

'Sincere and Strategic'

Iranian president highlights bilateral ties with Russia in meeting with Putin



President Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran (left) held a high-profile meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on Friday, October 11, 2024.

Iran seeks rapid halt to Israeli war on Gaza, Lebanon through regional cooperation

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi who was visiting Qatar on Thursday pushed for tapping all capacities in the region to bring an immediate end to Israel's continued genocide in Gaza and preventing Tel Aviv's regime war on Lebanon and the demolition of the country's infrastructure.

In a meeting with Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Araghchi blamed the Israeli regime's warmongering practices as the chief cause of insecurity and instability in the region.

For his part, the Bahraini chief diplomat called for regional cooperation to stop the Israeli war on Gaza and Lebanon, achieving durable security in the region, and delivering aid to the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

Araqchi visited Qatar after a short stay in Saudi Arabia, where he met with Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman. Writing on his X account after the meeting, Araghchi said, "Very important discussions on critical issues of common concern with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman."

'Clear example of war crimes': Iran condemns Israeli attack on Syria makeshift hospital

TEHRAN – Iran has vehemently condemned Israel's attack on a medical facility on the Syria-Lebanon border, labeling it a "clear example of war crimes."

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei stated on Thursday that the strike, which destroyed a 56-bed field hospital, ambulances, and all medical equipment, demonstrates Israel's disregard for international law.

The hospital, established to assist displaced Lebanese on the Syrian-Lebanese border, was clearly marked with the Red Crescent flag and symbols. Despite this, the Israeli attack left the facility and its supplies, including food, medicines, and medical equipment, completely destroyed.

Baghaei called for global condemnation of the attack, urging international bodies like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to take action. He also stressed the urgent need for international aid to support the thousands of Lebanese displaced by Israel's recent aggression. ▶ Page 2

Iran is the only powerful and honest ally of people in West Asia

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT- The missile retaliation has proven that Iran is the only independent state in West Asia capable of humiliating the so-called "Israel" and that it responds whenever and wherever it wants; this is a legitimate and sovereign matter. It has also exposed the US-Israeli intelligence and military failure, after desperate attempts to deceive Tehran into refraining from launching a retaliatory strike in exchange for reaching a ceasefire. However, Tehran did not fall for this trick and insisted on its right to respond, as Iranian missiles targeted the enemy's strategic positions such as the air bases of Nevatim - Hatzerim - Tel Nof - Netzarim, Galilot, etc., and returned the hostile enemies to square one.

Indeed, Iran plays this sovereign role to confirm its great position in leading the nation and its keenness to preserve the interests of its people. In the aftermath of the 2006 war, the Israeli occupation entity was keen to conclude lessons after it became clear to it that Hezbollah was no longer just a resistance but had turned into a military force thanks to the Iranian role in empowering it.

Hezbollah targets major Israeli base

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Amid the Israeli army's ongoing massacres against civilians in Lebanon and Gaza, Hezbollah has targeted another vital Israeli army base.

After publishing footage of sensitive sites in Haifa from a reconnaissance drone on Wednesday, the Lebanese resistance says it targeted an Israeli air defense base in the city.

"We launched an air attack with a squadron of explosive-laden drones on Friday on the Air Defense Command base in Kiryat Elazar in Haifa." A Hezbollah statement read.

The Lebanese resistance movement also targeted gatherings of Israeli enemy soldiers in the Zevulun area, north of the city of Haifa, with a barrage of rockets."

Other operations by Hezbollah on Friday that the movement announced included:

"Targeting gatherings of Israeli enemy soldiers in the settlement of Kfar Sold with a large barrage of rockets."

"Targeting technical equipment placed on a crane at the Al-Abad site with a guided missile and hit it directly."

Israeli bloodshed in Gaza: The West does not care a whit about Palestinians

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Israel's brutal war against Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip continues unabated as the death toll from the yearlong onslaught surpasses 42,000.

The Health Ministry in Gaza said on Friday that at least 42,126 people have been killed and more than 98,000 others wounded in Israeli military attacks on Gaza since October 7, 2023.

Friday marked another bloody day in Gaza as the Israeli army carried out deadly raids in the enclave in particular targeting the Jabalia refugee camp.

The army's shelling of homes in Jabalia caused high civilian casualties with emergency workers scrambling to recover bodies from under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

Israeli fighter jets also bombed a clinic in Gaza City that was being used as a shelter for displaced people. According to Al Jazeera, at least four people including an infant were killed in the attack and many others were seriously wounded.

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Israel cannot conceal its failures with assassinations: Iran parliament speaker

TEHRAN – Iran's Parliament Speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, has strongly condemned Israel's ongoing assassinations of key Resistance figures and its violent actions across West Asia, asserting that such tactics will not conceal the regime's mounting failures.

Speaking at an international conference in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, marking the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Tajik constitution, ▶ Page 3

Gen. Qaani: the new target of Israel's conspiracies

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Over the past year, Israel's military campaign in Gaza and Lebanon has mostly produced political and strategic failures for the Zionists. With that, the regime has resorted to its tried-and-true tactic of assassination, targeting key figures and attempting to demoralize Resistance groups by creating a sense of vulnerability and isolation.

While Israel's terrorist attacks have claimed several high-ranking commanders and leaders since October 7, 2023, none have triggered such a massive propaganda blitz as the martyrdom of Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. His assassination, which took place on September 27, has unleashed an unprecedented wave of media manipulation, as the regime scrambles to exploit the tragedy in order to strike a blow at the heart of the Resistance and sow discord among its ranks.

