

Unchecked Israeli aggression fuels Iranian public demands for nuclear weapons

Rising Call for Nukes



Iransians gather in Tehran's Imam Hossein Square on October 2, 2024 to laud Operation True Promise II conducted the night before

Israel's further provocation will lead to stronger response from Iran: FM

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has issued a stern warning to Israel, cautioning the regime not to underestimate Tehran's resolve.

Speaking during the "Al-Aqsa Flood: The Beginning of Nasrallah" conference held in Tehran on Tuesday, Araqchi underscored that Israel is fully aware of the extensive range of Iranian missile capabilities, which can target key sites across the occupied territories.

Araqchi recalled the October 2023 operation launched by Hamas, which he described as a "historic" move against the occupying Israeli regime. The operation, he said, delivered a severe blow to Israel and highlighted its vulnerabilities. He echoed the sentiments of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who had previously hailed the operation as a significant victory against Israel.

"We caution the Zionist regime not to test Iran's resolve," Araqchi said. "Any aggression will be met with an even stronger response than before." ▶ Page 3

Energy Ministry pursuing new plans to pass next summer peak period

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said his ministry is pursuing 14 major plans to prepare the country's electricity sector for passing next summer's peak consumption period, IRIB reported.

Speaking at a meeting with managers of the country's electricity sector, Aliabadi said: "Maintaining water reserves for maximum use of the capacity of hydroelectric power plants, developing the capacity of renewable power plants, performing power plant overhauls on time, removing the limitations of the power grid, and paying special attention to promoting consumption awareness are among the measures that the ministry is going to take to pass the next year's peak summer period."

The minister stated that the stable supply of electricity during the next year's peak consumption period depends on the timely repairs of the power plants in the current year, adding: "It is also necessary to create new ways to engage people in consumption management programs by raising awareness." ▶ Page 4

'Iran to unveil new military technology in possible future operations against Israel'

TEHRAN – Ali Nikzad, Deputy Speaker of Iran's parliament, revealed that Iran is preparing to unveil new military technology during the possible future operations.

He made the remarks during an interview with the Iranian media on Tuesday.

Nikzad highlighted that this technological breakthrough would be showcased in future military actions, emphasizing Iran's commitment to advancing its strategic and defense sectors. "In the possible next operation, we will introduce new technology," Nikzad stated during the interview, hinting at potential advancements in missile and defense systems.

Responding to a question about Iran's nuclear program and whether further advancements were on the horizon, Nikzad discussed the importance of the Strategic Action Law, a key piece of legislation passed by the 11th Parliament. He explained that this law, which aims to safeguard Iran's nuclear interests, was recognized by Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as a significant achievement. ▶ Page 3

No position is vacant: Hezbollah deputy chief

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem confirmed on Tuesday that Hezbollah's command and control as well as the management of the party and the Resistance are "in an orderly manner and in accordance with the party's norms," stressing that the Resistance "overcame the painful blows that it suffered."

In a televised address commemorating the anniversary of the Lebanese Support Front for the Gaza Strip on October 8, 2023, Sheikh Qassem reassured the Resistance's popular base, stating, "We do not have any vacant positions [within Hezbollah]; all positions are filled, and Hezbollah is operating orderly and at full readiness."

He explained that the party "will proceed with the election of the Secretary-General as per the party's regulations," which will be announced at the appropriate time.

Sheikh Qassem affirmed that the merits and capabilities that the martyred leaders possessed are evident in their assistants and possible successors.

He also stressed that "the administration is cohesive" and so are "the Resistance fighters on the frontlines."

Hezbollah missiles rain down across Israel

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Hezbollah showered Israeli cities with rockets as it marked the first anniversary of its military support front for Gaza, on October 8, 2023.

Hezbollah also targeted Israeli military gatherings and positions in northern Israel with rocket barrages as it vowed to continue operations in support of Gaza and defense of Lebanon and its people.

The Lebanese resistance movement began its operations on Tuesday by targeting a gathering of occupation forces in the Shlomi settlement with a rocket salvo.

At the same time, Hezbollah fighters targeted another gathering of occupation forces in the settlement of Hanita with another rocket barrage.

The fighters also targeted an IOF gathering in the vicinity of Marj with rocket fire.

In a separate statement, Hezbollah said it targeted an Israeli artillery site in Dishon with a rocket salvo while simultaneously targeting another artillery site in Dalton near Safed with a similar rocket barrage.

Old fox eggs on rabid dogs: How the UK enabled the Gaza genocide

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- The British prime minister's decision not to prohibit arms sales to Israel has thrown a spotlight on the UK's conspiracies against Palestine and its people that have existed for more than a century.

Keir Starmer told the British Parliament on Monday that he would not ban all arms sales to Israel.

British MP Zarah Sultana asked the premier if he would "finally do what's legally and morally right and end the government's complicity in Israeli war crimes by banning all arms sales to Israel, including F-35 fighter jets, not just 30 licenses."

Starmer rejected Sultana's call by an outright "No".

"But it is a really serious point. Banning all sales would mean none for defensive purposes. None for defensive purposes on the anniversary of October 7 and days after a huge attack by Iran into Israel would be a wrong position for this government and I will not take it," he added.

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Israel's Achilles' heel: strategic vulnerabilities exploitable by Iran

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - Following the success of Operation "True Promise II," a possible response from the Zionist regime is anticipated.

Should this occur, various military authorities of the Islamic Republic have warned that "the response will be significantly more forceful than the operation itself."

In this context, Iranian authorities, along with media outlets and analysts, have recently pointed out potential reactions to an Israeli attack on Iran. They all have focused on Israel's small size in comparison to Iran. ▶ Page 2



Iranian culture a unifying force, tourism key to soft power: minister

TEHRAN – On Tuesday, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri put the spotlight on what he called the "cohesive power of Iranian culture".

"The rich Iranian culture fosters unity," Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri stated. "Cultural diversity has deep roots in the history of this land, but the key element that defines our civilization is national cohesion and collective unity." ▶ Page 6

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Al-Aqsa Storm aborts IMEC corridor

In a note, Kayhan addressed the purpose of launching the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and wrote about its danger: IMEC carries important risks for the region, Iran, and the Axis of Resistance. By making more countries in the region dependent, this corridor paves the way for the continuation of this regime's crimes. With the design of a new route with the support of America and the West, this project is a threat and a competitor to the strategic projects of the New Silk Road and the North-South Corridor, because these corridors have become one of the best routes for the transfer of commercial cargoes and transportation of goods by passing through our country. According to the Leader of the Revolution, the policy of Americans and their allies was to turn the regime into a gateway for energy exports from the region to the Western world and imports of goods and technology from the West to the region, and this means guaranteeing the existence of the usurping regime and the dependence of the entire region on it. Any blow to the destruction of the IMEC project is considered a service to humanity. Now, after one year of the Al-Aqsa Storm, the Zionists have realized very well that this project will never be realized.

Shargh: Balance of old and new regional order

In its editorial, Shargh pointed to a possible war between Iran and Israel and said: The war of low intensity or the shadow war that has been going on between Iran and Israel over the last two or three decades has faced the threat of collapse following Israel's action against Hezbollah. The recent actions to weaken Hezbollah and the Houthis, the issue of a "new regional order", and Netanyahu's interventionist message about Iran's internal issues can be an external reflection of such a new policy. The American and European officials called on Israel to exercise restraint following Operation True Promise I, but this time they are talking about "Israel's right to a proportionate reaction". It is unfortunate that some members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council recently told the Iranian Foreign Minister that they are neutral in the conflict between Iran and Israel. It is clear that in such a situation, getting involved in a full-scale war with Israel and its allies does

not make sense. Our country has good defense facilities to deter some greedy neighbors. We must preserve these facilities for this purpose.

Sobh-e-No: World has realized Iran is on the right side

In a conversation with Foad Izadi, an expert on American issues, Sobh-e-No discussed the crimes of Israel and America and the world's view of them. He said: The Zionist regime is getting closer to its end every day, and the United States cannot prevent this. America was trying to transform the region radically, but Iran proved that it would continue to support the Resistance with all its power. The fact is that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the most important obstacle to the goals of Israel and America. 99% of people in the world do not support the barbaric (Israeli) regime. If no one knew about Gaza before the attacks of the Zionist regime, today millions of people around the world support the people of Gaza and Palestine and have realized the role of Iran in fighting oppression. Today, even in America, people support Palestine and Gaza and chant slogans against the Zionist regime, and this shows that they understand Iran's comprehensive support for the Palestinian cause and our country's fight against oppression.

Iran: Why Israel is hiding damages?!

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper discussed Israel's refusal to acknowledge the damage to its intelligence and security centers after the True Promise II Operation. It said: There are many reasons for censorship and deletion of news by the Zionist regime. The regime is trying to divert the public attention from the existing conditions. Analysts believe the source of Israel's misleading reports is the fear of entering into a long-term missile conflict with Iran. Hiding the damage is intended to guard the prestige of its so-called powerful and well-equipped army among the regional countries. In Operation True Promise II, Iran's missiles were able to pass through the defense systems (Iron Dome) of the Zionist regime and inflict a deep security blow to the Zionist regime; so, the credibility of these systems to protect the people was lost because the Zionist regime relied on its defense systems to ward off threats, and Iranian missiles undermined its false prestige.

Tehran condemns Karachi airport attack, calls for stronger anti-terror cooperation



TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei has strongly denounced the recent terrorist attack at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport, which resulted in the deaths and injuries of both Pakistani and Chinese nationals.

In a statement, Baqaei expressed deep sympathy with the governments of Pakistan and China, as well as the families of the victims affected by the tragedy.

While reiterating Iran's unwavering opposition to all forms of terrorism, Baqaei condemned the act as a violation of international law and human rights.

He stressed the need for increased global cooperation to combat terrorism. "The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns terrorism in all its forms, and confronting this dark phenomenon requires greater collaboration and coordination among countries," he stated.

Baqaei also emphasized Iran's readiness to bolster regional security efforts, particularly with its neighboring countries.

"Iran is fully prepared to strengthen cooperation with all nations, especially those in the region, to prevent the spread of terrorism and insecurity," he added.

According to the Pakistan Relief and Rescue Organization, a powerful explosion rocked the

area outside Karachi's Jinnah International Airport on Monday night, damaging several vehicles and causing numerous casualties.

The blast claimed the lives of multiple individuals, with others sustaining injuries in the devastating attack.

Iran urges continued resistance for Palestinian rights

In a separate statement, Baqaei reflected on the ongoing struggle of the Palestinian people, arguing that resistance is the only viable path to securing their rights.

Baqaei highlighted that after a year of violence and devastation in Gaza, it has become increasingly clear that dignified resistance is essential for the Palestinians' right to self-determination and a peaceful, dignified life.

Writing on his X account (formerly Twitter), Baqaei condemned the brutal killings and widespread destruction in Gaza over the past year, which he said has only intensified anger within the Islamic world.

