

Araqchi visits Lebanon, Syria as Israel continues to bombard region without abatement

Diplomacy of Power



Global action needed to ensure Israel pays for atrocities: Iranian diplomat

TEHRAN – Ali Bahreini, the Iranian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva has urged for prompt measures to halt Israel's actions in Lebanon and Palestine, emphasizing the need to hold the regime accountable for its offenses.

Bahreini expressed these concerns in separate letters addressed to the president of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In his statements, the Iranian ambassador condemned the recent assaults by the Israeli regime on Lebanon and called for an immediate reaction from the international community to address this aggression and ensure accountability for the crimes committed.

Bahreini specifically denounced the Israeli airstrikes in Beirut, which resulted in the deaths of Hezbollah leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and Iranian IRGC Qods Force high-ranking commander, Major General Abbas Nilfroushan, labeling these actions as serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. ▶ Page 3

Iran, Armenia agree to strengthen parliamentary cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran and Armenia have reached an agreement to enhance parliamentary collaboration across various levels, focusing on friendship groups and specialized committees within the parliaments of both nations.

During a meeting with Armenian parliamentary representatives, a delegation from Iran's parliament highlighted the importance of enhancing parliamentary relations as a cornerstone for fostering amicable ties between the two nations.

The two sides acknowledged the existing friendly relations and the ongoing collaboration across various sectors.

The meeting, characterized by a warm atmosphere, saw Armenian representatives express that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a valued ally of Armenia, contributing to regional peace through its balanced approach.

The chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship Group of the National Assembly of Armenia expressed gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its steadfast support regarding Armenia's territorial integrity and the inviolability of international borders. ▶ Page 2

Iran's export to Oman rises 35% in 5 months on year

TEHRAN- Iran's export to Oman increased by 35 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, according to an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO).

Abdol-Amir Rabihavi, the director-general of the TPO's West Asia Office, referred to the significance of Iran's economic cooperation expansion and said that on the sidelines of the 20th meeting of Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee last year, it was decided that the issue of preferential trade between the two countries would be put on the agenda of Iran's deputy minister of industry, mining and trade and Oman's deputy minister of commerce, industry and investment promotion.

As previously reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Oman was the sixth top trade partner of Iran among the Islamic Republic's neighbors in the first five months of the present year.

The deputy head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) for the international affairs has announced that an Iran-Oman business forum will be held in Muscat and Batinah North of Oman on October 15 and 16. ▶ Page 4

Iran warns of potential strikes on Israel's critical infrastructure if provoked

TEHRAN – Iran will target Israeli energy and gas installations if Israel attacks it, Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) deputy commander Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi said on Friday.

"If the occupiers make such a mistake, we will target all their energy sources, installations and all refineries and gas fields," Fadavi said.

Fadavi emphasized that, unlike Iran, which boasts a large and economically diverse landscape, Israel has only a handful of key facilities, making it vulnerable to such strikes.

Fadavi cautioned that if Israel makes any strategic errors, it risks its own survival. "If Israel makes a mistake, it will expose its very existence to destruction," he warned, stressing that in the event of conflict, Iran is prepared to target all of Israel's energy resources, including its gas fields, power stations, and refineries.

Earlier this week, Iran launched a missile attack on Israeli-occupied territories in retaliation for the killings of key Resistance leaders. ▶ Page 3

Israeli special forces seeking to enter Lebanon suffer losses

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- A field commander with the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement says Israeli special forces are suffering "very costly" losses by trying to infiltrate southern Lebanon through two border village areas.

The commander in the resistance movement's operations room played down the photos and videos published by Tel Aviv near certain southern villages adjacent to the Lebanese border.

"The images published by the enemy's army, showing its soldiers near homes in a border village in southern Lebanon, were taken in a geographical area just tens of meters away from the occupied territories, as everyone knows that some southerners built their homes near the border," the commander explained.

He added, "To obtain these images, which the embattled Netanyahu desperately needs, the cost was more than 20 dead and wounded among elite soldiers on Friday, which forced the Israeli military censor to hide and cover up the incident." ▶ Page 5

US aiding and abetting Israeli genocide

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- The United States has remained Israel's main supporter over the past decades despite the crimes that the regime has committed in the Palestinian territories.

Since Israel launched war on Gaza on October 7 last year, Washington has also provided Tel Aviv with unwavering military and political support.

Besides the \$3.8 billion of military aid that Israel receives from the US annually, the administration of President Joe Biden has provided the regime with additional weapons worth billions of dollars.

On multiple occasions, the White House also obstructed global initiatives intended to implement a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

The Biden administration's unequivocal backing for Israel has made the US complicit in the regime's atrocities in the Palestinian enclave.

A probe has provided additional insights into the United States' role in the crimes that Israel has perpetrated in Gaza. ▶ Page 5

Ayatollah Khamenei's message to the Islamic Ummah

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, led the Friday prayer for the first time in four years, an event regarded by many analysts as one of his most anticipated interventions. The last time Ayatollah Khamenei presided over this ceremony was in 2020, following the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

The Friday prayer holds paramount importance, as it provides meaning to the political and social life of the community and serves as a powerful discursive tool. Historically, one of the first actions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) after his migration was the construction of mosques and their integration into all. ▶ Page 2



Protesters march worldwide to condemn Israeli warmongering

Pro-Palastine protesters have rallied across the globe to mark one year since Israel launched its genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

Protests have been held in cities in the United States, Britain, France, Italy and other parts in the world.

Demonstrators in Paris called for an end to Israel's war in Gaza and also in Lebanon.

In London, protests accused the UK government of complicity in Israel's war of genocide in Gaza.

Several protesters carried posters reading "Starmer has blood on his hands".

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

A united nation and 'True Promise III'

The Iran newspaper devoted its editorial to Operation True Promise II and people's massive attendance at Friday Prayers in Tehran. It wrote: Three days after Iran's crushing response to the Zionists, a picture of Netanyahu's shaking hands was published, which showed his desperation and surprise at Operation True Promise II.

At the same time, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the commander-in-chief of the resistance movement, revived hope in the hearts of the oppressed as the preacher of the Friday prayers.

Friday prayers in Tehran were in the true sense of the word "inclusive". It heartened the oppressed people of Gaza and Lebanon.

The words of the Leader of the revolution in Persian and Arabic in the Friday prayer sermons were also highly important. It was a manifestation of enlightenment and rationality.

Against the temptations of the enemies who have started accusing the architects and mujahids on the anniversary of the Al-Aqsa Storm, the Leader of the revolution expressed the logic of defense against the aggressor and defended this history-making move. Today, the world sees how Iranians came together under the banner of the revolution to stand against violence and crime, united and empathetic, and made the "True Promise III".

Siasat-e-Rooz: Even the enemies did not imagine

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz wrote: Operation "True Promise II" ridiculed the impenetrability of the Zionist regime's Iron Dome and the vulnerability of the multi-layered defense systems in countering Iran's missiles. The Friday prayer ceremony in Tehran was led by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a situation that even the enemies did not imagine. To weaken the spirit of the people there were even rumors that he had been transferred to another place (safe place) following the Tuesday missile operation against Israel.

This event changed the course of events in the region and the world, causing major changes. Iran is ready to defend its land, revolutionary ideals, the Islamic world, and the resistance front. Victory is very close and the enemy is terrified and desperate and knows that it has reached a dead end and that's why it is struggling.

Former IRGC chief says UK, US interference root cause of West Asia turmoil

TEHRAN – A member of Iran's Expediency Council and a former commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has characterized the involvement of Britain and the United States in the West Asia region as significant barriers to peace, contributing to heightened tensions and the potential for regional conflict.

Mohsen Rezaei expressed on his X social media account on Saturday, "The assaults by Britain and the United States on Yemen, conducted on behalf of the Israeli regime's military, are exacerbating the war imposed by this regime in the region."

Rezaei underscored, "Such reckless actions are likely to provoke war in West Asia. The Islamic community will not stand for these provocations and will rally to the resistance front."

In similar remarks, Ali al-Qahoum, a member of the political office of Yemen's

Farhikhtegan: Missile operation was cherished as a great achievement

In an analysis, Farhikhtegan dealt with the mental conditions of the people in the region after Operation True Promise I. It wrote: After spreading lies that Iran had betrayed Haniyeh and left the resistance front alone, the impact of the True Promise II dealt a crushing blow to the enemies that they no longer can say anything. After the operation, the regional people celebrated together with the wish for the inevitable decline of Israel. Before the (October 1) operation, a large number of analysts considered Iran's actions against the Zionist regime as only a show that could not make significant changes. However, after the success of the operation, people throughout the Arab world (and other countries in the region) cherished it as a great achievement. This shift in sentiment reflects a larger alignment in the Arab world. In fact, Iran's decisive actions marked a turning point. Operation True Promise II seems to have increased the desire for collective action against a common enemy. For the first time in decades, we see the Muslim community standing together in a regional celebration.

Arman-e-Melli: Iran's approach in the region

In a conversation with former diplomat Nasrollah Tajik, Arman-e-Melli discussed the prospects of the region after the assassination of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. He said: The course of developments in the region depends on the decisions the stakeholders will take. Iran is not the only actor that plays a role in this process. Some regional actors like Iran and Israel have a clear role while some like Saudi Arabia play a hidden role. On the other hand, international actors such as America and France play a role in these developments. Iran is one of the logical actors, which first calculates what goals it needs to achieve and then adjusts its game, which is why it decided to launch a missile attack on Israel (on October 1). In the current situation, Iran is aware of the goals that Netanyahu is pursuing with the support of the United States. The assassination of Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah is not only a targeting of Hezbollah leaders but also intended to bring Iran into a war with Israel. The status of Iran's support for Hezbollah is the same as all countries that support their allies. Iran supports Hezbollah's goals and operations so that this group can achieve its goals.

Ansarullah, stated on Saturday, October 5, to Sputnik news agency, "The unwavering aggression from the United States and Britain against Yemen will elicit a formidable response."

On Friday, October 4, a new series of airstrikes by the United States and Britain targeted Al Hudaydah airport, the Al-Sayyanah area in Sana'a province, and regions in southern Dhamar province.

The assaults are intended to lift a monthslong maritime blockade imposed against Israel which has been caused by the Yemeni army's operations against vessels linked to the regime in the Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and the Mediterranean.

Since November, Yemen's operations have included numerous missile and drone strikes on commercial ships associated with this regime, aimed at supporting the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

members of parliament who are responsible for maintaining and developing relations with other countries.

The group is tasked with promoting and strengthening cooperation between Armenia and other nations, including Iran.

Iran, Armenia agree to strengthen parliamentary cooperation

From page 1 ► Both parties reached a consensus to advance parliamentary cooperation at multiple levels, involving friendship groups and specialized committees from both parliaments.

The Parliamentary Friendship Group of the National Assembly of Armenia is a group of

Hamas official lauds Ayatollah Khamenei's support for Resistance efforts

TEHRAN – A senior Hamas official, Mahmoud Mardawi, has expressed deep appreciation for the recent statements made by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, emphasizing that these remarks reinforce Iran's commitment to the Palestinian cause and Resistance.

