

# TEHRAN TIMES

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Tehran vows retaliation if Israel responds to Operation True Promise II

## Iran's Hand on the Trigger



Celebrations in West Asia and beyond follow Iran's missile strike ▶ Page 5

Stormy skies ahead: Israel faces unprecedented resistance ▶ Page 5

### More severe response awaits Israel in case of escalation of conflicts: Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araqchi, announced on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic's retaliatory operation against Israel has officially concluded; however, he warned that any counter-response by the Israeli regime would provoke an even more intense reaction from Tehran.

In a series of phone calls with his German, French, and British counterparts, Araqchi discussed the situation, particularly Iran's reaction to ongoing Israeli aggression. He referred to the assassination of senior figures, including Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, and Israel's continued military activities in the region.

The foreign minister highlighted that Iran had exercised restraint for over two months before launching its missile strikes, emphasizing that the attacks were carried out in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which grants the right to self-defense.

Araqchi clarified that Iran's recent strikes exclusively targeted military and security installations within Israeli-controlled territories, and no civilian areas were involved. He stressed that while the operation has now concluded, Tehran is prepared to unleash a more severe response should Israel choose to retaliate. ▶ Page 3



### Iran FM appoints Esmail Baghaei as new foreign ministry spokesperson

TEHRAN – Iran's minister of foreign affairs has appointed Esmail Baghaei as the new head of the Public Diplomacy Center and spokesperson for the Iranian foreign ministry.

Baghaei has an extensive background in diplomacy, having served as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva from 2018 to 2022.

Baghaei also held the position of Head of the Legal Department at Iran's foreign ministry from 2015 to 2019 and represented Iran at the United Nations Legal Committee in New York from 2006 to 2009.

Prior to this appointment, Nasser Kanaani served as the spokesperson for Iran's foreign ministry.

### "I am deeply mourning", or in other words, It's Far from Over!

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN – On Wednesday morning, October 2, 2024, just hours after Iran launched its second retaliatory strike against Israel, the world watched in stunned silence. The "True Promise II" operation, as it was officially dubbed, saw Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) unleash over 180 ballistic and hypersonic missiles on multiple Israeli military targets in occupied Palestine.

This devastating barrage was a direct response to Israel's escalating aggression, and a bid to avenge the assassination of key figures: Hamas's political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, assassinated in Tehran while attending the inauguration of Iran's new president; Iranian military commander Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan, assassinated in Beirut on September 27th alongside Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Most significantly, Israel dropped 85 American-made 2,000-pound bunker-busters in its airstrike on Beirut that resulted in the assassination of the Hezbollah leader. ▶ Page 3

### Iran ready for any scenario

By Afifeh Abedi

TEHRAN – After two months of waiting and pursuing legal and political avenues to redress the Zionist regime's violation of its rights in the assassination of former Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, Iran launched Operation True Promise II.

While many predicted that Iran's strategic patience had reached its limit after Israel's assassination of Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Iranian missile attack on Tuesday evening, October 1, still came as a surprise.

Iran's successful execution of Operation True Promise II came amidst heightened Israeli alert, triggered by the terrorist attack in southern Lebanon that claimed the lives of Nasrallah and IRGC commander Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan. Hebrew sources reported that Tel Aviv officials, in close coordination with American political and military authorities, had been tipped off about the impending Iranian attacks through satellite imagery.

The attack is significant in various aspects. As the Iranian Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) stated, the strike was conducted in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, exercising Iran's right to respond to repeated violations of its sovereignty by Israel. ▶ Page 2

### An analysis of Operation 'True Promise II'

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Finally, following various speculations in political and media circles about how Tehran would respond to the series of assassinations carried out by Israel, Iran launched a second direct attack on the occupied territories from its own territory around 8:00 PM on Tuesday.

In an official statement from the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), it was reported that these missile strikes are part of Operation "True Promise II," executed under the codename "Oh Messenger of God!" and directed against security and intelligence targets in Israel.

The IRGC issued its statement just minutes after the operation began, stating: "The great Islamic community, the noble and martyred Iranian nation, moments ago, after a period of restraint in the face of the violation of the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the assassination of the martyred fighter, Dr. Ismail Haniyeh, by the Zionist regime, and under the country's right to legitimate defense according to the United Nations Charter, has responded to the intensification of the regime's atrocities." ▶ Page 2



### U.S., Europe root cause of regional conflicts: Leader

TEHRAN – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has stated that the root cause of the region's problems lies with nations such as the United States and some European countries, which, despite their claims of advocating for peace, are the primary sources of instability.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei made the remarks on Wednesday morning, where he met with hundreds of scientific elites, top Olympiad winners, and high-achieving university entrants.

The Leader initiated the meeting by speaking about the recent martyrdom of Hezbollah's Leader, Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in Beirut by the Zionist regime on Sept. 27, 2024. ▶ Page 3



### Iranian president visits Qatar for talks

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in Doha on Wednesday for an official two-day visit, his third international trip since assuming office.

The visit, made at the invitation of Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, is seen as a key moment in strengthening diplomatic and economic ties between the two nations.

Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, formally welcomed President Masoud Pezeshkian in Doha. Leading a high-ranking political and economic delegation, Pezeshkian's arrival was marked by a ceremonial reception, including the playing of national anthems and the introduction of both countries' senior officials. ▶ Page 3



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## IRGC shatters Israel's absurd dignity

In a note, Keyhan addressed the IRGC's missile attack on the Zionist regime and wrote: The existence of the usurping regime was targeted on Tuesday night and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps shattered the Zionist regime's absurd dignity. Rockets rained in the heart of Tel Aviv and history changed. The Islamic nation and the free people in the world were filled with joy and hope, and the terrorist government of America, which watched the humiliation of Israel, trembled in fear and caught in confusion. In this operation, some air and radar bases, conspiracy centers, and terror design centers were hit. Although this area was protected by the most advanced massive air defense systems, 90% of the missiles hit the targets successfully. Military analysts, based on published images of numerous Iranian ballistic missiles, believe that Israel's defense systems, which have been highly publicized, are powerless against the high speed and great maneuverability of Iranian missiles.

## Iran: True Promise II and message of Iran's resistance against threats

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper pointed to the Iranian military's missile strikes on Israel on Oct. 1 and the message it sent to any threat against Iran. It said: According to the numerous pictures that were published about the IRGC's missile attack on the occupied territories and according to the reports of news sources, 90% of the missiles successfully hit the predetermined targets. It must be said that the Iron Dome was completely unsuccessful in intercepting the fired missiles. Of course, this failure was not specific to Israel's defense. The defense system of the U.S. and some European countries that are placed in the region to help the Zionist regime could not intercept the Iranian missiles. The widespread publication of dozens of Iranian missiles hitting the heart of Israel indicates heavy damage to military facilities and spy services, but the regime's authorities began widely censor the news of Iran's attack. The spokesperson of the Israeli army asked the residents of the occupied territories not to publish or share any documents or pictures of the location of missiles and targets.

## Hamshahri: A big failure for American warships

In an article, Hamshahri discussed the failure of American warships to target

Iranian missiles and wrote: General Patrick Ryder, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Defense, declared that the country's naval ships deployed in the eastern Mediterranean waters fired about 10 air defense missiles to intercept and destroy the Iranian missiles that were flying towards Israel. The images of a large number of IRGC ballistic missiles hitting specific targets in the occupied territories during the "True Promise II" Operation indicate that even the advanced warships of the U.S. Navy in the regional waters failed to intercept the missiles. Live television images show the American warships, which are equipped with the most advanced weapons and interception systems, and Israel's Iron Dome were not capable of intercepting most of the IRGC's ballistic missiles that were fired at the occupied territories. The Iron Dome had been intended to create a defensive wall around Israel.

## Jam-e-Jam: Pro-Western people and wrong analyses

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam discussed Israel's psychological operations on the Iranian people and said: Netanyahu's prates, which were intended to influence public opinion in Iran, were accompanied by a wave of psychological operations these days by the pro-Western people or groups. They are humiliatingly seeking to put Iran in a difficult and vulnerable geopolitical situation in the face of enemies and demand Iran review its regional policies and negotiate with America. Compromising the country's deterrence capabilities and submitting to the enemy can be evaluated along with the psychological and propaganda operations of the pro-Western people for the military operations of the Zionists. In fact, with this mindset and analysis, they are completing the plan of the Zionists, who are trying to show themselves as a powerful and unrivaled actor. At a time when Iran and the Axis of Resistance must actively stand against the Zionist regime as the West's mercenary in West Asia and not allow this regime to continue its crimes, these pro-Western people and groups have become defenders of peace and invite Iran to be tolerant. Therefore, they should know that their wrong analyses are against national interests.

## Iran ready for any scenario

From page 1 ► Beyond its operational success, the attack also fulfilled a national demand and a request from the Resistance community for decisive action against the Zionist regime. Following the assassination of Hezbollah's Secretary-General, calls for retaliation against Israel intensified within Iran. There was a surge of support for swift punishment, with many young Iranians even volunteering to assist Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The regional situation remains uncertain following Iran's missile attack. While Iran has prepared for all contingencies and is ready for any escalation, the IRGC has warned that further aggression against Iranian interests will be met with a crushing response. Should Israel or its American allies miscalculate and escalate tensions, the consequences will be severe. There are indications that the next response could involve the entire Axis of Resistance.

It is undeniable that after a year of inaction in the face of Israel's systematic violence and crimes in Gaza, which have spread to surrounding areas, the international community must acknowledge that Iran's missile strikes on occupied territories were not only a legitimate response to Israel's repeated attacks but also a necessary step to fill the void left by the failure of international institutions, including the UN Security Council, to stop Israeli aggression.

Throughout the Gaza war, Iran consistently advocated for an international resolution, actively calling for the United Nations to play a leading role in ending the crisis. Following the Israeli attack on Iran's consulate in Damascus, Iran pursued all diplomatic and legal avenues to secure its rights through the UN Security Council. However, the Council, paralyzed by the influence of the United States and its Western allies, failed to take meaningful action to stop Israel's aggression or address Iran's grievances.

Following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, Iran exhausted all political and legal avenues to address the situation. Iran's subsequent attack on Israel was undeniably within its legitimate rights under the UN Charter.

Iran's response to the ongoing atrocities committed by the Israeli regime, which continues with unwavering U.S. support, must be understood as part of the global fight against state terrorism. Israel's actions have tragically claimed the lives of over 42,000 Palestinians and thousands in Lebanon and Syria. The international community's failure to respond effectively to these crimes, and the lack of reciprocal action, poses a serious threat to global security.

## Iran says more military action on the way if Israel does not back down

TEHRAN – Multiple Iranian officials have warned in separate remarks that Tehran is prepared to launch more attacks against Israel if the regime responds to Operation True Promise II, which came in retaliation for the regime's assassination of multiple high-ranking Resistance officials and commanders in the past two months.

On Tuesday, Iran's armed forces launched almost 200 ballistic missiles at the occupied territories, hitting three military bases near Tel Aviv.

Major General Mohammad Baqeri, chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, provided insights into Operation True Promise II, stating that the Airspace Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) executed the retaliatory strikes.

Baqeri emphasized, "The IRGC Airspace Headquarters successfully targeted significant installations within the Zionist regime using precise ballistic missile strikes, noting that despite these actions, the Islamic Republic of Iran adhered to necessary protocols by exclusively targeting military facilities."