"The brutal actions in Gaza have outraged the Islamic world and reinforced the understanding that there is no alternative to honorable resistance," he wrote.

He further emphasized that only through steadfast and honorable resistance can Palestinians hope to restore their basic rights, including their right to self-determination and to live in peace.

"The right to a dignified and peaceful existence for Palestinians can only be achieved through continued resistance," Baqaei reiterated, emphasizing the need for sustained international support for the Palestinian cause.

Defense system test causes loud booms in Esfahan

TEHRAN – Some residents of Esfahan Province in central Iran were startled by loud explosions in the early hours of Tuesday. Authorities have since confirmed that the sounds were caused by a test of the region's defense systems.

In a statement released hours after the sounds were heard, the Saheb al-Zaman headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) clarified that no foreign military activity or Iranian military drills were taking place.

The statement specifically attributed the explosions to the defense system test, reaffirming Iran's commitment



to safeguarding its airspace.

Esfahan province hosts one of Iran's key nuclear facilities. Following Iran's recent retaliation

against the regime, Israel has pledged to take action. Some social media users, particularly those with Israeli affiliations,

began to associate the sounds heard on Tuesday with the potential response that Israel had promised.

The IRGC fired approximately 200 ballistic missiles at Israeli positions in the occupied territories on October 1.

The move came in response to Israel's assassination of high-ranking Resistance figures in the past three months. 90% of the Iranian weapons fired at Israeli military bases have reportedly hit their targets with success.

Tehran has warned Israel that it would carry out harsher attacks should the regime repeat its aggressions.

Naval commanders meet to commemorate IRGC Navy's establishment

to mark the anniversary of the IRGC Navy's establishment.

Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, commander of the Iranian Army Navy, met with Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, commander of the IRGC Navy, to pay tribute to the founding of the naval force.

Established in 1985 under the directive of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, the IRGC Navy plays a crucial role in

safeguarding Iran's interests in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, as well as securing its territorial waters.

The creation of the IRGC Navy is widely viewed as a strategic move by Iran to bolster its military capabilities following the Iran-Iraq War and strengthen its regional influence.

The anniversary commemorations highlight the significance of the IRGC Navy within Iran's military strategy.

Zarif denounces Israel's 'unparalleled criminality' in Gaza

TEHRAN– Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs characterized the actions of the Zionist regime in Gaza as a manifestation of genocide and global corruption.

During a series of "For Iran" meetings at the Strategic Studies Center of the Presidential Office, Mohammad Javad Zarif marked the first anniversary of

the atrocities committed by the Israeli regime in Gaza.

Zarif stated, "Our region is currently facing a grave crisis, and today we reflect on the horrific acts that Israel has perpetrated, including plunder, massacre, and genocide in occupied Palestine, the Gaza Strip, and Lebanon, which are unparalleled in their

brutality and criminality."

Zarif further emphasized, "The region is indeed facing a significant crisis, and the scale of the massacre by Israel during this period is without precedent.

Some may question the relevance of discussing environmental issues in such dire circumstances; however, the de-

struction of the environment and the loss of human life represent two critical aspects of [Quranic notion] corruption on Earth."

"The crimes committed by Israel in Gaza not only have devastating repercussions for the region but also exemplify global corruption and contribute to environmental degradation," he concluded.

Israel's Achilles' heel: strategic vulnerabilities exploitable by Iran

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Following the success of Operation "True Promise II," a possible response from the Zionist regime is anticipated.

Should this occur, various military authorities of the Islamic Republic have warned that "the response will be significantly more forceful than the operation itself."

In this context, Iranian authorities, along with media outlets and analysts, have recently pointed out potential reactions to an Israeli attack on Iran. They all have focused on Israel's small size in comparison to Iran, its limited strategic depth (defined as the distance between front lines and key industrial areas and population centers), and the vulnerability of its critical infrastructure.

The colonial state of Israel has a maximum width of only 137 km and merely 14 km at its narrowest point. This situation causes population centers, industry, and military infrastructure to be heavily concentrated and located close to its borders. This lack of strategic depth has led Israel, since the era of Ben Gurion (the first prime minister of the Zionist colonial entity), to adopt an offensive and preventive approach in its conflicts, a stance that aligns with its colonial vision of expansion and conquest.

The situation took a dramatic turn after the Six-Day War in 1967. The conflict between Israel and a coalition composed of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia resulted in a decisive victory for the Israeli state. Anticipating a planned Egyptian invasion, Israel launched a preventive attack that destroyed almost all military air assets of Egypt and Syria, thereby achieving air superiority and concluding the war in just six days, much to the dismay of the Arabs. As a result of this conflict, Israel occupied the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights. Of these territories, only the Sinai Peninsula was later returned to Egypt, while the others remain occupied to this day. The Zionist state considers that these occupied areas provide it with some strategic depth in the event of an attack.

Israel is fully aware that there are two types of strategic depth: internal and external. The external lies beyond a country's borders; in this case, in the sea. The strategic depth offered by the Mediterranean will play an increasingly important role in Israel's defense. For this reason, the colonial state has intensified its efforts to

strengthen its maritime strategic depth.

In recent years, significant hydrocarbon reserves have been discovered in Israel's territorial waters. Over the last decade, its gas reserves have increased by more than 40%. Among the most notable fields are Tamar, Leviathan, and Katlan. Thus, Israel seeks to expand its military presence in the Mediterranean to ensure a strategic depth that, although enhanced through colonial expansion, remains insufficient from a defensive standpoint.

An important weakness of Israel is the vulnerability of its critical infrastructure, which includes oil and gas fields, power plants, refineries, desalination plants, and the Dimona nuclear reactor

From a military standpoint, a country with greater strategic depth is considered to have a considerable advantage compared to one with less space. Strategic depth is a geographical factor that, on one hand, enhances a country's defensive capability and, on the other, imposes significant challenges on the aggressor. It strengthens the natural ability of a defender to absorb a military aggression while simultaneously burdening the aggressor with the need to maintain extensive and sustainable logistics. In this regard, the Islamic Republic possesses significant strategic depth.

Another of Israel's weaknesses is, as mentioned, the vulnerability of its critical infrastructure, which includes oil and gas fields, power plants, refineries, desalination plants, and the Dimona nuclear reactor. Therefore, it can be asserted that if Israel were to decide to attack Iran, the Iranian response would aim to paralyze the entire infrastructure of the colonial entity, focusing on its economy.

It is worth noting that oil and gas account for approximately 39% and 42%, respectively, of Israel's energy, with more than 80% of its total energy coming from a few key facilities. This concentration makes the regime vulnerable to military attacks. In 2023, Israel imported 225,000 barrels of oil per day, 60% of which

came from Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. This oil is processed in two refineries: Haifa and Ashdod.

As noted by the newspaper Farhikhtegan Daily, "Israel's gas infrastructure is so vulnerable that the destruction of a single gas field would halt its exports to Egypt and Jordan. If both fields were destroyed, 42% of Israel's total energy supply would be eliminated."

From a strategic-military perspective, there are several Israeli targets that Iran could attack, each capable of causing significant economic, energy, military, and material losses, according to a recent infographic published by Hamshahri newspaper. In addition to the aforementioned ports of Haifa and Ashdod, other strategic targets that Iran could strike in the event of conflict with Israel include:

- Rafael: Located in Haifa, it is the primary assembly point for Israel's nuclear weapons.

- Karish Oil Field: The destruction of the Karish facilities would severely disrupt Israel's long-term plans, especially if Resistance groups manage to prevent reconstruction.

- Dimona Nuclear Reactor: This is the only site for plutonium production in Israel. Its destruction could generate a significant crisis for settlements in the central and southern parts of the country.

- Ashkelon Port: Expanded to alleviate pressure on Haifa, Ashkelon facilitates the transfer of oil from the Persian Gulf and houses multiple oil storage tanks.

- Tirosh Facilities: This site stores strategic nuclear weapons. The destruction of Tirosh would eliminate key assets and pose serious risks to Israel's security.

- Sdot Micha Air Base: It houses Jericho ballistic missiles, equipped with nuclear warheads.

- Yodfat: Another nuclear weapons assembly site that could also be a target.

Lastly, it is important to mention Tel Aviv, the most populous city in Israel and its economic capital. An attack in this area would not only have a significant economic impact but would also generate immense social pressure.

All of the above indicates that the Islamic Republic is prepared for any type of scenario and possesses a range of military resources that allow it to have confidence in its potential responses to an Israeli aggression.

Rising call for nukes

Unchecked Israeli aggression fuels Iranian public demands for nuclear weapons

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – After a year of harrowing Israeli crimes decimating Gaza and plaguing the surrounding areas, it seems that the number of Iranian citizens who have advocated for the development of nuclear weapons since the inception of the country's nuclear program are no longer ostracized.

Recently, an earthquake struck Iran's central Semnan region, prompting speculation on social media about the possibility of it being linked to a nuclear test by the Iranian government. Seismologists and Iranian authorities quickly dismissed these claims. CIA Director William Burns also said there is no evidence that Iran has decided to build a nuclear weapon and that the U.S. would figure out Tehran has changed its nuclear doctrine before the country manages to develop nukes. The rumor nonetheless, has sparked intense discussions among Iranians in recent days.

"I'm not going to lie I was kind of disappointed when I heard it wasn't a nuclear test," said Ali, a 25-year-old nurse residing in Tehran. "I can't recall a time in my life when Iran wasn't under pressure for its nuclear program. We've endured decades of unjust sanctions. I don't understand why we haven't just developed nuclear weapons, since we've already paid the price for it anyway."

Ali represents the younger generation of Iranians often criticized for their perceived fanaticism and lack of awareness regarding the risks of escalating tensions. Born after the 1988 conclusion of the Iran-Iraq war, which caused significant casualties and economic woes, he differs from those who experienced the conflict firsthand and tend to shy away



from potential confrontations with the West and its proxies. Today, however, even the most dovish segments of Iranian society are starting to back the idea that Tehran should go nuclear.

"I was very happy when we signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). I thought the dispute over our nuclear program had finally ended and that the West was finally going to embrace us," said a 61-year-old retired teacher. "But nothing really changed. In fact, things began to look worse. The West left the deal and tightened its economic grip on us, and Israel is now threatening to strike our nuclear facilities. That's while we have proven time and time again that we are not after nuclear weapons."

The JCPOA, signed in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 group of nations, was a deal that limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the termination of Western sanctions. Washington withdrew from the pact in 2018, and its European allies, namely Germany, Britain and France, began shunning their commitments despite remaining as official signatories. Since the U.S. left the nuclear pact, Tehran has been subject to more sanctions and economic pressure compared to when there was no

JCPOA.

The collapse of the JCPOA has certainly reduced the stigma around nuclear weapons, but the primary driver behind the increasing number of Iranians demanding nuclear weapons is believed to be an unprecedented surge of Israeli violence and aggression in the region.