Mardawi highlighted that Iran's backing, especially through actions like the True Promise Operation II, plays a crucial role in resisting Israeli occupation.

In reference to the Leader's Friday address, Mardawi underscored the significance of such public support in bolstering the Palestinian and Lebanese Resistance movements, particularly amid growing international pressure and strong U.S. backing for Israel.

According to him, these



expressions of solidarity embolden Resistance groups in their fight against Israeli aggression.

He also pointed out that the True Promise Operation II dealt a significant blow to Israel's leadership, specifically to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who believed the Resistance

could be subdued by targeting its key figures. Mardawi emphasized that this operation marked an essential countermeasure against escalating violence and attempts to weaken the Palestinian and Lebanese Resistance.

Iran, in a retaliatory move, launched a missile attack on Israeli-occupied territories

Time for a ceasefire

Tuesday, October 1, 2024, the myth of Israel's invincibility has been shattered. Now, assuming that Israel functions as the 51st state of the United States, the U.S. must reach a new balance and agreement, even if short-term, with Iran and the countries of the region to adjust its new strategy based on the current realities on the ground.

A critical point in this regard is the perception of regional countries regarding recent developments. The remarks made by Jordan's King at the UN General Assembly reflect new insights from an Arab leader, previously accused of compromising with Israel, about the threat Israel poses to the existence of his country.

Other Arab nations in the region had abandoned the policy of confrontation with Israel following defeats in the Six-Day War of 1967 and the Yom Kippur War of 1973. Furthermore, some of them had recently sought to normalize their relations with Israel. However, they have now realized that implementing this policy is not feasible.

These countries, which often did not have positive relations with the Resistance Front and were willing to declare practical neutrality in the past year, are now unable to remain silent in the face of Israel's actions. Continuing neutrality is untenable in the court of Arab public opinion and under the pressure of their populations.

Nevertheless, we should not overstate our assessment of recent events. Israel remains the creation of the victorious powers of the First and Second World Wars, who continue to support it. Therefore, we must also pay attention to this reality. However, an apartheid state cannot continue forever.

The visit by Iran's President Pezeshkian to Qatar immediately after Iran's retaliatory operation signaled a clear shift in regional power dynamics. It underscored Iran's role as a critical stakeholder in regional stability. It conveyed a clear message about the need for the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to change their positions regarding Israel and Iran. Iran extended an olive branch when the southern Persian Gulf states were in a precarious situation vis-à-vis Israel. It was a significant and positive event in this historic moment.

The subsequent meeting between the Iranian

Foreign Minister and the ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states demonstrated Iran's intention to strengthen diplomatic ties and to advocate for a unified regional stance against external threats (GCC Summit Report, 2024). Such efforts indicate Iran's strategy to fill the diplomatic void left by previous U.S.-led initiatives.

The Iranian Foreign Minister's recent visit to Lebanon, coinciding with the presence of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution during Friday prayers, and his emphasis on protecting the security and national interests of Iran and other countries in the region, suggests that the primary objective is not merely to support Hezbollah but to lay the groundwork for a broader ceasefire agreement.

Lebanon's acceptance of a ceasefire, as announced by its Foreign Minister in an interview with CNN, signals a potential opening for a diplomatic resolution. The Lebanese Foreign Minister announced that Lebanon had agreed to a ceasefire. "We were fully accepted in Lebanon. We consulted with Hezbollah," he stated.

The Speaker of Parliament, Nabih Berri, had consulted with Hezbollah on the verge of accepting full implementation. "We informed the Americans and the French that this was the case, and they told us that [Israeli Prime Minister] Netanyahu had agreed to the statement of the two presidents [of the United States and France] on the ceasefire."

Although Netanyahu hypocritically committed the crimes of bombing Dahiya and causing the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah to complicate ceasefire negotiations, there remains an opportunity for the international community—particularly the United States and France—to broker an agreement. Given the regional and global stakes, this opportunity mustn't be missed.

The Middle East is at a critical juncture. While difficult, a ceasefire remains the most viable option for stabilizing the region and preventing further escalation. For the United States, recalibrating its strategy and engaging in diplomatic initiatives that consider the legitimate concerns of regional actors like Iran and Lebanon is crucial. The future of regional stability hinges not just on military might but on meaningful diplomatic engagement and respect for the sovereignty of all nations involved.

Ayatollah Khamenei's message to the Islamic Ummah

From page 1 ► affairs of the new Islamic government. These spaces were not only designated for prayer but also served to articulate a political discourse in defense of the nascent Islamic state. In this context, the Friday prayers played a crucial role.

The Friday prayer is a weekly act celebrated in the community, emphasizing that being Muslim is not an individual experience, as some liberals have erroneously claimed. Being Muslim involves a connection to the Ummah. Additionally, this ceremony symbolizes the community's support for a governance that constantly seeks a horizon of justice.

It is, therefore, a political moment in which the boundaries of Islamic discourse are constantly reconstituted. In other words, by addressing political issues, the Friday prayer repositions Islam

at the center of communal life without exhausting its boundaries.

Within the framework of Wilayat al-Faqih (Leadership of the Islamic Jurist), the Friday prayer (Salat al-Jumu'ah) acquires special significance. An analysis of the writings and statements of the leaders of the Islamic Revolution reveals the magnitude of this ritual in both its spiritual and political dimensions. Imam Khomeini, regarding these dimensions, stated: "These gatherings that exist in Islam, such as Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, sacrifice, pilgrimage (Hajj), the Friday prayer, and the congregations held at night and day, have both devotional and political and social aspects." He also emphasized that "the Friday prayer is a political gathering."

For his part, Ayatollah Khamenei has underscored the significance of the Friday prayer for the spiritual and political life of the

Muslim community.

It is due to this political-theological importance that the Leader decided to lead the Friday prayer after four years. In a context of escalating regional tensions, fueled by Israel's violent escalation and, in particular, following the assassination of Hezbollah's Secretary General, Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah, Ayatollah Khamenei began his speech by urging the Muslim community to "unite in solidarity."

Call for unity of the Islamic Ummah

From a political perspective, the recent call for unity of the Ummah by Ayatollah Khamenei reflects the recognition of a particular grammar that binds the entire Islamic community within the discursive limits established by Islam.

This unity does not imply

homogenization; rather, it guarantees the possibility of agreements and disagreements, all framed within a shared horizon.

Ayatollah Khamenei also addressed the political division in the world, characterizing it in terms of oppressors and the oppressed. He emphasized that the latter "maintain a divide-and-conquer policy," whose ultimate aim is to create fragmentation within the Islamic community.

Their strategy is based on sowing discord, executed in various Islamic countries through different methods that still persist. This has caused the hearts of Muslim nations to drift apart. However, Ayatollah Khamenei asserted that today the people have awakened and that this is the moment when the Islamic Ummah can overcome the deceptions of the enemies of Islam and Muslims.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Araqchi visits Lebanon, Syria as Israel continues to bombard region without abatement

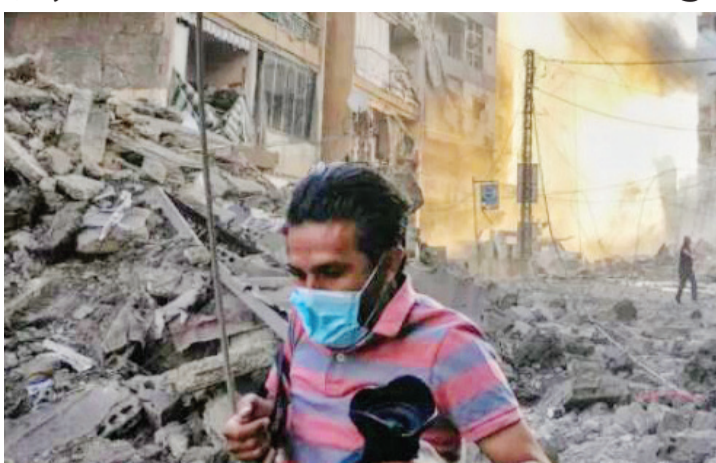
By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The plane carrying Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi landed at Beirut's airport on Friday, while the site was still reeling from earlier airstrikes by the Israeli regime targeting nearby areas.

Several factors added to consternation regarding the safety of the top diplomat in Lebanon. Just days before Araqchi's arrival, an Iranian plane was prevented from landing in Beirut due to Israel threatening to strike both the aircraft and the airport. The regime had escalated its terrorist activities in Lebanon following the assassination of Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and simultaneously, it was – and still is – gearing up to respond to Operation True Promise II, which saw Iran launching over 180 ballistic missiles at Israeli military bases in occupied territories.

In his remarks after meetings with Lebanese officials, Araqchi seemed largely nonchalant about the potential Israeli threats to his life. "I am in Beirut—alongside members of our Parliament and Red Crescent Society—to make clear that Iran will always stand with the people of Lebanon. We invite other regional governments to also display steadfastness in their support for Lebanon, especially amid the onslaught by the Israeli regime."

Offline, he displayed the same calm demeanor while speaking with reporters on the sidelines of his meetings. When a journalist asked if he felt anxious about the potential risks he might face, he replied: "I have a duty and I must fulfill it. Besides that, this isn't our first time



The aftermath of an Israeli strike on the Mreijeh neighborhood in Beirut's southern suburbs on October 4. (AFP)

encountering terrorism and war. Our will is stronger than [Israeli] bombardments."

Araqchi made his trip a regional tour by deciding to stop by Damascus instead of returning to Tehran. There he sat down with Syrian Foreign Minister Bassam al-Sabbagh and President Bashar al-Assad.

"Iran will continue to support Syria as well as other fronts of the Axis of Resistance," the foreign minister told Assad. "This commitment is essential for maintaining peace and stability in the region and for ensuring the national security of Iran, as well as its neighboring countries."

The Syrian President, for his part, commended Iran's "strong stance" in defending regional powers especially Palestine, emphasizing West Asia's right to self-determination. He did, however, note that comprehensive international effort is still needed to effectively put an end to Israeli aggressions in the region.

Tehran's Palestine Square: a thorn in Israel's side

By Shima Naseri

TEHRAN – The recent threats from a Zionist-affiliated Telegram channel to attack Palestine Square in Tehran were a response to the large public gatherings held there in support of Palestine.

These demonstrations were organized in reaction to the recent attacks by the Zionist regime on Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories. Over time, Palestine Square in Tehran has become a symbol of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle. Iranians consistently express their support for the Palestinian cause and opposition to the Israeli occupation through such gatherings in the square and across the country. The latest protests, in solidarity with the Palestinian people and in response to Israel's aggression, garnered significant attention both domestically and internationally.

The Zionist Telegram channel, linked to extremist groups, responded to these gatherings by issuing threats to attack Palestine Square. These threats are part of the Zionist regime's psychological warfare against Iran and other countries that support Palestine. The aim is to instill fear and anxiety among the public and reduce popular backing for the Palestinian cause. Such threats, often made online by extremist factions, are generally symbolic and lack any real capacity to be carried out.