"The IRGC ballistic missile strikes focused on three key military airbases: Mossad, identified as an assassination hub; Nevatim Airbase, known for housing F-35 aircraft fighters; and Haterim Airbase, associated with the assassination of secretary-general of Hezbollah," he stated.

Major General Baqeri warned



that if the Zionist regime, which he described as increasingly reckless, continues its aggressive actions against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity without restraint from the United States and European Troika, the scale of future operations will be significantly larger, destroying all relevant infrastructures.

Additionally, the commander-in-chief of the Iranian Army stated that the ongoing actions of the Zionist regime would ultimately result in their complete downfall.

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi highlighted, "Despite numerous defense measures, missiles were still able to penetrate these defenses."

He identified military objectives as the primary focus of the Islamic Republic of Iran at this time, asserting, "Should the Zionists err, we may opt to target their infrastructure as well."

Mohsen Rezaei, a member of the

Iranian Expediency Council and former commander of the IRGC, urged American officials and the Israeli regime to reconsider their actions and cease their offenses in the region; otherwise, they would face "extreme regret".

Rezaei pointed out that the greatest challenge for the United States and the occupying regime was their failure to grasp the significance of the Iranian nation's revolutionary patience and the strategic insight of its leadership.

"The Iranian people have not forgotten the lessons of eight years of resistance during the Iran-Iraq war," he added.

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, stated during a parliamentary session on Wednesday, "Last night, the oppressors and warmongers, whose sole strength lies in airstrikes and acts of terrorism, were filled with fear, while the Muslim nations and

freedom-loving individuals around the globe were filled with joy and hope."

Qalibaf emphasized that the adversary, who attempted to mask its strategic failures with tactical successes and undermined the psychological and structural integrity of the Resistance Front, believed it had neutralized Lebanon's Hezbollah through targeted assassinations and the martyrdom of Seyed Hassan Nasrallah.

"However, they underestimated Hezbollah's resilience, which has emerged even stronger. Iran's missile response to this oppressive regime signifies that the Zionist regime only comprehends the language of missiles," Qalibaf underscored.

Amir Saeed Iravani, Iranian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, issued a cautionary statement following the ballistic missile retaliation against Israel.

Iravani emphasized, "This action was executed in line with the inherent right to legitimate defense as outlined in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, and was a reaction to the aggressive actions impacting Tehran."

He further warned that if the Israeli regime were to repeat its terror acts, Iran's response would be prompt, resolute, and more severe than previous ones, with no hesitation.

## Leader's sons visit Hezbollah office in Tehran with Ayatollah Khamenei's message

TEHRAN – The sons of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution visited the Hezbollah Resistance movement's office in Tehran on Tuesday to deliver Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's message of condolence.

During the visit, the Leader's sons met with Abdullah Safi al-din, the representative of Hezbollah. They expressed both congratulations and condolences from



Ayatollah Khamenei concerning the tragic martyrdom of Hezbollah's secretary-general, Saeed Hassan Nasrallah.

Nasrallah was martyred during an Israeli airstrike on southern Beirut on September 27. The attacks also claimed the life of top Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) commander Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan.

## An analysis of Operation 'True Promise II'

From page 1 ► supported by the United States in the massacre in Lebanon and Gaza. In this context, and in tribute to the martyrdom of the great fighter, leader of the Resistance Axis, and proud Secretary-General of Hezbollah, the martyr Hassan Nasrallah, as well as the brave commander and senior advisor of the IRGC in Lebanon, Major General Seyyed Abbas Nilforoushan, the IRGC Aerospace Force has launched dozens of ballistic missiles against key military and security targets in the heart of the occupied territories."

The statement also warned that "this operation has been approved by the Supreme National Security Council and ordered by the General Staff of the Armed Forces, with the support of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ministry of Defense. It is warned that if the Zionist regime responds militarily to this operation, which is in accordance with international law and the legitimate rights of the country, it will face devastating and crushing attacks."

Simultaneously, Iran's representation at the UN issued another statement regarding the missile attack on the occupied territories, declaring that "Iran's legal, logical, and legitimate response to the terrorist actions of the Zionist regime, which targeted and violated the national sovereignty of the Islamic Republic, has been carried out."

According to several reports, this operation was conducted through the launch of ballistic missiles. Iranian local channels, citing sources from the IRGC, claimed that approximately

400 missiles were fired at military targets in Tel Aviv and its surroundings. Israeli media, for their part, reported that several Iranian missiles had been launched against targets located in the central and southern parts of the colonial entity.

## The Islamic Republic's restraint in the face of Zionist attacks challenges the prevailing narrative in the West that presents Iran as an irrational actor with unpredictable behavior.

Iranian media, citing sources close to the operation, claimed that "over 80% of the missiles in the first wave hit their intended targets." Additionally, it was reported that the headquarters of the Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, was completely destroyed in the attack, although this information has not yet been confirmed or denied by colonial authorities, who have prohibited any photographs showing the damage caused by the Iranian operation.

Another target of the Iranian missiles was the Negev Air Base, located in the southern part of the occupied territories. This base houses the two squadrons of fifth-generation F-35 fighter jets of the Israeli Air Force and

was scheduled to receive a third squadron once more units were delivered. Iranian media sources have reported that the facility was "completely destroyed" during the attack.

Images from Israel confirm the impact of dozens of ballistic missiles that the country's air defenses, known as the "Iron Dome," failed to intercept. The inability of the Iron Dome to intercept these missiles, evidenced in hundreds of online videos, is explained by military sources as a consequence of its design. This defense system was specifically conceived to intercept and neutralize short-range rockets and mortar shells, primarily launched from Gaza. In this context, it has proven effective, managing to intercept a high percentage of incoming threats.

However, when it comes to hypersonic missiles, which exceed the speed of Mach 5 and have highly maneuverable trajectories, no existing air defense system in the world, including the Iron Dome, offers credible deterrence. Hypersonic missiles present unique challenges due to their speed, unpredictability of trajectory, and ability to evade radar systems, making them an extremely difficult threat to counter with traditional defense technologies.

According to Iranian media, various types of missiles were used in Operation "True Promise II." Among them are the Ghadr missiles, publicly unveiled in 2005 and available in three versions: the Ghadr-S, with a range of 1,350 km; the Ghadr-H, with 1,650 km; and the Ghadr-F, which reaches 1,950 km. Ballistic Emad missiles

with a range of 1,700 km were also launched. Lastly, the IRGC employed the hypersonic Fattah-1 missile, which has a range of 1,400 km and a terminal velocity of Mach 13 to 15 (16,000 to 18,500 kilometers per hour).

In general terms, the operation reflects Iran's need to regain its "capability of threat" in the face of ongoing Israeli aggression, supported by the United States. In this regard, it is interesting to highlight an article published by the U.S. magazine Politico, which aligns with the liberal consensus, clarifying that there is a well-articulated plan between the U.S. and Israel to invade Lebanon and redraw the region.

Iran has made every effort to avoid falling into Zionist provocations, reiterating its intention to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza and asserting that it never sought to initiate a war that would jeopardize regional stability. However, the Islamic Republic is aware that Israel's genocidal escalation, both in Palestine and Lebanon, ultimately targets Iran and aims at the political redesign of the region—something that is politically and militarily untenable.

The Islamic Republic's restraint in the face of Zionist attacks also serves to challenge the prevailing narrative in the West that presents Iran as an irrational actor with unpredictable behavior. Accusations of "irrationality" against the Iranian government are closely linked to the idea that it seeks to export its revolution by force throughout the region and that its regional preference is chaos.

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



# Iran's Hand on the Trigger

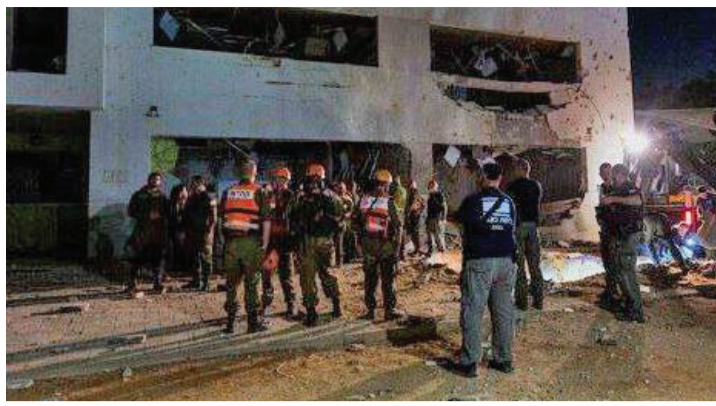
## Tehran vows retaliation if Israel responds to Operation True Promise II

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Salvos of Iranian missiles rained on the occupied territories on Tuesday night, comforting the people of the region who were eagerly awaiting a response to Israel's terror attacks in the past two months, and occupying observers with the thought of what could happen next.

Iran's attack dubbed Operation True Promise II involved firing approximately 200 ballistic missiles at three Israeli military bases near Tel Aviv. The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement that 90% of the projectiles managed to hit their targets. Israel and the U.S. claimed the operation had "failed", not addressing online footage that showed tens of Iranian missiles hit the ground after the regime's sophisticated defense shield failed to intercept them despite help from surrounding American forces and at least one regional country.

Operation True Promise II marked the second time Iran has targeted Israel directly from its soil. In mid-April, Tehran lobbed around 300 hundred drones and missiles at the occupied territories two weeks after the regime attacked the Iranian consulate in Damascus, killing a high-ranking IRGC commander and his deputy. After April's strikes, Iran said it would repeat the procedure more painfully if Israel harms its personnel or assets



anywhere in the world.

### Was Iran's attack legal?

Iran's attack was in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter, which states that countries have an inherent right to defend themselves when they have been the victim of an "armed attack". The Tuesday operation came after Iran became the target of two Israeli armed attacks. One on July 31, which killed Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, and one on September 27, which claimed the life of IRGC military advisor Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan along with Hezbollah leader Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah in southern Beirut.

According to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Iran was willing to put off a retaliation against Israel if that meant the U.S. could successfully pressure Israel to seal a cease-fire deal with Hamas. However, after the recent round of talks – which were

initiated by the U.S. following the Haniyeh assassination – failed due to Israel's intransigence, and with the assassination of Nasrallah and a buoyed wave of Israeli terrorism in Lebanon, Tehran was forced to get back on track.

### What happens next?

Iran says it used only a portion of its capabilities to strike Israel Tuesday night, a claim that analysts seem to confirm. Multiple high-ranking Iranian officials have stated that they are ready to take more severe action if the regime continues its aggression and responds to the missile strikes.

Israel, for now, says it will be retaliating. On the night of the attack, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran had made a "big mistake" and that it would end up with the same fate as Gaza and Lebanon, as he read from a paper he was holding onto with shaking hands.

Iran's rhetoric so far shows that while it is not looking to enter a war, it would also not shy away from one either if its interests and assets were on the line. It remains to be seen what move Israel makes next, but analysts speculate that the regime's actions will have a significant impact on the future of the region.

It is believed that Israel could choose to respond to Iran by trying to strike its military bases, nuclear sites, or energy facilities. It might also decide to carry out a sabotage attack, which is less likely to draw a strong reaction from Tehran.