The Israeli propaganda machine first swung into action by utilizing a former Hezbollah member, Mohammed Ali Al-Hussein, to claim that Iran had "sold" Nasrallah. ▶ Page 2



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Cancellation of Yoav Gallant's visit to US

In a note, Arman-e-Melli addressed possible reasons for the cancellation of the Israeli war minister's visit to America and said: The news of the cancellation of Yoav Gallant's visit to America can be analyzed from two points of view. First, Netanyahu is seeking permission from America to attack Iran; this means that America has not agreed to a direct attack on Iran. Second, this trip has been delayed so that Israel's plans to attack Iran are determined. If we accept the second analysis, it means that America and Israel have reached an agreement on how to deal with Iran. Of course, some media outlets have published other news that may suggest Israel is not ready to share its plans for attacking Iran with the Americans, and this has caused concern for the Americans, because they expect that along with their support for Israel, Israel will also consider their demands about Iran. Whether Israel's response will be inside Iran or include the Axis of Resistance has not yet been determined and there is no agreement in this regard. Therefore, it is not unlikely that after Israel prepares various scenarios and Netanyahu agrees with Biden, then the Israeli defense minister will go to America to discuss these plans.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Any madness against nuclear sites will trigger Iran's decisive response

Siasat-e-Rooz analyzed claims by Israel threatening to target Iran's nuclear facilities. It wrote: Zionists have made claims of threatening Iran's nuclear facilities after Operation True Promise II. Although the Westerners claim that they are not aware of the plans of the Zionist regime, they cannot hide their role in supporting and participating with Israel in its genocides and crimes, including nuclear terrorism against the countries of the region. Any madness by the Zionists to carry out any attack against Iran, including nuclear terrorism, will be faced with Iran's decisive response, and it will be the Zionist regime, Western countries, and international agencies that will be the losers of such a highly dangerous misadventure. Tehran does not neglect its rights and continues its obligations to support the security of the region. If the West and the IAEA are unable to hold the Zionists accountable and stop their madness, Iran and the Resistance Front can make them account for their actions. In that case, the West and the

Injured Iranian envoy affirms Lebanon's resilience amid escalated Israeli violence



TEHRAN – In an interview with Iran's national television on Friday, the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon discussed Israel's ongoing attacks against the Arab country, describing them as flawed and based on miscalculations.

Mojtaba Amani, recently injured during Israeli pager attacks in Lebanon, is currently in Tehran receiving treatment. During his Friday interview, Amani offered condolences on the martyrdom of Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah, who was assassinated by an Israeli airstrike a few days after the Iranian envoy's injury.

Amani emphasized that Israel is mistaken in believing it can defeat Hezbollah, noting that

IAEA will have to pay the price for their inaction against the Zionists' nuclear terrorism.

Iran: Israel's fear of confronting Iran

In an interview with Rezvaneh Rezaipour, an expert on regional issues, the Iran newspaper discussed Israel's psychological operations against Iran. She said: One of Israel's strategies is to launch a psychological war against Iran because the Zionists cannot implement any of the measures they have taken in Gaza and Lebanon in the past year in Iran; neither they can target Iran's leaders, nor can they do anything to destroy Iran's infrastructure. They know that this will lead to a strong retaliatory response from Iran and they cannot show a more serious action or formulate a plan for a direct battle against Iran. Also, our country's foreign minister's visit to Saudi Arabia, one of the most important Arab-Islamic countries, can help realize the tactic that Iran is looking to adopt against Israel. We have to wait and see a change in the region so that an alliance is formed by the Islamic and Arab governments against Israel like in 1973 when the Arab governments imposed an oil sanction on Israel.

Ham Mihan: All-out war or all-out ceasefire?

In a commentary about Seyyed Abbas Araghchi's trip to Saudi Arabia, Ham Mihan wrote: Before Araghchi's trip to Riyadh, the Israeli media had reported about the negotiations between the United States and the Arab countries with the Islamic Republic of Iran to achieve a ceasefire on all fronts in the Middle East, from Gaza and Lebanon to Iraq and Yemen. America is trying to keep the range of the current war in the Middle East limited, but it is a miracle to be able to present an all-round initiative that is acceptable to all. If the report of the Israeli media about the negotiations between the Arab countries and the United States with Iran for a comprehensive ceasefire in the entire region is true, Israel's attack on Iran must be carried out in such a way that it does not require a heavy response. Until Israel's attack on Iran is carried out or canceled, we cannot be sure of the realization of a specific scenario. However, presently, instead of the hope of a general ceasefire, the danger of a general war threatens our region.

while Resistance groups may have to adapt their military strategies, they will never be eliminated.

The Iranian diplomat further remarked that the Zionist regime is deeply entangled in the war it's waging in Gaza, where it has slaughtered tens of thousands of civilians without achieving any military victories. He pointed out that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu aims to escalate the conflict in Gaza to include Lebanon and potentially Iran as a means to consolidate his power.

The envoy also highlighted that Hezbollah would persist in its operations with effective strategies, leading to the eventual decline and downfall of the Zionist regime. He concluded by affirming that "Hezbollah is alive" and that "ultimate triumph belongs to the Resistance Axis."

Iran, Oman conduct joint ground and naval exercises

TEHRAN – Iran and Oman conducted two separate joint military exercises on Thursday, as the two Persian Gulf states work to strengthen cooperation in different fields.

Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari, the commander of Iran's Army Ground Force, announced that Tehran and Muscat took part in their first-ever joint anti-terrorism exercise, which was organized at the request of the Omani army. The exercise, he said, focused on urban warfare, combating regional terrorism, ensuring sustainable security, and facilitating the exchange of experiences between the two nations.

The ground exercise took place in Oman and included rapid reaction units and the 65th Airborne

Special Forces Brigade from Iran, with support from the Omani Air Force and police forces.

Additionally, a joint maritime rescue operation was executed in the Indian Ocean and the Strait of Hormuz, featuring combat vessels from the naval forces of Iran's Army and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), as well as the Royal Navy of Oman. The drill utilized Iranian-made assets, including the Jamaran destroyer and the Zereh missile-launching ship.

