

# Time for Change

**Araqchi's visit to Riyadh likely a call on Arabs to stop cold-shouldering Palestinians**



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) holds talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman in Riyadh on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

## General Qaani to receive Order of Fat'h

TEHRAN – An advisor to the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has confirmed that Brigadier General Esmail Qaani is in good health and is expected to be awarded the Order of Fat'h (Conquest) by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in the coming days.

This statement, made by Brigadier General Ebrahim Jabbari on Wednesday, comes in response to various Western media reports speculating about General Qaani's condition, suggesting he may have been injured or killed in a recent Israeli airstrike targeting senior Hezbollah figure Hashem Safieddine in Beirut's southern Dahiye neighborhood.

Additionally, General Qaani has sent a message to the 7th International Conference on Solidarity with Palestinian Children and Adolescents, where he expressed his apologies for being unable to attend due to commitments to another important meeting.

Despite these assurances, there have been ongoing reports from Western outlets indicating uncertainty surrounding General Qaani's recent whereabouts, with critics suggesting Iranian officials have been uncharacteristically quiet about this prominent military leader. ▶ Page 3

## Iranian envoy urges UN's Pact of the Future to address Gaza crisis

TEHRAN – During a recent United Nations meeting in New York, Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Zahra Ershadi, emphasized the need for the Pact of the Future—a key document emerging from the UN Summit of the Future—to confront pressing issues such as the Zionist regime's genocidal actions in Gaza, nuclear proliferation, and foreign occupation.

Speaking on October 6, Ershadi urged that the Pact must adequately address the ongoing humanitarian crises in Gaza and Lebanon, highlighting the urgent need for international intervention.

Israel's ongoing offensive on the Gaza Strip has so far led to the killings of nearly 42,000 people, mostly women and children, according to the enclave's health authorities.

Ershadi began her address by asserting Iran's commitment to the Summit of the Future as a vital forum for tackling global challenges and enhancing the effectiveness of the UN. ▶ Page 3

## Nearly 20 Israeli fighter jets destroyed during Iran's October attack, says IRGC commander

TEHRAN – An adviser to the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says approximately 20 Israeli F-35 fighter jets were destroyed during Iran's retaliatory missile strike against the regime's military targets.

Brigadier General Ebrahim Jabbari, revealed this information during a conference held in Tehran on Wednesday.

The operation, known as True Promise II, took place on October 1, with Jabbari stating that an impressive 90 percent of the missiles deployed successfully struck their intended targets.

"The IRGC simultaneously conducted cyber and electronic warfare operations to disrupt the Israeli air defense systems, facilitating the effectiveness of the missile strikes," General Jabbari noted.

General Jabbari emphasized the significant achievements of the operation, stating, "It does not matter where we targeted; what is important is that the enemy's hollow power has been shattered."

He highlighted that the hangars housing F-35 fighter jets were among the direct targets of the operation, which he claimed successfully dealt a substantial blow to the Israeli air force. ▶ Page 2

## Tehran: Israel trying to manipulate US election with war in West Asia

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson has stated that the Zionist regime is attempting to escalate its ongoing violence throughout the West Asia region to influence the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

"The occupying regime's urgency in involving the entire region in a widening conflict is primarily intended to manipulate the forthcoming U.S. elections maliciously," Esmail Baqaei wrote on his X account on Tuesday.

Baqaei further remarked, "Meanwhile, U.S. security agencies are incorrectly alleging that Iran is attempting to meddle in its domestic matters! This is a ridiculous distortion of the truth."

Meanwhile, the White House confirmed that a phone call took place between U.S. President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday.

While details were expected to be available later in the day, this is the first time the two leaders have spoken since August.

On the anniversary of the 7 October attacks, Biden called Israeli President Isaac Herzog instead of Netanyahu.

## No limit to Israel's savagery

By Reza Farsi

TEHRAN – The degree of the savagery of the sadistic ideological rulers in Israel has shocked the world.

Though a year has passed since Israel started its carnage in Gaza it is still behaving like the first days. They see no limit for their crimes.

Some analysts believe that the degree of cruelty that current Israeli rulers are practicing is expediting the end of the life of Israel. Though Israel has been unstopably butchering the Palestinian citizens in Gaza, it has been dealing serious blows to itself.

Extremists in Israel can no longer hide or justify their horrific acts under the pretext of antisemitism and demonization of Palestinians. Nothing can justify this degree of savagery.

In the latest developments, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said in a post on X that "soldiers are firing at anyone who moves in the Be'er al-Na'ja area, west of Jabalia in northern Gaza."

The violence has not been just limited to the Gaza Strip. Settlers and Israeli soldiers have also found the opportunity to humiliate and commit crimes against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. ▶ Page 5

## Hezbollah halts Israeli infiltration attempts

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Israeli infantry has made renewed attempts to invade southern Lebanon through various points in southern Lebanon since the early hours of Wednesday morning but failed to advance.

The Israel Occupation Forces (IOF) retreated following confrontations with Hezbollah and under heavy fire and artillery by the Lebanese resistance.

The IOF attempted to advance via the Lebanese border villages of Meiss El Jabal, Mouhaybil, Blida, Labbouneh, and Maroun al-Ras.

In multiple statements, Hezbollah said its fighters attacked enemy forces with rocket-propelled weapons, artillery shells, and rockets.

The fighters also detonated an explosive device targeting a group of Israeli soldiers and attacked them in Blida, inflicting "precise injuries".

An Israeli infantry force that tried to advance towards Labouna for a second time on Wednesday was targeted with "guided missiles causing additional fatalities and injuries". ▶ Page 5

## Uzbekistan, Iran to lock horn in World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – Uzbekistan will aim to get it right when they host Iran in Group A of the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26 on Thursday.

Both teams are tied on six points after opening their campaigns with two wins, with Uzbekistan leading the standings on goal difference.

Srecko Katanec has named a strong squad for the matches against Iran and UAE, which follows on Tuesday, and Uzbekistan will know that they will be well on course to book their ticket to the global showpiece if they take all six points.

Amir Ghalenoei has also named an impressive looking squad, with the likes of Mehdi Taremi and Sardar Azmoun to lead their attack.

Taremi has been making regular appearances for Italian side Inter Milan while Azmoun has settled in well at the UAE Pro League side Shabab Al-Ahli Dubai, with the striker already on five goals five matches into the season.



## 1st international summit on martyred Resistance journalists held in Shiraz

TEHRAN – Shiraz hosted the inaugural international summit on the martyred Resistance journalists on Tuesday, marking a significant gathering of regional and international figures.

The summit, aligned with the second national conference honoring 15,000 martyrs from Fars province. The event coincided with the anniversary of the Al-Aqsa Storm and saw participation from the commander of the Basij-e Mostazafin, along with media representatives from the Axis of Resistance.

A total of 147 domestic and international journalists involved with Resistance media attended the summit. The event also recognized the contributions of journalists and honored the families of notable media martyrs connected to the Axis of Resistance.



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## Conflict between two allies over Tehran

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtasad dealt with the American concern about possible Israel's retaliatory action against Iran and wrote: Following the increase in tensions between Tehran and Tel Aviv and the possibility of a regional war, the United States of America is worried that the Israelis will target Iran's nuclear sites. Because Washington knows that Iran's response to such an action will be much tougher than in previous ones. Of course, it is unlikely that they would attack Iran's nuclear facilities in the next round of retaliatory attacks or that they would be successful in achieving such a goal without the help of the United States. Officials claim that Israel's first retaliation against Iran for a missile response would likely focus on military bases. In recent weeks, the Biden administration has become increasingly distrustful of the information Israel is providing about its military and diplomatic plans. The trust deficit between the two sides has increased. U.S. officials said the Biden administration is not opposed to Israel's response to Iran's October 1 missile attack but wants the response to be measured.

### Iran: Iran's ongoing diplomatic efforts

The Iran newspaper said the Pezeshkian government did not hesitate for a moment to show its comprehensive support for the Palestinian and Lebanese Resistance movements and hard revenge on Tel Aviv for its mischievous acts. The paper said: On October 1, Iran fired 180 missiles at military bases in the occupied territories. While the regional and Western news circles are reporting on an imminent attack of Israel on Iran in retaliation for the "True Promise II" operation, Iranian officials have warned that they will respond to the possible attack with a bigger one. According to (foreign minister) Araghchi, our armed forces are fully ready and we have identified all the necessary targets. The foreign minister repeated this warning while he embarked on a visit to Saudi Arabia in his second regional trip.

The trip was made simultaneously with the actions of the Islamic Republic to pursue diplomatic efforts to reduce the rising tension in the region and to prevent the fulfillment of Israel's ambitious demands in the attack on Lebanon. The government has also declared its policy is aimed at stopping the conflicts and reaching an acceptable ceasefire in which the rights of the Lebanese people and the resistance movement are respected.

## IRGC says no Iranian killed in Israeli airstrike on Damascus

TEHRAN – Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has denied reports that Iranian military advisors were killed in an Israeli airstrike on Damascus on October 8th.

The deputy for communications of the IRGC Quds Force has stated categorically that no Iranian advisor was present at the targeted building and that all advisors are safe and operating as usual.

He attributed the false reports to Israeli propaganda, adding that such misinformation has increased threefold since Iran's Operation True Promise II on October 1st. He warned media outlets against amplifying Israeli propaganda by disseminating unverified information.

The IRGC official also stressed that the

## Iran's Jamaran destroyer hosts meeting between envoy, Army officers in Oman

TEHRAN – The Iranian ambassador to Oman convened with Iranian Army officers aboard the Jamaran destroyer, docked at Sultan Qaboos Port, on Wednesday. In a post on X, Moussa Farhang shared: "The visit to the Jamaran destroyer, stationed at Sultan Qaboos port, and the conversations held with the commanders and officers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's formidable Army on board were successful."

"This all-Iranian destroyer stands as a point of pride for all of us. We sincerely appreciate the tireless efforts of the ship's crew, who have spent several months away from their families and homeland," the ambassador concluded.

The Jamaran destroyer is an Iranian light frigate that was launched in 2010. It is the first vessel in

### Jam-e-Jam: Axis of Resistance won't let the gang of Zionist criminals to dominate

Jam-e-Jam wrote in an analysis: When we look at the developments of the last year in the West Asia region, we see the manifestation of Iran's dominance over a situation where the enemies of the Axis of Resistance are trying to spread and intensify disorder. The Zionists faced a crisis after the historical operation of the Al-Aqsa Storm, and their only way to face the crisis is to commit barbarism in Gaza and Lebanon. The Zionists thought that they could silence the voice of the people of Gaza and the voice of resistance in the region with the staunch support of Western countries and modern weapons. But the more time passed, the more it became clear to the leaders of Tel Aviv that what changes the situation is the strategy of Islamic Iran. Now the battle scene is clear. On one side is the temporary Zionist regime and all the fake prestige and dignity of the West, which have no goal other than killing defenseless people. On the other side, Islamic Iran and the Axis of Resistance are still standing despite all the sanctions. The way continues and Islamic Iran and the Axis of Resistance, despite being oppressed, stand strong and determined and will not let the criminal gang of the Zionists to shape the fate of humanity.

