolu reported.

A joint statement by the three countries said stopping the “dangerous escalation underway in the region... begins by halting Israel's aggression in Gaza.”

They warned that “Israel is pushing the entire region into an all-out war” and called on the international community and the UN Security Council “to bear their responsibilities to stop the war.”

## Israel slammed for sending 88 unidentifiable bodies of Palestinians to Gaza

Gaza's Ministry of Health has refused to receive a container carrying the bodies of 88 Palestinians sent from Israel without prior coordination or information about their identities.

The procedures for receiving the container were suspended until Israel provides full data with the victims' names, time of death and the location they were taken from, the ministry said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app on Wednesday.

This is “the minimum rights of these people and their families”, it said.

Gaza's Government Media Office called the shipment of unidentifiable bodies an “inhuman and criminal move”, in a separate statement.

According to Al Jazeera, “the bodies are unidentifiable because they are mostly decomposed”.

“There are signs that those bodies have been in

Israel for a long time,” the Qatari news outlet said.

“The Palestinian Health Ministry said that the Israeli military has deliberately concealed the identity of those Palestinian people. There is no information about their names, genders and the location they have been kidnapped from. The circumstances of their abduction from the Gaza Strip are also unclear,” it added.

## Israeli genocide and Western media complicity

### How US-UK mainstream media are contributing to Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity

By Ali Mohammadi

TEHRAN - Western corporate media has been busy in the past eleven months of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, marketing for all sorts of war crimes conducted by the Israeli war machine in Western and global public opinion.

They have been using propaganda techniques to sell the mass murder of more than 41,000 Palestinians, 70% of whom innocent children and women, as side effects of a necessary war against terrorism, while hiding major facts about Israeli crimes against humanity.

By hiding the facts, damping the news, setting false discourse, framing unfavorable narratives, and justifying tactics, Western media has played a significant role in the current act of genocide in Gaza, acting as the third pillar in Israel's ongoing war crimes against the whole inhabitants of a major urban center living under brutal and inhumane siege for long decades.

The Israeli army, which is armed to the teeth by the West, and the comprehensive support provided by the US, UK and some other Western countries, are two major pillars that have enabled Netanyahu and his criminal team to continue mass murder in Gaza and elsewhere and resist all international calls and requests for cease fire, including by International Criminal Court (ICC). At the same time, Western media, as an important environmental catalyst intervened in the favor of Israel by all sorts of distortion tactics to prevent broadcasting the horrific developments in Gaza to their audience.

By “discourse setting techniques” and “news framing tactics” they have engaged intentionally in creating a fake environment in which Netanyahu could simply escape global scrutiny and public outrage, enabling him to market his war crimes in the West freely, getting rare military and unequivocal political support and even applause in the US Congress despite his clear act of genocide and passing all international redlines, dismissing all ICC and ICJ calls and measures.

By such a shameless support, the US, UK and some European media have enabled the Israeli butcher to continue such unprecedented level of violence and brutality against all people of Gaza and endanger regional and global peace and security.

Mainstream media in the West in general and in the US and UK in particular have neglected in the past 11 months their international responsibilities to serve the truth but to help and encourage Israel's campaign of genocide and war crimes through an illegitimate, irresponsible and unethical policy of preventing horrific news and information about the depth of humanitarian disaster to reach to the public.

Far from their responsibility of providing accurate and verified news and information, they have knowingly and intentionally broadcasted and continue to broadcast false information about developments in Gaza, dehumanize the Palestinian nation, promote Israeli propaganda, victimize Israel, blame the real victim, reject Palestinians' right of survival as a state and their right of resistance against the occupying power, and justify Israeli war crimes. The Palestinians are depicted by these media outlets as a group of terrorists and backward people or even inhuman by nature. They are also blamed for everything wrong.

Historically, media have been misused by dictators as a source of soft power in order to mislead their own or foreign public and create suitable space for their evil intentions and genocidal actions. European Fascism and Nazism were based on propaganda campaigns using media to “otherize” and “dehumanize” millions of people based on race, ethnicity, religion or other factors.

Seventy-six years ago, when representatives of nations who gathered in New York after the Second World War to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they noticed this terrible fact about the role of media in helping and supporting war crimes. They discussed it in their negotiations and added a paragraph to the final document about the responsibilities of media.

It was clear for the UN conference that “speech” and “word” have the potential to be

used as a powerful weapon to destroy the rights of others in mass, including the most basic right of life. They clearly stated in the final document that the rights and freedoms of expression by media “may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations”, and that freedom of expression shall not in any way give states, media institutions and companies or anyone else the right to conduct “any activity or any behavior with the aim of destroying any of the rights and freedoms of others.”

At the same time, in another large-scale meeting in the UN on the issue of prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide, the participants warned about the dangers of “expression” and “speech” which may “dehumanize” others and incite violence. The final convention which was ratified by the member states criminalizes and prohibits not only genocide, but also incitement to genocide and complicity in genocide, and specifies that these prohibitions apply not only to governments but also to non-state and private actors.

As these two documents were prepared at the Nuremberg tribunal for the leaders of Nazi Germany, the owner of a German media organization named “Julius Sebastian Streicher” was accused and condemned for inciting murder and violence through media reports and analyses and his engagement in harassment for political and racial reasons via media. He was charged with providing media coverage and propaganda support for Hitler's crimes, sentenced to the heaviest punishment for “crimes against humanity” and executed by hanging. The court verdict stated that Streicher's magazine called “Sturmer” has published articles that were considered as “incitement to murder and massacre” while he was aware of the crimes by Hitler and Nazi Germany against other ethnicities and religions in Europe.