Iran and Oman have traditionally held close and friendly ties. The two countries, however, have been aiming to take bigger strides in their relations in recent years, especially in terms of military cooperation.

Gen. Qaani: the new target of Israel's conspiracies

From page 1 ▶ "Write your will. Iran has betrayed you and your group. If you knew what deal Iran made in exchange for your head, everything would turn upside down. Those who showed you Al-Quds sold you out. I hope you realize everything before it's too late," the Lebanese cleric said during an interview with Saudi News channel Al-Arabiya, a day before the martyrdom of Nasrallah.

After Nasrallah's assassination, other Saudi media outlets joined Al-Arabiya in parading Al-Hussein, a Lebanese cleric who had a brief stint with Hezbollah during his youth and was arrested by Lebanese authorities for espionage on behalf of the Zionist regime a few years after leaving the group. Al-Hussein was granted Saudi citizenship in 2021 and has evident links to notorious terrorist groups, including the MKO, which bears the blood of over 17,000 Iranians on its hands.

To further help create the illusion of a fractured Resistance, one that had been abandoned



by Iran, Western media outlets, including Reuters, reported that Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, had been moved to a "safe location" to avoid the same potential fate as Nasrallah.

The narrative of a weakened and betrayed Resistance Israel was trying to pursue, however, crumbled on October 1st, when Iran executed Operation True Promise II, launching almost 200 ballistic missiles at Israeli positions in the occupied territories. A few days later, Ayatollah Khamenei

stood before tens of thousands of Iranian citizens to lead the Friday prayers.

Nowadays, the Zionist regime, in collaboration with Western media and some Arab outlets, has shifted gears in its propaganda campaign. Their eyes are now set on the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds commander, desperately attempting to cast doubt on his whereabouts and health.

It was initially claimed that Brigadier General Esmail Qaani had been killed or injured in an

attack in Beirut. That lie quickly lost its credibility and gave its place to even more ludicrous fabrications, with some Western and Arab media alleging the commander is under house arrest, and some claiming that General Qaani has suffered a heart attack during an interrogation by Iranian intelligence forces. All these allegations are being made without the provision of any sort of evidence.

It seems that the well of fabrication and lies against the Resistance is not drying up anytime soon. But it is important for both Resistance fighters and West Asia citizens, to take unsubstantiated Western and Arab reports on Iran, its leaders, and its relations with other pro-Palestinian groups with a grain of salt. Media is a major tentacle of the Zionist regime, and considering how the war in Gaza has been covered in the past year, it appears that not much professionalism is left in journalists working with Israeli-aligned outlets.

Any Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear sites will dangerously escalate tensions, warns Lavrov

TEHRAN – Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has cautioned that any Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear facilities would be viewed as a "serious provocation."

Speaking at a press conference in Vientiane, Laos, on Friday, Lavrov stressed that such an action could escalate tensions in the region.

Lavrov noted that, despite ongoing tensions, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has found no evidence that Iran's nuclear program is being militarized. "We base our stance on facts. In every country, you'll find politicians and parliamentarians who may express views that don't necessarily align with their government's actual policies. We have seen this pattern before," Lavrov stated.

He went on to say that if any threats to strike Iran's civilian nuclear facilities were carried out, it would be seen as a severe provocation by the international community.

The remarks come amid heightened tensions following an October 1 incident, where Iran launched up to 200 ballistic missiles in response to the Israeli assassination of key figures,

including Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, and an Iranian Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) general, Abbas Nilforooshan.

Reports indicate that Iran launched around 200 ballistic missiles aimed at various military

If any threats to strike Iran's civilian nuclear facilities were carried out, it would be seen as a severe provocation by the international community

and intelligence installations throughout the occupied Palestinian territories.

In response, Israel has threatened retaliation, but Iranian officials have made it clear that any further Israeli action will be met with a strong, proportionate, and calculated response from Tehran.



Flouting a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire, 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. The operation came 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 nearly 42,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 97,720 others. Thousands more are also missing and presumed dead under rubble.

Lebanon's sovereignty must be respected, demands Iran's UN envoy amidst regional crisis

TEHRAN – Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani, delivered a scathing condemnation of Israel's ongoing aggression in Lebanon during a UN Security Council meeting on "the situation in the Middle East".

Iravani noted Israel is committing "genocide" and "crimes against humanity," echoing similar accusations made against Israel's actions in Gaza.

"After over a year of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza, where more than two hundred thousand people have been killed, injured, or left buried under the rubble,

this terrorist regime has now waged a genocidal war against Lebanon," Iravani stated. He described the targeting of civilians and infrastructure as a "flagrant war crime" and a "crime against humanity."

The Iranian ambassador went on to criticize the United States and the United Kingdom for their continued support of Israel, stating that they enable Israel's "unchecked impunity." Iravani specifically blamed the U.S. for emboldening Israel's actions with its "ironclad support."

Iravani also accused Israel of deliberately sabotaging ceasefire

efforts by rejecting a 21-day temporary ceasefire proposal agreed upon by the Lebanese government and Hezbollah. He added that Israel assassinated Hezbollah leader Seyed Hassan Nasrallah, aiming to further destabilize the region and prevent any possibility of peace.

"These heinous acts expose Israel's true intentions," Iravani asserted, "that this regime has no interest in peace or a ceasefire. Its real objective is only to provoke a full-scale war across the region."

The ambassador called on the Security Council to take immediate action to address the situation in

Lebanon, demanding an immediate ceasefire and holding Israel accountable for its actions. He also urged the council to ensure humanitarian aid reaches Lebanon unimpeded.

"The very credibility of this Council is at stake," Iravani concluded, "We demand immediate action. This Council must send an unequivocal message: the ongoing Israeli occupation and aggression must end." Iravani's speech comes amidst escalating tensions in West Asia, with Israel's ongoing aggressions in Gaza and Lebanon prompting international condemnation and calls for de-escalation.

