

Iran targets Israel with approximately 200 ballistic missiles in Operation 'True Promise II'

We're Ready

IRGC: crushing response will ensue should Israel dare commit further acts of malevolence

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) rained tens of of missiles at Israeli positions in the occupied territories on Tuesday, responding to a series of terrorist attacks by the regime that killed Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah chief Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC commander Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan.

The IRGC issued two statements within a few hours, the first acknowledging reports of missile strikes against the Israeli regime and the second announcing that three military bases near Tel Aviv had been targeted.

This is the second time Iran has launched missiles at the occupied territories from its soil. During Operation True Promise in mid-April, Tehran hit a number of military targets after the regime struck Iran's embassy in Damascus. Its Tuesday attack has been dubbed Operation True Promise II.

During its first attack against Israel, the IRGC used about 300 of its older technology drones and a handful of ballistic missiles. Reports show the second operation featured a higher level of technological sophistication and deployed a wider array of weapons. Iran deployed hypersonic missiles for the first time since it announced it has them, according to IRIB news as well as statements from the Israeli military.

=====90% of missiles hit targets

"Despite the targeted region receiving protection from a number of highly sophisticated defense systems, about 90% of our fired missiles successfully hit their targets, rendering the Zionists horrified of Iran's intelligence and operational capabilities," IRGC stated.

Videos Israeli settlers shared online show several missiles landing inside the occupied territories. Israeli officials proceeded to ban the distribution of footage capturing the aftermath of the attacks shortly after Iran's operation ended. ▶ Page 3

Leader's representative visits Tabas following deadly coal mine explosion

TEHRAN- Ahmad Marvi, acting on behalf of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, visited Tabas to assess the current situation following the recent mining disaster and to offer condolences and support to the victims' families.

The Leader's representative reiterated his sympathies to the local officials, stating, "I have been entrusted with delivering the profound sorrow and grief of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution to the families mourning the loss in the Tabas mine."

During the visit, Marvi outlined his purpose to check on the well-being of the families affected by the tragedy, remarking, "From the outset of this unfortunate incident, the Leader has expressed his condolences and deep sorrow and provided various recommendations to officials across different sectors."

"However, recognizing that this was insufficient for the grieving families, he directed me to come to the area on his behalf to once again extend his condolences," Marvi emphasized.

On September 21, a methane gas leak in Blocks B and C of the Tabas coal mine led to an explosion and the subsequent collapse of the mine's lower tunnels, tragically resulting in the deaths of 51 courageous minors.

Iran urges UNGA to prioritize Palestine and Lebanon crises

TEHRAN- The Iranian deputy head of the Foreign Ministry for Legal and International Affairs calls for a UN General Assembly session to address Israel's activities in Lebanon and Palestine.

Kazem Gharib Abadi highlighted the significant role played by the Iranian delegation in drawing the international community's attention to these actions.

Gharib Abadi noted that representatives from the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the president and the foreign minister, engaged in speeches, meetings, and consultations to address the crimes committed by the Zionist regime.

"They underscored the urgent need for the international community to respond to these issues, criticized the inaction of the UN Security Council, and called for immediate measures to halt the regime's aggressions, which is a major threat to both regional and global peace and security," he stated. ▶ Page 2

Hezbollah and Iran: a shared political vision

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – What are the points of convergence and divergence between the political ideologies of Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Islamic Revolution of Iran?

This article argues that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hezbollah share numerous intellectual and ideological similarities. The key difference between the two lies in the establishment of an Islamic government. Due to Lebanon's unique conditions—marked by its cultural and religious diversity—Hezbollah's leadership has been unable to effectively pursue the creation of an Islamic regime.

Hezbollah, as Iran's main ally, is the only long-standing Shia Islamist group in the region and the only Shia movement in the Middle East where the theories of the Islamic Revolution have been practically implemented.

One of the most influential Islamist movements to emerge in the Arab world in the 1980s was Hezbollah in Lebanon. The group arose in the early part of the decade, inspired by the political Islam of Imam Khomeini. During Lebanon's civil war, the Shia community lost faith in leftist parties and Arab nationalist movements, seeking an ideology that could offer them stability, peace, and security. The principles, ideals, and teachings of the Islamic Revolution met the aspirations of these marginalized and war-weary Shia. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Delusions of a devil

In an analysis, Sobh-e-No wrote about the plan designed by the Zionist regime: "The new order" is a new code for Israel's crimes and is the continuation of the "greater Middle East" plan, which had already failed. The only reason for its failure is the presence of resistance in the region. One of the main goals of this plan is to divide the countries of the Middle East into smaller and weaker ones to eliminate the possibility of resisting the influence of Israel and the United States. One of the other components of such plans is changing strategic and economic routes in the region. These efforts are seen as related to regional trade and energy projects and their goal is to isolate Iran economically and politically. However, these measures have not made a significant success. Due to its geopolitical position and historical role in global trade routes, Iran is a regional power and despite international sanctions and pressures, it has been able to maintain its economic and political relations with global powers such as China and Russia.

Hamshahri: Miscalculation about Iran's decisive response

In a note, Hamshahri addressed Iran's strategic policy after the martyrdom of Hassan Nasrallah and said: Following the assassination of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah by the Zionist regime, the fear of Western-Hebrew axis from Iran's response and the resistance front is increasing. Internal unity in Iran centered on a "decisive response" also heralds the difficult days ahead of Tel Aviv. After these crimes, a new wave of propaganda about Iran's reaction to this terrorist act began. At the top of them, the anti-revolution media try to convey the idea that in the current situation, Iran is not prepared to respond to the assassination of Nasrallah and its hands are empty. The claim that Iran's hand is empty to respond to the assassination of the Secretary General of Hezbollah is not even acceptable to the Zionist and Western authorities, because in his recent speech at the United Nations General Assembly, Netanyahu emphasized that his regime is at war in seven fronts. The confession shows Tel Aviv's plight and the strategic deadlock created for the regime by the resistance front with the centrality of Iran.

Jam-e-Jam: Consequences of Iran's stance for Israel

In an article, Jam-e-Jam discussed Iran's position against Israel. It quoted Alikhani, an international relations expert, as saying: For a long

time, Netanyahu has been working hard to involve Iran and America in a direct clash. According to the Zionist regime, this conflict with Hezbollah may bring the Islamic Republic into the war. Iran's entry into the war does not mean Iran's war with the Zionist regime alone. America will also enter. From Netanyahu's point of view, this is a golden opportunity to create a direct conflict between Iran and the United States and, in general, Iran and the West. So far, Iran has adopted a smart approach and position and has not been caught in Netanyahu's trap. Even when Iran implemented the True Promise Operation, its form was in such a way that it minimized the negative consequences of Iran's response. The approach and positions of Pezeshkian in the UN General Assembly were to highlight several points related to this war. Pezeshkian questioned the attack on civilians and the clear violation of the international obligations by Israel. If Iran's diplomatic approach continues, it can help increase international pressure on the Zionist regime and Netanyahu.

Shargh: War of attrition and full-scale war

Shargh devoted its editorial to Israel's goals in the region, especially Iran, and said: The developments in the Middle East have entered a new and more challenging phase in the past two weeks.

Three days after Hamas attacked Israel, Netanyahu spoke about "changing the map of the Middle East" and called the operation that led to the martyrdom of Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, "Operation New Order". Israel wants to turn this plan into an opportunity to fight with resistance groups and confront Iran. Israel's apparent goal is to use the October 7 attack as an opportunity to put an end to the war of attrition managed by the resistance groups in its peripheral areas.

This strategy can be followed with the support of Europe and America, the silence of China and Russia, and the indifference of Islamic and Arab countries. But Iran's policy of avoiding full-scale war has been correct. In case of a serious confrontation between Iran and Israel, America will not hesitate to enter the war, especially given the election atmosphere in the country.

During the last few days, some people inside Iran have recommended developing nuclear weapons as a bulwark to avoid a full-scale war and a reaction to weaken the peripheral regional powers. But such advice is a catalyst for a huge threat to Iran's security.

training, and improving overall combat and operational readiness.

As public relations of Iran's army say, this exercise aims to bolster combat readiness and cooperation between the two nations' forces, as outlined in their bilateral agreements on maritime security. The drill features a range of military assets, including helicopters, destroyers, and drones, working together to enhance interoperability and showcase the combined strength of the Iranian and Omani forces.

The exercise is set to continue through Tuesday, October 1.

Iran, Oman conduct first joint ground military exercise

TEHRAN- The inaugural joint ground exercise involving the armies of Iran and Oman has started.

As reported by ISNA, the "Mountain Falcons-1" military exercise commenced on Tuesday in Oman's Jebel Akhdar province, featuring the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran alongside those of the Kingdom of Oman.

This collaborative effort includes participation from the ground forces of both nations, supported by the Royal Air Force and the Royal Police of Oman.

The primary objectives are facilitating experience sharing, conducting joint combat

Pezeshkian congratulates Xi Jinping on 75th founding anniversary

TEHRAN- Iran's president extended his congratulations to Xi Jinping on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China through a formal message.

As reported by Iran's presidential office, Masoud Pezeshkian conveyed to Xi Jinping, the president of the People's Republic of China, that the two nations, grounded in shared cultural values such as mutual respect, equality, and benevolence, have embarked on a new phase of comprehensive strategic relations aimed at enhancing collaboration across various sectors.

Pezeshkian highlighted that the enduring friendship between the two countries has withstood the test of time, evolving into profound, sustainable, and strategic ties, and expressed his eagerness to work together to further develop the comprehensive

relationship between Iran and China.

On October 1, 2024, China commemorated the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC), a pivotal moment in the country's history.

The PRC was founded on October 1, 1949, following the Chinese Communist Party's triumph in the Chinese Civil War, which transformed the nation from a republic into a communist state under Mao's leadership.

This momentous anniversary was celebrated with various events and activities throughout China, allowing the nation to reflect on its historical journey while looking ahead to prospects.

During the celebrations, officials reiterated their dedication to advancing China's distinctive development path and fostering harmony and collaboration with other countries.

Six killed in separate terrorist attacks in southeast Iran

TEHRAN – In a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province, six individuals, including a local commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), were killed.

The attacks occurred near the volatile border region shared with Pakistan, an area often plagued by violence from terrorist groups and drug smugglers.

Mojib Hassani, the governor of Nikshahr County, reported that on Tuesday morning, four individuals were gunned down by armed terrorists in the Bent district as they were returning from a charity event held at a local school.

Among the victims were Abdollah Kadkhodaei, the IRGC commander of the Bent district, Yousef Shirani, head of the Bent Municipal



Council, and two conscripts, Javad Sadati and Mojib Baluchi.

In a separate incident, two police officers were killed in Khash County when terrorists ambushed their vehicle, riddling it with bullets as they traveled along a rural road.

In response to these attacks, Iran's Minister of Interior, Eskandar Momeni, instructed the Security Deputy, Brigadier General Pourjamshidian, and the Governor of Sistan and Baluchestan, Mohammad Karimi, to launch an immediate investigation. They were also ordered to take decisive

action against those responsible. The Interior Ministry emphasized the importance of identifying the perpetrators and bringing them to justice as swiftly as possible.

The region, which shares a porous border with Pakistan and Afghanistan, has long been a hotspot for clashes between Iranian security forces and foreign-backed terrorist groups, particularly Takfiri militants. Over the years, the IRGC and local police forces have been successful in repelling most cross-border attacks.

The Jaish al-Adl terrorist group, which operates from bases inside Pakistan, has claimed responsibility for several violent assaults targeting both civilians and Iranian security forces in recent years, contributing to ongoing instability in the province.