### Fahrikhetgan: Failure of ethnic-religious division project

In a commentary, Farhikhetgan discussed the failure of the religious bipolarity project in Iran. It wrote: In 2022, the Zionist-Western front, with the financial support of some Arab countries and the use of hostile media, started actions to create religious bipolarity in Iran, especially among the Sunnis of Sistan-Baluchestan province. By launching a media war and promoting a religious gap, this movement tried to put the Sunni community of Iran against the Islamic Republic. During 2022, some human rights organizations indirectly tried to legitimize separatist movements and incitement of ethnic and religious groups in Iran by publishing one-sided and false reports. However, with the consciousness of the people and security institutions, and an emphasis on unity between ethnic and religious groups, these efforts failed. The meeting of the Sunni scholars with the Leader of the Revolution shows that the plots of the enemies to create a religious divide both in practice and in media and virtual space failed.

Resistance front remains fully prepared to retaliate against Israel's "weak points" should the conflict escalate.

Syria's government said the Israeli military launched three missiles from the direction of the occupied Golan Heights at the Mezzeh neighborhood of Damascus. Seven civilians, including children and women, were killed. There was no immediate comment from Israel on the airstrike and it was not immediately clear what the intended target was. However, some Western media reports claimed the building was used by Iran's IRGC commanders and Hezbollah forces.

In the past year, Israel has twice assassinated Iran's IRGC advisors or commanders who had traveled to Syria at the Syrian government's request.

the Moudge-class series produced domestically. The Jamaran has a displacement of approximately 1,500 tons, spans 94 meters in length, and has an 11-meter beam. This destroyer is outfitted with sophisticated military capabilities, including the capacity to deploy helicopters, anti-ship and surface-to-air missiles, torpedoes, and contemporary artillery, along with air defense systems. Additionally, it incorporates electronic warfare technology and a stealth feature.

Sultan Qaboos Port, also known as Port Sultan Qaboos (PSQ), is a significant seaport located in Muscat, the capital city of Oman. It was developed in the 1970s under the vision of Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, who aimed to create a modern and efficient maritime hub to support Oman's economic growth.

# Nearly 20 Israeli fighter jets destroyed during Iran's October attack, says IRGC commander

From Page 1 ▶ He noted that the military and intelligence apparatus of both the Israeli regime and the United States were taken by surprise, despite their extensive advanced defensive capabilities.

General Jabbari concluded by stating that now, when Israel cannot engage in direct conflict, they are resorting to targeting military or economic sites in an attempt to claim retaliation, which he described as a clear indication of their misjudgment.

This missile barrage was Iran's response to the Israeli assassination of high-profile figures, including Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, and



IRGC general Abbas Nilforooshan.

Haniyeh was assassinated on July 31 while he was in Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Reports indicate that Iran

launched around 200 ballistic missiles aimed at various military and intelligence installations throughout the occupied Palestinian territories.

In the wake of this attack, while the Israeli regime has issued threats of retaliation, Iranian

officials have made it clear that any response from Tehran will be calculated, harsh, and proportional to the aggression faced.

Israel launched the war on Gaza after the Palestinian Resistance movement Hamas waged the surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the occupying entity on October 7, 2023 in response to the Israeli regime's decades-long campaign of bloodletting and devastation against Palestinians.

The regime's bloody onslaught on Gaza has so far killed more than 41,909 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 97,303 others. Thousands more are also missing and presumed dead under rubble.

## 39 MPs say Iran must 'reevaluate defense doctrine' in face of escalating threats



TEHRAN – In a letter addressed to the country's Supreme National Security Council, a group of 39 Iranian lawmakers has called for a swift push toward developing the country's deterrence capabilities.

The appeal comes as tensions rise in the region due to growing Israeli military action.

Hassan Ali Akhlaghi, one of the signatories, told the ISNA news agency that Iran must "reevaluate its defense doctrine" in light of escalating threats.

"No international organizations, nor European countries or the US, can effectively control the Zionist regime, which continues

to commit crimes at will. That's why we sent this letter," he stated.

Despite a 20-year-old religious decree from Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei prohibiting nuclear weapons under Islamic law, intensified regional hostilities have increasingly pushed the nation for a change in policy.

Since the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement, known as the JCPOA, and the failure of European signatories to fulfill their commitments towards the pact, Tehran has undergone severe sanctions and economic pressure.

Observers note that the collapse of the JCPOA has weakened the taboo around nuclear weapons.

A significant factor behind the growing support for acquiring nuclear arms is the sharp rise in Israeli aggression, including strikes on Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen.

Many Iranians worry whether their country has enough deterrence to prevent a similar

attack on Iran.

While Tehran's military is more advanced than many in the region, analysts speculate that Israel may target Iran next, pointing to Israel's bold actions, such as the assassination of a Palestinian leader within Iranian territory. With Israeli politicians issuing threats, there is growing concern that Iran could face a similar military campaign.

A recent poll, conducted between February and May, revealed that nearly 70% of Iranians now favor developing nuclear weapons, with support likely growing since then.

Calls for stronger deterrence, including from influential figures like Hassan Khomeini, the grandson of the Islamic Republic's founder, reflect this shift.

Israel's ongoing offensive on the Gaza Strip has so far led to the killings of nearly 42,000 people, mostly women and children, according to the enclave's health authorities.

## 'A distraction from Gaza genocide': Iran denounces UK officials accusing it of 'lethal plots' on British soil

TEHRAN – Iran's embassy in the UK has said the Western country's officials are trying to distract the public from London's complicity in the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza, after the MI5 spy chief claimed 20 "Iran-backed potentially lethal plots" had been disrupted in Britain since January 2022.

Ken McCallum did not provide any evidence for his claims, but accused Russia of similar "plots".

"Once again, a UK government security official has made baseless and delusive allegations against Iran, speculating that Iran might 'possibly' or 'in principle' 'repurpose' imaginary 'plots' within the UK—all without



a shred of evidence," Iran's UK embassy said in a post on X, adding,

"This rhetoric seems designed to distract the public from the UK government's complicity in the Israeli regime's genocidal warmongering."

The embassy also advised British officials to use their "influence" to halt Israeli aggressions instead of demonizing other countries. "Stop offering safe havens to terror groups and cults that promote hate and violence within the UK," it added.

In a lengthy speech on Tuesday, McCallum claimed that Tehran's supposed "lethal plots" target "Iranians abroad who oppose the government."

He likely referred to staff from Israeli-funded media in the UK, which has been urging people in Iran to arm themselves against security forces and frequently feature leaders of well-known

separatist and terrorist groups as "freedom fighters".

Also reacting to the allegations, the spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry stated on Wednesday that UK officials should focus on reining in the Israeli regime's unchecked violence, rather than making unfounded accusations and promoting misleading narratives.

Esmail Baqaei pointed out that the UK has made several outrageous claims against Iran in the past few years, without any supporting evidence.

He also called on the UK to reconsider its "unconstructive policies" towards the Iranian people and the West Asia region.

## Pezeshkian says U.S., Europe backing a 'savage regime'

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has severely criticized the U.S. and European governments, accusing them of supporting a "savage" Zionist regime that operates with impunity.

Speaking on Tuesday at a meeting with experts and officials from the cultural heritage and tourism sector, Pezeshkian criticized the U.S. and Europe for their role in establishing and sponsoring Israel in the region.

He described Israel as a regime that feels no compunction about massacring people, refusing to abide by any rules in its campaign of violence while simultaneously advocating for human rights.

The Iranian president further criticized the international community's silence on Israel's actions, particularly the killings of women and children.

He argued that those who claim to be champions of human rights should be condemned for their silence on these atrocities.

Pezeshkian's remarks echo the sentiments of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who previously condemned the presence of the U.S. and

certain European countries in the region as the primary cause of the region's instability.

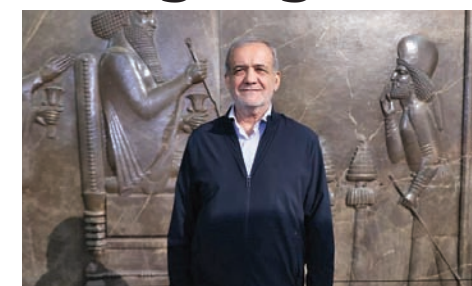
Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that removing these foreign actors would pave the way for peace and prosperity in West Asia.

"The root of the problem and the fundamental cause of conflicts and wars in the region lies in the presence of the United States and certain European countries that falsely advocate for peace and tranquility.

"Those who claim to be champions of human rights should be condemned for their silence on Israeli atrocities"

If they leave this region, the conflicts and wars would come to an end, allowing the countries to manage their affairs and coexist in peace and prosperity," the Leader said.

Since the beginning of Israel's ongoing war in Gaza a year ago, the regime has slaughtered over 42,000 Palestinians, the majority of whom have been women



and children. Medics argue the number of casualties is significantly higher, as the regime's decimation of the medical system in Gaza makes it impossible to keep an accurate count.

Israel has now spread its violence to surrounding areas in the region. On Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened to "make Lebanon like Gaza", referring to how has managed to raze the entirety of the enclave to the ground.

Western states continue to arm Israel despite growing calls from the public and rights groups asking their officials to stop supporting Israel's genocide in the region.

Western politicians have said time and time again that they are committed to protecting Israel's "security".



By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – After visiting Qatar, Lebanon, and Syria in a flurry of foreign visits, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi arrived in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on Wednesday. Despite a recent thaw in relations, Araqchi's brief stopover in Saudi Arabia wasn't primarily focused on bilateral ties.

Although Iran and Saudi Arabia have been working to strengthen relations since their rapprochement in March 2023, his quick visit, followed by a direct flight to Qatar, was less about bilateral relations and more about the current precarious state of West Asia – something the foreign minister himself confirmed in remarks to reporters.

"Regional affairs will be the main focus of my discussions. The situation in Gaza and Lebanon in particular is of paramount importance," Araqchi said before he met with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan and Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman.

The specter of all-out war has haunted West Asia for a year, ever since Israel launched its genocidal war in Gaza. But the region has never felt so close to the brink of a full-blown conflagration as it does right now.

Tensions are at a fever pitch, as the regime has spread its deadly military campaign to Lebanon, and says will be moving to Yemen next.

**The Muslim world needs a reality check**

For the past year, most Arab leaders have spurned public



Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi meets Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan (R)

demands asking them to pressure Israel to halt its crimes against the Palestinians in Gaza.

Aside from the Yemenis and Lebanese, Arab leaders, including the Saudis, have merely resorted to condemning the regime's heart-rending crimes through late statements.

Behind the closed doors, some of them are even giving Israel a hand.

Israel's Channel 13 revealed last year that Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Jordan have come to Israel's rescue by creating a land corridor that helps the regime bypass the Red Sea, where ships heading to the occupied territories are no longer able to sail due to incessant Yemeni attacks.