After pulverizing the Gaza Strip and gradually moving towards bombing Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, Iranians are increasingly concerned about whether their country has enough deterrence to prevent Israel from repeating these actions against Iran.

While Tehran undeniably has far more sophisticated military capabilities than its regional counterparts, many speculate that it's only a matter of time before Israel takes action against Iran as well. The regime has already taken the bold step of assassinating a prominent Palestinian leader on Iranian territory. Observers argue that there's little reason to think Israel wouldn't attempt to replicate its actions in Gaza against Iranians, especially since many of its politicians have already issued threats to do so.

"The issue of deterrence has always been of paramount importance in a volatile region like West Asia," said Mahdi

Khanalizadeh, a West Asia expert and scholar. "But in the wake of the past year's events, the concept of deterrence has transcended the realm of academic discourse and become a subject of contemplation not only for researchers and analysts but also for ordinary citizens," he added.

Despite Israel's status as a nuclear power and Tehran's lack thereof, Iran has twice attempted to establish deterrence against Israel within the past year. Once in April when Israel attacked the Iranian embassy in Damascus, and once earlier this month in response to the regime's assassination of Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

"Both operations against Israel have been successful and Israel has decided to de-escalate in return. However, given the rogue nature of the regime, nobody knows if Iran will have to make similar decisions in the future. That's why more and more people are thinking about nuclear weapons. Because Israel has them, and Iran doesn't."

A recent poll conducted between February 20th and May 26th by an opinion research firm based in Canada revealed that nearly 70% of Iranians supported the development of nuclear weapons. It is anticipated that this percentage has increased since then.

Also, the desire for enhanced deterrence against Israel appears to be resonating with the country's more influential and elite circles. In a recent interview, Hassan Khomeini, the grandson of the Islamic Republic's founder, emphasized the need for Iran to strengthen its deterrence capabilities. When questioned about the specific type of deterrence he had in mind, he replied, "I'll say this much for now."

Israel's further provocation will lead to stronger response from Iran: FM



From Page 1 ▶ The Foreign Minister also referenced a significant Iranian military response on October 1st, when the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched a barrage of supersonic ballistic missiles targeting Israeli military, intelligence, and espionage facilities.

This operation, known as "Operation True Promise II," was launched in retaliation for Israel's targeted assassinations of prominent figures, including Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, Hezbollah's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC commander Abbas Nilforooshan in Beirut.

Araqchi emphasized that Iran's actions are calculated and deliberate. "We monitor every move closely, and we are neither in a hurry nor hesitant to respond," he said, reiterating that Iran's response to any aggression would be swift and decisive.

Highlighting the Palestinian cause, Araqchi stressed that it remains a central issue on the global stage, and the strength of the Islamic Resistance is robust across all fronts—both in technological capabilities and strategic planning.

He emphasized that the Resistance is not dependent on any single leader, pointing to the resilience of the movement despite the loss of key figures.

The Foreign Minister's remarks follow Israel's repeated threats of retaliation after Iran's missile strikes earlier this month. Araqchi, however, dismissed these threats, assuring that any further Israeli aggression would be met with an even more forceful response.

"Our enemies are well aware of the targets that are within our reach," he stated. "They have already witnessed the effectiveness of our missiles."

Araqchi also pointed to earlier missile and drone strikes carried out by the IRGC in April, which caused significant damage to Israeli military installations across the occupied territories.

These strikes, part of "Operation True Promise I," demonstrated Iran's readiness to respond to any hostile actions from Israel, further escalating the ongoing conflict.

Araqchi concluded by reaffirming Iran's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and the broader Resistance movement.

"Iran has always stood by the Resistance, and it will continue to do so with full strength," he declared, adding that the successful execution of recent operations underscored the country's commitment to defending Palestine and responding to any aggression.

Having recently returned from visits to Lebanon and Syria, Araqchi emphasized that Iran's message remains consistent: the Islamic Republic will always back the Resistance in its struggle against Israeli occupation.

Araqchi departs for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday afternoon

Araqchi is set to begin a tour of Saudi Arabia and several other regional countries on Tuesday afternoon to discuss regional developments and make efforts to stop the Zionist regime's crimes in Lebanon and Gaza.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Araqchi stated that the developments in the region and prevention of Israeli crimes in Lebanon will be discussed in the upcoming meetings.

"A collective movement by Islamic countries is underway," he said, adding that Iran's policy is to support the Resistance.

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SPORTS

Iran coach sticks with clubless star Jahanbakhsh

TEHRAN – Alireza Jahanbakhsh, the experienced Iranian winger, continues to be a puzzle for Iranian football fans and pundits alike. Despite being without a club since leaving Feyenoord, the former Brighton star has retained his place in the national team.

Jahanbakhsh's lack of regular game time has been evident in his performances for Iran, particularly in recent matches against Kyrgyzstan and the UAE. His form has dipped significantly, leading to increased scrutiny and criticism. Despite these concerns, Iran's coach, Amir Ghalenoei, has persisted in selecting him for the national squad once more.

The decision to include Jahanbakhsh, 31, in the team's recent squad has raised eyebrows, especially given the player's prolonged period without a club. This is not the first time an Iranian coach has faced such a dilemma. In the past, Carlos Queiroz, former head coach of Team Melli, had also selected players like Ashkan Dejagah, Ali Karimi, and Ramin Rezaeian for the national team while they were without clubs.

The reliance on experienced players, even if they are not at their peak, has been a recurring theme in Iran national team under Ghalenoei's leadership. Critics argue that this approach stifles opportunities for younger players to break into the team. The average age of the starting XI has often been a topic of debate, with many calling for a more youthful and dynamic squad.

While Jahanbakhsh brings a wealth of experience and technical ability to the team, his current situation raises questions about whether he is the best option for the national side. With the 2026 World Cup qualifiers underway, Iran need all their players to be at their best.

Previously, Saman Ghoddos, another midfielder of the national team, was invited to the national team without having a specific club. However, this player recently joined Al-Ettihad Kalba in the UAE. Saeid Ezatollahi was another case. Before joining UAE's Shabab Al-Ahli, he was without a club. Even with an injury and being without a club, he was called up to the national team by Ghalenoei.

The inclusion of Jahanbakhsh, along with other players like Ghoddos and Ezatollahi, who have also been without clubs at times, suggests that the coach is prioritizing familiarity and experience over form and fitness. While this approach may have its merits, it also risks hindering the team's progress in the long run.

As Iran continue their World Cup qualification campaign, the decision to keep Jahanbakhsh in the team will continue to be a subject of debate. Only time will tell if this strategy pays off.

Iran volleyball player Poursaleh joins OK Formis

TEHRAN – Iranian international outside hitter Elahe Poursaleh is set to make her mark at OK Formis in Slovenia.

The young player from Iran's national women's team is embarking on her first international experience in Slovenia, a key milestone in her career.

OK Formis, founded in 1974, play in Slovenian first division league.

She has joined the Slovenian team from Iran's Zob Ahan for an undisclosed fee.

Iran's fixture in 2025 FIBA Asia Cup Qualification revealed

TEHRAN – Iran's national basketball team will meet Kazakhstan on November 22 in Tehran in the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup qualification.

Team Melli will face Qatar three days later in

Doha in Group E.

Iran, headed by Greek coach Sotiris Manolopoulos, will also play India and Kazakhstan on February 21 and 24, respectively.

The 2025 FIBA Asia Cup qualification is a basketball competition that is being played from June 2022 to February 2025, to determine the fifteen FIBA Asia-Oceania nations who will join the automatically qualified host Saudi Arabia at the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup.

Bam Khatoon capable of finding net against Kaya: AFC

TEHRAN – Bam Khatoon may have started their campaign with a 2-1 defeat against Melbourne but Marziyeh Jafari's side can look to their strong second half performance against the Australian side as encouragement in the match against the Philippines' Kaya FC-Iloilo.

Mona Hamoudi's goal against Melbourne showed the team are capable of finding the back of the net against even the toughest of defenses and they will surely adopt a more aggressive approach against Kaya, the-afc.com reported.

Kaya head coach Let Dimzon admitted after the goalless draw with College of Asian Scholars that improvements are needed in the finishing department.

The Philippines side will need to get their act together against Bam Khatoon and pick up three points before facing a more difficult task in their final match against Melbourne.

Melbourne's 2-1 win against Bam Khatoon means the Australian side have the opportunity to seal a place in the knockout stage should they beat College of Asian Scholars.

Six points will assure the team of a top two finish regardless of what happens in the other matches and head coach Michael Matricciani will drum into his team the need to maintain their focus.

If there's one thing Matricciani will be keeping an eye out for is an improvement from his team in terms of finishing after only scoring twice from 17 attempts on Sunday.

His opposite number Nuengrutai Srathongvian will also be looking for a similar uptrend after her side couldn't find the breakthrough despite having 24 attempts against Kaya.

Hossein Vafaei starts Wuhan Open in style

TEHRAN – Iran's Hossein Vafaei defeated Irish player Jordan Brown 5-3 in Round One of the Wuhan Open on Monday.

Vafaei will meet Chinese snooker player Zhang Anda in last 32.

The world's best players are back in China for the third time this season, with the campaign's sixth ranking event taking place at the China Optics Valley Convention & Exhibition Center (COVCEC) from October 6-12.

Judd Trump is defending champion.

Iran football delegation arrives in Tashkent

TEHRAN – Iran national football team delegation arrived in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan Tuesday noon.

Team Melli are scheduled to meet Uzbekistan in Bunyodkor Stadium in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier Group A.

Both teams are on six points, with Uzbekistan having defeated DPR Korea and Kyrgyzstan in its opening two matches while Iran was victorious against Kyrgyzstan and the United Arab Emirates in Group A.

Team Mwlli will play Qatar on October 15.

'Iran to unveil new military technology in possible future operations against Israel'

From Page 1 ▶ "The Strategic Action Law was designed to clarify the Islamic Republic's stance in ongoing negotiations related to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)," Nikzad explained.

"When the United States withdrew from the JCPOA, Iran faced a period of uncertainty. This law helped establish a framework ensuring that the rights of the Iranian people would be protected.

According to Article 7, progress

reports must be submitted to Parliament at every stage."

Nikzad also addressed concerns about the security of Iran's nuclear facilities, assuring that adequate protective measures had been put in place.

He issued a stark warning to Israel, referencing past Iranian military operations, "True Promise I" and "True Promise II."

These operations, which involved significant missile strikes, demonstrated Iran's

advanced missile capabilities, particularly under the command of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force.

"If the Zionist regime possesses any sense, they will reflect on True Promise I and True Promise II operations," Nikzad cautioned.

"They must understand that any action against us will lead to the unveiling of a new type of defensive weapon. The world witnessed the power of our missiles during True Promise

II, even though they have not publicly admitted to it."

On October 1st, Iran carried out a retaliatory attack, dubbed Operation True Promise II, against the Israeli regime in response to the assassination of key regional figures.

