

Sources say Hezbollah leaders were the target of Israeli strikes

Barbaric Attack on Beirut Ordered from New York



People and rescuers gather near the smouldering rubble of a building destroyed in an Israeli air strike in the Haret Hreik neighbourhood of Beirut's southern suburbs on 27 September 2024.

30 countries announce readiness to invest in Iran

TEHRAN- During a conference titled Iran Investment Opportunities, which was held prior to Iran Invest Expo, it was stated that 30 countries have announced their readiness to invest in Iran.

In the Iran Investment Opportunities Conference, 107 representatives and investment delegations from 30 countries announced their readiness to invest in Iran, the Public Relations Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported.

As reported, the event was held at Persian Gulf Hall of the Tehran Permanent International Fairground, participated by Mahmoud Bazari, the director-general of trade promotion office of the TPO, Mohammad-Reza Qaderi, the organizer of Iran Investment Opportunities Expo, some officials, and representatives of the Expo Strategic Council.

Addressing the conference, Bazari pointed to the postponement of Iran's investment opportunities exhibition and said the holding of this exhibition coincided with the transfer of the government and the change of managers and companies, and this had an impact on the holding of the event.

He expressed hope that the expo will be held in early February 2025 with the presence of domestic and foreign investors. ▶ Page 4

Iran, China to deepen ties with new joint commissions

TEHRAN – Iran and China have agreed to establish joint commissions to enhance economic, security, political, and cultural cooperation and operationalize the existing agreements, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian announced upon returning to Tehran from a three-day visit to the UN headquarters in New York.

The President met with various officials during his time in the United States – where he delivered a speech at the UN General Assembly – including Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

His engagements with Wang Yi were particularly important, as they led to the decision to establish dedicated working groups to ensure swift progress on the 25-year cooperation agreement signed in 2021. "This is an important collaboration," Pezeshkian told reporters at Mehrabad airport. "It will bolster Iran's economic landscape and foster deep ties with one of its allies."

In addition to discussions with Chinese officials, Pezeshkian engaged in meetings with leaders from several European nations and the President of the European Council. In those meetings, he addressed the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. ▶ Page 2

Araqchi highlights enhancing ties in high-level talks at UN

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has held a series of high-profile meetings with global leaders and foreign ministers on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, strengthening bilateral relations and discussing key regional and international issues.

One of the key meetings took place between Araqchi and Børge Brende, President of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

During their talks, the two leaders discussed global economic trends and challenges, with an emphasis on how Iran can engage with the broader international community amid evolving economic circumstances. The meeting highlighted the increasing importance of Iran's role in addressing economic cooperation on a global scale. ▶ Page 3

Behind closed doors: Israel scrambling to avert another economic crisis

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN – In a stark condemnation of the Israeli government's policies, Moody's Investors Service, a global credit rating agency, has downgraded Israel's sovereign credit rating, sending shockwaves through its financial landscape. This move, driven by concerns over the deepening political and economic instability fueled by the government's aggressive actions, has raised serious alarm bells about the future of the Israeli economy.

Moody's, renowned for its meticulous analysis of global financial markets, cited "weakening governance and institutional strength" as the primary factors behind the downgrade. This decision, a stinging rebuke to the current administration, underscores the growing international perception of Israel's leadership as increasingly erratic and reckless.

At the heart of this downgrade lies the Israeli government's persistent military aggression in the occupied territories, as well as its warmongering in other regions including south Lebanon. ▶ Page 5

Iran demands action against Israel's nuclear arsenal, insists 'Israel must join NTP'

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, delivered a scathing critique of the international community's failure to achieve nuclear disarmament, specifically targeting Israel's nuclear weapons program during a speech at the UN General Assembly's High-Level Plenary Meeting on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Gharibabadi, echoing the frustration of many non-nuclear-weapon states, expressed deep disappointment at the lack of progress towards nuclear disarmament. "Seventy-five years after the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on innocent civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki," he stated, "this meeting offers a unique opportunity to mobilize global efforts toward achieving nuclear disarmament as the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations, even in the absence of some nuclear weapon states." ▶ Page 2

Netanyahu's smoke and mirrors

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN– Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attempted to whitewash the regime's atrocious crimes in Gaza and Lebanon as he delivered a speech at the United Nations General Assembly in New York amid large protests against his trip to the United States.

The Israeli army has killed more than 41,500 Palestinians, including some 17,000 children, in Gaza since declaring war on the territory on October 7.

Israel has also killed over 700 people, including dozens of children in Lebanon since launching a massive bombing campaign against the Mediterranean country on Monday.

Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for its brutalities in Gaza. The regime has also faced global backlash for its deadly strikes on Lebanon.

Bibi blame game

Netanyahu told the most outrageous lies during his UN address and tried to play the innocent, arguing that the regime must defend itself "against these savage murderers." ▶ Page 5

Tourism as a bridge to peace and understanding

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – As we celebrate World Tourism Day 2024 under the theme "Tourism and Peace," it is crucial to reflect on the profound role that the sector plays not only in economic development but also in promoting peace, mutual understanding, and reconciliation among nations.

For Iran, a country rich in history, culture, and natural beauty, the theme is particularly relevant as it regards tourism as a bridge to foster international goodwill and cultural exchange.

Tourism at its heart, is more than an industry. It seems like a human endeavor that brings people from different cultures together. ▶ Page 6



Iranians hold nationwide rallies to condemn Israeli actions in Gaza, Lebanon

TEHRAN – Following Friday prayers, worshippers in Tehran, along with participants across Iran, took part in nationwide rallies to denounce the Israeli regime's actions in Gaza and Lebanon.

The protests condemned the "illegitimate, child-killing" Israeli government.

Protesters voiced their outrage with chants such as "Rootless Israel – Lebanon won't surrender," "Gaza is victorious – Israel is doomed," and "Victory is with Hamas – Israel is in fear."

Across Iran, demonstrators carried the flags of the Islamic Republic and Palestine, chanting slogans condemning the "brutal attacks" of the Israeli regime, which they noted were supported by the United States. Protesters decried the ongoing violence against Gaza's civilian population and the attacks on Lebanon.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran overcomes challenges with authority

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper discussed the importance of President Masoud Pezeshkian's speech at the UN General Assembly. It said: One of the very important points that Pezeshkian included in his speech at the UN General Assembly was that he started his address by reminding the late president martyr Raisi.

By reminding this, Masoud Pezeshkian explained to the world that the Islamic Republic has the authority, strength, stability, and legal mechanisms that can overcome a bitter and great incident such as the martyrdom of its president and foreign minister with the least challenges. The transfer of power between the two figures with different political tendencies is a part of the inclusive nature of a political system called the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this way, it can be said that Pezeshkian, by reminding the world of this issue, talked about the dynamics, aliveness, and movement of political processes in Iran. Processes are sometimes referred to under the name of martyr Raisi or Masoud Pezeshkian, but they originate from a single nation.

Arman-e-Melli: Hope for the JCPOA team to break the deadlock

In a note, Arman-e-Melli examined Iran's diplomatic efforts in the United States and wrote: The efforts of the president to advance the talks to lift the sanctions are continuing. It seems that Westerners have taken the efforts of the new government in Iran seriously for negotiations to lift the sanctions. It seems the most important negotiation by the Iranian team in New York was the one between the President of Iran and the President of France.

One of the most important discussions between the presidents of Iran and France was the Iran nuclear issue. Since the Europeans have been reluctant to negotiate about the nuclear issue, the solution to nuclear challenges has not progressed well. Of course, Iran has always complained about England, France, and Germany as bad members of the JCPOA. Nevertheless, the war in Ukraine cast a shadow on the issue and caused the Europeans to deal with the Iran nuclear issue with obstinacy. Despite all these differences, the meeting between the President of Iran and the President of France should be considered an important step because there is good news about it.

Ham Mihan: Lebanon should not become a second Gaza

In a commentary, Ham Mihan discussed the crisis in the region and the war between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah. It wrote: These days, on the eve of the anniversary of the war in Gaza, as well as the escalation of the conflict between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah, ambiguous and challenging conditions have been created, especially for Iran. Although Iran is Israel's enemy, there is a need to determine the limits of tension to control it. First of all, the policy of avoiding direct conflict with Israel should continue. This policy is not cost-free, but it is certainly better than entering into a state of war where the damage is uncontrollable. On the other hand, Iran should go towards persuading Hezbollah to end the conflict with Israel to deprive Israel of the excuse to continue the war against Lebanon. Iran's responsible policy should be to support its national security as well as protect its allies, including Hezbollah and the entire Lebanon. Lebanon should not be allowed to become a second Gaza. The initiative should be taken before the conflict get out of control. Courage is not in reckless and thoughtless actions. Rather it is to take tough and rational decisions to prevent further harm.

Jam-e-Jam: JCPOA negotiations and its psychological dimensions

Repeating the JCPOA issue several times shows a passion that can bring irreparable consequences for the country in the international arena. This type of attitude leads the Western calculation system to believe that Iran is in a more difficult economic, commercial, political, and even military condition than what was imagined. If Joe Biden's government officials continue to pretend to be indifferent to this demand in the final months of their authority, they will accomplish several goals. First, they adopt a strategy of silence and indifference to the demands of the Iranian side, and in the next stage set preconditions for the start of negotiations with the Iranian side. A position of weakness can lead to gaining concessions beyond imagination from Iranian negotiators. "Not showing eagerness to negotiate" is one of the basic and obvious principles of negotiation at the international level, and acting, on the contrary, shows that the rival party is weak and incapable, and this makes the dimensions of economic and political pressure narrower.

Pezeshkian offers congratulations to Turkmen officials on Independence Day



Gurbanguly

Serdar

Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – The Iranian President offered individual messages of congratulations to Turkmenistan's national leader and head of the People's Council, as well as the country's president, on the occasion of the anniversary of Turkmenistan's Independence Day. In the message to Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, the national leader and head of the Turkmenistan People's Council, Masoud Pezeshkian highlighted that enhancing cooperation with neighboring and regional nations is a key focus of his administration.

Pezeshkian expressed confidence that collaboration rooted in mutual interests and the

effective use of existing resources will facilitate the further development of relations across various sectors. Additionally, in the message to President Serdar Berdimukhamedov, Pezeshkian expressed optimism that the two countries' bilateral relationship, founded on mutual respect, will be further strengthened for the benefit of both nations' citizens. Turkmenistan commemorates its Independence Day on September 27, celebrating the anniversary of its liberation from the Soviet Union in 1991. This occasion serves as a moment for the nation to reflect on its historical journey and cultural heritage while celebrating its accomplishments as a sovereign state.

Iran, Qatar security officials hold talks to boost border cooperation

TEHRAN- Senior border officials from Iran and Qatar have engaged in discussions aimed at enhancing border cooperation between their nations. As reported by IRNA, Brigadier General Ahmad-Ali Goudarzi, the commander of the Iranian Border Guard, is currently visiting Doha to participate in a joint meeting focused on coastal and border security. During his visit, Goudarzi met with Major General Nasser Jabor Al Naimi, the director-general of Coasts and Borders Security at the Qatari Ministry of Interior, on Thursday.

The Iranian commander emphasized the

importance of collaborative maritime patrols and the need to combat smuggling and unauthorized crossings and pointed out, "Achieving sustainable security and protecting the borders are among Iran's primary objectives." Goudarzi noted that there has been considerable progress in implementing the agreements established during a joint meeting held two years ago. Highlighting the 243 kilometers of shared maritime borders between Iran and Qatar, Goudarzi stated that both countries maintain a satisfactory level of security along their common borders.