Furthermore, Saudi Arabia's state-owned media often finds itself in the crosshairs of criticism from Muslim populations around the world. The frequent appearances of high-ranking Israeli officials on Saudi news channels during major events, like when the regime is

attacked by Iran or Hezbollah, has sparked outrage among millions of people who accuse news outlets like Al Arabiya and Al-Hadath of acting as megaphones for Israeli narratives.

Analysts believe that Riyadh's reluctance to effectively shun Israel is a direct consequence of their almost completed normalization process before Operation Al-Aqsa Storm. While this cautious approach might appear pragmatic in the short term, there are serious warnings that Saudi Arabia is playing a risky gamble in the long run.

"The visions for the future of West Asia held by Iran and Saudi Arabia are quite distinct," says West Asia expert Mohammad Reza Moradi.

"While Riyadh has forged a strong alliance with Washington and shown a clear willingness to normalize ties with Israel, Tehran champions a very different vision – one that sees both American and Israeli forces departing the region."

Mohammad Bin Salman

reportedly told U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken that he does not personally care about the Palestinian cause. According to a report in The Atlantic, Bin Salman told Blinken back in January that Riyadh cannot sign a normalization deal with Israel when the war in Gaza is still ongoing.

However, he reportedly said to the American official that Israel can restart its military campaign in the enclave once the deal is signed.

"They can come back in six months, a year, but not on the back end of my signing something like this," the crown prince allegedly said.

Moradi believes that Saudi Arabia's cozy relationship with Israel has an expiration date. The relationship between the two may currently seem respectful and equal, but that will change once Israel is done fighting the Axis of Resistance. "Israel has an expansion plan in West Asia that has gained traction among settlers in recent years. The so-called 'greater Israel' project encompasses Lebanon, Jordan, and parts of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia."

The expert noted that, in addition to its expansionist policies, Israel is opposed to the emergence of a strong Muslim state in the region.

Therefore, it is misguided to think Zionists only consider Iran and the rest of the Axis of Resistance as its enemies. "Saudi Arabia has always been a trendsetter in the Arab world. Once Riyadh realizes it needs to change its approach towards Israel, the rest of the Arabs will eventually follow suit."

## General Qaani to receive Order of Fat'h

From Page 1 ► The prestigious Order of Fat'h is conferred on individuals who achieve significant military victories.

Esmail Qaani was appointed as the head of the IRGC Quds Force by Ayatollah Khamenei on January 3, 2020, following the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani by the United States. General Qaani is recognized as a key commander during the Iran-Iraq War, which lasted from 1980 to 1988, and served as

the Quds Force's deputy commander prior to his current role.

Recently, Ayatollah Khamenei awarded the Order of Fat'h to Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC's Aerospace Division, in recognition of significant military achievements.

This honor was bestowed shortly after Iran launched a substantial missile strike on Israeli



military and intelligence positions in Tel Aviv, further underscoring the ongoing tensions in the area.

## Iranian envoy urges UN's Pact of the Future to address Gaza crisis

From Page 1 ► However, she criticized the Pact for failing to meet its ambitious goals and for not reflecting the realities of international law violations. She expressed disappointment that Iran's concerns were overlooked in the drafting process, reiterating points made in an official statement submitted on September 21.

"The Pact for the Future lacks a balanced perspective," Ershadi stated, lamenting its failure to address the root causes of violations of international law. She pointed out that despite visible acts of genocide, the document neglects immediate threats such as nuclear weapons and foreign

occupation, diverting focus to less critical issues.

Moreover, Ershadi condemned the absence of measures to combat unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) and economic sanctions, which she argued undermine the rights and sovereignty of developing nations. She called for urgent action to remove these impediments to development and human rights.

Iran maintains that national sovereignty should guide development paths and opposes any parts of the Pact that contradict its national laws and cultural values.

"We dissociate ourselves from specific provisions in the Global

Digital Compact that do not respect the sovereignty of states," she noted.

Addressing environmental issues, Ershadi criticized the Pact for inadequately addressing the responsibilities of developed countries in combating climate change.

She called for unconditional support for developing nations and stressed the importance of recognizing their unique contexts in discussions about transitioning away from fossil fuels.

Ershadi also raised concerns about the potential politicization of the UN's human rights mechanisms and emphasized the need for a balanced approach to various issues, including digital

governance and the role of technology companies.

In her closing remarks, she urged that the Pact be more inclusive and equitable, advocating for a collaborative approach to new technologies that respects cultural diversity.

She called for the document to reflect the principles of the UN Charter, stressing that the obligations contained within should not violate the sovereignty of states.

In summary, Ershadi's statements at the UN underscore Iran's call for a more responsible and equitable international framework capable of addressing both humanitarian crises and the broader challenges facing the global community.



TEHRAN – A delegation of journalists from different Syrian media organizations paid a visit to the Tehran Times office in Tehran.

## Syrian media delegation visits Tehran Times office to discuss cooperation

On Wednesday, October 9, the Syrian journalists were received at the Tehran Times office, where they were welcomed by Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati, the paper's CEO, as well as Editor-in-Chief Mohammad Sarfi.

The meeting primarily focused on enhancing media collaboration and organizing cultural exchanges between the two nations.

This visit provided an opportunity for journalists from both nations to explore ways to enhance cooperation, share best practices, and promote mutual understanding.

Analysts believe such gatherings indicate the significance of media partnerships in influencing public discourse and encouraging constructive dialogue between the two countries.

## Iran Parliament speaker departs Tehran for Tajikistan

TEHRAN – Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the Speaker of Iran's Parliament, departed Tehran for Tajikistan on Wednesday, marking a mission aimed at enhancing bilateral ties and addressing pressing regional issues.

His visit comes at the invitation of the Tajik Parliament to participate in an international parliamentary meeting celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of legislative activities in the Central

Asian nation.

During a press conference before his departure, Qalibaf emphasized the trip as an opportunity to foster connections among nations, particularly with members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and beyond.

He noted that these international parliamentary gatherings provide a platform for discussing collaborative efforts and following up on

previous agreements.

Highlighting the deep-rooted ties between Iran and Tajikistan—spanning civilization, culture, language, and security—Qalibaf expressed optimism about advancing discussions on critical issues such as water resources. He also underscored the importance of addressing the water crisis affecting both nations, particularly in Iran's eastern and northeastern regions.

## SPORTS

### Iran – Qatar World Cup qualifier relocated

TEHRAN – Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has announced that the World Cup qualifying match between Iran and Qatar, originally scheduled to take place at the Emam Reza Stadium in Mashhad, Iran, will be held in a neutral country.

AFC has decided to change the field after Iran launched dozens of missiles toward Tel Aviv last week. Israel has also vowed to respond to the attack.

The Iranian football federation must introduce a neutral field until Wednesday.

Team Melli will meet Uzbekistan in Group A on Thursday at the Bunyodkor Stadium and the stadium could be one of Iran's options for the match against Qatar.

### Faraji makes history in Asian Table Tennis Championships

TEHRAN – Benyamin Faraji, Iran's 14-year-old, defeated world No. 1 Wang Chuqin in the 2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships.

Faraji, who sits 209 places lower than Chuqin in the world rankings, defeated his Chinese rival 11-8, 3-11, 9-11, 13-11, 11-9.

Wang holds the gold medal in team and mixed doubles from the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Iran's men's team lost to China 3-1 and failed to qualify for the Asian Table Tennis Championships.

Coach Jamil Lotfollah Nasabi included Noshad Alamiyan and Mohammad Mousavi in the national team lineup for Tuesday's match.

The 2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships is being held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from Oct. 6 to 13.

### Iranian wrestler Habibi banned for doping

TEHRAN – Salar Saeid Habibi Ehsani has been suspended after failing a doping test for the banned substance.

Habibi has been stripped of a gold medal he won at the 2022 Asian Wrestling Championship held in Manama, Bahrain.

Habibi had defeated Mahendra Babasaheb Gaikwad from India 10-0 in the final of 125kg.

He has been also ordered to pay 20,000 Swiss francs fine.

### Paul Le Guen offered to Esteghlal

TEHRAN – French football coach Paul Le Guen has been reportedly offered to Esteghlal football team as head coach.

The Iranian side is looking for a Javad Nekounam's replacement.

Nekounam parted ways with Esteghlal last week following poor results in Iran league and AFC Champions League Elite.

Paul Le Guen is without club since parting ways with Spanish club Le Havre.

Bulgarian coach Ivaylo Petev, Portuguese Ricardo Sa Pinto and Farhad Majidi are also among the candidates to take charge of the team.

### Khatoon, Kaya FC-Iloilo share spoils in AFC Women's Champions League

TEHRAN – Iran's Bam Khatoon and Kaya FC-Iloilo of the Philippines shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in the 2024/25 AFC Champions League

Group C tie on Wednesday.

Zahra Ghanbari was on target for Bam Khatoon in the 39th minute but Joyce Onrubia equalized in the fourth minute of added time to take home a share of the spoils.

The result secured Kaya a second point while Bam Khatoon earned its first.

Bam Khatoon had lost their first match 2-1 against Melbourne City of Australia.

Bam Khatoon will play College of Asian Scholars in its final match while Kaya face a tough encounter against Melbourne City, with both games on Saturday.

### Iran coach Ghalenoei emphasizes importance of concentration

TEHRAN – Iran national football team head coach Amir Ghalenoei says that they need concentration to get a good result against Uzbekistan.

Team Melli are scheduled to meet Uzbekistan at the Bunyodkor Stadium in Tashkent on Thursday.

Iran and Uzbekistan are on six points, with the latter having defeated DPR Korea and Kyrgyzstan in their opening two matches while the Persians were victorious against Kyrgyzstan and the United Arab Emirates in Group A.

"We know that how strong Uzbekistan are and we will have a difficult task ahead but we are also Iran and must concentrate on our performance," Ghalenoei said in the pre-match news conference.

"In our last two encounters, we missed our chances easily and the match ended in draw but in this match we must capitalize on our opportunities.

"In my opinion, the winners are the team that are more disciplined and concentrated because it will be a very close match and there will not be many goalscoring chances," he added.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has announced that the World Cup qualifying match between Iran and Qatar, originally scheduled to take place at the Emam Reza Stadium in Mashhad, will be held in a neutral country but Team Melli coach believes that the decision is unfair.

"We are one of the safest countries in the world and I believe an unfair decision has been made but at the moment we want to concentrate on Uzbekistan match," Ghalenoei concluded.

### Uzbekistan star Urunov fit for Iran match

TEHRAN – Uzbekistan national football team star Oston Urunov will be fit for the match against Iran.

Urunov is scheduled to host Iran at the Bunyodkor Stadium in Tashkent on Thursday.

Urunov, the Persepolis midfielder, missed the match against Chadormalu last week due to foot injury but he is reportedly ready to play for Uzbekistan against Iran.

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

### Iran, Qatar likely to be held in Dubai

TEHRAN – Iran will likely host Qatar in Dubai in Group A of the 2026 World Cup qualifier.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has announced that the World Cup qualifying match between Iran and Qatar, originally scheduled to take place at the Emam Reza Stadium in Mashhad, Iran, should be held in a neutral country.