The military operation saw a reported 90% of Iranian missiles successfully hit their intended targets at the occupied territories.

Aluminum ingot output exceeds 264,000 tons in 5 months

TEHRAN - Production of aluminum ingot in Iran reached 264,617 tons in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), according to the data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

As reported, production by Iran's four major aluminum producers, namely South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO), Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO), Almahdi Aluminum Company, and Iran Alumina Company, increased by one percent in the first five months of the current year, compared to the same period last year.

Among the country's four major producers, SALCO had the best performance in the mentioned five months, producing 111,521 tons of aluminum ingots, followed by IRALCO producing 73,182 tons, Almahdi Aluminum Company producing 65,295 tons, and Iran Alumina Company producing 14,619 tons of ingots.

Based on the IMIDRO data, during the period under review, 96,685 tons of alumina

powder, 163,096 tons of aluminum hydrate, and 284,828 tons of bauxite were produced by Iran Alumina Company.

Iran produced more than 635,000 tons of aluminum ingots over the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

The country's aluminum mills continued with their production over the past year and posted a slight one percent year-on-year increase despite the energy restrictions.

According to IMIDRO, the country's aluminum production stood at around 632,000 tons a year earlier.

Iran Alumina Company produced some 222,138 tons of alumina powder, 374,106 tons of alumina hydrate, and 598,599 tons of bauxite in the one-year timespan.

Iranian officials estimate the country's aluminum sector has a value of \$22 billion, which is sufficient to meet the country's aluminum needs.

At present, Iran is the 18th biggest aluminum-producing country in the world.

ICCIMA calls for establishing Supreme Branding Council

TEHRAN - In the first meeting of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) commercial brands, economic operators and representatives of different commercial brands talked about the issues and problems of branding in Iran.

As the ICCIMA portal reported, in this meeting the attendees called for the establishment of a Supreme Council of Branding in the chamber with the aim of developing a roadmap for promoting Iranian brands.

In the meeting, which was attended by ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh and former Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, the officials under-

lined the importance of branding in the country's economy.

According to Hassanzadeh, the Iranian government should try to use the advantage of branding in the field of foreign trade. Lack of attention to branding prevents the creation of a positive image of Iran's commercial goods and services in the target markets which consequently decrease Iran's share of the global trade.

"With branding, we can be effective in global economic issues in various fields. Of course, there are problems in the field of economic management, and we hope we can fulfill our duty in this regard," Hassanzadeh said.

Air passenger transportation exceeds 18.5m in 6 months



TEHRAN - Based on the latest data released by the Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry over 18.5 million passengers were transported by the country's air fleet in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21).

As Tasnim News Agency reported, in the first half of the current year, 144,000 planes landed and took off in domestic flights, and 17,000 planes operated on international flights, which transported 16,309,000 passengers on domestic flights and 2,146,000 people on international flights.

IDRO's new head appointed

TEHRAN - Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak has appointed Farshad Moghimi as the new head of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO), IRNA reported.

Moghimi, who has previously served as the Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) and the head of Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), replaced Babak Ahmadi.

Ahmadi was the head of IDRO since early July 2023.

The Industrial Development & Renovation Organization of Iran known as IDRO Group was established in 1967 in Iran. IDRO Group is one of the largest companies in Iran. It is also one of the largest conglomerates in Asia. IDRO's objective is to develop Iran's industry sector and to accelerate the industrialization process of the country and to export Iranian products worldwide.

Passenger transportation via sea down 3%



TEHRAN- Transportation of passengers via sea fell three percent in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development reported.

As reported, 9.5 million passengers were transported through marine services in the first half of the present year, while the figure was 9.8 million in the first half of the previous year.

Energy Ministry pursuing new plans to pass next summer peak period

From page 1 ► Emphasizing the necessity of the strict implementation of the programs set with the aim of providing stable electricity in the coming winter and next summer, he said: "Due to the reduction of electricity consumption in the cold season of the year, it is necessary to pay special attention to the timely repair and eliminating power plant problems so that we can produce and supply electricity with the maximum available capacity at the peak consumption period of the next year."

The official further pointed out the importance of informing and reforming the mechanisms of dialogue with the people about the electricity industry and stated: "One of the major challenges of the country's electricity industry is the high consumption of a small group of subscribers in various sectors, especially the household sector. We need to draw new mechanisms for interaction and dialogue with the people while increasing their awareness in this regard, to increase their participation in consumption management and optimization."

In mid-September, the chairman of the board of directors of the Iranian Power Plants Trade Union said Iran needs about \$1.0 billion of investment in the power plant sector to overcome electricity supply and demand imbalance in the country,

Ali Nikbakht said in a press conference in Tehran that the country is expected to face a 26,000-megawatt power shortage next summer if no measure is taken with regard to the Iranian



an electricity network.

Mentioning the current energy imbalance in the country, Nikbakht said "With the addition of new units to existing power plants and the development of renewable power plants, which has become customary in the whole world, the conditions can be changed."

"Iran has a high potential in the field of renewables and by developing this sector the problems can be solved to a large extent," he added.

Peak electricity consumption in Iran reached nearly 80,000 megawatts this summer as new heat waves hit the country.

To meet the electricity demand in the peak summer period, the Iranian Energy Ministry implemented several programs among which increasing electricity production and managing consumption were the major ones.

The ministry implemented a comprehensive program during the summer, based on which low-consuming households were rewarded while the subscribers

whose consumption exceeded the normal level faced a penalty.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rises and the significant decrease in rainfall across Iran have put the country in a difficult situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has repeatedly announced that it is implementing various programs to manage the situation and prevent blackouts in the country.

In mid-July, Head of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said the country's Energy Ministry plans to construct new power plants with a total capacity of 22,000 megawatts (MW) across the country.

Stating that in the past three years, up to three billion dollars have been invested annually in the electricity industry, Rajabi Mashhadi said: "the construction of 22,000 megawatts of new

power plants, half of which will be renewable, has been targeted."

According to the official, the mentioned power plants, including 12,000 MW of renewable power plants and 9,000 MW of cycle power plants, should be commissioned within the next three years.

Statistics indicate that Iran's generation of electricity during the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi registered a 13.5 percent growth, with Iran generating more electricity than industrialized countries like the UK and Italy.

The statistics released in a report on "Statistical Review of the Global Energy" show that Iran generated 382.9 terawatts/hour of electricity in 2023, registering a 4.3 percent hike compared to a year earlier.

Iran had generated more than 367.1 terawatts/hour of electricity in 2022.

The growth of Iran's generation of electricity in 2023 was nearly twice that of the average growth of the generation of electricity in the world.

The report put the total generation of electricity worldwide in 2023 at more than 29,924 terawatts/hours, which was 2.5 percent higher than a year earlier.

Iran's generation of electricity in 2023 exceeded that of industrialized countries like the UK, Italy, and Spain as well as Turkey, Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand, the report added.

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$2.4b to Turkey in 6 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil goods worth \$2.4 billion to Turkey in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 22).

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

Iran also imported commodities worth \$5.1 billion from Turkey, which made the country the third source of import for Iran in the first half of the year.

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.

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 Republic'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.

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

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

In this meeting, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi-Arab referring to the trade balance of 1.6 billion dollars between the two countries,



which is also positive for Turkey, mentioned the re-export of some Iranian products through this country as one of the opportunities to optimize the trade relations between the two countries.

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

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

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

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

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

He further put the export value of Turkey in 2023 at \$357 billion and the import value

at \$410 billion, and reminded that the country plans to rise the value of products export to \$375 billion and the value of services export to \$200 billion by 2028.

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

As announced by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of non-oil trade between Iran and Turkey stood at \$6.01 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

The IRICA report put the weight of the non-oil trade between the two countries at 6.698 million tons.

As reported Iran-Tukey five-month non-oil trade indicates six percent rise in value and 23 percent growth in weight year on year.

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

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

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

The trade exchanges between Iran and Turkey in the first five months of 2024 reached \$2.3 billion, showing a five percent increase compared to the same month last year.

According to the latest figures released by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT), Iran's trade with the neighboring country stood at \$2.189 billion in January-May 2023.

Hezbollah missiles rain down across Israel

“The pain of the Israelis is increasing”

From page 1 ▶ In another operation, Hezbollah announced it targeted a gathering of Israeli occupation forces in the vicinity of the Yir'on settlement with a rocket salvo.

Hezbollah said it used a swarm of attack drones that accurately struck their targets at other military sites, where the IOF had gathered in northern Israel.

The Lebanese resistance also struck the city of Haifa and the vicinity of the Krayot area with a large rocket salvo.

Reports indicate the rocket barrage on Haifa and its surrounding areas caused significant damage, especially in Kiryat Motzkin and Kiryat Yam.

Kiryat Motzkin's mayor told Israeli media that the barrages fired at the Haifa area on Tuesday were “unprecedented” in their number.

A first barrage of about 85 projectiles was followed by a second barrage of about 20 projectiles, according to reports in the Israeli media and statements by the Israeli military.

Haifa is a key industrial center for Israel, home to many large companies focused on developing innovative technologies. The city houses factories for both international and local chemical companies, and major firms specializing in metal production.

Haifa is also home to one of the two main ports for Israel, serving as an important hub for maritime trade and as a base



for maritime industries.

In essence, it has been a strategic target for Hezbollah since Israel escalated the war on Lebanon several weeks ago.

Hezbollah: “U.S., Israel and the West seek to pressure and scare us, but we don't fear them.”

Israel's commercial hub, Tel Aviv, also came under attack from Lebanon on Monday night, with Hezbollah announcing it had launched a rocket salvo at the Glihot base belonging to Unit 8200, a military intelligence unit located on the outskirts of Tel Aviv.

Israeli media confirmed pow-

erful explosions in the Gush Dan area, saying that this was the fourth attack on Tel Aviv in 24 hours.

In recent days, Hezbollah has targeted the same base of the Israeli military intelligence with Fadi 4 missiles.

The Lebanese resistance movement continues to confront and ambush Israeli forces in the northern settlements, who are attempting to infiltrate certain Lebanese villages, inflicting human and material losses on them.

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) announced on Monday the death of at least two troops during “combat” in the Lebanese border area and the injury of 20 others.

On Tuesday the IOF said 48 Israeli soldiers were injured in the past 24 hours, including 30 soldiers on the northern border

with Lebanon and 18 soldiers in Gaza.

According to Hezbollah's deputy leader, Sheikh Naim Qassem, the IOF is suffering heavy military losses in the north, but isn't announcing the true numbers.

In a televised address on Tuesday, Qassem said, “The enemy has yet to advance in its ground invasion of south Lebanon, and regardless of how much the enemy advances, we will confront them.”

The senior Hezbollah official underlined that the resistance is pushing back against Israeli infiltration attempts and described the Israeli military strategy in Southern Lebanon as “a failure.”

“Our military capabilities are fine. What our enemies say about our fighting capabilities is an illusion. They are lying. Our fighters on the frontline are solid. What happened over the last ten days is that the pain of the Israelis is increasing,” Qassem stated.

