

# Response Certain

Iran poised to retaliate against Israel for assassinations of Haniyeh, Nasrallah, and top IRGC commander

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Iranian woman holds onto Hassan Nasrallah's picture during a rally on Saturday, Sept. 28, slamming Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

*Despite great calamity, Hezbollah persists and its followers will not surrender*

By Sondos Al-Asaad

BEIRUT - The Zionist entity has been established on genocide, displacement and cowardly assassination of the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance leaders and members. The latest of which was the assassination of the leader of the Lebanese resistance, His Eminence Shaheed Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah (R).

Indeed, the sadistic Zionist terrorist psychopath, Benjamin Netanyahu, was right when he claimed that his blatant assassination would be a "historical turning point," but in a context totally different from the one he and the American terrorist regime desire. Netanyahu has not taken into account the same foolish crime previously committed by his criminal predecessor Yitzhak Rabin, when he assassinated Hezbollah's secretary general, His Eminence Sayyed Abbas al-Musawi in 1992, who was succeeded by a more stern leader, whose leadership humiliated the colonial entity - over three decades - achieving successive victories and rubbing its arrogant nose in the dirt.

*Hezbollah deputy chief: 'We will carry the path to victory'*

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Sheikh Naim Qassem, the Hezbollah deputy secretary-general, addressed several points in a televised address following the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

The speech marks the first public address by a Hezbollah official after the movement announced the martyrdom of its secretary-general on Saturday.

In his speech, Sheikh Qassem extended his condolences to the Lebanese people and the Islamic and Arab nations on the martyrdom of Sayyed Nasrallah.

He emphasized the resistance movement will continue the path of martyr Seyyed Nasrallah, and the ongoing confrontation with the Israeli occupation regime in support of Gaza and in defense of Lebanon, its people and in response to the Israeli attacks and assassinations.

Sheikh Qassem confirmed that "Hezbollah will select a new secretary-general at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the party's approved mechanisms," noting that "we will fill the leadership positions on a permanent basis. The choices will be easy because they are clear."

*Lebanon ground invasion: Israel must proactively stockpile coffins for its soldiers*

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel appears to be preparing to carry out its long-standing threat of initiating a ground invasion of Lebanon despite a growing international outcry against the regime's warmongering in the region.

Over the past months, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had threatened to send his troops to Lebanon ostensibly to deter the Hezbollah resistance movement from launching attacks against Israel.

Hezbollah and Israel have been trading fire since the latter declared war on Gaza on October 7.

The Lebanese resistance movement has fired rockets and missiles toward Israel in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

Tens of thousands of people have become displaced in northern Israel and southern Lebanon amid the exchanges of fire between Israel and Hezbollah over the course of Gaza's nearly one-year war.

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*A better future for humanity cannot be achieved without upholding globalization and multipolarity*

By ZHANG Yuan

SHANGHAI, China - The curtain descended on the United Nations Summit of the Future on September 23 in New York. It ushered in many new opportunities and new ideas for global governance. Although the world is still facing a series of global challenges such as war, poverty and displacement, there is a general consensus among participants that working together to reduce the security deficit, promote sustainable human development, oppose zero-sum games, and enhance the discourse power of the Global South can cope with chaos and risks. ▶ Page 5



*Tehran, Moscow on path to strengthen ties, Iranian president says*

TEHRAN - Mikhail Mishustin, the Prime Minister of Russia, has emphasized the importance of strengthening relations between Moscow and Tehran, particularly highlighting the efforts to enhance trade and economic cooperation in key sectors such as transportation, energy, industry, and agriculture.

Mishustin arrived in Tehran on Monday at the head of a high-level delegation.

His meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian marked an important step in advancing bilateral relations and addressing key regional challenges.

During their discussions, President Pezeshkian highlighted the recently signed agreement to transform Iran into ▶ Page 2

**President visits Hezbollah office in Tehran to offer condolences over Nasrallah's martyrdom**

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian declared that the world should recognize that the blood of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and his associates will fuel a strong resistance against tyranny and oppression.

During his visit to Hezbollah's office in Tehran on Monday, Pezeshkian honored Nasrallah, the Hezbollah leader who was killed in Israeli airstrikes on Beirut on September 27, which utilized munitions supplied by the U.S.

Pezeshkian criticized the United States and its allies for their disregard for human rights, stating that those who claim to defend human dignity ironically label those fighting oppression as "terrorists."

He praised Nasrallah for dedicating his life to the liberation of the Palestinian people and assured that Iran would continue to support both the Palestinian and Lebanese causes. ▶ Page 3

**Anti-Zionist protests take over Iranian cities**

TEHRAN - Iranians gathered in the main squares of their cities across Iran, to slam Israel's ongoing aggression in the region and express support for Resistance groups.

People from all walks of life took to the streets across Iran, including in Tehran, Mashhad, Sanandaj, Esfahan, Shiraz, and Rasht.

They waved Palestinian flags, as well as posters showing support for Lebanon's Hezbollah, Yemen's Ansarullah, and Iraq's popular forces.

Many demonstrators chanted "death to Israel" as they called for Iran to retaliate against the regime's latest series of terror acts in the region. "Israel is being supported by America which only understands the language of force."

You cannot tame these monsters unless you show them decisive action," a participant told IRIB reporters.

Israel's war in Gaza has so far resulted in the deaths of 41,000 Palestinians, the majority being women and children.

The regime has also assassinated a number of important Resistance figures in recent months, including Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah who was martyred on Friday.

**Iranian animators win at Italy's Religion Today Film Festival**

TEHRAN-Iranian animators received two awards at the 27th edition of the Religion Today Film Festival in Trento, Italy.

At the closing ceremony, which was held last week, Baran Sedighian won the Best Animation Award for her short animation "The Deer" and Mona Shams was awarded the Special Jury Mention for the short animation "Phoenix," ISNA reported.

In a statement about selecting "The Deer" as the winner, the jury said: "We are delighted to present the award for Best Animation Short Film for a beautifully crafted tale that resonates with the themes of transformation and self-discovery. The film tells the story of a wounded deer who embarks on a journey of healing and introspection and chooses to leave his herd and set out in search of his new self. This captivating animation explores the courage it takes to embrace change and find one's true path."

A production of 2023, "The Deer" is a five-minute animation with no dialogues. The life of the deer in this animation changes radically after getting injured by hunters. His old world no longer seems to fit him, so he decides to leave. ▶ Page 8



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## The criminal Zionist can only be restrained by military attack

In an analysis, Kayhan discussed the Zionist regime's cruel attack on the meeting of the Lebanese Hezbollah leaders and said: During almost a year since the cruel war of the Zionist regime against the oppressed people of Gaza, Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to force the Axis of Resistance to retreat by committing insane behaviors to save itself from the swamp of the Gaza war.

Israel has always tried to dominate, influence, and attack all countries in the West Asia region, especially the regional powers, and now it is trying to scare its enemies and rivals. Currently, the best policy to adopt is to fight back and act as hard as possible against the actor who has crossed the red lines.

To strengthen the deterrence of our country and defend the security of the country and the Axis of Resistance, a heavy and decisive attack on the Zionist regime and its interests is considered the most important priority. Our country's response to Israel's recent insolence should be much more severe than the True Promise Operation.

**Siasat-e-Rooz: Attack on Iran will be greatly costly for Israel**

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its editorial to Israel's endless crimes in the region and Iran's response to these crimes and wrote: Now, considering the threats made by Netanyahu against Iran after the assassination of Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, there is an illusion that Iran is not able to respond. But it is enough for the Zionist regime to conduct the smallest attack on Iranian soil to see what fate will await it. If the leaders of the Zionist regime seek a full-scale war with the resistance front led by Islamic Iran and are in a hurry to destroy themselves, they should implement their threats to see the magnitude of Iran's response.

The fact that the fake Israeli regime still does not dare to make a mistake against Iran is a sign of its weakness and inability because it knows that it will be razed to the ground by Iranian missiles. We must acknowledge that it is military power that protects the country against enemies.

## Three Iranian military personnel martyred by armed bandits

TEHRAN – The Police Command Information Center of Sistan and Baluchistan province has reported the assassination of three Iranian military personnel by armed bandits in the region.

Brigadier General Reza Shojaei provided further details on this incident on Monday, explaining that a terrorist group attacked border patrol officers from the Mortan border regiment while they were supporting border guards along the routes near the village of Pashamak in Rasak. During this assault, the courageous border guards engaged with the attackers.

Shojaei added, "Conscription soldier Mahdi

Baluchi, a dedicated Jaki Gur border regiment member, has achieved the honor of martyrdom."

In a separate terrorist incident, Sergeant Ramin Velayati from the special forces unit in Khash was also martyred by armed bandits.

Additionally, a border guard from the Zabul border regiment, identified as Amir Mohammad Amiri, was assassinated by unidentified armed terrorists from across the border while he was on duty monitoring the southeastern borders of the nation. Brigadier General Shojaei confirmed that efforts to locate these armed assailants are ongoing.

## Nasrallah's martyrdom will accelerate Israel's downfall: Iranian MPs

TEHRAN – Iranian lawmakers have stated that the martyrdom of Hezbollah Leader Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah bolsters the anti-Zionist movement and contributes to the decline of this illegitimate regime. In a statement commemorating the martyrdom of Nasrallah, 1,200 current and former members of Iran's parliament declared that the noble sacrifice of the Hezbollah chief propels the dismantling of the oppressive Zionist regime.

Nasrallah was assassinated on Friday due to an airstrike carried out by the Israeli regime, which utilized 2000-pound bunker-buster bombs in southern Beirut, resulting in more than 300 civilian casualties.

The statement reads as follows,

"We aspire that the noble sacrifice of martyr Nasrallah, along with the esteemed martyrs of Gaza, Lebanon, and other Resistance Forces, will further inspire Muslims and hasten the downfall

of the oppressive Zionist regime.

While the martyrdom of the resistance commander and his companions brings deep sorrow to Muslims globally, it will also reveal the brutal essence of the Zionist regime and its allies, fostering a strong determination to combat the criminal actions of Israel.

We, a collective of former parliamentary representatives, offer our heartfelt congratulations and condolences to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the esteemed people of Lebanon, the fighters of the Resistance Axis, and all Muslims and advocates of freedom worldwide.

We hope that the noble sacrifice of martyr Nasrallah and the esteemed martyrs of Gaza, Lebanon, and the Resistance Axis will further awaken Muslims and expedite the dismantling of the oppressive Zionist regime."