Now, the media reports suggest that the match will be held in Dubai, the UAE on Oct. 15.

Team Melli will meet Uzbekistan in Group A on Thursday at the Bunyodkor Stadium.



## Transit via Iran's roads rises 63% in H1 yr/yr



TEHRAN - The transit of commodities through the roads of Iran increased by 63 percent in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) compared to the previous year's corresponding period, according to the data released by the Transport and Urban Development Ministry.

According to the Transport Ministry data, some 9.3 million tons of goods were transited via Iran's roads in the mentioned six months which included 4.7 million tons of non-oil goods and 4.6 million tons of oil products, IRNA reported.

Shahid Rajaei port with 2.5 million tons and Parviz Khan border terminal with 2.4 million tons had the most incoming transit in the mentioned six months.

The continuous trend of recent transit records via the country and the increasing interest of governments, traders, and those active in transport sectors from neighboring, regional, and extra-regional countries in the transit and logistics situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate the fruitfulness of the transformational approach of the government to the strategic issue of transit, with emphasis on the development of all-round economic relations with neighbors.

As stated by former Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, the "Iran Way" initiative made by the current Iranian government, lets the neighboring countries use Iran as a route or a solution that facilitates their access to international waters.

Iran Way initiative is the gateway to Iran's

land of transit opportunities, the minister has underlined.

As previously announced by the Transport Ministry, 10.8 million tons of commodities were transited through the country in the Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20, 2023).

The issue of transit and playing a role in major programs such as those related to China's Belt and Road Initiative, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is one of the main priorities of the Transport Ministry in developing transport relations with regional and extra-regional target countries, the deputy transport minister has noted.

The policy of paying attention to neighbors and developing political and economic relations with neighboring countries in the current government, increasing attention to road and rail routes in the world, and the efforts and cooperation of transportation and trade-related organizations in establishing or activating corridors through the country has led to significant growth in transit of goods through Iran.

Iran is one of the countries with a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

Paying attention to upstream documents, especially the country's development plans, and the government's decision to develop transit, paying special attention to infrastructure development, reducing transit time, making it cheaper to cross Iran, and making more advantages over competitors, due to the short path for customers, can lead to facilitating the development of transit so that the country can reach the desired growth in this due.

## Renewable power plants capacity to be increased

TEHRAN - Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said the capacity of the country's renewable power plants is going to be increased by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025), IRIB reported.

Speaking at a meeting of the Parliament Energy Committee on Wednesday, Aliabadi

said that each renewable power plant with one kilowatt hour capacity (kWh) produces 1,800 kilowatt hours of electricity in a year.

The minister expressed hope that the country's power generation capacity will be increased by 6,000 MW by the end of the current Iranian year.

## Iran exports 77,000 tons of eggs in over 6 months

TEHRAN - Iran exported 77,000 tons of eggs to the target countries since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20) up to October 8, Mohammad Moradi, chairman of the board of directors of Mihan poultry union said.

According to Moradi, Iranian egg produc-

ers are expected to export over 135,000 tons of eggs to target countries by the end of the current Iranian year (late March 2025), IRNA reported.

The official said Iranian eggs are exported to various countries including Iraq, Afghanistan and some African countries.

## Monthly sales of industrial companies active in stock market up 13%

TEHRAN - The sales index of Iranian industrial companies active in the stock market has grown 13 percent in the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (August 22-September 21) as compared to the figure for the same month in the previous year.

Based on official data, the total sales of the mentioned companies (except for petro-

chemical companies) reached \$7.82 billion in the mentioned month, Tasnim News Agency reported.

As reported, the total sales of industrial companies active in the stock market stood at \$6.3 billion in the same month of the previous year.

## Electricity supplied to 7,500 nomadic households since late Mar.

TEHRAN - Iranian Energy Ministry has managed to supply electricity to 7,500 nomadic households in 20 provinces across the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), IRIB reported.

According to the Energy Ministry data, electricity has been supplied to 21,000 nomadic households over the past three years.

Currently over 99.8 percent of the country's rural population is supplied with electricity through the national power grid.

# Loading, unloading of goods in Iran's ports up 7% in H1

TEHRAN - The loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased by seven percent in the first six months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As the country's Transport and Urban Development Ministry reported, 81 million tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports in the first half of the current Iranian year while the figure was 76 million tons in the first half of the previous year, IRNA reported.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support for ports and their development serious and vital. Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

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

Ports and Maritime Organization has put it on the agenda to attract 300 trillion rials (about \$600 million) of investment from the private sector in the country's ports by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

As reported by the PMO portal, the mentioned investment is going to be used to develop the infrastruc-



ture and operational capacity of the country's ports.

Back in July, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei said over the past few years the organization has managed to attract nearly \$1.7 billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country's ports and maritime sector. Speaking in a press conference, Safaei said some 620 trillion rials (about \$124 billion) of domestic investment and \$470 million of foreign investment have been attracted in the mentioned sectors.

"The attraction of this amount of private sector investment is significant compared to the total budget of the government in the sea and port sectors," he said.

According to the official, regarding foreign investment, PMO has signed contracts with five countries including India which has so far invested \$120 million in the port sector and \$250 million in the rail, roads, and infrastructure sectors.

Referring to the growth of maritime trade in the country, Safaei continued: "Maritime trade increased from 215 million tons in [the Iranian calendar year] 1401 (2022-2023) to 237 million tons last year (ended on March 19, 2024)."

the ability to develop faster. In any country, having access to the sea is a great opportunity for progress and maintaining national interests," he said in his message.

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

He also emphasized the necessity for the country's scholars and think tanks to help the government realize its plans for developing the maritime sector. PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei also congratulated the World Maritime Day in a separate message.

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

## Capacity of thermal power plants to rise 16,000MW



TEHRAN - The new head of Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) said the electricity generation capacity in the country's thermal power plants is going to increase by 16,000 megawatts (MW) in order to reduce power supply and demand imbalance in the country.

Speaking in his introduction ceremony on Monday, Abolfazl Asgari said: "Development of power plants and increasing electricity generation will be the main goal of the TPPH during his tenure."

According to Asgari, currently 93 percent of the country's electricity is supplied by thermal power plants. In early May, the former head of TPPH said the country is the world's ninth-biggest producer of thermal electricity.

Mentioning an increase of 9,000 megawatts (MW) in the capacity of the country's thermal power plants over the past two years, Abdolrasoul Pishahang said thermal power plants currently account for 92 percent of Iran's total power production capacity. "Last year, 389 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity were produced in the country's power plants, and thermal power plants with the production of 360 billion kilowatt-hours supplied 92.5 percent of the country's electricity needs," Pishahang said.

Stating that last year more than 2,000 MW were added to the capacity of thermal power plants in the country, the official added: "The readiness factor of thermal power plants reached 98 percent during the peak period of last year, and we are trying to record a very good performance this year as well." Emphasizing that 50 percent of the country's power plants are domestically built, he said: "Currently, 95 percent of the equipment needed by the country's power plants is made by domestic experts, and by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2025), with the production of F-class turbine blades in the country, we will be completely self-sufficient in the field of manufacturing these types of turbines."

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

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."

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 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.



# Google backed Israel's military, now its workers are in revolt

It's early morning, and Zeldi Montes walks briskly through the crisp New York air as they head to Google's headquarters on Manhattan's 9th Avenue.

Montes, who self-identifies as they, fumbles with their ID card at the entrance, blending in with the steady stream of Googlers swiping through the security barriers as if it were just another day at the office.

Armed with an oversized tote bag, Montes pulls back their purple hair and heads to the 13th-floor canteen to order their usual: a dirty chai and an egg, avocado, and cheese sandwich with a bowl of raspberries. Their hands tremble slightly as they grip the coffee cup.

Locking eyes with two others, they get the signal that the coast is clear, head down to the entrance, and sit.

The three Googlers unfurl their banners and begin chanting to demand that Google do one thing: Drop Project Nimbus.

But this will be the last time they sit inside Google's New York office as Googlers, as Google itself refers to its own employees.

"Getting fired felt like a possibility but never a reality," remarked Montes, one of 50 employees fired by Google for staging a 10-hour sit-in at one of its American offices in April.

For the last three years, Montes has been one of several activists calling for Google to drop Project Nimbus, a partnership Google and Amazon have with the Israeli government reportedly worth \$1.2bn.

The partnership, which focuses on cloud computing, provides services to various branches of the Israeli government, including the defence ministry and the army.

Google, which has not responded to questions sent by MEE prior to the publication of this article, has insisted in previous statements that Nimbus "is not directed at highly sensitive, classified, or military workloads relevant to weapons or intelligence services".

Working secretly, some Googlers - past and present from around the world - have been actively trying to organize workers to pressure the company to drop Nimbus and reveal the extent of its involvement with the Israeli army.

And since Israel began its war on Gaza, following the 7 October Hamas-led attacks in southern Israel, which have killed more than 41,000 Palestinians in the besieged enclave, calls to drop Nimbus have intensified. Some employees have staged physical and virtual protests against the deal over fears that Google is enabling Israel to use their work, particularly involving artificial intelligence technologies, to further what many see as an unfolding genocide.

But some employees say they have been met with an intense crackdown from Google, which they say has denied claims by activists that its technology has been involved or played a role in Israel's brutal campaign in Gaza and ongoing occupation - deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice - of the West Bank.

The mass firings marked a turning point for the company as it grappled with an internal battle among its employees over the war in Gaza.

Middle East Eye has spoken to Googlers who work in the tech giant's offices in the US and parts of Europe. Many requested anonymity because of their concerns that they too could lose their jobs for speaking out publicly.

These workers, who work in various branches of the company, explained how they organized from within and how Google and



their colleagues tried to stop their activism by censoring them, firing them, and threatening some of them by turning the company into a "hostile work environment". Some still work for the company, while others have been fired or have left in protest.

Some who spoke to MEE have been organizing by themselves and with a group called No Tech for Apartheid - which has campaigned to end the Silicon Valley tech industry's complicity in what it describes as Israel's "ongoing ethnic cleansing of Gaza and the recent genocidal bombing of Gaza".

Google did not respond to Middle East Eye's repeated requests for comment.

Starting as an intern, Montes worked as a software engineer at Google for two years on YouTube Search and Learning.

"Working for Google was a means to an end to survive to pay for things like rent and food in New York," explains Montes.

"And I had colleagues who were understandably apprehensive about speaking out and worried about the consequences.

"But I didn't want to be complicated, and if it meant that Google was going to retaliate against me or allow for a bunch of harassment against me to persist, then so be it."

## Concerns ignored by Google

Montes, like many other colleagues in different parts of the company, started small by raising questions and concerns about whether Israel was using their work to wage its war on Gaza within their direct teams.

Early on, Montes, for example, joined other colleagues and used a YouTube town hall to question why Google was taking money from the Israeli government to run propaganda adverts, after the 7 October attacks, against the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the United Nations agency that provides support for Palestinian refugees.