'Clear example of war crimes': Iran condemns Israeli attack on Syria makeshift hospital

From page 1 ▶ This incident comes amidst a wider pattern of Israeli attacks targeting medical facilities and educational institutions in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. Since the start of the Gaza war on October 7, 2023, Israeli forces have specifically targeted the enclave's healthcare and education sectors, bombing hospitals, schools, colleges, and universities, including 65 run by UNRWA.

Despite the UN Security Council's call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, Israel continues its offensive, aiming for the complete eradication of the Palestinian people trapped in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Also reacting to the Thursday attack, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society confirmed that the hospital was marked with the IRCS flag, IRNA reported. "We intend to file a complaint

against Israel through international forums."

Pirhossein Kolivand made the remarks during a meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator of Iran, Stefan Priesner. The Iranian official 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's 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.

'Sincere and Strategic'

Iranian president highlights bilateral ties with Russia in meeting with Putin

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between Iran and Russia, describing the relationship between the two nations as “sincere and strategic.”

The two presidents met on the sidelines of a forum in Turkmenistan's capital of Ashgabat on Friday. The event, organized to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the celebrated Turkmen poet Magtymguly Pyragy, provided an opportunity for the Iranian president to discuss key issues with his Russian counterpart.

Pezeshkian underscored the need to develop joint efforts across various sectors to enhance their partnership. He noted that Iran and Russia are aligned on many global issues, stating, “Our positions on global matters are much closer to each other than to those of many other countries.” The Iranian president also expressed optimism about finalizing a strategic partnership agreement with Russia in the near future, stressing that this partnership would pave the way for deeper bilateral cooperation.

U.S., European countries fuel instability in the region

Addressing regional concerns, Pezeshkian condemned Israel for its blatant disregard for international human rights standards. He criticized the actions of the U.S. and European countries, stating that they are currently fostering instability in the region. “They do not want peaceful relations to continue between regional countries,” he said, highlighting the critical situation in West Asia. For his part, Russian President Putin



Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov shakes hand with Pezeshkian

welcomed the deepening of ties, reaffirming Moscow's commitment to enhancing trade and cooperation with Iran. Putin invited Pezeshkian to attend the upcoming BRICS summit, where both leaders would engage in further discussions on mutual interests.

The president further noted that unity on a global scale is crucial to resisting extremism and violence.

'Not only neighbors but also kin'

Following his meeting with Putin, Pezeshkian's diplomatic efforts continued in Turkmenistan, where he held talks with the country's president, Serdar Berdimuhamedov.

During their discussions, the Iranian president reiterated Tehran's longstanding policy of fostering strong relationships with its neighbors, a principle emphasized by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Pezeshkian stressed the cultural and historical ties that bind Iran and Turkmenistan, referring to their shared border and close historical bonds. “We are not only neighbors but kin as well,” he noted.

also pointed out the positive outcomes of the Joint Cooperation Commission between the two countries, which has been actively working to strengthen economic and political cooperation. He expressed hope that these efforts would soon yield tangible results in enhancing economic ties between Iran and Turkmenistan.

Iran, Uzbekistan discuss expansion of scientific and economic cooperation

In another notable meeting, Pezeshkian held talks with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Both leaders discussed the importance of economic collaboration and the need for a joint commission to address bilateral issues. Pezeshkian invited Mirziyoyev to visit Tehran, emphasizing Iran's readiness to expand cooperation in fields such as science, industry, and culture.

“The scientific and industrial capacities of Iran can serve as the cornerstone for our joint ventures,” Pezeshkian stated.

Mirziyoyev welcomed the proposal, acknowledging Iran's significant contributions to science and technology. He expressed Uzbekistan's interest in benefiting from Iran's expertise and called for establishing a joint commission as soon as possible to accelerate cooperation.

Pezeshkian's visit to Turkmenistan is the fourth stop on his foreign tour, which follows trips to Iraq, the United Nations, and Qatar. His visit underscores the significance of Turkmenistan in Iran's foreign policy, particularly in political, security, and geo-economic relations.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel cannot conceal its failures with assassinations: Iran parliament speaker



From Page 1 ► Qalibaf emphasized that Israel's actions are accelerating its downfall rather than strengthening its position.

In his speech on Friday, Qalibaf criticized the Israeli government for relying on airstrikes and assassination campaigns, particularly in Palestine and Lebanon, to try and distract from its broader strategic missteps.

“The Zionist regime must understand that it cannot cover its strategic failures through these violent measures,” Qalibaf remarked. He further added that these acts of violence highlight Israel's incapability to effectively challenge the Palestinian and Lebanese people, noting that these crimes have exposed the regime's growing vulnerability.

Qalibaf also highlighted the significant civilian casualties in the wake of Israeli military operations

in Lebanon and Gaza.

With over 2,000 Lebanese lives lost, he called for an immediate ceasefire and urged global parliamentary leaders to take a stand against Israel's killing of innocent women and children. He stressed that the world's lawmakers bear the responsibility of supporting calls for justice and freedom for oppressed people in these regions.

The regime's bloody onslaught on Gaza, which started from October of last year, has so far killed more than 42,010 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 97,720 others. Thousands more are also missing and presumed dead under rubble.

'Tehran willing to deepen ties with Dushanbe'

During his address, Qalibaf also touched on the historic and cultural bonds between Iran and Tajikistan, underscoring Tehran's willingness to deepen bilateral ties. He emphasized that strengthening relations between the two nations would not only benefit their own people but would also enhance stability and prosperity throughout the broader region.