Streicher was not a member of the German army, nor he had participated in planning any massacre, military action, or attack against any country or nation. However, according to prosecutors, his articles and speeches during the war were significant enough to put him on trial as a war criminal. They argued that his media was so inflammatory that they effectively made him a perpetrator of the murder and therefore as guilty as other defendants who actually ordered the mass killings.

In another legal case, in 1994, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) convicted three journalists for their role in inciting genocide. Two of these journalists worked for Mille Collines radio and television station and one for the Kangora newspaper. The court convicted and sentenced all three for incitement to genocide (among other crimes). Navi Pillai, the judge of that court who now serves as the commissioner of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Israeli Crimes on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, announced in his verdict against these journalists that: “you were fully aware of the power of words and phrases, and you have used mass media with the widest reach to spread hatred and violence. . . . Without using a firearm, pulling a trigger or any other physical weapon, you have caused the death of thousands of innocent civilians.” According to Judge Pillai, “The power of the media to produce or destroy basic human values comes with great responsibility. Those who control these media are responsible for the consequences.”

Today Western media outlets such as Fox News, Washington Post, Times of London, Sky News, BBC, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, etc. know well what they are doing about Gaza, inciting violence and genocide there, alienating, terrorizing, and “dehumanizing” the Palestinian nation and supporting war crimes by Zionist regime. It is not hard to compare these media corporations with the condemned media in the international war criminal courts. The above two historical examples show that there are a series of ethical boundaries for journalism which the Western media have completely crossed in the case of Gaza, and made themselves liable to stand trial in international courts.

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

## Car rally from Caspian Sea to Persian Gulf to commence on World Tourism Day



TEHRAN - The second edition of the International Tourist Rally from the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf is set to kick off on Friday, September 27 which coincides with World Tourism Day.

The highly anticipated event, which is organized by the Touring & Automobile Club of Iran, will bring together over 80 automobile enthusiasts and around 30 off-road vehicles for a scenic drive from the coastal city of Bandar-e Anzali to Bandar Abbas.

Covering an extensive route of approximately 2,600 kilometers, the rally is one of Iran's longest and largest tourism-related car events. Participants will drive through a

wide array of provinces, including Gilan, Qazvin, Alborz, Tehran, Qom, Markazi, Isfahan, Fars, Yazd, and Hormozgan, before reaching the final destination of Bandar Abbas.

Throughout the journey, rally participants will have the opportunity to explore various historical, cultural, and natural attractions along the north-south corridor of Iran.

The coast-to-coast event also aims to highlight Iran's rich heritage and its geographical diversity, Mehr reported.

The rally will include other side activities to enrich the experience, such as musical performances by prominent artists like Salar Aghili in Bandar-e Anzali, Shiraz, Isfahan, and Bandar Abbas. There will also be local culinary festivals, desert tours, and visits to Qeshm Island, to name a few.

The first edition of the Caspian-to-Persian Gulf rally was held in May 2023 with participants from about 10 Asian and European countries. The event, according to organizers, is aimed not only to promote the natural and cultural landmarks of the ancient country but also to emphasize road safety, responsible travel, and sustainable tourism practices.

## Turkey sees 7.1% growth in foreign tourists in first 8 months of 2024

Turkey's tourism sector experienced a 7.1% increase in foreign visitors during the first eight months of 2024 compared to the same period last year, according to the Culture and Tourism Ministry.

Between January and August, 35.8 million international tourists visited the country, with Istanbul being the top destination, drawing in 12.27 million travelers. Antalya, a popular Mediterranean resort city, followed closely behind with 11 million visitors.

In August, typically the busiest time for tourism, Turkey welcomed 6.82 million foreign tourists, a 2.47% rise over August 2023. Russian tourists topped the list of international visitors, with 4.55 million arrivals, followed by 4.38 million from Germany and 3.1 million from the UK.

(Source: themedialine.org)

## UNWTO applauds 73 percent surge in Saudi intl. visitors, positioning Kingdom as leader among G20 nations

The Secretary General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Zurab Pololikashvili, commended the remarkable progress of Saudi Arabia's tourism industry.

The Kingdom recorded a 73 percent increase in international tourist arrivals during the first seven months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2019. This surge has positioned Saudi Arabia as a leader among G20 nations in both the growth rate of international visitors and tourism revenues.

Additionally, international tourism revenues experienced an impressive rise of 207 percent, as reported in the UNWTO Barometer published in September 2024. Pololikashvili emphasized that this 73 percent growth in international arrivals reflects Saudi Arabia's expanding influence on the global stage.

In 2023, Saudi Arabia experienced a 56 percent

surge in international tourist arrivals compared to 2019, welcoming a total of 27.4 million visitors. This remarkable milestone placed the Kingdom at the top of the UN Tourism Data Dashboard for growth rates among leading tourist destinations.

### Surpassing Vision 2030 goals

Additionally, the travel account in the balance of payments reported a historic surplus of SAR 48 billion in 2023, marking a 38 percent increase from the previous year. In September 2024, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) emphasized the significance of Saudi Arabia's tourism sector as a key driver of the nation's economic diversification in its latest Article IV Consultation report for 2024.