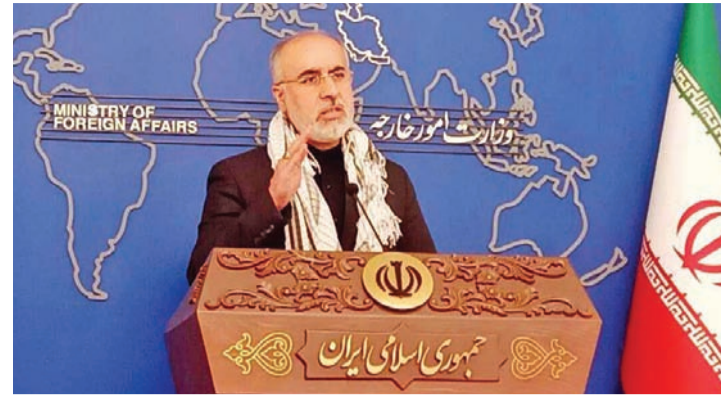
# Iran vows to respond to Israeli actions amid ongoing conflict

TEHRAN – In a recent press briefing, Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, asserted that Israel will face consequences for its actions, emphasizing that none of its "crimes" will go unanswered.

He made the remarks at his weekly press briefing in Tehran on Monday as he was asked about Iran's reaction to the assassination of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the longtime leader of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, in a massive airstrike on southern Beirut on Friday using American-supplied bunker-buster bombs.

Kanaani stated that Iran is committed to continuing its political and legal efforts while taking decisive measures in response to Israeli aggression. He highlighted the potential for Muslim nations to unite and exert pressure on Israel, asserting that the Palestinian cause warrants stronger support from the Islamic world.

He criticized the United Nations Security Council for its inaction, attributing its ineffectiveness to the United States' role in enabling Israeli actions. Kanaani noted that



Israel's aggression extends beyond its borders, threatening stability throughout the region.

Amid escalating tensions, he reaffirmed Iran's commitment to supporting Palestine and ensuring regional peace, stating that diplomatic efforts have been initiated to halt Israel's military actions. He warned that Israel has not succeeded in its objectives during nearly a year of conflict in Gaza and will continue to fail in the future.

Kanaani emphasized Iran's resolve to oppose any acts that threaten its national interests and reiterated that the country will take necessary

steps to defend its security and that of its allies. He condemned the U.S. for its support of Israeli strikes, labeling it complicit in the violence against Lebanese and Palestinian civilians.

Iran's strategy, according to Kanaani, involves addressing the root causes of instability in the region while simultaneously seeking constructive dialogue with those open to resolving conflicts. He concluded by affirming Iran's commitment to support Lebanon and Palestine against Israeli aggression, insisting that the Zionist regime's actions must cease for peace to prevail.

Iran outlines conditions for ongoing talks with IAEA

The Iranian Foreign Ministry also laid out its conditions for continuing professional discussions with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Kanaani provided updates on recent diplomatic engagements, including talks about a planned visit from IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi to Tehran.

Kanaani highlighted a recent trip by Mohammad Esлами, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEO), to Vienna, where he reportedly engaged in positive discussions. Additionally, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi had constructive conversations with Grossi during the 79th United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The spokesperson emphasized that if the IAEA demonstrates a genuine commitment to addressing shared concerns within its professional framework, there is a strong possibility of continuing productive dialogue and resolving outstanding issues between Iran and the agency.

## Tehran, Moscow on path to strengthen ties, Iranian president says

From page 1 ► a regional transit and gas hub. He characterized this initiative as a prime example of the collaborative spirit between Iran and Russia, aimed at securing mutual interests and promoting sustainable development. The president asserted that the successful implementation of substantial joint projects could significantly enhance both nations' abilities to counteract unfair sanctions imposed by external powers.

The exchange of diplomatic delegations between the two nations was also emphasized as a means to strengthen interactions and expedite the implementation of existing agreements. Pezeshkian pointed out that these collaborative efforts are crucial not only for bilateral cooperation but also for fostering broader regional integration and economic growth.

Mishustin expressed his satisfaction with the warm reception and conveyed greetings from Russian President Vladimir Putin. He reaffirmed Russia's commitment to enhancing ties with Iran. The Prime Minister noted that while recent months have seen a notable increase in trade exchanges, there remain significant untapped opportunities for both

countries.

The Russian official also underscored the necessity of deepening cooperation to establish a new world order that benefits all nations. He encouraged Iran and Russia to work closely together in light of escalating regional tensions, which he attributed to U.S. policies that aim to exacerbate conflicts for its own interests.

In a related development, First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref underscored the Iranian government's commitment to strengthening ties with Moscow.

In his meeting with Mishustin, Aref reiterated the importance of swiftly operationalizing signed memorandums of cooperation and enhancing collaboration in all sectors to better resist sanctions from the U.S. and its allies. He emphasized the need for a robust dialogue on critical regional issues, such as the Zangezur corridor and the North-South corridor, cautioning that any shifts in regional geopolitics could lead to tensions exploited by outside actors.

The First Vice President also highlighted

ongoing infrastructure projects, including the completion of the Sirik power plant and the Bushehr nuclear power plant's second and third units, underlining the significance of a \$1.2 billion financing agreement for these endeavors. He called for increased multilateral cooperation with countries like China and participation in regional organizations to bolster both Iranian and Russian interests.

With current trade volumes between Iran and Russia reaching \$2.5 billion, Aref expressed optimism that further efforts could elevate this figure to reflect the potential both countries possess. He reiterated that strengthening regional mechanisms like BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Eurasian Union would be advantageous for both nations.

Finally, Mishustin and Aref agreed on the necessity of finalizing a comprehensive cooperation agreement, which they believe could serve as a cornerstone for future collaboration. Aref expressed gratitude for Russia's support of Iran's membership in the Eurasian Union and hoped that necessary arrangements would be made during the upcoming summit in Armenia.

## 'Martyrs' sacrifices propel the cause of Quds liberation': Leader advisor

Nasrallah and other martyred leaders of the Resistance Axis, in a publicly shared message.

The content of Major General Rahim Safavi's message is as follows:

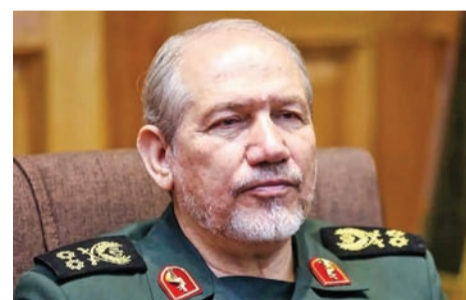
"Dear family of the martyr, Major General Abbas Nilforushan,

I offer my heartfelt congratulations and condolences on the honorable martyrdom of the devoted commander, Major General Abbas Nilforushan, who was martyred alongside the steadfast leader, the learned and courageous Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, as a result of the heinous and terrorist actions perpetrated by the Zionist regime in Dahieh, Lebanon.

This courageous leader dedicated his life to the cause of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic nation. His efforts during the Sacred Defense period, his exemplary leadership in

the operations of the IRGC, and his pivotal involvement in the Resistance Axis against the adversaries of Islam and the Islamic Ummah, especially the oppressive Zionist regime, have established a remarkable and inspiring legacy that will be remembered in the annals of Islamic Resistance. This esteemed martyr, alongside the steadfast fighter Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, ultimately attained martyrdom after years of battling oppression and occupation, at a time when the illegitimate Zionist regime, having endured over a year of humiliation and disgrace following its historic defeat in the Al-Aqsa Storm operation, faced its inevitable decline.

I pray to the Almighty God for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks and for the perseverance of the warriors and faithful fighters of the Islamic Ummah in their pursuit of the sacred cause of liberating Al-Quds."



TEHRAN – A high-ranking IRGC commander and military advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in a letter to the family of Brigadier General Abbas Nilforushan, highlighted that the sacrifices of martyrs made by Resistance commanders serve as the motivating force in the continuous fight for the liberation of Al-Quds.

Nilforushan was martyred alongside Hezbollah Leader Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah during an Israeli airstrike on Friday.

Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi expressed his sympathies to the mourners of Nilforushan,

## Tehran urges Islamic support for Gaza, Lebanon in face of intl. inaction

TEHRAN – The Iranian Vice President has stated that Islamic nations must act promptly and decisively to assist Lebanon and Palestine, given the international community's inaction and lack of resolve in addressing their crises.

Mohammad Reza Aref made these remarks during a conversation with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati on Sunday, where he expressed his condolences for the loss of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan

Nasrallah, who was assassinated in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut two days prior.

Aref described the extensive assault on residential areas in the Dahieh neighborhood and Nasrallah's martyrdom as a stark demonstration of the Israeli regime's brutality, which he attributed to U.S. backing and emphasized, "Israel bears responsibility for this atrocity."

He criticized the international community, particularly the

UN Security Council, for its failure to respond effectively and urgently to the crises in Lebanon and Gaza, urging all nations committed to law, security, and peace to oppose such unlawful actions boldly.

Aref called for the full utilization of political and diplomatic resources to intensify pressure on Israel to cease its violent attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, insisting

that Islamic countries must implement swift, practical, and resolute measures to support Lebanon and Palestine.

Additionally, the Iranian official reiterated Iran's commitment to providing political and economic support to Lebanon.

In response, Prime Minister Mikati acknowledged Nasrallah's death as a significant loss for Lebanon and urged all nations to extend their support to the country.



By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The new wave of Israeli terrorism in the region, with Lebanon as the epicenter, has once again put the entire West Asia on edge.

In the span of ten days, the regime exploded thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies across Lebanon and assassinated at least 7 high-ranking commanders and officials from the Hezbollah Resistance movement, including Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah who led the group for three decades before getting martyred on Friday.

To assassinate Nasrallah, Israel used 1-ton bunker-buster bombs supplied by Washington. The regime pulverized a number of buildings packed with people, many of whom were women and children. The number of victims is still unclear, but reports suggest as many as 400 people could be dead.

It seems unlikely that violence is going to end here as Israeli officials seem to have got emboldened to commit even more terrorist acts. Peace is not in the picture, but with Israel, Hezbollah, and Iran believed to be preparing their next moves, an all-out regional war could very much be.

**How did the region come to this?**

The key to understanding how the region was pushed to the brink of war may lie not in Israel's conduct, but in Washington's policies.

The Biden administration has been painting a picture of a disjoint between U.S. efforts and Netanyahu's actions, suggesting that Israel is deliberately resisting American appeals for a ceasefire. U.S. media coverage of phone calls between Biden and Netanyahu usually sketches



a frustrated American president, who upbraids the Israeli prime minister for failing to prioritize a ceasefire, and somehow never has the means to throttle the regime's actions.

After over 11 months of relentless Israeli violence in Lebanon, Gaza, which has drawn in Lebanon, Yemen, and to a lesser extent Iraq and Syria, it is safe to say that such a narrative has now been knocked down.

The first official to publicly air his misgivings about the notion that Washington is looking to bring Israel to the negotiating table and seal a ceasefire deal was new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who hoped he could mend Iran's tattered ties with the West.

"Claims by the leaders of the U.S. and European countries who were promising ceasefire in exchange for Iran not to respond to the assassination of Haniyeh were all lies," the president said two days after Nasrallah's assassination, pointing to the intense diplomatic efforts aimed to influence Iran back in July, the time it was preparing to retaliate against Israel for its killing of Hamas Leader Ismail Haniyeh on Iranian soil.