Iran demands action against Israel's nuclear arsenal, insists 'Israel must join NPT'

From page 1 ▶ He pointed to the hypocrisy of nuclear-weapon states, who, despite their commitments to disarmament under Article VI of the NPT, continue to invest heavily in modernizing and expanding their arsenals.

"Nuclear-weapon states, particularly those within NATO, present extensive rhetoric about their commitment to nuclear disarmament as a future goal," Gharibabadi said, "while making firm demands on the rest of the world for immediate commitments to nuclear non-proliferation."

Gharibabadi highlighted the discriminatory application of NPT rules by nuclear-weapon states, who perpetuate an unequal world order where they retain their nuclear arsenals while demanding non-proliferation from others.



"Today, more than 40 countries, including NATO members rely on the extended nuclear deterrence provided by the United States," he stated, pointing to the "nuclear sharing" arrangements where five NATO states host U.S. nuclear weapons, circumventing NPT obligations.

He then turned his focus to Israel, the only entity in West Asia

to possess nuclear weapons.

"The Israeli regime," he declared, "the sole possessor of a nuclear arsenal in our region, with the backing of the United States, has consistently opposed all initiatives, including Iran's proposal since 1974, to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in West Asia."

Gharibabadi accused Israel of "openly threatening others with

nuclear annihilation" while falsely accusing others of proliferation.

He emphasized that Israel's continued refusal to join the NPT and subject itself to international safeguards is a serious threat to regional security.

"To prove a genuine will for the total elimination of nuclear weapons," Gharibabadi asserted, "the international community has to compel Israel—an outlaw regime that has openly threatened others with nuclear annihilation while falsely accusing others of proliferation—to renounce its nuclear weapons, join the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon party, and subject all its nuclear facilities and activities to comprehensive IAEA safeguards, given its six decades of deception and clandestine nuclear weapons development."

Iran, China to deepen ties with new joint commissions

From page 1 ▶ condemning Israeli actions and stressing that the resolution lies primarily with the United States.

"[I said that] the indiscriminate violence against civilians and the fact that such atrocities occur without accountability is incomprehensible," Pezeshkian noted.

The Iranian President also pointed out that while world leaders expressed sympathy for the victims, mere words are insufficient to resolve the underlying issues.

He noted a stark contrast in global reactions to conflicts involving independent nations versus those affecting larger geopolitical powers.

During his time in New York, Pezeshkian engaged in fruitful discussions about mutual interests with neighboring countries and other global partners.

Dedicated working groups will ensure swift progress on the 25-year cooperation agreement signed in 2021

He stated that these interactions were crucial for addressing various challenges, including those related to the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Furthermore, Pezeshkian met with members of the Iranian diaspora in the U.S., aiming to counteract negative portrayals of Iran in Western media and address the concerns of Iranians living abroad.

He expressed hope that these dialogues would pave the way for improved relations and facilitate travel back to Iran for expatriates.

"I hope that the agreements reached during this trip will not only enhance Iran's international standing but also promote messages of peace, justice, and humanity globally," he said to reporters.

Tehran censures U.S. for new aid package to Israel



TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani has upbraided U.S. politicians on social media for approving a new aid package to Israel, while the regime continues to pummel Gaza

and escalate attacks against Lebanon.

"While the United States claims to be working toward a ceasefire, the Israeli regime has announced the receipt of an \$8.7 billion aid package from the U.S. to sustain and bolster its military capabilities," Kanaani wrote on his X account on Friday. "Simultaneously, the U.S. Secretary of Defense declared that Washington will never alter its commitment to assist Israel in defending itself," he added.

"It is disgraceful that the U.S. characterizes the killing of approximately 42,000 people over 11 months in Palestine and more than 1,500 people in just 4 days in Lebanon as self-

defense," he noted.

"The world harbors no doubt that the U.S. is the primary accomplice to the Israeli regime's war crimes in the genocide of Palestinians and the ongoing atrocities against the Lebanese people," he stated.

Israel announced on Thursday that it has secured an \$8.7 billion aid package from the United States, intended to support its ongoing actions in the region. The package, the regime said, includes \$3.5 billion for immediate wartime procurement and \$5.2 billion for air defense systems, including the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and an advanced laser system.

Palestinian people poised for "amazing victory," IRGC chief predicts

TEHRAN – Major General Hossein Salami, Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), has predicted an imminent "amazing victory" for the Palestinian people who have been resolutely resisting Israel in the past 11 months.

During a ceremony commemorating 1,100 Iran-Iraq war martyrs in Fasa, Iran on Thursday, Salami lauded the resilience of Gazans, stating, "The resilient and amazing people of Gaza have shown

that by relying on the power of faith, the enemy can be isolated and that faith will never fail in the face of an enemy that has lost its dignity."

He attributed the shift in the global power balance to the presence of the Islamic Revolution, saying it has led to a victory.

Emphasizing the unwavering faith of Palestinians, Salami asserted, "They have proved that the enemy will suffer a defeat when it uses all its advanced equipment

and wages a war against a defenseless but faithful nation living in a blockaded territory."

Addressing the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon, Salami praised the strength of Hezbollah, stating, "The brave and strong Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah is fighting the enemy at the points of contact." He acknowledged Hezbollah's daily victories, predicting a "final victory" against Israel, adding, "They will achieve a final victory this time just like

previous wars with Israel and will 'add another disappointment' to the enemies' plans."

Salami expressed unwavering confidence in Hezbollah's ability to overcome any opposition, stating, "If the United States, Britain, France, and all their allies unite, they will never be able to achieve success in the face of Hezbollah's will in the eastern Mediterranean. They are doomed to failure, God willing."

Iranian FM congratulates Armenian counterpart on National Day

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi extended his congratulations to Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan on the occasion of Armenia's National Day anniversary.

In a message sent on Thursday on his X official account, Araqchi conveyed his best wishes to Mirzoyan, the Armenian government, and its citizens, celebrating this

significant national milestone.

Araqchi expressed, "By leveraging existing resources and the commitment of both nations' leaders and officials, the development and enhancement of bilateral relations will persist, ultimately serving to advance shared interests and strategic objectives, thereby fostering regional and international stability and security."

Armenian National Day is celebrated annually on September 21 to commemorate the country's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

It's a major public holiday in Armenia and is typically marked by a variety of events and festivities, including parades, concerts, and cultural events.

Iranian president to attend Asia Cooperation Dialogue summit in Qatar

TEHRAN – Masoud Pezeshkian, the president of Iran, is set to visit Qatar to take part in the upcoming Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit. The summit will bring together the leaders of 35 member nations to discuss cooperation on various economic and cultural initiatives across the continent.

Scheduled for September 27

and 28, the summit will take place in Doha, Qatar, and marks a significant gathering of Asian leaders aimed at fostering deeper collaboration in a range of sectors.

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue Forum, established over two decades ago, has played a pivotal role in facilitating dialogue and joint programs among Asian

countries. It serves as a platform for addressing common challenges and opportunities, with a strong focus on enhancing economic and cultural ties across the region.

Notably, Iran has held the chairmanship of the ACD since October 2023, underscoring its growing influence within the forum. As chair, Iran has been actively

involved in steering discussions on regional cooperation, further solidifying its role as a key player in Asia's political and economic landscape. The summit in Qatar is expected to provide member states an opportunity to explore new avenues for collaboration, strengthen partnerships, and address pressing regional issues.

Ending Israeli occupation only way to achieve peace in region: Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has emphasized that peace and security in the region can only be achieved by ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and restoring the Palestinian people's fundamental rights, including the right to self-determination.

Araqchi made these remarks during the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Committee on Palestine held in New York on Thursday.

The Iranian diplomat condemned the escalating violence against Palestinians, particularly the increasing human rights violations inflicted by the Israeli regime over the past year.

Araqchi noted with deep concern that the death toll in Gaza has reached nearly 42,000, with 70 percent of the victims being innocent children and women. He further highlighted that despite efforts to suppress Palestinian Resistance movements like Hamas, these attempts have failed, as the



desire for liberation remains strong among the Palestinian people.

Araqchi also addressed the worsening situation in Lebanon, condemning Israeli airstrikes that have violated Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He stressed that these actions endanger the lives of innocent civilians and have further destabilized the region.

During his address, the foreign

minister urged the NAM Ministerial Committee to take a more active role in supporting the Palestinian cause.

He called for concrete actions, including an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, lifting the ongoing blockade on Gaza, the release of Palestinian prisoners, and a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Araqchi proposed a referendum as a democratic solution for

determining the future of Palestine. He suggested that all Palestinian people, whether residing in their homeland or living abroad, should participate in deciding their future through this process. According to the Iranian diplomat, such a referendum could lead to a lasting peace where Muslims, Christians, and Jews can coexist peacefully.

The call for peace through diplomacy, combined with a focus on Palestinian self-determination, marks Iran's continued commitment to addressing the decades-long conflict and highlights the urgency for international bodies like the NAM to play a more assertive role in resolving the crisis.

The NAM Palestine Committee is one of the NAM Working Groups which includes Indonesia, Algeria, Iran, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malaysia, Cuba, India, Venezuela, Egypt and Senegal.

NAM consists of 121 countries that are not formally allied with one particular great power bloc.

Leader issues message to commemorate Sacred Defense Week



TEHRAN – In a message marking Sacred Defense Week, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei emphasized the importance of remembering the country's martyrs, calling it a guarantee for safeguarding the path of the Iranian nation and staying true

to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution.

"The Sacred Defense Week is a valuable opportunity to illuminate the atmosphere of the country with the memory of the esteemed martyrs.

This cherished remembrance guarantees the health of the Iranian nation's path and prevents deviation from the direction of the revolution, and we must recognize its worth and significance," the Leader said in a Thursday

message.

"The distractions and daily preoccupations of life accompany us. We must not allow these natural distractions to distance us from that source of light and purity. With hope in the help of the All-Knowing and All-Powerful God," he added.

Sacred Defense Week marks an eight-year war of aggression on Iran by then-Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in the 1980s.

Araqchi highlights enhancing ties in high-level talks at UN

From Page 1 ▶ The Iranian foreign minister also held a series of meetings with his counterparts from various countries. On Friday, Araqchi met with Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Radosław Sikorski, and Germany's Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Annalena Baerbock.

These discussions focused on strengthening bilateral ties and reviewing the latest regional developments, particularly in light of growing economic and political challenges facing Europe and West Asia.

In separate talks, Araqchi met with Armenia's Foreign Minister, Ararat Samvel Mirzoyan, to review the state of relations between the two neighboring countries and explore new avenues of cooperation. The meeting was seen as a crucial step in maintaining peace and stability in the South Caucasus region, where both countries have key strategic

interests.

Further expanding his diplomatic outreach, Araqchi also met with Jeembek Kulubayev, the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan, to discuss issues of mutual interest and explore opportunities for collaboration in trade, culture, and regional security.

On Thursday, Araqchi held discussions with a number of additional key foreign ministers. He met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein to address ongoing cooperation between the two countries, particularly in areas of security and economic development.

The conversation was framed by both nations' shared interest in regional stability.