The Iranian speaker noted that the convergence of Iran and Tajikistan could serve as a model for fostering peace and cooperation in Central Asia and beyond. “These ties are rooted in a

shared cultural history, and expanding them will contribute to the security and development of the region,” he said. In addition to addressing regional conflicts, Qalibaf proposed a new initiative aimed at promoting regional parliamentary cooperation. He suggested the creation of a “Parliamentary Convergence Agreement for Peace and Sustainable Development,” which would encourage dialogue and cooperation among the legislative bodies of regional countries.

Qalibaf highlighted a series of global challenges—such as terrorism, extremism, unilateralism, and climate change—arguing that effective, collective action is necessary to tackle these threats. “Bilateral, multilateral, and regional cooperation are essential to confront the dangers we face in today's world,” he said.

He stressed that such an agreement among regional parliaments could serve as a platform for resolving misunderstandings and promoting meaningful dialogue, leading to greater regional stability and progress.

The proposal, he noted, would be a significant step toward fostering peace and sustainable development, creating opportunities for political and economic collaboration in the region.

Araqchi urges Europe to pressure Israel for regional de-escalation

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Minister has asserted that Europe needs to take a more proactive stance in urging the Israeli regime to reduce tensions in West Asia.

In an interview with Italy's TG3 TV on Friday, Abbas Araqchi highlighted the necessity for European nations to engage more actively in de-escalation efforts, rejecting their assertion that they lack the means to influence Israel's actions.

When questioned about whether the United States has authorized Israel to retaliate against Iran following its missile attack on the occupied territories early this month,

the top diplomat stated that Israel always operates in coordination with Washington.

Israeli crimes are always carried out in coordination with the United States

Araqchi underscored Iran's resolute will to respond to any new aggression by the regime, asserting, “For every Israeli military action, there is a harsh Iranian military reaction.”

Araqchi pointed out that the October 7 operation by Palestinians did not occur in isolation, referencing an 80-year history leading up to it.

The foreign minister also questioned the justification of Israel's actions, stating, “You mentioned that 1,200 people were killed in Israel. Does this justify the killing of 42,000 people?”

He concluded by stating, “It is not Iran that has instigated the escalation of tensions. While we are not afraid of war, we do not desire it either.”

Israel will carry out more attacks against UN, warns Iran's embassy in Spain

TEHRAN – Iran's embassy in Spain has warned that Israel will make sure to attack more UN positions in the future after two UN peacekeepers were wounded in attacks on UN peacekeeping forces' bases in

southern Lebanon.

“We recently warned about the Zionist regime's threats against the UN. The bombing of UNIFEL which caused several casualties, shows that

Israel could carry out even more lethal attacks, putting the UN and its forces at much greater risk,” the embassy said on its official account on X.

The UNIFIL force, which consists of

a total of 10,058 peacekeepers from 50 troop-contributing countries, was created by the Security Council in March 1978 to maintain peace and security in Southern Lebanon.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Uzbekistan, Iran settle for draw in 2026 World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – Uzbekistan and Iran settled for a goalless draw in their AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26 Group A tie on Thursday.

The Central Asian derby saw Iran going down to 10 men in the second half following Saleh Hardani's sending off but there was to be no winner in the evenly-matched contest as the two sides moved up to seven points.

Forward Mehdi Taremi and Eldor Shomurodov, who both play their club football in Italy, had a subdued first half with neither seeing much of the ball.

The match took a turn in the 57th minute after Australian referee Shaun Evans referred to the pitchside monitor, which led to a straight red card for Hardani for a studs up challenge on Shomurodov.

Uzbekistan seized the opportunity to increase their tempo with two chances just after the hour mark, Abbosbek Fayzullaev dragging his shot just wide before Masharipov ballooned his attempt over the bar after being teed up by Shomurodov, the-afc.com reported.

There was drama in stoppage time when Evans awarded a penalty to Iran after the ball seemed to have struck Rustamjon Ashurmatov's hand but upon a VAR review, the decision was reversed as the sides shared the spoils.

Uzbekistan will host the United Arab Emirates next on Tuesday while Iran will meet Qatar.

“We wanted to win the match but I think the draw is not a bad result for us since we played with 10 men for about 40 minutes,” Jahanbakhsh added.

“Now, we just think about the match against Qatar. It was better to face them in Iran but the AFC has confirmed that the match will be held in Dubai. Anyway, we will travel to Dubai and are determined to win the match,” he concluded.

Uzbekistan will host the United Arab Emirates next on Tuesday while Iran will meet Qatar.

Iran – Qatar match in Dubai: AFC

TEHRAN – The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has confirmed that the AFC Asian Qualifier–Road to 26 Group A match on October 15, 2024 between Iran and Qatar will be played at a neutral venue in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The decision to host the match in a neutral venue was taken after careful consideration of the prevailing security situation and in consultation with FIFA and the relevant stakeholders.

The match will kick off at 20:00 hour local time and details regarding the specific venue in the UAE will be updated on the fixtures section.

Iran coach Ghalenoei praises Defender Ali Nemati

TEHRAN – Iran national football team head coach Amir Ghalenoei lauded Team Melli defender Ali Nemati.

Iran fought bravely after going down to 10 men, soaking up the pressure with 28-year-old debutant Nemati playing a sterling role in the heart of their defense.

Two teams shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in Tashkent's Bunyodkor Stadium.

“We attacked even after being a man down and won a few corners,” said Ghalenoei. “The goalkeeper of Uzbekistan also saved his team in many situations.

“We witnessed a good game and I think it was the best game in the group. We have to think about the next meeting. We proved that we can defend well in Uzbekistan's match. I congratulate Ali Nemati on his national team debut. I hope that he will play a lot more for Iran in the future,” he added.

Uzbekistan will next welcome the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday while Iran will face Qatar.

Uzbekistan coach Radmanovic satisfied with draw against Iran

TEHRAN – Uzbekistan's Vlado Radmanovic is satisfied after seeing their side played to a goalless draw in their AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26 Group A tie on Thursday.