The Hezbollah deputy chief also said: “We are telling [Israeli leaders] that more and more Israelis will be displaced from the settlements. The Israeli plan is to kill Lebanese civilians and empty villages to cause chaos. But I tell them, your efforts are a failure. We do not surrender.”

He added that Hezbollah will continue to target Israel, expand the range of its fire, and reach the locations it wants at the time it decides.

Old fox eggs on rabid dogs: How the UK enabled the Gaza genocide

From page 1 ▶ Israel has butchered nearly 42,000 Palestinians including more than 16,000 children since launching war on Gaza on October 7, 2023. The Israeli onslaught came after Hamas carried out a surprise military operation in southern Israel which led to the deaths of more than 1,100 people.

Israel has also continued its airstrikes in Syria over the past year and began a massive bombing campaign in Lebanon last month. In response to the Israeli killing of Iranian military advisors in Syria and Lebanon, as well as the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) fired a salvo of missiles towards Israel once in April and for the second time a week ago.

Starmer implies that Israel uses British weapons for “defensive purposes”, yet his stance will further embolden the regime to persist in warmongering and military adventurism in West Asia.

The United States has been mainly blamed for feeding Israel's killing machine in Gaza through its unwavering military support for the regime since October last year.

Besides the nearly \$4 billion of military aid that Tel Aviv receives from Washington annually, the administration of President Joe Biden has provided the regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with additional weapons worth billions of dollars.

Over the course of the Gaza war, Britain's involvement in the atrocities committed by



Prime Minister Keir Starmer says it is wrong to consider total ban on UK arms sales to Israel

Zionists has often been eclipsed by that of the United States.

Nonetheless, Starmer's refusal to ban arms deliveries to Israel has once again exposed Britain's longstanding double dealing and duplicity.

The UK's complicity in the Gaza genocide may not be as extensive as that of the United States. But Britain is primarily responsible for the pain and suffering of Palestinians which has resulted in the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Britain facilitated the immigration of Zionists to Palestine in line with efforts to achieve its goals during World War I and World War II.

Britain's commitment to create “a national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine articulated in the Balfour Declaration of 1917, is widely regarded as a significant factor con-

tributing to the ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948. The tragic event has been described as Nakba or catastrophe.

Before and after the establishment of Israel in 1948, Zionists have committed brutal massacres against Palestinians and such crimes have persisted to the present day.

Iranians have used the phrase “the old fox” to describe Britain over its cunning, sly and devious actions.

For now, Britain's continued arms sales to Israel will egg on Netanyahu and other Israeli criminals who are like rabid dogs to escalate savage attacks against Palestinians.



People in Britain have consistently urged their government to stop arming Israel in the wake of the Gaza genocide

But lionhearted Palestinians have stood firm in their struggle against such savage beasts.

De-Gaza: A year of Israel's genocide and the collapse of world order

Palestinian Territory – Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor has released a comprehensive report marking one year since Israel launched its genocidal campaign against civilians in the Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023. During this period, Israel has committed grave war crimes, with the explicit complicity of the international community.

Titled De-Gaza: A Year of Israel's Genocide and the Collapse of World Order, the report details the most prominent crimes committed over the past 12 months, thoroughly documented by Euro-Med field teams. It traces the clear elements of genocide perpetrated by the Israeli army, explores the legal frameworks defining the crime of genocide, and scrutinizes both the context and ongoing circumstances. The report also addresses the inter-

national judiciary's response, and, significantly, the global community's complicit role in allowing the genocide to continue.

The report sheds light on the appalling conditions and systematic atrocities Israel has inflicted upon the occupied Palestinian territory, with a particular focus on the Gaza Strip. These long-standing crimes include the illegal blockade, the deliberate isolation of Gaza from the rest of the Palestinian territory and the world, the systematic deprivation of basic human rights to the Strip's residents, and the deliberate destruction of essential services.

Since the start of the genocide in Gaza, more than 50,000 Palestinians have been killed by the

Israeli army, including around 42,000 recorded by the Gaza Ministry of Health, the majority being women and children. In addition, approximately 100,000 have been injured, with thousands of bodies still lying under the rubble and in the streets, unreachable by rescue and medical teams.

An estimated 10 percent of Gaza's population has been killed, injured, reported missing, or detained as a result of Israeli military assaults. Of the 50,292 Palestinians killed—including those still buried under the debris—33 percent were women, and 21 percent were children.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Hezbollah leader martyred while preparing for prayers



TEHRAN - A member of Lebanon's Civil Defense has recounted the distressing experience of retrieving the body of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah from the site of an Israeli air attack on Beirut's southern suburb.

According to the comments made by the Civil Defense team's member, Nasrallah was martyred as he was preparing to say his prayers.

“When we found Nasrallah's body, he was not wearing a ring which made it clear that

he had been preparing to perform his wudu (ablution) before saying his prayers,” he said.

He added that the body of the Hezbollah chief was removed intact and without any injuries from the blast scene.

Nasrallah, who led the Hezbollah resistance movement for over three decades, was martyred on September 27 in the Israeli bombing of Beirut's Dahiyeh suburb, using US-made jet fighters and bunker-buster bombs.

US NGO to Biden: Support Gaza ceasefire, end participation in regional war

Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, has urged President Joe Biden's administration to stop hindering a United Nations Security Council resolution mandating a ceasefire in the yearlong war on Gaza, according to Al Jazeera.

In a statement, Sarah Leah Whitson, DAWN's executive director, said the Biden administration's policies have not only failed to secure a ceasefire to protect civilians but have aided and abetted “Israel's belligerence such that we now face the likely prospect of Israel dragging us into a war with Iran.”

The group said that the US should end its

support for Israel's war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza by suspending arms transfers to Israel and ending combat operations that “have made the US a party to Israel's conflict, inviting retaliatory attacks on US forces and risking an even broader regional war with Iran.”

“The only way to prevent a full-scale war in the region is declaring an immediate arms embargo on Israel and imposing a ceasefire in Gaza, with sanctions for non-compliance,” said Raed Jarrar, DAWN's advocacy director. “Without a ceasefire in Gaza, there won't be a de-escalation with Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, or Iran.”

US spends record amount on military aid to Israel

The United States has provided Israel with nearly \$18 billion in arms since the start of Tel Aviv's brutal offensive on the Gaza Strip on October 7 last year.

According to a report published by Brown University, this extensive support has included a wide range of weapons, munitions and defense systems, sourced through US stockpiles, commercial sales and grants.

One of the largest allocations of arms sales was the \$14.1 billion in emergency military support passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden in April 2024. This package included \$4 billion to replenish the Iron Dome and David's Sling missile defense systems, \$1.2 billion for the development of

the Iron Beam defense system and \$3.5 billion for advanced weapons systems.

The US has also approved arms sales worth billions of dollars, ensuring future military cooperation. In August 2024, the Biden administration announced a \$20.3 billion arms deal with Israel, which includes 50 Boeing F-15 fighter jets and thousands of rounds of ammunition. These weapons will be delivered between 2026 and 2029, ensuring Israel's military remains strong in the years to come.

Since Israel launched war on Gaza a year ago, protesters in the US and other parts of the world have called for stopping arms deliveries to the regime.

No position is vacant: Hezbollah deputy chief

From page 1 ▶ “This war has not affected our will and will not affect our determination to confront [the enemy],” he maintained.

Sheikh Qassem pointed out that the Resistance fighters have proven their worth on the battleground.

After all “they are the sons of the master of the martyrs of the Axis of Resistance, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah,” he affirmed.

Hezbollah's deputy secretary general also stressed that the Lebanese resistance group will continue striking Israel until there is a ceasefire in Gaza.

He said the United States and some European states are complicit in all the crimes committed by Israel in Gaza.

He noted had it not been for the US support, “the Israeli aggression would have stopped within a month.”

He praised the Hamas operation saying it marks the beginning of altering the face of the West Asia region with the involvement of resistance groups.

Qassem also touched upon Israel's ongoing aggression against Lebanon.

“We support the political efforts led by [Parliament Speaker Nabih] Berri under the banner of achieving a ceasefire. Once the ceasefire is firmly established and diplomacy can reach it, all other details will be discussed and decisions will be made collaboratively,” he said.

Sa'd al-Saltaneh: UNESCO-listed caravanserai still under restoration



TEHRAN - The second phase of a restoration project on the centuries-old Sa'd al-Saltaneh Caravanserai in Qazvin has officially begun, according to the province's tourism chief.

Alireza Khazaeli on Monday announced that the project is being carried out in collaboration with the private owner of the caravanserai.

Khazaeli explained that the restoration project, approved by the technical council of the provincial tourism directorate last winter, aims to transform the caravanserai into a traditional hotel.

Sa'd al-Saltaneh is one of the 54th Iranian caravanserais collectively hold a UNESCO World Heritage status.

The first phase of the restoration focused on the northern and northwestern sections of the structure. The current phase includes debris removal, structural reinforcement, and reconstruction of the building's main framework and roof, particularly in the northwestern area, the official explained.

"As part of the restoration, experts are also removing damaged and outdated additions to the caravanserai, rebuilding the core structure, and recreating the original architectural details and decorative elements."

The ongoing project seeks to preserve its cultural value while adapting it for modern use, blending the historical charm of the caravanserai with the amenities of a contemporary traditional hotel.

The restoration is being closely supervised

by cultural heritage specialists to ensure the integrity of the site is maintained, Khazaeli underlined.

The Sa'd al-Saltaneh Caravanserai is recognized for its architectural and historical significance. It is one of the largest urban caravanserais in the country, and stands as a symbol of Qazvin's rich history and its importance as a trade hub during the Qajar era.

It is flanked by a beautifully restored Qajar-era bazaar of the same name in Qazvin, which was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under the Safavids, from 1548 to 1918.

Caravanserai or caravansary is a compound word combining "caravan" with "sara"; the former stands for a group of travelers and the latter means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them, with doors in the corners of the yard.

For centuries, caravanserais constituted key parts of a rich circuit of travel and trade by providing shelter, food, and water for caravans, pilgrims, and other trekkers. For many travelers, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a broad experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back to a forgotten age.

The earliest caravanserais in Iran were built during the Achaemenid era (550 - 330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 to 1629, he ordered the construction of a network of caravanserais across the country. Such roadside inns were once constructed along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Road may be the most famous example, dotted with caravanserais.

Last September, a selection of 54 roadside inns won a UNESCO label under the name: The Persian Caravanserai. The shortlist, however, is only a small percentage of the numerous caravanserais built along the ancient roads of Iran.

Circular economy: can hotels recycle wastewater from tourism?

In regions of Europe where water is scarce, hotels are looking for ways to rationalize and recycle the water consumed by tourists. Some initiatives have been highlighted by the European project WATSAVEREUSE, led by Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion.