Iran urges UNGA to prioritize Palestine and Lebanon crises



From page 1 ▶ Additionally, Gharib Abadi mentioned that the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran has conducted numerous bilateral meetings with leaders from various countries, delivered speeches at the upcoming summit and the UN General Assembly, and engaged with media, research institutions, and American intellectuals.

"Discussions regarding the Palestinian issue were held in detail with both American and Arab media," he added.

Gharib Abadi asserted that the Iranian foreign minister and other delegation members prioritized the issues of Palestine and Lebanon in their discussions.

The Iranian diplomat remarked that due to the hostile actions of the Zionist regime in Lebanon, which led to the death of the Hezbollah secretary general, IRGC Qods Force senior commander, Major General Nilforushan, along with several civilians, Iran will promptly call for a meeting with the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the secretary general of the United Nations, and the president of the

UN General Assembly.

He emphasized the importance of reminding these leaders of their responsibilities during this critical time issued necessary warnings and called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the highest level.

In conclusion, Gharib Abadi criticized the UN Security Council's failure to act against the crimes of the Zionist regime in Palestine and Lebanon, despite widespread protests from numerous countries within the United Nations.

"This inaction allows the Zionist perpetrators to continue their offenses without accountability, resulting in more innocent victims," he concluded.

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This article argues that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hezbollah share numerous intellectual and ideological similarities. The key difference between the two lies in the establishment of an Islamic government. Due to Lebanon's unique conditions—marked by its cultural and religious diversity—Hezbollah's leadership has been unable to effectively pursue the creation of an Islamic regime.

Hezbollah, as Iran's main ally, is the only long-standing Shia Islamist group in the region and the only Shia movement in the Middle East where the theories of the Islamic Revolution have been practically implemented.

One of the most influential Islamist movements to emerge in the Arab world in the 1980s was Hezbollah in Lebanon. The group arose in the early part of the decade, inspired by the political Islam of Imam Khomeini. During Lebanon's civil war, the Shia community lost faith in leftist parties and Arab nationalist movements, seeking an ideology that could offer them stability, peace, and security. The principles, ideals, and teachings of the Islamic Revolution met the aspirations of these marginalized and war-weary Shia.

In this context, it was natural for the Shia, especially Hezbollah, to embrace the peace and stability promoted by the Islamic Revolution, along with the system of the Islamic Republic and the guidance of Imam Khomeini.

During the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Lebanon was embroiled in civil war. Despite this, Iran maintained relations with Lebanon, focused on defending peace, stability, and supporting the country's territorial integrity against the Zionist regime. The historical ties between clerics from both countries, Lebanon's proximity to Israel, the influx of Palestinian refugees, and

ongoing Israeli military aggression reinforced Hezbollah's importance as a Shia Resistance movement aligned with the policies and goals of the Islamic Revolution in the region.

Hezbollah in Lebanon

In the early 1960s, the influence of Western culture, particularly French, along with the rise of secular discourse and a disregard for Islamic norms, led to deep material and spiritual deprivation among the Shia community in Lebanon at that time. This situation prompted several Lebanese Shia clerics to return after years of studying in Najaf, dedicating themselves to promoting Islamic culture based on Twelver Shia beliefs in local mosques.

Over time, attention centered on three prominent clerics: Imam Musa al-Sadr, Ayatollah Sheikh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, and Ayatollah Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah. Each had unique qualities and employed scientific and practical methods tailored to the cultural concerns of Lebanese society. The presence of these religious and spiritual leaders in Lebanon played a crucial role in shaping and forming Islamic Resistance.

Before the Islamic Revolution in Iran, intellectual convergence between Lebanese and Iranian Shia clerics already existed. However, the revolution demonstrated this convergence on a practical level. The growing influence of Shia clerics in Lebanon is one reason the Lebanese Shia community embraced the Islamic Revolution. After the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr, who had significantly transformed the Shia community through his speeches, other figures such as Sheikh Raghieb Harb and Sayyid Abbas Musawi, inspired by the Islamic Revolution and Imam Khomeini, began organizing their activities, thus forming the initial core of Hezbollah.

When considering the poverty and deprivation faced by Lebanon's Shia community, along with its religious leadership and propaganda, as two of the most relevant internal factors in

Hezbollah's creation, the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, led by Imam Khomeini, must also be acknowledged as a key external factor. However, it is important not to overlook the Zionist regime's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, the occupation of southern Lebanon, the displacement of thousands of Shia, and the massacres and crimes committed by Israeli soldiers against Lebanese Shia, all of which were fundamental in facilitating Hezbollah's emergence.

In summary, the following factors should be considered essential in the formation of Hezbollah in Lebanon:

1. The influence of the Islamic Revolution's teachings in Lebanon, particularly within the Shia community.
2. The deprivation and lack of social justice in Muslim society, coupled with the inefficiency of the existing governmental structure.
3. Civil wars and the collapse of the social democratic system, along with the disregard for the political and cultural rights of the Shia.
4. The increased aggression by the Zionist regime in the south, aimed at weakening the Muslim position.
5. Regional developments, such as peace negotiations between Arabs and Israel and the broad intervention of foreign countries in Lebanon's affairs.

Hezbollah's growing importance in Lebanon

Various factors have contributed to Hezbollah's significance in Lebanon. Rooted in Shia Islamic beliefs and shaped by the teachings of Iran's Islamic Revolution and Imam Khomeini, Hezbollah has successfully mobilized the population to confront Israel. This movement, anchored in ideological principles and Islamic practice, views the fight against occupiers as a duty, making resistance against Israel the core of its activities.

When comparing Hezbollah's political ideology in Lebanon to that of the Islamic Revolution in

Iran, several key aspects of their respective political visions stand out. Below are five fundamental points of convergence:

1. Stance on the Axis of Resistance: Both strongly defend the Axis of Resistance, emphasizing the fight against external aggression, particularly from Israel.
2. Promotion of Islamic Symbolism: There is a shared focus on the culture of Resistance, jihad, and martyrdom operations.
3. Perspective on Palestine and Israel: Both Hezbollah and the Islamic Republic are deeply committed to the Palestinian cause, rejecting Israeli occupation.
4. Anti-Western Position: They share a common rejection of Western political narratives, advocating alternatives aligned with their ideologies.
5. Vision of Islamic Unity: Both emphasize the importance of cohesive resistance against external threats, grounded in Islamic unity.

Shia political Islam emerged as a central ideology during the Islamic Revolution and in Hezbollah's formation, serving as a beacon for revolutionaries. By embracing this vision and mobilizing people against oppressive regimes, they not only overcame adversity but also became a source of collective pride and inspiration.

The revolutionaries' primary goals revolve around establishing a just governance model, promoting Islamic unity in opposition to the West, and revitalizing Islamic identity. In this context, both the Iranian revolution and Hezbollah's anti-hegemonic struggle have been viewed as threats to the interests of global powers and the world order, challenging a centuries-old narrative considered obsolete.

Thus, the core of both the Islamic Republic's and Hezbollah's discourse is centered on an "Islamic, revolutionary, and anti-Western identity." From this foundation, the entire political and ideological convergence between Hezbollah and the Islamic Republic can be understood.

From Page 1 ▶ Videos Israeli settlers shared online show several missiles landing inside the occupied territories. Israeli officials proceeded to ban the distribution of footage capturing the aftermath of the attacks shortly after Iran's operation ended.

Reactions

In a post on X, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran had practiced its "legitimate right" and responded to Israel's aggression in line with international law. "Netanyahu must know that Iran is not looking to enter wars, but it firmly stands against any threats. This was only a small part of our capabilities. Do not quarrel with Iran."

Iran's mission to the UN made similar remarks, adding that a "subsequent and crushing response will ensue" if Israel commits more acts of violence.

Iranian citizens took to the streets across the country to celebrate the operation. In Tehran's Palestine square, people chanted "Thank you", showing appreciation to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution as well as military officials of the country. This joy could be felt across the Muslim world, with citizens in Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Syria,



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and Gaza also chanting slogans and thanking Iran.

Resistance groups including Hamas, Ansarullah, Hezbollah, and Iraq's popular forces all issued statements praising Iran for the successful execution of Operation True Promise II.

In Israel, reports show that high-ranking officials including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu entered underground shelters minutes after the attacks began. The Israeli

military's spokesperson said the U.S. helped down the Iranian weapons, not commenting on how many of the projectiles they managed to intercept. Last time Iran struck, Tel Aviv and Washington were quick to claim that "90%" of the Iranian missiles and drones had been downed.

Following the missile strikes, U.S. President Joe Biden abruptly changed his schedule and joined his vice president in the Situation Room to assess the circumstances. White

House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan later said in a press conference that Washington had joined Israeli air defense units in firing at Iranian missiles. He claimed Iran's attack "appears to have been defeated".

Sullivan added that Washington is in discussions with Israel regarding its possible response, but the regime announced after Operation True Promise that it will soon begin heavy attack across West Asia.

Iran affirms right to self-defense in face of Israeli aggression

TEHRAN - The Iranian Foreign Ministry released a statement late on Tuesday night concerning the defensive measures taken by its armed forces against the Zionist regime of Israel.

On Tuesday, October 1, during Operation True Promise II, Iran's armed forces launched over 200 ballistic missiles at the occupied Palestinian territories in retaliation to the assassinations of Iranian military commanders and the secretary-general of Hezbollah.

"In accordance with the right to self-defense as outlined in Article 51 of the United Nations

Charter, the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have responded to the aggressive actions of the Zionist regime," said the statement from the Foreign Ministry.

The statement noted that these actions include violations of Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the assassination of the head of the political office of Hamas in Tehran, who was an official guest of Iran, alongside the martyrdom of the secretary-general of Hezbollah of Lebanon and General Nilfroushan, a senior Iranian military advisor in Beirut.

"In retaliation, a series of missiles were fired at military and security installations of the Zionist regime on the evening of Tuesday, October 1," the statement added.

The Foreign Ministry further stated that the Islamic Republic is fully prepared to undertake additional defensive measures, if necessary, to safeguard its legitimate interests and uphold its territorial integrity and sovereignty against any acts of military aggression or unlawful use of force, leaving no room for doubt in its commitment.

An angel, but the death one

BiBi says Israel stands with Iranian people after slaughtering 41,000 in Gaza

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN - The three-minute video Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu published on Monday has gone viral on Iranian social media, with people both inside and outside the country reacting to the Israeli leader's remarks on the alleged "friendship" between Iran and Israel and the accusations he levels against the government in Tehran.

Netanyahu aims directly at the Iranian people. Throughout the video, he maintains a confident demeanor and seems to be riding a wave of euphoria after the success of his latest terrorist attacks in the region, one of which killed Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah.

"I speak a lot about the leaders of Iran," Netanyahu says. "Yet at this moment I want to address you - the people of Iran."

The comments Netanyahu makes in his following remarks, have elicited a range of reactions with some expressing outrage, others indifference, and to a smaller extent comfort. The group welcoming his comments were mostly Iranian monarchists living outside the country, particularly in the United States.

"When we succeed in toppling the Islamic Republic, we are going to name a major road after BiBi," said an Iranian monarchist on X, her profile picture showing her next to the deposed Shah's son, who

makes regular visits to the occupied territories to meet Israeli officials. The runaway ex-crown prince also holds meetings with separatist and well-known terror groups.