The top of the table clash was fiercely contested but similar to their two meetings in the second round of the qualifiers, there was to be no winner.

Radmanovic, who took charge as head coach as Srecko Katanec was indisposed, was pleased to see Uzbekistan navigate what he considered the toughest match in the group, with their sights now set on the upcoming games.

“It was a difficult match as Iran are one of the strongest in Asia,” said Radmanovic. “There are not many chances in such matches. We have passed another game with seven more matches ahead of us.

“One of our main players, Oston Orunov, was injured. He was able to play at first, but as kickoff approached, he wasn't ready as his leg was hurting.

“We don't have many attacking players like that. We could have made changes in the center of the field and in the center of defense, but the plan we prepared for the match did not work well.”

Chances were few and far in the evenly-fought match which saw Saleh Hardani dismissed for a studs up challenge on Eldor Shomurodov early in the second half.

Referee's decision went against us: Alireza Jahanbakhsh

TEHRAN – Iran national football team captain Alireza Jahanbakhsh says that they could have won the match against Uzbekistan but the referee's decision went against their team.

Uzbekistan and Iran settled for a goalless draw in their AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26 Group A tie on Thursday.

The Central Asian derby saw Iran going down to 10 men in the second half following Saleh Hardani's sending off but there was to be no winner in the evenly-matched contest as the two sides moved up to seven points.

Australian referee Shaun Evans referred to the pitchside monitor, which led to a straight red card for Hardani for a challenge on Eldor Shomurodov in the 57th minute.

“I think it was a correct decision. Hardani had to leave the field. But I don't know why the referee reversed his decision in the added time. It was a handball and we were awarded a penalty.

Iran's petchem sector to grow 8% annually by 2027

TEHRAN – The caretaker of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) has said that the petrochemical industry will grow by eight percent annually during the seventh National Development Plan (2022-2027), in line with the orders of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution for achieving an eight percent economic growth in the country.

Hassan Abbaszadeh put the country's current petrochemical production capacity at 100 million tons, noting that with the mentioned growth, the country's petrochemical capacity is expected to exceed 130 million tons by 2027, Shana reported.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Iron ore pellet export hits \$454m in 6 months



TEHRAN- Iran exported 5.383 million tons of iron ore pellet worth \$454 million during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), according to the data released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

As ISPA reported, the country had exported 4.624 million tons of the product worth \$463 million in the first six months of the past year.

Iron ore pellet export fell 1.9 percent in terms of value, and rose 16 percent in terms of weight, in six months, year on year.

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

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

Imports of auto parts fall 18% in 6 months on year

TEHRAN- Iran imported \$2.9 billion of auto parts during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Based on the IRICA data, the exports of auto parts in the first half of the current year reduced

by 18 percent compared to the previous year's same period, Mehr News Agency reported.

In the first half of this year, 329,000 tons of automobile and motorcycle components and parts worth \$3.1 billion dollars were imported into the country.

Watermelon export stands at \$128m in 6 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported \$128 million of watermelons in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

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

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

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

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

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

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

ISIPO's new head appointed

TEHRAN - Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak appointed Reza Ansari as his deputy and the new head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISI-PO), IRIB reported.

Ansari, who has previously been a member of the parliament Industry and Mining Committee, replaced Farshad Moghimi who has been also appointed as the head of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO).

Iran, EAEU PTA zeroes customs tariffs on 87% of exchanged goods

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said on Thursday that the preferential trade agreement (PTA) between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has canceled customs tariffs on 87 percent of the goods exchanged between the two sides, IRNA reported.

Mentioning the fact that the two sides are currently finalizing a free trade agreement (FTA) as well, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi said: "The free trade agreement with the member countries of Eurasia will facilitate and increase the volume of our trade exchanges."

According to Dehghan Dehnavi, Iran's observer status in the EAEU has also been approved and will be officially announced at the union's next assembly.

Reducing costs, creating opportunities for joint ventures, and creating new markets have been achieved through foreign trade agreements, he said.

Earlier this month, Dehghan Dehnavi said the Islamic Republic's trade with the EAEU has increased by 2.5 times over the past four years.

"Four years ago, we entered a preferential trade agreement with Eurasia, and tariffs on exported goods were reduced or zeroed, during this period, the trade with the member countries of this union has increased 2.5 times," he said in a meeting with the members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on October 6.

The official said the FTA with EAEU



has been reached and is being pursued by the members of the union to be implemented.

"We also signed the free trade agreement with the members of the Eurasian Economic Union and the agreement is under revision by the parliament. Three of the five Eurasian member countries have already approved the agreement," the official said.

"Eurasia is Iran's first major experience in free trade based on which 87 percent of tariffs [on export goods] are removed, businessmen must prepare themselves for new competition in this market. Besides, the EAEU member countries also want to supply their goods to Iran," he added.

The Eurasian Economic Union was established in 2015 at the initiative taken by the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and Belarus.

Afterward, the Republic of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan joined the Union.

Iran and EAEU reached a preferential trade agreement in 2018, based on which about 862 commodity items are currently subject to preferential tariffs.

The agreement came into effect on October 27, 2019.

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

In the meeting, the Iranian side emphasized the need to establish an insurance company under the Eurasian Economic Union to provide the necessary guarantees regarding Iran's technical and engineering exports to the region.

The two sides also discussed the increase in trade between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union and the implementation of the FTA.

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

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

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

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

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

Mohammad Rezvanifar said the Islamic Republic exported 2.2 million tons of commodities worth \$748 million to the members of the Eurasian Economic Union in the mentioned five months, IRIB reported.

Exports to the EAEU in terms of weight, according to Rezvanifar.

Meanwhile, Iran imported 3.9 million tons of goods valued at \$1.6 billion from the members of the Eurasian Economic Union in the said five months.