Tehran was asked to hold back in order to allow the ceasefire talks, only restarted after Haniyeh's death, to succeed.

No ceasefire is yet in sight two months later.

The trust Tehran put in Washington's words has spurred criticism among some Iranian analysts and observers. Others, however, point out that all Iran wanted to do was help the Palestinians.

"The fact that the U.S. pleaded with Iran to practice restraint so that a ceasefire deal could be reached and then went back on its words, only shows that Americans are nonchalant about breaking their commitments and promises," said Amir Ali Abolfath, an expert on American affairs.

"It is Washington that should be blamed, not Iran. What Iran did wasn't out of negligence, it was out of support for Palestinians."

**What's next?**

Israeli soldiers have not managed to "root out" Hamas forces after almost a year in Gaza, something Netanyahu had announced to be the main goal of his killing campaign in the besieged strip. The regime's airstrikes against positions in Yemen and Hezbollah have not diminished the two groups' missile and drone capabilities either.

This may have convinced Israel to stick to what it does best: targeted assassinations through acts of terror, which has been

its preferred tactic for several decades.

"Meir Dagan, a former head of Mossad, famously advocated for targeting individuals rather than infrastructure, suggesting that to "stop a car," one should "take out the driver." This has more or less stayed with the Israelis throughout the years," said history researcher and analyst on Resistance forces Vahid Khazab. "I don't believe the regime will stop here. This is a strategy it is going to keep pursuing. So, there must be a response, even if we don't want to get baited into a war."

With Israel's plans being somewhat predictable, what remains to be seen is how Hezbollah, and more importantly Iran, will play their cards. Tehran has yet to retaliate for the assassination of Haniyeh, and with its disappointment with the U.S. and the killing of one of its main allies who was martyred alongside a high-ranking IRGC official, it has all the more reason to speed up the delivery of its answer.

Furthermore, in a propaganda message published on Monday, Netanyahu hinted he may be moving to Iran next, telling the Iranian people that "Israel is with them" and that Iran "will be free sooner than expected".

"I believe Iran will finally respond to Israel, but it's unclear what the nature of that response will be.

There have been new and significant developments in the region which require Iran to come up with new approaches," said Saber Golanbari, a journalist and West Asia expert.

In a statement published on Monday, President Pezeshkian vowed Iran will certainly be responding to Israel's latest "atrocities".

## SPORTS

### Ghorbani to officiate in AFC Women's Champions League

TEHRAN – Iranian female referee has been chosen to officiate in the 2024–25 AFC Women's Champions League.

She will officiate in Group A matches to be held in Wuhan, China from October 3 to 9.

Ghorbani is the first Iranian woman to officiate a men's football match, refereeing match between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in 2024 CAFA U20 Championship in July.

### Saman Ghoddos signs for Ittihad Kalba

TEHRAN – Emirati football club Al Ittihad Kalba completed the signing of Iranian international winger Saman Ghoddos on Sunday.

The 31-year-old player has joined Kalba for an undisclosed fee.

The player has been a free agent since being released by Brentford over the summer.

Ghoddos's countrymen Mehdi Ghaedi and Shahriyar Moghanlou have previously joined Kalba.

He will wear no. 44 shirt in the Emirati side.

The player had been linked with a move to Swedish club Malmo but opted to play in a Persian Gulf country.

He scored one goal in 19 Premier League games last season, seven of which came from the start.

Ghoddos is an Iranian Swedish born professional footballer who plays as an attacking midfielder or striker for the Iran national team.

### Tractor look to extend lead in AFC Champions League Two

TEHRAN – Iran's Tractor SC will be looking to extend their two-point lead at the top when they host Mohun Bagan Super Giant of India.

Having beaten Qatar's Al Wakrah 3-0 in their opening fixture in Group A, the Iran Pro League side will be confident of another win in front of their fans.

Over in Dushanbe, a wounded Al Wakrah will search for a rebound win against Tajikistan's FC Ravshan to get its campaign going.

In a much-anticipated match, Tractor beat Sepahan 1-0 to jump to the top of the Iran Pro League standings on Thursday.

The match will be held in Tabriz's Yadegar Imam Stadium.

### Iran crowned champions of World Beach Kabaddi

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Pakistan 41-34 to win the title of the 2024 World Beach Kabaddi Championship Sunday night.

Team Melli had previously defeated Nepal, Turkmenistan, Denmark, Iraq and Kenya in the first edition of the event.

Iraq and Pakistan were awarded a joint bronze medal.

Iran, Nepal, Turkmenistan, Denmark, Pakistan, Palestine, Kenya, Germany and Lebanon competed in the first World Beach Kabaddi Championship, which was held in Bandar Anzali, Iran from Sept. 25 to 29.

Beach kabaddi is played in two 15-minute halves by two teams of four players who are not allowed to wear shoes.

It is played at an international level in competitions such as the Asian Beach Games.

### Sepahan determined to beat Istiklol

TEHRAN – Sepahan will welcome Istiklol to Fooladshahr, where the Iranian side fancy their chances of picking up the three points.

Sepahan started their campaign with a loss against Jordan's Al Wehdah in the 2024–25 AFC Champions League Two.

The match will be held at the Fooladshahr Stadium in Isfahan on Tuesday.

Al Wehdah SC and Sharjah FC of the United Arab Emirates both claimed wins in their respective opening fixtures.

The two meet on Wednesday with Sharjah looking to make full use of home ground advantage after a successful away trip to Dushanbe where they earned a 1-0 win over FC Istiklol of Tajikistan.

### Bam Khatoon to represent Iran in AFC Women's Champions League

TEHRAN – Bam Khatoon will play Australian team Melbourne City on October 6 in 2024–25 AFC Women's Champions League.

The AFC Women's Champions League will be the first edition of the League, Asia's premier club women's football tournament organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The Iranian side have been drawn in Group B along with Melbourne City team of Australia, College of Asian Scholars of Thailand and Kaya-Iloilo of Philippines.

Khatoon are scheduled to meet Kaya-Iloilo on October 9 and play College of Asian Scholars three days later.

The competition will be held in at the BG Stadium in Pathum Thani, Thailand.

### Mohun Bagan make excuses to travel to Iran

TEHRAN – Mohun Bagan Super Giant is facing a challenging situation regarding its upcoming fixture against Tractor in the 2024–25 AFC Champions League 2. Tractor has accused Mohun Bagan of attempting to avoid the match.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant has found itself in a highly tough and complicated situation after its highly anticipated AFC Champions League 2 match against Tractor FC has been thrown into doubt by the controversy following the passing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Mohun Bagan, a prominent team in the Indian Super League, will play its second match on October 2nd at the Yadegar-e Emam Stadium in Tabriz, Iran. However, travel advisories issued to foreign players in the wake of recent events have raised concerns regarding the players' safety.

Meanwhile, Tractor FC, the Iranian club, accused Mohun Bagan of making excuses to avoid traveling to Iran. In a Facebook post, Tractor FC stated, "The Mohun Bagan club of India makes up excuses not to come to Tabriz. It is better to be defeated with 3-0 penalty for what they say than to be defeated with 10-0 insured in a stadium worth 100 thousand."

The message suggested that Mohun Bagan's unwillingness to participate in the game was a calculated strategy to evade an unavoidable loss, timesnownews.com reported.

The AFC Champions League 2 is the second-tier club football tournament organized by the Asian Football Confederation. It features 32 teams, with 16 from West Asia and 16 from East Asia participating in the inaugural edition of the tournament.

## Wait for Iran and the Resistance front's response, Army commander tells Israel

TEHRAN – The chief commander of the Iranian Army, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, has issued a stark warning to Israel, telling them to "be ready" for a response to the recent assassination of Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

"Sayyed Hassan's blood will definitely destroy the Zionist regime and its masters," Mousavi told reporters on Monday.

He described the assassination as a "wrongful materialistic thinking" on the part of the "Zionists," who "thought they would succeed."

"They are, however, deepening their own grave," the commander added, asserting, "Today, the Zionists are moving farther towards demise."

"Our experience shows that when the

blood of a martyr is shed, it serves a force that is thousands of times more formidable than the martyr himself," he said, confidently stating that Hezbollah's capabilities will only be enhanced by this event.

Mousavi further dismissed Israeli attempts to portray the assassination as a "victory," calling them "psychological operations" aimed at pleasing "their masters and own people" while making Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appear successful. "Such efforts are based on their materialistic standards and calculations," the commander said, adding, "But these calculations have proven to be wrong for years."

Hezbollah's leader was assassinated on Friday during intense Israeli airstrikes on the southern suburbs of Beirut. Following the assassination, Leader of the Islamic



Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei promised that the Resistance front would deal "crushing blows" to the "dilapidated and decaying body" of the Zionist regime.

President Masoud Pezeshkian similarly vowed on Sunday that the "atrocities" would not go unanswered and that the Islamic Republic must give a "decisive" response to the Israeli regime.

## Officials visit Hezbollah office in Tehran to offer condolences over Nasrallah's martyrdom



From Page 1 ▶ In a cabinet meeting on Sunday, he emphasized the need for Tehran to respond decisively to the Israeli regime's actions.

Additionally, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi paid a visit to Hezbollah's office in Tehran and offered his condolences for the martyrdom of Nasrallah.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf echoed Pezeshkian's sentiments in his visit to Hezbollah's office in Tehran, labeling the Israeli

assassination of Nasrallah as a cowardly act born from the international community's silence.

In a message to Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, he expressed condolences over Nasrallah's martyrdom, describing him as a brave leader fallen victim to a spiteful attack.

Qalibaf voiced strong support for the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon, condemning the Israeli regime's actions as cowardly and inhumane, highlighting the lack of response from international

bodies.

He asserted that Nasrallah's death would only strengthen the resolve of the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon to continue their fight against Israeli occupation.

He also reiterated the commitment to liberate al-Quds, declaring it the foremost cause of the Muslim nation and expressing confidence that it would be achieved soon with divine assistance.

In related news, Ebrahim Khatib, Iran's Minister of Intelligence, visited Hezbollah's office in Tehran to pay his respects to Nasrallah. He engaged in discussions with Hezbollah's representative in Iran, honoring the legacy of the late leader.

Prominent figures, including chief commander of the Iranian Army, Major General Abdolrahim

Mousavi, former head of the Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi and lawmaker Ali Nikzad, also visited Hezbollah's office to offer condolences.

They were joined by various other officials and military leaders, all expressing solidarity in the wake of Nasrallah's assassination.

The assassination is part of a broader escalation by Israel against Hezbollah, which has resulted in hundreds of casualties in Lebanon.

Since October 2023, Israel has intensified its attacks in Lebanon, following its campaign in Gaza, which has reportedly claimed over 41,600 Palestinian lives, predominantly affecting women and children. Hezbollah has vowed to continue its retaliatory efforts against Israel in response to ongoing aggression.