Araqchi also held bilateral talks with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Brunei's Foreign Minister Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, South Korean Foreign



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi (R) held a meeting with President of the World Economic Forum Børge Brende on the sidelines of the 2024 United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 27, 2024.

Minister Cho Tae-yul, and Spain's Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares Bueno. In these meetings, topics ranged from economic partnerships and cultural exchanges to the latest geopolitical developments, reflecting Iran's broad engagement with diverse regions around the world.

Araqchi's participation in the 79th UN General Assembly marks an important diplomatic effort for Iran as it seeks to navigate both international sanctions and

shifting alliances. His meetings with key global players signal Iran's continued interest in fostering diplomatic ties and addressing mutual challenges through dialogue and cooperation.

The 79th session of the UN General Assembly opened on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, and has brought together leaders from around the world to discuss pressing global issues, including climate change, economic recovery, and peace-building initiatives.

Iranian president debut UN speech: a call for 'honest dialogue'

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian made his debut at the United Nations General Assembly with a powerful speech addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict, condemning the atrocities committed against the people of Gaza.

In his address, he emphasized the importance of focusing on similarities rather than differences, while denouncing the injustices inflicted on the Iranian people by sanctions.

Pezeshkian expressed his willingness to engage in dialogue with neighboring countries and major world powers, a gesture analysts interpret as an attempt to balance Iran's foreign policy. He highlighted that "injustice," "oppression," "greed," and "poverty" are fundamental causes perpetuating war and bloodshed around the world. He also stressed Iran's "readiness to cooperate with members of the nuclear agreement," the "restoration of the Palestinian people's right to determine their own destiny," and the "violation of human rights through sanctions" as central themes of his message.

Regarding the war in Gaza, the president stated: "In the past year, the world has witnessed the true nature of the Israeli regime.

It has seen how the leaders of this regime commit atrocities, killing more than 41,000 innocents in Gaza in just eleven months, the majority of whom are women and children. They call this genocide, the killing of children, these war crimes, and state terrorism 'legitimate defense.' They label hospitals, daycare centers, and schools as 'legitimate military targets.' And they accuse the brave people of the West and East who protest against this genocide of 'antisemitism.'"

On the nuclear agreement, known as the JCPOA, Pezeshkian noted that Iran is prepared to engage with the signatory countries and that if the commitments of the original agreement—remember, unilaterally broken by the United States—are met, discussions can expand to other issues. For the Islamic Republic, the breakdown of the nuclear deal is seen as a manifestation of the West's lack of honesty and commitment.

This distrust, coupled with the belief that the West never acts in good faith in its relations

with Iran, forms part of Iran's ideological perspective. Therefore, the Islamic Republic considers it necessary to seek guarantees from the other JCPOA signatories to ensure they fulfill their commitments should the agreement be renewed.

In this context, if the nuclear agreement is renewed, Iran may demand verification measures, especially in light of what occurred with the previous pact. This verification would need to be accompanied by economic penalties in case any of the signatory parties unilaterally decide to break the agreement again.

Pezeshkian also focused his speech on the need to "build a better world" in economic, political, and security terms, asserting that Iran is firmly willing to collaborate with the international community to achieve this goal. In an interview with Al Jazeera, the president stated that "Iran has no objections to dialogue, but the U.S. has never truly committed to it and constantly tries to destabilize the Islamic Republic. We are ready to negotiate with the U.S., as long as they approach the discussions with honesty and sincerity."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

SPORTS

Iran edge India in 2025 AFC U20 Asian Cup China qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran defeated India 1-0 in the 2025 AFC U20 Asian Cup China qualification on Friday.

Yousef Mazraeh scored Iran's sole goal at the New Laos National Stadium in Vientiane.

The Iranian team had previously defeated Laos 8-0 in their first match in Group G.

The young Persians will meet Mongolia on Sunday.

from the flanks. However, they could not seem to fully establish their tempo. Their passing lanes lacked fluidity and coordination, as their opponents could maximize this with strategic service.

The Iran club needed to firm up their block formation in order to spark a comeback. They tried to impose such, which enabled them to manage a narrow lead over their opponents.

Later, Duc Giang Chemical retaliated with their share of crucial blocks. With their effective plays on Tran Thu Linh, the Vietnam club sealed the straight-sets victory.

Duc Giang Chemical will meet the winners of the match between Kwai Tsing of Hong Kong, China and Monolith Sky Risers of the Philippines for the best possible finish of fifth place in the 2024 edition.

Marco Aurelio da Cunha named Kheybar coach

TEHRAN – Brazilian coach Marco Aurelio Da Cunha was named as new head coach of Iranian football club Kheybar.

He replaced Mohammadreza Mohajeri at the Khorramabad-based club.

Aurelio, 59, has previously worked in Iranian club Esteghlal Khuzestan as assistant as well as Iran U19 football team.

Kheybar, who secured promotion to 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL), sit 11th in the 16-team table after five weeks.

Iran knocked out of 2024 Futsal World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran suffered a 4-3 loss against Morocco in the 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup on Thursday and failed to advance to quarterfinals.

Iran took an early lead at the Bukhara Universal Sports Complex before but soon found themselves chasing the game as Morocco struck four times in the first half.

The Central Asian side mounted a spirited comeback to reduce the deficit to 4-3 in the second half but then missed a penalty at the death as Morocco held on to seal the win and will face Brazil in the quarter-finals.

Hossein Tayebi returned to the fold after missing their 4-1 win over France and made a positive impact with Iran taking the lead in the fourth minute through Mohammadhossein Derakhshani, who converted Moslem Oladghobad's quick pass.

Tayebi almost doubled their advantage on a fast break moments later, only for Morocco to turn the tables on Iran when they pulled one back through Khalid Bouzid in the seventh minute.

The goal rattled the Central Asian side as they conceded an own goal four minutes later through Alireza Rafieipour, who turned in a kick-in past a stunned Iran keeper Bagher Mohammadi.

Morocco were in full attacking mode and scored their third goal in the 17th minute through Soufiane El Mesrar, who finished off a fine buildup from the top of the arc off Soufian Charraoui's lay-off.

Iran fell further behind a minute before the break, Morocco keeper Abdelkrim Anbia started the move supplying a long pass to Soufiane Borite to nod it across for Idriss Raiss El Fenni to strike home from inside the box. Iran started the second half with added aggression and responded in the 21st minute with Tayebi scoring with a trademark strike off a turn from inside the box, following Oladghobad's set-up.

Oladghobad then drew Iran within touching distance of Morocco when he scored their third goal a minute later with a powerful effort into the top left corner.

With the clock winding down, Iran used the power play with Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh coming on and earned a penalty following a review after the buzzer had been sounded.

Sajad Yousef Khah, however, struck the post from the second penalty mark as Iran's dreams were dashed.

American Point Guard Boatright Joins Shahrdari Gorgan

TEHRAN – Iranian basketball club Shahrdari Gorgan completed the signing of American point guard Ryan Boatright.

The 31-year-old player, who started his playing career in American club Grand Rapids Drive in 2015, was a member of Greek side Apollon Patras last season.

Boatright replaced American point guard Will Cherry in the Iranian basketball team.

Shahrdari has won Iranian Basketball Super League in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Duc Giang defeat Saipa in 2024 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Vietnam's Duc Giang Chemical swept Iran's Saipa Club 3-0 (25-16, 25-11, 27-25) in the 5th-8th semifinals of the 2024 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship at Charchai Hall.

Elena Samoilenko, who missed the first few matches of the Vietnam club, has now picked up of her performance as one of the main options on offense, scoring 20 points in Friday morning's victory.

"I actually joined the team maybe just 5 days before the start of the competition. So I can say that our coordination as a team is not yet that perfect.

But of course, this is a good match today, that we won, especially that we did not have a good start for this tournament. "I always want to win and keep winning, and hopefully, we can do that more as a team," she said.

Apart from Samoilenko, Tran Thu Linh was looked upon to help in the scoring department. She contributed on attack, but also helped create a good passing rhythm for the team. Meanwhile, Tran Thi Bich Thuy was taking care of the middle, executing both attack and block, asianvolleyball.net reported.

Saipa Club intended to capitalize on their tall hitters. Aytak Salamat was evidently preferred as their main hitter over the course of the competition. She continued to support the team as she could show she could connect

Iran learn fate at 1st World Beach Kabaddi Championship

TEHRAN – Iran discovered their opponents at the 2024 World Beach Kabaddi Championship.

Team Melli has been drawn in Group A along with Iraq, Nepal, Turkmenistan and Denmark.

Group B consists of Pakistan, Palestine, Kenya, Germany and Lebanon.

The event is being held in Bandar Anzali, Iran from September 25 to 30.

Iran's non-oil export up over 6% in 6 months on year



TEHRAN- The value of Iran's non-oil exports increased by 6.5 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 head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mohammad Rezvaniyar said that the country exported 70 million tons of non-oil products valued at \$25.8 billion during the first half of this year, also indicating 3.5 percent growth in terms of weight, year on year.

According to the IRICA head, Iran also exported \$23.2 billion of oil and \$600 million of technical and engineering services during the mentioned period, boosting the country's total exports to \$49.6 billion.

During this period, the imports reached \$32.6 billion, including \$2.5 billion of gold bullion.

Stating that the country's total trade exchange during the first half of the current year was \$82.2 billion, he added: "During this period, the trade balance of the country without oil and technical and engineering services was 6.8 billion dollars negative, and taking into account oil and technical and engineering services, it was 17 billion dollars positive."

"The average value per ton of export goods increased by three percent to \$366 in the first six months of this year," he noted.

China with \$7.2 billion, Iraq with \$5.2 billion, United Arab Emirates with \$3.4 billion, Turkey with \$2.4 billion, Afghanistan with \$1.1 billion, Pakistan with \$1.0 billion, and India with \$900

million were the main export destinations of Iranian goods during the mentioned period.

These seven countries accounted for 81 percent of the weight and 82 percent of the total value of Iran's exports, according to Rezvaniyar.

The UAE with \$10 billion, China with \$8.5 billion, Turkey with \$5.1 billion, Germany with \$1.2 billion, the Russian Federation and India with \$800 million each, and Hong Kong with \$600 million were also the top sources of imports for Iran in the first half of the current year.

China, UAE, and Turkey were Iran's top trading partners in the mentioned six months, Rezvaniyar said.

As previously announced by the official, the value of Iran's non-oil export increased by 10 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Rezvaniyar said that the country exported 60.5 million tons of non-oil products valued at \$21.9 billion during the five-month period of this year, also indicating seven percent growth in terms of weight, year on year.

He named petrochemical products as the major non-oil item exported and China, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India as the top export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods in the first five months of this year.

The official further said that the country has imported 15.7 million tons of non-oil products worth \$26.3 billion in the first five months of the present year, with 5.53 percent and 7.93 percent growth in terms of value and weight, respectively, as compared to the same time span in the previous year.

Rezvaniyar named raw gold as the main imported item, and the UAE, China, Turkey, Germany, India, Russia, and Hong Kong as the major sources of import in the mentioned five-month period.

Iranian tea export tops \$6.5m in 5 months

TEHRAN - Iran exported 4,856 tons of tea valued at \$6.555 million in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), according to Mohammad Sadegh Hassani, the executive director of Iran's Tea Syndicate.

The country also imported 20,170 tons of tea with an average value of \$4.83 per kilogram, Hassani said.