Security and media experts in Iran see these threats as part of the broader Zionist effort to weaken public morale through psychological warfare. They argue that these threats are not actionable and are intended more to sway public opinion and intimidate supporters of the Palestinian resistance. Iranian authorities have repeatedly assured the public that these threats pose no real danger to the country's security and that public gatherings remain safe.

Following the circulation of these threats, there was a strong response from the public, as well as from political and cultural figures in Iran. Social media users, rallying under hashtags that called for support for Palestine and emphasized the public gathering in the Palestine Square, reaffirmed their solidarity with the Palestinian people and condemned the threats. Many viewed the threats as a sign of the Zionist regime's weakness and desperation in the face of growing global support for Palestine, asserting that such actions would not erode long-standing backing for the Palestinian resistance.

International media also covered these developments. Many Arab and international outlets framed the threats as part of the Zionist efforts to counter the increasing global solidarity with Palestine. News outlets such as Al Jazeera and Press TV reported on the widespread public support in Iran for Palestinians, analyzing it as a symbol of global

Axis of Resistance.

In Tehran, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei appeared in front of tens of thousands of Iranians on Friday to lead the Friday prayers. He delivered two sermons, one in Persian and one in Arabic, addressing the situation in the region, as well as Iran's Tuesday operation against the regime, which followed a series of Israeli terrorist attacks that killed Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in July, and Hezbollah's Nasrallah in late September.

"Our armed forces responded to the Israeli regime's recent actions with a measured response. We consider this a minimal punishment for the crimes committed by a regime that has shown itself to be aggressive and violent," the Leader told the sea of worshippers. "As we have demonstrated in the past, we are prepared to respond again, if necessary," he added, repeating a similar vow he made in April following Tehran's first-ever direct attack against Israeli targets in the occupied territories from Iranian soil.

Analysts suggest that Operation True Promise II, Araqchi's trip to Lebanon and Syria, and Ayatollah Khamenei's leadership of the Friday prayers in over four years, amid concerns of potential Israeli strikes, were coordinated moves to thwart Zionists' attempts to whittle away at Resistance forces by creating fear and terror. Iranians getting baited into a fear trap after the assassination of top Resistance figures across the region would have decoupled them from the rest of the Axis, and given regional forces the impression that Iran has left them.



solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

On the other hand, some Western media outlets and pro-Israel voices downplayed the significance of the threats, describing them as merely emotional and unfounded reactions from extremist groups. These outlets pointed to large-scale anti-Zionist protests in other parts of the world, particularly in Europe and the U.S., emphasizing that these threats would have little impact on the global wave of support for Palestine.

Politically and socially, these threats are unlikely to reduce support for Palestine. In fact, they may inspire greater resolve to resist the pressure from the Zionist regime. The Iranian people have consistently demonstrated that, in the face of foreign threats—especially from Israel—they become more united and determined. This solidarity is not limited to Iran but extends to many Islamic nations and pro-Palestinian communities worldwide.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran warns of potential strikes on Israel's critical infrastructure if provoked

From Page 1 ▶ The IRGC confirmed that nearly 90% of the missiles fired successfully hit their intended targets. The strikes came in response to the assassinations of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah

chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC commander Abbas Nilforooshan.

Iran's Defense Minister elaborated on the scope of the operation, revealing that the

missile strikes targeted Israeli military installations, including an intelligence headquarters and three military bases. He highlighted that the operation, dubbed True Promise Operation II, was carried out with precision and

in accordance with international law. "No civilian sites were among Iran's targets," he noted, reaffirming that the strikes were aimed solely at military and intelligence assets linked to the Zionist regime.

Global action needed to ensure Israel pays for atrocities: Iranian diplomat

From Page 1 ▶ Highlighting Israel's use of American-made weaponry in these operations, including BLU-109 bunker-buster bombs, the ambassador asserted that this indicates direct collaboration from the West, particularly the United States, in Israel's military endeavors.

Bahreini called for an immediate cessation

of arms supplies from Western nations to the Israeli regime.

Regarding Iran's military response to Israeli actions, the ambassador noted that missiles were launched in retaliation for Israeli aggression, aimed at self-defending Iran's national sovereignty and regional security.

On Tuesday evening, the Iranian military

fired around 200 ballistic missiles at Israeli military and intelligence bases in response to the July 31 assassinations of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, and the September 27 killing of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Iranian military advisor to Lebanon Brigadier General Abbas Nilfroushan in Beirut.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Persepolis earn hard-fought win over Chadormalu: PGPL

TEHRAN – Persepolis edged past Chadormalu 1-0 in Matchweek 7 of 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) on Saturday.

Giorgi Gvelesiani scored the winner in the added time.

Persepolis moved provisionally top of the table.

On Friday, Malvan were held to a 1-1 draw by Nassaji.

In the match held in Ghaemshahr's Vatan Stadium, Hamed Pakdel gave the host the lead in the 14th minute but Omid Noorafkan leveled the score in the 71st minute.

Elsewhere, Mes lost to Shams Azar in Rafsanjan, Kheybar Khorramabad and Gol Gohar shared the spoils in a goalless draw and Zob Ahan suffered a 4-0 home loss against Aluminum.

Two more golds for Iran in World Taekwondo Junior C'ships

TEHRAN – On the penultimate day of the World Taekwondo Junior Championships, Hana Zarrinkamar Roudbari and Ghazal Houshmand became the latest Iranian gold medalists.

Zarrinkamar Roudbari and Houshmand both won the second rounds of their respective finals by technical superiority to seal their victories – the former overcame Korea's Lim Yerim in the women's -68kg category and the latter defeated China's Xiruo Yang in the women's -42kg.

Zarrinkamar Roudbari started the final against Lim in fine fashion, scoring six points from two head kicks awarded on video review.

She played out an 11-6 win to take the first round, and finished the final with a flourish in the second round as her power and force proved too much for Lim, resulting in a victory by technical superiority for the Iranian athlete.

Julia Nowak from Poland and Chinese Taipei's Wei?chia Wang won two bronze medals.

Iran's second gold medal of the day came courtesy of Houshmand. A high-scoring first round went 17-9 in her favor, and she dominated Yang in the second round to force her way into a 15-3 lead which gave her victory by technical superiority and crowned her junior world champion.

Bronze medals in the division went to Tkhamokova and Yadav.

The World Taekwondo Junior Championships concludes tomorrow with competition in the men's -59kg and -68kg, and the women's -55kg.

Iranian taekwondo athletes have won seven gold medals so far.

Jose Peseiro nominated to lead Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Portuguese coach Jose Peseiro is among the candidates to take charge of Esteghlal football club.

Javad Nekounam stepped down from his role following a 2-0 loss against Al Sadd of Qatar in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite last week. Now the Iranian club is looking to find a replacement for Nekounam.

Bulgarian coach Ivaylo Petev, Portuguese Ricardo Sa Pinto and former Esteghlal captain Farhad Majidi are also among the candidates to lead the team.

Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh has been named the team's interim coach.

Jafari wary of Melbourne threat in AFC Women's Champions League

TEHRAN – Bam Khatoon head coach Marziyeh Jafari says that they will have a difficult task in the AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25 since the Asian teams have improved in the recent years.

Khatoon will start the campaign on Sunday with a match against Australia's Melbourne City in Group B.

In another match, Thailand's College of Asian Scholars will play the Philippines' Kaya FC-Iloilo. "We wanted to book our place in the group stage and showed a good performance in the preliminary stage held in Myanmar in late August. Khatoon topped Group D with wins against Hong Kong's Kitchee SC and Royal Thimphu College FC of Bhutan," Jafari told Tehran Times.

Australian champions Melbourne City will be keen to get their campaign off to a winning start when they face Khatoon FC.

Melbourne have recruited well for the new season with the likes of Mariana Speckmaier, Malena Mieres, Lourdes Bosch, Alexia Apostolakis and Emilia Murray possibly being given debuts on Sunday.

"Melbourne, in my opinion, are stronger than the Australia national team. Also, the Philippines and Thailand are higher than Iran in the women's ranking and it shows that we have a difficult task ahead," she added.

Veteran forward Zahra Ghanbari and Atefeh Ramezianzadeh continue to be the heartbeat of Bam Khatoon and their performance will play a crucial role in determining whether Jafari's side can take something from this match.

"This is just the beginning for us as you know the Asian teams have started the women's football years ago. We need to earn experience from the competition. We are here to do our best," Khatoon captain Ramezianzadeh said.

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

Nasiri happy for World Championship experience

TEHRAN – Iran's Aynaz Nasiri is very happy to win a gold medal in the World Taekwondo Junior Championships and has a wonderful feeling about it.

It was a golden opening night of the Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea for Parnian Noori and Aynaz Nasiri, who are the latest athletes hoping to make the most of the pathway to senior success provided by this event.

Iranian athletes Noori and Nasiri triumphed in the women's -52kg and women's -59kg categories respectively on the first day of competition.

"I had a very good feeling because I had very hard exercise in our national team, so I got a very good result. I was very happy and had a wonderful feeling about it," she said.

"We had a very wonderful feeling about that, because on the first day we had two golds and our flag was at the top. We hope we can get more medals in our team," Nasiri added.

Nasiri had to recover from losing the first round in both her quarter-final and semi-final, and explained how she masterminded her turnaround in the two matches as her determination to win shone through.

"In the first round I had some problems, but I fixed it for the second round. So when I got to the second round I had more energy, and all that mattered was I won, it doesn't matter how you win," she said. Nasiri highlighted the benefits of competing in such an environment.

"This has been a very nice experience because we had different opponents from many countries. The organization was different from other competitions, with more than 900 athletes," she said.

More than 27m tons of iron ore pellets produced in 5 months



TEHRAN- Iran produced 27,007 million tons of iron ore pellets in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), according to the data released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

As reported, the production of iron ore pellets in the country fell two percent during the five-month period of this year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year, when the production was 27.63 million tons.

Iron ore pellet is a type of agglomerated

iron ore fines which has better tumbler index when compared with that of the parent iron ore. Iron ore pellets are widely used as a substitute of lump ore for the production of direct reduced iron (DRI) and in the blast furnace (BF) for the production of hot metal. Iron ore pellets are used in large proportion, which is continue to rise because of the lack of supply of high-quality lump ores. The term iron ore pellet refers to the thermally agglomerated material formed by heating a variable mixture of iron ore, limestone, olivine, bentonite, dolomite, and miscellaneous iron bearing materials in the range of 1,250 deg C to 1,350 deg C.

Iron ore pellets can be made from beneficiated or run of mine iron ore fines. Lean iron ores are normally upgraded to higher iron ore content through beneficiation. This process generates iron ore filter cake which needs to be pelletized so that it can be used in an iron making process. Also, during the processing of high-grade iron ores which do not need beneficiation, generated fines can be pelletized and used instead of being disposed of.