For many Iranians, both inside Iran and those among the diaspora, Netanyahu's video contained no surprises. Netanyahu's latest message to the Iranian people continues a pattern of appeals he's made throughout his long career as prime minister. He argues that Iranians should reject the rule of "fanatical theocrats" who he says are crushing their hopes and dreams, stating that they "deserve better" and that Israel stands with the Iranian people.

"Seriously, BiBi? You wipe out 16,000 kids in Gaza, set the whole place on fire, and then act like you're all concerned about the well-being of Iranians? Aren't you the one constantly threatening to strike our infrastructure? Do you think we're born yesterday?" an Iranian citizen residing in Tehran commented under the PM's post on X.

Some reacted to parts of the video where Netanyahu asserted that the Iranian government disregards its people and prioritizes military spending over their well-being. This comes just days after he claimed that the "long arm of Israel" can reach anywhere in West Asia.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israeli psychological war will not yield victory over Resistance: top security official

TEHRAN - In a statement made during a visit to Hezbollah's office in Tehran on Tuesday, Ali Akbar Ahmadian, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), emphasized that Israel's psychological warfare would not help it achieve victory over the Resistance Front.

His remarks came during a meeting with Abdullah Safi al-Din, Hezbollah's representative in Tehran, where he offered condolences following the martyrdom of Hezbollah's Secretary General, Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah.

Ahmadian asserted that Israel's assassination of Nasrallah would only strengthen the Resistance's determination to confront the Zionist regime. He declared that Hezbollah would enter a new chapter of Resistance, with increased resolve to fight the Israeli occupation. "As we defended Hezbollah under the leadership of Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah,

we will continue to defend it moving forward," Ahmadian assured.

Speaking to reporters, Ahmadian condemned the Israeli airstrike that killed Nasrallah, describing it as part of an escalating Israeli campaign against Hezbollah. He noted that despite Israeli aggression, including a limited ground offensive in Lebanon on Monday night, Israel was forced to retreat soon after.

"God willing, in the end, victory will belong to the Resistance," he added, expressing optimism about Hezbollah's future.

Ahmadian also reflected on the broader confrontation between the Resistance Front and Israel. He dismissed Israel's attempts to claim success through psychological operations, stating that these efforts are part of the regime's desperate reaction to the resistance's actions.

Nasrallah was martyred on Friday when Israeli forces bombed a suburb of Beirut using U.S.-supplied weapons, further intensifying hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah.

The attack is part of a broader Israeli military campaign against Lebanon that began in October 2023, coinciding with its war on the Gaza Strip. Since the start of these hostilities, hundreds of Lebanese civilians have been killed, and Hezbollah has responded with retaliatory operations, including a hypersonic missile strike on Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.

The Lebanese Resistance movement has vowed to continue its operations as long as Israel's Gaza offensive persists. So far, over 41,600 Palestinians—mostly women and children—have been killed in the Israeli onslaught.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian VP in Armenia to attend Eurasian Economic Forum

TEHRAN - Iran's First Vice President, Mohammad Reza Aref, has arrived in Armenia to participate in the third edition of the Eurasian Economic Forum, as well as a meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council.

Aref is leading a high-level delegation to Yerevan, following an official invitation from Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. Armenia currently holds the rotating presidency of the Eurasian Economic

Union (EAEU).

The forum, which takes place on September 30 and October 1, marks a significant milestone as it coincides with the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union. The event brings together the heads of state and government from EAEU member countries and observers, with a focus on fostering economic cooperation and regional development.

During the forum, Aref is expected to deliver a keynote address, where he will outline Iran's perspectives on regional economic integration and cooperation.

The Iranian vice president will also hold bilateral meetings with several foreign leaders, including prime ministers from EAEU member nations, to discuss enhancing economic and political ties.

The central theme of this year's forum is "10 Years of the EAEU: Prospects and Priorities," according to Kazinform News Agency. Discussions are set to cover a wide array of topics, including technological and economic cooperation among EAEU countries, digital transformation, the development of transport infrastructure, the quality of domestic markets, and entrepreneurship support.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Iranian girls win two golds in World Taekwondo Junior Championships

TEHRAN - There was double joy for Iran on the first day of the World Taekwondo Junior Championships in Chuncheon, Korea as Parmian Noori and Aynaz Nasiri won two gold medals.

Noori overcame China's Yinuo Xu in an intriguing women's -52kg final to become the first junior world champion crowned in Chuncheon, and her feat was later matched by her compatriot Nasiri, who staved off the challenge of Kazakhstan's Nuray Kaznabek in the women's -59kg.

Bronze medals went to Sila Irmak Uzunçavdar of Türkiye and Spain's Noa Romero Fernandez in the -52kg weight category, and Ella Brewster of Canada and Croatia's Marija Uglešić in the -59kg.

Iran has sent 16 boy and girl taekwondo athletes to the Championships in Chuncheon, to be held from Oct. 1 to 6.

There are 963 of the world's most talented young athletes set to compete across 10 weight categories in both the men's and women's divisions.

Persepolis held by Pakhtakor in AFC Champions League Elite

TEHRAN - Pakhtakor football team came from behind to force a 1-1 draw with Persepolis in their AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25 tie on Monday.

Pakhtakor's Dragan Ceran cancelled out Ali Alipour's first minute opener as the side from Uzbekistan took a well deserved point from their rivals from Iran.

Both sides were eager to bounce after having suffered defeats in their respective openers but it was Persepolis who got off to a flying start, taking the lead inside the opening minute.

Vahid Amiri flicked Farshad Ahmadzadeh's corner into the path of the unmarked Ali Alipour who rifled home the ball past a stunned Pakhtakor keeper Vladimir Nazarov and into the roof of the net.

In the 59th minute after Sabirkhodjaev's dummy run from the edge of the box opened up space for Ceran to tuck home a curling equaliser. Persepolis never regained the rhythm that had seen them taking the lead as Pakhtakor continued to look more dangerous with Pulatkhuza Kholdorkhonov almost outmuscling Alexis in the 77th minute before Umar Adhamzoda's dangerous ball across the face of goal was cleared away by Ayoub El Amloud.

Pakhtakor travel to face Iraq's Al Shorta next on October 21 while Persepolis are away to Qatar's Al Sadd SC.

Nekounam rues Esteghlal players' costly errors

TEHRAN - Esteghlal head coach Javad Nekounam said his team paid the price for making errors as the Iranian side failed to build on its opening day win against Al Gharafa.

Esteghlal lost to Al Sadd 2-0 in Doha's Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium.

"They scored the first goal due to a mistake by our goalkeeper. In the second half, we tried to reduce the difference, but we paid for individual mistakes," said Nekounam.

"We knew it would be a difficult match because we faced a very tough opponent.

Al Saad performed well but on the other hand, we made many mistakes that led to this result," he added.

Next up for Esteghlal are Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr at Tehran's Azadi Stadium on October 22.

Iranians nominated for 2023 AFC Annual Awards

TEHRAN - The highly anticipated and star-studded cast of nominees for the AFC Annual Awards Seoul 2023 was announced today, with just under a month left to the gala ceremony.

Asia's finest, headlined by the coveted AFC Player of the Year and AFC Women's Player of the Year accolades, will be crowned on October 29 when the 28th edition of the AFC Annual Awards take place at the stunning Grand Peace Palace of the Kyung Hee University.

A world-class cast is in the running for the prestigious Player of the Year awards - Yazan Al Naimat, Seol Young-woo and Akram Afif will vie for the AFC Player of the Year, while Cortnee Vine, Kiko Seike and Kim Hye-ri are up for the AFC Women's Player of the Year.

Iran football has three nominees in the list. The football federation has been nominated for AFC Member Association of the Year (Platinum). Japan Football Association and Korea Football Association are among the nominees.

Mehdi Taremi will vie with Mousa Al Tamari (Montpellier HSC and Jordan) and Son Heung-min (Tottenham Hotspur and Korea) for AFC Asian International Player of the Year.

Saeid Ahmad Abbasi as well as Tajikistan's Fayzali Sardorov and Dilshod Rakhmatov of Uzbekistan will compete for AFC Futsal Player of the Year accolade.

Tractor, Mohun Bagan match cancelled

TEHRAN - The match between Iran's Tractor and Indian side Mohun Bagan was canceled after the latter didn't travel to Tabriz due to security concerns.

The match was scheduled for Wednesday in Group A match of 2024/25 AFC Champions League Two.

Mohun Bagan SG management has requested the Asian Football Confederation to "reschedule" the match.

A letter — signed by 35 Bagan players and in which their concerns of travelling to Iran have been expressed — has been attached with an e-mail.

Mohun Bagan's refusal to play the ACL Two match, however, may invite sanctions from the AFC, which is yet to make any comment on the issue.

In the e-mail, the city club has requested the AFC to "reschedule" the match, saying the team is even willing to play in Iran later on, when situation in the country will improve. The team is also eager for playing the match at an "alternative" venue in a later date.

Jose Molina's team will resume training on Tuesday for the ISL match against Mohammedan Sporting four days later.

Esteghlal to hire a foreign coach

TEHRAN - Javad Nekounam stepped down from his role as Esteghlal football team head coach.

He resigned from his post following a 2-0 loss against Al Sadd in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite.

Nekounam had stepped down from his role after losing to Persepolis in Tehran derby last week but the board of directors disagreed with the decision.

Esteghlal showed a poor performance in Doha and Nekounam said he would not continue as the team's head coach.

Esteghlal football club are going to hire a foreign coach.

Iran, EAEU take new steps to expand trade relations



TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak and Andrey Slepnev, the minister in charge of trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), have discussed ways of expanding economic cooperation in a meeting on the sidelines of the Eurasian Business Forum in Armenia.

In this meeting, the Iranian side emphasized the need for establishing an insurance company under the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) to provide the necessary guarantees regarding Iran's technical and engineering exports to the region, IRIB reported.

The two sides also discussed the increase in trade between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union and the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Another focal point of the negotiations was the unification of the standards of the member countries of the EAEU with Iran to facilitate exports to the union.

In this meeting, the Iranian Industry Minister invited Slepnev to visit the third round of the Eurasia Exhibition in Iran.

The 3rd Eurasian International Exhibition in Iran is scheduled to be held at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds from December 3 to 6.

The periodic economic forum of the Eurasian Union was held on September 30 and October 1 in Yerevan, Armenia, and Iran was the special guest of this meeting.

The value of Iran's exports to the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) increased by 16 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21) as compared to the same period last year, according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Iran 99% self-sufficient in manufacturing gas transmission equipment

TEHRAN – The head of National Iranian Gas Transmission Company (NIGTC) has said that 99 percent of the country's gas transmission equipment and facilities are domestically-made, noting that the country's gas industry is on the verge of complete self-sufficiency.

Gholam-Abbas Hosseini put the area of the country's high-pressure gas network at 40,000 kilometers and stressed the significant role of the NIGTC employees in maintaining and development the mentioned network.

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnasser Hemmati and Russia's Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov have called for strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

Hemmati met and held talks with Reshetnikov on the sideline of the talks between high-ranking delegations of Iran and Russia on Monday evening, IRNA reported.

Referring to the increasing trade between Iran and the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, Reshetnikov expressed hope that this process will accelerate further.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed customs issues, Russian investments in the oil industry, the progress of the Rasht-Astara railway, the North-South Corridor, truckers' insurance, trade currency settlement, strengthening the Eurasian Economic Union, and other economic issues between the two countries.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that an agreement to transform Iran into a re-



Iran's Economy Minister Abdolnasser Hemmati (L) and Russia's Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov

gional transit and gas hub is a prime example of cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

"We believe that if important joint projects between Iran and Russia are implemented, they will create significant capacities for both countries to counter cruel sanctions," Pezeshkian said during a meeting with visiting Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

The president underscored that the Iran-Russia partnership not only serves the interests of both nations

but will also promote sustainable development, economic growth and integration in the region.