According to the official, the government has purchased 11,500 tons of tea leaves from domestic farmers in the mentioned period, Mehr News Agency reported.

As reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 33 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

According to the IRICA report, the country exported 2.657 million tons of agricultural products worth \$1.453 billion in the five-month period of this year, also indicating 22 percent rise in terms of year on year.

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, 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.

Nominal electricity generation capacity to rise 5,333MW by next Mar.

TEHRAN - Iranian Energy Ministry plans to increase the country's power generation capacity by 5,333 megawatts (MW) by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

According to the Iranian Energy Ministry data, 2,817 MW of the mentioned figure will be provided by gas units, 914 MW will be provided by combined cycle power plants and the rest will be generated by hydropower plants, IRNA reported.

30 countries announce readiness to invest in Iran

From page 1 ▶ "In recent years, we have faced problems in the financing in various economic sectors, therefore, the 14th government has included the attraction of foreign investment among its plans and priorities, and we hope to provide the opportunity for investment in this government", the official emphasized.

Addressing the same gathering, the organizer of Iran Investment Opportunities Expo pointed to the difficulties of attracting investment in the economy, and said the cruel sanctions increased the risk of foreign investment in Iran, but in the past years, positive measures were taken to amend the laws and grant some facilities, therefore



the process of attracting investment in Iran has been growing.

Stating that public calls for attracting foreign investment are not made, he said the first goal of holding the Iran Investment Expo

is to announce an international call to attract foreign investors and introduce Iran as an investable country.

Emphasizing that investment opportunities require econom-

ic analysis, Qaderi continued: "Presenting Iran's attractive appearance to foreign investors requires that we introduce a wide range of investment opportunities correctly and in the form of necessary standards."

In the end, he said: "TPO is one of the arms of holding this exhibition and made good efforts to introduce this exhibition through commercial attachés and business centers. Finally, 30 countries introduced 107 investment representatives and delegations to us, and after the investigations, we concluded that they are willing to make more than 7.2 billion dollars of investment in Iran."

Iran, Tajikistan underline boosting energy cooperation

TEHRAN - Senior energy officials of Iran and Tajikistan have stressed their willingness to expand energy ties between the two countries, Shana reported.

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad discussed ways of expanding mutual cooperation with Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan Daler Juma in a meeting in Tehran on Wednesday.

Speaking at the meeting, Paknejad said capable Iranian companies are ready to enter Tajikistan and Central Asian oil industry's upstream and downstream activities.

Referring to the cultural, language, civilizational, and historical commonalities of the two countries of Iran and Tajikistan, the oil minister said that expanding economic relations with the friendly and brotherly country of Tajikistan, especially in the energy sector, is of significant importance.

Paknejad continued that some effective steps have already been taken for expanding economic relations with Tajikistan which is hoped to be strengthened in the future.

Elsewhere, the official said that Iranian exploration and production companies with high capabilities are ready to enter Tajikistan and Central Asia's oil and gas market.

Juma for his part emphasized developing bilateral economic cooperation, particularly in the oil and gas sector, saying: "In 2023, the ceiling of trade exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan reached 300 million dollars, and based on forecasts, it seems that this figure will increase by 60 percent in the current year."

The Tajik minister noted that trade of crude oil and oil products between the two countries could double their trade exchanges, adding: "We hope that during the visit of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Tajikistan, the necessary preparations for expanding trade with Iran in the oil and gas sector will be made."

He noted that a significant portion of Tajikistan's crude oil and petroleum products' daily needs are currently met through imports adding: "Tajikistan has two oil refineries with a refining capacity of 500,000 tons per year to ensure its energy security."

"We are interested in having Iranian companies actively participate in Tajikistan's domestic market," he continued.

The Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan thanked the efforts of Iran's Oil Ministry for training Tajikistan's oil and gas industry specialists and requested the Iranian Oil Minister to provide the necessary assistance for conducting advanced courses.

Furthermore, he called for deploying Iranian knowledge-based companies' capabilities for exploration, development, and production from Tajikistan's oil and gas fields.

Juma also formally invited Paknejad and Iranian oil industry experts to visit Tajikistan.

In the end, Iran's Oil Minister emphasized maximum assistance and cooperation with Tajikistan's Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. Iran and Tajikistan signed 44 cooperation documents in the previous three years, which shows that relations between the two countries are on a trajectory of growth, the Tajik envoy to Iran said in mid-June.

Nizamuddin Zahidov pointed to the expansion of relations between Tehran and Dushanbe and said the two sides signed 44 cooperation documents over the past three years.

Speaking in a meeting with the head of Iran Mapping Organization to follow up the agreements inked previously between the two countries, he underlined that Iran and Tajikistan have witnessed the expansion of political, economic and cultural relations over the past years.

Zahidov put the value of trade exchanges between the two countries in the last Iranian year (ended March 19, 2024) at \$270 million, IRNA reported.

The presidents of the two countries agreed that the value of bilateral trade should reach \$500 million in near future and this shows that the bilateral cooperation is on an upward trajectory especially in the fields of trade and economy, the ambassador stressed.

Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe hosted the 16th meeting of Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee in late December 2023.

Iranian former Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Tajikistan Energy and Water Resources Minister Daler Juma co-chaired the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting.

Meanwhile, the first specialized exhibition "Made in Iran" was also held on the sidelines of this meeting.



The exhibition, aimed at introducing the capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in basic industries, with the presence of 30 top Iranian companies, was held in Dushanbe, during December 26-29.

Iran and Tajikistan on November 8, 2023 signed a joint statement and 18 cooperation documents and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to deepen bilateral strategic relations.

The joint statement was signed between late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe.

The documents and MOUs were inked by the Iranian and Tajik ministers in the presence of the two presidents.

As reported, the documents and MOUs pertained to a roadmap for long-term bilateral trade and economic cooperation till 2030, mutual visa-free access, anti-drug trafficking operations, transportation, crisis management, and the establishment of joint free economic zones, as well as inter-city cooperation in various fields.

During a meeting earlier in the day, Raisi said Iran and Tajikistan could increase their annual trade transactions to \$500 million in the first step.

Raisi stressed that historical, religious, and cultural commonalities shared by the two countries provide a favorable ground for enhancing bilateral relations in all aspects.

The Tajik president, for his part, highlighted the necessity to develop bilateral ties, particularly in mining, health, science and technology, and agriculture sectors.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Raisi arrived in Dushanbe on November 8, 2023. During the day, he also attended a meeting of the two countries traders and businessmen.

Iran proposes connecting its power grid to Russia, UAE, Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN - At the meeting of the BRICS energy ministers in Moscow, Iran's Energy Minister has proposed the development of cooperation among the member countries of this group, including the connection of the power grid of Russia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.

In this meeting, Abbas Aliabadi pointed out the great importance of Iran's geo-economics and reminded that the Islamic Republic has the second largest gas reserves in the world and high oil resources and shares water and land borders with 15 countries.

According to Aliabadi, the joining of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Ethiopia to the BRICS group is of strategic importance, and considering the huge energy resources of these countries as well as their significant transit role in the world, this

alliance can make BRICS a unique economic and political power.

He stated that Iran connects an important part of the international transit corridors leading to the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the regions of Central Asia and the Caucasus with high security and low cost.

Iran's Minister of Energy stated that Iran intends to engage in electricity trade and transit by using the difference in temperature and horizon by connecting its electricity network to all countries with a common land border.

He suggested that Russia's electricity network be connected to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia through Iran, and in this way, reducing investment in the production sector, it would help the environment and expand security in the region.

"BRICS group accounted for about 32 percent of the world's

economy in 2023, and this figure is very significant compared to the 30 percent share of the seven major industrialized countries of the world (G7)." He reminded, adding that the basic question is whether this large economic group can organize its trade exchanges within the bloc with a single currency.

Iran welcomes investment in its energy sector

While referring to Iran's experience in paying energy subsidies and its consequences, Aliabadi said: "Iran has significant capabilities in electrical equipment production in the distribution, transmission, and production sectors, including high-efficiency thermal power plants, renewable farms, electric power plants, refineries, and petrochemicals."

"Relying on this capability, Iran can cooperate with BRICS countries in these sectors and plans to attract

capital with attractive formulas from the financial resources available in the BRICS nations," he said.

Iran's Minister of Energy further emphasized: "We believe that ensuring everyone's access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for sustainable development is a priority and should be on the agenda of this group and other countries."

The BRICS group should provide the most efficient ways to eradicate energy poverty and ensure universal access to energy, through the modernization of national energy systems, diversification of energy sources, and efficient use of all fuels and advanced technologies, he said.

"In this framework, Iran has diversified its energy production portfolio and intends to benefit from the BRICS group's capacity in this field," the official added.

Israeli fighter jets launched a series of massive airstrikes on a crowded area in the Lebanese capital Beirut on Friday, causing widespread destruction with fears of a large death toll.

At least 10 explosions rocked Beirut's southern suburbs, a densely-populated area known as Dahiyeh, with large clouds of black smoke rising over the city.

At least six residential buildings were flattened in the raids with extensive damage reported in nearby structures, according to Al Jazeera.

At least one large crater was seen at the site of the attack and filmed by local media, as dozens of rescue workers and paramedics rushed to the scene. Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati said Israel's attacks on Beirut's southern suburb show it "does not care" about efforts to bring about a ceasefire.

Mikati's press office sent a statement while he was in New York for the UN General Assembly.

Video of the strikes suggested they were carried out with ground-penetrating munitions known as bunker busters. In some footage, a vertical jet of flame was visible as a bomb appeared to explode beneath the ground.



Barbaric attack on Beirut ordered from New York

Israeli media reported that Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was the target and that the military was checking whether he had been hit. Sources close to Hezbollah told Reuters he was alive. The deadly attack in Beirut took place as Netanyahu was in

Sources say Hezbollah leaders were the target of Israeli strikes

New York where he addressed the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Netanyahu's office has circulated a photograph of what it said was the prime minister using a landline telephone from the US to approve the strike. Friday's strike in Beirut

marked a major escalation by Israel, which has been gradually expanding attacks on Lebanon in recent days.

More than 700 people, including dozens of children, have been killed since Israel launched a massive bombing campaign in Lebanon on Monday.

Netanyahu's smoke and mirrors

NY protesters condemn Israeli crimes as many world leaders walk out in protest against Netanyahu's UNGA address

From page 1 ▶ "Our enemies seek not only to destroy us, they seek to destroy our common civilization and return all of us to a dark age of tyranny and terror," he said.

Netanyahu, known as Bibi, was referring to the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran.

He said "Hamas has got to go" and would have no role in the reconstruction of Gaza, pledging to fight until "total victory".

"If Hamas stays in power, it will regroup and attack Israel again and again. So Hamas has got to go," he said.

In addition to committing genocide in Gaza, Israel has destroyed much of the enclave. But it has failed to achieve "total victory" over Hamas and "destroy" the resistance group.

In order to divert global attention from its war of genocide in Gaza, Israel has carried out deadly strikes against Lebanon too. The regime seeks to deter Hezbollah from launching missiles toward Israel.

Israel and Hezbollah have been exchanging fire since the regime began its war on Gaza. The Lebanese resistance movement has stressed that it won't stop the attacks unless Israel ends the Gaza onslaught.

Netanyahu vowed during his speech at the UN body that his army will "continue degrading Hezbollah" until achieving its goals.

His new threats against Hezbollah have thrown a spotlight on Israel's vulnerability.