"This may be where the Biden administration will intervene and truly rein in Israel," said Scott Ritter, former U.S. Marine Intelligence Officer and UN Weapons Inspector. "If Israel attacks Iran's oil-producing facilities, Tehran will do the same and target similar sites across the region. This would lead to global catastrophe and skyrocketing energy costs, especially in the West," he told the Tehran Times, adding that current Vice President Kamala Harris would not have the chance to get elected as the next president if that happens.

Targeting Iranian nuclear sites will have unprecedented and devastating repercussions too, Ritter added. "I think Israelis will choose some military sites or decide to conduct sabotage attacks."

## U.S., Europe root cause of regional conflicts: Leader

From Page 1 ▶ "We are in mourning these days. I, in particular, am deeply grieved. The loss of Mr. Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah is not a small matter. Even though the atmosphere in the country is one of public mourning, I chose not to postpone this meeting with the elites, which had already been planned," he stated.

Ayatollah Khamenei underlined the reason for holding the meeting of elites at the scheduled time, stating, "The message of this gathering is that even though we are in mourning, this does not mean that we should just sit in a corner and wallow in despair. Rather, our mourning is of the same nature as that of Imam Hussain (pbuh). It is reviving, propelling,

and it inspires enthusiasm for work and progress."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized, "The root of the problem and the fundamental cause of conflicts and wars in the region lies in the presence of the United States and certain European countries that falsely advocate for peace and tranquility. If they leave this region, the conflicts and wars would come to an end, allowing the countries to manage their affairs and coexist in peace and prosperity."

He considered Saddam Hussein's instigation to attack Iran and the ensuing bitter and difficult days as an example of the warmongering of the United States and the West in the region. In the same context, Ayatollah Khamenei remarked, "The current friendship between the two countries, Iran and Iraq, of which the pinnacle is manifested in the great Arbaeen Walk, clearly demonstrates that the primary obstacle to peace in the region stems from those who falsely claim to seek it. We remain hopeful that, with God's help, the determination of the Iranian people, the inspiration drawn from the Islamic Revolution, and collaboration with other nations, will, God willing, lead to the departure of our enemies from the region."

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

## "I am deeply mourning", or in other words, It's Far from Over!

From Page 1 ▶ As harrowing footage of Iranian missiles striking Israeli targets began to circulate, capturing both fear and fascination around the globe, speculation ran rampant about Israel's potential response. The range of possibilities, experts predicted, stretched from crippling attacks on Iranian infrastructure, such as oil facilities, to the elimination of top Iranian officials. Against this backdrop, the news of Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's Islamic Revolution Leader, meeting with a select group of the country's scientific elite and talents, quickly spread across international media. While some saw the meeting as a dismissal of Israeli void threats, most observers

anxiously awaited his pronouncements on the recent events, especially the devastating attack that had unfolded just hours earlier. The Leader, however, opted not to address the operation immediately, instead informing the nation that his thoughts on the matter, along with other recent incidents, including the assassination of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, would be shared "in the near future".

At the outset of his speech, Ayatollah Khamenei poignantly addressed the profound grief that had settled upon the nation following the assassination. "We are grieving these days," he declared with his voice filled with heavy sorrow. "And I, in particular, am deeply

mourning this loss." He then characterized the assassination of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah as a devastating event that had left Iran "deeply mournful"

He repeatedly invoked the word "mourn," characterizing Nasrallah's assassination as a grave incident that had cast a pall of sorrow over Iran. While this solemn preface served to underscore the meeting's significance for him, the Leader's profound emphasis on the grief surrounding Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah's death, I believe, largely went unnoticed by the audience, whose keen ears failed to fully grasp its implications.

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

## Iranian president visits Qatar for talks

Following the reception, bilateral talks between the two nations' delegations commenced, with discussions focusing on enhancing cooperation.

During a joint press conference with Qatar's Emir, President Pezeshkian stressed the importance of regional stability, particularly among Muslim nations. He called for greater unity and solidarity among Islamic countries, emphasizing that "Muslim nations are brothers."

Pezeshkian reiterated that Iran does not seek war or bloodshed, stating, "The security of the re-

gion is the security of all Muslims. We pursue peace and stability."

He also issued a warning to Israel, noting that if the Zionist regime continues its aggressive actions, Iran's response will be firmer. "We have been patient for the sake of peace, but these cowards have only grown bolder," Pezeshkian said, referring to Israel's actions.

He urged the U.S. and European countries to pressure Israel to cease its violence, warning that Israel is creating insecurity and attempting to expand the crisis in the region. "We must prevent this

crisis from escalating," Pezeshkian concluded.

During his visit, President Pezeshkian also signed several bilateral agreements. These agreements mark a significant development in Iran-Qatar relations, as both nations seek to enhance collaboration on mutual interests.

Pezeshkian's visit also includes his participation in the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit, where he will deliver a keynote address. The summit, which brings together 35 member states, serves as a platform for

promoting dialogue and collaboration on major economic and cultural initiatives across Asia. Pezeshkian is expected to emphasize regional cooperation and address key challenges facing the continent.

In addition to his speech, the Iranian president is likely to meet with other leaders and high-ranking officials attending the summit, opening further opportunities for diplomatic discussions beyond Qatar.

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

## More severe response awaits Israel in case of escalation of conflicts: Iran FM

From Page 1 ▶ "Iran does not seek to escalate tensions or initiate further conflict," Araqchi stated. "However, we are not afraid of war, and any retaliatory actions will be met with a more forceful response."

The Iranian foreign minister also issued a stark warning to any third-party nations consid-

ering interference, urging them to avoid becoming involved in the conflict. He called on regional and international actors to prevent Israel from continuing its military actions, particularly in sensitive areas such as Lebanon and Gaza.

Earlier in the week, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched a missile

barrage against Israeli military installations in retaliation for the assassinations of Haniyeh, Hezbollah leader Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, and Iranian commander Abbas Nilforooshan. According to Iranian sources, nearly 90% of the missiles hit their intended targets in the occupied Palestinian territories.

## SPORTS

### Ashrafi wins gold in World Taekwondo Junior Championships

TEHRAN – Amirmohammad Ashrafi of Iran claimed a gold medal on the second day of the World Taekwondo Junior Championships in Chuncheon, Korea on Wednesday.

He earned Iran's third gold medal of the Championships in the first final of the day in the men's +78kg weight division, [worldtaekwondo.org](http://worldtaekwondo.org) reported.

Ashrafi delivered an accomplished display against Australia's Aiden Stilley to take the first gold of the evening.

He used his height and leg length to maximum effect in both rounds, winning the first 11-2 and the second by technical superiority as his 15-point lead gave him for a richly deserved triumph.

That completed a day in which Ashrafi won all of his matches without dropping a round, including his semi-final against Italy's Matteo De Angelis courtesy of a powerful spinning head kick just over 30 seconds into the contest.

De Angelis earned a bronze medal along with Spain's Iván Lysenko Serrano, who was beaten by Stilley in the semi-finals.

On first day of the championships, Parnian Noori and Aynaz Nasiri had won two gold medals in the women's -52kg women's -59kg, respectively.

### Iranian giants stumble in AFC Champions League

TEHRAN – Persepolis and Esteghlal, two of Iran's most decorated football clubs, have faced a disappointing start to their AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25 campaigns. Despite their domestic dominance in recent years, both teams have struggled to replicate their form on the continental stage, raising serious questions about their ability to compete at the highest level of Asian club football.

Persepolis, who had shown promise in their opening match against Al-Ahli, failed to capitalize on their early lead against Pakhtakor.

Despite taking the lead within the first minute, the Iranian champions were pegged back by the Uzbek side and were fortunate to escape with a draw. The inability to maintain their early dominance and control the tempo of the game was a major concern.

Esteghlal, on the other hand, suffered a 2-0 defeat to Al Sadd, a result that exposed the vulnerabilities in their defense and the lack of creativity in their attacking play. The own goal was scored by their goalkeeper Hossein Hosseini and the penalty, which was awarded by Rouzbeh Cheshmi, highlighted the individual errors that have plagued the team in recent times.

While it's easy to blame the coaches for the teams' poor performances, the players must also shoulder a significant portion of the responsibility. The lack of intensity, poor decision-making, and inability to execute basic skills have been glaring weaknesses in both teams.

Persepolis players, accustomed to dominating the Iranian league, seem to lack the necessary mental fortitude to compete against the best teams in Asia. Their performance against Pakhtakor highlighted their inability to cope with the physicality and tactical acumen of their opponents.

Esteghlal, on the other hand, have been plagued by internal strife and a lack of leadership. The team's failure to compete as a unit and the individual errors of key players have contributed to their disappointing start to the campaign.

The performances of both Persepolis and Esteghlal have raised serious concerns about the state of Iranian club football. While the domestic league is highly competitive, the teams have struggled to translate that success to the continental stage. The lack of investment in youth development and the failure to attract top-quality foreign players have also hindered the progress of the Iranian clubs.

### Taremi on target as Inter Milan defeat Red Star 0-4

TEHRAN— Iran forward Mehdi Taremi scored his first goal for Inter Milan on Tuesday as he struck a penalty past Israel and Red Star Belgrade goalkeeper Omri Glazer hours after his country launched a barrage of missiles at Israel.

Taremi, who joined from Porto in the off-season, played a crucial role in Inter's 4-0 victory over Red Star in the Champions League by also setting up two of his team's other goals.

The 32-year-old Taremi was not asked about the situation back in his homeland when he was interviewed by Italian television, which focused on his first goal for the Nerazzurri.

"I am glad to score tonight, to play good, thanks to my teammates. It was great," Taremi told Sky Sport Italia.

It was his first competitive goal for the Nerazzurri and he was deservedly named Man of the Match by UEFA.

"I am so excited, it took a while for me to score, but I always tried to do my best in training. I fought for this moment and managed to get the goal tonight."

"Our goal as a big club is to reach the Final, as Inter must try to win every game. We will take it step by step," Taremi concluded.

Inter will meet Young Boys on October 23 in its next Champions League fixture while Red Star travel to Monaco a day earlier.

### Nekounam no longer Esteghlal coach

TEHRAN – Javad Nekounam stepped down as Esteghlal coach following poor results in 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL).

Nekounam announced his resignation shortly after a 2-0 loss against Al Sadd in the AFC Champions League Elite and the Iranian club agreed with his departure.

Former Esteghlal defender Sohrab Bakh-tiarizadeh has been named as the team's interim coach.

Ricardo Sa Pinto is a candidate to take charge of the Iranian giants.

The Portuguese coach has most recently worked as head coach in Cypriot team APOEL.

### Mihajlo Mitic joins Paykan volleyball team

TEHRAN – Serbian setter Mihajlo Mitic joined Iranian volleyball club Paykan.

The 34-year-old player has joined Paykan from Polish team Skra Be?chatow.

Mitic is a former member of the Serbia national team, who won the title in the 2011 European Championship.

Paykan are the most successful volleyball club in Iran with 12 league titles. The team have won the Asian Club Championships eight times.

In 2010 Paykan finished in third place in the World Club Championships.

### Sepahan beat Istiklol in AFC Champions League Two

TEHRAN – Sepahan defeated Tajikistan's Istiklol 4-0 in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Two Group C on Tuesday.