Pezeshkian called for efforts from both sides to ensure the successful execution of the joint projects.

He pointed out that regional cooperation through international organizations like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) strengthens independent countries, including Iran, Russia, and China, in their efforts to resist US unilateralism.

OIC members discussing establishment of joint monetary channel among Islamic nations

TEHRAN – Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin said the negotiations have begun for establishing a joint monetary channel among Islamic countries, Mehr News Agency reported.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the sixth meeting of the governors of the central banks of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member countries in Istanbul on Monday, Farzin said: "Using new methods to facilitate money transfer for tourists and businessmen, creating a common financial channel among Islamic countries, and using



national currencies in commercial transactions were the main focus of negotiations in this summit."

Farzin also met Governor of the

Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey Fatih Karahan before the sixth meeting of the governors of the central banks of the Organization of

Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member countries in Istanbul on Monday.

As reported, the two sides 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.

Iran opens trade center in Yerevan

TEHRAN – Iran officially launched its trade center in Armenia's capital Yerevan on Monday, IRNA reported.

The opening ceremony of the center was attended by Iran's Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Mohammad Atabak, Armenia's Economy Minister Gevorg Papoyan, the country's Deputy Economy Minister Narek Hovakimyan, Trade Attaché of the Republic of Armenia in Iran Vardan Kostanyan, members of the Armenia-Iran Friendship Group, businessmen, heads of industrial centers and other officials from Iran and Armenia.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Atabak said the priority of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to develop trade relations with its neighbors, especially Armenia, adding: "The opening of this center is an important event that can lead to economic development for the two countries."

"The interaction platform established here today is a valuable place for economic enterprises that can provide them with a clear horizon for cooperation," he said.

According to the official, good political and economic relations with Armenia allow the Islamic Republic to see Armenia as Iran's gateway to Eurasia.

Armenian economy minister also said that opening the Iranian trade center in Yerevan is an important step in developing economic and trade relations between the two countries.

"Armenia highly values the cooperation with Iran and the economic presence in Armenia, the opening of this center is another important step in developing economic and trade relations between friendly countries," Papoyan said.

More than 100 Iranian companies are represented in an area of about 18,000 square meters, where consumers and businessmen can buy Iranian goods directly from the manufacturer.

The center includes 107 exhibition booths of various sizes, a conference room for business (B2B) meetings, and an open space for holding events and festivals. The opening of the trade center will greatly contribute to increasing the level of trade between Armenia and Iran and strengthening Armenian-Iranian business ties.

Iran seriously pursues implementing trade agreements with Armenia

Iranian industry minister, who visited Armenia to attend an Iran-EAEU business forum, also met with Iranian traders and business operators active in Armenia on Monday.

In this meeting, Atabak stressed Iran's serious

determination to develop and implement trade agreements with Armenia to facilitate economic relations between the two sides.

The official considered the signing of free and preferential trade agreements as a positive step in the process of facilitating business between the two sides.

Development cooperation between Iran and Armenia in mining industry

In another meeting on the sidelines of his visit to Armenia, Atabak met and held talks with Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Gnel Sanosyan during which the two sides stressed developing cooperation in the mining sector.

He invited the Armenian minister to attend Iran's mining and mineral industries exhibition in December, and emphasized the readiness of Iran's private and public sectors to participate in various industrial and mining projects in Armenia.

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 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.

Tehran, Moscow call for strengthening economic ties

The Iranian president also noted that the escalating aggression by the Israeli regime, with direct support from the United States, poses a collective threat to the interests of regional nations, necessitating greater collaboration to counter such schemes.

In response, the Russian prime minister reiterated Russia's desire to enhance and expand interactions with Iran, particularly in energy, industry, transportation, agriculture, healthcare, and cultural sectors.

In early July, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin said a monetary contract has been signed between Tehran and Moscow for carrying out bilateral trade exchanges.

Farzin told reporters that he and his Russian counterpart had a meeting in Saint Petersburg where they finalized agreements already signed between the two countries.

During the meeting, the chief bankers of Iran and Russia also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on joint measures to be taken by the two countries

for the expansion of economic and monetary ties.

According to Farzin the new monetary contract enables Iran and Russia to trade in local currencies.

He added that based on agreements between the specialized delegations of the two countries, Iran's Shetab banking system will link Russia's MIR interbank system by the end of August.

The official said that the new scheme would allow Iranian nationals to take ruble from Russian ATMs using their Iranian banking cards.

"During the meeting, the two sides finalized the requirements to connect Russia's Mir payment system to Iran's Shetab and this project has entered the operational phase," Farzin said.

He added that the scheme will further develop in the next phases to allow Russian nationals to use their banking cards in Iranian ATMs and will then enable using Iranian cards at the Russian poses.

"The second stage [involves the possibility of] paying with Russian citizens' cards in Iran," Farzin said, adding that in the third stage, Irani-

ans will be able to pay with a Shetab card in Russian stores via an ordinary bank terminal.

In April 2024, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced that the project to use Mir cards had entered the implementation stage.

In May 2022, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said that the countries were discussing how to connect the Mir and Shetab payment systems.

As reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of non-oil trade between Iran and Russia stood at \$968.772 million in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

The IRICA report put the weight of the non-oil trade between the two countries at 2.09 million tons.

As reported Iran-Russia five-month non-oil trade indicates 19 percent fall in value and 15 percent drop in weight, year on year.

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

Who was Hassan Nasrallah?

“Even if we are martyred, all of us and our houses demolished over our heads, we will not abandon the choice of the Islamic Resistance”

TEHRAN - Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, one of the most powerful Arab figures in the Middle East, has left a lasting mark on modern Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the wider region.

He was killed aged 64 in a series of powerful Israeli air strikes in south Beirut on September 27.

Under Nasrallah, whose surname translates as “victory through God”, Hezbollah grew from a local armed movement to the largest political party in Lebanon’s recent history.

In the 2018 parliamentary elections, Hezbollah won more than 340,000 preferential votes, the most for any party in Lebanon since independence.

In October 2021, Nasrallah said that Hezbollah had 100,000 fighters, making it among the most powerful armed organizations worldwide.

Such power is backed by regional influence that has only enhanced Hezbollah’s reputation in the Arab world: to date, it is the only armed force, national or otherwise, to have forced Israel to retreat from an Arab country.

Nasrallah, whose speeches attracted attention from across the Middle East and beyond, was long prominent in the Axis of Resistance, which includes Hezbollah, the Palestinian movements Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the Houthi movement in Yemen, and several Iraqi paramilitary groups.

Nasrallah was born in 1960 to a poor Shia family in Sharshabouk, a deprived area of east Beirut’s Karantina. Interested in religion while young, he was inspired by Sayyed Musa Sadr, an Iranian-born imam of Lebanese descent, who in the spring of 1974 launched the Movement of the Deprived, better known as Amal, to secure more power for Lebanon’s neglected Shia community, and improve conditions in east and south Lebanon.

Civil war broke out in Lebanon in April 1975; in July, Sadr launched the Lebanese Resistance Brigades, Amal’s armed wing, to protect south Lebanon from Israeli incursions.

Nasrallah joined Amal. As the civil war escalated, his family moved from predominantly Christian east Beirut to their ancestral village of Bazourieh in Tyre.

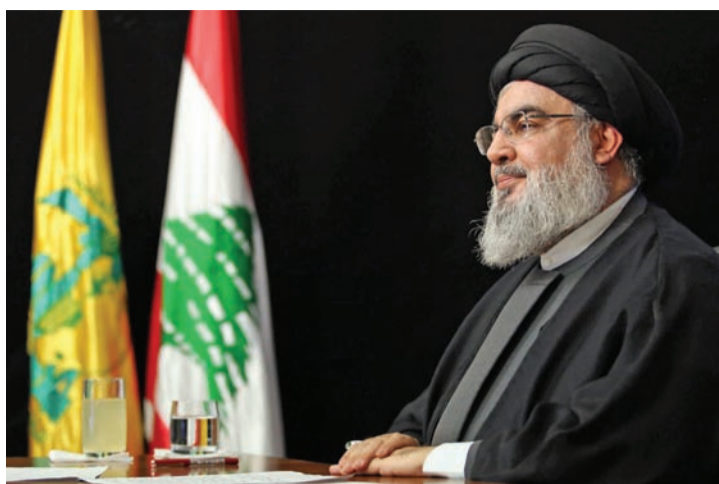
In December 1976, Nasrallah left for Najaf in Iraq to study at the city’s religious seminary (hawzah), which advocated a more active role for Shia religious scholars. There, he met Lebanese scholar Sayyed Abbas Mussawi, who was studying under Sayyed Mohammad Baqer Sadr, a cousin of Musa Sadr.

In early 1978, an Iraqi Baathist crackdown on Shia forced Nasrallah and Mussawi back to Lebanon. Mussawi founded a religious seminary in Baalbeck, where Nasrallah continued studying.

The next year, Nasrallah and Mussawi - now an Amal official - backed Iranian imam Ruhollah Khomeini, whose supporters had established the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In June 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon, after an assassination attempt on Shlomo Argov, Israel’s ambassador to London by the Abu Nidal Organization, a splinter group of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization).

Israel besieged Beirut for 10 weeks before occupying it in September, intending to drive out the PLO and install a friendly puppet government. The assault killed at least 20,000 Lebanese and Palestinians, mainly civilians, and more than 370 Israelis, most of



them military.

To deal with the repercussions of the invasion, Lebanese President Elias Sarkis formed a unifying National Salvation Committee, including Amal leader Nabih Berri and Lebanese Forces militia leader Bashir Gemayel, Israel’s main Christian ally in Lebanon.

But Mussawi, Nasrallah and others who backed Imam Khomeini defected from Amal, accusing it of betrayal by joining the committee; armed resistance, they said, was the only answer.

The defectors established Hezbollah during the summer of 1982. It supported Imam Khomeini’s Shia doctrine of velayat-e faqih (known in Arabic as wilayat al-faqih).

In 1982, Hezbollah launched a guerrilla warfare to drive Israel from Lebanon. It said this was a prelude to freeing historic Palestine, occupied by Zionist settlers, according to Middle East Eye.

The Multinational Force in Lebanon, a peace-keeping group that included troops from the US, UK and France, was set up and tasked with supervising the PLO withdrawal from Beirut and later backing Gemayel. But it eventually ended up fighting against opposition from the Druze, Sunni and Shia communities.

By the summer of 1985, Israel had left much of south Lebanon, amid ongoing attacks, and occupied a string of communities close to the border. But Hezbollah pushed on and hit Israeli outposts in the so-called Security Zone.

That summer, Shia groups hijacked TWA Flight 847 and forced it to land in Beirut. One hostage was killed; the remaining 152, more than half of whom were American, were freed after Israel released 700 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners.

How did Nasrallah become the leader of Hezbollah?

In 1985, Nasrallah became head of Hezbollah’s executive council and a member of its shura council. He often went to Iran to consult and receive updates on the ongoing Iran-Iraq war, which happened, he later said, because he spoke better Persian than his colleagues.

“They used to tell me: You like the Iranians and they like you, so you go to Iran. I would meet with his eminence the Imam [Khomeini]. I would sit down with him for one hour, two hours or even more.”

In February 1992 Mussawi, by now Hezbollah’s secretary general, his wife and child were assassinated in an Israeli air strike.