At Google and its parent company, Alphabet, town hall or all-hands meetings are company-wide and typically run in a hybrid format, allowing in-person and virtual participation to accommodate the company's global workforce.

These sessions are presented as opportunities for employees to ask leadership direct questions, fostering open dialogue about key projects, policies, and concerns.

As a company, Google has sought to make a virtue of a culture of openness that encourages employees by enabling them to raise questions and share their interests at the workplace.

Yet, according to Googlers who spoke to MEE, Palestine seemed to be the company's exception.

Montes says their concerns over YouTube taking money from Israel to run "propaganda adverts" were

ignored by the YouTube leadership, prompting Montes and others to try other avenues.

"People would post questions during our all-hands meetings," recalled Montes. "Anytime we would bring up Project Nimbus in the internal chat or during all-hands meetings, the questions would get moderated out or avoided."

Similar concerns were raised by Googlers who work in the company's artificial intelligence division, also known as DeepMind, but staff said these were also ignored by the company.

Ten days after the 7 October attacks by Hamas into southern Israel, Google's CEO Sundar Pichai told his employees in an email that the company planned to donate \$8 million to support relief efforts in Israel and Gaza.

Pichai also used his email to condemn rising antisemitism and Islamophobia and acknowledged concerns around the rising death toll and humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Google is no stranger to political activism within its ranks. In previous years, the company has seen walkouts by Googlers over sexual harassment claims, hate speech and its contracts with the Chinese government.

In 2018, thousands of Google employees protested a Pentagon contract dubbed Project Maven that used the company's artificial intelligence technology to analyze drone surveillance footage.

The action led Google to cave into its employees' demands and not renew its contract with the Pentagon. However, Pichai did tell his workers that the company would continue bidding for defense contracts.

In 2021, Ariel Koren quit Google after the company tried to make her relocate her to Brazil after she raised concerns over Nimbus.

Following in the footsteps of Koren and others who came before them, Montes and workers in North America and Europe began flooding internal forums and creating discussions internally about Project Nimbus after Israel began its bombardment of Gaza.

These interventions took place virtually and physically on Google's campuses worldwide.

Googlers used internal forums and mail threads to virtually connect with like-minded fellow workers in the company's offices worldwide. These forums, which take the form of mailing lists and message boards, are often divided into shared interests, identities, or causes.

"These forums were the vessels through which everything would be organised at Google," explains Montes.

Montes and fellow activists would use these networks to raise awareness and discuss the company's involvement in Nimbus.

Like Montes, Alex Cheung was involved in No Tech for Apartheid and regularly participated in internal email threads such as Google's ethical forum to raise awareness about the project.

Both activists, as well as other Googlers who spoke to MEE, said they experienced internal censorship from Google's team of moderators who oversaw the message boards.

"Whenever the words genocide or apartheid would come up, the moderators would delete the comments straight away without any warning or lock the forums to prevent people engaging with it further," explained Cheung.

"It's like we didn't exist. Imagine the culture that is created when you are talking about a form of oppression and watching your employer delete it in real-time."

Sometimes the message boards would also be disrupted by pro-Israel staff. Some would post messages using the words genocide or apartheid in an effort to get discussion of these issues shut down, or warn other users that discussing Nimbus or Israel violated Google's policies and threaten to report participants to HR, accusing them of harassment and causing offence.

"It was so common to see message boards be shut down," explained Hasan, who is Syrian by descent and a former software developer for Google in New York.

"In the end, the managers said moderators banned the word genocide because it caused too much disruption internally - but it felt like just another form of intimidation that favored pro-Israeli voices."

One Googler who is Jewish told MEE that the Jewish Google group, also known as "Jewglers", would be "dominated by pro-Israeli voices who would organise against Jews who would bring up Nimbus and possible Israeli war crimes".

Despite assurances from Pichai that the company would take issues of Islamophobia seriously, when pro-Palestine Googlers faced intimidation from pro-Israel colleagues, the company, according to them, would ignore their concerns and not take any action.

"There was a culture of ignorance from management that turned a blind eye to the abuse we would get online and offline," said Hasan.

Last November, dozens of Palestinian and Muslim Googlers signed an open letter which accused Google of "turning a blind eye" after they said Palestinians had been called "animals" and accused of "supporting terrorism" on internal forums by fellow Googlers.

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

## Hezbollah halts Israeli infiltration attempts

Sirens sound across northern Israel



From page 1 ► The Lebanese resistance said on Wednesday it is targeting Israeli military sites and gatherings of Israeli infantry along the front line in northern Israel.

By Wednesday afternoon, Hezbollah said it targeted an Israeli force gathering in the settlement of Kiryat Shmona with a volley of rockets.

Israeli media reported that rocket fire from Lebanon left a number of Israelis dead in Kiryat Shmona. It is not clear if the incident was the same operation that was announced by Hezbollah.

Hezbollah said its fighters targeted another gathering of Israeli forces in the Kfar Giladi settlement with a volley of rockets and then targeted the same settlement again later in the afternoon with a larger volley.

Israeli forces were also targeted in the "Manara settlement with a volley of rockets".

On Tuesday night, news circulated that the IOF planted an Israeli flag in the Lebanese border village of Maroun al-Ras before removing the flag and retreating from the village under fire.

The incident has reportedly been filmed by a member of UNIFIL.

Hezbollah's Operations Room noted that its fighters are engaged in a "heroic battle that this enemy has not experienced in its previous wars," which has prompted it to

"hide behind UNIFIL forces' positions and in paths invisible to the Lebanese side."

The Operations Room emphasized that the IOF "has not succeeded in entering our steadfast villages thus far and is suffering heavy losses, revealing that these losses exceed 35 dead and 200 injured among elite officers and soldiers."

Meanwhile, Hezbollah continued to fire a series of rocket barrages on Wednesday targeting Haifa and expanding to other regions of northern Israel.

Experts say despite the assassination of its Secretary-General, political leaders, and commanders, Hezbollah is executing quite a remarkable military strategy.

Amid the tenth day of Israeli ground infiltration failures and a rise in the intensity and range of Hezbollah's missiles, it appears that the movement's command and control centers are intact.

There is growing concern among former Israeli politicians and generals that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet is blindly walking into a trap.

No Israelis have returned to the areas in the north that they left many months ago. Hezbollah has shown it is outmaneuvering the IOF on the ground, and the movement has hinted that its mission has switched toward displacing Israelis in Haifa.

## No limit to Israel's savagery

From page 1 ► For example, Israeli settlers destroyed on Wednesday about 70 olive trees in Husan village west of Bethlehem in the West Bank. Also, in the town of Sebastia, northwest of Nablus, Israeli soldiers attacked olive pickers and farmers, forcing them to leave their lands.

The West Bank settlers, whose number is about 700,000, have become more brutal since October 7 last year when Hamas at-

tacked southern Israel. These brutal settlers are under the influence of the far-right government of Benjamin Netanyahu, especially Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Somtrich, two warmonger ministers who are living in the lands occupied by Israel in 1967.

Israel has also turned against Lebanon. So far it has dislocated hundreds of thousands of people and unashamedly announced that it wants to turn Lebanon into another Gaza.

## Spanish PM condemns Israeli 'invasion' of Lebanon

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has said that Israel's ongoing assault on Lebanon constitutes an "invasion."

"It is clear that there has been an invasion by a third country of a sovereign state such as Lebanon, and therefore, the international community cannot remain indifferent," Sanchez told Parliament.

"We denounced (this situation) in Ukraine, we also denounce it in Gaza and now we are also denouncing the invasion of Lebanon," he added.

In July Sanchez deplored the West's "double standards" regarding the war on Gaza as he joined NATO leaders in supporting Ukraine.

## AIPAC has US politicians 'in a stranglehold'

Mohamad Elmasry, a professor of media studies at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, says that the US has enough leverage over Israel to control its policy in the region.

"It's more a situation of the US being unwilling to exercise its leverage," he told Al Jazeera.

Elmasry said that support for Israel is a "difficult calculation" for the US.

"On the one hand, the US long ago married

itself to Israel for strategic reasons - the US wants a strong ally in the Middle East," he said, adding that US politicians have to contend with the power of the pro-Israel lobby, AIPAC.

"They have US politics in a stranglehold and they are able to wield a lot of influence over individual politicians ... there's no politician that wants to draw the ire of AIPAC," he said.

"There is no indication at this point that the US is going to change course."



## Over 4,000 ancient clay seals discovered in western Iran



TEHRAN - Archaeologists have unearthed more than 4,000 clay seals, which are estimated to be around 5,000 years old, in Kermanshah province, western Iran.

"Over 4,000 clay seals dating some 5,000 years have been discovered at Tappeh Teleneh of the Kuzaran region, which was first identified as an archaeological site in 1998," the provincial tourism chief Dariush Farmani said on Wednesday.

As mentioned by the official, this discovery sheds new light on ancient trade practices in western Iran and offers valuable insights into the region's early administrative and commercial systems.

Tappeh Teleneh was later added to Iran's national heritage list in 2003. Later, studies conducted in 2020 prompted a series of archaeological excavations at the site, revealing traces of clay seals, the official said.

"The seals found during the first season of excavations point to extensive commercial exchanges in the ancient world," Farmani

said, highlighting the historical importance of the discovery.

Among the artifacts recovered, many of the clay seals appear to have been used to secure warehouse doors, indicating that they played a role in managing goods and trade.

Farmani further noted that the seals are evidence of organized trade systems dating back 5,000 years. He emphasized the importance of the discovery by comparing it to other ancient capitals, stating that the number of seals found at Tappeh Teleneh surpasses those unearthed in many other prominent archaeological sites across Iran.

Another noteworthy find during the excavations was a set of counting objects, dating back to the same period, which suggests the early development of numerical systems—potentially a precursor to written language.

Given the scale and significance of the findings, the department has prioritized further excavation at the site. The second season of archaeological work is set to commence with substantial funding already allocated.

Kermanshah, formerly Bakhtaran, the capital of Kermanshah province, was founded in the 4th century CE by Bahram IV of the Sasanian dynasty. Conquered by the Arabs in 640, the town was called Qirmasin (Qirmashin). Under the Seljuk rule in the 11th century, it was the chief town of Kordestan. The Safavids (ruled 1501-1736) fortified the town, and the Qajars repulsed an attack by the Turks during Fath Ali Shah's rule (1797-1834). Occupied by the Turkish army in 1915 during World War I, it was evacuated in 1917. The construction of a road in the 1950s over the age-old Khorasan track added considerably to the importance of the city.

## World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism heads to Bahrain to focus on economic diversification and inclusion

The 9th UN Tourism World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism will take place in Manama, Bahrain, on 18-19 November, with the theme "Gastronomy Tourism: A Driver of Economic Diversification and Inclusion."

This marks the first time the Forum will be held in the Middle East. Bringing together global leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and renowned chefs, the event will emphasize the transformative power of gastronomy tourism in advancing economic resilience, inclusivity, sustainability, and building a strong image for destinations.