"The future of our businesses depends on it. If we don't do what's necessary now, it will be too late," says Pascal Mangin, manager of Les Mimosas campsite, located in Portiragnes, in the south of France.

This summer, he claims to have saved 15% on water consumption per tourist, the result of several measures taken throughout his campsite.

When he dug the campsite's first swimming pool with his father several decades ago, he had no idea that water would become a rare commodity in Occitania. The pressure on groundwater is a cause for concern in this region where hundreds of thousands of tourists converge every year.

With its water park comprising a wave pool, various waterslides, jacuzzis and a children's pool, Les Mimosas campsite is a major consumer of water. Pascal Mangin has embarked on a mission to drastically reduce his impact on the resource.

For example, he decided to treat the water in the individual bungalow jacuzzis himself, instead of sending it to the main drainage system after the departure of each family. He has also replaced the shower systems to make them more water-efficient.

The biggest savings have been made in the swimming pool sector, by replacing the old sand filters with a synthetic material previously used in the drinking water sector. According to Mangin, "three times less water" is used for backwashing.

Another major change has been the introduction of a digital health logbook, which enables real-time monitoring of the consumption of each installation and helps to keep better track

of the most resource-hungry items and detect any leaks.

These investments were partly funded by the Occitania region, where tourism accounts for around 10% of the region's wealth, and which is threatened by a water shortage due to decreasing rainfall.

"Our vision is of mass tourism that is sustainable and takes account of available resources," says Eric Cadore, Chairman of the Occitania region's Water and Risk Prevention Commission.

"We are carrying out strong and symbolic operations that can then be developed on other sites. We are anticipating the future and ensuring that water policies enable us to adapt to climate change, which is having a major impact on people's lives and the economy," the regional councillor adds.

The regional development agency, AD'OCC, is also supporting Les Mimosas campsite in its next challenge: to recycle the grey water from the bungalows using ultraviolet filters, as is done on boats. On one pilot bungalow, the water from the showers and washbasins is treated before being sent to the toilets, with a quality that is "almost drinkable", according to Pascal Mangin.

The campsite took part in the European WATSAVEREUSE project, funded by the European Union's LIFE program, which aimed at promoting the circular economy in the tourism industry.

"Tourists come here to relax and consume a lot of water. Except that we don't have any," points out Xavier Bernard-Sans, Secretary General of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion, which initiated and then steered this Franco-Spanish project.

Between 2020 and 2023, WATSAVEREUSE brought together local authorities, water agencies and tourism professionals from Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and Occitania to run a number of awareness-raising campaigns.

(Source: euronews)

Culture a unifying force, tourism a key to soft power: minister

TEHRAN - On Tuesday, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri put the spotlight on what he called the "cohesive power of Iranian culture".

"The rich Iranian culture fosters unity," Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri stated. "Cultural diversity has deep roots in the history of this land, but the key element that defines our civilization is national cohesion and collective unity."

He made the remarks at an unveiling ceremony attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian, a host of cultural heritage enthusiasts and travel insiders at the National Museum of Iran.

Moreover, the minister highlighted the government's commitment to prioritizing cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts, noting the significance of the president's presence at the gathering. During the meeting, President Pezeshkian and Salehi-Amiri also unveiled a selection of Achaemenid tablets, recently brought back home from the U.S.

Salehi-Amiri praised Iran's cultural legacy, stating, "Iran's culture is ancient, resilient, and capable of building civilizations. This recent display of ancient clay tablets at the National Museum is a clear example of the richness of our cultural, historical, and civilizational heritage."

He further elaborated on the importance of unity, saying, "Unity means rationality over extremism, solidarity over division, and



dialogue to solve problems rather than destruction. It is about responding to the people's demands, promoting ethics, and fostering tolerance and patience toward differing opinions."

Tourism as a key asset for cultural diplomacy

The minister stressed that cultural heritage is central to Iran's national, religious, and political identity, and tourism plays a vital role in promoting stability and security.

"Tourism is the greatest asset for Iran's cultural diplomacy," he said. "Cultural diplomacy fosters relations between nations, shared understanding, and collective peace and stability."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salehi-Amiri underscored the importance of leveraging Iran's cultural and civilizational strengths on the

global stage, positioning tourism as a major national priority.

"Cultural heritage is Iran's soft power. Just as we need hard power for deterrence, we need soft power to showcase our cultural and civilizational capacities to the world."

He added, "We must recognize that cultural heritage and tourism should become one of the country's top three priorities. By promoting cultural diplomacy, we can aim for a future where tourism replaces the oil revenues as a primary economic driver."

Goal of attracting 15 million travelers per annum

Salehi-Amiri underlined a target of attracting 15 million tourists by the end of the Seventh National Development Plan, while he emphasized the importance of investments by the private sector. "The development train won't reach its

destination without the participation of the private sector and the public," he said, referring to investors as the "engine" of the tourism industry.

He also called for improved infrastructure, proposing an increase in the number of hotels from 1,430 to 1,900 by building 100 four- or five-star hotels each year.

The minister also outlined plans to double employment in the handicrafts sector from 500,000 to 1 million jobs and increase exports from \$224 million to \$2.4 billion.

Salehi-Amiri concluded by emphasizing the importance of overcoming obstacles through the High Council of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, which he believes can remove barriers to growth in these crucial sectors.

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

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

President unveils Achaemenid clay tablets recently returned from U.S.

TEHRAN - On Tuesday, President Masoud Pezeshkian, accompanied by his Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts unveiled 30 Achaemenid clay tablets at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

The tablets are part of a larger collection of 1,100 pieces recently been repatriated from the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

The exhibition, which features ancient seals without inscriptions, will remain open to the public until November 20.

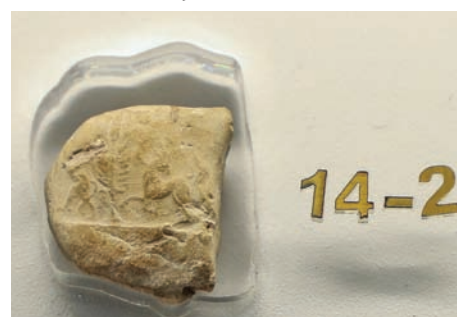
These artifacts, which date back to the reign of Darius the Great (509-493 BC), were returned to Iran on Sep. 26, following their arrival via a presidential flight.

According to organizers, the 30 selected pieces from the larger collection are now displayed in the ancient Iran section of the museum, alongside previous returns from similar collections.

Addressing the ceremony, Pezeshkian emphasized the historical significance of the Achaemenid era, stating, "If we closely examine our past, we can learn numerous lessons in cultural, social, political, and economic governance."

"Understanding how the Achaemenid Empire managed such vast territories with peace, prosperity, and cultural flourishing is crucial for us today."

Jebrael Nokandeh, the director of the National Museum of Iran, provided further details about the collection, explaining that the clay tablets bear impressions of archival seals with mythical themes. "These are not just artifacts. They provide invaluable insights into the economy of Persepolis during the reign of



Darius I," Nokandeh noted.

The entire collection returned from Chicago contains 1,100 tablets, with more still held at the university. Nokandeh described the Achaemenid Empire as one of the most significant periods in world history, ruling over an estimated 5.2 million square kilometers, spanning three continents from India to North Africa.

The tablets offer insights into governance, economic management, and social participation during Darius I's reign. "These documents reveal the transparency and accountability of Darius' economic administration, showing how workers' rights, women's rights, and societal roles were carefully documented," Nokandeh added.

Experts say that the Achaemenid clay tablets serve as a testament to Iran's rich heritage and demonstrate the continued importance of preserving and studying these ancient records.

The clay documents were originally discovered in 1933 during archaeological excavations in Persepolis, led by a team from the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute. In 1935, under an agreement between Iran and the Oriental Institute, the tablets were sent

to the U.S. for translation and study. However, the process of returning the tablets has been ongoing for decades.

Last year, following the late President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to the U.S., a shipment of 3,506 Achaemenid tablets, including 836 smaller Aramaic pieces and 2,670 larger Elamite tablets, was returned to Iran. In prior years, other shipments had also been returned, including 1,783 tablets in 2019 and 300 in 2004. The largest batch of 37,027 tablets was repatriated in 1951.

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

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

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

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

Restoration of Sadi tomb complex begins in Shiraz



TEHRAN - A restoration and development project for the Sadi cultural-historical complex in Shiraz has commenced.

According to Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi who presides over the tourism department of Fars province, the project is intended

to enhance visitor amenities at the renowned complex, which houses the tomb of the revered Persian poet Sadi.

"The restoration includes repairs and improvements to the public restrooms located in the northwestern section of the complex," he stated on Tuesday, emphasizing that these efforts are intended to ensure a more comfortable experience for tourists and visitors.

Sabet-Eqlidi also announced plans for the construction of a deep well to provide a sustain-

able water source for the green spaces of the site, which attracts numerous domestic and international tourists each year.

Set amid generous gardens of evergreens, bitter orange, and roses, the mausoleum is one of Shiraz's several shrines, housed in an open-sided colonnade built during the Pahlavi era.

Musharraf ad-Din ibn Muslih ad-Din, known as Sadi, is one of the greatest figures in classical Persian literature. His best-known works are the Bustan (1257; The Orchard) and the

Gulistan (1258; The Rose Garden).

The Bustan is entirely in verse and consists of stories aptly illustrating the standard virtues recommended to Muslims - justice, liberality, modesty, and contentment - as well as reflections on the behavior of dervishes and their ecstatic practices. The Gulistan is mainly in prose and contains stories and personal anecdotes. The text is interspersed with a variety of short poems, containing aphorisms, advice, and humorous reflections.

Almost 530 earthquakes shake Iran in a month

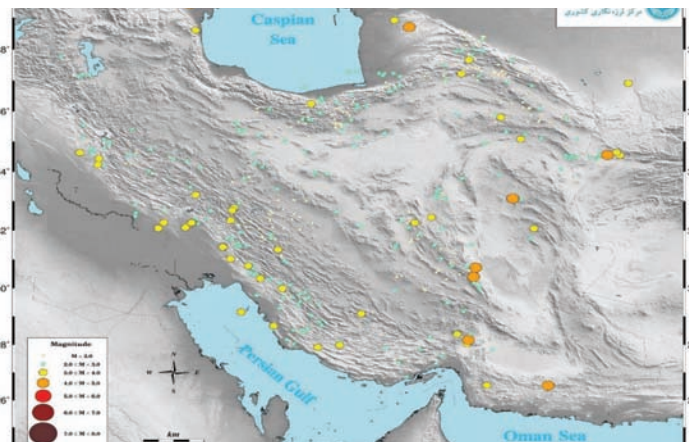
TEHRAN – A total of 527 earthquakes have been recorded across the country over the past calendar month that ended on September 21, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

The epicenter of 38 earthquakes was in neighboring countries, namely Afghanistan (13), Turkmenistan (13), Iraq (10), and Azerbaijan (2).