ICCIMA Business Environment Improvement Council holds meeting



TEHRAN- During the recent session of the Business Environment Improvement Strategic Council of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), the members said that the seventh national development plan has the problems of the previous plans and its only positive point is the president's emphasis on the implementation of this plan.

According to the members of this council, the seventh development plan, since it was emphasized by the 14th government and by the president, can have different conditions than the previous plans; Otherwise, it has all the disadvantages of the previous programs in terms of the preparing method and the ruling view, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Mohammad Reza Ramezani, the Deputy head of ICCIMA for Legal Affairs has called for the full implementation of the law on continuous improvement of the business environ-

ment.

Pointing to the fact that the mentioned law was approved in 2010 and hasn't been fully implemented yet, the official called for its implementation especially with regard to supplying electricity and gas to industries.

Speaking in a meeting between the private sector representatives of Fars Province with the members of the Parliament Economic Committee in late September, Ramezani said: "This issue is one of the important concerns of economic operators, and steps must be taken to resolve it."

"One of the articles included in this law is Article 25, which emphasizes that cutting off electricity and gas in production units should not be considered during peak consumption periods, while today this issue has been reversed and we are witnessing the cutting of electricity in production units," he said.

Emphasizing the need for the participation of the members of provincial chambers of commerce in expressing their opinions about the parliament plans and bills, he said: "We will send these plans and bills to all provincial chambers of commerce when they are announced in the parliament, and economic operators are expected to provide their opinions about them to the Iran chamber of commerce so that the submitted opinions will be provided to the relevant committees of the parliament after summarizing."

Over 10.6m tons of basic goods unloaded in Iranian ports in 6 months



TEHRAN - The Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported that 10,631,476 tons of basic commodities were unloaded at the ports of the country during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 22).

As reported, the unloading of basic goods in the ports of the country during the six-month period indicates 10 percent rise year, on year.

As previously announced by the PMO, 21,517,788 tons of basic commodities were unloaded at the ports of the country during the 12 months of the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023 to March 19, 2024).

Wheat, barley, corn, soy, rice, sugar, and vegetable oil were the main products unloaded in the Iranian ports in this period, the

organization said.

In this period, more than 624,000 tons of sugar and over 989,000 tons of vegetable oil were unloaded at the Iranian ports, the PMO noted, IRNA reported.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in the course of five years.

According to the PMO, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

Iran's export to Oman rises 35% in 5 months on year

From page 1 ▶ Hesameddin Hallaj said that this event will be held with the presence of the traders and businessmen of the two countries, and during it, the strengthening of bilateral trade and economic relations, the investigation of new investment opportunities and the development of the presence of Iranian companies in Oman will be discussed, the TCCIMA portal published.

He said attracting Omani investors to participate in Iranian projects and cooperating in the introduction of marketing agencies in order to expand the market of Iranian products in Oman, Africa and Saudi Arabia are among the other goals of this event.

The priority areas for Tehran Chamber members to attend the event will be construction, oil and energy, medicine, food, health and health tourism sectors, Hallaj added.

In early July, the former Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mehdi Zeighami met the director of trade, industry, and investment development from the Sultanate of Oman to discuss areas of joint investment, industrial matters, and financial affairs between the two countries.

Zeighami said at the time that the first round of the talks to establish a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Iran and the Sultanate of Oman was held in Muscat.

The trade and economic relations between the two countries have been consistently improving in recent years, he said, adding that the conclusion of the Preferential Trade Agreement and the establishment of close trade and economic relations in all fields are of paramount importance.

He characterized the trade volume between the two countries in the last Iranian calendar year (ending March 19, 2024) as "unprecedented".

He noted that the initiation of the PTA between the two countries aligns with objectives like bolstering economic relations, augmenting trade volume, creating a safer environment for



trade growth, diversifying traded goods, fostering greater competition among businesses, and eliminating trade obstacles faced by both countries.

Also, a business delegation from Oman visited Iran's Imam Khomeini Port in southwestern Khuzestan province in early September during which they expressed interest in using the commercial capacities of the port for expanding economic ties with Iran.

According to Head of Ahvaz Chamber of Commerce Mohammad-Javad Amani, the business delegation, who arrived in Khuzestan on Saturday, visited Khorramshahr and Arvand Free Trade Zone in order to explore trade opportunities in the area, the portal of Iran Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported.

During the visit, the two sides concluded several cooperation agreements, and the Omani side emphasized increasing cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries, Amani said.

Referring to the delegation's visit to the Special Economic Zone of Imam Khomeini Port as the country's largest grain trading center, he added: "Port capacities for the supply of goods, transit, the possibility of re-exporting, as well as making large private sector investments in this area were among the issues that were discussed during the visit."

According to the head of Ahvaz Chamber of Commerce, visiting the factories located in the special economic zone of Imam Khomeini Port, familiarizing with the processing products, and examining the available resources and investment requirements in this area, were also among the goals of this economic delegation's trip

to Imam Khomeini Port.

During their trip to Khuzestan, the members of the Omani business delegation pointed out the activity of 14 free and special economic zones in Oman and emphasized the interest in developing economic cooperation with Iran, and called for the development of trade and commercial activities between the two sides.

The delegation also visited the loading and unloading operation site of the Imam Khomeini port and became familiar with the port capacities in this regard, according to Amani.

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

Expanding trade with the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

In December 2023, the former Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Abbas Ali-Abadi said the value of trade between Iran and Oman is targeted to become \$5 billion.

Saying that signing a preferential trade agreement with Oman is being followed up, the minister said: "Our trade with Oman is targeted to be \$3.5 billion first and then \$5 billion."

Iran and Oman have signed two memorandums of understanding (MOU) to boost bilateral cooperation and emphasize the importance of using their national currencies in mutual trade instead of the dollar.

The mentioned MOUs were signed during the two countries'

20th Joint Economic Committee meeting in Tehran on December 6, 2023.

One of the MOUs was signed by Ali-Abadi, and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion Qais Mohammed Al Yousef on supporting joint investment by the two sides.

Iran's Ministry of Industry and Oman's Chamber of Commerce also signed an MOU to boost cooperation in technology as well.

The two sides have also exchanged views on ways of expanding cooperation in the field of fishery and agriculture, deciding to hold a joint fishery exhibition soon.

During the joint committee meeting, Ali-Abadi announced Iran's readiness to jointly implement key industrial projects with Oman including the construction of an industrial park, the establishment of power plants as well and cooperation in maritime transport projects among others.

The Omani minister on his part emphasized the importance of boosting economic and trade relations between Tehran and Muscat.

During his stay in Tehran, Mohammed Al Yousef also met with the Head of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammad-Reza Farzin, and stressed the importance of using Iranian and Omani national currencies in mutual trade.

The Omani official said his country wants to have a strong presence in establishing the required infrastructure for banking and monetary transactions in Iran, implementing joint projects, as well as making investments in industrial and mineral projects. Omani investors are also keen to participate in energy projects and to develop Iran's gas fields, he added.

The top Iranian banker also said that his country welcomes any measure that helps boost monetary and banking cooperation between the two countries.

Farzin stressed the importance of using national currencies by the two countries in their mutual trade instead of the dollar as well.

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$5.2b to Iraq in H1

TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil goods worth \$5.2 billion to its neighbor Iraq in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 22).

As reported, Iraq was the second export destination of Iran among its other neighbors during the six-month period.

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

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

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

According to Rezvanifar, the Islamic Repub-

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

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

In late May, the head of the Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Planning of the Iranian Plan and Budget Organization said that Iran exports some 2,200 products, valued at \$12 billion, to neighboring Iraq annually.

Speaking in a meeting entitled "Reviewing opportunities and challenges of attracting Iraqi investors and strengthening trade relations between the two countries in line with demarcating Iran in the regional value chain", Jafar Hosseini said that Iraq, benefiting from \$85 billion foreign exchange reserves, 130 tons of gold reserves, and 147 billion barrels of proven reserves of crude oil, is among the richest countries in West Asia.

He went on to say that Iran's exports to Iraq

have increased 15-fold over the past 20 years, rising from about \$600 million in 2003 to more than \$10 billion last year (ended March 19, 2024).

Currently, Iran exports over 2,200 various types of goods and products to Iraq, he said, adding that more than half of the active Iranian traders are present in the Iraqi market, IRNA reported

Developing the trade infrastructures to facilitate trade between the two countries, encouraging traders to invest in Iraq, promoting trade through dispatching and admitting trade delegations and participating in exhibitions of the two countries, etc. are suggested to strengthen the trade and economic relations between Iran and Iraq, he underlined.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

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

Pistachio export stands at \$374m in 6 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported \$374 million of pistachios in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

As the IRICA has reported, the value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 26 percent during the first half of this year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

According to the IRICA report, the

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

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

has said.

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

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

Iraq was the top destination for Iran's agro-food products in the mentioned year importing \$1.986 billion worth of the said items. The

Arab neighbor accounted for 31.5 percent of the total exports of food and agricultural products from Iran.

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

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

Israeli special forces seeking to enter Lebanon suffer losses

Hezbollah field commander clarifies border situation

From page 1 ▶ The Hezbollah commander revealed that “on Friday afternoon, elite Israeli enemy soldiers, after artillery and air fire cover, attempted to advance from two directions towards the towns of Maroun al-Ras and Yaroun on the front edge. Upon reaching pre-prepared ambush points, and with the call of ‘At your Service, O Nasrallah,’ Islamic Resistance (Hezbollah) fighters detonated several explosive devices (some of which were planted the previous day) and engaged the elite officers and soldiers with light and medium weapons and rocket-propelled grenades from close ranges, even reaching point-blank distance.”

He also revealed that “the ambush resulted in the fall of a number of dead and wounded among the infiltrating forces. Those who were not



Hezbollah halting Israeli forces from advancing at zero blank range on the Lebanese border

hit carried the dead or wounded and retreated under artillery cover from enemy positions within the occupied

territories.”

The Hezbollah field commander noted that “Islamic Resistance

(Hezbollah) fighters are monitoring, tracking, and confronting every hostile movement at the front edge in southern Lebanon, and they are pursuing Israeli enemy soldiers in their bases and rear barracks along the border line in the occupied territories with artillery shells and rocket volleys.”

The field commander’s statement comes approximately five days after the start of ground battles with the Israeli occupation forces attempting to penetrate Lebanese border areas.

Units of the Hezbollah resistance movement stationed on the Lebanese border have been confronting the Israeli infantry forces and inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment, preventing them from advancing in any area in southern Lebanon so far.

US aiding and abetting Israeli genocide

From page 1 ▶ The Reuters news agency has found in an investigation that senior US administration officials warned the White House of potential Israeli war crimes days after the start of the Gaza war.

Reuters said in its report on Friday that it reviewed three sets of email exchanges dated between October 11 and 14.

They had raised the alarm about a rising death toll in Gaza warning that it could affect Washington’s ties to the Arab world.

Silence on war crimes

The US State Department’s top public diplomacy official told senior officials in an email sent on October 11 that the US was “losing credibility among Arabic-speaking audiences” by not addressing the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

When Bill Russo sent the email, approximately 1,200 Palestinians had been killed by Israeli strikes on Gaza. Nearly a year into the onslaught, about 42,000 Palestinians, including some 17,000 children have lost their lives.