## New secretary of Free Zones High Council appointed

TEHRAN – Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati has appointed Reza Masrouf as the new secretary of the Free Zones High Council, IRIB reported.

In a decree on Monday, Masrouf was tasked to take all the necessary measures for activating the capacities of free commercial-industrial and special economic zones in order to increase non-oil exports and to attract domestic and foreign investment while transferring new technologies into the country.

Masrouf is replacing Hojatollah Abdolmaleki who was in charge of the mentioned position since November 2022.

In last December, Abdolmaleki outlined 10 new strategies to increase investment and export in the country's free and special economic zones, the news portal of Iranian free zones (Freena) reported.

He made the remarks in a meeting with the deputy heads of the country's free zones on the sidelines of the second EAEU Exclusive exhibition in Tehran.

Abdolmaleki stated that the mentioned strategies mainly focus on a network of cooperation among the investment and economic departments of the country's free zones.

"Joint marketing between the free zones in the fields of income, investment, logistics, and export is the main purpose of the said network," he explained.

Implementing a comprehensive plan for developing logistics and re-export from free zones by using the capacities of combined transport and transit among free zones is another part of the mentioned strategies, the official said.

"The third strategy is the use of the capacity of international organizations and agreements such as the Eurasian Economic Union, Shanghai, BRICS, ECO, etc.," he added.

The official stated that identifying the advantages and distinctive features of free zones and introducing them to each other to benefit from the relative advantages of each zone in the network structure is another part of the

mentioned coordinated strategies.

"The fifth strategy is to use the passenger goods model to maximize the income of free zone organizations and the sixth strategy, is to attend exhibitions and domestic and international business events to introduce the investment opportunities of free zones in line with the continuation of the path taken this year," Abdolmaleki said.

The seventh strategy would be to determine a supply chain of goods among free zones in such a way that goods are exchanged, sold, or supplied in a cooperative network, the official said, adding: "using China's One Belt One Road plan with a focus on free zones, determining a comprehensive tourism network of free and special zones to outline the common interests and goals are the eighth and ninth parts of this program; and monetary, banking, and financial cooperation in the form of drawing up a cooperation style sheet to finance construction projects and investment is the tenth strategy."

The establishment of free trade zones (FTZs) in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989 – March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azərbaycan Province and Maku in West-Azərbaycan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

The development of existing free trade zones and the establishment of new FTZs has become one of the major economic approaches of the Iranian government.

## 'Draft of Iran's Maritime-oriented Development Plan compiled'



TEHRAN – Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref has said that the initial draft of the country's Maritime-oriented Development Plan has been prepared by the government, IRNA reported.

The 14th government is determined to formulate and implement additional and more comprehensive plans and programs in the field of sea-oriented development," IRNA quoted Aref as saying on Monday.

The Vice President also congratulated the World Maritime Day to the members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in a message published by IRNA.

"Since the beginning of human creation, the sea has always been the field of communication and the platform for development and civilization. Those countries that have access to the sea have the potential to become powerful in various regional and global arenas, as well as the ability to develop faster. In any country, having access to the sea is a great opportunity for progress and maintaining national interests," he said in his message.

Aref has also called on the Iranian authorities in charge of the country's maritime sector to strengthen logistics and corridor routes, facilitate entering new markets, use smart technologies, strengthen employment, create large and small-scale production units in ports and coastal areas, modernize the commercial fleet and port equipment as well as the railway and road lines, and train responsible and efficient workforces for sea-oriented development while preserving and safeguarding the marine environment in compliance with international regulations and conventions.

He also emphasized the necessity for the country's scholars and think tanks to help the government realize its plans for developing the maritime sector.

Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Ali-Akbar Safaei also congratulated the World Maritime Day in a separate message published on Sunday.

In his message, Safaei mentioned the IMO's world maritime theme 2024 which is "Navigating the future: safety first!" and said: "The International Maritime Organization has once again emphasized providing safety and the necessity of maritime security by choosing the slogan "Navigating the future: safety first!" for 2024; since its formation, this organization has always expressed concerns about protecting the marine environment against pollution caused by shipping in the framework of the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution (MARPOL)."

various countries are going to partake in this exhibition.

According to the event organizers, this exhibition is a great opportunity to introduce reliable manufacturers and importers and introduce quality and safe products to the citizens and managers of various industries.

## Tehran to host intl. HSE exhibition

TEHRAN – The 9th Specialized Exhibition of Health, Safety, Workplace, Fire Department, Crisis Management, Relief and Rescue (Iran HSE & Fire EXPO 2024) is going to be held at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds during October 4-7, IRIB reported.

Over 90 Iranian and foreign companies from

# Iran, Turkey chief bankers exchange views on boosting ties

TEHRAN – Governors of the central banks of Iran and Turkey met before the sixth meeting of the governors of the central banks of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member countries in Istanbul on Monday, IRNA reported.

As reported, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin and Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey Fatih Karahan exchanged views on ways of increasing economic and banking cooperation between the two countries.

During the annual meeting of the OIC central bank governors, the bank officials are going to discuss and exchange opinions regarding the latest state of economic growth and inflation of the OIC member countries, while examining the dimensions of using new technologies in electronic banking.

During a meeting between a delegation of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) and the senior directors of the Turkish Exporters Union (TİM), the two sides explored the ways to improve and develop trade relations between the private sectors of the two countries.

In the meeting, held at the place of TİM in Istanbul in early September, the areas of development of commercial cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries were discussed and the use of advantages and capacities in the fields of tourism, food, textile and pharmaceutical industries was emphasized.

## Tehran, Yerevan discuss establishing joint free zone in Armenia

TEHRAN – Officials and private sector representatives of Iran and Armenia have discussed ways of increasing economic cooperation including the establishment of a joint free trade zone in Armenia, the portal of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) reported.

An Iranian business delegation, which is in Armenia to attend the Eurasian Economic Forum, attended a meeting with the directors of Mantashyants Business Club which is Armenia's largest international business club to explore avenues of cooperation.

During the meeting, Iranian and Armenian economic operators and business persons discussed the fields of cooperation while introducing their fields of activity.

Speaking at the gathering, the chairman of the board of directors of Mantashyants Club, pointed out that this group is the largest business complex in Armenia, which has 650 members from 18 different countries around the world.

"We have close cooperation with the Iranian Embassy in Armenia and we hope that the level of our interactions with the Tehran Chamber of Commerce will also improve," Vahram Mirakyan said.

Mirakyan further spoke about the readiness of this group to introduce partner companies to Iranian economic operators in Armenia. He considered the development of trade with Iran to be important and expressed hope that these exchanges would increase the volume of commercial transactions between the two countries.

Elsewhere in the meeting, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi Arab mentioned the high capacity and ability of the members of the Iranian trade delegation present in Armenia and other members of the TCCIMA and said: "Some MPs are also present in the business delegation sent to Armenia by the Tehran Chamber, and this shows the importance of developing the country's trade exchanges with Armenia."

He also underlined the importance of exchanging business delegations to improve the level of economic relations between the two countries and invited the Armenian side to visit Iran to continue the talks.

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

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

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

The 18th meeting of the Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee was held in Tehran during February 14-15, in which the two sides signed 19



Central Bank of Iran Governor Mohammadreza Farzin (L) and Central Bank of Turkey Governor Fatih Karahan meet in Istanbul

In this meeting, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi-Arab referring to the trade balance of 1.6 billion dollars between the two countries, which is also positive for Turkey, mentioned the re-export of some Iranian products through this country as one of the opportunities to optimize the trade relations between the two countries.

Recalling that Turkey has great power and experience in the field of tourism, he mentioned the use of the capacity of Turkish tourism companies to cooperate with the Iranian tourism industry and to increase the attraction of foreign tourists to Iran as another area of development of relations between these two neighboring countries.

Najafi-Arab also pointed to Iran's high power and knowledge in the textile industry and said that by setting up a joint cooperation program, the global expertise of Turkish companies can be used to strengthen

the branding of Iranian products in international markets.

The TCCIMA head then pointed to the technical knowledge and expertise of Iranian companies in the pharmaceutical industry, especially in biotech drugs and probiotic industries, and emphasized on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in these sectors.

Addressing the same meeting, TİM Deputy Chairman Ahmet Gulec explained about this large Turkish private sector union and reminded that currently 150,000 Turkish exporters are members of this union and 61 export associations of this country also form the body of this large entity.

According to him, this union covers 27 product groups in the agricultural, industrial, mining and service sectors, and supporting Turkish exporters for their greater presence in the world markets is one of the main goals of the union.

He further put the export value of Turkey in 2023 at \$357 billion and the import value at \$410 billion, and reminded that the country plans to rise the value of products export to \$375 billion and the value of services export to \$200 billion by 2028.

He called the joint investment and the construction of Turkish factories in Iran and vice versa, among the capacities of joint cooperation and reminded that the TİM is ready to cooperate and interact with the TCCIMA to strengthen and develop the exports of the companies of the two countries.

In early July, Director of Asia and the Pacific Office of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCI) International Affairs Department Niloufar Asadi said a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Iran and Turkey should replace the previous trade agreements between the two countries to boost economic exchanges.

In a meeting with the Consul General of Iran in Istanbul, Asadi referred to a previously reached preferential trade agreement between Iran and Turkey under the framework of the Group of Eight Developing Islamic Countries (D8) and said: "Considering the shortcomings of the previously signed preferential trade agreement and the necessity to improve and develop it, I suggest that a free trade agreement between the two countries replaces the previous agreements."

documents and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to enhance cooperation in various areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Earlier on February 13, Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan said that Armenia and Iran could

soon increase the volumes of the gas for electricity swap deal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Hezbollah deputy chief: 'We will carry the path to victory'

From page 1 ▶ He explained that "within the party's structure, there are deputies for the leaders and reserve replacements ready to assume positions if a leader is struck in any capacity," and that "the plans set by Sayyed Nasrallah to replace leaders and commanders who have been assassinated are being closely followed."

"Everyone is present and ready on the battlefield," he noted in reference to the 100,000 fighters at Hezbollah's disposal.

Sheikh Qassem added, "Some of us become martyrs, but others will carry the path to victory soon," stressing that "the brothers continue their work according to an organized structure and follow the alternative plans for individuals and leaders."

Despite the loss of several leaders, attacks on civilians and significant sacrifices, he affirmed, "We will not waver even slightly from our positions, and the resistance will continue to



support Gaza and Palestine, and defend Lebanon and its people."

Sheikh Qassem underlined, "Resistance operations will continue at the same pace and even more after the assassination of Sayyed Nasrallah," pointing out that "the battle is long, and our options are wide."

He emphasized that Hezbollah "will confront any scenario should the Israelis enter on the ground," adding, "we are ready for a ground confrontation with

the enemy if it decides to enter Lebanese territory."

He declared, "Israel was not able to strike our military capabilities, and this is a dream that they have not and will not achieve. Our capabilities are strong and great."