Co-organized with the Basque Culinary Center (BCC) and hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, discussions will feature Ministers of Tourism from around the world and from the Middle East. Joining them will be award-winning chefs, such as Chef Alejandra Espinoza of Somos Restaurant (Ecuador), and Chef Ru-

dolf Stefan of Konoba Pelegrini (Croatia). Key participation will include Tim Brooke-Webb, Managing Director of 50 Best, empowering chefs worldwide, and fostering a global dialogue that elevates gastronomy as a fundamental cultural, economic, and creative force.

The forum will highlight key initiatives that emphasize product quality and origins, such as Jordan's "From Farm to Fork" initiative, an example of sustainable culinary tourism, and the Collège Culinaire de France, recognized for promoting quality dining and supporting artisans committed to preserving traditional savoir-faire. The event will also showcase Grupo Sagardi from Spain, a leading hospitality group that builds on gastronomic roots to offer authentic, high-quality culinary experiences.

(Source: UN Tourism)

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Island of Gorée

Island of Gorée lies off the coast of Senegal, opposite Dakar. It was the largest slave-trading centre on the African coast from the 15th to the 19th century.

The UNESCO-designated property testifies to an unprecedented human experience in the history of humanity.

Indeed, for the universal conscience, this "memory island" is the symbol of the slave trade with its cortege of suffering, tears and death.

The painful memories of the Atlantic slave trade are crystallized in this small island of 28 hectares lying 3.5 km off the coast from Dakar. Gorée owes its singular destiny to the extreme centrality of its geographical position between the North and the South, and to its excellent strategic position offering a safe haven for anchoring ships, hence the name "Good Rade".

Thus, since the 15th century it has been prized by various European nations that have successively used it as a stopover or slave market.

First terminus of the "homeoducs" who

drained the slaves from the hinterland, Gorée was at the centre of the rivalry between European nations for control of the slave trade. Until the abolition of the trade in the French colonies, the Island was a warehouse consisting of over a dozen slave houses.

Amongst the tangible elements that reflect Gorée's universal value are, notably, the Castle, a rocky plateau covered with fortifications which dominate the Island; the Relais de l'Espadon, former residence of the French governor; etc...

The Island of Gorée is now a pilgrimage destination for the African diaspora, a foyer for contact between the West and Africa, and a space for exchange and dialogue between cultures through the confrontation of ideals of reconciliation and forgiveness.

Listed as a historic site by the colonial administration in 1944, with specific safeguarding measures, Gorée has recorded no major construction since then that might adversely affect the authenticity of the site, the major components of which have remained almost intact.

# Qeshm Island prepares for major tourism conference

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - Qeshm Island is set to organize a national tourism conference aimed at highlighting its rich cultural heritage and natural attractions, positioning itself as a key destination in the Persian Gulf.

"Qeshm will be hosting the Hamsengar National Conference of the Tourism Industry of Qeshm Island from October 17 to 18 to promote tourism and its cultural, and natural attractions," Edris Ramouz, deputy for cultural, social, and tourism affairs of the Qeshm Free Zone Organization, said on Wednesday.

He made the remarks at a press conference held in Tehran, in which he and several other officials discussed the event's objectives and the latest developments in Qeshm's tourism industry, including plans for new maritime routes and investment opportunities.

Ramouz, for his part, emphasized the island's rich cultural and historical background, highlighting its long-standing interactions with neighboring countries.

"Tourism is a vital tool for cultural diplomacy," Ramouz said. "Through this conference, we aim to strengthen cultural ties with other nations and showcase the infrastructure and investment opportunities on Qeshm Island."

He also noted that the event will feature several panels focusing on the island's investment potential, tourism growth, and cultural exchange.

According to Ramouz, the term "Hamsengar" reflects the themes of unity and collaboration that the conference seeks to promote, particularly among peaceful nations.

One of the key announcements made at the press conference was the upcoming launch of a maritime route between Qeshm, Bandar Kong, and Oman, facilitating the exchange of tourists and promoting regional cooperation.

Ramouz confirmed that talks



with Oman's ambassador have progressed, paving the way for the new sea route.

In addition to the conference, a tourism exhibition will run alongside the event, where attendees will learn about Qeshm's rich cultural assets, including the traditional craft of shipbuilding, which has been a symbol of interaction between Qeshm and its neighboring countries for centuries.

Ambassadors from countries including the UAE, Qatar, China, Tanzania, Portugal, and Belarus are expected to attend, along with key players from the tourism industry.

The conference also aims to address the island's tourism infrastructure, with a particular focus on the limited number of hotel accommodations.

Mohammad Rezvani, the head of Qeshm's Hotel Association, noted that the island welcomed approximately four million tourists last year but has only 9,500 beds available.

"Plans are in place to expand capacity, especially during peak tourism seasons," he said.

Another speaker at the event, Mohammad Farzad Mirzaei Qaleh, deputy of tourism for the free zones secretariat, noted that last

year, 65 million domestic tourists and six million foreign tourists visited Iran, with two million of them traveling through the country's free zones, including Qeshm.

Environmental sustainability will also be a priority at the conference, with plans to assess the tourism capacity of free zones to ensure that the influx of visitors does not harm the environment.

According to organizers, the Hamsengar Conference is expected to be a major platform for Qeshm Island to promote its cultural heritage and tourism potential, strengthening its role as a gateway for regional and international tourism cooperation.

Qeshm has witnessed a significant rise in tourism, as some 1.6 million visitors flocked to the island during the very first four months of this Persian year (started on March 20), a local tourism official said earlier this year.

"Qeshm Island has welcomed some 1,660,251 tourists during the first four months of this year," Ebrahim Rostam-Gorani brought to light, adding that these tourists arrived on the island through three main routes: by sea, air, and land.

"This marks a significant in-

crease compared to the same period last year, when 1,499,065 tourists visited Qeshm," he further elaborated. "The data shows an increase of 161,186 tourists, representing a 10 percent rise in visitor numbers compared to the previous year."

Qeshm Island, the largest island in the Persian Gulf, is a jewel of southern Iran known for its stunning natural landscapes and rich cultural heritage.

Spanning over 1,400 square kilometers, Qeshm is famous for its diverse ecosystems, including vast mangrove forests, salt caves, and unique geological formations. The island boasts numerous tourist attractions such as the world's longest salt cave, the enchanting Valley of Stars, and pristine beaches.

Qeshm is also home to traditional villages, historic sites, and vibrant local markets, making it a fascinating destination for both nature lovers and cultural enthusiasts. As a designated UNESCO Global Geopark, Qeshm Island plays a significant role in promoting sustainable tourism in the region.

The island's unique blend of natural and cultural attractions makes it a compelling destination for tourists seeking both adventure and tranquility.

## 550 new accommodation centers under construction across Iran

TEHRAN - Jamshid Hamzehzadeh, the head of Iran's Hotel Association, has announced that 550 accommodation centers, including one- to five-star hotels, boutique hotels, and eco-lodges, are currently under construction across the country.

The total investment for these projects amounts to 5,700 trillion rials (some \$9.5 billion), the official said.

He made these remarks in relation to a recent pledge made by the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, who mentioned the goal of building 100 new hotels each year.

"The construction of 550 accommodation centers is already underway, representing a significant development in Iran's hospitality sector," he said.

The majority of these projects are located in Khorasan Razavi province, while provinces such as Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari have the fewest under construction, he said.

## Teymareh petroglyphs on view at Iran Stone Expo



TEHRAN - A selection of the historical petroglyphs of Teymareh, a site renowned for its rich collection of rock carvings, has been put on show at the 16th Iran Stone Expo.

According to organizers, the event, which is the largest stone

exhibition in Iran, brings together leading figures in the stone industry, including miners from 22 provinces, as well as some diplomats, traders, and business delegations from various countries.

Mehdi Lalbar, head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Office in Mahallat, announced the inclusion of Teymareh's petroglyphs in the exhibition, with a dedicated booth showcasing both original and replica carvings from the Teymareh region of Khomein.

"These petroglyphs, some of which are more than 40,000

years old, offer a unique glimpse into the ancient history and art of the region," Lalbar said.

He emphasized the significance of these carvings in attracting tourists and showcasing the cultural heritage of Teymareh, a site spanning Markazi, Isfahan, and Lorestan provinces.

The Teymareh petroglyphs feature intricate depictions of human and animal life, chronicling the evolution of human civilization over millennia. With over 21,000 rock carvings discovered in the area, they are among the most important archaeological

finds in Iran.

The Iran Stone Expo, which serves as a major platform for the stone industry, continues until October 11. It is expected to draw large crowds, including international visitors, eager to explore both Iran's natural stone resources and its deep-rooted cultural heritage.

Held in Nimvar, a city in Mahallat county, this year's exhibition highlights the fusion of history, culture, and industry, with the Teymareh petroglyphs serving as a powerful reminder of Iran's ancient past.



# IRCS head, UN resident coordinator discuss ways to speed up aid delivery to Lebanon

TEHRAN –The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Pirhossein Kolivand, and the UN Resident Coordinator of Iran, Stefan Priesner, held talks on Wednesday about the tragic situation in Lebanon and ways to speed up aid delivery to people impacted by war.

During the meeting, Kolivand condemned the brutal attacks of the Zionist regime on Gaza and Lebanon, the IRCS website reported.

Referring to Israeli crimes, including targeting civilian areas, killing civilians, and attacking ambulances and rescue forces, hospitals, and health centers, the official warned about the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Lebanon and the possibility of genocide.

He called for the immediate intervention of the United Nations to bring an end to the attacks.

Kolivand also presented a report on the shipment of humanitarian aid by the Iranian Red Crescent Society to Lebanon.

Highlighting the urgent need of the Lebanese for medicine, medical equipment, food and essential items, Kolivand announced the IRCS readiness to dispatch more shipments of humanitarian aid. He also stressed the need for active participation and cooperation of the United Nations in the field.

Priesner, for his part, commended the efforts and humanitarian assistance of the IRCS to the people of Lebanon.

He regretted the unfortunate events in Lebanon, pointing out that more than 600,000 people have become homeless as a result of these attacks.

The official highlighted the need to send cash and non-cash aid to affected Lebanese.

Moreover, he regretted the



death of 230 staff members of the UN agency in Gaza and two staff members of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Lebanon.

The official underscored the importance of ensuring the safety of aid workers in these areas.

## IRCS, ICRC, IFRC to help Lebanese people

Kolivand in a meeting on Monday with Faisal Mahboob, the project manager of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and Vincent Cassard, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran, underscored the need for ceasefire in Lebanon and opening a safe way to help the war victims.

Since September 23, the Israeli army has been launching an unprecedented, intensive air attack on Lebanon.

Referring to the conducted meetings with the officials of the Lebanese Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the official said, "Our efforts are directed towards supporting the people affected by war in Gaza and Lebanon," the IRCS website reported.

Clearly, residential areas in Lebanon are being targeted by Israel while delivering aid is not allowed, he noted.