Statistically, 204 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 2; 270 earthquakes with magnitudes between 2 and 3; 45 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4, and 8 earthquakes with magnitudes between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi with 67, North Khorasan and Khuzestan with 46, and Kerman with 37 recorded the highest number of earthquakes in the country.

A total of 6,949 earthquakes were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2023 – March 2024) according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.



Most of the earthquakes happened respectively in the north-eastern Khorasan Razavi, south-eastern Kerman, north-western West Azarbaijan, and eastern South Khorasan provinces, ISNA reported.

Statistically, 2,268 earthquakes were less than 2 on the Richter scale; 3,685 were between 2 and 3; 796 were between 3 and 4; 181 were between 4 and 5; 22 were between 5 and 6; and 5 were between 6 and 7.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

Eight earthquakes with magnitudes between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran but more than 6% of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes. This shows the high level of vulnerability in Iran, according to Mehdi

Zare, a professor of engineering seismology.

Iran has entered a decade of earthquakes since the [Iranian calendar] year 1396 (March 2017–March 2018), as the Iranian plateau is shrinking by 30 millimetres per year, Mehdi Zare, professor of engineering seismology at the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES), has said.

The Strait of Hormuz region in the south of Iran has the highest seismic activity in the region and its formation is related to the continuation of the convergent movement between the Arabian plate and the central continental plate of Iran.

Tehran is also one of the most hazardous metropolises in the world in terms of the risk of different natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, subsidence, drought, landslides, fire following an earthquake, etc.

On the other hand, Tehran has a night-time population of over 8,300,000 with a mixture of old non-resistant structures as well as modern high-rise buildings that affect the vulnerability of this city.

President Pezeshkian to attend COP29

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian is scheduled to participate in the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 29) which will take place from November 11 to 22 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

“President Pezeshkian’s participation in COP29 can foster greater synergy in managing external dust sources in neighboring countries and removing barriers to joining the Paris Agreement,” ISNA quoted Sara Nikbonyad, an official with the Department of Environment, as saying.

Climate change is an important and serious issue, but it has not been taken seriously. A large number of current problems in the country are caused by the instability of water sources and global warming.

In this situation, the presence of the president can have a positive effect on the conference, she highlighted.

Many of the country’s environmental problems originate from external sources, such as sand and dust centers in neighboring countries located south and north of Iran, Nikbonyad added.

The president’s attendance will be a credit to Iran’s presence at the conference. It will also bolster the credibility of the country’s efforts in addressing the challenges, and significantly provide an opportunity for negotiating on environmental issues, she further noted.

Climate change

The phenomenon of climate change on the planet has caused extreme weather conditions posing a real and undeniable threat to the entire civilization.



The consequences of climate change will be even more detrimental unless actions are taken now.

Climate change has already had many harmful effects on our country. Due to the climate change, the air temperature has increased. Warmer temperature increases the rate of evaporation, a good example of which is the Caspian Sea’s reduced volume of water.

On the other hand, there has been a noticeable decrease in the amount of snowfall in the country and a change in the pattern of precipitation from snow to rain can be seen. But the total amount of rainfall has decreased as well.

According to World Health Organization, climate change is impacting health in a myriad of ways, including by leading to death and illness from increasingly frequent extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, storms, and floods, the disruption of food systems, increases in food-, water- and vector-borne diseases, and mental health issues.

As an example, climate change and the floods that hit the southeastern neighboring country two years ago, have jeopardized the malaria eradication program and caused the

cases of malaria infection to spike from less than 1,000 to around 10,000.

Neglecting climate change and the preservation of the environment have posed serious and emerging challenges for all countries of the world.

These challenges disrupt the balance of nature, threaten the life of biological species, increase poverty, and threaten food security and human health.

Holding the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, in line with the implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/171, in Tehran in September 2023 with the cooperation of the United Nations, is an example of the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to draw the attention of the international communities to the importance of these shared challenges and the necessity to find shared solutions to cope with these challenges.

Iran submitted a draft resolution to the current session of the UNEA to take another step for collective action and develop appropriate regional and international mechanisms to deal with dust storms as one of the important hazards threatening our world and future.

The 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) has approved a resolution adopted at the international summit on dealing with sand and dust storms which was held in Tehran in September 2023.

The UNEA-6 was held from February 26 to March 1 at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It is the world’s highest decision-making body on the environment.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

World’s first ‘subway library’ to open in Tehran

For the first time in the underground transportation system worldwide, a public library will be opened in Tehran subway, Farnoush Nobakht, director of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operations Company, said. According to the memorandum signed between the Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operations Company and the Tehran public libraries foundation, libraries will be launched in seven selected stations, first of which will be inaugurated on August 12, ISNA reported on Tuesday. The library, called “Metro Book”, is in line with the cultural programs to promote the culture of reading and increase per capita reading among subway passengers during intra-city trips, the library with a capacity of more than 5,000 books provides services continuously from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., she explained.

افتتاح کتابخانه عمومی در متروی تهران برای اولین بار در جهان

مدیرعامل شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه گفت: برای اولین بار در سامانه حمل و نقل متروهای جهان، کتابخانه عمومی در متروی تهران افتتاح می شود. به گزارش ایسنا، فریوش نوبخت اظهار داشت: قرار است طبق تفاهم نامه منعقد شده بین شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه و نهاد کتابخانه های عمومی استان تهران در هفت ایستگاه منتخب «مترو کتاب» راه اندازی شود. این کتابخانه در راستای برنامه های متروی تهران مبنی بر ترویج فرهنگ کتابخوانی و افزایش سرانه مطالعه در میان مسافران مترو هنگام سفرهای درون شهری این کتابخانه با ظرفیت بیش از ۵۰۰۰ عنوان کتاب به صورت فیزیکی از ساعت ۸ صبح تا ۲۰ به طور مستمر به رایبه خدمات می دهد.

Japan’s expertise to help Iran improve medical services

TEHRAN – The health ministry in cooperation with Japan has held an online elderly care course within the framework of a former agreement aiming to improve medical services in Iran through Japan’s medical management models.

Organized by Fujita Health University, the course was held on October 7. Mohammad-Hossein Niknam, the deputy health minister for international affairs, Tamaki Tsukada, the Japanese ambassador to Iran, and Peyman Saadat, the Iranian Ambassador to Japan, were among the participants.

Saying that Iran is among the countries with the highest medical standards, Tsukada highlighted the significance of health in the two countries and said the course aims to share experiences and successful programs that have been implemented in Japan to improve the knowledge and awareness of the participants, the health ministry’s website reported.

The official also announced Japan’s readiness to develop ties in all other fields of health with the country.

Niknam, for his part, said that the cultural and historical ties of the two countries as well as their high capacities are key factors in enhancing cooperation in all aspects of the health sector.

Lauding Japan’s efforts, the Iranian ambassador to Japan said the fact that the world population is aging necessitates the need to reflect on its diverse consequences in medical, economic, and social sectors, as well as the need to implement inter-sectoral solutions to address the challenges.

Healthcare agreement

On November 24, 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) of the I.R. Iran signed a Record of Discussions (R/D) for the Project for Improving Medical Services in the Islamic Republic of Iran through Japan’s Medical Management Models.

The project will help to ensure the improvement of the medical services for patients with non-communicable diseases including elders through the dissemination of knowledge and experience about advanced cases and medical policies in Japan.

It will contribute to the achievement of SDG Goal 3 in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In Iran, the structure of diseases has been converted from a focus on maternal and child health and communicable diseases to non-communicable diseases in the past 20 years.

The mortality rate for children under 5 has been reduced from 30.6 in 2002 to 14.4 in 2018 and the maternal mortality rate has been reduced to 25 (in 100,000) in recent years.

In addition, the life expectancy in Iran has been extended from 53.9 in the 1970s to 76 in 2018. According to the statistics in 2010, 76 percent of deaths in Iran were caused by NCDs, 46 percent of which were caused by cardiovascular diseases (CVD), 13 percent by cancer, 4 percent by chronic respiratory diseases, 2 percent by diabetes and 11 percent by other NCDs. Communicable diseases has also made 10 percent of the overall cause of death in Iran.

In response to these issues, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to improve the quality of healthcare services by improving medical facilities

and equipment and capacity building of the health sector personnel.

Yukiharu Kobayashi, Chief Representative of the JICA Iran Office said: “With the signing of this R/D, Iran and Japan have made one crucial step to strengthening their mutual cooperation, and Iranian government officials will learn how Japanese medical facilities work and manage in the above-said fields, which subsequently improve the medical services in Iran.”

This technical cooperation aims to develop human resources through learning about medical technology and management, which has been operating in Japan for many years. By implementing the said project, the medical services in Iran will be improved through policy recommendations in different fields of hospital management, medical care for elders, hospital design and construction, non-communicable diseases control, and cancer control and management.

By sharing the knowledge and experiences Japan has acquired in the said fields for many years, it is expected that patient-centered medical services introduced in Japan will be disseminated throughout Iran in the future.

Iran, Japan bolster ties

Health Minister, Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi, and Tsukada, in a meeting in Tehran on October 6, discussed ways to boost cooperation in the field of health.

Referring to the health minister’s successful experience in handling Covid-19 outbreak, Tsukada said Iran can share its expertise and scientific achievements in the field with Japan and help transfer the knowledge to future generations, the health ministry’s website reported.

Tsukada went on to say that despite sanctions a number of Japanese companies are ready to develop cooperation in the field of health with Iran.

The official stated that Japan wants Iran to speed up the approval process for Japanese medical equipment to enter the country.

“Currently, Japan is funding projects to improve the healthcare system with advanced medical tools”, he noted.

“Japan has substantial experience in preventing diseases (like breast cancer), reducing their prevalence as well as minimizing the costs of treatments. Japan is willing to share these experiences with Iran”, he stressed.

The health minister, for his part, welcomed Japan’s proposal for sharing achievements and scientific knowledge on Coronavirus and other diseases, highlighting that in case new epidemics emerge in the world, shared knowledge and experiences can be greatly useful.

The official suggested establishing a working group to follow up on transferring knowledge in the field of screening and treating diseases like breast cancer and esophageal cancer, which are prevalent in Iran and Japan, respectively.

Zafarqandi lauded the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for donating 50 mammography systems to Imam Hossein (AS) and Arash hospitals in Tehran.

He highlighted the enhancement of cooperation between the two countries in the health sector and called for expanding the exchange of medical equipment, as well.



A journey to Iran’s rich biodiversity

With more than 112,000 species of animals and plants, the Biodiversity Museum of Iran is the richest and most important one of its kind in the country.

It includes a genetic bank, a herbarium collection, and an animal taxidermy section.



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OCTOBER 9, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:52 Evening: 17:56 Dawn: 4:43 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:06 (tomorrow)

Egyptian artists express solidarity with Lebanon, Gaza

Egypt's artists have expressed solidarity with Lebanon, with parts of the fellow Arab state reeling under Israeli attacks, creating a major displacement crisis, especially in the southern part of Lebanon.