The IMF also acknowledged Saudi Arabia's success in surpassing the Vision 2030 objective of attracting 100 million annual visitors by 2023, achieving this goal seven years ahead of schedule.

(Source: economymiddleeast.com)

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites

### Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay

Perched on a rocky islet in the midst of vast sandbanks exposed to powerful tides, at the limit between Normandy and Brittany, stands "Wonder of the West", a Gothic-style Benedictine abbey dedicated to the Archangel St Michel, and the village that grew up in the shadow of its walls. Built between the 11th and 16th centuries, the abbey is a technical and artistic tour de force, having had to adapt to the problems posed by this unique natural site. Thus, the practical and aesthetic solutions inscribed in the stones of the edifice are henceforth inseparable from its natural environment.

This Benedictine abbey, founded in 966, was erected on a sanctuary dedicated to the Archangel Michel since 708 and conserves some vestiges of the Romanesque period. The older part of the present abbey, the small pre-Romanesque church with a double nave, Notre-Dame-sous-terre, in granite masonry and flat bricks, dates back undoubtedly to the 10th century. The contribution of the Romanesque period is still visible in the nave of the abbey church, whose crossing is supported by the rock summit, and in a group of conventual

staggered buildings (the chaplaincy or gallery of Aquilon, the covered gallery of the monks of which the vault, constructed after 1103, would be one of the earliest examples of ribbed vaulting).

But it is the masters of the Gothic period who, benefiting as best they could from the restricted area, invented the high walls, the soaring masses, the open volumes, the airy pinnacles and the sharp silhouette of the rock. The new body of the conventual buildings, built from 1204, merits the name of "Merveille" (Marvel) for the elegance of its conception. Above the chaplaincy of the 12th century, it comprises the celebrated rooms known as the 'Hôtes' and the 'Chevaliers' and, on the uppermost floor, in addition to the vast body of the refectory, the cloister with colonnettes grouped in five, open on one side to the sea. Among the many later additions, mention should be made of the flamboyant choir of the abbey church, begun in 1448 to replace the Romanesque choir which had previously collapsed.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Hamedan attracts 2.8 million visitors in H1, Ali-Sadr Cave tops list

TEHRAN - Hamedan province saw a considerable influx of tourists in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year, with 2.8 million people visiting its various attractions.

According to Ali Khaksar, the deputy provincial tourism chief, Ali-Sadr Cave was the most popular destination, welcoming 566,000 visitors during the six-month period.

In his visit to Ali-Sadr Cave, Khaksar on Tuesday noted that while the cave attracted 670,000 tourists throughout last year, it has already harvested significant attention in the first half of this year.

Other notable tourist sites include the mausoleum of Avicenna, which received 195,341 visitors, the Tomb of Baba Taher with 167,113 visitors, and the ancient site of Hegmataneh, which attracted 97,729 visitors.



Sightseers on small boats pay visits to Ali-Sadr Cave in Hamedan province.

The recent UNESCO World Heritage designation of Hegmataneh (better known as Ecbatana in Western sources) has boosted its popularity, with 98,000 tourists visiting in the first six months alone, compared to

78,000 visitors throughout the previous year.

Additionally, 19,000 foreign tourists have overnight stays in Hamedan during this period, with 7,366 international tourists specifically visiting the prov-

ince's attractions.

Hamedan, the provincial capital, has been selected by the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) as the Asian Capital of Tourism for the year 2024.

Hamedan, also known as Ecbatana in classical times, was once one of the most important cities in the ancient world. It boasts a wealth of tourist attractions. Notable landmarks include the Ali-Sadr Cave, Tomb of Abu Ali Sina, Ganjnameh Ancient Inscriptions, and Alaviyan Dome, promising a rewarding experience for visitors.

Sprawling on a high plain, Hamedan was initially urbanized by the Medes, Assyrians, Persians, and Parthians. It may no longer be the legendary metropolis it once was, but it still boasts all the culture you'd expect from a location with such a long history.

## Sassanid structure, possibly ruins of a fire temple, discovered in western Iran

TEHRAN - An archaeological team has uncovered the remains of a structure dating back to the Sassanid era in western Iran, which they believe could be the ruins of a fire temple.

The discovery was made during a heritage protection survey at the archaeological site of Malatabad, located in Gilan-e Gharb county of Kermanshah province, ISNA reported.

The investigation was conducted under the supervision of Iran's Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

Naser Aminikhah, the head of the archaeological team at Malatabad, underlined the challenges faced by ancient sites across the country due to urban development, which threatens the preservation of historical landmarks.

"Gilan-e Gharb is no exception to this issue. The expansion of the village of Malatabad on the southern outskirts of the county has surrounded the archaeological site. Without proper attention from relevant authorities, this invaluable cultural heritage may face the risk of destruction," Aminikhah warned.

He emphasized that delineating heritage zones and their legal boundaries not only aids in the preservation of archaeological sites but also prevents confusion among local people who wish to develop housing in areas close to historical sites.

The site of Malatabad consists of two mounds located approximately 300 meters apart. However, surface findings and cultural materials from excavations indicate that the site dates to both the Sassanid and Islamic periods, with minor evidence of earlier, pre-



historic activity.

The remains of the Sassanid-era structure has been identified in the smaller mound, Aminikhah said.