They practically do not let medical centers operate; the Zionist regime has targeted 11 paramedics in the past 72 hours, as well as the ambulances and rescue teams of the Lebanese Red Cross which has caused challenging situations.

Many are trapped under rubble while Israel has restricted search and rescue, displaced Lebanese are forced to go to Syria, but they are targeted in the border areas, Kolivand added.

ICRC and IFRC must condemn these attacks, take practical actions, and stand against Israel hindering rescue efforts.

Lebanese people are subject to genocide, blockade, and hindrance of humanitarian aid, serious action must be taken before Lebanon turns into another Gaza.

Many essential items including food, medicines, and medical tools should be sent to Lebanon and the ICRC should find a way to settle war refugees.

Protecting civilians, preventing violations of international humanitarian law, dispatching humanitarian aid, negotiating to stop the war, communicating with the international community, helping immigrants, opening a safe route for delivering assistance, and transferring those injured to safe places should be

put on agenda.

ICRC and IFRC should provide health services and treatment to wounded and displaced individuals, educate them about infectious diseases.

They should also provide mental and psychological support to conflict-affected individuals to increase resilience, and create coordination between the members of the IFRC and the IRCS present in the region.

Cassard, for his part, lauded the IRCS timely presence in Lebanon as well as its efforts saying that the society has provided a lot of help to Lebanese so far.

ICRC has long been in Lebanon making its best effort to provide help in emergencies and humanitarian crisis, said Cassard.

Negotiations to resolve conflicts are on the agenda and we are trying to alleviate the suffering of the conflict-affected Lebanese, he added.

During the meeting, Mehboob also commended the IRCS services and assistance provided to the people of Lebanon.

The official said the Federation issued an international call last year to receive more contributions.

The collected money during the period amounted 200 million Swiss francs, which is allocated to Lebanon, Syria and Gaza.

Currently, red alert has been issued in Lebanon and providing humanitarian assistance to Lebanon is on the agenda.

Mahboob pointed out that the situation in Lebanon is dire and all facilities have been mobilized to help the people of the country.

IFRC and IRCS will enhance cooperation to increase assistance to the Lebanese war victims. However, it requires an international effort and an immediate ceasefire is essential.

## Ilam hosting migratory birds

TEHRAN –Every year, wetlands and habitats in Ilam province, in the west of Iran, welcome a large number of migratory birds.

Lake Kangir, Seymareh River and Dam, Chardavol River, and Karkheh Dam are among the most important habitats of wintering migratory birds in the province, IRNA reported.

The birds fly from the northern and cold regions of the world such as Siberia to spend the winter in Ilam.

Important and endangered species such as bustards, Coraciidae, coots, herons, cormorants, and different kinds of geese, storks, and ducks are among the migratory birds.

Every year in autumn and winter, an average of 30 to 70 species (their number changes every year depending on weather conditions) of wintering birds migrate here.

Many of these birds stay for a short time to rest and refuel. After a few days, they continue their long journey to other lands, while many others are winter residents, remaining in the province up to the spring.

Before the arrival of the birds, the wetlands and their habitats are monitored. With the presence of the birds, the monitoring and observation of these places even increases to prevent hunting of the birds.

In order to prevent the spread of acute bird flu viral disease, joint patrols are conducted by different government bodies like the department of environment, veterinary medicine organization and the health centers in the area.

### Iran is main wintering habitat in West Asia

Iran is the most important country in West Asia in terms of housing migratory birds in winter as around two million birds fly each year to spend winter in the country's wetlands, according to an official with the Department of Environment (DOE).

Encompassing numerous wetlands, reservoirs, and diverse water bodies, Iran welcomes millions of migratory birds every year.

The country has also emerged as the most important stopover for migratory birds in their flight route from Siberia to the Nile as sixteen percent of them select to spend the winter in the country, ISNA quoted Hassan Akbari as saying.

He made the remarks on the occasion of World Migratory Bird Day which is celebrated on May 11 to raise awareness about the importance of migratory birds and the need to

protect them.

A diverse array of migratory birds fly to the country, with more than 160 species of aqua and waterside birds identified in Iran which is a significant number.

Despite limited water resources in the domestic habitats of the country, the study of the migratory bird population trend shows that the abundance and diversity of the birds that enter the country have not decreased. Majority of them have flown to the coastal areas of the Caspian and the Persian Gulf, though.

Iran hosts more than five percent of the world's migratory birds in 450 sites in winter, Akbari said.

"Every year some 30 to 40 million birds are counted all over the world and the related statistics are recorded in the International Waterfowl Census (IWC) database," he added.

Iran joined the international census of wintering water birds as the first West Asian country at the same time as European countries in 1976.

In the early years, the counting of water birds was limited to the species that could be hunted including swans, geese, ducks, and common terns. Since 1987, other aquatic birds have been added to the list.

Pointing out that in the past 6 decades, the counting of wintering water birds in Iran has been a priority of the Department of Environment, he added, "Thanks to favorable geographical conditions, climatic diversity, wetlands, and aquatic habitats, including the Caspian Sea in the north, the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea in the south, Iran hosts millions of migratory and wintering water birds yearly."

The annual census for migratory birds in Iran begins in the middle of the Iranian calendar month of Dey (December 22-January 20) and ends in the middle of the month of Bahman (January 21-February 19) in more than 450 sites in 30 provinces with the help of headquarters, provincial experts and professional birdwatchers of non-governmental organizations.

In the last three decades, over 8.1 million birds were counted on average, which is about five percent of the world's population of migratory birds and more than 16 percent of the population of migrant birds taking the route from Siberia to the Nile.

## Iran observing mental health week

TEHRAN –Mental health week kicked off on Wednesday, October 9, and will conclude on October 15.

This year, it is marked under the theme of 'today's priority; mental health in the workplace'.

The days of the week are named as follows.

Wednesday, October 9, 'motivation, hope, and productivity in the workplace'.

Thursday, October 10, 'emotion regulation and its role in healthy interactions in the workplace'.

Friday, October 11, 'mental health in the workplace lays the basis for mental health of family members'.

Saturday, October 12, 'laying the ground for community-based mental health in the workplace'.

Sunday, October 13, 'early detection of mental health disorders, early intervention, increase in efficiency'.

Monday, October 14, 'realizing social responsibility goals of large industrial projects with mental health'.

Tuesday, October 15, 'retirement adaptation and mental health'.

World Mental Health Day is observed annually on October 10, highlighting the impact of the workplace on mental health.

The World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) announced the theme for World Mental Health Day 2024, 'Mental Health at Work'.

One of the key messages of the day is that a supportive work environment fosters mental health, providing purpose and stability, in other word, safe, healthy working envi-



ronments can act as a protective factor for mental health.

However, poor working conditions can harm mental well-being, reducing both job satisfaction and productivity. Unhealthy conditions including stigma, discrimination, and exposure to risks like harassment and other poor working conditions, can pose significant risks, affecting mental health, overall quality of life and consequently participation or productivity at work.

It is essential for governments, employers, the organizations which represent workers and employers, and other stakeholders responsible for workers' health and safety to work together to improve mental health at work.

Action to address mental health at work should be done with the meaningful involvement of workers and their representatives, and persons with lived experience of mental health conditions.

By investing efforts and resources in evidence-based approaches and interventions at work, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive at work and in life.

## Knowledge-based firms attending Istanbul technology expo

TEHRAN –Iranian knowledge-based companies are participating in the 28th international information technology, new technologies, cyber safety and security exhibition, known as ISAF, in Istanbul, Turkey.

The exhibition kicked off on October 9 and will run till October 12, IRNA quoted.

Supported by the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, 14 knowledge-based firms are showcasing their latest capabilities and achievements in new technologies, information technology, and cyber security.

ISAF Exhibition used to be held so as to cover 5 main exhibitions for many years. However, as of 2024, all of these 5 exhibitions will be held as one with the main brand of ISAF INTERNATIONAL.

The event is covering following sectors: Security, Electronic Security; Homeland



Security, National Security; Cyber Security; Information Security and the increasing requirement; Smart Buildings, Smart Life, Smart cities; and the use of technology in the fields of Fire, Fire Safety, and Occupational Health and Safety.

### Notable growth in knowledge-based companies

The significant and fast-paced growth in

the number of knowledge-based companies with over 200 percent increase in their number just over the past year (March 2023 – March 2024), shows the solid foundation, dynamism, and growth of the country in innovation and technology and the productive atmosphere which have been made available in line with the goal of boosting domestic production with public participation.

The current administration underscores the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge-based companies. The number of companies, which was around 5,000 before the current administration took office in August 2021, has now reached 10,000 with a total value of two billion dollars.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Over 950 earthquakes rattle Iran in a month

TEHRAN –Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran, recorded more than 950 earthquakes across the country over the past calendar month Ordibehesht (April 21-May 21).

Two earthquakes of more than 4 on the Richter scale have been recorded in the country by the National Seismological Center, the largest of which occurred on May 17, with a magnitude of 5.5 near Sankhast in northeastern North Khorasan province, which left 25 injured.

Statistically, 883 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, and 64 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4, also, 8 quakes with magnitudes 4-5 have occurred.

Also, 3 earthquakes with magnitudes 5-6 shook the country.

## ثبت بیش از ۹۵۰ زمین لرزه در اردیبهشت ماه

شبکه‌های لرزه‌نگاری مرکز لرزه‌نگاری کشوری وابسته به موسسه ژئوفیزیک دانشگاه تهران در اردیبهشت‌ماه ۱۴۰۰ تعداد ۹۵۸ زمین لرزه را ثبت کردند. این زمین لرزه‌ها در نواحی مختلف ایران و نواحی مرزی رخ داده و توسط شبکه‌های لرزه‌نگاری ثبت و تعیین محل شده‌اند. در اردیبهشت‌ماه ۱۴۰۰ تعداد ۱۱ زمین لرزه با بزرگی بیش از ۴ در داخل کشور توسط مرکز لرزه‌نگاری کشوری به ثبت رسیده است که بزرگ‌ترین آن‌ها در تاریخ ۱۴۰۰/۰۲/۲۷ با بزرگی ۵/۵ حوالی سنخواست واقع در استان خراسان شمالی، رخ داده‌است. از لحاظ آماری ۸۸۳ زمین لرزه با بزرگی کوچکتر از ۳، تعداد ۶۴ زمین لرزه با بزرگی بین ۳ و ۴، تعداد ۸ زمین لرزه با بزرگی بین ۴ و ۵ و تعداد ۳ زمین لرزه با بزرگی بین ۵ و ۶ بوده‌است.





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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
Email: info@tehrantimes.com  
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
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## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*When few blessings come in your way do not drive them away through thanklessness.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:53 Dawn: 4:44 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:08 (tomorrow)

## Exhibition by Palestinian artist Dina Mimi underway in Kyiv

Palestinian artist Dina Mimi is currently exhibiting her newly commissioned work at the Future Generation Art Prize exhibition in Kyiv, Ukraine, at the Pinchuk Art Center. The exhibition showcases the work of 21 artists, and will be running until January 19 next year.