“The US’s lack of response on the humanitarian conditions for Palestinians is not only ineffective and counterproductive, but we are also being accused of being complicit to potential war crimes by remaining silent on Israel’s actions against civilians,” Russo wrote.

Violation of intl. law

The then deputy assistant secretary of defense



President Joe Biden has been labeled as “Genocide Joe” due to the United States’ involvement in Israel’s genocidal war in Gaza.

for the Middle East relayed an assessment by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to senior aides in the administration of Joe Biden in an October 13 email.

Dana Stroul’s email came after Israeli aircraft dropped leaflets over northern Gaza, warning one million out of the territory’s 2.3 million population to leave their homes.

At that time the ICRC in Geneva had said Israel’s order was “not compatible with international humanitarian law” because it would cut off food, water and other basic needs in Gaza.

“ICRC is not ready to say this in public, but is raising private alarm that Israel is close to committing war crimes,” Stroul said in her October 13 email.

Legal battles loom over supply chain keeping Israeli F35-s flying over

A slew of court cases around the world are raising questions about the legality and transparency of the international supply chain that helps keep Israeli F-35 fighter jets flying over Gaza and Lebanon.

Israel has used the F-35, described by its American manufacturer Lockheed Martin as “the most lethal” fighter jet in the world, extensively in its nearly year-long offensive in Gaza, in which about 42,000 people have been killed.

Best known for its stealth capabilities, the F-35’s use in Gaza, an enclave without an air force where less sophisticated F-16s and F-15s are perfectly capable of dropping bombs, may seem out of place.

However, arms control experts and researchers say Israel has had to rely on F-35s to maintain the high volume of strikes conducted over the past year in Gaza and now in Lebanon, where weeks of bombings have killed more than 1,000 and displaced over 1.2 million.

“They need all of their planes to participate,” said Noam Perry, strategic research coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee’s (AFSC) Action Center for Corporate Accountability.

Israel has been aided by surges in the flow of F-35 parts from the United States, which experts say have been crucial in keeping the planes airborne.

Litigation in the Netherlands has already stopped the transfer of spare parts stored at one of three global F-35 distribution hubs to Israel since February.

As four cases against arms exports to Israel move forward, governments in the UK, the Netherlands, Canada and Denmark face difficult legal questions regarding F-35 parts made in their countries.

Middle East Eye also understands that NGOs that took Australia to court over arms exports to Israel in a case that was discontinued last year remain determined to find ways to hold the government accountable for F-35 parts manufactured there.

A key question posed by these cases is how the governments can continue to license the export of F-35 parts bound for Israel while complying with domestic laws and international treaties, which require them to assess whether such parts could have been, or will be, used in violation of international humanitarian law.

So far, the response in at least three of the countries - the Netherlands, the UK and Canada - is that F-35 parts sent to third countries, but ultimately destined for Israel, can be treated differently than weapons that go directly to Israel.

One rationale provided by the UK and Dutch governments is that suspending parts whose final destination is Israel

would disrupt the global supply chain, as the parts are difficult, if not impossible, to trace.

Last year, the US Government Accountability Office (US GAO) found that over \$85m worth of spare F-35 parts had been lost globally because the US government and private contractors had not determined who was responsible for tracking them.

However, arms control experts and litigants who spoke with MEE say this is clearly a case of politics, not logistics.

“They can track these things within very small areas, in real time, everywhere in the world,” said Martin Butcher, policy advisor on arms and conflict for Oxfam, which is involved in a legal challenge against UK arms exports to Israel being brought to the High Court.

“The idea that they can’t track them is absolute nonsense.”

Parts moved ‘at breakneck speed’

While experts say it is difficult to establish which type of aircraft Israel has used in specific attacks over the past year, it is clear that F-35s have played a key role in Israel’s air war on Gaza and now Lebanon.

Much of what is known comes from Israeli media reports or other public sources, including a post on Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant’s X account. This post was utilised by the

Danish news outlet Informa-tion and NGO Danwatch to confirm that an F-35 had been used in a designated safe zone in Gaza in July that killed at least 90 people.

However, there are other signs that the F-35 has been crucial.

Chairing a hearing before the US House Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces in December, Representative Rob Wittman said the F-35 program had “moved at a breakneck speed” to deliver more spare parts to Israel.

Last year, British companies used open licenses covering the F-35 program 14 times to export items directly to Israel, nearly three times more than in each of the two previous years, according to data obtained by the UK-based Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT).

It is unclear when the shipments were sent in 2023, but CAAT believes the jump likely indicates a heightened demand from Israel for spare parts since 7 October.

While bombs are often the focus of arms embargo campaigns, spare parts for the F-35 - and other fighter jets in Israel’s fleet - have been critical to Israel’s air war in a way that is frequently overlooked by the public, said Josh Paul, a former State Department official who resigned in protest last October.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

US legal rights group: We commit to holding Biden admin accountable for genocide

The Center for Constitutional Rights has said it remains committed to fighting alongside Palestinians for accountability for the US-sponsored Israeli genocide being perpetrated against Palestinians in Gaza, almost one year since it began.

“While US courts have so far failed in their constitutional responsibility to serve as a check on abusive executive power, we remind all who have chosen to fund and fuel Israel’s relentless, escalating violence, that there is no statute of limitations for genocide, and we will pursue you until justice comes,” the organization said in a statement.

The group highlighted that in the last year, with

full US support, Israel has manufactured a famine, blocked lifesaving humanitarian aid, turned most of Gaza into rubble, bombed countless civilian targets including schools, hospitals, and places of worship, killed more than 41,000 Palestinians - nearly half of whom are children - and injured more than 96,000.

“The Biden administration has provided unconditional and indispensable support for Israel’s genocide, in defiance of the law, universally-recognized international norms, some of its own officials’ recommendations, and the outcry of the vast majority of people in the world, including most Americans.”

Israel strikes mosque in southern Lebanon

The Israeli military has struck a mosque beside a hospital in south Lebanon, adding to a growing list of civilian infrastructure it has targeted in the country.

The Salah Ghandour Hospital said nine of its medical and nursing staff were wounded by heavy strikes, most of them seriously, after it received an Israeli warning to evacuate.

The Israeli military claimed Hezbollah fighters were present inside the mosque when it was targeted but no evidence has been given.

Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency reported that the grounds of the hospital in the southern town of Bint Jbeil were “subjected to Israeli shelling”.

Israeli crimes ‘deep shame’ for UK, world

Palestinians went through the “darkest moment” in the past 12 months in their enduring struggle for liberation, according to the head of Europe’s largest Palestinian rights organization.

For Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) director Ben Jamal, the rallies across the UK are “unprecedented” in British history.

“This genocide is built on the foundations of more than 76 years of oppression by the Israeli state of the Palestinian people through mechanisms of ethnic cleansing, colonization, military

occupation and imposition of a system of apartheid,” he was quoted as saying by the Anadolu Agency

“This is a moment of reflection, a moment of deep sorrow. It’s a moment where we acknowledge the strength of the Palestinian people and their ongoing resilience,” he said.

“But it’s a moment of deep shame for our government, for the international community, that they have allowed this to occur, that they have not made Israel pay the cost for its crimes.”

BBC, CNN under fire for pro-Israel bias, double standards

Ten journalists who have covered the war on Gaza for two of the world’s leading news networks, CNN and the BBC, have revealed the inner workings of those outlets’ newsrooms from October 7 onward, alleging pro-Israel bias in coverage, systematic double standards and frequent violations of journalistic principles.

In several cases, they accused senior newsroom figures of failing to hold Israeli officials to account and of interfering in reporting to downplay Israeli atrocities. In one instance at CNN, false Israeli propaganda was put on air despite advance warnings from staff members.

The journalists spoke to Al Jazeera’s The Listening Post, a weekly program dissecting the world’s media, for its documentary Failing Gaza: Behind the Lens of Western Media.

Adam*, a journalist at CNN, said before October 7, he “hand on heart” trusted the network’s journalistic practices.

“But after October 7, the ease with which I saw news lines that supported the Israeli narrative come out really shook me,” he said in the film. “There were times where CNN was happy to push hard. But on balance, it’s very clear where we lie, regrettably. And it’s not entirely with the truth.”

In November, CNN International Diplomatic Editor Nic Robertson embedded with the Israeli army to visit Gaza’s bombed-out al-Rantisi Children’s Hospital.

Once inside, military spokesperson Daniel Hagari claimed to have found proof Hamas was using the hospital to hide Israeli captives.

Hagari showed Robertson a document on the wall written in Arabic, which he said was a roster of Hamas members watching over the captives.

“This is a guarding list. Every terrorist has his own shift,” Hagari told Roberts

Adam recalled the broadcast as “an embarrassing moment” for CNN.

“It wasn’t a Hamas roster at all,” he said.

“It was a calendar, and written in Arabic were the days of the week. But the report that came out from Nic Robertson just swallowed up Israel’s claim.”

To make matters worse, the Israeli claim had already been debunked by Arabic speakers on social media before the CNN footage aired, and, according to multiple CNN journalists and an internal WhatsApp chat seen by Al Jazeera, a Palestinian producer alerted her colleagues, including Robertson, but was ignored. After the report aired on television, they said, another producer tried to get it corrected before it was posted online.

“One colleague saw the report and flagged to Nic, [saying.] ‘Hold on, people are saying that this is not accurate,’” Adam said. “And apparently, Nic said, ‘Are you meaning to say that Hagari is lying to us?’

“There was a chance for this to get stopped. But Nic was adamant, and it went out. He’s a very experienced correspondent. If you are trusting the Israeli government over your own colleagues, then you need to have your wrist slapped at the very least because your reporting has given cover to the Israeli operation.”

No proof ever emerged of captives being held at al-Rantisi hospital.

Adam also said there was a period of time when CNN journalists “couldn’t call air strikes in Gaza air strikes unless we had confirmation from the Israelis”.

“We would not be doing this in any other place. We would not tolerate the need to ask, say, the Russians whether they bombed a hospital in Kyiv.”

Recently, when health officials in Gaza announced that Israeli attacks had killed more than 40,000 people, CNN Managing Editor Mike McCarthy ordered his team to “contextualize and hold Hamas accountable,” Adam said.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Intl. conference on Silk Road heritage scheduled in Kerman



TEHRAN – Iran's Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism is set to host an international conference on the Silk Road's cultural heritage in the ancient city of Kerman, southern Iran.

The event is intended to sharpen the focus on the evolution of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage along the ancient Silk Road, which has historically connected diverse cultures across empires and regions.

"Silk Road heritage: cultural paths and shared legacy," has been declared as the motto of the conference, Mehr reported on Saturday.

According to organizers, attendees will be invited to delve into themes such as the coexistence of cultures, architectural and archaeological heritage, and the role of modern technologies in heritage preservation.