Speaking at his funeral, Nasrallah said: “We will continue this path... even if we are martyred, all of us and our houses demolished over our heads, we will not abandon the choice of the Islamic Resistance.”

Nasrallah took over Hezbollah, and under his leadership, the group acquired longer-range rockets, allowing it to target more areas in northern Israel.

Nasrallah said that an Islam-

ic republic was best for Lebanon but Hezbollah would never propose this option in Lebanon unless it had the backing of the majority of the Lebanese.

During the summer of 1992, he fielded candidates for the first post-civil war parliamentary elections, when Hezbollah won 12 seats. It has since participated in every parliamentary election.

Hezbollah mired Israel in unwinnable guerrilla warfare

Of all the armed groups which have opposed Israel, Hezbollah has caused the Israeli armed forces the most difficulty.

Since the founding of Hezbollah in 1982, there has not been a year when there have not been exchanges of fire or rocket fire between the two sides.

During the mid-1990s, Hezbollah expanded military operations in the Israeli-occupied zone, mirroring Israel in an unwinnable guerrilla warfare and arguing it was doing so to recover the region and “allow its displaced people to return to their homes”.

In May 2000, Israel withdrew from south Lebanon, the first time it had ended the occupation of an Arab territory without a treaty or security arrangement. The move validated Nasrallah’s long-standing argument that only armed resistance could recover Arab land.

In July 2006, Israel launched an incursion into Lebanon after Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border attack. Hezbollah said the kidnappings were to gain leverage for the release of Lebanese prisoners in Israel.

Cross-border exchanges escalated, as Hezbollah fired more than 4,000 rockets at northern Israel. By the end of the 33-day war, more than 1,200 Lebanese and 160 Israelis were dead - and Hezbollah’s reputation was further enhanced.

On 14 July 2006, during a speech, Nasrallah urged people in Beirut to look west to the Mediterranean coast. As they did so, Hezbollah fired a surface-to-sea missile against the Israeli naval ship Hanit, killing and wounding several crew.

The conflict ended on 14 August with UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which stipulated that a beefed-up UN Interim Force, along with Lebanese army units, would be solely responsible for security in the southern border region.

Nasrallah’s popularity soared, but his public appearances became rarer, amid fear of assassination by Israel.

On 7 October 2023, Hamas and other Palestinian groups based in Gaza mounted a surprise attack on southern Israel, killing more than 1,100 people. Israel declared war that day. More than 41,600 Palestinians have been killed since.

In a 3 November 2023 speech, Nasrallah praised the Hamas-led attack, known as Al-Aqsa Flood, saying: “It was a heroic, courageous, creative, perfectly done and great act to which all salutes should be raised.”

He said it had revealed Israel’s weakness and vulnerability, but stressed that neither Hezbollah nor any of the Axis of Resistance member groups were aware of the attack in advance.

On October 8, Hezbollah began firing on Israeli positions along the 120km Lebanese-Israeli border “in solidarity” with the Palestinians. The two sides have since been engaged in daily cross-border strikes. The increasing range and frequency of the attacks on both sides has raised fears of a wider regional conflict.

In the last week of September, more than 700 people were killed in Israeli attacks across Lebanon, with over 550 deaths reported on 23 September alone. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

Hezbollah’s efforts have been aligned with those of other members of the Axis of Resistance, including the Ansarallah (Houthi) movement in Yemen, which has attacked ships to and from Israel in the Red Sea and used drones against targets in Israel. Iraqi armed movements have also used drones against Israel.

The strategy is intended to ease pressure on Hamas by tying up Israeli forces elsewhere and eventually forcing a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Given Nasrallah’s stature in the axis, it is highly likely that he played a major role in the direction and scope of the strategy.

Nasrallah enjoyed wide support among many Lebanese, especially Shia and those in south Lebanon.

Much of this relates to how Hezbollah has become a major regional military force, driving Israel out of south Lebanon. Supporters say Lebanon’s south has been able to enjoy two decades of unprecedented peace.

Many respected his humble lifestyle, in contrast to many Lebanese leaders and politicians; Nasrallah divulged in one interview that his monthly salary was not more than \$1,300.

Nor had he expressed fear as to how he is regarded. “I don’t wait for history to absolve me...what matters is that God absolves us and we satisfy him,” Nasrallah said in an interview in 2016.

Nasrallah repeatedly warned that foreign powers were trying to foment civil strife by exploiting protests in Lebanon.

Hezbollah is an institutionalized party with a clear hierarchy

Under Nasrallah’s leadership of Hezbollah, modern Lebanon was able to militarily defend itself against Israel, not least in the south.

Its political wing has become one of the most powerful parties of modern political Islam, with allies in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Iran and Palestine.

Any successor to Nasrallah will come from within the ranks of Hezbollah, an institutionalized party with a clear hierarchy.

With many Hezbollah figures killed during Israeli attacks in September 2024, one name frequently coming to the fore is Sayyed Hashem Safieddine, the head of Hezbollah’s executive council, although the movement has denied the reports.

WORLD HEADLINES

Yemen targets Eilat, Tel Aviv with Yafa, Samad 4 drones

The UAV force of the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF) struck an Israeli military target in occupied Yafa (Eilat), using a Yafa-type drone, spokesperson Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced on Tuesday.

Additionally, Saree confirmed that the UAV force struck other military targets in occupied Umm al-Rashrash (Eilat) with four Samad-4 drones, pointing out that the two operations achieved their objectives precisely.

The spokesperson mentioned that the operations come in solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese people and in support of their valiant Resistance.

The YAF hails all steadfast fighters in Palestine and Lebanon defending the Ummah in the face of Israeli-American aggression and its plans aimed at subjugating all countries and peoples, the brigadier general said.

He also reaffirmed the YAF’s support for the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples until the aggression is repelled and its criminal schemes and expansionist conspiracies are thwarted.

Earlier, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (JKMTO) said a vessel reported being attacked by an unmanned surface vehicle 64 nautical miles northwest of Hodeidah.

‘Reckless’ Biden admin gave Israel ‘blank check to light region on fire’: NGO

Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC, has called Israel’s ground attack on Lebanon “the entirely predictable consequence of the Biden administration’s ceaseless coddling and resupply of weapons to Israel”.

In a statement, Sarah Leah Whitson, DAWN’s executive director, said that the administration of Biden “has acted recklessly in giving Israel a blank check to light the entire region on fire”.

The group said that the US should be using its leverage to advance diplomatic solutions that prioritize civilian lives “over endless conflict”.

“A ceasefire in Lebanon will be impossible without first securing a ceasefire in Gaza,” said Raed Jarrar, DAWN’s advocacy director.

“Hezbollah and other armed groups have explicitly tied their actions to the ongoing Israeli assault on Gaza,” said Jarrar, “so there is no hope of de-escalating the situation in Lebanon while allowing Israel to continue its atrocities in Gaza.”

Hezbollah ready for ground invasion

Lebanese resistance movement hits Tel Aviv

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Israel’s military spokesperson Daniel Hagari claimed the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) conducted “limited and targeted raids” across the Lebanese border in what he described as “localized ground raids”.

Hagari claimed that these ground incursions started in the very early hours of Tuesday up to the morning and targeted Lebanese villages.

“Heavy fighting is taking place in southern Lebanon,” the IOF added.

However, later in the day, an Israeli security official directly contradicted this statement by saying there have been no clashes at all with Hezbollah inside Lebanon.

Mohammad Afif, a Hezbollah official, stated that “so far, no direct ground clashes have occurred between the resistance fighters and the occupying forces.”

“All claims by the Zionists regarding the entry of occupying forces into Lebanon are false. Hezbollah is ready for direct confrontation with enemy forces that dare to or try to enter Lebanon. Our fighters are ready to confront any enemy forces that dare to enter or intend to enter Lebanese soil,” Afif asserted.

It is important to note that there are villages along the Lebanese border that are still occupied by the Israeli military, including parts of the Shebaa Farms.

Reports in Lebanon also said that despite the IOF announcement of a ground invasion of Lebanon, there has been no confirmation from any on-ground sources of an actual infiltration into Lebanese territory.

A statement by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) warned against a ground invasion but did not confirm the incursions or any clashes between the Israeli military and Hezbollah.

If there had been any sporadic incursions along the 120-kilometer border, the IOF must have retreated quickly.

Analysts say Hezbollah fighters have maintained their close proximity to Israeli forces and continue to strike their posts, barracks and positions, which were struck by at least 32 Katyusha rockets on Tuesday in the occupied Lebanese Kfar Chouba hills.

Should the IOF invade southern Lebanon it may present Hezbollah with the opportunity to change the military equation on the ground, as it did in the Israeli 2006 war on Lebanon. This would also boost Hezbollah’s morale as well as that of its supporters and the environment in Lebanon.

Aerial tourism to gain momentum in Hormozgan province



TEHRAN – Hormozgan's tourism chief has announced plans to expand the province's aerial tourism infrastructure through private sector investment.

Mohammad Mohseni, on Monday, emphasized the economic potential and tourist appeal of aerial tourism, stating, "In recent years, adventurous tourism, particularly aerial activities, has gained significant attention from both domestic and international tourists."

Mohseni highlighted that Hormozgan's favorable geographical and climatic conditions make it an ideal location for aerial tourism. He noted that expanding this type of tourism attracts more visitors, boosts the regional economy, and creates jobs.

He also confirmed that clear agreements have been made with private investors to support the growth of aerial tourism, khabaronline.ir reported.

Currently, aerial tourism activities are un-

derway in various regions of the province, including Bandar Abbas beaches, Naz Islands in Qeshm, and the Genu highlands, he added.

With further planning and investment, Mohseni expressed hopes that Hormozgan will soon become a popular destination for tourists interested in air sports and adventure tourism.

Additionally, the official announced plans to introduce several ultra-light training aircraft to Hormozgan's aerial tourism sector soon.

Situated on the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, Hormozgan is home to picturesque coasts, natural and historical landmarks, and bustling shopping centers always attracting tourists' attention to the southern province.

Historical documents indicate that the settlement of this region dates back to the Achaemenid era. This province has always been of great importance due to its access to the Persian Gulf.

The name Hormozgan comes from the Strait of Hormuz. Due to the importance of this strait for the country, since 1976, the coastal province, ports, islands of the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman have been renamed to Hormozgan.

Hormozgan borders Kerman to the north and northeast, Fars and Bushehr to the west and northwest, and is adjacent to Sistan-Baluchestan to the east.

'Panda economy': Can two new bears give Hong Kong's tourism industry a boost?

Hong Kong has recently welcomed a new pair of giant pandas gifted by Beijing with a lavish ceremony, raising hopes for a boost to the city's tourism.

An An and Ke Ke are the third pair of giant pandas to be sent to the city from mainland China since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997. Their arrival came after their new neighbor, Ying Ying, gave birth to twins last month and became the world's oldest first-time panda mother on record.

With the addition of the new bears, the twins, and their father, Le Le, Hong Kong now houses six pandas.

Chief Executive John Lee on Tuesday said An An is a five-year-old male panda who is agile, intelligent and active, while Ke Ke, a five-year-old female, is good at climbing, cute and has a gentle temperament.

Hong Kong hopes pandas will boost visitor numbers

The new arrivals will undergo two months of quarantine and adapt to their new home at Ocean Park, a zoo and aquarium that has long been a favorite of residents and tourists. Lee expressed hope that the public could meet the new bears in mid-December.

In October, the government will invite residents to propose new names that showcase the pandas' characteristics.