"While a large portion of the structure has unfortunately been lost due to a lack of prior preservation efforts, what remains is a 2-meter-high mound covering an area of about 700 square meters," he added.

Aminikhah expressed hope that further excavation will shed new light on the history of the region and provide deeper insights into its ancient heritage.

The discovery adds to the growing body of knowledge about Iran's rich Sassanid past, with archaeologists hopeful that ongoing research will uncover more about the site's significance in ancient times.

The Sassanid era (224 CE-651) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem engrav-

ing 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.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanid historical cities in southern Iran - titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region" - to its World Heritage list. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and Roman art that later made a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

Kermanshah, formerly Bakhtaran, the capital of Kermanshah province, was founded in the 4th century CE by Bahram IV of the Sassanian dynasty. Conquered by the Arabs in 640, the town was called Qirmasin (Qirmashin). Under the Seljuk rule in the 11th century, it was the chief town of Kordestan. The Safavids (ruled 1501-1736) fortified the town, and the Qajars repulsed an attack by the Turks during Fath Ali Shah's rule (1797-1834). Occupied by the Turkish army in 1915 during World War I, it was evacuated in 1917. The construction of a road in the 1950s over the age-old Khorasan track added considerably to the importance of the city.

## Archaeological survey begins on Ahvaz plain of Khuzestan province



Archaeological evidence from nearby regions like Hasirabad and Asiye-Abad indicates the importance of this feature in drawing inhabitants in ancient times.

While smaller settlements on the Ahvaz plain may have been buried under sediment over the centuries, the elevated location of Asiye-Abad has preserved it from such deposits. Standing 15 meters above the surrounding land, the mound provided an ideal spot for ancient settlement, particularly on its southern slopes, which offer a favorable angle relative to sunlight, the report explained.

Despite Ahvaz's strategic significance during the Sassanid and Islamic eras, the area has seen limited archaeological attention. Significant archaeological sites in the Khuzestan region, such as the Iwan-e Karkheh, Susa, and Shushtar, have been extensively studied, yet the historical layers of Ahvaz itself remain under-explored.

As mentioned by the provincial cultural heritage department, the current survey aims to fill this gap, focusing on the cultural and historical aspects of the re-

gion.

Previous surface investigations have revealed that Asiye-Abad contains a wealth of Islamic-period artifacts, including a range of pottery and other cultural remains, such as fragments of stone columns.

According to the department, before the excavation begins, systematic surveys and satellite imagery will be utilized to determine the precise location of trenches to be carved. "Aerial photography and the creation of detailed topographic maps will further aid in excavation planning."

So far, a vertical trench measuring 3x3 meters is planned for the southwestern portion of the mound, which has been identified as having the richest cultural layers based on surface finds.

"This area is expected to provide critical evidence regarding the settlement patterns and architectural styles of the ancient city of Ahvaz, helping to unravel its historical complexities."

According to the cultural heritage department, findings from this excavation could shed new light on the evolution of settle-

ment in the Ahvaz region and provide greater insight into the cultural history of southwest Iran.

Situated at the head of the Persian Gulf and bordering Iraq on the west, Khuzestan was settled about 6000 BC by a people with affinities to the Sumerians, who came from the Zagros Mountains region. Urban centers appeared there contemporaneous with the first cities in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium.

Khuzestan, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, came to constitute the heart of the Elamite kingdom, with Susa as its capital. Alexander the Great took Susa shortly after the Battle of Gaugamela in 331, and from 311 to 148, Khuzestan was a satrapy (named Susiana) of the Seleucid empire, with its capital at Seleucia on the Eulaeus River.

The region was passed firmly into Parthian control between 148 and 113 BC and then under Sasanian rule about 226 CE. Moreover, it was a frontier zone between the Roman-Byzantine and the Parthian-Sasanian empires and finally was taken by the Arabs in about 642.

# Tehran hosts G5 health officials on dengue fever, mpox

TEHRAN – The 30th Technical Meeting of G5 Forum, member states (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and Tajikistan) plus the World Health Organization was held in Tehran on Tuesday to discuss the latest scientific findings concerning the outbreak of dengue fever and monkeypox.

The main objectives of the meeting were to share experiences and knowledge on the most effective ways to prevent and control the spread of dengue fever and mpox, as well as existing challenges, the health ministry's website reported.

Officials also explored the role of bordering countries in preventing the transmission of the diseases.

The event provided a great opportunity to strengthen international cooperation in public health and raise awareness about communicable diseases. It is expected to boost treatment strategies as well as preventive measures in member states.

Iran initiated the establishment of the G5 in 2005 to promote subregional cooperation in health among the group of four countries – Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan – plus the World Health Organization as the fifth member of this group to provide technical support in improving this collaboration.

Several activities have already



been taken under this initiative, with the Islamic Republic of Iran taking responsibility for serving as its secretariat.

The first subregional workshop for G5 countries on health system strengthening was hosted by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination of Pakistan on November 19–20, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

## Dengue fever

Dengue is a viral infection transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes.

Transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, the disease was placed among the top ten life-threatening diseases by the World Health Organization (WHO) transmitted by local carriers in 2019.

Thanks to effective border control measures and quality healthcare, the number of people entering the country having den-

gue fever has significantly decreased compared to the previous months.

However, a decrease in temperature accompanied by the rains in autumn can contribute to the resurgence of the mosquito density, particularly in the affected areas.