Sheikh Qassem continued, "We have prepared and are confident that the Israeli enemy will not achieve its goals, and we will emerge victorious," stating that the operations, which the Leb-

anese resistance is executing currently is at "the minimum required as part of the overall plan to continue the battle, according to assessments, outlined plans, and battlefield needs."

He stressed that "Israel will not be able to undermine Hezbollah's capabilities despite the assassination of its leaders. If Israel believes that the silence of the international community will allow it to achieve its goals, it is delusional."

On Friday, the Israeli military dropped bunker-buster bombs on a neighborhood in the southern suburbs of the capital Beirut. The attacks led to the martyrdom of Sayyed Nasrallah, several of his companions, and a senior Iranian military advisor. The attacks also left dozens of civilians dead.

Experts believe the United States played a major role in the bombardment.

## Lebanon ground invasion: Israel must proactively stockpile coffins for its soldiers

From page 1 ▶ On Monday, war minister Yoav Gallant strongly hinted that the regime is ready to launch a ground offensive in Lebanon with the stated aim of removing Hezbollah from the border area and allowing evacuated Israelis to return to northern Israel.

On Sunday, the Israeli Broadcasting Authority also reported that the regime's army is making preparations for "a limited ground operation" in Lebanon.

Israel's intention to escalate its military operations in Lebanon became evident in mid-September after Netanyahu's office announced that returning Israeli settlers to the north constitutes an official war goal.

The announcement was followed by the explosion of pagers and other communication devices in Lebanon on September 17 and 18 which killed dozens of people and injured more than 3000.

A few days later, Israel launched a massive bombing campaign in Lebanon killing hundreds of people in the Mediterranean country.

On Friday, Israel intensified its savage attacks and assassinated Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in a suburb of southern Beirut. The strikes have been strongly condemned by many world leaders and triggered huge street protests.

As Israel is continuing its deadly and brutal airstrikes in Lebanon, the regime's media say the potential ground operation is aimed at



establishing a "security buffer zone in southern Lebanon."

The Israeli public broadcaster KAN has cited Foreign Minister Israel Katz as saying that Tel Aviv will only accept a ceasefire in Lebanon when Hezbollah is pushed away from the border to the north of the Litani River and disarmed.

"For as long as this does not happen, Israel will continue its actions to ensure the security of its citizens and the return of northern residents to their homes," he added.

In fact, Israel wants to invade Lebanon but is looking for excuses. The regime claims that its airstrikes that began on September 23 have hit Hezbollah targets. But facts on the ground show that hundreds of civilians, including women and children, have fallen victim to the attacks.

Israel's likely ground assault on Lebanon is reminiscent of the regime's nearly 20-year occupation of the country.

Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982 and

occupied parts of the country until it was driven out by Hezbollah in 2000.

In 2006, Israel also launched a full-scale military offensive against Lebanon. Hezbollah, however, humiliated the regime and forced it military to retreat in disgrace.

Israel is currently displaying a lot of hubris following the assassination of the Hezbollah chief and some other commanders of the resistance group.

If Israeli ground forces were to enter Lebanon, the arrogance of the Netanyahu regime would transform into disgrace.

Israel has not succeeded in eliminating Hamas after more than 11 months of fighting in Gaza. Hundreds of Israeli forces have been killed on the Gaza battlefield. Last month, Gallant rejected Netanyahu's "total victory" dream over Hamas as gibberish.

But now both Netanyahu and Gallant are dreaming about securing a triumph over Hezbollah, which possesses greater strength than Hamas.

Hamas fighters in Gaza have transformed the battlefield into the burial ground for Israeli soldiers. The regime will face a similar outcome should it initiate a ground offensive in Lebanon. In such a scenario, Israel should proactively accumulate coffins and arrange funeral ceremonies for its troops and dig their graves.

## Despite great calamity, Hezbollah persists and its followers will not surrender

From page 1 ▶ Continuously reiterating his threat, mainly that his warplanes are capable of punishing any party hostile to the so-called "Israel" or thinking of harming it, and amidst the shameful indifference of Arab and Islamic regimes, Netanyahu - who was humiliated by the October 7 attack in an unprecedented manner - thought that his crime would rid off of the school of the leader of the 2000 and 2006 victories, and thus guarantee the electoral competition in his colonial "weaker than a spider web" entity, as whoever murder the most wins the largest votes of the blood-thirsty Zionist colonial occupiers.

Nevertheless, in light of the continued Israeli raids on more than one Lebanese region, the ambiguity surrounding the Hezbollah leadership issue along with the seditious propaganda campaign claiming "Iran's betrayal of Hezbollah," the resistance continues its qualitative operations on the borders reaching the occupied Haifa, forcing about a million settlers to hide like rats in shelters.

Whatever, the followers of Sayyed Nasrallah's school will not deviate from his principles, the first of which is adhering to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. Secondly, nothing will pressure them not to support Gaza until the war of extermination ends.

Thanks to the steadfastness of the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance, Netanyahu's imaginary victories depending on the air force and intelligence will gradually recede. The resistance will complete Sayyed Nasrallah's approach of awareness, nobility, bravery and sacrifice.

Therefore, this nightmare will inevitably weigh heavily on the minds of the Zionist enemies and their lackeys who have rejoiced over what is being committed and who are striving diligently to convince people that Hezbollah has fallen and that its cause is lost. Those include morally corrupt politicians, media personalities and academics who are partners in the genocide.

As we have learned from him (Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah), even if we lose the most precious thing we have, we will not give up the jihad.

If the story of Karbala is alive after 14 centuries, then those who carried out and rejoiced in the killing of Sayyed Nasrallah must not forget that Sayyed Nasrallah has become an eternally immortal symbol for every revolutionary against injustice, and that he was martyred defending Palestine, Yemen, the marginalized peoples of the Persian Gulf, and other just causes. Sayyed Nasrallah lived until the last moment of his life, fighting America and Israel.

Per the honourable history of Jabal Amel,

there is neither submission nor surrender. What Sayyed Nasrallah and his comrades have established and planned over 40 years will result in a decisive historic victory, a resistance founded by Imam Khomeini, patronaged by Sayyed Ali Khamenei, Sayyed Ebrahim Raisi, and by the martyrs of the Revolutionary Guard, mainly by Martyr Hajj Qassem Soleimani. Since 1982, the resistance, with humble capabilities, have risen up to defend a legitimate right, knowing that its cost is very high.

Today we as the supporters of the resistance and the followers of Sayyed Nasrallah are enveloped in sadness, our hearts are broken, but it is a sincere sadness that will not be affected by the hostile intimidation campaigns. His martyrdom has shaken our revolutionary spirits, igniting a boiling vengeance deep in our hearts.

As we have learned from him, even if we lose the most precious thing we have, we will not give up the jihad. We will protect the resistance no matter how high the price. Yes, these are harsh days as we have been forcibly displaced from our homes and lost the simplest necessities of life. However, we will not retreat even if we remain alone resisting the hegemonic colonial scheme in West Asia. Our Mujahideen have not been broken, as the enemy believes or promotes, and all the naive bettors have to do is wait for the end of this round of the ongoing war until the annihilation of the brutal entity.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Campaign launched to raise awareness on unexploded ordnance in Lebanon

British NGO Mines Advisory Group (MAG), which operates in Lebanon, has launched a campaign to advise people of the dangers of unexploded ordnance.

"We know from our experience globally that a significant proportion of the ordnance that has hit Lebanon will have failed to explode and will be lodged in the rubble, buried underground or simply lying on the surface," said MAG CEO Darren Cormack, Al Jazeera reported.

"This poses a severe risk to the civilian population, may cost lives and will hamper reconstruction efforts and any return to normality when the conflict abates. Parts of Lebanon have now endured almost a year of aerial bombardments but the latest escalation obviously poses additional and acute risks to communities," he added.

### Gaza's healthcare situation 'getting worse and worse'

Gaza's "healthcare sector is still gradually deteriorating" nearly a year on since the war started, according to Dr Mohammed Abu Mughaisib, the deputy medical coordinator for Doctors Without Borders in Gaza.

"Some hospitals are partially damaged. Number of patients is huge. There's a big issue with medical supplies. All international medical NGOs are suffering from delays in supplies entering Gaza. The situation is getting worse and worse," he said.

"We have three hospitals partially functioning in the south of the Gaza Strip which are overwhelmed with trauma patients as well as normal patients," he said.

"There is one hospital in the middle area which is run by the government and serves more than one million people who are shel-

tering there [in central Gaza]. In the pediatric ward, for example, there are 40 beds for 200 children who are lying on the floor."

With the world's attention now shifting to the Israeli attacks on Lebanon, he said he expects the situation to get even more difficult in Gaza.

### 3 PFLP members killed in Israeli strikes on Beirut

Israel has bombed the Kola area of Beirut in its first attack on the Lebanese capital beyond the southern suburbs, killing three members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Al Jazeera reported on Monday.

The PFLP, a Marxist and Arab nationalist group founded in 1967, confirmed three of its leaders were killed in Beirut.

They are Muhammad Abdel Aal, a member of the PFLP's political bureau and the head of its military security department; Imad Odeh, a member of the PFLP's military department and a military commander in Lebanon; and Abdul Rahman Abdel Aal, a "comrade martyr hero".

### Israeli raids force 100,000 to flee Lebanon for Syria

At least 100,000 people have crossed from Lebanon into Syria fleeing Israel's bombardment, the UN refugee agency's chief said.

"The number of people who have crossed into Syria from Lebanon fleeing Israeli airstrikes - Lebanese and Syrian nationals - has reached 100,000. The outflow continues," UNHCR's chief Filippo Grandi said in a post on X on Monday.

The UN agency is operating at four crossing points along with local authorities and the Syrian Red Crescent, Grandi noted.

There are at least 1.5 million Syrian refugees who live in Lebanon, government figures cited by UNHCR show.

## A better future for humanity cannot be achieved without upholding globalization and multipolarity

From page 1 ▶ It should be acknowledged that since the end of the Cold War, globalization, which advocates freedom and people's livelihoods, and multilateralism, which promotes equality and respect, have been conducive to the realization of global justice from the goal to the path. To build a peaceful, prosperous, equal and innovative future for humankind, people-centred globalization and multi-polarization that respects sovereignty and security are indispensable.

Adherence to globalization is a powerful rebuff of supremacism and narrow developmentalism

Globalization has been in full swing since the 1990s, and with its great quality of openness, it has contributed to the great prosperity of the world economy in the past few decades. All countries have benefited from the process of globalization. The term "globalization" used to imply a warm and romantic spirit of openness and tolerance. Regrettably, anti-globalization, reverse globalization and de-globalization have slowly entered the mainstream discourse of world politics and have even begun to shape the political agenda of some countries.

In particular, some developed countries are no longer willing to share the fruits of development and have deliberately reduced the magnitude of the flows of capital, trade, information and people, disregarding the widening development gap between countries. State-centrism and nationalism, which divides the world, cannot solve global problems or save mankind and future generations. Continuing to adhere to globalization

and promoting economic globalization that is beneficial to all and inclusive is the only way to effectively respond to the "supremacism" and "narrow developmentalism" that are blinded by isolationism.