Tourism industry representatives are optimistic about the potential impact of housing six pandas, hoping it will boost visitor numbers in Hong Kong. Officials have encouraged businesses to capitalize on the popularity of the new bears and newborn cubs to seize opportunities in what some lawmakers have dubbed the "panda economy".

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas

The Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas, contains an exceptional assemblage of cave art, with many painted rock shelters, including a cave, with magnificent pictographies surrounded by an outstanding landscape, with the river running through a deep canyon, which were executed between 9,300 and 1,300 years ago.

According to UNESCO, the property takes its name (Cave of the Hands) from the stencilled outlines of human hands in the cave, but there are also many depictions of animals, such as guanacos (Lama guanicoe), still commonly found in the region, as well as hunting scenes that depict animals and human figures interacting in a dynamic and naturalistic manner.

The entrance to the Cueva is screened by a rock wall covered by many hand stencils. Within the rock shelter itself there are five concentrations of rock art, later figures and motifs often superimposed upon those from earlier periods. The paintings were executed with natural mineral pigments – iron oxides (red and purple), kaolin (white), and natrojarosite (yellow), manganese oxide (black) – ground and mixed with some form of binder.

The artistic sequence, which includes three main stylistic groups, began as early as the 10th millennium BP [Before Present]. The sequence is a long one: archaeological investigations have shown that the site was last inhabited around 700 CE by the possi-

ble ancestors of the first Tehuelche people of Patagonia. The Cueva is considered by the international scientific community to be one of the most important sites of the earliest hunter-gatherer groups in South America during Early Holocene that still maintains a good state of preservation and has a singular environment formation, unique at Santa Cruz province.

The rock art, its natural environment and the archaeological sites on this region are some of the very important reasons that made this area a focus for archaeological research for more than 25 years. They made an impact on the observer due not only the deep gorge walls surrounded by a privileged landscape, but also by the artistic compositions, variety of motifs and its polychromies.

These scenes represent a unique evidence to know about the first Patagonian hunters' behaviour and their hunting techniques. Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas contains an exceptional assemblage of cave art, unique in the world, for its age and continuity throughout time, the beauty and the preservation conditions of the paintings, the magnificence of the collection of stencilled outlines of human hands and the hunting scenes, as well as the environment that surrounds the place of exciting beauty and for being part of the cultural value of the site itself.

Intl. conference highlights Iran as safe travel destination

TEHRAN – On Tuesday, the University of Tehran hosted an international conference attended by prominent figures from the travel sector, including Iran's tourism minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, as well as some foreign ambassadors, diplomats and university professors.

The event attracted a wide range of academic experts who discussed the pivotal role of tourism in fostering peace, cultural exchange, and economic gains.

In the event, Roshandel Arbatani, the dean of the Faculty of Management at the University of Tehran, emphasized the significant contribution of tourism to the global economy, stating that the industry accounts for 5% of global exports and 10% of the world's GDP.

He expressed optimism about Iran's tourism potential, given the country's rich natural and historical attractions.

"Iran ranks fifth in the world for natural attractions and tenth for historical sites," Arbatani stated.

He pointed out that neighboring countries such as Qatar, the UAE, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia collectively possess only half of Iran's tourism assets in terms of cultural and natural sites.

He underscored the necessity of collaboration between academia and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts to cultivate a skilled workforce capable of enhancing the country's tourism industry.

In a passionate call for strengthened ties between the academic sector and the ministry, Arbatani noted, "We need to bolster our cooperation with this ministry and lay the groundwork for impactful partnerships."



File photo depicts a foreign family posing for a photo during their visits to the 12th-century Jameh Mosque of Yazd in central Iran.

He concluded his remarks by expressing gratitude for the participation of the minister and other officials in the conference.

"Iran ranks fifth in the world for natural attractions and tenth for historical sites," Arbatani stated.

Seyyed Hossein Hosseini, President of the University of Tehran, also addressed the audience, highlighting the critical role of higher education in developing a robust tourism sector.

"The tourism industry is not only integral to cultural exchange but also significantly impacts economic growth," he said. He emphasized Iran's unique op-

portunities for tourism and acknowledged the challenges in leveraging these prospects.

"A well-trained workforce is essential for the growth of the tourism industry.

We are ready to collaborate with both the public and private sectors to address this challenge."

He pointed to the strategic tourism framework set out by the government, which delineates clear responsibilities for educational institutions in fostering tourism development.

Daoud Houmanian, Head of the Faculty of Tourism at the University of Tehran, outlined the conference's goals and its alignment with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage's initiatives.

"Tourism is one of the most crucial industries in the world today," he noted, highlighting its role as a bridge between cultures and nations, and a foundation for peace.

He stressed that a thriving tourism sector requires robust

infrastructure, stating, "Without proper infrastructure, tourism cannot flourish."

Houmanian further emphasized Iran's status as one of the safest destinations for international travelers.

"Today, we see foreign tourists visiting Iran without worries, as our country is indeed very secure," he stated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Houmanian referenced the Iranian president's commitment to enhancing diplomacy and promoting peace as vital components of a successful tourism strategy.

The conference also addressed various facets of the tourism industry, including health and wellness tourism, nature tourism, cultural tourism, and the intersection of technology and tourism.

Discussions highlighted the importance of each segment in enhancing the overall visitor experience and increasing Iran's attractiveness as a travel destination.

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.

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.

Preservation plans unveiled for ancient village

TEHRAN – Fars' tourism chief has announced plans to restore and preserve parts of the historical core of Dosiran village, located in Kazerun county of the southern province.

On Tuesday, Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi highlighted Dosiran as a key tourist destination, noting its unique architecture partly dates back to the Islamic period.

The village is built on a rock plateau, which adds to its historical and architectural significance, the official said.

"The restoration and preservation of Dosiran's valuable historical structures are now a priority," Sabet-Eqlidi said, adding that efforts are already underway to restore historical façades across the village.

Dosiran is recognized for its rich cultural heritage and unique architecture, with some experts attributing its design to the Islamic era, although specific elements, such as arches and stucco work, suggest ties to the earlier Sassanid period.

The village, located approximately 120 kilometers from Shiraz and near the ancient city



of Bishapur, features both natural and historical attractions.

Sabet-Eqlidi noted that Dosiran's cobblestone streets have already been brought to life by restoration efforts in collaboration with the Housing Foundation of the Islamic Revolution.

"Now, the village seems like an open-air museum."

The restoration project is expected to enhance Dosiran's appeal to tourists, offering them a chance to rediscover the village's deep historical roots, from ancient caves to its well-preserved architectural features, the official explained.

Visits to Hamedan attractions see 18 percent year-on-year increase in H1

sites during the first six months of the year.

This marks a considerable rise from the 473,000 tourists who visited during the same period last year, reflecting a 17.8% growth, the official said.

Among the most visited destinations, the Mausoleum of Avicenna attracted 195,576 visitors, while the Tomb of Baba Taher recorded 166,481 visitors.

Other notable sites include the Hegmataneh Museum with 97,469 visitors, and the Alavian Dome with 17,894 visitors.

Lesser-known locations like the Malayer Museum of History and Culture saw 6,105 visitors, while the newly opened Samen

Underground City had an impressive turnout of 17,441 visitors.

These numbers underscore a growing interest in Hamedan's rich cultural heritage, as tourists continue to explore the province's historical treasures.

According to local officials, the boost in visitor numbers is a promising sign for the local tourism industry as it recovers from the challenges of the past years.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Masoum-Alizadeh emphasized the province's ongoing efforts to preserve and promote its historical landmarks, hoping to continue attracting more visitors in the coming months.

Hamedan, also known as Ec-

batana in classical times, was once one of the most important cities in the ancient world. It boasts a wealth of tourist attractions.

Notable landmarks include the Ali-Sadr Cave, Tomb of Abu Ali Sina, Ganjnameh Ancient Inscriptions, and Alaviyan Dome, promising a rewarding experience for visitors.

Sprawling on a high plain, Hamedan was initially urbanized by the Medes, Assyrians, Persians, and Parthians.

It may no longer be the legendary metropolis it once was, but it still boasts all the culture you'd expect from a location with such a long history.

Iran, Japan underscore need to expand sci-tech co-op

TEHRAN –Iranian Science, Research and Technology Minister, Hossein Sarraf, and Japanese Ambassador to Tehran, Tamaki Tsukada, have discussed avenues for boosting scientific and technological collaborations between the two countries.

The officials met in Tehran on Monday, a week before attending the 21st annual meeting of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum which is scheduled to be held from October 6th to 8th in Kyoto, Japan.

Participating in the 21st STS forum will be a great opportunity for developing scientific ties with the whole world, IRNA quoted Tsukada as saying.

It also serves as a proper platform for showcasing Iran's scientific innovations and achievements, as well as enhancing scientific ties with Japan, he added.

Referring to Iran and Japan's global ranking in producing articles related to nanotechnology—which is fifth and fourth, respectively—Tsukada stressed the two countries can collaborate and become the leading countries in this field.

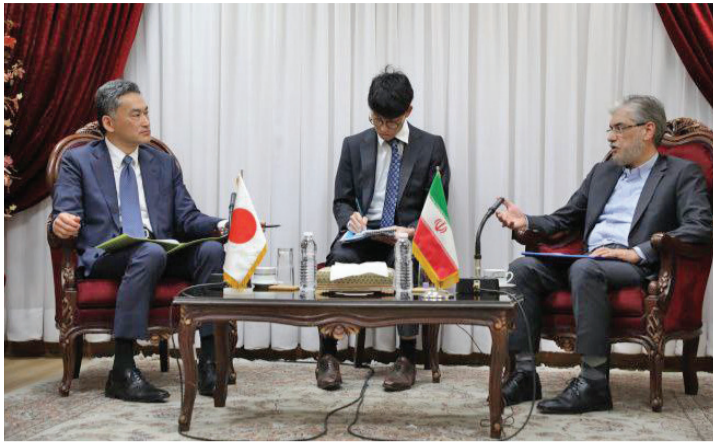
The Japanese official went on to say that regarding former joint activities, Iran and Japan's collaborations in the field of environment can also be expanded.

Sarraf, for his part, said the history of the friendly relations between the two countries dates back to centuries ago.

The official expressed interest in further fostering scientific cooperation between Iran and Japan saying that "Iran is ready to attract Japanese students in the fields of humanities such as Islamic studies, Persian language and other subjects that are of interest to Japanese students," he highlighted.

Referring to Japanese language teaching at University of Tehran, Sarraf said, "We expect Persian language teaching courses, which were previously held in Japanese universities, to be resumed. We are also ready to dispatch Persian language professors and provide the programs."

The official also stressed the two countries can collaborate in the field of environment as an area of cooperation.



Joint projects

The conservation and restoration projects of Anzali Wetland and Lake Urmia are two typical examples of the joint actions taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan in the environmental fields.

Lake Urmia in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province started to dry up in the 2000s. The lake is the largest in West Asia and the sixth-largest Salt Lake in the world with a water surface area of 5,000 to 6,000 square kilometers.

Since 2014, together with the Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has been supporting Lake Urmia restoration efforts. The project covers 202 villages in northwestern East and West Azarbaijan provinces.

The project aims to better the application of sustainability models in Lake Urmia and its adjacent wetlands, promoting local participation in 170 villages around the lake basin as well as enhancing the livelihoods and resilience of local communities through a more integrated approach.

In February 2021, the Government of Japan contributed \$3 million to help revive Lake Urmia through the UNDP. This was Japan's eighth contribution to UNDP Iran.

In 2023, Claudio Providas, the UNDP resident representative in Iran, said that sanctions have not affected providing financial support to protect Iran's wetlands and revive Lake Urmia, in particular.