“The most important factor that contributes to dengue transmission worldwide is climate change; increase and change in temperature has led to the outbreak of various infectious diseases including dengue fever,” IRNA quoted Hossein Farshidi, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) report, dengue fever cases in 2023 surged twofold globally, and the number of deaths caused by the disease also increased by the same factor.

Fortunately, since the outbreak of the disease, there has been no report of acute cases in Iran, and there is no reason to be concerned about the spread of the disease in the country, the official noted.

The health ministry has implemented measures to address the probable increase in infected cases in autumn.

The ministry is also planning to develop a training package to inform individuals, particularly passengers, medical staff, and journalists of the ways to prevent, or manage dengue fever.

## Mpox

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

Common symptoms of mpox are a skin rash or mucosal lesions which can last 2–4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes.

In August, Babak Eshtrati, an official with the health ministry said there have been no reports of monkeypox in the country so far.

Following the report of confirmed cases of monkeypox in Pakistan, medical teams at health stations are told to screen travelers entering the country from eastern and western borders for monkeypox symptoms, as well, IRNA quoted Eshtrati as saying.

## Nanotech achievements to be featured at Chinano 2024

TEHRAN –Iranian knowledge-based companies will showcase their latest products and achievements at Chinano 2024 Expo which is scheduled to be held from October 23 to 25 in Suzhou, China.

The headquarters for the development of nanotechnology, the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, and the Organization for Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology will support Iranian companies in setting up their pavilions at the Chinano Expo.

Chinano Expo, the most influential nanotechnology event in China, is China's most authentic and the world's largest international expo of nanotechnology exchanges. Consisting of the summit (plenary speeches, breakout sessions, and application forums), exhibition, contest, and matchmaking, Chinano focuses on new materials, nano-tech products, third generation semiconductors, energy and clean technology, and nanobiotechnology to build the premier platform for international communication and exchanges in nanotechnology.

## Chinese envoy praises Iran's advancement

On September 18, the Chinese ambassador to Tehran said Iran is a leading country in different fields of technology with significant achievements in certain fields such as nanotechnology.

Cong Peiwu along with some other Chinese officials paid a visit to Tehran's Pardis Technology Park to get familiar with the technol-

ogy and innovation ecosystem of the center as well as the companies' achievements in the field, IRNA reported.

Attending a meeting, the officials exchanged views and explored ways to boost technological ties.

“Some countries become upset with the technological advancement of other nations. They want to hold a monopoly on technology,” the Chinese envoy stressed.

To face these challenges, developing countries need to cooperate closely in all fields, particularly technology, Peiwu added.

## Iran a global leader in nano-tech

Iran's achievements in nanotechnology are noteworthy. The increase in scientific publications and sales of nano products proves Iran's rise as a global leader in this field.

One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the impressive fourth place worldwide.

According to StatNano, a leading nanotechnology website, Iran has made great strides in the field of nanotechnology being ranked fourth in terms of nanotechnology publication.

This ranking proves the country's remarkable scientific development.

The site considers the number of scientific articles to compare scientific progress in na-

noscience, technology, and industry.

Nanotechnology is the manipulation of matter on a near-atomic scale to produce new structures, materials, and devices. The technology promises scientific advancement in many sectors such as medicine, consumer products, energy, materials, and manufacturing. Nanotechnology refers to engineered structures, devices, and systems.

In the past two decades, the world has observed a steady increase in the number of industries producing nano-based products and the number of countries promoting nanotechnology.

More importantly, the ratio of nanotechnology to nominal GDP has increased significantly, suggesting that the contribution of nanotechnology to World GDP has increased. Nanotechnology has also played a key role in the creation of new jobs, Press TV reported.

The nanotechnology sector is a prime example of success in Iran, an arena consisting of expert and program-oriented human resources with significant goals that shine like a jewel in the country's innovation and technology ecosystem.

With the support of talented academicians and knowledge-based companies, the nanotechnology sector has indigenized many technologies to solve the country's main challenges in various areas, including industry.

## Iran to mark National Elderly Week

TEHRAN –National Elderly Week will be commemorated from September 28 to October 4 in the country.

This year, the week's theme is 'active aging for everyone's tomorrow', Mehr news agency reported.

Each day of the week is assigned a specific theme, as well.

Saturday, September 28, 'the elderly support youthful population'.

Sunday, September 29, 'media and promoting the culture of respect for elderly'.

Monday, September 30, 'the elderly's presence in family and society'.

Tuesday, October 1, 'honoring the elderly by executive bodies'.

Wednesday, October 2, 'the elderly's education and empowerment'.

Thursday, October 3, 'social, welfare support for the elderly'.

Friday, October 4, 'making places and services accessible for the elderly'.

**Role of preventive care in reducing disabilities**

Providing prevention services at different levels to the elderly is effective in reducing the level of disorders and disabilities in old age.

According to the United Nations, a country with more than 7 percent of the old population is considered an elderly country.

The latest statistics indicate that the elderly constitute about 5.7 to 7 percent of



the country's population. In other words, the most important challenge facing the country is the issue of old age.

In this regard, a national plan with the aim of increasing awareness about the role of preventive care in reducing disabilities in old age was proposed for the target groups of the elderly (60 years old and above) and middle-aged people (45–60 years old).

The program was designed with the aim of changing health-related behaviors in middle-aged people and focusing on preventing disabilities caused by common problems in the elderly.