Aboubakar Kamara opened Sepahan's account in the 40th minute and Javad Aghaeipour made it 2-0 in the 43rd minute. Aghaeipour completed his brace one minute into the second half.

Bryan Dabo added the fourth in the 76th minute to seal the emphatic win in Isfahan's Fooladshahr Stadium.

Sepahan had lost to Jordan's Al Wehdat 2-1 in Matchday One.



## A positive force in safeguarding global food security: China's agricultural development achievements over past 75 years

In recent years, China and Iran have achieved positive and fruitful outcomes in agricultural cooperation, as Iran's high-quality agricultural products including citrus and apples have entered the Chinese market. In 2023, China's import of agricultural products from Iran surged by 3.5 times compared to five years ago.

China, like Iran, is a traditional agricultural country. Chinese President Xi Jinping once said, "To build a strong country, we must first strengthen agriculture; a country can only be strong if it is strong agriculturally. Without a strong agricultural sector, there can be no strong modern country; without agricultural and rural modernization, socialist modernization cannot be complete."

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) 75 years ago, China's agricultural production has continued to develop, the rural economy has prospered across the board, and farmers' lives have improved significantly. Agriculture, rural areas and farmers in China have taken on a completely new look.

First, grain and important agricultural products have been adequately supplied. Since 1949, China's comprehensive grain production capacity has continued to improve, from an annual grain output of only over 200 billion catties in the early days of the founding of the PRC to 1390.8 billion catties in 2023, an increase of 5.1 times.

Second, solid progress has been made in building rural areas that are comfortable and beautiful to live in and fit for work. Over the past decade in China, a total of 2.5 million

kilometers of rural roads have been newly renovated, the rural tap water penetration rate has reached 90%, and the popularity rate of rural sanitary toilets has reached about 75%. More than 580,000 village clinics, over 16,000 rural nursing homes, and over 140,000 mutual-aid elderly care service facilities in rural areas have been built around the country.

Third, channels for farmers to increase their income have been expanded. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, various regions of China have continued to focus on promoting local specialties by utilizing new modes such as e-commerce live streaming, vigorously cultivating new forms of business in rural areas, and continuously creating more channels for farmers to increase their income and become prosperous. In 2023, the per capita disposable income of rural residents in China hit 21,691 yuan. Adhering to the path of agricultural modernization with distinctive Chinese characteristics, China uses 9% of the world's arable land to feed one-fifth of the world's population, making a significant contribution to ensuring global food security.

China and Iran have great potential for cooperation in the field of agriculture. China is willing to work with Iran to implement the China-Iran Comprehensive Cooperation Plan and deepen bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture, in a bid to promote economic and social development in both countries and benefit the people of both nations.

## Annual export of polymer products exceeds \$4.5b

TEHRAN – Iran exported over \$4.6 billion worth of polymer products in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the head of Iran National Plastic and Polymer Industries Association (INPIA) said.

Speaking to IRIB, Saeed Torkaman said that polymer industry was the second biggest source of export revenue in the country during the previous year.

According to the official, the polymer industry has created jobs for over one million people across the country and prevented the sales of raw materials to a great extent.

The energy imbalance and the challenges in the supply of raw materials have caused part of the capacities of the country's plastic and polymer industry to remain idle.

The value of Iran's export of petrochemical products increased by 12.8 percent during 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 head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mohammad Rezvaniyar said that the country exported 24.5 million tons of petrochemicals worth \$9.8 billion in the five-month period, indicating also 12.5 percent growth in terms of weight, year on year.

The former head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) has said the country's petrochemical output is estimated to reach 80 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in late March 2025).

Noting that one of the main objectives of the Oil Ministry in the current year has been the sustained supply of feed to petrochemical complexes, Morteza Shahmirzaei put the country's petrochemical exports in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) at 30 million tons.

He announced last month that the NPC is going to launch 15 new petrochemical projects by the end of the current Iranian calendar year.

Shahmirzaei made the remarks on the sidelines of the 18th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST 2024), adding that five major petrochemical projects have gone operational since the beginning of the current year.

"The implementation of petrochemical projects in Makran region has accelerated and it is hoped that one of them will come online this year," the official said.

He went on to say that Iran's petrochemical sector will reach self-sufficiency regarding the items and equipment needed in the industry within the next five years.

According to the official, the capacity of Iran's petrochemical industry which currently stands at 96 million tons will surpass 100 million tons when the projects come on stream.

Earlier in May, Ahmad Mahdavi Abhari, the director general of the Association of Petrochemical Industry Corporation (APIC), said Iran's petrochemical output has increased by 15 million tons over the past two years.

Abhari put the country's current petrochemical output at 82 million tons.

He said Iran's petrochemical output stood at 67 million tons before late President Raisi took office in August 2021.

The official also noted that the Iranian petrochemical industry has created as many as 143,000 direct jobs in the mentioned period.

He put the current growth of Iran's petrochemical industry at 40.6 percent up from 27.5 percent in the country's third five-year development plan.

National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOOPDC).

According to Keramat Veis-Karami, the average daily gasoline consumption in the first seven days of autumn stood at 128 million liters, IRIB reported.

# Iran, Armenia sign barter trade agreement in Yerevan

TEHRAN – Iran and Armenia signed a barter trade agreement on the sidelines of the 3rd Eurasian Economic Forum in Yerevan on Tuesday.

The agreement was signed by Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi at the presence of Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Mohammad Atabek and Armenian Economy Minister Gevorg Papoyan.

Under the agreement, the two countries will appoint representative companies to implement barter trade after three months from the signing of the agreement.

TPO will be the body in charge of selecting Iranian companies to implement the mentioned agreement.

Iran views barter agreements as a major tool to avoid U.S. sanctions that restrict its access to international trade.

The signing of the deal came after Iran opened its trade center in Yerevan. The center, built over an area of 18,000-square meters, has 107 booths and stalls that sell Iranian-made consumer goods, chemicals and other industrial products. Armenian businesses have also a share in the retail and wholesale facility.

Iranian ambassador in Yerevan Mehdi Sobhani described the facility as the "largest Iranian trade center in the world", saying it will lead to a major increase in trade ties between Iran and Armenia.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the parties emphasized the removal of financial and banking obstacles and restrictions, facilitating the issuance of guarantees for Iranian technical and engineering service contractors in Armenia and some other customs restrictions.

The Armenian side announced the decision of the Armenian government to invest in Iran's Chabahar Port.

He also referred to the importance of opening a commercial center of Iran in Armenia, calling on Atabek for support and assistance in setting up an Armenian business center in Iran.

Iran and Armenia seek to in-



crease the value of their trade ties to \$3 billion per year. Iran also views Armenia as a gateway to trade with members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Iran and the EAEU, which includes Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia, are currently in a preferential trade arrangement but they will enforce a free trade deal signed in December last year once parliaments of the two sides ratify the agreement.

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, that visited 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 Ar-

menia 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.

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

## Home appliance exports reach \$180m in 4 months

TEHRAN – Iran exported \$180 million of home appliances in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 - July 21), according to the secretary of Iran's Home Appliance Manufacturers Association.

Abbas Hashemi said over 20 million home appliance units are expected to be produced in the country in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in late March 2025), IRIB reported.

The country's home appliance output is expected to reach 25 million in the next year, he said.

The official put the country's home appliance exports in the previous Iranian calendar year at \$420 million noting that air conditioners, washing machines and gas appliances were the top exported items.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon and CIS countries are among the main export destinations for Iranian home appliances, according to Hashemi.

The home appliance industry is one of the industries that faced significant production growth in the past few years, so it can be said that Iranian manufacturers were able to take a significant share of the market in the production of refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, evaporative coolers, and TV sets, and even in small household appliances, the production status is outstanding.

TEHRAN – The total volume of water in Iran's dam reservoirs has reached 24.45 billion cubic meters in the previous water year (ended on September 22), showing a 13 percent increase compared to a year earlier.

According to Firouz Ghasemzadeh, the



Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past two years so that this industry's production increased by 18 percent in the past Iranian year (ended on March 19).

In mid-June, the secretary general of the Association of Home Appliances Manufacturers in Iran said the production of home appliances increased by 18.2 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year compared to a year before.

According to Omid Fazeli-Nia, production of home appliances reached 19.5 million units in the previous year from 16.5 million units a year earlier.

Back in January, the former head of the Home Appliances Manufacturers Association said that over the past few years, the production of home appliances has increased from eight million units to more than 17 million units

Alireza Mohammadi Daniali said the industry has expanded by 25 percent.

Mentioning some of the challenges that manufacturers of home appliances are currently facing, the official said: "Producers have problems such as mandated pricing, lack of liquidity, lack of foreign currency supply, and exports, which need to be addressed and resolved."

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the country has exported non-oil goods worth \$17.5 billion in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, registering an 8.0-percent growth, year on year.

Mohammad Rezvaniyar put the total value of the country's non-oil trade in the mentioned four months at \$36 billion.

riod last year.

Ghasemzadeh said currently, 47 percent of the total capacity of the country's dams is full. Iran's total dam reservoirs stand at 50.5 billion cubic meters.

## Average daily gasoline consumption rises 7%

TEHRAN – Average daily gasoline consumption in Iran has reached about 124.5 million liters since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20) up to September 28, registering a 7.2 percent rise compared to the figure for the previous year, according to the managing director of the



# Celebrations in West Asia and beyond follow Iran's missile strike

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Iranians were not the only ones celebrating Tehran's retaliatory missile strikes against the Israeli regime. The joyous mood quickly spread to other countries as well.

Videos of the hypersonic ballistic missiles being launched from Iranian territory and their dramatic entry into the skies of Israel spread like wildfire on social media.

Most people in West Asia already felt a very strong sense of animosity towards the Israeli occupation regime. But the Israeli regime's crimes over the past year have increased that hatred very swiftly, perhaps as quickly as the Iranian missiles reached their targets in Israel.

The quality of the Iranian operation coupled with the vast number of missiles landing on Israeli targets in such quick succession made it clear this was no ordinary retaliation.



yah and Dhi Qar. The celebratory mood also spread to the provinces of Wasit, Babil, Kirkuk and Diwaniyah.

The lively atmosphere carried on to the late hours of the night.

Secretary-General of the Lebanese Hezbollah, Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah. In Baghdad's Palestine Street, people handed out sweets to motorists.

Also, in Lebanon, particularly southern Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut, people were delighted over Iran's missile strikes that shook Israel, including the capital Tel Aviv.

For a nation still in mourning over the martyrdom of its resistance icon Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah and in the face of indiscriminate Israeli attacks, it was a rare opportunity to put matters aside and light up some fireworks.

Outside West Asia, there were similar scenes in regions around the world from villages in Africa to Pakistan and also Kashmir, India.

Across the occupied West Bank, another region ravaged by war, crowds took to the streets to film the missiles flying over their heads amid chants of "God Is Great". The Iranian response to the assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Esmail Haniyeh in Tehran was perhaps executed more powerfully than the Pales-

tinians had imagined.

Incredible footage went viral online showing Palestinians celebrating with the debris of an Iranian missile. Around a dozen men can be seen lifting it upwards and cheering before posing for photos. It looks like the rocket debris may be left as a monument unless Israeli bulldozers demolish it.