In June, the head of the company responsible for planning Israel's electrical systems warned that Hezbollah can make Israel "uninhabitable in 72 hours".

"We are not in a good situation, and we are not prepared for a real war. We are living in a fantasy," Shaul Goldstein, who leads Israel's Independent System Operator Ltd, known by its Hebrew initials NOGA, was cited as saying by Israeli media.

He added, "We cannot promise electricity if there is a war in the north. After 72 hours without electricity, it will be impossible to live here. We are not prepared for a real war."

Goldstein was responding to a question on whether he could guarantee continuous power in an emergency scenario if Israel goes to direct war with Hezbollah.

The official admitted that Hezbollah is able to neutralize Israel's power grid like a piece of cake.

"If Nasrallah (Hezbollah's leader) decides to paralyze Israel's power grid, he only needs to pick up the phone and call the head of Beirut's power grid, which is [technically] identical to Israel's," Goldstein said.

Anti-Iran threats

Netanyahu also threatened Iran with military action.

"There is no place in Iran that the long arm of Israel cannot reach, and that's true of the entire Middle East," he said.

The Israeli premier claimed Iran will endanger every country in the Middle East (West Asia) and many beyond.

Iran has already warned Israel of a crushing

response if it carries out any acts of aggression against the country.

On April 13, Iran launched a salvo of more than 300 drones and missiles at Israel. The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) dubbed the operation "True Promise".

It came after several Iranian military advisors including a top commander were assassinated in the wake of an Israeli strike against Iran's consulate in the Syrian capital Damascus on April 1st.

At that time, Israel's Western and West Asia allies aided Israel in dealing with the Iranian strike.

The Washington Post later published a report raising serious doubts about whether Israel would be prepared for a new Iranian attack like the one it conducted in April.

The American newspaper said there are fears that, even with the US support, Israel's aerial defense systems may not be able to fully counter a massive, coordinated attack by Iran and the regional resistance movements.

Israel's isolation

Many world officials and diplomats walked out of the UN General Assembly in protest ahead of Netanyahu's speech, throwing a spotlight on the regime's growing international isolation.

In addition to the wave of walk-outs, leaders from a significant number of countries came down hard on the Netanyahu regime for its brutal war in Gaza and deadly strikes in Lebanon as they addressed the 79th session of the UN.

Besides, anger against Netanyahu's presence in New York sparked large protests.

New Yorkers bash Bibi

Protests erupted soon after Netanyahu, known as Bibi, arrived in New York on Thursday to address the UN body.

Protesters gathered close to the UN building in Manhattan and Netanyahu's residence.

Demonstrators vented their anger at Netanyahu's visit to the US and condemned his army's cold-blooded savagery against people in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

There have been numerous protests in New York City since Israel launched war in Gaza nearly a year ago.

The number of these demonstrations in the city swelled in the spring when college students across the United States erected encampments and urged their administrations to divest from companies that do business with Israel.

Several anti-war groups in New York organized the latest demonstrations against Netanyahu's trip.

Manny Perez, 37, who joined the Thursday march, told the New York Times that he wanted to express his opposition to Netanyahu's visit and "the way he's allowed to walk free and come to the United Nations".

Karen Frost-Arnold, a professor of philosophy, also told the US newspaper that he had traveled to Manhattan from Geneva, N.Y., to take part in the Thursday protest. Frost-Arnold, 47, added that she had wanted to travel

to Washington to protest Netanyahu's address to Congress in July but had not been able to make the trip.

"I've been looking for a chance to come and let him know that what he's doing is reprehensible," Frost-Arnold said.

People carried signs reading "Bring the hostages home" and "End the war", and when Netanyahu's name was mentioned in a speech, the crowd chanted "shame, shame, shame", according to the Guardian.

A speaker of one of groups organizing the protests said, "Stop killing children, end the war, sign the deal, bring the hostages home. There is no military solution."

They were referring to Netanyahu's refusal to sign a ceasefire deal with Hamas to end the war.

Many protesters said Israel's bombing campaign in Lebanon has reinforced the urgency of their cause.

They described Netanyahu as a war criminal demanding that the US end military aid to Israel.

Some others called on the US government to arrest Netanyahu to be tried at the International Criminal Court.

In May, ICC's prosecutor, Karim Khan, requested the court, which is based in the Netherlands, issue arrest warrants against Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant for committing "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity" in Gaza.

Propagating falsehoods

Netanyahu leveled comparable accusations and disseminated similar falsehoods as he addressed a joint session of the US Congress in July.

During his speech in Congress, Netanyahu was applauded 79 times, 58 of which were standing ovations as he tried to justify his army's genocidal war on Gaza.

This was a big prize for Netanyahu whose regime does not scruple to kill defenseless civilians either in Palestine or Lebanon.

Bibi was given another prize for butchering Palestinians and Lebanese on Thursday after securing a new \$8.7 billion US military aid package. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin also announced that Washington will continue backing Israel.

Despite receiving unwavering military support from the US, Israel will ultimately have to end its war on Lebanon and Gaza in the face of rising resistance against the regime's aggression.

In the meantime, growing protests against Israel's crimes like the demonstrations that were held in New York, and the walk-outs prior to his UN address suggest the regime has fallen into absolute disgrace.

Israel is a bogus regime that would go extinct. But the US complicity in Israel's heinous crimes will be recorded in history.



Hezbollah shows no sign of backing down

Yemeni hypersonic missile targets Tel Aviv

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The Lebanese Civil Defense announced on Friday that 14 bodies and 6 injured people have been recovered following Israeli airstrikes on several areas.

Israeli warplanes carried out dozens of successive airstrikes on southern Lebanon and the Beqa'a region.

The airstrikes targeted the city of Baalbek and many towns nearby. Israeli fighter jets attacked other towns west of the Beqa'a in eastern Lebanon.

Lebanon's health minister says at least 25 people have been killed by Israeli strikes since the early hours of Friday.

One attack killed nine members of a family, including four children, and a pregnant woman in the town of Shebaa.

According to Lebanon's health ministry, around 700 people have now been killed in Israeli attacks since Monday.

Reports indicate that more than 35 paramedics were injured by an Israeli airstrike targeting the municipality of Burj el-Shemali.

Since Monday, the Israeli army has been conducting a large-scale offensive on Lebanon, displacing tens of thousands of people.

The government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated the goal was to end the threat of Hezbollah and pave the way back for "70,000" displaced Israelis to their homes in the north.

The Lebanese resistance movement has been trading fire with the Israeli military since October 8, 2023, in solidarity with the Gaza genocide.

Since the wide-scale Israeli military operation began, Hezbollah has expanded its scope of fire. Ironically more Israelis have been displaced.

Hezbollah announced on Friday that it targeted Israeli cities, including Tiberias "twice" with a salvo of rockets, Kiryat Ata east of Haifa, and the settlement of Ilaniya in the Galilee with a salvo of "Fadi 1 rockets".

These operations, according to the statements issued by Hezbollah, were "in support of the steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, in support of its brave and honorable resistance, in defense of Lebanon and its people, and in response to the barbaric Israeli violations of towns, villages, and civilians."

Israeli media reported "repeated sirens in the north, especially in Haifa, Acre, Tiberias, the Golan Heights, and the Jordan Valley," adding that loud explosions were heard in Haifa, resulting in injuries among Israelis. Additionally, two rockets fell in the port of Haifa.

Hebrew media stated that the rocket

launched from Lebanon toward Tiberias targeted a "water pumping station and landed a few dozen meters from it".

Israeli media also cited the head of the local council in Acre, Amihai Ben Shlush, as saying, "The situation is very difficult, and the city is almost empty of residents."

Ben Shlush added, "We don't know where this situation is heading or how long the residents can tolerate this daily reality."

Haifa's Mayor, Yona Yahav, has been quoted as saying that "the streets are empty, and the economy has been damaged due to Hezbollah's strikes."

Over the past 24 hours, other Israeli cities have come under attack as well.

The Ansarullah government in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, has claimed responsibility for a ballistic missile attack on Tel Aviv.

The spokesperson of the Yemeni armed forces, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, announced the execution of two military operations early Friday.

In the first operation, the "Yemeni armed forces targeted an Israeli military target in Tel Aviv with a Palestine-2 hypersonic ballistic missile". The second operation "struck a vital target in Ashkelon with a Yafa drone".

Saree stated that the operations successfully achieved their objectives, underlining that they were carried out in solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian people and in support of the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance under Ansarullah's "fifth phase".

He stressed that "the Yemeni armed forces will continue to conduct more military operations against the Israeli enemy in support of our brothers in Palestine and Lebanon."

Sources said the Yemeni missiles traveled over 2,000 kilometers and reached their targets and that these operations will not cease but escalate.

The Israeli occupation forces stated a ballistic missile launched from Yemen was intercepted over the skies of Tel Aviv in central Israel. The operations forced two million Israelis to flee to shelters, according to the Israeli army.

Hebrew media reported more than 17 were injured in a stampede.

Israeli media also reported that operations at Ben Gurion Airport ceased after rockets were launched toward "central Israel".

The United States has led calls for a 21-day ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel but has been accused of hypocrisy after providing Israel with \$8.7bn in military assistance.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Behind closed doors: Israel scrambling to avert another economic crisis

From page 1 ▶ The ongoing conflict, marked by escalating violence and a disregard for international law, has strained relations with key allies, leading to a growing diplomatic isolation. The continued occupation, coupled with the expansion of settlements, has not only eroded Israel's international standing but also contributed to an atmosphere of instability that has driven away investors and undermined confidence in the Israeli economy.

The downgrade, however, extends beyond the geopolitical implications. It reflects a deeper, more systemic crisis within Israel's political structure. The current government, characterized by its extreme right-wing ideology, has been plagued by internal divisions and a lack of consensus on key issues. This political gridlock, coupled with a growing sense of societal polarization, has created an environment ripe for instability and economic uncertainty.

The economic repercussions of this downgrade are dire. The loss of investor confidence will likely lead to a decline in foreign direct investment, a crucial driver of Israel's economic growth. The cost of borrowing for businesses and individuals is expected to rise, further dampening economic activity. In the long term, this downgrade could potentially impact the Israeli shekel's value, leading to higher inflation and a decline in living standards.

The downgrade has also exposed a crucial

vulnerability within Israel's economic model. Despite its technological advancements and vibrant startup scene, the Zionist regime remains heavily reliant on foreign capital and investment. This vulnerability has been exacerbated by the government's political choices, leaving Israelis exposed to the whims of international markets and susceptible to negative ratings like the one issued by Moody's.

Critics of the government have been quick to point the finger at the current leadership, accusing them of sacrificing long-term economic stability for short-term political gains. While the government has attempted to downplay the significance of the downgrade, the damage is already being felt. The Israeli stock market experienced a sharp decline following the announcement, reflecting investor anxiety and uncertainty.

Adding to the already precarious situation, whispers are circulating that Moody's is on the verge of releasing its updated ratings, and informed sources indicate that Israel's ranking has suffered another downgrade. Reports suggest that Israeli authorities are engaging in frantic, round-the-clock negotiations in an attempt to avoid the publication of this new, potentially devastating, assessment. The weight of these looming ratings hangs heavy over the Israeli economy, threatening to further unravel its already fragile financial stability.