To this end, six common problems of this age group, including stroke, cardiovascular diseases, osteoporosis, arthritis, diabetes, and falls, were considered the main challenges that put the health of the elderly under threat.

In the first step, the program was implemented in 12 provinces of the country in 2007, and then in 15 other provinces in 2008.

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

## Climate change biggest threat to public health

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN –Climate change is the biggest threat to public health, and is forecast to cause five million additional deaths from 2030 to 2050 globally, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Some 80 percent of the land area of Iran occurs in arid and semi-arid regions. The country is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, Alireza Raisi, an official with the health ministry, has said.

He made the remarks on the occasion of World Environmental Day which is observed on September 26 every year.

“In the past 50 years, the temperature in Iran has increased, while the annual precipitations have declined. Climate change affects individuals' health and wellbeing by affecting weather, water, and food. It changes rainfall pattern causes flood, extreme heat, drought, and storms,” Raisi added.

Heat stress is associated with illnesses such as heat exhaustion, diarrhea, heart attack, stroke, lung cancer, as well as cardiovascular diseases. Moreover, climate change significantly intensifies food, water, as well as vector-borne infectious diseases. These changes can threaten the forty-year health achievements of the country, the official further noted.

In fact, climate change and disaster risks are a fundamental threat to sustainable development, the living and health conditions of all humans on the globe, and the reduction of poverty.

World Environmental Day aims to raise awareness about environmental health issues and promote actions to improve and protect the environment for the wellbeing of all living creatures.

This year, it is observed under the theme of 'Environmental Health: Creating Resilient Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation'.

Building resilient and sustainable communities means addressing both climate change and disaster risks, and integrating these risks, as well as potential opportunities, into development planning and budgeting.

Besides combatting climate change by reducing the use of fossil fuels and CO2 emission – driving climate change – we must strengthen our initiatives in terms of mitigation and adaptation – as climate change is already here – and natural hazards driven by climate change increasingly go into full disasters.

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

## Gaza: the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe

From page 1 ▶ Since 7 October 2023, 289 aid workers have been killed in Gaza – people whose only concern was to alleviate the suffering of Gaza's civilian population. According to the Ministry of Health, 885 health workers have been killed and at least 310 arrested. The deaths represent 3.5% of the health workforce in Gaza prior to the war.

Around 1.9 million people – nine in 10 Gazans – have been displaced at least once. Many have been displaced multiple times. An estimated 43 580 are pregnant women. Each evacuation order upends lives, and in no place can survival or access to medical care be guaranteed.

The massively overcrowded shelters and camps pose a major risk of communicable disease outbreaks. Since 7 October 2023, 995 000 cases of acute respiratory infections have been recorded, as well as 577 000 cases of diarrhoea, 103 385 cases of scabies and lice, 77 958 cases of skin rashes, 10 038 cases of impetigo, 11 214 cases of chickenpox and 107 000 cases

of acute jaundice syndrome (suspected Hepatitis A). There have also been suspected cases of meningitis and mumps. And to cap it all, in August a 10-month-old baby in Gaza was partly paralysed from polio, the first confirmed case in the occupied Palestinian territory in 25 years.

In response, by 12 September 560 000 children under ten years old had been vaccinated against polio thanks to the collective efforts of United Nations agencies, partners and the Ministry of Health during the first round of an emergency vaccination campaign that began on 1 September. Pauses in the conflict are needed to complete the second round.

Thirty-four people have died of malnutrition and dehydration, according to the Ministry of Health, and the forced closure of three centres for the management of severe acute malnutrition places the lives of many more children at risk.

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

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Special clinic to relieve families during coronavirus pandemic

A special clinic will be opened for the first time in the country to provide free psychological services to families who have lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The clinic is called “Soog” (literally meaning mourn) will be inaugurated at Shahid Beheshti Educational and Medical Center in Zanjan province on Wednesday.

The outbreak of coronavirus has changed the lifestyle of many families. Sudden changes in life cause stress, while the coronavirus itself has doubled the stress due to its contagion and the number of lives it has claimed in the world to date.

## ‘کلینیک سوگ’ برای افرادی که اعضای خانواده را بر اثر کرونا از دست داده‌اند

نخستین کلینیک سوگ در کشور برای ارائه خدمات رایگان روان‌شناختی به خانواده‌هایی که اعضای خانواده خود را به دلیل ابتلا به کرونا از دست داده‌اند افتتاح خواهد شد.

این کلینیک ۲۳ مهرماه امسال در مرکز آموزشی درمانی شهید بهشتی زنجان کار خود را آغاز خواهد کرد.

شیوع ویروس کرونا باعث شده است تا سبک زندگی بسیاری از خانواده‌ها دچار تغییر شود. ایجاد تغییرات ناگهانی در زندگی باعث ایجاد استرس می‌شود. این در حالی است که خود ویروس کرونا به دلیل واگیردار بودن و نیز آمار فوتی‌هایی که تا به امروز در دنیا به جا گذاشته، این استرس را دوچندان کرده است.



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## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*The mind of a wise man is the safest custody of secrets; cheerfulness is the key to friendship; patience and forbearance will conceal many defects.*

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:56 Evening: 18:13 Dawn: 4:33 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:56 (tomorrow)

## New religious literature secretariat to be established in Qom during Narrative Rozeh festival

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- A permanent secretariat dedicated to religious literature in the central province of Qom is set to be established, coinciding with the unfolding of the new edition of the Narrative Rozeh festival.