Perhaps the most emotional scenes of happiness came from the totally blockaded Gaza Strip. After one year of brutal U.S.-backed Israeli genocide in the enclave, Palestinians cheered as they watched the missiles fired by Iran fly over their besieged skies.

Amid the rubble of destroyed neighborhoods, footage posted online shows people using their mobile phones to capture the missiles before crowds erupted in celebrations.

Other footage shows a large mobilization of Palestinians in Gaza walking, clapping and singing among the ruins of the war. In a rare night, amid a year of genocide, starvation, displacement, etc., this was an opportunity for Gazans to smile in the world's largest open-air prison.



Yemeni students and faculty took to the streets of Sanaa to commend Iran's missile attack on Israel, and protest against the regime's crimes in Gaza and Lebanon. [Khaled Abdullah/Reuters]

In neighboring Iraq, large public celebrations took place in many places including the capital Baghdad, the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf, Basrah, Wasit, Kut, Nasiri-

Footage of the gatherings show large crowds chanting, convoys of cars honking horns, waving flags and holding up posters of Iraqi martyrs as well as the martyr

## Stormy skies ahead: Israel faces unprecedented resistance

### Eight Israeli soldiers killed in combat with Hezbollah in south Lebanon

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel has been driven into a corner as regional resistance groups intensify attacks against the regime in the wake of Iran's ballistic missile salvo on Tel Aviv.

The first face-to-face clashes erupted between the Hezbollah resistance movement and Israel since the regime announced its ground offensive in southern Lebanon on Tuesday.

Israeli media said two Israeli soldiers were killed and 18 others wounded in clashes with Hezbollah fighters on the border with Lebanon near the town of Odaisseh on Wednesday.

### Hezbollah says the resistance movement dealt "big losses" to Israeli troops during clashes on Wednesday.

Israeli troops came into Lebanese territory but were repelled in ground fighting. It was an ambush that forced the Israeli forces back and marked a victory for Hezbollah.

The Lebanese resistance movement also struck the Shtula settlement, where Israeli soldiers are staging on the border. It also targeted a large infantry force in the Misgav Am settlement with missiles and artillery. Later on Wednesday, the Israeli army said its combat losses in southern Lebanon has increased to eight.

The head of Hezbollah's media office said the clashes with Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon dealt "big losses" to the regime.

"We're in the first round of war, it is the beginning of what happened in Odaisseh today," Mohammad Affif told reporters at a news conference in Dahiya, a suburb in the south of the Lebanese capital.

"Our forces and resistance fighters are fully prepared to confront and resist the enemy," he added.

Israel has air superiority, but when it comes to ground battles, Hezbollah has the upper hand. The resistance group is able to transform the battlefield into a graveyard for Israeli troops.

Israel's so-called limited ground incursion into southern Lebanon came after the regime launched a massive bombing campaign on Lebanon.

More than 1,000 Lebanese people have been killed in the Israeli airstrikes that began on September 23. Israel also assassinated Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in brutal strikes on Dahiya on Friday.

Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese people have also fled their homes.

Hezbollah and Israel have been trading fire since the regime declared war on Gaza on October 7. The Lebanese resistance movement has fired rockets and missiles toward Israel in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

Israel announced its ground incursion into Lebanon with the purported aim of deterring the Hezbollah resistance movement from continuing its attacks and returning evacuated Israelis to the north.

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

Yemen's Ansarullah movement has also fired missiles toward Israel and hit Israeli-linked ships in support of Palestinians in Gaza over the regime's genocidal war on the territory which has so far claimed the lives of about 41,700 people including some 17,000 children.

The Yemeni army said on Wednesday that it had fired cruise missiles "deep inside" Israel.

"The missile force of the Yemeni Armed Forces carried out a military operation targeting military sites deep inside the Zionist entity (Israel) in occupied Palestine with three Quds 5 cruise missiles," it said in a statement.

I added, "The missiles were able to successfully reach their targets amid the enemy's secrecy about the results of the operation."

A week ago, the Yemeni army said it had fired a missile at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv.

Rising attacks by the Ansarullah and Hezbollah resistance movements come as Iran launched at least 180 missiles into Israel on Tuesday night which targeted the regime's strategic military and intelligence sites.

### The Yemeni army says it has successfully hit military sites "deep inside" Israel with cruise missiles.

Iran said it fired the missiles as retaliation for the Israeli assassination of the Hezbollah leader, Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh and a top Iranian military advisor who was killed in the regime's strikes against Beirut.

Israel assassinated Haniyeh in Iran on July 31. He had traveled to Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Presently, resistance is growing against Israel's genocidal war in Gaza as well as its invasion of Lebanon and military adventurism in the region. The Benjamin Netanyahu regime has found itself in a precarious position as public resentment also continues to grow across the globe against its crimes in Gaza and Lebanon.

## Israel declares UN chief 'persona non grata'

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz on October 2 declared UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "persona non grata" and barred him from entering Israel, claiming Guterres had not "unequivocally" condemned Iran's retaliatory attack, The Cradle reported.

The ban imposed on Guterres comes just days after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused the UN of being biased against Israel, describing the institution as a "moral stain," a "swamp of antisemitism," and a "flat earth society."

"Until this anti-Semitic swamp is drained, the UN will be viewed by fair-minded people everywhere as nothing more than a contemptuous farce," the Israeli premier said to

a nearly empty hall at the UN headquarters.

Earlier this year, Guterres placed Israel on the annual blacklist of countries and organizations harming children in conflict zones, joining organizations like ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and Boko Haram.

In February, Katz declared Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva a "persona non grata" in response to remarks by the Latin American leader likening Israeli war crimes in Gaza to Adolf Hitler's in Nazi Germany.

Israel has also imposed a visa ban on Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur for the occupied Palestinian territories.

## Israeli air and ground attacks kill over 50 Palestinians across Gaza

Dozens of Palestinians were killed as Israel stepped up its military operations across Gaza.

Gaza's Health Ministry reported on Wednesday that at least 51 people had been killed in the enclave over the previous 24 hours, as the Israeli military ramped up attacks, Al Jazeera reported.

Israeli fighter jets attacked Gaza City overnight, striking the Muscat School in the Tuffah neighborhood and the Al-Amal Orphanage in the west of the capital.

The Israeli military, meanwhile, announced

an attack on the "Brig High School" in central Gaza.

In separate statements, the army said the two schools and the orphanage were being used as Hamas "command and control complexes" to plan and carry out operations. But it failed to provide any evidence to back up the claim.

Nearly a year of relentless Israeli attacks on Gaza have killed more than 41,600 people and wounded almost 100,000, with thousands still missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

## PM Mikati: 1.2 million people displaced in Lebanon

Lebanon is enduring the country's largest displacement of citizens in its history, as people flee Israeli bombing.

Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati said 1.2 million people have been displaced by Israel's invasion and airstrikes.

"We are trying to cope with these problems, but to tell you the truth, security-wise, the most important thing now is to arrange

for them shelter, food, and how we can manage these displaced peoples," Mikati said.

He also said there is an immediate need for a ceasefire.

Israeli strikes have killed over 1,000 people in Lebanon over the past two weeks, nearly a quarter of them women and children, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

## The sudden response

By Batool Subeiti

BEIRUT- Netanyahu and his cabinet appear to be riding a wave of high confidence following their intensified bombardment of Lebanon. They operate under the assumption that relentless strikes can dismantle the Islamic resistance in Lebanon before it can effectively respond and stabilize internally. This strategy has bolstered Netanyahu's popularity within the entity, including among opposition members.

However, if Netanyahu believed that mass destruction in Gaza and Lebanon along with targeted assassinations, that are deemed tactical victories, could reverse the entity's failures in Gaza, the Iranian missile has come and taken it back to square one.

This retaliation by Iran sends a clear message; that is Iran will not allow the Israeli occupation entity to gain the upper hand in deterrence. When the Axis of Resistance faces significant hits and intervention become necessary Iran responds. Moreover, Iran has a score to settle following the assassination of its officials and the attack on its sovereignty, particularly the killing of Gaza's resistance leader Haniyeh in Tehran.

The delay in Iran's response to this assassination, marked by initial silence, has caught both American and Israeli intelligence off guard. They had misjudged Iran's willingness to react to the transgression. Now that deterrence has been restored tangibly.

Political considerations have diminished in significance, as the Israeli occupation entity has crossed critical red lines. Meanwhile, the U.S. has effectively granted the entity a green light to act with impunity, particularly in the election atmosphere in the country when decisive action is less likely.

One of America's biggest miscalculations

was to believe it can persuade Iran to hold back on retaliating against Haniyeh's killing, in hopes of achieving a ceasefire. In reality, this approach allowed the entity to escalate its actions, leading to further attacks and targeting Hezbollah Secretary General Sayed Nasrallah. Iran, however, did not fall for this trap and has retained the right to respond.

The scale of the impact on the entity has been significant, with many of its military bases—particularly Nevatim, Hatzarim, Tel Nof, Netzarim, and Gllot—suffering direct hits. This creates a strategic crisis for Israel, effectively reducing its previous "successes" to ground zero.

This retaliation may compel Western powers, who ideally want to avoid a regional war, to pressure the entity to halt its aggressive actions. America confirmed in its assessment that the situation has not changed much as Iran did not intend to harm any of the American bases.

While an Israeli response to Iran is anticipated, it is unlikely to be severe enough to provoke a strong Iranian counterattack, unless the U.S. decides to engage directly in the offensive alongside the entity. Should America choose to intervene, its bases in the region could come under threat. However, it is reluctant to take military actions, especially during an election time.

If the U.S. opts to participate in the Israeli strikes against Iran, the risk of a regional war looms large. However, if the entity ignores American warnings and escalates its attacks, Iran has made it clear that it will retaliate decisively. While many scenarios remain possible, the likelihood of a regional war appears less likely.



## Ilam province sees 60% increase in Iraqi tourists' overnight stays



TEHRAN - The number of Iraqi travelers making overnight stays in official accommodations in Ilam province has seen a 60% year-on-year increase during the first six months of the year, according to the province's tourism chief.

On Wednesday, Farzad Sharifi stated that nearly 8,072 Iraqi tourists stayed in the province's hotels and other certified hospitality centers during this period, marking a significant rise compared to the same timeframe last year.

Additionally, Sharifi noted that 32 orga-

nized tours, including health tourism, leisure, and sightseeing trips, brought 882 Iraqi visitors to Ilam in the first half of the year.

These tourists stayed between one and seven days in the province's official accommodations.

"We witnessed the highest influx of Iraqi tourists, especially during Nowruz holidays and the summer break," Sharifi said, highlighting seasonal picks in visitor numbers.

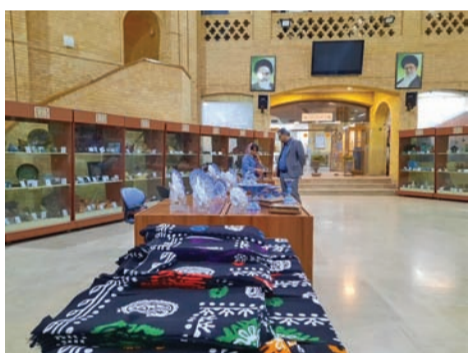
He also pointed to ongoing efforts to build more accommodation units and tourism complexes across the province.