Tourism as a bridge to peace and understanding



From Page 1 ▶ It allows visitors to step into another world, to understand the other's history, traditions, and values, and in turn, it helps challenge their own stereotypes and prejudices.

For example, the majority of foreign nationals, particularly from Western countries,

find Iran far more different than they initially expected.

In fact, many of them have said that their perceptions, previously shaped by anti-Iran propaganda spread by mainstream media, had changed upon experiencing the country firsthand.

The Iranian tourism minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri has recently emphasized that tourism is a priority for the country. "With our vast historical sites, beautiful natural landscapes, and a culture of hospitality, Iran has immense potential as a travel destination," he said earlier this month.

Although, there is a long way to go, this year's motto, inspires us to look at tourism as a bridge to peace and to a more understanding and interconnected global community.

Iran could boost medical tourism revenues to €6 billion annually, says health official



TEHRAN - Iran has the potential to generate €6 billion annually from medical tourism with proper planning, according to Mohammad-Reza Vaez-Mahdavi, Chairman of Iran's Scientific Association of Health Economy.

Currently, the country's annual revenue from health tourism stands at €700 million, TABNAK reported.

Mahdavi highlighted Iran's goal to become a healthcare hub for West Asia in the coming years, which includes plans to export €1 billion worth of vaccines and medical equipment annually.

Iran's current annual exports of medicine amount to €200 million, but Mahdavi believes this figure can easily be scaled up to €1 billion with the right infrastructure and market strategies.

Mahdavi also pointed out the need for better support systems and confidence-building measures for foreign medical tourists.

According to a report released by the Iranian Health Ministry in August 2023, Iran received about one million medical tourists annually, with foreign patients seeking treatments across various specialties. "Every year, one million foreign patients are treated in Iran," the report stated, underlining the country's growing influence in the global health sector.

In the last Iranian calendar year, which ended in March 2024, Iran's medical tourism revenues reached \$1 billion. A total of 247 hospitals and medical centers across the country have been specially licensed to cater to international patients.

Most of Iran's medical tourists come from neighboring countries, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Oman, Bahrain, Armenia, and Tajikistan.

Iran was ranked 46th in the Medical Tourism Index for 2020-2021, further establishing its presence as a leading destination for affordable yet high-quality healthcare.

Assos: excavations at the 7,000-year-old archaeological site

Excavations at the 7,000-year-old Assos Archaeological Site, located in the Ayvacik District of Çanakkale in Turkey, are continuing to reveal important structures from the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods.

Assos is considered one of the finest examples of a Greek city-state and was a hub of activity for scholars like Aristotle, who taught there.

Historical significance of Assos in ancient Greece

Assos was an ancient Greek city in the region of Troas, founded by Aeolians from Mithymna on Lesbos in the 10th century BC. It was a coastal city located on the northern shores of the Adramyttine Gulf, directly across from Lesbos.

Aeolian settlers from Mithymna, Lesbos established the city of Assos between 1000 and 900 BC. The natural splitting of the rock into elevated floors significantly aided human efforts in shaping the space.

The settlers built a Doric temple dedicated to Athena on top of the rock in 530 BC. From this temple, Hermias of Atarneus, a student of Plato, ruled over Assos, Troas, and Lesbos for a period of time during which the city experienced great prosperity.

Ongoing excavations at Assos: Discoveries and insights

The excavation director, Dr. Nurettin Arslan explained:

"In the eastern part of the city, in an area we call the agora, we have uncovered a large structure, which we believe to be a nymphaeum, or fountain. Our work in this area is ongoing. Additionally, just behind the western gate, we are uncovering a Byzantine structure that we believe served as an inn.

Every year, we excavate a new room from this building to learn more about its function and usage."

The excavations at Assos, which are being conducted by a 25-person team from both Turkey and abroad, are led by Arslan, a faculty member at the Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Archaeology Department. The project is sponsored by İÇDAŞ and supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Uncovering structures from different historical periods

In speaking about the excavations, Arslan also stated: "Our efforts this year include both excavation and restoration work in various parts of the city.

We are also conducting research on the history of the acropolis walls. We are drilling in certain areas to determine their construction dates."

Arslan emphasized that the areas they currently excavate belong to various historical periods. "For instance," said the professor "the nymphaeum, which was essential in meeting public water needs, dates back to the Roman period.

Another structure, the gymnasium, was an important educational institution during the Hellenistic period. This large structure played a significant role in the life of the city.

Additionally, we are working on a Byzantine structure known as the 'xenodokhion,' which served as an inn for travelers."

He explained that each of the structures is uniquely significant for the respective period in which they were built.

(Source: Greek Reporter)

Souvenir of New York: 1100 Achaemenid clay tablets returned home

TEHRAN - On Thursday, 1100 Achaemenid-era clay tablets were returned to Iran from the United States, marking the sixth batch of such historical artifacts brought back to the ancient country.

The clay tablets were shipped by the airplane of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian from his visit to New York, where he attended the annual United Nations General Assembly.

According to the Mehr news agency, this latest handover was the result of intense negotiations between Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, and the Legal Affairs Office of the President, in collaboration with the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, where the tablets had been on loan for nearly 90 years.

The tablets, inscribed primarily in Elamite cuneiform and Aramaic, vary in shape and size and provide crucial insights into the management of resources, infrastructure, social relations, basic needs, wages, and the economic conditions of the Achaemenid Empire during the reign of Darius I.

These artifacts were originally discovered in 1933 during archaeological excavations in Persepolis, led by a team from



the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute.

In 1935, under an agreement between Iran and the Oriental Institute, the tablets were sent to the U.S. for translation and study.

President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to the U.S., a shipment of 3,506 Achaemenid tablets, including 836 smaller Aramaic pieces and 2,670 larger Elamite tablets, was returned to Iran.

These artifacts were originally discovered in 1933 during archaeological excavations in Persepolis, led by a team from the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute.

However, the process of returning the tablets has been ongoing for decades.

Last year, following the late

In prior years, other shipments had also been returned, including 1,783 tablets in 2019 and 300 in 2004. The largest

batch of 37,027 tablets was repatriated in 1951.

Despite these returns, a significant number of Achaemenid clay tablets still remain at the Oriental Institute in Chicago, with the repatriation of each batch involving complex negotiations.

A number of the returned tablets are currently displayed at the National Museum of Iran, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Achaemenid Empire.

The UNESCO-listed Persepolis, locally known as Takht-e Jamshid, was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (c.550 - 330 BC).

It ranks among the archaeological sites, that have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art. Available evidence suggests that Persepolis was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge against the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

The Achaemenid Empire was the largest and most durable empire of its time, stretching from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia, and India at its height

Tehran, Tbilisi to enhance cooperation in archaeology and restoration

TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri in a meeting with Georgia's Minister of Culture, emphasized strengthening cooperation between the two nations in the fields of archaeology, restoration of artifacts, and exhibition activities.

The meeting was held during Salehi-Amiri's visit to Tbilisi for the World Tourism Day summit held on September 27.

The Iranian minister, who arrived in Georgia on Thursday, was warmly received by Georgian government officials and Iran's ambassador to Georgia, Mehr reported.

During his discussions with Georgian minister Ioseb Baghaturia, Salehi-Amiri expressed Iran's willingness to collaborate in the restoration of cultural objects, archaeological research, and sharing expertise in organizing exhibitions.



Salehi-Amiri highlighted the importance of fostering closer ties with Caucasus region countries, including Georgia, as a key priority for Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

He also underscored the value of exchanging knowledge and experiences between the two nations to enhance cultural and historical preservation efforts.

Baghaturia, in turn, acknowledged Iran's rich cultural and civilizational contributions, expressing Georgia's readiness to formalize cooperation through a memorandum of understanding. He emphasized Georgia's willingness to expand joint activities in archaeology and restoration, highlighting the importance of such partnerships for both nations.

Salehi-Amiri's visit to Tbilisi coincided with the World Tourism Day events, where tourism ministers and senior officials from various countries participated in ceremonies and discussions on September 26-27.

In addition to his attendance at the summit, Salehi-Amiri is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with high-ranking Georgian officials and his counterparts from other participating countries.

Tehran mayor unveils atlas showcasing cultural heritage of the city's heart



TEHRAN - Tehran mayor Ali-reza Zakani has unveiled a tourism atlas, which is a guide dedicated to showcasing the rich cultural heritage and tourism attractions of the city's historic core, roughly corresponding to District 12.

The unveiling ceremony marked both the World Tourism Day and the commencement of Iran's national tourism week, Mehr reported on Friday.

According to the Mehr News Agency, the atlas was developed by Tehran municipality's public relations department of District 12 and was published with the approval of Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

The event saw the participation of the mayor, the head of District 12, and several municipal officials

Ruhollah Daliri, the district's director of public relations, emphasized that the tourism atlas serves as a crucial step in intro-

ducing the city's historical and tourism significance.

"District 12 is where the city of Tehran first began to take shape, and this atlas will help highlight its vast array of cultural and historical landmarks," Daliri said.

Spanning 183 pages, the atlas is divided into 13 sections, covering everything from metro stations, clinics, cinemas, and parks to libraries, hotels, registered historical sites, museums, shrines, mosques, and other notable religious and historical places.

Each entry includes essential information such as the building's location, size, suggested visiting times, and QR codes for easy navigation.

Daliri noted that the atlas is a carefully planned and thoughtful project designed to present a global image of Old Tehran.

It provides an easy-to-understand and detailed look at the city's tourism offerings.

He added that promoting tourism plays a significant role in boosting the national economy, creating jobs, and fostering cultural and economic growth.

He noted that the book aims to make the city's rich history and cultural landscape accessible to tourists and residents alike,

offering a detailed guide for exploring one of Tehran's most historically significant areas.

"The atlas will contribute significantly to identifying and locating Tehran's historic sites and tourist attractions."

Tehran, the bustling capital of the Islamic Republic, beckons travelers with its vibrant culture, rich history, and eclectic array of attractions.

From ancient palaces to modern skyscrapers, Tehran offers captivating experiences that showcase the essence of Iranian heritage and hospitality.

At the heart of Tehran lies the UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace, a masterpiece of Persian architecture. Adorned with intricately decorated halls, lush gardens, and shimmering ponds, it serves as a window into Iran's royal past, transporting visitors to a bygone era of opulence and grandeur.

Delving deeper into Tehran's cultural heritage, the National Museum of Iran invites visitors on a journey through millennia of history and civilization.

From ancient artifacts to Islamic art and contemporary exhibitions, the museum's extensive collections offer a comprehensive glimpse into Iran's

rich cultural tapestry, spanning from prehistoric times to the present day.

Tehran's vibrant bazaars, such as the Grand Bazaar and Tajrish Bazaar, are veritable treasure troves of local craftsmanship, culinary delights, and vibrant street life.

Beyond its architectural marvels and cultural landmarks, Tehran boasts a thriving arts scene, with galleries, theaters, and performance venues showcasing the creativity and talent of Iranian artists.

From contemporary art exhibitions to traditional music concerts, Tehran offers a dynamic cultural landscape that captivates and inspires visitors from around the world.

For those seeking panoramic views of the cityscape, Milad Tower stands tall as a symbol of Tehran's modernity and progress. Rising 435 meters above the skyline, this iconic tower offers visitors a breathtaking perspective of Tehran's sprawling metropolis, with observation decks providing uninterrupted vistas of the surrounding mountains and urban landscape.