Iran ready to provide water, electricity services to Kyrgyzstan

TEHRAN - The head of the International Center of the Iranian Energy Ministry has said that Iranian water and electricity industry is ready provide services to Kyrgyzstan, IRNA reported.

Speaking in a virtual meeting between the energy officials of the two countries, Mojtaba Akbari pointed to the capabilities of Iran's water and electricity industry and said: "Iran

is at the highest level of the world standards in the water and electricity sector."

"Iran provides technical and engineering services to many neighboring countries as well as African and South American nations, and these services are well-known in these countries," Akbari said.

Further in the meeting, Deputy Energy Min-

ister of the Kyrgyz Republic Nazgul Usenova said: "Iran is one of the leading countries in the field of oil, gas and electricity in the region, and Iran's specialized capabilities have always been admirable for us."

While inviting Iranian companies to visit the electricity and water industry of Kyrgyzstan, she noted: "We can benefit from mutual capabilities after this visit."

Iran exports to Turkmenistan rise nearly 15% in H1

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's export to Turkmenistan increased 14.6 percent in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) compared to the same period in the previous year, according to the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade Ruhollah Latifi.

Ruhollah Latifi said that Iran exported 702,000 tons of commodities worth \$239.879 million to Turkmenistan in the six-month period, which was also 12.1 percent more than the previous year in terms of weight, IRIB reported.

Agricultural and food products, medicine, household appliances, construction materials, electrical appliances, industrial equipment, plastic, consumer goods, and machinery were among the goods exported to Turkmenistan in the mentioned period, Latifi said.

Based on customs data, Iran also imported 10,000 tons of goods valued at \$12,285,660 in the first half of the current Iranian year, and the main imported goods were textiles, cloth, and yarn.

According to the official, Iran exported 1.359 million tons of commodities worth \$445.17 million to Turkmenistan in the previous Iranian calendar year, most of which were agricultural and dairy products.

Last year, more than 38,000 tons of goods valued at \$38.657 million were also imported from Turkmenistan, he added.

Turkmenistan's total imports in 2023 stood at about \$3.5 billion, of which the Islamic Republic of Iran's share was \$445 million. According to Latifi, Iran accounted for about 12.5 percent of Turkmenistan's market share in 2023.

Back in August, customs of-

officials from Iran and Turkmenistan agreed to enhance customs cooperation and also the volume of the trade exchanges between the two countries.

In a meeting held between the Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mohammad Rezvanifar and the Chairman of the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan Maksat Khudaikulyev in Tehran, the two sides emphasized expanding and broadening cooperation in various fields.

In this meeting, the IRICA head expressed his satisfaction with the increase in the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries and stated that Iran and Turkmenistan exchanged 1.4 million tons of products, valued at \$450 million in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023 to March 20, 2024).

Rezvanifar pointed out that bilateral meetings between the traders and officials of the two countries will play an effective role in increasing the


volume of trade between the two sides and called for setting up such meetings.

The chairman of the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan, for his part, welcomed the development of trade exchanges between the two countries in recent years, adding that the trade volume between Iran and Turkmenistan is on an upward trajectory.

Maksat Khudaikulyev called for the exchange of experiences and the development of educational-training cooperation between the customs of the two countries an offer that was welcomed by the head of Iran's customs chief.

The borders of the two countries have great potential and Turkmenistan Customs Office is ready to provide customs services at Sarakhs border crossing around the clock, he stressed.

During the meeting, the two sides decided to hold expert-level meetings between the two countries within the next month.



Call for Identification of Suppliers for Fourth Generation Ziegler-Natta Catalyst for Polypropylene Production in the Spheripol Process

to number 1403-06

JAMPILLEN Petrochemical company (public joint stock) intends to allocate the supply of «Fourth Generation Ziegler-Natta Catalyst for Polypropylene Production in the Spheripol Process» from domestic or foreign suppliers or manufacturers who have sufficient expertise and experience. We invite eligible and experienced companies in the preparation of catalyst.

The deadline for submitting applications and required documents is from the date of publication of this advertisement until the end of the day on 28 /October/ 2024. Please deliver your application along with the necessary documents to the following address:

JAMPILLEN Petrochemical company- Security Department, 4th floor, No.5, North Falamak St., Eyvanak Blvd., Farahzadi Blvd., Shahrak Qods, TEHRAN, IRAN 1467715171

1. Applicant companies capable of supplying catalyst should submit the following documents along with a letter of declaration of readiness to the above address:
2. Company registration documents, including: copy of the articles of association, Official gazette with the latest changes, Economic code, resume, etc
3. information, and documents confirming the applicant's expertise and experience, including:
 - Previous contracts with Iranian petrochemical companies
 - Technical specifications of catalyst (including TDS, MSDS, Catalogue, ...)
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 - Manufacturing country
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For any technical information, please contact us at (+98-77)37323774 Ext:501

Public Relations and International Affairs of Jampilen Petrochemical Company (Public Joint Stock Company)

Hezbollah targets major Israeli base

Global alarm over Israel's attacks on UNIFIL

From page 1 ▶ "Targeting gatherings of Israeli enemy soldiers in the Yiftah barracks and its surroundings with a large barrage of rockets."

"Targeting gatherings of Israeli enemy soldiers in Ras Al-Naqoura with a rocket barrage."

According to Israeli media, fires have broken out in the settlements of Shamir, Kafr Sold, and Amir in the north as a result of rocket fire from Lebanon.

Israeli Army Radio reported that two people were killed when an anti-tank missile was fired from Lebanon towards Yaron in western Galilee.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah has dismissed a Reuters report on what the news agency called the new leadership of Hezbollah's ground warfare, as well as details related to the nature of this war, its plans, and its weapons.

In a statement, Hezbollah's Media Department said: "This report is nothing but the pure imagination of Reuters' writers, journalists, and security advisors. Certainly, what was attributed to a field commander in Hezbollah is completely false and baseless."