These developments aim to extend the tourists' stays, create jobs, and promote economic growth in Ilam's tourism industry.

The province's rich cultural heritage, diverse climate, traditional clothing, recreational sites, and hospitable culture make it a growing destination for visitors.

"Enhancing the quality and variety of services offered has been prioritized to encourage tourists to stay longer," Sharifi added.

## Dorud handicrafts on show at ministry headquarters in Tehran



TEHRAN - A special exhibition showcasing the handcrafted works of artisans from Dorud county in Lorestan province is held at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism in Tehran, according to Lorestan's deputy for handicrafts.

Abbas Hamzehi announced on Wednesday

that the exhibition, organized at the ministry's main hall, featured a variety of artisanal works from Dorud, including traditional crafts such as enamelwork (minakari), turquoise inlaying (firouzeh koobi), and woodturning.

The exhibition is organized in collaboration with the Handicrafts Department of Lorestan and it aims to promote native handicrafts, the official said.

According to organizers, the exhibit offered visitors an opportunity to explore and appreciate the rich handicraft traditions of Dorud county, which have been passed down through generations of skilled artisans.

Currently, a selection of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as "world cities of handicrafts".

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites

### Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region

The Lake Ohrid region, a mixed World Heritage property covering c. 94,729 ha, was first inscribed for its nature conservation values in 1979 and for its cultural heritage values a year later. These inscriptions related to the part of the lake located in North Macedonia. The property was extended to include the rest of Lake Ohrid, located in Albania, in 2019.

Lake Ohrid is a superlative natural phenomenon, providing refuge for numerous endemic and relict freshwater species of flora and fauna dating from the tertiary period. As a deep and ancient lake of tectonic origin, Lake Ohrid has existed continuously for approximately two to three million years. Its oligotrophic waters conserve over 200 species of plants and animals unique to the lake, including algae, turbellarian flatworms, snails, crustaceans and 17 endemic species of fish including two species of trout, as well as a rich birdlife.

Situated on the shores of Lake Ohrid, the town of Ohrid is one of the oldest human settlements in Europe. Built mostly between the 7th and 19th centuries, Ohrid is home to the oldest Slav monastery (dedicated to St. Pantelejmon) and more than 800 Byzantine-style icons of worldwide fame dating from the 11th century to the end of the 14th century.

Ohrid's architecture represents the best preserved and most complete ensemble of ancient urban architecture of this part of Europe.

Slav culture spread from Ohrid to other parts of Europe. Seven basilicas have thus far been discovered in archaeological excavations in the old part of Ohrid. These basilicas were built during the 4th, 5th and beginning of the 6th centuries and contain architectural and decorative characteristics that indisputably point to a strong ascent and glory of Lychnidios, the former name of the town. The

structure of the city nucleus is also enriched by a large number of archaeological sites, with an emphasis on early Christian basilicas, which are also known for their mosaic floors.

Special emphasis regarding Ohrid's old urban architecture must be given to the town's masonry heritage.

In particular, Ohrid's traditional local influence can be seen among its well-preserved late-Ottoman urban residential architecture dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.

The limited space for construction activities has led to the formation of a very narrow network of streets.

On the Lin Peninsula, in the west of the Lake, the Early Christian Lin church, founded in the mid-6th century, is related to the basilicas of Ohrid town in terms of its architectural form and decorative floor mosaics, and possibly also through liturgical links.

Although the town of Struga is located along the northern shores of Lake Ohrid, town life is concentrated along the banks of the Crn Drim River, which flows out of the lake.

The existence of Struga is connected with several fishermen settlements on wooden piles situated along the lake shore. A great number of archaeological sites testify to origins from the Neolithic period, the Bronze Age, the Macedonian Hellenistic period, the Roman and the early Middle Age period.

Similar pre-historic pile dwelling sites have also been identified in the western margins of the Lake.

The convergence of well-conserved natural values with the quality and diversity of its cultural, material and spiritual heritage makes this region truly unique.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Tourism capacity expansion plans formulated, minister says

TEHRAN - On Wednesday, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the development of a comprehensive plan to boost the country's tourism capacity.

Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri emphasized ongoing discussions with key government officials to implement the program effectively.

"We need to focus on three main areas to increase tourism in Iran," Salehi-Amiri told reporters.

"First, we must introduce our attractions to the world. According to World Bank studies, Iran ranks seventh in global tourism appeal, but I believe we are among the top three countries in terms of cultural and heritage attractions."

The minister highlighted infrastructure and security as two other critical aspects for expanding tourism capacity. He noted that the current [Iran's tourism] capacity stands at 6.2 million tourists annually, but the goal is to increase this figure to 15 million.

"We have developed a set of programs and are in talks with key government figures to pur-



sue these three areas seriously," he added.

Salehi-Amiri also pointed to the importance of diplomatic efforts in promoting tourism, revealing that he recently held talks with the tourism ministers of several regional countries, including Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Georgia, and Iraq, to prepare the groundwork for attracting more tourists.

"This Saturday, I inaugurated the sixth five-star hotel in Tehran. We are committed to building 100 hotels each year, particularly four- and five-star hotels," he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister expressed optimism that the current administration will lay the necessary groundwork for tourism development, forecasting a significant increase in tourist numbers over the next year.

Earlier this month, the minister emphasized the government's pledge to construct 100 hotels annually during a five-year development plan. He also called for greater involvement of the private sector. "While the government can address 20 percent of the infrastructure needs,

private investment is crucial to filling the gap," he said.

"We are committed to making significant strides in the tourism industry, and [adequate] infrastructure is a fundamental part of this development," Salehi-Amiri said.

"Investment in the tourism sector will also see a substantial increase, with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage raising its commitment from €224 million to €500 million," the minister said.

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

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.

## Recently recovered Achaemenid clefts to go on view at National Museum

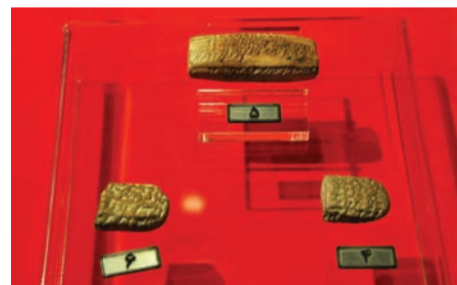
TEHRAN - Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri announced that a collection of Achaemenid-era clay tablets, recently returned from the United States, will soon be unveiled at the National Museum in Tehran.

The unveiling ceremony is scheduled to be held in the presence of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Salehi-Amiri said.

Speaking on the sidelines of a government meeting on Wednesday, the minister explained that the clay tablets had been sent to the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago nearly 90 years ago for research and study.

Over the years, Iran has been engaged in legal proceedings to secure the return of these artifacts. As part of President Pezeshkian's recent visit to the United States for the UN General Assembly, 1,100 tablets were returned to the Islamic Republic.

In addition to the tablets, Salehi-Amiri highlighted the return of another historical artifact—a tablet that was discovered near the Dez Dam in Khuzestan province over 50



years ago. "This tablet had been taken out of the country by an Iranian citizen and was recently handed over to Iran by the individual's family."

The minister further noted that preparations are underway to display the tablets to the public at the National Museum of Iran. He emphasized that Iran continues to pursue legal efforts in several countries to retrieve other historical artifacts that have been taken abroad over the years. "Any Iranian artifact found abroad must be returned to its homeland," he added.

The return of these tablets represents the sixth batch of historical artifacts that have

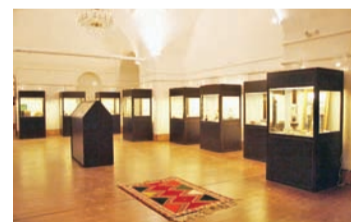
been successfully repatriated to Iran from the United States.

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

The UNESCO-listed Persepolis, locally known as Takht-e Jamshid, was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (c.550 - 330 BC). It ranks among the archaeological sites, that have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art. Available evidence suggests that Persepolis was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge against the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

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

## Kazerun Anthropology Museum to undergo restoration



TEHRAN - Kazerun Anthropology Museum, located in the ancient city of Kazerun in Fars province, is set to undergo extensive restoration, according to the provincial heritage chief.

Mohammad Sabet-Eghlidi on Wednesday announced that the

restoration and refurbishment plans for the museum, housed in the historical "Khaneye Moallem" building, have been finalized.

The project will include floor paving, wall and ceiling plastering, as well as the installation of new electrical and mechanical systems to enhance the museum's facilities.

Khaneye Moallem is a historical structure dating back to the Pahlavi I era, and is registered as a national heritage site under the number 28251.

The museum features a wide

array of exhibits, including traditional tools, utensils, clothing, and architectural insights that showcase the customs and traditions of Kazerun's people.

Fars province, located in southwestern Iran, is a region steeped in history and culture, renowned for its rich heritage and numerous historical sites. Often considered the cultural heartland of Iran, Fars is home to ancient cities, monumental ruins, and architectural masterpieces that reflect its illustrious past.

One of the most iconic sites in

Fars is Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire, founded by Darius the Great in 518 BC. This UNESCO World Heritage Site showcases the grandeur of ancient Persian architecture with its impressive palaces, reliefs, and staircases.

Another significant landmark is Pasargadae, the tomb of Cyrus the Great, which is a testament to the early Persian Empire's architectural ingenuity. This site also holds a UNESCO designation and is revered for its historical and cultural importance.

## A 5000-year-old paved cellar found in Denmark reveals existence of complex underground

A team of archaeologists led by Marie Brinch from the Lolland-Falster Museum has unearthed the remains of what appears to be a stone-paved cellar, meticulously constructed around 5000 years ago on the Danish island of Falster.

This unprecedented discovery, made at the Nygårdsvvej 3 archaeological site, not only reveals the existence of complex underground structures during a period previously considered primitive but also raises intriguing questions about the level of technological and social development achieved by Neolithic cultures in northern Europe.

The excavation, carried out in the context of the expansion and electrification of a railway line, has brought to light the remnants of two overlapping phases of dwellings, associated with the Funnel Beaker Culture, which marks the beginning of the Neolithic period in the region. What has astonished the archaeologists is the discovery, within one of these habitation phases, of a carefully constructed sunken area using pebbles of various sizes, whose arrangement and shape unmistakably indicate an anthropogenic origin.

This structure, interpreted as a cellar, measures approximately 2 by 1.5 meters and is

located about 40 centimeters below the surrounding ground level. The most surprising feature is its stone paving, which suggests a level of architectural planning and execution previously unsuspected for this period. The researchers explain that the presence of this paved cellar challenges our understanding of the construction capabilities of Neolithic societies. It forces us to reconsider the complexity of their domestic structures and, by extension, their social organization.

(Source: labrujulaverde.com)



# Iran hosts SATRC workshop on recent trends, technologies

TEHRAN –The South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC) workshop on recent trends and technologies was held in Tehran from September 30 to October 2.

Hosted by the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the event brought together representatives from India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan.

The emphasis of the workshop was on recent trends and technologies that support the digital transformation of the economy and society in SATRC member countries.

The main objective was to give an in-depth analysis of various trends in innovation and technologies for fostering the growth of the economy and society including technical details, policy and regulatory aspects, and other aspects.