TEHRAN –The World Food Programme (WFP) has released a report, expounding on activities in Iran over the month of August.

In August, WFP food assistance reached 32,902 beneficiaries, which included Afghan and Iraqi refugees as well as Iranian teachers. Refugees are assisted with a staple food basket which includes fortified wheat flour (12 kg per person per month) and vegetable oil (810 ml per person per month).

In addition to this in-kind food assistance, WFP provides cash assistance to 7,346 Afghan and Iraqi refugee households each month. In August, households headed by refugee men received Iranian Rials (IRR) of 2.5 million (US\$ 5.7, according to the UN Operational Rate) per person.

Households headed by refugee women received a slightly higher monthly cash allocation, amounting to IRR 3 million (US\$ 6.8) per person due to limited access to working opportunities, leading to higher food insecurity.

To maintain beneficiaries' purchasing power amid deteriorating economic conditions, since June 2023, WFP has increased its cash assistance to vulnerable refugee women and men facing serious risks over their food security and well-being.

WFP's school-based program, supporting a total of 9,000 refugee school children including their teachers with snacks, and providing cash incentives for school education to around 3,000 girls at primary schools and junior high schools, was paused for July, August, and September due to summer school break.



By August 2024, WFP Iran helped ease the financial burden associated with the gluten-free dietary needs of 51 refugee celiac patients from WFP's beneficiaries by providing them with an extra cash amount of 7.7 million rials (US\$ 17.55) per person as a replacement for their usual food entitlement.

To support the income generation and resilience of 355 refugees (57 percent women and 43 percent men), in August, WFP continued supporting the operations of 19 livelihood activities across 17 settlements, including welding, tailoring, baking, and farming.

Following WFP's Disability Inclusion Workplan 2023, WFP implemented a pilot initiative in two settlements, Shahid Naseri of Markazi and Mohajerin of Semnan provinces, providing refugees with disabilities a monthly cash top-up of IRR 1.5 million (US\$ 3.4) on top of their regular entitlement.

In August, the program expanded to include Lorestan province in addition to West Azarbaijan, Fars,

Khuzestan, Markazi, and Semnan provinces, raising the total number of beneficiaries assisted from 103 in May to 128 in the August program across five refugee settlements.

On April 3, the WFP released its 2023 report on Iran based on the interim Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025). The Islamic Republic of Iran has been hosting millions of Afghan refugees over the past four decades. According to the report, roughly 4.5 million Afghans live in Iran.

Around 33,000 of the most vulnerable documented refugees live in 20 settlements in 13 provinces of Iran. WFP's response in Iran focuses on addressing the food security needs of the most vulnerable refugees living in settlements.

WFP provides food, education, and livelihood assistance through a hybrid modality of in-kind food, unconditional cash, and capacity strengthening to refugees. In 2023, WFP Iran was able to secure more than 75 percent of its funding and address the daily food requirements of around

33,000 vulnerable refugees.

In addition to the unconditional assistance provided to around 33,000 refugees inside settlements, WFP also provided conditional support for students attending primary schools and junior high schools.

Through WFP's school meals program, around 8,620 refugee school children (49 percent girls) at primary schools and junior high schools and their 610 Iranian teachers (30 percent women) received nutritious school snacks throughout the scholastic year.

The snacks included fortified milk and either a date bar or whole grain biscuit for every day of school attendance to support their education and nutrition.

Under the same program, around 2,900 girls at primary schools and junior high schools also received cash incentives to support their education in line with girl's empowerment.

Following the successful establishment of bakeries in some settlements in the past years, WFP supported equipping a bakery in 2023 in one settlement to improve the efficiency of the baking process and the quality of the bread for around 1,400 inhabitants of the settlement.

WFP's commitment to supporting the government of Iran's assistance response for crisis-affected populations was further reinforced by WFP's provision of locally procured emergency family food packs to around 9,780 Iranian people affected by an earthquake in Koy City in May, through its cooperating partner, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

IRCS hosts TOT workshop on Disability Inclusion for Frontline Workers

TEHRAN –The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has held a training of trainers (TOT) workshop based on the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) training package on 'Disability Inclusion for Frontline Workers'.

Organized in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the two-day training of trainers pilot workshop was held at the IRCS physical rehabilitation center from September 8 to 9 in Tehran, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on September 26.

UNICEF Disability Inclusion Policy and Strategy (DIPAS) 2022-2030 is guided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS).

It stresses a more inclusive world by 2030 where all children, including those with disabilities, live in barrier-free and inclusive communities.

The two-hour session aimed to train professionals from IRCS in three provinces of Khorasan Razavi, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Tehran on best practices in early identification and referral of persons with disabilities.

The session included sensitizing participants on the appropriate attitudes towards persons with disabilities and their caregivers and familiarizing them with the concept of 'Disability Inclusion' and the importance of participation.

The overall training program aimed to ensure that people with disabilities, especially those in remote areas, are identified and referred to access rehabilitation services in a timely manner through IRCS Primary Rehabilitation Centers across the country.

Notably, persons with disabilities and their families were invited to share their experiences throughout the workshop, offering unique perspectives on the challenges faced by them. Their voices will help shape the way forward, reaffirming the principle: "Nothing about us without us."

Following this workshop, participants from IRCS will conduct training sessions in their respective cities for IRCS selected volunteers in Helal Houses (IRCS community-based centers).

The pilot implementation will be the basis for designing the main TOT program for all provinces across the country in Quarter 1 of 2025."

The DIPAS sets out six strategic priorities: prevention of stigma and discrimination; improvement of disability-inclusive services, programs, and workplaces; access to comprehensive community care and support services; access to assistive technology; disability-inclusive action in humanitarian, emergency, and fragile contexts; full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities.

Joint services

In August, the IRCS in cooperation with UNICEF organized a workshop for the IRCS' psychosocial support team to enhance their capacity for 'Ensuring Quality in Psychosocial and Mental Health Care and Support' (EQUIP) during emergencies.

The workshop was held from August 18 to 20 in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi province; a total of thirty-five national master trainers of the IRCS' psychosocial support team, SAHAR, participated in the workshop, UNICEF website announced in a press release on August 28.

The IRCS' SAHAR teams consist of volunteers trained to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) following disasters.

EQUIP assists SAHAR's master trainers with planning and conducting training and supervision for the volunteers of the SAHAR teams.

The enhanced skills and capacities will result in more children, adolescents, and their families receiving effective and safe mental health services during emergencies.

The next step involves supporting the IRCS in the field implementation of EQUIP. Towards this, UNICEF will organize advanced-level training for SAHAR's master trainers, involving EQUIP facilitators from UNICEF's Headquarters.

UNICEF will also explore expanding this framework to other MHPSS service providers, such as the Ministry of Health and Medical



Education, the State Welfare Organization, NGOs, and other relevant community workers.

This activity is part of a series of UNICEF-supported capacity-building initiatives with IRCS' SAHAR teams to provide quality MHPSS to children, adolescents, and their families during emergencies.

Under a newly launched initiative, titled Green DADRAS, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Climate Change Secretariat aim to promote students' climate literacy.

A total of 11,536 high school students, girls and boys aged 12 to 15 years, from across Iran will benefit from the educational program, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on August 22.

By raising awareness and promoting proactive measures, the IRCS and UNICEF aim to create a positive environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable future for all.

The newly launched Green DADRAS Initiative, guided by the Climate Change Secretariat of the IRCS, has equipped 46 master trainers from the Youth Organization of the IRCS to lead educational sessions on climate change for these school students.

These dedicated trainers will train 824 provincial trainers across the country to finally empower over 11,000 high school students within DADRAS teams, focusing on critical topics such as drought and floods.

The initiative will enable these students to design and implement impactful climate change-related campaigns within their schools and communities.

Having received education on the importance of climate change, these young minds will then be equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed decisions and take proactive measures to protect their environment.

Considering the significant impact of climate change in Iran, this initiative is considered a crucial step towards securing a better future for the next generation.

In November 2023, the IRCS in cooperation with UNICEF organized eight educational workshops for students and their family members residing in the city of Koy which was struck by a strong earthquake in January.

On January 28, 2023, an earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale hit Koy in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province. The disaster affected at least 261,000 people and displaced 130,000 from their homes.

A total of 1,700 male and female students and 120 of their family members attended these workshops.

These educational workshops were held with the aim of empowering children and their families in team building, team support, anger management, emotion regulation, empathy, happiness, self-care, and environmental care.

Facilitators of these workshops had earlier participated in a capacity-building training program organized jointly by UNICEF and the IRCS, funded by the EU's European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the UNICEF website announced in a press release on November 12.

During these training programs, facilitators, and members of the IRCS teams, improved their technical skills in emergency preparedness, including providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to children, adolescents, and families during crises, including natural hazards.

In the aftermath of the January 2023 earthquake in Koy, UNICEF offered vital relief aid to the affected population. This included psychosocial support, distribution of hygiene packs, financial assistance to vulnerable populations for rebuilding damaged homes, and provision of prefabricated health clinics and classrooms, the report added.

By 2030 we must eliminate rabies in Asia and the Pacific

By Jong-Jin Kim, FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

Discussion around the topic of rabies is almost exclusively related to the dangers it poses to humans from dog bites. And it's no wonder, because if a rabid bite is left untreated it is almost always fatal. Indeed, human deaths from rabies – almost always caused by dog bites – account for an estimated 59,000 fatalities each year.

In most countries of South Asia and Southeast Asia, rabies is endemic. In fact, 95 percent of the world's deaths from rabies occur in Asia and Africa.

But rabies poses another menace that is less well known. In addition to humans, rabid animals can infect livestock, with estimated losses of more than \$500 million each year. Hence rabies is also a threat to our food security.

In addition to livestock losses, when rabies is

present, farming families may be afraid to leave their homes to tend to their animals, or to go to the market. Rural poor and marginalized communities are worst affected during an outbreak due to lack of access to health care. Treatment can also be costly.

However, rabies is preventable by initiatives to vaccinate dogs and manage the population of stray dogs. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), working with our Member Nations and other partners, has been actively involved in programs to vaccinate stray dogs in several countries.

Since 2019, FAO has supported Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka through a Regional Technical Cooperation project to strengthen the countries' capacities to control rabies and through the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Rabies Action Centre of Excellence (RACE). Today, Bangladesh

has a national mass dog vaccination program entirely funded by government resources and recognized by RACE.

Another example is Indonesia, where the Ministry of Health estimates 100,000 dog bites annually, resulting in 150 – 300 deaths each year. In Bali, which had been free of rabies until 2008, just one imported infection resulted in the casualty rate of both animals and humans soaring in just a short space of time. This was largely because of the high number of stray dogs in Bali – half a million. Following a request from the Government of Indonesia, FAO worked with the authorities in Bali and, together, they developed an integrated bite case management system (IBCM) where public health and animal health authorities coordinate and (jointly) follow up bite cases from suspected rabid animals.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Over 190 dengue fever cases reported

TEHRAN –A total of 193 cases of dengue fever have been diagnosed in the country, the deputy health minister has said.

"Dengue fever outbreak has been only reported in Chabahar," IRIB news quoted Babak Eshtrati as saying.

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

"Out of 193 diagnosed cases, 130 have been infected outside the country. Since the beginning of the current year (March 20) only one death as a

result of the disease has been reported so far," the official added.