The announcement was made by the festival's scientific secretary, Ali-Asghar Ezzatipak, during a press conference held at Tehran's Art Bureau on Tuesday. The primary responsibility of this secretariat will be to host the annual Religious Book Awards in Iran, which aims to select and promote published works among enthusiasts of religious literature, Ezzatipak noted.

He also mentioned that the secretariat will focus on research in religious storytelling, book production, and educational initiatives.

Speaking about the festival, he emphasized that Persian literature is deeply intertwined with the events of Karbala and Ashura, especially in poetry.

"However, in the realm of prose, we have not made significant efforts to reflect this vital historical occurrence, despite Ashura's cultural influence spanning from southern Lebanon to Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey," he stated.

He emphasized the lack of storytelling regarding Ashura and added: "A key feature of the Narrative Rozeh festival is that a group of authors initially gathered to discuss this matter as during the COVID-19 pandemic, when mourning gatherings and rozehs were suspended, writers from Qom proposed storytelling about Karbala and Ashura. This initiative gained serious momentum over the past few years, culminating in a nationwide call for submissions this year, allowing writers to participate in two sections: narration and storytelling."

The writer noted: "The stories of Ashura

cannot simply emerge from a few festivals; for it to transform into a movement, it requires consistency, so that writers can convey their beliefs through storytelling and connect closely with the people."

Ezzatipak stressed the importance of engaging with the community, addressing a persistent critique that writers are often distanced from the public. "We hope this festival results in the creation of pure, appealing, and engaging literature for the people, allowing writers to serve as a mirror for Karbala," he added.

Regarding the judging of festival entries, he mentioned: "In this festival, we hosted works in two categories: narration and storytelling, emphasizing the native and pristine cultural heritage of various regions across the country."

In another segment of the meeting, Seyyed Ali Naqib, the festival's secretary elaborated on the details of the festival, announcing that the three specialized meetings were held in Qom, Isfahan, and Ahvaz, featuring contributions from esteemed scholars.

"A total of 400 works were submitted to the secretariat, including 220 in the narration section and 180 in the storytelling segment. Judging was conducted in three phases, culminating in the announcement of six distinguished and commendable works."

The festival's closing ceremony will be held on September 30, coinciding with the Day of Solidarity with Palestinian Children and Adolescents, in the municipality hall of Qom.

Rozeh Khani is a Shia Muslim ritual observed during the Mourning of Muharram. It involves gatherings that commemorate the tragic events faced by sacred figures in Islam. These assemblies aim to educate and guide the audience, enriching their understanding of Islamic thought and values.

## Iranian animation "Anita, Lost in the News" wins audience award in Polish festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian animation "Anita, Lost in the News" written, directed, and produced by Behzad Nalbandi won an award at the 6th Rising of Lusitania AnimaDoc Film Festival, which was held in Lodz, Poland, from September 1 to 22.

The short animation won the audience award for the professional animated documentary at the Polish event, Mehr reported.

A total of 40 animated documentary films from 22 countries participated in this year's edition of the festival.

Produced in 2023, "Anita, Lost in the News" has so far been screened in several international festivals in Japan, the U.S., the U.K., Turkey, and India, and grabbed many nominations and awards as well.

The 17-minute animation has been created using puppets made from newspaper clippings. It is about a Kurdish-Iranian family of four who died in the sinking of a migrant boat in the English Channel in 2020.

On October 27, 2020, an inflatable boat left the coast of Dunkirk, France to take 19 undocumented immigrants to England, but capsized after a few minutes and seven migrants drowned; five belonged to a Kurdish-Iranian family (Rasoul 35, Shiva 35, Anita 9, Armin 6, and Artin just 15 months) who had gone on this difficult journey dreaming of a better life.

At the time of the tragedy, there



were ten more people on board than the vessel could hold. One of the victims was nine-year-old Anita, from whose perspective we follow the story.

Behzad Nalbandi graduated from Tehran Film School. A graphic designer and theater actor, he has made four short films, four documentaries, and a TV drama.

His anima-doc, "The Unseen" premiered at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) in 2019 and was a festival hit.

Rising of Lusitania - AnimaDoc Film Festival is an international

animation film festival that is focused entirely on this unique genre combining animation and documentary.

"Anita, Lost in the News" will continue its global journey by attending two festivals in the U.S., and Taiwan in the coming days.

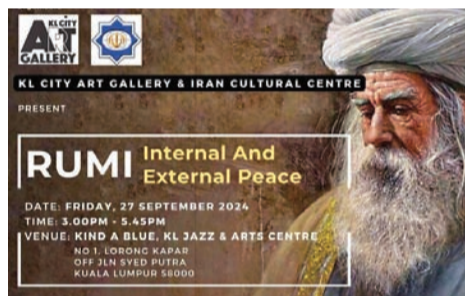
Going to Nevada, the U.S., the animation will take part in the 7th Cordillera International Film Festival, due to be held from September 26 to 30. As a champion of diverse voices, the Cordillera Int'l Film Festival has quickly become one of the "Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World" according to MovieMaker Magazine,

and is ranked in the Top 1% of over 10,000 film festivals worldwide by FilmFreeway.

Cordillera features five days filled with more than 150 films, celebrity panels, red carpet premieres, and a Grand Jury made up of iconic industry leaders.