Collaborations with various institutions like the Chinese Academy of Sciences and several universities underline the conference's ultimate goal of fostering international cooperation in cultural heritage protection.

In 2022, Iran selected its city of Semnan to represent the country at a union of cities across the Silk Road based on an initiative launched by China to promote tourism along the ancient route that once linked Asia to the Western world.

Silk Road (aka Silk Roads) connected empires, kingdoms, reigns, and societies for millennia. At certain times in its long history, traders could travel freely along these routes, whereas at others, travel was difficult or dangerous.

According to UNESCO, the Silk Road enriched the countries it passed through, transporting cultures, religions, languages, and of course material goods into societies across Europe, Asia, and Africa, and uniting them all with a common thread of cultural heritage and plural identities.

Travelers along the Silk Road were captivated not only by trade but also by the rich intellectual and cultural exchanges happening in cities along the route. Many of these cities became vibrant hubs of culture and learning. Science, arts, literature, as well as crafts and technologies, were shared and disseminated across the societies along these routes, leading to the mutual development and influence of languages, religions, and cultures.

Today, more than 40 countries lie along the historic Land and Maritime Silk Road, each still reflecting the profound impact of these routes on their cultures, traditions, and customs.

Fahraj festival to celebrate National Day of Villages and Tribes



TEHRAN – Today, a festival celebrating the National Day of Villages and Tribes will be held in Fahraj county of Kerman province, southern Iran.

The occasion is held on the 15th of Mehr on the Iranian calendar (which falls on October 6 this year) with the aim of promoting nomadic cultural heritage and rural attractions, Fahraj's tourism chief said on Saturday.

The festival is also intended to highlight the importance of preserving the natural landscapes of the county, some of which have been nationally recognized.

Hamid Vahidzadeh added another main objective of the festival is to raise awareness of protecting these registered natural sites and its significance.

The festival will feature a variety of activities, including an exhibition of rural and tribal handicrafts, traditional games, local cuisine, and other cultural and artistic performances, the official explained.

The central theme of this year's festival is the preservation of the Nebkhas, a unique national environmental treasure in Fahraj, Vahidzadeh said.

Iran, known for its rich history and diverse culture, is home to numerous villages and nomadic tribes. These communities have preserved ancient traditions and lifestyles, adding to the country's cultural mosaic. Each village and tribe possesses unique customs, crafts, and skills that have been passed down through generations, contributing to Iran's vibrant heritage.

The rural areas of Iran, particularly in provinces like Kerman, are known for their scenic landscapes and cultural richness. Villages are often situated in breathtaking settings, surrounded by mountains, deserts, or forests.

Many of these areas are inhabited by tribal people who maintain traditional ways of life, such as the Qashqai, Bakhtiari, and Baluchi tribes. These groups are famous for their nomadic lifestyles, intricate handicrafts, and knowledge of the land.

According to organizers, the celebration of the National Day of Villages and Tribes underscores the importance of protecting both cultural traditions and natural resources, aligning with national efforts to promote sustainable tourism and environmental stewardship.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra

These two fortified historic centres are remarkably well preserved, and this is particularly true of their vernacular buildings.

According to UNESCO, they have been continuously inhabited from ancient times down to the present day. Situated in the Balkans, in Southern Albania, and close to each other, they bear witness to the wealth and diversity of the urban and architectural heritage of this region.

Berat and Gjirokastra bear witness to a way of life which has been influenced over a long period by the traditions of Islam during the Ottoman period, while at the same time incorporating more ancient influences. This way of life has respected Orthodox Christian traditions which have thus been able to continue their spiritual and cultural development, particularly at Berat.

Gjirokastra was built by major landowners. Around the ancient 13th century citadel, the town has houses with turrets (the Turkish kule) which are characteristic of the Balkans region. Gjirokastra contains several remarkable examples of houses of this type, which date from the 17th century, but also more elaborate examples dating from the early 19th century.

Berat bears witness to a town which was fortified but open, and was over a long period inhabited by craftsmen and merchants. Its urban centre reflects a vernacular housing tradition of the Balkans, examples of which date mainly from the late 18th and the 19th centuries. This tradition has been adapted to suit the town's life styles, with tiered houses on the slopes, which are predominantly horizontal in layout, and make abundant use of the entering daylight.

Iran plans to boost sports tourism, minister says

TEHRAN – Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Ahmad Donyamali has emphasized the government's commitment to expanding sports tourism as a key area for development.

Donyamali highlighted the significance of sports tourism and announced that comprehensive planning is already underway to enhance this sector in the coming years, CHTN reported on Saturday.

"Sports tourism is one of the vital areas we are focused on developing." The minister also expressed optimism about the fruitful cooperation between the Ministry of Sport and Youth and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, indicating a collaborative effort to strengthen initiatives in this field.

The minister also noted that the current government is giving special attention to tourism, asserting that any activity related to tourism holds considerable importance.

"Developing sports tourism will not only attract foreign visitors but also generate revenue, create jobs, and earn foreign currency for the country," he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks,



Donyamali underscored that enhancing sports tourism can play a crucial role in promoting Iran's diverse cultural and sporting attractions to the world.

Sports tourism is a rapidly growing segment of the global tourism industry, encompassing travel for the purpose of participating in or viewing sports events. This niche market includes a wide range of activities, from international sporting events like the Olympics to local and regional competitions.

The sector helps generate substantial revenue for host destinations through spending

on accommodation, food, transportation, and entertainment. It also creates jobs and stimulates investment in infrastructure. Hosting sports events provides opportunities for local residents to engage in and benefit from tourism activities.

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

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

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

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

Tourism development task force established in Kashan

TEHRAN – A tourism development task force has been established in Kashan, aimed at addressing the various challenges facing the tourism sector in the ancient city.

During a meeting with local tourism stakeholders, Hamidreza Mohammadi-Fesharki, the special governor of Kashan, emphasized that the newly formed task force would tackle both major and minor issues with the industry, stressing that economic support for tourism is as crucial as for other sectors, such as manufacturing.

"The formation of task forces is not limited to industries for the facilitation and removal of obstacles," Mohammadi-Fesharki noted. "Part of such a potential is to address key challenges in the tourism sector."

Furthermore, the governor highlighted the need for local authorities to support entities like municipalities, which play a vital role in urban development, better services for residents, and attracting tourists. He also stressed the importance of maintaining the historical fabric of Kashan, noting that



these areas should remain entirely inhabited to preserve their vitality.

A key goal of the initiative, according to the official, is to increase the duration of tourists' stay in Kashan. To achieve this, plans include organizing heritage tours and city or rural excursions to encourage tourists to explore various parts of Kashan and its surrounding villages.

Moreover, the special governor pointed out the significant potential for rural tourism, stressing that many of Kashan's villages are rich in natural

and cultural attractions.

"Promoting these areas to tourists could stimulate the local economy and potentially reverse migration trends by providing better economic opportunities for rural residents."

Many travelers opt to bypass Kashan on their journeys between Tehran, Isfahan, and Yazd, but this delightful oasis city on the edge of the Dasht-e Kavir is one of Iran's most alluring destinations. The city not only boasts a cluster of architectural wonders and a UNESCO-recognized garden, but it also offers some of central Iran's best traditional hotels.

During the Seljuk period (1051-1220) Kashan became famous for its textiles, pottery and tiles, reaching high levels of accomplishment in each of these cottage industries. Today, it is more widely known as a major center for the production of rose water, which is sold at outlets around the main tourist attractions and dedicated stores in the bazaar.

Fewer tourists in Armenia despite gov't investments in tourism sector

Tourism has been declared a priority area for economic development by the Armenian government.

Over the past two years, significant sums have been allocated from the state budget for the development of this sector. In 2023, the government invested 1 billion drams (\$2.6 million) in tourism, and in the current year, the investment amounts to 1.5 billion drams (\$3.9 million). It is important to note that until 2023, state support for the tourism sector averaged up to 200 million drams per year (\$520,000 at current exchange rates).

The majority of this year's allocated funds – 1.1 billion drams (\$2.9 million) – are designated for grant programs, while 400 million drams are earmarked for hosting international events.

However, despite the substantial investments in tourism from the state treasury over the past two years, a decline is evident. This year, significantly fewer tourists have arrived in Armenia than expected.

According to official data, the number of tourists visiting Armenia fell by 6.1% in the first six months of 2024. Last year, during the same period, 1,007,000 people entered the country, whereas this year, the figure dropped to 946,000.

At the same time, the number of people wishing to vacation outside of Armenia increased by 9.4%.

Last year, there were 644,646 outbound travelers, while this year, that number rose to 705,105.

"There is currently no data to show the impact of the investments from the state budget. To be fair, such marketing expenses rarely yield short-term results. Measuring their effect requires patience. It takes time for the snowball effect to kick in and for

movement to become noticeable.

However, no matter how much you promote a product, if the price-quality ratio is skewed – and, unfortunately, that is the case for us – the likelihood of selling that product will only decrease," said Yasha Solomonian, chair of the Armenian Association of Professional Guides.

(Source: jam-news.net)



INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

ESFAHAN'S MOBARAKEH STEEL CO. (Public Joint Stock) Date Ref: Att INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE Since ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY intend to purchase 844 tons of Ferro Titanium with tender. no48596433, hereby informs whom is interested in that tender documents can be received by sending a request to below contact details (Email or WhatsApp), the sealed and closed envelopes according to what has been mentioned in tender documents must be submitted to ESFAHAN

MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY- Raw Materials Purchasing Department (RMP) until 1:00 PM (According to Tehran time) Saturday 26. Oct.2024 (Saturday 05.08.1403).

Contact Details:
Contact Person: Mr. Dehghani Email: d.dehghani@msc.ir
Cell Phone/WhatsApp: 00989132677093

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Iran, Malaysia universities enhance ties in technology, AI

TEHRAN – In an effort to develop academic cooperation, Sharif University branch of Academic Center for Education, Culture & Research (ACECR) and Khajeh Nasir (K.N.) Toosi University of Technology have signed memorandums of understanding with University of Malaysia and Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), respectively.

Conducting an online meeting, Mohsen Mardani from Sharif University branch of ACECR and Mohammad Yusuf from the University of Malaysia signed an MOU, highlighting the expansion of cooperation in conducting international collaborative research activities, as well as sharing technology, IRNA reported.

The officials also emphasized the need to create a suitable platform to plan and develop joint businesses in technical engineering, agriculture, and health sectors.

Moreover, they decided to establish specialized working groups in the aforementioned fields to develop a short-term, medium-term, and long-term plan.

Yusef, for his part, announced Malaysia's readiness to lay the ground for expanding knowledge-based activities and ex-



pressed optimism that the ongoing cooperation serves as a preliminary step to implementing future joint activities based on innovation and creativity.

The second MOU was signed during a meeting held on Thursday, October 3rd, between the president of K.N. Toosi University of Technology, Amir-Reza Shahani and the vice-chancellor of APU university of Malaysia, Ho Chin Kuan, Mehr news agency reported.