Dengue virus is transmitted through the bite of Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes. These mosquitoes also transmit Zika and Chikungunya virus.

Dengue disease has different infectious phases, including the fever phase, critical phase, and recovery phase.

Thanks to effective border control measures and quality healthcare, the number of people en-

tering the country having dengue 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 health ministry has implemented measures to address the probable increase in infected cases in autumn.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Bikes to hold 3.5% share in Tehran transportation

Bikes will carry out 3.5 percent of the capital's total transportation, as the national document on bike transport development has proposed, deputy mayor for traffic and transport affairs at Tehran Municipality has stated. A five-year plan to develop biking in the capital has been proposed aiming to promote biking, develop bike lanes and curb air pollution. Currently, the document is under review by the traffic council to be approved, ISNA quoted Mohsen Pourseyed Aqaei as saying on Saturday. As per the document, some 120 kilometers of the roads will be accessible for the bicycle riders each year, he added. The reason behind the failure of bicycle schemes in past recent years was that the technology was overlooked in the schemes, he explained.

انجام ۳.۵ درصد از سفرهای تهران با دوچرخه

معاون حمل و نقل ترافیک شهرداری تهران از تدوین سند دوچرخه پایتخت خبر داد، براساس این سند، می بایست ۳.۵ درصد از سفرهای تهران با دوچرخه انجام شود. محسن پورسیدآقایی در گفت و گو با ایسنا، با بیان اینکه سند توسعه دوچرخه در دستور کار قرار دارد گفت: در حال حاضر این سند ۵۰ ساله در شورای ترافیک پایتخت در حال بررسی است که در صورت تصویب دوچرخه سواری ترویج و توسعه می یابد. وی با بیان اینکه سالانه ۱۲۰ کیلومتر به مسیر دوچرخه اضافه می شود، در پاسخ به سوالی در مورد سرنوشت دوچرخه های قبلی شهرداری گفت: دلیل شکست طرح های دوچرخه در گذشته این بود که به تکنولوژی های روز دنیا توجه نشده بود.



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SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who rushes madly after inordinate desire, runs the risk of encountering destruction and death.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:55 Evening: 18:10 Dawn: 4:34 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:58 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* A collection of paintings by a group of artists including Ehsan Zia, Shokoufeh Karimi, Navid Bijani, Mohammadreza Shirvani and Mehdi Dashti is on view in an exhibition at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF).

The exhibit will run until October 4 at the IAF that can be found at the Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

* Paintings by Hedieh Valian are on view in an exhibition at O Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Anchorage" will continue until October 8 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Shahin St., Sanai St.



* Elham Etemadi is putting her latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

Entitled "Territory," the exhibit will run until October 14 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.

* Bashgah Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a number of artists including Neda Ghayuri, Neda Mirhosseini, Mehdi Babai, Nika Nazari and Mostafa Hamani.

Entitled "Housemate," the exhibition will be running until October 7 at the gallery located at No.13, Hosseini St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Marzieh Yazdanpanah is displaying his latest paintings in an exhibition at Binesh Gallery.

The exhibit named "Requiem for Fishes" will run until October 6 at the gallery that can be found at 22 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave.

* Paintings by Sara Shirazi and Iman Qahremani are on show at Haft Samar Gallery.

The exhibition named "Intersection" will be running until October 2 at the gallery that can be found at No. 8, Fifth Alley, Kuh-e Nur St., Motahhari Ave.



* Paintings by Fatemeh Sailani are currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

The exhibition named "The Being of Nothingness" will continue until October 8 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.



* A collection of paintings by Maedeh Salar is on view in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.

The exhibition titled "Time of Cholera" will be running until October 8 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



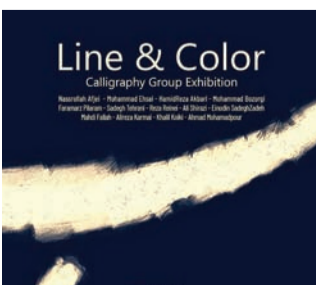
* Hoor Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Morshedloo.

The exhibition will be running until October 18 at the gallery located at 12 Naemi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.

Calligraphic painting

* CAMA – Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of calligraphic paintings by a group of artists including Faramarz Pilaram, Ahmad Mohammadpour, Alireza Karami, Mohammad Bozorgi and several others.

The exhibition October 7 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.



Artistic performances, academic discussions planned for 28th Hafez commemoration week

TEHRAN-October 12 is named National Hafez Day in the Persian calendar. It is a day in which the great Persian poet Hafez is honored in Iran.

Every year Hafez Commemoration Week is held during the week leading to Hafez Day.

However, "this year, due to the various programs planned for the event, the 28th Hafez Commemoration Week begin sooner on September 27," said the director general of Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance in Fars Province on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference in Shiraz for the 28th Hafez Commemoration Week, Hamidreza Ghanei said that this year's events are split into two primary categories: cultural and artistic performances as well as academic discussions, IRNA reported.

The event is to honor the life and poetry of Hafez, the renowned 14th-century Persian poet. Known for his mystical and lyrical ghazals, Hafez remains one of the most celebrated poets in Persian literature.

Each year, various programs are held across Iran to celebrate his contributions to Persian culture.

The cultural programs include performances at the Hafez Tomb in Shiraz, where a play titled "Lisān al-Ghayb" directed by renowned Iranian actor and director Mohammad Hatami will be staged.

Among Iranians, Hafez is known as "Lisān al-Ghayb," literally meaning someone who knows about hidden secrets.

"Additionally, the recently renovated Hafez Hall in Shiraz will host a symphony concert in tribute to the poet, marking the official reopening of the venue.

The concert will feature a blend of classical Persian music and symphonic compositions inspired by Hafez's verses," Ghanei added.

Several other special musical tributes are also planned. An album titled "Khalvat-Neshin" will be released, featuring six compositions inspired by Hafez's poems, performed by celebrated



Tomb of Hafez in Shiraz, Fars Province

singers Ali Zand Vakili, Mohammad Rezazadeh, Mehdi Bazrafshan, and Amir Zare.

In an effort to engage younger audiences, a new board game titled "Rendoo" will be unveiled during the week.

Inspired by Hafez's famous literary character Rend, this interactive card game aims to introduce children to the poet's works in a fun and educational way.

Rend is, according to Hafez, a superior or perfect man. In his "Divan" (collection of poems), Rend is defined as a person who has a paradoxical character in his manifestation and a moderate one inwardly. Rend is neither exorbitant nor negligent.

According to Ghanei, On October 12, a special ceremony will be held at the Tomb of Hafez, where provincial and state officials will attend.

In the academic section, scholars from prominent Iranian universities will explore the topic "Hafez in the Geographical Landscape of Iran," presenting research on Hafez's influence across different regions of the country.

In addition to domestic events, international academic sessions will be held virtually in collaboration with universities in Japan, Italy, Turkey, the UAE, and Australia, reflecting Hafez's enduring global influence.

Born in Shiraz in between 1310 and 1325, Khajeh Shamseddin Mohammad Hafez Shirazi, known by his pen name Hafez, is best known for his collection of poetry known as "Divan," which is still read and recited widely across Iran and the world.

His ghazals, often exploring themes of love, spirituality, and the human connection to the divine, have transcended time, influencing Persian culture, Sufism, and world literature.

The poet's pen name Hafez means one who has memorized a book.

He was given the title because he could recite the holy Qur'an completely by heart in 14 different ways, but he believed his own interpretation would naturally bring justice, freedom and cheerfulness into people's everyday life and reduce depression, chaos

and unhappiness.

He also had memorized many of the works of renowned Persian poets Saadi, as well as Attar, Rumi and Nizami.

He composed some 500 ghazals, 42 Rubaiyees, and a few Ghaseedeh's over a period of 50 years.

His works are often found in the homes of Persian speakers, who learn his poems by heart and use them as everyday proverbs and sayings.

His life and poems have become the subjects of much analysis, commentary, and interpretation, influencing post-14th century Persian writing more than any other Persian author.

His influence on Persian speakers appears in divination by his poems and in the frequent use of his poems in Persian traditional music, visual art and Persian calligraphy.

Hafez died in 1389. His tomb is located in his birthplace of Shiraz. Adaptations, imitations and translations of his poems exist in all major languages.

Cinéma Vérité sees participation from 123 countries

TEHRAN- Over 2,300 foreign documentaries from 123 countries have applied to participate in the 18th edition of Iran International Documentary Film Festival Cinéma Vérité, the organizers have announced.

The deadline for submissions to the international section of this edition of Cinéma Vérité has concluded, attracting a total number of 2,314 entries, ISNA reported.

Of this number of foreign documentaries submitted to the festival's secretariat, 1,625 works are in the short film category, 500 in the feature-length category, and 189 in the semi-feature section, all vying for selection in this prestigious event, the report added.

The submitted documentaries hail from a



diverse range of countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, India, Brazil, Spain, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Russia, Argentina, the U.S., China, France, Germany, Mexico, Indonesia, Portugal, and Greece.

In the previous edition of the festival, "The Golden Thread" by Indian filmmaker

Nishtha Jain won the main award of the full-length documentaries category, while in the mid-length documentary category of the international competition section, the Lebanese documentary "Kalashnikov Society" by Christophe Karabache won the main award.

The special jury prize of the section was awarded to "Under Construction" from Finland, directed by Markus Toivo.

The short documentary "Vibrations from Gaza" by the Palestinian-Canadian filmmaker Rehab Nazzal was announced as the winner of the short documentary category.

The 18th Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major documentary film festival will be held in Tehran in December.

Natasha Trethewey's "Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir" published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the novel "Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir" written by Natasha Trethewey has been released in the Iranian book market.

Tadaee Publications has published the book, a New York Times bestseller, with a translation by Forouzan Saedi, ISNA reported.

At age nineteen, Natasha Trethewey had her world turned upside down when her former stepfather shot and killed her mother when she was 19. Grieving and still new to adulthood, she confronted the twin pulls of life and death in the aftermath of unimaginable trauma and explores the way this experience lastingly shaped the artist she became in the book.

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Natasha Trethewey explores this profound experience of pain, loss, and grief as an entry point into understanding the tragic course of her mother's life and the way her own life has been shaped by a legacy of fierce love and resilience.

Moving through her mother's history in the deeply segregated South and through her own girlhood as a "child of miscegenation" in Mississippi, Trethewey plumbs her sense of dislocation and displacement in the lead-up to the harrowing crime that took place on Memorial Drive in Atlanta in 1985.

Natasha Trethewey, 58, is an American poet who was appointed United States Poet Laureate in June 2012; she began

her official duties in September.

She won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for her 2006 collection Native Guard, and she is the Poet Laureate of Mississippi.

She is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory University, where she also directs the Creative Writing Program.

Recalling her reaction to her mother's death, she said, "that was the moment when I both felt that

I would become a poet and then immediately afterward felt that I would not. I turned to poetry to make sense of what had happened".

Natasha's father is also a poet; he is a professor of English at Hollins University.

She earned her B.A. in English from the University of Georgia, an M.A. in English and Creative Writing from Hollins University, and an M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1995.

In May 2010, she delivered the commencement speech at Hollins University and was awarded an honorary doctorate. She had previously received an honorary degree from Delta State University in her native Mississippi.

Structurally, her work combines free verse with more structured, traditional forms like the sonnet and the villanelle. Thematically, her work examines "memory and the racial legacy of America".