The workshop served as a platform to share expertise and boost cooperation among regional South Asian countries. It also focused on modern strategies to address challenges facing the information communication technology sector at regional as well as global levels, IRIB quoted Hamid Fattahi, an official with Information and Communication Technology, as saying.

Addressing the attendees, Fattahi said the rapid development of communication infrastructure and technological trends play an important role in empowering communities and accelerating economic growth.

"In a world that is becoming



more and more digitalized, it is very essential to find a balance between the three elements of security, privacy, and innovation in information communication and technology.

Also, with the rapid pace of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the importance of developing safe policies and regulations that will ensure responsible use of these technologies is felt more than ever," Fattahi added.

The three-day event consisted of several sessions discussing policy and regulatory environments; innovation and investment in telecommunication/ICT; and initiatives to bridge the standards and innovation gap.

The sessions also focused on the new technologies and trends in satellite communications, and regulatory aspects and challenges of these technologies were addressed in detail.

#### Status of ICT in Iran

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is the highest authority in the field of ICT in the country. All ac-

tivities related to the information and communication technology industry are directly related to the ministry.

the event brought together representatives from India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan.

The government pays special attention to plans and policies in this sector in order to maximize the use of ICT to facilitate people's lives.

The successful designing, building, and launching of a satellite show the growth of the national technology and scientific power of a country.

Space technology has been

considered a tool to expand prosperity, peace, scientific-cultural development, and economic progress in human societies.

Different nations of the world exploit this technology in some way based on their capacity, capabilities, and efforts.

Currently, 13 universities and a research institute affiliated to the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology are offering aerospace majors, thus Iran has a high capability in training specialists and experts in the aerospace sector and is a leading country in the region.

Access to telecommunication services in rural areas of the country had improved over the period as the overall number of villages with access to communication services rose to 52,182, around 93 percent of all villages, while 47,837 villages had access to home landline services.

Moreover, the number of Iranian mobile users reached nearly 135.890 million, according to the CRA which put the mobile phone penetration rate in the country at 161.67 percent.

The figures showed, however, that fixed broadband adoption in Iran had stalled at 14 percent with nearly 11.921 million customers having access to the Internet via those services.

This statistic shows that fixed broadband internet has grown by less than 2 percent compared to last year and mobile internet has experienced a growth of 10 percent. However, it can be said that the speed of mobile internet expansion is 5 times the speed of fixed internet.

## Iran attending ICESCO Education Ministers Conference

TEHRAN –An Iranian delegation headed by the Minister of Education, Alireza Kazemi, is participating in the third Charter of the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) Education Ministers Conference.

The conference is being held on October 2 and 3 in Muscat, Oman.

Upon arrival in Muscat, the delegation was welcomed by Iran's ambassador to Oman, Mousa Farhang, as well as some Omani officials.

The officials followed up on the latest taken measures regarding ICESCO's former approvals. They also discussed and reviewed issues on Iranians residing in Oman, particularly students and Iranian schools, IRNA reported.

#### ICESCO

The event is being held under the theme,



"Beyond Transforming Education Summit: from Commitments to Actions," by the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), in collaboration with Oman's Ministry of Education and in coordination with the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science.

The Conference will see the attendance of education ministers from Islamic countries, along with high-level delegations from 27

regional and international organizations, as well as civil society institutions focused on educational matters.

The Conference aims to strengthen the commitment to transforming education within the ICESCO Member States and to establish effective mechanisms for disseminating best practices and accelerating their implementation.

Additionally, it seeks to foster cooperation among Member States, build a network linking funding and donor bodies, develop mechanisms to monitor the outcomes of the Education Transformation Summit and create programs that support Member States' efforts in this field. The Conference will also highlight the ethical and value-based foundations underpinning education transformation in the Islamic world's civilizational heritage.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Special plan prepared to attract overseas Iranian researchers

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has prepared a special plan to attract scientists and researchers living abroad, IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The project aims to promote "supporting technological activities and startups", "postdoctoral facilities", "supporting employment in innovation centers and accelerators as a trainer and consultant", "providing facilities for opportunity studies", "providing housing facilities", "supporting employment in reputable domestic companies", "support for lectures and specialized workshops" and "support for cooperation as invited and appointed professors".

It is estimated that about one percent of all Iranian students are studying abroad, which is not above the international average of around 3 percent.

## طرح ویژه برای جذب پژوهشگران ایرانی مقیم خارج

جذب محققان و پژوهشگران خارج از کشور یکی از اولویتهای کشور محسوب می‌شود و در این راستا معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری طرحی ویژه پیشنهاد کرده است.

به گزارش ایرنا، معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری، این طرح شامل «حمایت از فعالیتهای فناورانه و ایجاد شرکت‌های نوپا»، «تسهیلات پسا دکتری»، «حمایت از اشتغال در مراکز نوآوری و شتابدهنده‌ها به عنوان مربی و مشاور»، «تسهیلات دوره فرصت مطالعاتی»، «تسهیلات مسکن»، «حمایت از اشتغال در شرکت‌های معتبر داخلی»، «حمایت از برگزاری سخنرانی و کارگاه‌های تخصصی» و «حمایت از همکاری به عنوان اساتید مدعو و معین» است.

بر اساس برآوردها نزدیک یک درصد از کل مجموع دانشجویان ایرانی در خارج از کشور تحصیل می‌کنند. این رقم در مقایسه با میانگین بین‌المللی که حدود ۳ درصد است، رقم بالایی محسوب نمی‌شود.

## World Space Week to be marked

TEHRAN –The World Space Week is observed annually from October 4 to 10 as the largest annual space event in the world. The week helps build up the workforce of tomorrow by inspiring students; demonstrating visible public support for the space program; educating the public about space activities; and fostering international cooperation in space outreach and education.

According to the World Space Week Association, it will be marked under the theme of 'Space and Climate change' this year.

The theme celebrates the transformative impact of space technology in our ongoing battle against climate change, emphasizing the proactive role space exploration plays in enhancing our understanding and management of Earth's climate.

The World Space Week 2024 will seek to educate, inspire, and effectively connect global communities by focusing on the powerful alliance between space technology and climate science.

Throughout the week, efforts will be made to highlight the vital role of satellites and space technology in monitoring climate change and developing effective strategies to reduce the harmful effects of climate change.

"We will emphasize the essential role that space plays in monitoring the Earth's climate and mitigating climate change," World Space Week Association quoted Dennis Stone, Association President, as saying.

"This theme aims to spark worldwide educational and public outreach initiatives, showcasing the crucial and integral part that space plays in understanding our global environment," he added.

The Iranian Space Agency will celebrate the event to raise public awareness by holding various programs for different age groups. It has named the days of the week as follows.

Friday, October 4, 'Space, Earth, and Future gen-

eration'.

Saturday, October 5, 'Space, AI, and Climate change'.

Sunday, October 6, 'Satellite, and Greenhouse gas emission monitoring'.

Monday, October 7, 'Space technology, and Natural disasters' management'.

Tuesday, October 8, 'Space climate, and solar activity monitoring'.

Wednesday, October 9, 'Man, Space technology, and food security'.

Thursday, October 10, 'Space technology, Weather monitoring equipment'.

The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1999 that World Space Week will be held each year from October 4-10. These dates commemorate two events. October 4, 1957: Launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, thus opening the way for space exploration

October 10, 1967: The signing of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

Holding World Space Week aims to provide unique leverage in space outreach and education, educate people around the world about the benefits that they receive from space, encourage greater use of space for sustainable economic development, demonstrate public support for space programs, excite young people about science, technology, engineering, and math, and foster international cooperation in space outreach and education.

World Space Week consists of thousands of space-related events held by space agencies, aerospace companies, schools, museums, astronomy clubs, and others in a common timeframe to achieve greater student and public impact through synchronization.

## Tehran to play host to Iran smart city intl. conference

TEHRAN – The fifth international conference of Iran smart city will be held from October 28 to 30 in Tehran.

The conference will focus on different topics including smart economy, smart life, smart governance, smart environment, smart transport, and smart transformation.

A smart city is the key to achieving a smart society and sustainable development. Transferring global experiences and exchanging knowledge and expertise can facilitate and accelerate the movement towards the creation of smart cities.

The conference will be held with various, high-quality programs and the attendance of domestic and foreign experts as well as practitioners with the aim of providing a proper interaction between smart city agents, city managers, industrialists, experts, and knowledge-based centers to complete the smart city puzzle in the country.

#### World Cities Day

World Cities Day is celebrated annually on 31 October. It aims to create awareness of the role of urbanization in global sustainable development and social inclusion.

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) declared the Day to promote interest in global urbanization and encourage cooperation among countries in addressing the challenges of urbanization and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

The Day takes place during Urban October, which the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) launched in 2014 to emphasize the world's urban challenges and engage the international community on the New Urban Agenda (NUA), which highlights inclusive cities. Urbanization offers opportunities for new forms of social inclusion, including greater equality, access to services and new opportunities, and engagement and mobilization.

## Iran, Armenia to boost ties in medicine, medical equipment

TEHRAN –Iranian and Armenian health officials have discussed ways to expand joint activities in areas related to medicine as well as medical equipment.

The head of the Food and Drug Administration, Heidar Mohammadi, and the Armenian deputy health minister Artak Jumayan, held a meeting in Tehran on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

As an important step towards strengthening interactions, the two countries exchanged their lists of essential medicines and medical equipment.

Also, the Armenian Ministry of Health agreed to facilitate Iran's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union and streamline the process for registering Iranian medicine and medical equipment.

Armenia welcomes Iran-made pharmaceutical products

In February, the Armenian deputy health minister announced the country's willingness to import Iranian medicine and medical equipment.

Talking about the remarkable achievements of Iran in dealing with the coronavirus outbreak by

adopting appropriate measures, Lena Nanushyan said that Iran's progress in the field of health is significant, ISNA reported.

She made the remarks in a meeting with Mohammadi, on the sidelines of the 18th session of the Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee that was held in Tehran during February 14-15.

At the end of the meeting, 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, maritime transportation, food, medicine, and customs cooperation.

Noting that Iranian pharmaceutical products are famous worldwide, she said that Armenia has yet to import the products, she added.

Referring to the quality of anti-cancer drugs manufactured in Iran, she said, "We are interested in using Iranian oncology drugs in Armenia, and it is also possible to supply part of the required drugs of the country from Iranian manufacturing companies."

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





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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
Email: info@tehrantimes.com  
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
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OCTOBER 3, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Overlook and forgive the weaknesses of the generous people because if they fall down, Allah will help them.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:11:53 Evening: 18:03 Dawn: 4:39 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:02 (tomorrow)

## Musical adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet" to go on stage in Tehran



TEHRAN- A musical adaptation of William Shakespeare's sad romantic play "Romeo and Juliet" will be staged at the Qashqai Hall of Tehran's City Theater on October 4.

Shahrouz Delafkar will direct the musical, which will remain on stage until October 15.

Sahar Abdolmaleki, Reza Jahangiri, Maryam Boroumand, Mohammad Hossein Motamedi, Ashkan Sarmad and Sadaf Khaqan are the main members of the cast for the play.