The officials underscored expanding cooperation between the two universities and launching a joint MS course in Artificial Intelligence (AI), as well as Cyber Security.

They also expressed interest in publishing joint international ar-

cles, and conducting collaborative industrial projects.

Joint winter school

The first joint winter school ran by Iranian and Malaysian academics commenced in the city of Isfahan on February 27, and concluded on March 12.

The Iran-Malaysia winter school was launched following a visit in 2023 by a high-ranking Malaysian delegation to Isfahan and the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the top universities of the two countries.

The higher education minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, heading a delegation of presidents of a number of universities traveled to Isfahan in

October 2023.

"A total of 27 professors and students from different Malaysian universities are participating in this scientific and cultural event which started today and will go on for two weeks," IRNA quoted Mohammad Amiryousefi, an associate professor of the University of Isfahan, as saying.

"The first two weeks of the school will be held at the University of Isfahan and the Islamic Azad University respectively.

As agreed, a group of Iranian students and professors will also participate in the joint school in Malaysia next year," he went on to say.

"The most important goals of the scientific and cultural event are the expansion of scientific diplomacy, enhancing communications and scientific synergy of the two countries to solve the problems of society and industry and also to attract foreign students," Amiryousefi further noted.

The two-week event included scientific lectures in various fields such as political science and law; introducing the city of Isfahan; cultural, industrial, and technological tourism; and visiting different sections of the University of Isfahan and the city's scientific and research estate.

Medicine exports increase by 19%

TEHRAN – In the first half of the current Iranian year (started on March 20), the country has exported medicines worth \$104.6 million, an increase of 19.7 percent year on year.

The exports amounted to 49,400 tons in volume, showing 15 percent increase compared to the same period last year, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration.

Some 345 companies have been involved in producing medicines, supplements, and raw materials, as well as importing pharmaceuticals in the six-month period of time.

Pharmaceutical companies have imported a total of 54,800 tons of commodities worth 1.1 billion dollars, indicating a 3.76 percent decrease in amount and 4.5 percent increase in terms of value compared to the same period last year, IRNA reported.

FDA plans to increase medicine exports by 30%

In June, Seyyed Ali Maboudi, an official with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said the FDA is developing a plan to increase pharmaceutical exports by 30 percent in the mid-term.

"In the past years, medicine exports in Iran accounted for a small share of non-oil exports. However, over the past year, it experienced a growing trend," IRNA quoted Maboudi as saying.

The official went on to point out that the exports of raw materials and pharmaceutical products over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2023-March 2024) were valued at more than 100 million dollars.



"The Food and Drug Administration is planning to double the medicine exports in the short term and tenfold in the long term," the official added.

Given the impacts of drugs on the health of society in all countries, they are one of the most complicated types of goods to export as they require registration and quality approvals in each destination country, Maboudi stressed.

Knowledge-based companies manufacturing medications

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market. Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

Iranian knowledge-based companies have succeeded in producing recombinant drugs which are mainly used for treating hard-to-treat diseases such as cancers, MS, hemo-

philia, and viral diseases.

Medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 countries annually, according to Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment such as anesthesia machines and other equipment are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country.

Over 60 countries import Iranian medical equipment

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment such as anesthesia machines and other equipment are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

ENGLISH IN USE

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'Organ donation rate grows 60-fold in 18 years'

Organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years, though the growth is not considerable compared to the global scale, head of the transplantation and treatment of diseases department at the Ministry of Health has announced.

Some countries including China have grown 122-fold in terms of organ donation over the past 10 years, ISNA quoted Mehdi Shadnough as saying on Monday.

Although, Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world, it can claim better ranks given some plans being implemented in this regard, he highlighted, adding, we will achieve better results certainly by the next year (March 2019-March 2020), as many barriers have been removed last year.

رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته، ۶۰ برابر شده است

رئیس مرکز مدیریت پیوند و درمان بیماری‌ها وزارت بهداشت گفت: روند رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته در ایران ۶۰ برابر شده است البته در مقیاس جهانی شاخص قابل قبولی نیست. به گزارش ایسنا دکتر مهدی شادنوش اظهار کرد: کشوری مانند چین طی ۱۰ سال در زمینه اهدای عضو رشد ۱۲۲ برابری داشته است.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: رتبه اهدای عضو ایران در رنکینگ جهانی ۲۶ است اما می‌تواند وضعیت بهتر داشته باشد و البته با توجه به فعالیت‌هایی که آغاز شده نتایج بهتری در انتظار خواهد بود و در سال ۹۸ نیز جهش خوبی را شاهد خواهیم بود چراکه چالش‌های موجود در سال ۹۷ رفع شده است.

Benefactors pledge \$334m to construct schools

TEHRAN –Benefactors have pledged to provide 200 trillion rials (around 334 million dollars) for constructing schools in the current Iranian year that started on March 20, Mohammad Reza Jafari, CEO of the School-Building Donors Association has said.

Over 50 percent of benefactors have contributed in building 8,000 classrooms so far this year, IRIB quoted Jafari as saying.

Referring to the number of semi-finished projects to be constructed by benefactors, he said some 1,856 schools and 9,746 classrooms need more budget to be completed.

Moreover, a total of 3,206 school projects with 1,617 classrooms are on the agenda to be built, but these projects need the support of the government to be built, Jafari noted.

In Iranian year 1401 (2022-2023), benefactors allotted 46 trillion rials (about 70 million dollars) for school construction and collected the needed amount in festivals.

In 1402 (March 2023 – March 2024), their contributions almost tripled, as it increased by 115 trillion rials (almost 191 million dollars).

Over half of schools built by benefactors

By financing 120 trillion rials (about \$200 million), school-building benefactors have contributed to the construction of 53 percent of the schools in the current Iranian year, which started on March 20.

In 1998, the Association of School-Building Donors was established, with donors allotting 170 billion rials (around \$284,000), IRNA quoted Jafari, as saying.

In the last few years, benefactors' contributions have tripled. They have undertaken the construction of more than half of the schools, the official added.

There are a total of 400 benefactors, both inside and outside of the country, involved in school building. They also work to improve the quality of education in schools, he further noted.

Benefactors' share increased by 300%

On July 2, the then Education Minister Reza-Morad Sahraei said over the past three years, the share of benefactors in building schools has increased by 300 percent.

If the same trend continues, constructing schools in areas where the per capita educational space is lower than the national standard, i.e., 5.30 square meters, will naturally become a priority, he said.

Over the past three years, more than 7,000 schools with 32,000 classrooms were built in underprivileged areas, the official stressed.

The fact that 64 percent of schools are constructed in rural areas and underprivileged communities highlights efforts to expand edu-

cational equity and opportunities, Sahraei further noted.

Semi-finished projects

A sum of 60 trillion rials (around \$100 million) has been allocated to completing semi-finished educational projects by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2025), an official with the Ministry of Education has said.

During the late President Ebrahim Raisi's administration, 33,000 classrooms were built and retrofitted with benefactors contributing to half of the funding, IRNA quoted Hamid-Reza Khanmohammadi as saying.

Referring to the construction of schools for refugees, the official said 111 schools have been built by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the past 10 years.

Highlighting that 600,000 foreign students are currently utilizing the educational capacities of Iran's schools, Khanmohammadi said 22 schools are currently being constructed, and 6 projects are proposed in challenging locations, which are under review.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should help construct up to 50 schools per year, he stressed.

Rise in newly-built schools

In August 2023, the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipment of Schools announced that the number of newly-built schools across the country has increased by 104 percent over the past two years

On a daily basis, 47 new classrooms have been constructed all over the country during the past two years.

About 40,000 donors are active and involved in building schools across the country, Jafari said.

He went on to say that over 49 percent of schools, amounting to 150,000 classrooms, in the country are built with the participation of school-building benefactors.

Construction of sports spaces, libraries, and developing smart schools are among the current needs in school construction, Jafari stressed.

On July 11, 2023, the 25th conference on honoring school-building benefactors was held at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran.

The Majlis (Iranian Parliament) has approved a special budget to support building schools nationwide.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Education should spend one percent of the revenues of state-run companies and the net profits of banks and private institutions to build schools in deprived areas in line with the goal of promoting educational justice.

Iran proposes ICESCO scientific Olympiad for Islamic nations

TEHRAN – Education Minister, Alireza Kazemi, has proposed the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), holding a scientific-educational Olympiad for the students in Islamic countries.

In a meeting with ICESCO Director General, Salim Ben Mohamed Al-Malik, Kazemi also proposed launching an annual award for the best teacher in the Islamic world, and establishing a scientific and cultural union for Muslim students, IRNA reported.

Launching an annual award for the best teacher in the Islamic world was also proposed.

Kazemi made the remarks on the sidelines of the third ICESCO Education Ministers Conference, which was held on October 2 and 3 in Muscat, Oman.

Al-Malik, for his part, welcomed the three proposals and lauded Iran's active presence in the third conference.

The Iranian official went on to extend an invitation to Al-Malik to pay a visit to Iran to get familiar with the achievements and expertise of

the country's ministry of education.

Third ICESCO conference

The event was 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 education ministers from Islamic countries, along with high-level delegations from 27 regional and international organizations, as well as civil society institutions attended the event.

The Conference aimed 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 sought 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 also highlighted the ethical and value-based foundations underpinning education transformation in the Islamic world's civilizational heritage.



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OCTOBER 6, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

I wonder at a man who loses hope of salvation when the door of repentance is open for him.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:52 Evening: 17:59 Dawn: 4:41 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:04 (tomorrow)

Cultural center in Chicago displaying Palestinian artists' work

The latest curatorial endeavor "Landscapes From Under the Rubble" by the Chicago-based Palestinian designer and visual artist Linda Abdullah opened October 4, at Co-Prosperity, a cultural center in Chicago, the U.S.

Presenting work in three parts, the exhibition includes work produced in Gaza prior to October 2023—much of which has since been destroyed during Israel's attacks, work created by artists after leaving Gaza, and work produced by artists who remain in Gaza, waiting for a ceasefire, and "using whatever materials they can find like hibiscus, tea, or charcoal, to make marks on ruled notebook papers," Abdullah told the Chicago Reader in an email interview.

The show features the work of eight Palestinian artists namely, Basel Elmaqosui, Dena Mattar, Majed Shala, Mohamed Abusal, Raed Issa, Rana Batrawi, Shareef Sarhan, and Sohail Salem.

For Abdullah, "Landscapes From Under the Rubble" represents a form of protest documenting "what artists endured as Israeli occupying forces targeted all institutions of knowledge, culture, and education like Al-Aqsa University, Shababek [for Contemporary Art], and Eltiqa Art". Artistic gestures become defiantly positive in the face of supreme violence—as when artist Salem documents living in a war zone through daily drawings, he posts on Facebook that say: "I'm still alive," or when Elmaqosui converted his tent into a makeshift studio to host art workshops for children and mothers to offer "respite in the face of daily trauma," or in the colorful paintings by Mattar who "finds hope expressing her grief and fears in color."