Over the past few days, since Israeli aggressions on Lebanon started, Egyptian artists used various media to express this solidarity and denounce Israeli actions in a country they consider another home, the New Arab reported.

Famous actress Yasmine Abdel Aziz ran a story on her Instagram account, showing the back of two fighters, one of them wearing the distinctly patterned black-and-white Palestinian keffiyeh, and the other apparently a Lebanese fighter.

In front of the two fighters, the flags of Lebanon and militant group Hezbollah fluttered on one side of a road full of devastation and the Palestinian flag on the other.

"From Gaza to Lebanon ... Your wounds are ours, your blood is ours," Abdel Aziz wrote.

Among many other Egyptian artists reacting to developments in Lebanon, female singer Sherine Abdel Wahab reposted on her social media accounts her 2006 song, Lebanon in my heart.

The Egyptian female vocalist released the song, for the first time, following Israel's 2006 military campaign against southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Head of the Artists' Syndicate, the independent guild of the nation's cinema workers, Ashraf Zaki, was keen to deliver a message of support for the Lebanese people.

"Lebanon is inseparable from Egypt," Zaki told a local television channel.

He said that Egypt's artists would organize a protest in the coming few days against Israeli attacks in Lebanon.

Anger among Egypt's artists against Israeli aggressions in Lebanon is rooted in deep cultural and artistic connections between the Egyptian and Lebanese peoples.

A sizeable number of Egyptian movies were shot in Lebanon and Lebanese artists are

household names in Egypt.

Ordinary Egyptians are also expressing solidarity, writing up a storm of comments on social media about events in Lebanon and decrying Western support to Israel as it pounds parts of yet another Arab nation.

Egypt's professional unions, political parties and legislature have also joined in, calling on the Egyptian government to take action to support the Lebanese people.

The Medical Association, the union of the nation's medical doctors, said it is putting together a sizeable amount of aid to send to Lebanon.

This outpouring of public support comes against the background of official Egyptian opposition to Israeli attacks against Lebanon.

Israeli attacks in Lebanon come hard on the heels of a year-long campaign in Gaza where the Israeli army has so far killed over 42,000 people, mostly children and women, injured tens of thousands of others and left Gaza in total ruin.

This sequence of regional events gives people the feeling that Israel is systematically targeting one Arab country after another.

This is especially true in the light of tensions between Cairo and Tel Aviv against the background of purported Israeli plans to displace the residents of Gaza into Sinai, Egypt's north-easternmost territory which shares borders with Israel and Gaza.

Together with Qatar and the US, Egypt, which enjoys good contacts with the Gaza-ruling Hamas and Israel, has been trying to mediate a ceasefire and a prisoner/hostage swap deal in Gaza.

Israel launched an intense wave of air raids on southern Lebanon on Monday, with 100 aircraft targeting about 120 sites in the space of an hour, according to the country's military.

Despite the quickly increasing tempo of Israeli military operations, Hezbollah also fired scores of missiles at Israel throughout the day on Monday, while a ballistic missile fired by Yemen's Houthis was shot down as evening fell.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza, One Year After October 7

Cartoonist: Ahmed Rahma from Turkey

107 foreign works to compete in 41st Tehran International Short Film Festival

TEHRAN-The line-up for the international competition section of the 41st Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF) has been announced by the festival secretariat, in which 107 short films will compete for the top awards.

This year, the festival received 13,651 submissions from more than 30 countries.

The number of submitted films is a new record in the history of the event, about twice the number of submissions last year, IRNA reported.

The line-up includes 59 short fiction films, 21 animated movies, 18 documentaries, and nine experimental films. The submitted works are from India, China, Poland, the U.S., Egypt, Greece, France, Palestine, Turkey, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Russia, Australia, Japan, Germany, Italy, and Cuba among others.

The TISFF has been held for 40 consecutive years in Iran, by the Iranian Youth Cinema Society (IYCS) – one of the most renowned schools of cinema and short film production in Iran and throughout the world.

With more than 80 branches across the country and a family of 250 thousand graduates, the IYCS has gone through excellent educational and effective filmmaking courses, producing hundreds of short films every year and winning hundreds of awards from prestigious and prominent international film festivals in the

past four decades.

Many of the IYCS's graduates rank among the top celebrated filmmakers of both Iran and the world.

The TISFF is approved by the Academy Awards® (Oscars) and the winner of the Grand Prize becomes eligible for the Oscars.

After holding and celebrating 40 glorious years, the TISFF is introducing two new categories to the previous categories of for its 41st edition.

With the rise of cutting-edge and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality (VR), Extended Reality (XR), Mixed Reality (MR), and Augmented Reality (AR), we are

witnessing fundamental, profound, and significant changes in the creative production process and the presentation of visual and audio works.

These advancements are shaping a future where short film production and distribution will evolve rapidly and precisely.

To understand, recognize, utilize, reflect, advance, and enhance these technological transformations and advancements in service of the art and industry of short films, the festival introduces two new categories in its international competition sections to accept, judges and screens creatively produced short films made using these technologies: AI and XR/VR/

MR/AR.

The festival also introduces these two categories to fulfill and advance its global mission of fostering, encouraging, enhancing, and promoting excellence in short filmmaking, inviting up-and-coming talents and emerging filmmakers to delve into the realms of emerging, creativity, immersion, and low-budget production, as well as acknowledging and supporting those who excel in this innovative landscape.

Mehdi Azarpendar, the managing director of the IYCS, will serve as director of the secretary of the upcoming edition of the TISFF, due to be held from October 18 to 23 at Mellat Cineplex in Tehran.



Sharjah film festival screening Iranian films



A scene from "In The Shadow Of The Cypress" co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani

TEHRAN- Six movies from Iran are competing in different sections of Sharjah International Film Festival for Children & Youth (SIFF), which is currently underway in the Emirati city.

"In the Arms of a Tree" by Babak Khajepasha and "7600" by Behrouz Baqeri are competing at the main section of the festival.

"In the Arms of a Tree", which is Iran's submission for Best International Feature at the 2025 Oscars, follows the struggles of an entrepreneurial family on the verge of collapse. At the heart of the story is Kimia, a northern mother grappling with the trauma of past abuse and a debilitating fear of distance. Her husband, Farid, an Azeri father with a passion for travel and medicinal plants, adds to the tension as the couple prepares for a separation exercise.

As Kimia and Farid's relationship deteriorates, their two sons, 11-year-old Taha and his five-year-old brother Alisan, become unlikely heroes in this emotional turmoil. Taha, deeply caring and protective, is determined to shield Alisan

from the fallout of their parents' crises. The boys' strong bond and friendship serve as a beacon of hope amid the tumult, highlighting the innocence of childhood and the power of familial love in the face of adversity.

"7600" is a drama that follows a young boy in a rural, impoverished setting who dreams of flying in a helicopter. The film delves into his aspirations and the obstacles he encounters on his quest to realize this dream, despite the limitations imposed by his surroundings. Through his journey, the narrative highlights themes of hope, determination, and the transformative power of dreams, providing an emotional and inspiring portrayal of a child's ambition to transcend his circumstances.

The festival is also screening "Resemblance" by Mehdi Marvdashti, "Hooves Beat" by Fargol Masrurirad and Seyyed Hossein Zeitunnejad, and "Bonus" by Reza Nejati in the short film section.

"Resemblance" tells the story of a father who becomes increasingly suspicious of his wife when he sees that their youngest son has blond hair and bright eyes, which sharply contrast with his own features. In an effort to mend the family dynamic and calm their father's growing fears, the older brother decides to change the younger brother's appearance to mirror his own. His ultimate goal is to reunite the family and alleviate their father's worries.

"Hooves Beat" tells the story of Tino, a 12-year-old boy living in a border village between Iran and Iraq with his parents. When a heart-wrenching event unfolds in the mountains, Tino is left shattered. Soon after, he discovers that his

beloved four-legged friend—the sole means of transportation and livelihood for his father—is in grave danger. Faced with a troubling dilemma, Tino must make a crucial decision before it's too late.

"Bonus" centers around a pivotal moment during exams when one of the teacher's students receives a failing grade, leading to increased tension between them. Despite the student's pleas, the teacher remains steadfast in his principles and commitment to fairness, refusing to alter the grade.

Moreover, in the animation section of the event, "In The Shadow Of The Cypress" co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani is on screen.

The award-winning animation depicts a former captain suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder who lives with his daughter in a humble house located by the sea. Together, they live isolated from the world and must confront the challenges of their situation. One morning, their lives change forever when an unforeseen event occurs.

The Sharjah International Film Festival for Children & Youth (SIFF) was launched in 2013 as the first film festival of its kind in the country and the region. A project of FUNN, an organization established by the Sharjah government, the festival aims to enhance media literacy among children and youth, nurture their creativity, and showcase exceptional films made for, by, and about young people.

The film festival will come to an end on October 12.

IAF cinematheque to screen "National Theatre Live: Macbeth"

TEHRAN-The cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will show the recorded stage performance of "National Theatre Live: Macbeth" (2013) directed by Rob Ashford and Kenneth Branagh on Wednesday.

The screening, set for 5 p.m., will be followed by a review session with Abbas Ghaffari as the host and theater critic Asal Asri-Maleki, Mehr reported.

Branagh plays the role of Macbeth, the famous character created by William Shakespeare. As Macbeth rides home from battle, three witches prophesy that he will soon rise in power to become King of Scotland. Aided by his wife, the pair will stop at nothing to seal their fate.

"The Tragedy of Macbeth," often

shortened to "Macbeth," is a tragedy by Shakespeare, thought to have been first performed in 1606. It dramatizes the damaging physical and psychological effects of political ambition on those who seek power. Of all the plays that Shakespeare wrote during the reign of James I, "Macbeth" most clearly reflects his relationship with King James, patron of Shakespeare's acting company.

Shakespeare's source for the story is the account of Macbeth, King of Scotland, Macduff, and Duncan in Holinshed's Chronicles (1587), a history of England, Scotland, and Ireland familiar to Shakespeare and his contemporaries, although the events in the play differ extensively from the history of the real Macbeth. The events of the tragedy have been

associated with the execution of Henry Garnet for complicity in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.

Kenneth Branagh has long been lauded as one of the great Shakespearean interpreters. His skills as a writer, director and actor have garnered international acclaim across the disciplines of stage, film and television, and he is the only man to be nominated in five different categories for an Academy Award.

Rob Ashford has directed and choreographed productions on both sides of the Atlantic. From collaborations with the Donmar Warehouse and National Theater, to Broadway, Ashford has a string of nominations and awards to his name including an Olivier Award for "Anna Christie" and nominations for "A Streetcar



Kenneth Branagh in a scene from "National Theatre Live: Macbeth"

Named Desire" and "Parade" and a Tony Award for "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and nominations for productions including "Evita" and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying". He also won an Emmy for his choreography at the 81st Annual Academy Awards.