"Romeo and Juliet" is a timeless tragic romance that belongs to a rich tradition of storytelling that dates back to ancient times. The narrative originates from an Italian tale penned by Matteo Bandello, further adapted into verse as "The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet" by Arthur Brooke in 1562, and reconstructed in prose in the "Palace of Pleasure" by William Painter in 1567. Through these adaptations, the story has evolved into a cultural touchstone that explores intense themes of love, fate, and the consequences of familial conflict.

Set against the backdrop of Verona, the plot takes shape amid an age-old vendetta between the two renowned families: the Montagues and the Capulets. The enmity between these houses is deeply ingrained in the fabric of the city, leading to rampant street brawls and a toxic atmosphere that overshadows everyday life. The animosity reaches a boiling point when a group of masked Montagues, defying the longstanding feud, infiltrate a lavish Capulet party in hopes of disrupting the status quo.

At this fateful gathering, the lovestruck Romeo Montague encounters the beautiful Juliet Cap-

ulet, and sparks fly. In a world fueled by hatred, their instantaneous attraction blossoms into profound love; however, their union is doomed from the start, as Juliet is betrothed to the affluent Count of Paris, a suitor of her father's choosing.

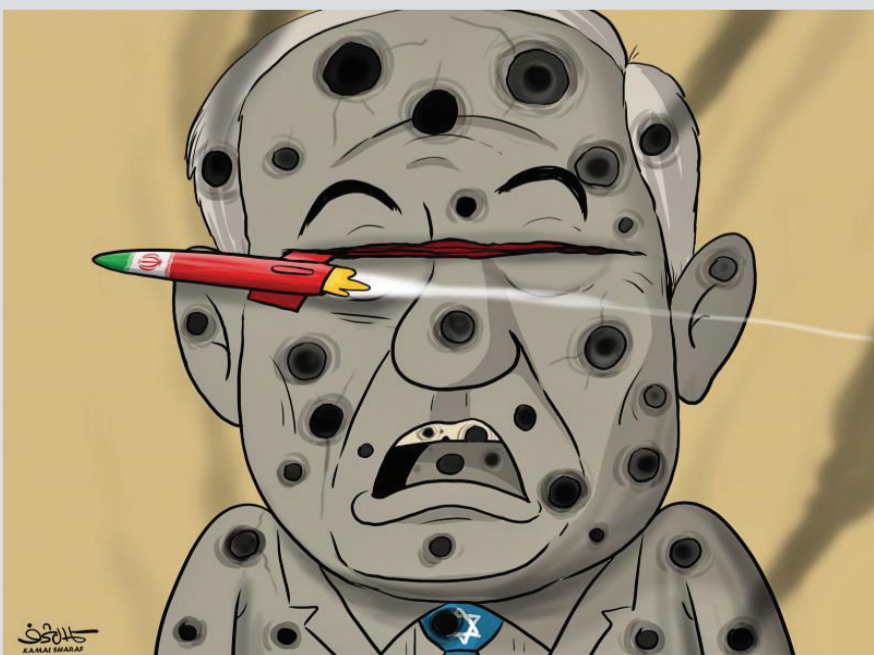
Through the clever machinations of Juliet's nurse, the impassioned couple orchestrates a secret wedding the very next day. However, tragedy strikes when Romeo attempts to mediate a street brawl, inadvertently leading to the death of Tybalt, Juliet's fiery cousin. As a result of this violent encounter, Prince Escalus banishes Romeo from Verona, tearing the lovers apart and plunging Juliet into despair.

In a desperate bid to reunite with her beloved, Juliet resorts to a bold scheme crafted by Friar Laurence, where she fakes her own death with a potion. However, the communication fails, and upon discovering Juliet's seemingly lifeless body, a heartbroken Romeo takes his own life, believing that he has lost her forever. Upon awakening to this devastating sight, Juliet, overwhelmed by grief, decides to follow him into death.

In their mutual demise, the bitter feud between the Capulets and Montagues reaches a tragic climax, finally prompting both families to reconcile in sorrow. The story's profound exploration of love and loss continues to resonate, reminding audiences of the destructive power of hate and the enduring nature of love.

William Shakespeare, widely regarded as the greatest playwright in English literature, was born in 1564. Throughout his career, Shakespeare wrote an impressive body of work that includes over 36 plays, 154 sonnets, and several poems. His plays span across various genres, including tragedies like "Hamlet" and "Macbeth," comedies such as "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Twelfth Night," and histories like "Henry V" and "Richard III." Shakespeare's works are renowned for their intricate plots, memorable characters, and profound insights into the human condition, making them timeless pieces of literature that continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

## Cartoon of Day



Iranian Response

Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

# Children's film festival receives submissions from 48 countries

TEHRAN- The 36th edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth has received 176 submissions from 48 countries.

Participating countries include Serbia, Tajikistan, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan, Hungary, Italy, India, Palestine, France, China, Jordan, Russia, Qatar, Norway, and Armenia. Additionally, Spain, Mexico, the U.S., Mongolia, Portugal, the Netherlands, Germany, Tunisia, Iraq, and Ukraine, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

The competition is further enriched by entries from Sweden, Finland, Sri Lanka, Belgium, Switzerland, Japan, Argentina, South Korea, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Bolivia, Chile, Luxembourg, Denmark, Canada, Lebanon, Syria, Austria, Poland, and Thailand, all vying for a spot in the festival's competitive sections for short and feature-length films.

The lineup of the selected movies will be announced in the near future.

Back in July, the secretary of the festival Majid Zeinolabedin said



that this year, conditions have been set in place for young filmmakers to participate in the festival and have their works compete with other productions.

The reality is that despite all the positive steps taken for children's and youth cinema in previous years, this cinema is extremely weak and in dire need of

a strategic plan for support, he added.

"Appropriate cultural funds should be allocated for this cinema."

For such festival film viewing for families alongside children and youth attending the festival should be facilitated, he explained.

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## Iran's "Passion of Love" wins award at Italian festival

TEHRAN- Iranian film "Passion of Love" directed by Dariush Yari received an award at the 27th edition of the Religion Today Film Festival, which was held in Trento, Italy last week.

The movie was honored with the Honorary Presidents' Special Award for Interreligious Dialogue, recognized for its compelling narrative that tells a sacred story using innovative language and a strong focus on fostering encounters between religions, as announced by the organizers.

"Passion of Love" narrates the poignant journey of the Karbala captives as they travel from Kufa to Sham. The story centers around Selma, a woman entrusted with the vital role of acting as the voice for the caravan of Karbala prisoners, particularly for Hazrat Zainab (SA).

Selma is determined to educate and enlighten those who have been misled by Shimir and his deceived agents. Her mission is to ensure that the distinction between the oppressor and the martyr remains clear, preventing the truth from becoming obscured once again. As she raises the flag of Imam Hossein (AS) and leads the caravan alongside Hazrat Zainab (SA), Selma ultimately becomes one of the loyal companions of Karbala, embodying the spirit of resilience and resistance.

Payam Ahmadiania, Reza Khodadad Beigi, Behzad Dorani, Bahram Ebrahimi, Nader Fallah, Mi-

tra Khajeian, Roohollah Mehrabi, Shohreh Mousavi, Alireza Ostadi, Siamak Safari, Babak Vali, Mahdi Zaminpardaz, Shohreh Mousavi, Payam Ahmadiania, Behzad Dorani, Bahram Ebrahimi, Nader Fallah, Mitra Khajeian, Roohollah Mehrabi, Alireza Ostadi, and Siamak Safari are in the cast among others.

The 96-minute drama was the winner of Best Film in the Interfaith Section at the 42nd Fajr Film Festival earlier this year.

Moreover, Iranian animators Baran Sediqian won the Best Animation Award for her short animation "The Deer" and Mona Shams was awarded the Special Jury Mention for the short animation "Phoenix" in this edition of the festival.

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

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

It is an animated documentary, six minutes, based on real sounds. The story of the film is about a person who decides to immigrate, and

different voices of immigrants collected in documentary form narrate the feelings and events of the hero of the film.

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

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

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

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

## Translation of Horace Walpole's gothic novel "The Castle of Otranto" hits bookstores

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the novel "The Castle of Otranto" written by Horace Walpole has been released in the Iranian book market.

The book has been translated by Mehrdad Vosoughi and published by Qoqnoos Publishing House, ISNA reported.

First published pseudonymously in 1764, "The Castle of Otranto" purported to be a translation of an Italian story of the time of the crusades. In it, Walpole attempted, as he declared in the preface to the second edition, "to blend the two kinds of romance: the ancient and the modern".

Crammed with invention, entertainment, terror, and pathos, the novel was an immediate success and Walpole's own favorite among his numerous works.

It is considered the first Gothic novel in the English language, and it is often said to have founded the horror story as a legitimate literary form.

Set in a haunted castle, the novel merged medievalism and terror in a style that has endured ever since. The aesthetic of the book has shaped modern-day gothic books, films, art, music, and the goth subculture.

Walpole was inspired to write the story after a nightmare he had at his Gothic Revival home, Strawberry Hill House, in Twickenham, southwest London. Claiming he saw a ghost in the nightmare—which featured a "gigantic hand in armor"—Walpole incorporated imagery from this into the novel, and also drew on his knowledge of medieval history.

"The Castle of Otranto" is a story of one man's desperate and villainous plot to protect his family's claim to the throne. In seeking to divorce his wife Hippolita and marry the young Isabella, he tries to gain

a son to secure his family's reign, but fails.

Horatio Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford, was an English art historian, man of letters, antiquarian and Whig politician. He is now largely remembered for Strawberry Hill, the home he built in Twickenham, south-west London where he revived the Gothic style some decades before his Victorian successors, and for his Gothic novel "The Castle of Otranto". Along with the book, his literary reputation remains on his letters, which are of significant social and political interest.

## Palestine guest of honor at Sharjah Int'l Film Festival for Children, Youth

Palestine was announced as a country of honor at the 11th Sharjah International Film Festival for Children and Youth (6-11 October) in the UAE.

The Sharjah festival will present 98 films in 18 languages representing countries such as Oman, Egypt, UAE, France, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, and Germany, Ahram Online reported.

The films were chosen from more than 1,800 international entries.

Palestine will be honored with screening several films, including British-Palestinian filmmaker Farah Nabulsi's 2023 drama "The Teacher."

The film premiered at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival and received several awards

from various international film festivals, including the Red Sea International Film Festival.

It was awarded a Jury Prize and Best Actor Award to Saleh Bakri, Audience Awards at the San Francisco International Film Festival, Brooklyn Film Festival, Cyprus Film Days, and others.

"This year, we celebrate Palestine and the distinctive qualities of its films, which have influenced Arab cinema since the 1920s. Palestinian cinema continues to deliver thought-provoking, visually captivating works that reflect the pulse of Palestinian society," Sheikha Jawaher bint Abdullah Al Qasimi, director general of the Faan Foundation and the Sharjah festival, said in a press release.

The festival will also welcome a number of Palestinian guests.

Palestinian filmmaker Hanna Atallah will join the festival's jury panel.

Together with Ola Salama of Lab Palestine Film, Atallah will also participate in a panel on producing Arabic content for children and youth.

Filmmaker Omar Rammal and a Palestinian-American blogger Haifa Beseisso will lead a session on the future of the Palestinian narrative in cinema.

Besides film screenings, the 11th Sharjah International Film Festival for Children and Youth will host other industry related events, such as workshops, seminars, and networking events.