The 24th Kaohsiung Film Festival in Taiwan has also picked the Iranian work for its international short film competition. From October 12 to 27, Kaohsiung City in southern Taiwan will host the festival, which is dedicated to discover new filmmakers and to enhance cultural exchanges through short films.

## Kuala Lumpur to host conference of Rumi's message of peace



explore Rumi's peace-promoting philosophies as articulated in his masterpiece Masnavi-ye Manavi, honor this great Iranian mystic, and promote Persian poetry and literature among diverse cultures, the report added.

Notable speakers at the conference will include the Deputy of the Iranian Embassy in Malaysia Mohammad Reza Baksahrai, the director of KL City Art Gallery Maizon Omar, and the Cultural Attaché of Iran in Malaysia Habib Reza Arzani.

The lecturers will deliver speeches on Rumi's perspective on internal and external peace as well as his view on social sciences.

As part of the program, attendees will be treated to a special music performance that immerses them in the rhythms of Iranian mysticism, featuring a solo performance on the daf by Mojdeh Afshar, an Iranian residing in Malaysia, with a piece from the new Shams album "The Legend of the Heart".

Ambassadors from various Islamic countries, the intellectual community, Malaysian students,

Iranian expatriates, and distinguished figures in the fields of poetry and literature have been invited to participate in this event.

The event will be held in the Kuala Lumpur City Art Gallery. Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi (1207 to 1273) is one of the most widely recognized and celebrated poets in the world.

His works have been translated into multiple languages and continue to inspire readers globally. Rumi's spiritual teachings and poetry have deeply influenced the entire Islamic world.

Rumi was born in present-day Afghanistan and later migrated to Konya, Turkey, where he lived most of his life and wrote the majority of his works.

As a result, the city of Konya became a vibrant center of Sufism, an Islamic mystical tradition, and a hub of intellectual and artistic activity.

After Rumi's death, his followers established the Mevlevi Order, also known as the Whirling Dervishes, which is still active in Konya today. The Mevlevi Order is a mystical order of Islam that follows Rumi's teachings and practices.

## Neauphle-le-Chateau Theater to host Nicolas Billon's "Butcher"

TEHRAN-The play "Butcher" written by the Canadian playwright Nicolas Billon will be staged at the Neauphle-le-Chateau Theater in Tehran on September 29.

Anahita Aghataher has directed the 65-minute drama, originally written in 2014, which deals with the theme of justice.

The play has Nima Hashemiresht, Mehdi

Bozorgzadeh, Pantea Marzbanian, Maryam Golduz Tavakoli, and Ali Teymourfami in the cast.

The story happens at a police station, where a mysterious old man is found wearing a foreign military uniform and a Santa hat, with a meat hook dangling around his neck. The old man won't speak English but has a lawyer's card in his pocket.

As a lawyer, a police officer,

and a translator struggle to unravel the truth, they uncover a past that won't stay buried, and a decades-old quest for justice that must be served. A seemingly innocuous encounter gets stranger and stranger as the audience gradually realizes no one is who they seem and the Balkan wars' traumas continue to play out.

Billon, 46, writes for theater, television, and cinema.

His work has been produced around the world and garnered over a dozen awards, including a Governor-General's Award for Drama, a Canadian Screen Award, and a Writers Guild of Canada Screenwriting Award.

"Butcher" will remain on stage through October 16 at the Neauphle-le-Chateau Theater located at No. 18, Neauphle-le-Chateau St., junction of Razi St.

## Cartoon of Day



Lebanon Massacres  
Cartoonist: SWAHA from France

## Ali Ghamsari to perform with Ukrainian guitarist Estas Tonne in Turkey, Cypress, UAE

TEHRAN-Iranian tar virtuoso Ali Ghamsari will perform in Turkey, Cypress, and the UAE in the coming days together with the celebrated Ukrainian guitarist Estas Tonne.

On September 28, the duo will perform in Istanbul, Turkey. Traveling to Limassol, Cyprus, they will hold a concert on October 4. The day after, October 5, Ghamsari and Tonne will take the stage in Dubai, the UAE, ILNA reported.

A tar, setar, divan player and composer, Ghamsari, 41, began his music education at the Iranian Conservatory of Music and continued his studies in music at the Faculty of Fine Arts, the University of Tehran. He is a Professor of Persian Music Theory at the University of Tehran.

Ghamsari founded the band Sarmad at the age of 18. Afterwards, he established the Hamnavazan-e Hesar Ensemble and the Iranian String Quartet.

At the age of 22, he gained fame by composing the album Naghsh-e Khiyal with Homayoun Shajarian. Since then, he has composed over 15 albums, collaborating with several traditional singers such as Alireza Ghorbani, Mohammad Motamedi, and Vahid Taj.

He has performed in many countries, including France, Morocco, Spain, the U.S., the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Russia, and Canada.

Born in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Estas Tonne, 49, took up the guitar

at the age of eight and started to study classical music at the local music school.

Throughout his musical career, Tonne has collaborated with a number of notable musicians, including the American drummer and percussionist Michael Shrieve.

He has performed at numerous distinguished venues, including the Royal Theater Carré in Amsterdam, the BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center in New York City, Union Chapel in London, and the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco.

Earlier this week, Ghamsari held a concert in Berlin, Germany, with Iraqi oud player Naseer Shamma, Iraqi daf (frame drum) player Hussein Zahawy, and Spanish guitarist Carlos Piñana.