"Over the past 10 years, Japan has made generous contributions to the

global plan to protect Iran's wetlands and has contributed one million dollars annually, which is quite acceptable," he said.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has supported the Iranian government in the conservation of the Anzali Wetland since 2003.

In 2006, DOE and the JICA signed a two-year agreement to start the Anzali Wetland Ecological Management Project to save the deteriorating Anzali wetland in the northern province of Gilan.

Covering more than 19,000 hectares, Anzali Wetland is located near the northern port city of Bandar Anzali, neighboring the Caspian Sea. The wetland was designated as a Ramsar site on June 23, 1975. It is fed by several rivers and separated from the Caspian Sea by a dune system.

In July 2023, according to the reports, the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP), a joint initiative between the UNDP and the Government of Japan, led to saving water by 27 percent for irrigation in the country.

The three-year (2021-2024) cooperation between the DoE, Japan, and UNDP Iran has been initiated to up-scale successful practices to additional pilots in the Urmia Lake basin and two new replication sites including Shadegan and Bakhtegan Wetlands.

The cooperation between Iran and Japan is expected to continue towards capacity-building, modern technologies, and knowledge-sharing for waste management, protection of wetlands, prevention of dust storms, pollution control, and

climate change.

In August 2023, the head of Tehran University's science and technology park and the Japanese ambassador to Iran announced readiness to launch a center for science and technology parks.

"We are interested in signing a sister city agreement between Tehran University's science and technology park and one of the science and technology parks in Tokyo," said Ali Asadi, the head of Tehran University's science and technology park, in a meeting in Tehran with Kazutoshi Aikawa, the then Japanese envoy, IRNA reported.

Aikawa said he had been greatly impressed by the technological achievements of Iranian companies and the supportive plans of Tehran University's science and technology park to develop an ecosystem of innovation.

STS forum

The forum brings together a diverse group of opinion leaders, including 11 Nobel laureates, leading scientists, science and technology ministers, corporate executives, research institute leaders, university presidents, and influential media leaders from around the world.

Participants will engage in cross-border and interdisciplinary discussions on the challenges and directions of science and technology, with a focus on humanity's long-term future, 100 to 500 years ahead.

This year, over 200 selected discussion leaders from various countries will speak at 10 plenary sessions and 24 concurrent sessions.

These include four AI-focused panels: "Lights and Shadows of AI," "AI for Health," "AI in Education," and "AI Ethics and Regulation." Other plenary sessions will cover topics, including "Path to Sustainability," "Basic Science, Innovation and Policy," and "Science and Technology for Business."

The concurrent sessions will be organized around: energy, climate crisis, science and technology education, green technologies, and quantum science and technologies. Last year's annual meeting attracted approximately 1,500 participants from over 80 countries, regions, and international organizations.

International Day of Older Persons: aging with dignity

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN – Commemorated on October 1st each year, the International Day of Older Persons recognizes the contributions of senior citizens, raises public awareness about the challenges associated with aging populations, and highlights the needs to be met.

Iran observes the day as part of National Elderly Week which is held from September 28 to October 4.

The latest statistics indicate that the elderly constitute about 5.7 to 7 percent of the country's population. In other words, the most important challenge facing the country is the issue of old age.

To address the problem, a national plan was designed with the aim of changing health-related behaviors in middle-aged people and focusing on preventing disabilities caused by common problems in the elderly.

This year, the national week's theme is 'active aging for everyone's tomorrow'.

Thanks to improved healthcare systems' services, life expectancy has noticeably increased globally. It is forecast that old individuals outnumber the youth population, particularly in developing countries, in seven years. Hence population aging, as a global trend, is reshaping societies worldwide.

The number of older people (defined as those aged 65 years or older) tripled from around 260 million in 1980 to 761 million in 2021. Between 2021 and 2050, the global share of the older population is projected to increase from less than 10 percent to around 17 percent.

Consequently, the demand for comprehensive healthcare, care, and social support services has grown substantially, particularly for older persons with conditions such as dementia.

The trend also highlights the significance of promoting health, as well as preventing, and treating illnesses throughout the entire course of life.

In recognition of these challenges and oppor-



tunities, the 34th commemoration of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons will focus on 'Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide'.

The theme encourages governments, policymakers, and social services across the world to take needed actions to address the physical, social, psychological, and health needs of older persons.

It highlights the urgent need to expand training and educational opportunities in geriatrics and gerontology, address the global shortage of care workers, and recognize the diverse contributions of caregivers.

The commemoration also emphasizes the importance of protecting the human rights of both caregivers and care recipients, promoting person-centered approaches to care that respect the dignity, beliefs, needs, and privacy of older persons, and for the right to make decisions about their care and quality of their lives.

In societies with aging populations, it becomes imperative to adjust to the increasing number of elderly individuals who possess a diverse range of functional capacities.

The capability to carry out essential functions and partake in everyday activities is influenced not solely by an individual's inherent capacity but also by the social and physical environments in which they reside.

Supportive environments play a pivotal role in assisting older individuals to maintain their activity levels and independence as they progress in age.

Iranian, Afghan students benefit from remedial classes

TEHRAN –A total of 1,000 Iranian and Afghan students in Khorasan Razavi and Fars provinces have participated in intensive remedial courses held through the cooperation of the ministry of education and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to improve basic skills.

Attending the four-week program, boys and girls in primary schools improved their skills in math, reading, and writing, as well as social, and emotional learning, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on September 30.

These intensive courses were mainly held for students with low attainments in the past academic year.

The program, funded by EU Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), aimed to ensure that the children were better prepared to learn in the next school year.

Alongside classes for children, sessions of parent training were also conducted to empower parents to support their children's education and physical and mental health and respond to their emotional needs.

The program results from needs assessments and discussions in the past years with school principals and teachers who believe remedial and pre-primary classes before the new school year are a highly effective way to ensure children are ready to learn in school.

These classes are organized in smaller sizes (with a maximum of 20 children per class) so that the teachers can spend more time addressing the students' needs.

Services provided to students

In April, the ministry of education and UNICEF held a workshop for principals of Upper Secondary Boarding Schools from 10 provinces to boost their capacities in developing students' skills which are essential to finding a decent job.

The four-day long workshop was held from April 27 to 30. A total of 90 Upper Secondary Boarding School principals from 10 provinces of Kordestan, Kermanshah, Hamedan, Ilam, Zanjan, Markazi, Qazvin, Ardebil, West and East Azarbaijan attended the workshop.

UNICEF's collaboration with the ministry of education focuses on adolescents in boarding schools, which are secondary schools in disadvantaged parts of the country.

The training opportunity provides school principals with the necessary knowledge and skills to support the students, at these schools in rural and remote regions, in improving their self-assurance, problem-solving, and teamwork skills.

This series of workshops marks the initial phase that will span across all provinces throughout the year, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on May 9.

In December, UNICEF held remedial classes for more than 1,500 students in six provinces of the country with high numbers of refugees.

The Ministry of Education, the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs of the Ministry of Interior, and Relief International cooperated with UNICEF to implement the remedial classes program in the provinces of Fars, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi, Semnan, Sistan-Baluchistan, and Yazd.

The program was supported by financial aid from the EU's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the UNICEF website announced in a press release on December 27.

It helped the students, no matter whether Iranian or Afghan, who had fallen behind the school work for different reasons, such as not benefiting from pre-primary and schools' readiness programs or COVID-19 pandemics, to cover their education gaps and catch up with their lessons.

Through UNICEF-supported remedial courses conducted from March to May 2023, each student received at least 30 hours of different subjects, including Persian, Mathematics, and Science.

Both Afghan and Iranian students enjoyed high-quality education in case of learning loss.

In addition, at the end of the course, each student received nutrition, hygiene packs, and stationery, to prepare them for the next academic year.

Pezeshkian calls for elites to help government deal with problems

TEHRAN –Addressing elites on Tuesday, President Masoud Pezeshkian sought their expertise in helping the government tackle extant challenges in the country.

"Those with dynamic, creative minds should stay, fight, find a way or make one to provide assistance to people, and resolve their problems despite all obstacles," IRNA quoted the president as saying.

He made the remarks at the 14th National Conference of Elites which is being held from October 1 to 2 in Tehran.

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

"Overcoming challenges takes motivation as well as skill. Science by itself is not enough," Pezeshkian highlighted.

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

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

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

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'Salt particles from Lake Urmia contained by 80%'

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), Sarkhosh said.

Agricultural development around the lake's basin is banned, and investigation results demonstrated that no land seized illegally for the agricultural development.

کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش با اشاره به اینکه حجم آب ورودی به دریاچه ارومیه باعث مرطوب شدن نمکهای سطح دریاچه و کنترل ریزگردهای نمکی آن می شود افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچهها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

توسعه اراضی کشاورزی در حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه ممنوع است و با بررسیهای انجام شده در حوضه آبریز دریاچه نیز هیچ توسعهای انجام نشده است.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Be childlike with children.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:54 Evening: 18:04 Dawn: 4:38 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:01 (tomorrow)

Mohammad Motamedi's album with Rembrandt Trio nominated at German Record Critics' Award

TEHRAN-The latest album of the Iranian traditional singer Mohammad Motamedi "Intizar, Songs of Longing," in which he collaborated with the jazz music ensemble Rembrandt Trio from the Netherlands, has been nominated for the annual awards 2024 by German Record Critics' Award.

Music critics and journalists from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland have come together to award outstanding music and spoken word productions. The jurors have nominated a total of 109 outstanding new recording productions that were released on the German-speaking market in the last four quarters - titles from all musical genres, including audiobooks.

The annual committee of the German Record Critics' Award decides on the ten Annual Awards, recognizing the best productions of the past year. The committee consists of a rotating cast of ten jurors from various expert juries, ISNA reported.

Produced in 2023, "Intizar, Songs of Longing" contains seven tracks. The word "Intizar" is used in Turkish, Farsi and Arabic and expresses hopeful anticipation.

In the album, Rembrandt Trio, made up of Rembrandt Frerichs, Tony Overwater, and Vinsent Planjer, have pushed their musical boundaries, also collaborating with violinist Myrthe Helder, cellist Maya Fridman, and clarinetist Maarten OrNSTEIN. Born out of a special friendship, it is improvisation that is the guiding principle.

The album contains pieces that fit the more spiritual, traditional Persian repertoire, with texts by Hafez, Khayyam, and Aref Qazvini as well as a number of more worldly songs on which the trio is joined by violin, cello and clarinet.

Motamedi's unrivaled vocals are matched with rare instrumentation; Rembrandt Frerichs plays old church organs and antique fortepianos, Planjer a whisperkit, and Overwater a violone.

The collaboration between the Rembrandt Trio and Motamedi becomes an adventurous journey through the colorful Persian musical landscape, where musicians from different continents find a

shared language in music and improvisation.

It is an evocative journey to the heart of the musical soul of Iran, which is one of the world's richest cultures. With the addition here and there of violin, cello and clarinet, the whole takes on the appearance of ecumenical chamber music that is both timeless and resolutely contemporary; it is beautiful, touching, and inspiring.

The interplay of Rembrandt Trio and Motamedi is totally natural. The jazz background and extensive improvisation experience of the Dutch musicians fits the crucial role of improvisation in traditional Persian classical music.

The Rembrandt Trio is no stranger to cross-cultural adventures as it was initially formed to fill an interstitial space between classical, jazz and Near and Middle Eastern music.