"America needs to hear more Palestinian voices," Abdullah says. "By showing the artists, their works (or what's left of their works), and their stories, I hope for this exhibition to be the artists' protest and a cry out loud for justice and for ending the annihilation of the Palestinians."

In the face of the destruction of their homes, studios, and galleries, as well as the loss of lifetimes of work, countless artists in Gaza have been compelled to flee continuous massacres. Some artists in this show were able to escape through Rafah Crossing, while others managed to rescue their families but were unable to leave themselves. Many are currently residing in tents with their families, awaiting ceasefire, a pause in the genocide that's just been "postponed" until at least after the US election.

"This is our only window to tell the world: we are still alive," says Salem, a visual artist and professor at Alaqsa University. He began posting daily sketches on Facebook as a means of documenting diaries from a war zone.

This exhibition serves as a documentation of the experiences of eight artists over the course of nearly a year of ongoing genocide. "The life of a Gazan artist is not easy, as we are often isolated from the world," Salem elucidates. "However, art serves as a bridge between us and other people."

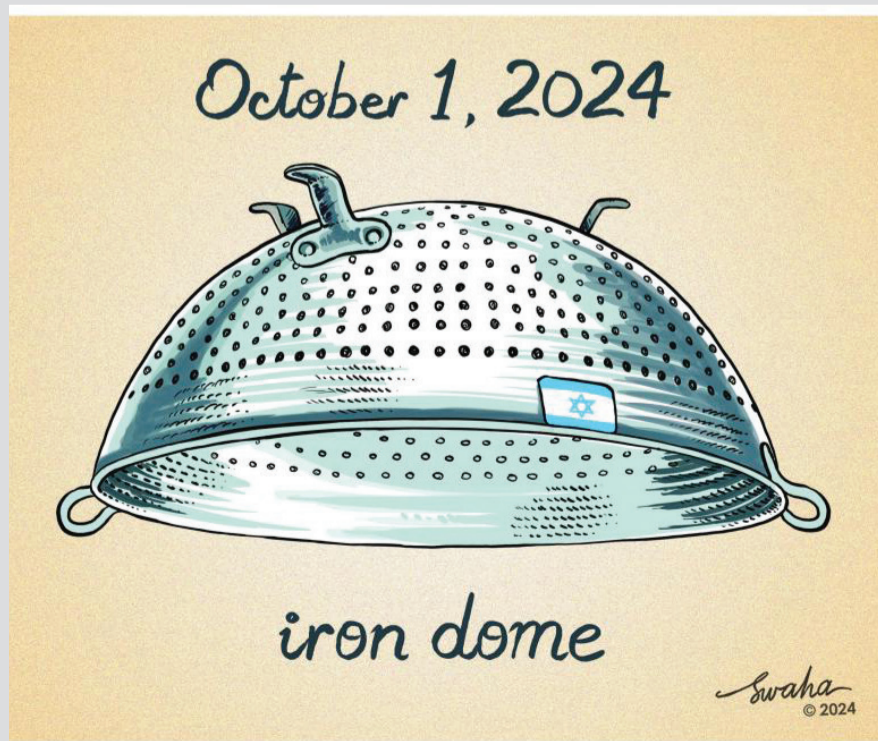
Strikes by Israeli Security Forces continue, with aerial, land, and maritime bombardments across the Gaza Strip, resulting in civilian casualties, displacement and the destruction of residential structures and public infrastructure.

Relentless Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip since last October has resulted in the death of over 41,500 Palestinians, about half of which women and children. More than 96,500 others have been injured in the ongoing attacks.

The Israeli onslaught has displaced almost the entire population of the territory amid an ongoing blockade that has led to severe shortages of food, clean water, and medicine.

Israel has continued its brutal offensive on the Gaza Strip following an attack by the Palestinian group Hamas last Oct. 7, despite a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire. Israel also faces accusations of genocide at the International Court of Justice for its actions in Gaza.

Cartoon of Day



Iran Massive Attacks Overwhelm the Iron Dome
Cartoonist: SWAHA from France

Tajikistan submits Iranian director's "Melody" for 2025 Oscars

TEHRAN—Tajikistan has officially submitted the film "Melody," directed by Iranian filmmaker Behrouz Sebt Rasoul, for consideration in the Best International Feature Film category at the 2025 Oscars. This submission represents Tajikistan's first entry in 19 years and stands as its third submission overall.

In a talk with the Tehran Times on Saturday, the director confirmed that the submission was made by the Union of Cinematographers of Tajikistan.

The Union of Cinematographers of Tajikistan is an organization appointed by AMPAS to select the Tajikistan's submission for consideration for the International Feature Film Award (formerly known as the Foreign Language Film Award) at the Oscars.

"Melody" tells the story of a young musician girl, Melody, who is determined to compose a heartfelt piece for children battling cancer, using the recorded sounds of thirty different birds, despite the presence of hunters in the area. She returns to her home village in order to capture the beautiful sounds of the birds and receives assistance from the speechless caretaker of her family's house, Mango.

After discovering a mere twenty birds, Mango reveals to her that the location of the remaining birds is known only to the wise village singer, who has been driven away from the village by the bird hunters. Melody embarks on a journey to locate both him and the missing birds.

Set in a stunning natural backdrop, the story unfolds amidst the enchanting beauty of the surroundings. Screenwriter Sebt Rasoul skillfully incorporates elements like birds, children, music, and nature itself to elevate the narrative, transforming the film into a mesmerizing



experience. Sebt Rasoul's third feature film combines the captivating elements of social genre with a touch of mysticism.

The film stars Iranian actor Diman Zandi, Alireza Ostadi and Meghdad Esлами from Iran as well as Safar Haqododov and Zulfiya Sadikova from Tajikistan.

"Melody" premiered internationally at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on November 24, 2023. The film is produced by Sebt Rasoul's Tehran-based Nama Film Company in collaboration with the state-owned Tajikistan broadcaster Safina.

Dreamlab Films, the France-based international distributor under Iranian film expert Nasrin Mirshab, is handling the international sales and distribution of "Melody".

The film has garnered significant recognition on the international stage, participating in several prestigious film festivals. It was showcased in the 21st Chennai International Film

Festival in India in 2023. Following this, "Melody" was selected for the competitive section of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival in Iran in February, and the 24th Keswick Film Festival in London in March.

At the 23rd ImagineIndia Film Festival in Madrid, Spain, the film achieved remarkable success, winning several awards including Best Director of Photography, Best Music Design, and Best Original Music. Additionally, it received a nomination for Best Actress and Best Sound Design at the same festival.

"Melody" continues to attract attention, with its inclusion in the Iranian Film Festival Zurich and the 11th Silk Road International Film Festival in China in September. The film will also participate in the competitive section of the 4th Izmir International Film Festival in Turkey in November, as well as the 11th Duhok International Film Festival in Iraq in December. It is also set to go on screen at the panorama section at the Australian Cinémathèque in Brisbane, Australia, in February

2025. The film was chosen as Tajikistan's entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 96th Academy Awards; however, it did not make the final list due to a late submission. In contrast, the film was submitted on time for the 97th Academy Awards.

Tajikistan's last Oscars' submission occurred in 2005 with the romantic drama "Sex & Philosophy," directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf. However, that submission was disqualified due to the late arrival of the film's print to the Academy. The only other instance of Tajikistan entering a film in the Oscars was in 1999, with Bakhtyar Khudojnazarov's comedy-drama "Luna Papa," which did not receive a nomination.

With the timely submission of "Melody" for the upcoming 97th Academy Awards, Tajikistan has reignited hopes for recognition on the international stage, highlighting the artistic collaboration between Iranian and Tajik filmmakers.

Russia's Saratov State University launches Persian language course

TEHRAN— In collaboration with the cultural attaché office of Iran Embassy in Russia, Persian language training course has commenced at Saratov State University in Saratov, Russia.

The Persian language course, specially designed for the Fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic year, has begun its activities at Saratov State University in partnership with the cultural attaché office of Iran Embassy in Russia and the representative of the Saadi Foundation, IRNA reported.

Persian is being taught at this university using the Saadi Foundation's published books, "First Step" and "Mina," by Iranian instructor Hamid Mirza Khani, the report added.

Students from Saratov State University and other Persian language learners at both beginner and advanced levels could attend

the semester, the report added.

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

Its script, derived from Arabic, can initially pose challenges for learners unfamiliar with the right-to-left writing system. Persian vocabulary is influenced by both Arabic and various Turkic languages, adding layers of complexity.

While the phonetic structure of Persian is relatively straightforward and lacks gendered nouns, the nuances of its grammar, such as verb conjugations and the use of subordinate clauses, require dedicated study and practice, often making it a rewarding yet challenging pursuit for foreign learners.

The difficulty level of learning Persian can

vary significantly based on a learner's background and native language.

For speakers of languages that share similarities with Persian, such as Turkish or certain Indo-European languages, the transition may be smoother due to overlapping linguistic features.

However, learners from languages with markedly different structures, like Mandarin or Vietnamese, may find the concepts of Persian syntax and grammar more daunting.

Additionally, the rich cultural context embedded in Persian literature and expressions can require learners to engage deeply with cultural references to achieve proficiency.

Nonetheless, many learners find studying Persian to be an enriching experience, allowing them to gain insight into a diverse and historically significant culture.

Ibn Sina's "Healing, Theology" among best of book festival in Ryazan

TEHRAN—The two-volume book of Ibn Sina (Avicenna) titled "Healing, Theology" was awarded a 2nd degree diploma in the category of best publication of spiritual and religious literature at the closing ceremony of the 10th Interregional Book Festival "Reading World" held in Ryazan, Russia, last week.

The Sadra Publishing House has published the book with the support of the Ibn Sina Foundation and the assistance of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The award was presented to the employees of the Sadra Publishing House by the Minister of Culture of the Ryazan Region E.A. Vasilyeva, Ibn Sina



Cover of the two-volume edition of "Healing, Theology" by Ibn Sina in Russian

Foundation reported.

"Healing, Theology" includes notes and afterwords by Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, and Chief Researcher of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian

Academy of Sciences Taufik Ibrahim.

This edition presents, for the first time in Russian, a complete translation of the section on metaphysical theology from the encyclopedic work "Healing".

Ibn Sina (circa 980-1037) was a preeminent philosopher and physician of the Muslim world, flourishing during the Islamic Golden Age.

He is often described as the father of early modern medicine.

His philosophy was of the Peripatetic school derived from Aristotelianism.

His most famous works are "The Book of Healing," a philosophical and scientific encyclopedia, and "The Canon of

Medicine," a medical encyclopedia, which became a standard medical text at many medieval European universities and remained in use as late as 1650.

Besides philosophy and medicine, Ibn Sina's corpus includes writings on astronomy, alchemy, geography and geology, psychology, Islamic theology, logic, mathematics, physics, and works of poetry.

He wrote most of his philosophical and scientific works in Arabic, but also wrote several key works in Persian, while his poetic works were written in both languages.

Of the 450 works he is believed to have written, around 240 have survived, including 150 on philosophy and 40 on medicine.