Upholding multipolarity can protect the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries on a fair and just footing

Multipolarity means that the sovereignty and dignity of all countries do not have to be subordinated to the hegemonic countries, and that developing countries and small and medium-sized countries have more rights in world politics, and that their national interests and rights and interests will not be trampled upon and sacrificed by the hegemonic countries at will. In today's political environment, adherence to multilateralism and multipolarity in the world is first and foremost a matter of respect for the United Nations framework, and United Nations resolutions should be complied with. It is only by adhering to the multipolarity of the world and to the settlement of controversial matters through consultation and negotiation on the platform of multilateralism that the use of violence by hegemony and power to undermine peace and stability can be avoided and limited.

The hegemony-obsessed superpower should be blamed for the current conflict tragedies

The tragedy of recurring wars in many regions of the world is the result of the United States' ever-expanding ambition to project its influence and the implementation of a blindly parochial and failed foreign policy.

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



## 167 tourism projects worth \$166 million inaugurated across Iran



TEHRAN – In celebration of World Tourism Day and the start of Iran's Tourism Week, 167 tourism-related projects have officially been inaugurated in a ceremony attended by Tourism Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri.

The projects, with a combined investment of over 100 trillion rials (approximately \$166 million), are set to create employment for 2,300 people, CHTN reported on Monday.

The inauguration ceremony was held on Saturday at a newly constructed hotel in Tehran, one of the 167 projects, and was attended by several high-ranking officials, including Ali Darabi, the deputy minister of cultural heritage, and Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, the deputy minister of tourism.

A number of private sector representatives, investors, and tourism industry veterans also participated in the event.

The projects, which span 31 provinces, include 29 hotels and hotel apartments, 69 guesthouses, 24 traditional restaurants, 16 tourism complexes, and 29 other tourism-related facilities.

They add 712,000 square meters of space to the country's tourism infrastructure, introducing 1,651 new rooms, 4,445 beds, and 70 guesthouses to the national tourism sector.

Addressing the ceremony, Salehi-Amiri emphasized the importance of continued investment in tourism industry of the country.

Currently, 2,700 additional tourism projects are underway nationwide. Once completed, these projects are expected to gen-

erate over 100,000 jobs, highlighting the need for a unified national effort involving the government and private sector to boost tourism in Iran.

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.

Iran's tourism industry witnessed a 21% upsurge in 2023, signaling a strong recovery in the post-COVID-19, according to data compiled by the World Travel and Tourism Council. According to the WTTC, the increase was part of a broader recovery following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw the industry plummet by 45% in 2020.

In comparison, the years 2021 and 2022 boasted growth rates of 40% and 39%, the data revealed. As per records, Iran's tourism sector not only expanded its share to 4.7% of the national economy in 2023 but also boosted its market value to 7400 trillion rials.

The rate of employment in this sector grew by 10.3%, with 1.6 million people working in tourism, which accounts for 6.6% of the country's total employment, according to the WTTC report. Furthermore, WTTC forecasts that in 2024, the tourism industry in the Islamic Republic will continue its upward trajectory with a predicted growth of 12.1%, potentially reaching a market value of 8300 trillion rials. As revealed by the annual report, foreign tourists in Iran spent a substantial 700 trillion rials in 2023, showcasing an 83.6% increase compared to the previous year.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 28 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

## Artificial intelligence is detecting new archaeological sites in the desert

On the northern edge of the Rub al-Khali, which is the sand desert encompassing most of the southern third of the Arabian Peninsula, there are secrets buried in the sand.

The vast 250,000 square miles (650,000 square kilometers) desert on the Arabian Peninsula is known as "The Empty Quarter." And to most, aside from waves of ochre dunes, it does look empty.

Researchers at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi have developed a high-tech solution to searching huge, arid areas for potential archaeological sites.

Traditionally, archaeologists use ground surveys to detect potential sites of interest, but that can be time-consuming and difficult in harsh terrains like the desert. In recent years, remote sensing using optical satellite images from places like Google Earth has gained popularity in searching large areas for unusual features — but in the desert, sand and dust storms often obscure the ground in these images, while dune patterns can make it difficult to detect potential sites.

"We needed something to guide us and focus our research," says Diana Francis, an atmospheric scientist and one of the lead researchers on the project.

The team created a machine learning algorithm to analyze images collected by synthetic aperture radar (SAR), a satellite imagery technique that uses radio waves to detect objects hidden beneath surfaces including vegetation, sand, soil and ice.

Neither technology is new: SAR imagery has been in use since the 1980s, and machine learning has been gaining traction in archaeology. But the use of the two together is a novel application, says Francis, and to her knowledge, is a first in archaeology.

She trained the algorithm using data from a site already known to archaeologists: Saruq Al-Hadid, a settlement with evidence of 5,000 years of activity that is still being uncovered in the desert outside of Dubai.

"Once it was trained, it gave us an indication of other potential areas (nearby) that are still not excavated," says Francis.

She adds that the technology is precise to within 50 centimeters and can create 3D models of the expected structure that will give archaeologists a better idea of what's buried below.

In collaboration with Dubai Culture, the government organization that manages the site, Francis and her team conducted a ground survey using a ground-penetrating radar, which "replicated what the satellite measured from space," she says.

Now, Dubai Culture plans to excavate the newly identified areas — and Francis hopes the technique can uncover more buried archaeological treasures in the future.

Using SAR imagery is not common in archaeology, due to its cost and complexity.

But the use of it to identify buried sites is "really exciting," says Amy Hatton, a PhD student at the Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology, who is researching deep learning models to detect archaeological structures in northwest Saudi Arabia.

Hatton notes that, by using SAR imagery, which bypasses the problem of light scatter from dust particles, Francis and her team solved technical details that make remote sensing difficult in desert regions.

Amina Jambajantsan, another PhD student at the Max Planck Institute, is using machine learning to speed up the "tedious job" of searching through high-resolution drone and satellite images for potential sites of interest. Her project, which focuses on medieval burial sites in Mongolia — a country of more than 1.56 million square kilometers, nearly the size of Alaska — has uncovered thousands of potential sites that Jambajantsan says she and her team could never have found on the ground.

Jambajantsan says that while the cost and computational demands of SAR imagery could be a barrier to usage for a lot of researchers, the method is valuable for desert regions where other technologies struggle — and is one she would consider for the Gobi Desert in Southern Mongolia, where her "normal optical imagery" is not yielding results.

(Source: CNN)

# Mining operations near Persepolis halted



TEHRAN – Fars province's Governor-General Mohammad-Hadi Imaniyeh has ordered the suspension of all mining activities near Mount Rahmat, located close to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Persepolis.

Iran, known for its rich history and civilization, is home to numerous cultural and historical landmarks. Fars province, a key cradle of this civilization, has been the seat of various dynasties throughout history. One of its most significant archaeological sites is Persepolis, near which lies Mount Rahmat (also known as Mount Mehr). The northern slopes of this mountain, stretching between Persepolis and the ancient city of Estakhr, are rich in historical relics and ancient graves from the Achaemenid, post-Achaemenid, and Sassanid periods.

Given the historical importance of Mount Rahmat, there has been an ongoing push to have it included on UNESCO's World Heritage list. However, recent reports of mining activities near this historically significant site have caused widespread concern among cultural heritage enthusiasts. The public has called for an immediate cessation of these activities.

In that regard, Governor-General Imaniyeh, speaking to ISNA on Sunday night, confirmed that no mining or soil extraction will be allowed in the protected

zones surrounding Persepolis.

Alireza Askari-Chavardi, the director of the Persepolis World Heritage Site, had previously confirmed the suspension of the mining operations. He explained that the stone quarrying from the mount's slopes began in 1996, and over the years, multiple complaints had been lodged against it.

Furthermore, the provincial cultural heritage department had issued warnings, and, after interventions by the provincial government, mining activities were suspended in 2016, ISNA quoted Askari-Chavardi as saying on Monday.

However, two weeks ago, operations resumed, prompting renewed legal action, resulting in a fresh order to halt the mining.

Later on September 29, local media in Marvdasht reported that the county's prosecutor had issued an order to stop the min-

ing activities at Mount Rahmat.

In this regard, Fars province's tourism director, Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi, praised the Marvdasht prosecutor for issuing the halt order. He emphasized that all permits related to the quarry would be thoroughly reviewed due to the cultural sensitivities and strict regulations in place to protect heritage sites.

Sabet-Eqlidi further explained that Mount Rahmat is part of the protected zone of the Persepolis World Heritage site, which has three designated protection zones.

Also known as Takht-e Jamshid, Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites, that have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art. Majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne and reception rooms, and dependencies have made that 13-ha ensemble one of the world's

greatest archaeological sites.

Construction of its immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall"). The terrace is a grandiose architectural creation, with its double flight of access stairs, walls covered by sculpted friezes at various levels, monumental gateways, gigantic sculpted winged bulls, and remains of large halls.

By carefully engineering lighter roofs and using wooden lintels, the Achaemenid architects were able to use a minimal number of astonishingly slender columns to support open-area roofs. Columns were topped with elaborate capitals; typical was the double-bull capital where, resting on double volutes, the forequarters of two kneeling bulls, placed back-to-back, extended their coupled necks and their twin heads directly under the intersections of the beams of the ceiling.

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.

## Archaeological excavations to resume in ancient Rey after years of hiatus

TEHRAN – Two "important" archaeological excavations are due to begin in the ancient region of Rey after years of hiatus, according to the Director of Rey National Heritage Base, Qadir Afrovand.

On Monday, Afrovand described the upcoming excavations as "exciting," noting the long gap in archaeological research in Rey, which boasts 8,000 years of history.

The Iranian archaeologist told ISNA that these excavations are among the most important and foundational initiatives of the Rey National Heritage Base.

The two simultaneous digs will take place at the historical Rashkan Fortress and Cheshmeh-Ali Mound, which are among the key cultural and civilizational sites of ancient Rey.

Scheduled to start today, the excavations are expected to continue until November 20. This marks the resumption of archaeological work at Rashkan Fortress after a 17-year hi-



atus and at Cheshmeh Ali after 25 years, the archaeologist explained.

Afrovand further explained that Shahid Beheshti University will lead the research at Cheshmeh Ali, while he will oversee the excavation at Rashkan Fortress.

Afrovand credited the collaborative efforts of the National and World Heritage Department of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the Tehran Provincial Cultural Heritage Office, and the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Institute for

making the excavations possible.

He expressed optimism about the extensive scientific cooperation that will emerge from the involvement of Shahid Beheshti University, one of Iran's most successful archaeological teams.

Cheshmeh-Ali is a historical and recreational spot located in the south of Tehran and north of Rey as the history of settlement in the latter goes down to the 3rd millennium BC.

According to Afrovand, Rey is one of the oldest cities in the central Iranian plateau with a history of human settlement that stretches over 8,000 years.