This album is the third collaboration of the Dutch Rembrandt Trio with an Iranian master. Previous projects of the trio were with grandmasters like composer and tar player Hossein Alizadeh and composer and kamancheh and setar player Kayhan Kalhor.

Motamedi, 46, started singing and playing ney (Middle-Eastern flute-like wind instrument) from adolescence. So far, he has collaborated with many local classical groups as well as the Iranian National Orchestra. He has released more than 15 albums and has held several performances in Iran, Italy, Poland, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, France, Germany, Turkey, Belgium and the U.S.

He has a resume ranging from working with the great maestros of Iranian music such as Ali Rahbari, Mohammadreza Lotfi, Hossein Alizadeh, Majid Derakhshani, Farhad Fakhreddini, etc. as well as working with international figures including Roger Waters.

The German Record Critics' Award is an independent association of 160 music critics and journalists from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Last year, "Intizar, Songs of Longing" was chosen as one of the best albums of 2023 by the Dutch newspaper NRC.

Turkish translation of Nezami's classic "Haft Peykar" published

TEHRAN- A Turkish translation of Persian poet Nezami Ganjavi's "Haft Peykar" has recently been published by Bilge Publishing House in Turkey in collaboration with the Cultural Attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul.

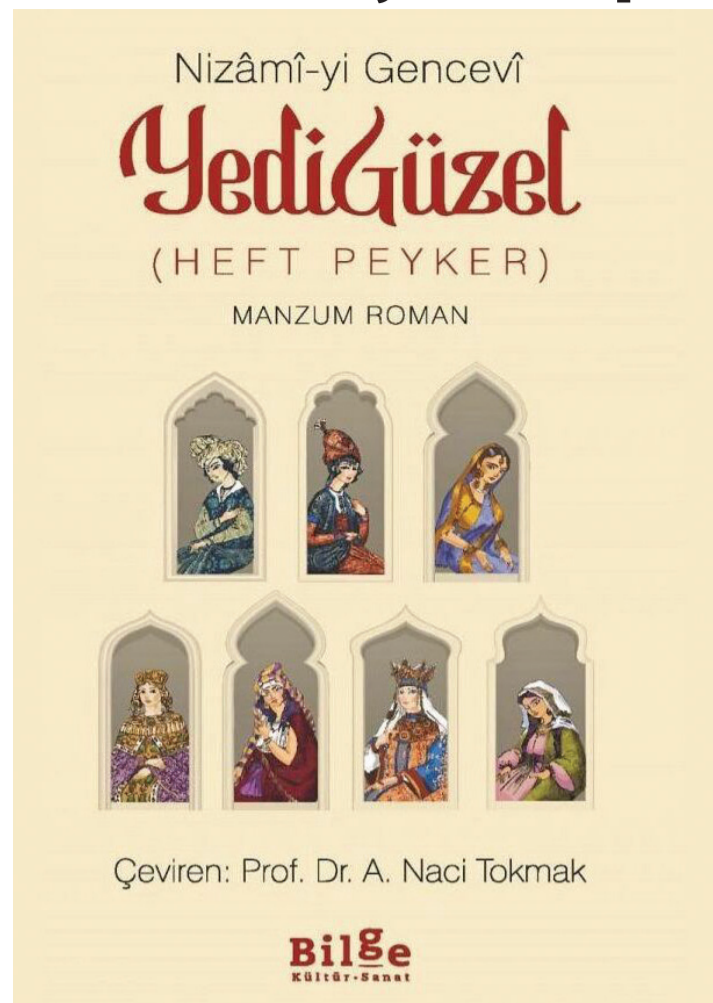
Translated by Turkish scholar and distinguished professor of Persian language and literature A. Naci Tokmak, the publication spans 384 pages, with an initial print run of 1,000 copies, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Composed by Nezami Ganjavi in the last decade of the 12th century, the classical Persian masterpiece Haft Peykar is a romanticized biography of Bahram V, who is also known as Bahram-e Gur.

In the introduction to his translation of Nezami's "Haft Peykar," Tokmak emphasizes the significant influence of Nezami, not just within Persian literature but across the Islamic world, including the Ottoman Empire. He notes that many Turkish-speaking poets have drawn inspiration from Nezami's style and literary contributions. Nezami's epic and romantic verses, especially the quintet of works known as "Khamasa," such as "Khosrow and Shirin" and "Leyli and Majnun," have served as a springboard for numerous Turkish poets.

Classic Ottoman poets, including Fuzuli and Yahya bey Dukagjini, have been directly influenced by Nezami. Fuzuli penned an epic titled "Leyli and Majnun," inspired by Nezami's work, which holds a prestigious place in Turkish literature.

Tokmak, with 52 years of



teaching experience in Persian language and literature, is a prominent figure in the field in Turkey. He obtained his doctorate in Persian from the University of Tehran in 1956 and served as the head of the Persian language and literature department at Istanbul University for 17 years. His translations of works by notable figures in Persian literature as well as a variety of poets' works plays a pivotal role in the expansion and promotion of Persian language and literature in Turkey.

The "Haft Peykar" can be translated literally as "seven portraits," but also with the figurative meaning of "seven beauties".

Nezami gives an account of the birth of Bahram, the often-told story of his upbringing at the court of the Arab king No'man and the construction of No'man's fabled palace, Khoarmaq.

Reared in the desert, Bahram becomes a formidable huntsman. Wandering through the palace, Bahram discovers a locked room containing the portraits of seven princesses, one from each of the seven climes, with whom he immediately falls in love.

Bahram's father Yazdegerd I dies, and Bahram returns to Persia to claim his throne from a pretender. After much palaver, he is recognized as king.

He rescues his people from a famine. Next Nezami picks up the story of Bahram's hunting expedition with the loose-tongued slave girl Fetneh, but alters the version known from the Shahnameh considerably.

Here the girl is not put to death, but eventually pardoned, and the king learns a lesson in clemency. The king sets out in search of the seven princesses and wins them as his brides.

He orders his architect to construct seven domes to house his new wives. The craftsman tells him that each of the climes is ruled by one of the seven planets and advises him to assure his good fortune by adorning each dome with the color associated with the clime and planet of its occupant.

The princesses take up residence in the splendid pavilions. The king visits each princess on successive days of the week. Each princess regales the king with a story matching the mood of her respective color. These seven beautifully constructed, highly sensuous stories occupy about half of the entire poem.

Three films from Iran to participate in Baku International Film Festival

TEHRAN-Three short films from Iran will take part in the 15th Baku International Film Festival, due to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from October 4 to 8.

"Taxidermist" directed by Behzad Alavi and Soudan Salamat, "The Splint" by Mehdi Sedighi, and "Body Seller" by Alireza Shakeri are the Iranian participants in the upcoming festival, ILNA reported.

This year, 23 films (12 fiction, six documentaries, five animations) are competing in the International Competition - Short Film section of the festival.

"Taxidermist" is among the short fiction films in the section and the short animation "The Splint" will compete with other animated short films.

In the Asian Talents Competition section, the short film "Body Seller" is in the line-up along with nine other flicks.

"Taxidermist" depicts Shahbaz, a taxidermist

and animal smuggler, who takes a road trip to deliver a strange order to a client. A series of unexpected events turns Shahbaz from predator to prey. Shaho Rostami plays in the 15-minute film with no dialogue. A production of 2024, the film was screened at the Moscow International Film Festival earlier this year.

Produced in 2024, "The Splint," five minutes, is a production of the Documentary, Experimental and Animation Film Center.

It revolves around a truck driver tasked with replacing aging wooden lampposts with new concrete ones along a gravel road.

To accomplish this, he utilizes the boom attached to his truck, but he faces an unexpected challenge when a bird fiercely defends its nest, built on one of the aged lampposts.

"Body Seller," a 15-minute social drama, follows Ahmad who, in his wedding ceremony, is concerned

with the issue of who tattooed his wife, Sahar. Together, they go to the tattoo artist who tattooed Sahar years ago and ask him to delete the tattoo. Sahar Zarin, Ebrahim Naeji, Mohamadreza Hasanzadeh, Kaveh Farjadanesh, Mohadeseh Safari, and Armin Bakhtiyari play in the 2023 drama.

This year, a total of 79 films from 26 countries will be shown in the Baku International Film Festival, which is the longest-running festival in Azerbaijan.

Established in 2004 by the Young Filmmakers Center of Azerbaijan, it serves as a meeting place for young filmmakers, providing a great opportunity for creative people.

Each author carries ideas and wants to share them. Such festivals are the platforms for sharing and self-affirmation.

This festival combines high human values, artistic taste and a cinematic approach.

Iranian cities to host week of cultural dialogues celebrating Persian language heritage

TEHRAN- Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) is set to host the Week of Asian Cultural Dialogues, focusing on the Persian language as a vital spiritual heritage, from October 4 to 9 in the cities of Neyshabur (Nishapur), Mashhad, and Tehran.

The event will feature 24 distinguished academic guests from 13 Asian countries, alongside over 30 representatives from Iranian universities, an official with the organization has said.

The main goal is to establish an Asian Cooperation Forum focused on the Persian language, alongside organizing a secretariat in Nishapur to facilitate this initiative, Mohammad Ali Rabani explained on Monday.

He highlighted the growing presence of Persian language departments in universities worldwide, where students are actively studying at multiple levels.

Despite numerous challenges, these academic programs have continued to flourish, showcasing the resilience of the Persian language as a medium of cultural

exchange.

Rabani identified a significant challenge in promoting the Persian language as the lack of consistent communication between Persian academic groups domestically and abroad. To address this, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization acts as the nation's cultural diplomacy arm, striving to create a conducive environment for sustained international interactions among educational institutions, he noted.

He emphasized the need to leverage academic capacity in the Persian language to strengthen regional ties within Asia.

The upcoming event will not only celebrate the Persian language but also aim to engage participants in substantial discussions regarding educational cooperation among Asian nations, he said and added: "These interactions will focus on practical measures needed to promote Persian language education and academic exchanges."

Rabani mentioned a design that involves Iranian universities collaborating with foreign

institutions to exchange faculty members, maximizing the resources available, particularly the Persian language doctoral students from local universities.

As part of the initiative, Ferdowsi University in Mashhad will also hold a seminar for conference invitees following the closing of discussions in Nishapur. On October 8, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization in Tehran will host a significant conference titled "Functions of the Persian Language and Literature in Strengthening Cultural Ties in Asia," further emphasizing the relevance of Persian language promotion.

Rabani acknowledged the Persian language as Iran's greatest asset in international relations. He pointed out that this language enables meaningful involvement in various sectors, including economics, politics, and security.

Additionally, he suggested that many perceptions of Iran worldwide are shaped by its literary masterpieces, such as the "Shahnameh" by Ferdowsi and Saadi's "Golestan," meaning Iran must capitalize on this positive

cultural representation.

He stressed that the responsibility of preserving and promoting the Persian language lies not only with the government but also with universities in Iran, which should integrate their efforts with cultural diplomacy to protect this significant cultural resource.

By doing so, they can revive the functions that the Persian language historically served in creation, governance, and cultural advancement.

Another crucial aspect of the gathering will be discussions on the establishment of a permanent Asian Forum for Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, with a secretariat to be set up in Nishapur University. Rabani underscored the need to protect and revitalize Persian literary works in foreign libraries that risk being lost or forgotten.

Persian, also known as Farsi, is an ancient language spoken primarily in Iran, Afghanistan (as Dari), and Tajikistan (as Tajik), boasting a rich literary heritage that dates back over a millennium.

Cartoon of Day



Israel Invades Lebanon
Cartoonist: Gabriele Corvi from Italy