A compelling voice in the contemporary art scene, Mimi's work incorporates video, sound, performance and text to investigate the physicality of resistance in Palestine, the Middle East Monitor reported.

Throughout the exhibition, one can see the exploration of local histories and mythologies to overcome historical trauma and the long-lasting effects of wars, as well as the process of liberation from the oppression of colonial influence.

One aspect of this 2024 edition is the sensitivity to the inner ties that unite families and communities, and their exploration of collective actions for solidarity and healing from loss.

Mimi's work in the exhibition consists of a 13-minute video, packed with multiple references, one being the relationship between South Africa and Palestine and their exchange of gifts. "What struck me was that the statue of Nelson Mandela that we have in Ramallah, gifted by the people and government of South Africa around 2015," she said.

Her observations spurred a series of reflections for the artist about how both objects and people get in and out of Palestine, given the occupation.

One of her most recent video works from 2023, "The Melancholy of this Useless Afternoon," consists of a two-part video, researching the delicate relationship between the fugitive and the smuggler. Both fugitive and smuggler share gestures of hiding by outsmarting the surveillance gaze.

"Sound was a key element in the video," the artist pointed out.

She mingled bird songs with several liberation songs from Oman, Yemen and Palestine.

Born in Jerusalem in 1994, Dina Mimi's first approach to art was through cinema. However, during her master's degree in Switzerland, she ended up developing the performance and video side of her work.

Despite versatility in terms of mediums, a common trait for the artist has always been her love of storytelling.

This is exemplified by Mimi's first video work, "In order to talk with the dead," which represented a stepping stone into the set of reflections that led to the creation of her work for the Future Generation Art Prize.

The artist confessed that she feels uncomfortable performing in Europe, because of the expectations towards her as a Palestinian. "I felt a sense of piety coming from the institution and the audience" she recounts. "I'm not interested in your tears, you know."

"It feels bizarre. With the ongoing genocide back home, I only wish that everything will shut down and everyone will join the global protest against genocide instead."

Like many Palestinian artists, she has been blocked creatively since 7 October last year, and the work for the prize was the first she was able to put together.

If the art world must go on despite war, at least artists should speak about something that really matters.

"We encountered numerous emancipatory voices of women artists, stories and practices from those who have been historically oppressed or marginalized in different parts of the world but are now finding their footing," said Inga Läce, the o-curator of the Future Art Prize exhibition.

"These conversations naturally led us to question how, in moments of political deadlock, hope can emerge, and how movements can form, bringing bodies and energy towards hope, resistance, and ultimately, liberation."

## Cartoon of Day



One Year of Genocide

Cartoonist: José Alberto Rodríguez Avila from Cuba

# Exhibition of children's paintings on "Family Customs of Iran and China" opens in Tehran

TEHRAN-The Second National Festival of Children and Adolescents' Painting organized by the Embassy of People's Republic of China and the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) from Iran concluded on Tuesday and an exhibition of the selected artworks was inaugurated at the Ghadir Hall of the IIDCYA in Tehran.

Titled "Family Customs of Iran and China," the festival received 693 paintings by Iranian and Chinese children and young adults, among which, 24 works were selected as the winners, ISNA reported.

The event featured a performance by storyteller Elham Darabi and opening remarks by Farhad Fallah, the Deputy Director of the IIDCYA.

Fallah highlighted that the event is held concurrent with the National Children's Week, and referred to this year's theme being "For Children, For the Future". He recalled that the origins of the Iran-China painting festival date back to the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

The first edition of the festival took place last year, following the idea of a joint cultural event between the two nations.



Director of the IIDCYA Hamed Alamedi (L) and Chinese Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu cut the ribbon at the launch of the exhibition of selected works at the IIDCYA in Tehran on October 8.

Fallah also mentioned that the topic of the first exhibition was "The Land of Legends," which engaged young artists and enhanced cultural diplomacy efforts. He expressed hope that future festivals would continue to strengthen the bond between Iranian and Chinese children.

Also speaking at the event, Chinese Ambassador to Iran Cong

Peiwu expressed his delight in attending the ceremony and congratulated the winners.

He emphasized the longstanding friendship between China and Iran, noting that events like this festival help build mutual understanding between the two nations.

Hamed Alamedi, the director of the IIDCYA, also stressed that

children investing in children's future is key to building strong ties between the two nations. He proposed that the next festival could focus on the Silk Road, a symbol of cultural exchange.

The exhibition showcasing the selected works will run until October 21 at the IIDCYA in Tehran.

## Mahmoud Kalari serving on jury of International Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival

TEHRAN-The 61st International Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival is underway in Turkey while the Iranian cinematographer, screenwriter, film director, and photographer Mahmoud Kalari is serving as a juror.

One of the five jurors in the International Feature Film Competition category, he will evaluate the 12 movies competing in the section, ISNA reported.

Kalari, 73, has worked with number of renowned Iranian directors such as Abbas Kiarostami and Asghar Farhadi.

He is known for his cinematography on Oscar winning film "A Separation" by Asghar Farhadi, also "The Past" by Farhadi, "Shirin" by Abbas Kiarostami, and "Fish & Cat" by Shahram Mokri.

He completed photography courses in the U.S. In 1980, he was ranked one of the "15 Best Photographers of the Year" by Time Magazine,

and his photos were published in French, German, and American magazines.

He started film career in 1984 as a cinematographer and since then has shot more than 65 films. His works have attended various festivals across the globe and won him many awards. He has also directed three movies and served as a jury member in several national and international events.

At this year's edition of the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, one film from Iran, "Endless Borders" directed by Abbas Amini, is participating in the International Feature Film Competition of the festival.

A joint production of Iran, Germany, and the Czech Republic, it is a political thriller that happens at the time when the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan reignited the fire of ethnic and tribal wars.

In the movie, the Hazara Afghans, who are under immediate threat from the Taliban, enter Iran illegally. Ahmad is an exiled Iranian teacher in a poor village of Iran close to the Afghan border. When he gets acquainted with a Hazara family, he sees the real face of prejudice and dogmatism in the region. He decides to save a young forbidden love but that decision can have dire consequences for everyone. The film won the VPRO Big Screen Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam in the Netherlands and the Golden Apricot at the Regional Panorama section of the 20th Yerevan Golden Apricot International Film Festival last year.

Held annually since 1963, the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival is the second most important national film festival in Turkey. This year's edition of the festival was launched on October 5 and will run until October 12.

## Sahne-ye Abi to host reading performances of "Who's Mr. Schmitt?"

TEHRAN- Sahne-ye Abi Cultural and Artistic Center in Tehran will be playing host to reading performances of French writer and actor Sebastien Thiery's play "Who's Mr. Schmitt?" (Qui est Monsieur Schmitt?).

The performances will take place on Thursday and Friday and will be directed by Alireza Aboutalebi.

The cast will include Noura Moqaddam, Viona Mohebbi, Arash Jafari, Sanjar Zare, Arman Jalilpour and Diana Khodadad.

In the comedic play "Who's Mr. Schmitt?", Mr. and Mrs. Belier are enjoying an uneventful dinner in their dining room when their evening is abruptly interrupted by the ringing of a phone. To their astonishment, they realize that they have no active phone service.

The caller, however, is persistent, requesting to speak with a certain Mr. Schmitt. As the couple grapples with this bewildering situation, they make an even stranger discovery:

the decor of their apartment has inexplicably changed. The artwork on the walls, the books lining their shelves, and even the clothing scattered around do not belong to them.

This unsettling revelation leads Mr. and Mrs. Belier to consider the possibility that they might have accidentally assumed the identities of Mr. and Mrs. Schmitt, yet they remain oblivious to this mysterious transformation.

The play masterfully blends elements of confusion and absurdity, creating a whirlwind of humor as the Belier couple navigates this surreal predicament. Amid the chaos, they must confront the implications of their unexpected identity crisis and the consequences of their situation.

"Who's Mr. Schmitt?" has captivated audiences with its sharp wit and vibrant humor, earning a notable reputation in Paris theater. Its clever writing and engaging plot have resonated with viewers,

leading to its nomination for the Best Comedy at the Molières in 2010. The play's compelling exploration of identity, perception, and the absurdity of everyday life invites audiences to reflect on the nature of self and belonging, all while delivering laughs through its outrageous scenarios and outlandish developments. Ultimately, the Belier's hilarious journey keeps audiences on the edge of their seats, wondering how far the chaos will unfold and whether they will ever uncover the truth behind Mr. Schmitt.

Sebastien Thiery trained at the Cours Florent and the Conservatoire Supérieur d'Art Dramatique in Paris before appearing in films directed by notable filmmakers like Bertrand Tavernier, Gerard Jugnot, and Alain Chabat, as well as in TV films by Josee Dayan and Laurent Heynemann.

At 30, he began writing for the theater, debuting with "Sans ascenseur," directed by Jean-Michel

Ribes at the Théâtre du Rond-Point in 2005. He often performs in his own works, including "La Fâche," also at the Rond-Point, and "Dieu habite Düsseldorf" in 2006 at the Théâtre des Mathurins.

Thiery has written around 300 episodes for the Canal+ series "Chez maman," where he also acts, alongside his hidden camera project "La Vie de Sebastien Thiery."

In 2007, he returned to theater with "Piggy Bank," which won the Prix Barrière and two Molières in 2009. His play "Who's Mr. Schmitt?" premiered in 2009, directed by José Paul.

He continued to work in various theater productions, including "Falling from the trees" in 2012 and "L'Origine du Monde" in 2013. His recent works include "Two Stark Naked Men" in 2014, "Momo" in 2015, "Ramses II" and "Eight Euros An Hour" in 2017, and "Demain la revanche" and "Video Club" in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

## "Seven Cities of Love" project continues with mugham concert in Tehran

TEHRAN- The Vahdat Hall in Tehran hosted a mugham music concert on Wednesday.

Vocalist Nasser Atapur took the spotlight, joined by the "Mugham" group, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

This concert represented the third installment of the acclaimed "Seven Cities of Love" project, which aimed to captivate audiences in both Tehran and Tabriz.

The previous two installments of the project took place in March and February in Tehran and Tabriz, while the inaugural concert was held

last October.

Joining Nasser Atapur on stage was an array of singers, including Pedram Ranjbar, Vahdat Rahimi, Jafar Noei, Masoud Bahman-Nia, Ali Rashidi, and Mohammad Saadati. Additionally, the choir featured members Adeleh Bolandi, Elmira Danandeh, Ashqin Emami, Arezoo Morshedi, and Maryam Jafarzadeh.

In an addition, the concert also showcased two performances by a children's ensemble.

Mugham music is a traditional genre of music that originated in Azerbaijan and has deep

roots in Persian culture. It is a complex and intricate form of music that is characterized by its emotional depth, improvisational nature, and intricate melodic patterns.

Mugham music is typically performed by a singer, known as a mugham singer, accompanied by musicians playing traditional instruments such as the tar, kamancheh, and balaban. The music is based on a series of scales, known as mughams, which serve as the foundation for the melodic improvisations and vocal ornamentations that are central to the genre.