The history of Rey, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica is featured in the Avesta (the original document of Zoroastrianism, an Iranian religion) as a sacred place, and it is also mentioned in the book of Tobit, of the biblical Apocrypha, and by classical authors.

## UNESCO-designated Lut Desert to host marathon



TEHRAN – The eighth edition of a marathon running is scheduled to be held in the touristic Shahdad region of the UNESCO-registered Lut Desert on October 17.

So far, over 500 runners, including two Russian athletes, have applied

to take part in the competition, Moein Afzali, a tourism activist, said on Monday.

This year's marathon will also mark the second time it is held as a night race as well, offering a unique desert running experience, Afzali said.

The marathon, organized in collaboration with the private sector, continues to grow in popularity each year, added Afzali, who is the executive manager of the competition as

well.

In addition, the head of the Shahdad's tourism department, has highlighted the role of such events in promoting tourism.

"All accommodations in Shahdad have been fully booked from October 16 to 18 by marathon participants," Hojjat Ebrahimzadeh added.

The Lut Desert spans across three provinces of Kerman, South Khorasan, and Sistan-Baluchestan, with 70% of it located in Kerman province.

Key attractions include the massive Kaluts, nabkhas, Gandom Beryan (one of the hottest points on Earth), the Shahdad cistern, and Shafi-Abad Castle. The desert is also one of the top areas in the world for finding meteorites, thanks to its unique parameters. In recent years, significant findings have been made, with the efforts of national and international teams of researchers.

Shahdad is located 100 kilometers east of Kerman, the provincial capital.

## 32% of Morocco's coastal tourism jobs at risk

Over 30 percent of the jobs in Morocco's coastal tourism sector, a pillar of the country's blue economy, could be lost by 2035 due to the effects of climate change, according to the World Bank report.

A recent World Bank report warns of the significant threat to Morocco's coastal tourism sector, a key pillar of the national economy.

According to the report, up to 32 percent of jobs in the sector could disappear by 2035 due to the effects of climate change.

Entitled "Impacts of climate change on Morocco's blue economy: employment prospects in coastal tourism," the report predicts a decline in tourism spending of between 8 percent and 18 percent by 2035 if climate resilience measures are not implemented.

"The accommodation and catering sector of coastal tourism is expected to suffer the greatest

job losses, possibly exceeding 32 percent in the most pessimistic scenario," says the report, published on September 24.

The report added that this alarming situation can be explained by the labour-intensive nature of this segment. Small businesses, which often lack the financial resources to cope with major shocks are particularly vulnerable.

The analysis shows that restaurants and hotels would be hardest hit, followed by entertainment and arts services and the transport sector.

Job losses in coastal tourism, particularly in hotels and restaurants, could also have a negative impact on women's participation in the labour market.

Coastal tourism currently generates over 300,000 jobs in Morocco, across all age groups and accounts for about 30 percent of total

tourism. The main coastal tourism regions are Agadir, Tangier-Tetouan and Casablanca. In the Souss-Massa region, coastal tourism around Agadir accounts for 70 percent of tourism demand.

To avoid these job losses, the report calls for a "paradigm shift" from the traditional "sea, sun and beach" model of tourism to a more sustainable and resilient model.

This includes developing ecotourism products, building climate resilience into new tourism infrastructure, using nature-based solutions to protect coastlines and building the capacity of tourism businesses to take climate action.

"Investing in climate action will lead to better development outcomes," the report noted.

(Source: APA News)



# Analysis of Tabas coal mine incident from perspective of ISO 45001:2018 Standard

By Ali Jalali

TEHRAN - All industries and services can implement the Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) management system standard, which is classified into 39 groups based on the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) reference.

The most hazardous industry is the mining industry (IAF Code 2), which claims hundreds of lives worldwide every year.

On September 21, an explosion occurred at a coal mine in Tabas, South Khorasan Province, eastern Iran. The incident killed at least 51 people and injured 20 more.

The article aims to analyze the cause of the incident from the perspective of the ISO 45001:2018 standard.

## Top Management Commitment

The top management of the mine bears the primary responsibility and overall accountability for preventing work-related injuries and illnesses among workers, as well as creating a healthy and safe working environment for them.

They must provide the necessary resources to maintain the safety and health of employees and ensure that workers can report incidents, hazards, risks, and opportunities without fear of punishment. For this reason, a "Health and Safety" committee should be established, and all



workers should participate in safety matters.

Top management should define the responsibilities and authorities of each individual in the area of safety and health. One of the most important issues at the worker level is that obstacles prevent workers from participating in protection, safety, and health at work, and top management does not take effective action to remove these barriers.

These problems and barriers may include a lack of response to workers' suggestions, punishment, threats of punishment, or practices that discourage or penalize workers.

## Training

Training on safety and HSE-related topics is the most crucial factor in preventing accidents. This is so important that the ISO 45001:2018

standard emphasizes that training must be provided free of charge and during working hours.

Training is one of the most important parameters in terms of culture improvement in the organization. Training courses can be conducted in various forms, such as academic training, workshops, and on-the-job training by supervisors. Have adequate and effective training been provided in the Tabas mine?

## Operational Controls

According to ISO 45001:2018, the following hierarchy should be followed to eliminate hazards and reduce occupational safety and health risks:

a. Hazard Elimination: If possible, potential hazards should be completely eliminated, which is difficult to achieve in mines.

b. Substitution: Replace processes, operations, materials, or equipment with less harmful ones: Implementing this type of control requires the use of high-tech equipment, which unfortunately is difficult to procure and install in Iranian mines due to sanctions.

c. Engineering Controls and Work Restructuring: For example, using POKAYOKE techniques or mistake proofing methods such as using microswitches, alarms, sensors, electronic eyes, etc., which can be partially used in mines.

d. Administrative Controls such as Training and Permits: When options a, b, and c cannot be used, training, especially in mines, can be a very beneficial and effective solution to reduce safety risks in mines.

e. Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): This is considered the last resort and, in addition to providing personal protective equipment, requires a change in culture. The use of personal protective equipment is effective in reducing ordinary risks but is less effective in an event such as an explosion. It seems that in the Tabas mine accident, given the nature of the work and the sanctions, have engineering controls and training been used to achieve the necessary effectiveness?

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

## IRCS is ready to provide support to Dahiya

TEHRAN- The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has announced readiness to dispatch humanitarian aid and relief teams to Lebanon to assist the people affected by the recent Israeli attacks in the Dahiya district in Beirut.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said at least 105 people were killed around the country in airstrikes Sunday.

Two strikes near the southern city of Sidon, about 45 kilometers south of Beirut, killed at least 32 people, the ministry said. Separately, Israeli strikes in the northern province of Baalbek Hermel killed 21 people and wounded at least 47.

Following the tragic events, the head of the IRCS, Pirhossein Kolivand, conveyed a message to the Regional Director at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies -IFRC, Middle East & North Africa (MENA), Hossam Elsharkawi, President of the Lebanese Red Cross, Antoine Zoghbi, and Lebanese Health Minister Firas al-Abid expressed the IRCS's readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to Dahiya, IRCS website reported.

The message reads:

The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran gives compliments to you and all your esteemed staff and volunteers in the Lebanese Red Cross Society.

The news of the tragic incident which has occurred in the Dahiya district in Lebanon caused us heartfelt sorrow.

The incident has caused the loss of numerous lives and the injuries of your fellow countrymen which has intensified the sufferings and griefs.

The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the terrorist attacks and expresses sympathy with the bereaved families and the victims of this saddening incident. It declares that the society stands with you and the honorable Lebanese nation in this hard situation.



As a humanitarian organization, we are always ready to do our best to contribute to you and the Lebanese people and support you by sending the relief consignments as well as dispatching the relief teams.

We do sympathize with the families of the victims and wish for immediate recovery of the injured people. We are willing to share our experiences to promote humanitarian conditions in the future, as well.

**Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon is alarming: IFRC official**

The Secretary General of the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Jagan Chapagain, has said that the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon is deeply concerning, the IRCS website reported.

The recent event has caused devastating loss of life and widespread destruction.

Our thoughts are with the Lebanese people in these hard times. I commend the bravery and dedication of Lebanese Red Cross staff and volunteers who work tirelessly in these challenging conditions to support those in need.

While providing urgent humanitarian aid is critical to alleviate suffering, it cannot be the only response.

An enduring political solution is urgently needed to bring lasting peace and stability to the region.

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

## Rainfall increases by over 200% in current water year

TEHRAN -During the first week of the current water year that started on September 22, rainfall indicates over 224 percent increase in comparison to the same period last year.

The total rainfall since the beginning of the current water year amounted to 1.1 millimeters, compared to 0.3 mm last year. It shows a 24-percent increase in comparison to 0.9 mm rain in the long-term period (55 years), IRNA reported.

The provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran, Golestan, Qom, Qazvin, Alborz, Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan, Isfahan, and Sistan-Baluchestan, as well as Kerman witnessed rainfall.

The precipitations are forecast to go on over the week in some other provinces.

However, the state of the largest dams in the country shows a 27 percent decline in their water input in the same period.

Moreover, no rain was reported in 28 provinces of the country.

## Over 250mm rain in previous water year

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

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

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

A total of 10 provinces received less than normal rainfall.

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

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

## Low rainfall forecast for fall

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

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

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

Most models indicate weak La Niña conditions from November to February. In this condition, indicators that change in the short term such as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), and Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) become more effective and impact, he further noted.

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

into La Niña.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iran capable of manufacturing any medicine in two years

Iranian pharmaceutical industry and scientists are capable of producing any kind of medicine over a two-year period, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of Food and Drug Administration, has said.

Some medicines are not currently manufactured domestically as their production is not economically justifiable because of low consumption, he added, IRNA reported.

In some cases, medicines are new pharmaceutical molecules that have recently been produced worldwide, he noted.

"The U.S. has sanctioned medicine as far as possible, but we have been able to provide patients with the required medicine, and currently there is no shortages," he explained.

## ایران می تواند هر دارویی را ظرف دو سال تولید کند

رئیس سازمان غذا و دارو گفت هر دارویی را می توانیم طی ۲ سال در داخل کشور تولید کنیم.

به گزارش ایرنا، محمدرضا شانه ساز روز دوشنبه گفت این یک بلوف نیست و صنعت داروسازی و دانشمندان کشور توان تولید همه داروها را دارند.

به گفته شانه ساز، برخی اقلام دارویی که اکنون در داخل تولید نمی شود به علت کم مصرفی است زیرا توجیه اقتصادی ندارد یا مولکول های دارویی جدیدی هستند که به تازگی در دنیا تولید شده اند. او ادامه داد: آمریکا هر دارویی را که توانسته تحریم کرده اما ما توانسته ایم از راههایی که می دانیم داروهای مورد نیاز بیماران را تامین کنیم و اکنون دارو به میزان کافی در سراسر کشور وجود دارد.



## Pistachio harvest in northeastern Iran

A woman is picking pistachios on a farm in the northeastern North Khorasan Province, September 30, 2024. Pistachio is cultivated across 5,900 hectares of land in the province. The country's pistachio production is expected to reach 200,000 tons in the current Iranian calendar ending in March 2025.





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## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Best way to defend Islam, is to practice Islam.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

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

## Arasbaran Cultural Center reviews Danny Boyle's "Trance"



TEHRAN- English director Danny Boyle's 2013 movie "Trance" was reviewed during a session at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday.

Iranian film critic Kurosh Jahed attended a screening of the film followed by a review session.

The story of "Trance" begins during a heist at an auction house, where thieves led by Franck seize a package, they believe contains a valuable painting. Simon Newton, the auctioneer and an unwitting inside man, attempts to thwart Franck but is knocked unconscious. Upon awakening, Simon discovers the package contains only an empty frame, revealing his betrayal as he had double-crossed Franck.

Desperate to recover the painting, the thieves kidnap Simon, but he suffers from amnesia due to the blow to his head and cannot recall its location. They enlist the help of a hypnotist, Elizabeth Lamb, to unlock Simon's memories. Under the pretense of seeking lost keys, Simon tries to manipulate her into revealing the painting's whereabouts. However, Elizabeth quickly sees through his ruse, forcing the thieves to negotiate with her for a share of the painting's profit in exchange for her services.

As Elizabeth continues to hypnotize Simon, he reveals his backstory, including his gambling addiction that led him to ally with Franck for the heist in hopes of clearing his debts. In a pivotal session, Simon recalls cutting the painting from

its frame and hiding it in his suit. Distracted by a text message while fleeing, he has a fragmented memory of being struck by a red car driven by Elizabeth, which he mistakenly believes to be true.

The layers of their relationship deepen as Elizabeth realizes Simon's obsession with her stems from a psychological phenomenon known as transference. To extract vital information, she agrees to seduce him. However, during their date, Simon withdraws emotionally, prompted by jealousy towards Franck, which Elizabeth uses to manipulate Simon further.

As Elizabeth delves into Simon's psyche, she learns the painting's location but is soon captured by the thieves. In a tense climax, Simon and Franck go to retrieve the painting while the others threaten Elizabeth. When Franck's distraction allows Simon to attack, he ultimately overpowers his captors.

In a twist of fate, Elizabeth confesses to Simon that they previously had a tumultuous relationship, marked by his possessiveness and abuse, which led her to erase his memories of her through hypnosis. The blow to Simon's head revived vague memories that ultimately turned fatal; he inadvertently killed an innocent woman he had mistaken for Elizabeth.

In the warehouse, Simon presents the painting to Elizabeth and, in a moment of chaos, douses the car with fuel, intending to destroy Franck. To save Franck, Elizabeth drives a truck into Simon, sending him and the car into a river, resulting in Simon's death while Franck survives.

Later, Franck receives an iPad from Elizabeth containing a video in which she discloses that she had made Simon steal the painting as revenge for his abuse. The text Simon received before the accident had instructed him to deliver the painting to her. Elizabeth presents Franck with a choice: seek her out and reclaim the painting or activate "Trance," an app that erases all memories of their entangled past, allowing him the option to remember or forget.

## Cartoon of Day



Netanyahu's Collection  
Cartoonist: Harm Bengen from Germany

# "Standing with the Wolf" receives award at Russian festival

TEHRAN- Iranian short documentary "Standing with the Wolf", co-directed by Saeed Nabi and Maryam Khadivi, received an award from the Irkutsk Regional Museum of Local Lore named after Muravyov-Amursky at the 23rd edition of the Baikal International Film Festival of Documentary and Popular-Science Films "People and Environment", which concluded in Irkutsk, Russia on Saturday.

The award was given to the film for serving the ideals of faith, conscience and beauty, the festival's organizers announced.

The 30-minute documentary focuses on Jalali, a dedicated Park Ranger who has endured more than 90 lead bullets in his fight to protect the environment. Committed to preserving the country's natural heritage, he has realized the importance of education and has taken it upon himself to teach in schools, believing that knowledge is a powerful tool in the battle to safeguard the environment.

Despite numerous setbacks, Jalali persists in his struggle against poachers, holding on to the hope of a brighter future, even as he navigates the uncertainties of these ongoing conflicts. However, that hope dimmed when the animal museum he established to educate children was handed over to a contractor seeking profit.

Russian documentary "Against the Wind" by Tatyana Soboleva won the Grand Prix of the festival, while the Mikhail Romm Prize for



A scene from Iranian short documentary "Standing with the Wolf" co-directed by Saeed Nabi and Maryam Khadivi

the best documentary film was awarded to the film "The Last Nomads" by Romanian director Dragos Lumpan.

The Best Popular Science Film Award was given to "The Wild Ones", co-directed by Miguel Cortez Costa and Carolina Castro Almeida, from Portugal and the "The Alien" by Russian director Ivan Sosnin was named the best feature film. Moreover, the award for the best animated film was given to "The Transformation of Ana" by Joao Rodriguez from Portugal.

The festival also screened the Iranian feature film "Life & Life" directed by Ali Ghavitan.

The film follows a teacher who is concerned about the students who have not attended online

classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. She decides to visit them. She buckles her four-year-old daughter into the car and takes off for the students' houses. Her goal for this trip is to look in on the students, but she has another purpose. She tells her daughter about her own life, and the girl begins to understand the world as she meets other people.

Baikal International Film Festival of Documentary and Popular-Science Films "People and Environment" named after V. Rasputin has been taking place in Irkutsk since 1999 (annually since 2007). The festival was founded by The Union of Filmmakers of the Russian Federation and its Irkutsk regional branch and it's held with the support of The

Ministry of Culture.

The festival is designed as a platform that encourages to reflect on the complex relationship between people and nature and educates the younger generation. Therefore, along with competitive and thematic programs that attract different viewers, the focus is always on working with educational institutions - schools and universities.

It aims to raise environmental awareness through cinematography. As part of the festival, business events will be organized at which the most pressing environmental problems and the role of films and directors in solving them will be discussed.

## Iranian animators win at Italy's Religion Today Film Festival



From Page 1 ▶ On selecting the recipient of the Special Jury Mention, the jury said: "It goes to a film that merges the artistry of animation with the rawness of real-life experiences; a powerful documentary animation from Iran that explores the profound themes of migration and the search for a new homeland.

Through the poignant story of a soldier who decides to leave everything behind and

start again, this film offers a deeply moving portrayal of the courage it takes to rebuild one's life".

"Phoenix," produced by the Documentary, Experimental, and Animation Cinema Expansion Center, delves into the concept of migration and leaving one's homeland. It was crafted using the actual voices of Iranian migrants across the world.

It is an animated documentary, six minutes, based on real sounds. The story of the film is about a person who decides to immigrate, and different voices of immigrants collected in documentary form narrate the feelings and events of the hero of the film.

There were 64 films in competition, from 32 countries. The international jury was composed of leading professionals from the international film industry including producer and researcher Fateme Javhersaz from Iran.

Established in 1997 as the first Italian festival of spiritual cinema and inter-religious dialogue, the Religion Today Film Festival has come a long way, and today this appointment with religious cinema is well known and appreciated all over the world.

Religion Today is an international and itinerant film festival dedicated to religious diversity for a culture of peace and interfaith dialogue. It promotes a journey "exploring the differences", both in religious practices and beliefs and in cinematic styles and languages, towards a mutual enrichment through reciprocal knowledge and comparison.

Together with the world cinema competition, open to any film with a religious connection, it offers a platform for exchanging ideas and viewpoints, including a "living workshop" involving filmmakers of different faiths and nationalities.

## 500 international publishers demand Frankfurt

### Book Fair cut ties with Israel

Publishers for Palestine, a global solidarity collective of more than 500 publishers in 50 countries, has issued an open letter to the Frankfurt Book Fair, demanding that its organizers "denounce Israel's targeting of Gaza's writers, students, schools, universities, libraries, archives, and book publishers in its ongoing genocide."

Frankfurt Book Fair is the world's largest trade fair for books. The 76th edition of the fair will take place from October 16 to 20 and is expected to bring in over 200,000 visitors, Literary Hub reported.

In a press release, Publishers for Palestine outlined their four core demands: "To condemn Israel's regime of genocide in Gaza and affirm the human rights of the Palestinian people; to refuse collaboration with complicit Israeli book publishers, including their participation in the Frankfurt Book Fair; to denounce the attacks on Palestinian writers, journalists, and academics and acknowledge that such attacks are part of a genocidal project seeking to erase Palestinian life and culture;

and to create programming that prominently features Palestinian writers, publishers, and narratives".

The release goes on to highlight the cancelling of Palestinian novelist Adania Shibli's scheduled award ceremony last October, the Fair's pledge to actually increase Israeli programming, and the German state's crackdown on Palestine solidarity.

In October 2023, an award ceremony for Palestinian author Adania Shibli scheduled at the Frankfurt Book Fair was cancelled and indefinitely delayed, and the Fair announced that it stood "with complete solidarity on the side of Israel."

Almost one year later, and many months after the International Court of Justice's ruling of a plausible genocide and the UN's report of Israel's scholasticism in Gaza, the Frankfurt Book Fair has only continued welcoming Israel; the Fair's 2023 pledge to increase Israeli programming remains in place for the 2024 event, a position inconsistent with its 2022 ban of Russia because of its assault on Ukraine. The Fair's direct ties to

Israel and its entanglement with the German state, which explicitly supports Israel, has been well documented.

"Book workers have a special role to play as purveyors of the written word because the work we do cements and legitimizes ideas and politics; as an influential cultural institution, the Frankfurt Book Fair has an opportunity and responsibility to leverage its power in this cultural sphere to pressure Israel to end its genocide of Palestinians," a member of the coalition said.

That the world's largest book fair has pledged to maintain, and even deepen, its already substantial ties to the Israeli cultural sector, at a time when Israel has decimated Gaza's culture infrastructure—killing writers, bombing libraries and publishing houses, and burning books—should be of real concern to all of this year's participants and visitors.

The coalition was formed last November. The members in Publishers for Palestine hail from 50 countries, including Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, India,

Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Nigeria, the Philippines, Spain, Tanzania, Turkey, and Wales, among others. The U.S.-based member presses, which include several regular exhibitors at Frankfurt, are Haymarket Books, Interlink Publishing, Microcosm Publishing, OR Books, Other Press, Seven Stories Press, Sublunary Editions, and Verso Books.

Since October 7, 2023, over 41,500 Palestinians, about half of them women and children, have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war.

A million children are among the 1.9 million Palestinians who have been displaced from their homes and communities since last year, and at least 19,000 children became orphans or otherwise ended up without a caregiver. Israeli government restrictions on humanitarian aid have deprived people of access to essential resources, like food, water, and medical care, resulting in a sharp rise in the number of people, especially children, suffering from acute malnutrition.