Elsewhere, Israeli military attacks on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) have been met with strong global outrage.

On Friday, a UNIFIL outpost came under attack by an Israeli military bulldozer. The incident marked the third time that the UN peacekeeping force has been subject to Israeli attacks this week.

Israeli tank fire struck UNIFIL's headquarters at least twice in Naqoura on Thursday, injuring two blue helmets and damaging a watchtower.

The UN peacekeeping force, which is made up of members from 50 different countries, also came under Israeli attack on Wednesday.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "We made it clear to Israel that this incident cannot be tolerated. Shooting at UNIFIL site is a violation of international law and international peacekeeping forces must be protected."

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called for a boycott of arms supplies to Tel Aviv.

"I criticize and condemn the at-

tacks carried out by Israeli forces on the UN mission in Lebanon. I call on the international community to stop selling arms to Israel," Sanchez underlined.

Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto also told a news conference: "This was not a mistake and not an accident. It could constitute a war crime and represented a very serious violation of international humanitarian law."

Italy and France have both summoned the Israeli ambassador to their respective countries.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning stated that Beijing "expresses grave concern and strong condemnation over the Israeli Defense Forces' attack on UNIFIL positions and observation posts, which resulted in injuries to UNIFIL personnel."

Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement: "Moscow is outraged by the actions of the Israeli military."

As a growing number of countries express alarm, experts have highlighted the Israeli army's incapability to target Hezbollah without opening fire indiscriminately.

Israeli bloodshed in Gaza: The West does not care a whit about Palestinians

From page 1 ▶ Israel persists in its carnage in Gaza while the global attention is focused on the regime's assaults in Lebanon.

Lebanon's health officials say about 2,200 people have been killed and thousands of others injured in Israeli attacks against the country since last month.

Israel launched a massive bombing campaign in Lebanon on September 23 that was followed by a military incursion into the south of the Mediterranean nation.

Israel claims it hits positions of the Hezbollah resistance movement but facts on the ground show civilians have fallen victim to the strikes.

The conflict in Lebanon is actually a way for Israel to shift attention away from its military setbacks in Gaza.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered his army to wage war on Gaza on October 7, 2023, after Hamas carried out a surprise military operation in southern Israel.

More than a year later, Netanyahu has not succeeded in realizing his objectives which mainly include "total victory" over Hamas and the elimination of the resistance movement.

More than 700 Israeli troops have been killed since October 7 last year and Hamas has put up stiff resistance against the regime's



Palestinians mourn for the loss of loved ones after an Israeli army's attack in Deir Al Balah on Friday. [Ashraf Amra/Anadolu]

army.

Nonetheless, Netanyahu aims to convey the perception that progress has been achieved in the war.

Israel is under domestic pressure due to its inability to meet its war objectives in Gaza.

The Netanyahu regime is also facing growing international pressure for its war of genocide in Gaza.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has requested arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant over committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also stands accused of genocide in the Palestinian territory at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The genocide case was filed by South Africa in late 2023.

Bolivia is the latest country which has officially joined South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the ICJ.

"Israel's genocidal war continues, and the Court's orders remain dead letters to Israel," the South American country said in its application submitted to the ICJ, known at the World Court, on Tuesday.

It added, "Bolivia seeks to intervene since it considers that it has a responsibility to condemn the crime of genocide."

Turkey, Nicaragua, Spain, Mexico, Libya and Colombia have already joined the genocide case.

But Israel has turned a blind eye to increasing calls to stop its genocidal campaign in Gaza. The regime is carrying out the systematic killing of Palestinians with impunity, bolstered by the backing of Western nations, especially the United States.

The US and its Western allies have publicly expressed concern about the loss of civilian life in Gaza. But their behavior is indicative of callous disregard for innocent and defenseless Palestinians.

Iran is the only powerful and honest ally of people in West Asia

From page 1 ▶ Zionist researcher Danny Berkowitz has said, "Can the heads of the Hydra be cut off/The battle to weaken Hezbollah?"

According to Greek mythology, the Hydra is a creature with many heads. Whenever you cut off one or more of its heads, a replacement comes out. Berkowitz has concluded that undermining Hezbollah's relationship with Iran is one of the most important strategies. If we follow the chain of events that took place in our region, since the outbreak of the 2009 seditious strife in Iran, then the so-called "Arab Spring" we find out that Washington has followed Berkowitz's hostile strategies.

Since the onset of the current war against the peoples of West Asia, mainly Palestine and Lebanon, the forces of the Axis of Resistance have avoided clashing with the traitorous regimes while focusing on confronting the Zionist-American enemy, despite their full belief that they were born in a single context that serves the Western hegemony and prevent our peoples from achieving independence.

The colonizer has established these functional entities - not sovereign states - that are robbed of political decision. They are nothing but puppets conspiring against our nation. This became crystal clear following

the "Al-Aqsa Flood"; if any of them collapsed, the geopolitical map would change and the entire West would enter a crisis. Manuel Valls, ex-French PM has said: "If 'Israel' Falls, We will Fall." It is a confirmation of what the Zionist entity means to the West.

Today, the region and the entire world are facing an existential and urgent challenge. America and the West are determined to silence any free voice and any resistance-seeking liberation movement.

By evaluating and tracking the narratives promoted by the media platforms affiliated with these regimes, the ignoring of the legendary resistance movements' steadfastness and sacrifices can only be attributed to the conspiratorial role of these regimes.

They openly conspire in favor of our enemies. This battle is only to restore its declining hegemony in the world. Hence, the extent of bloodshed is not surprising.

Through the shameful normalization agreements and the American and Western bases on their lands, the Persian-Gulf regimes have not only conspired against their own citizens when they suppressed them with an iron fist, but have conspired against the future of the nations. They have appointed themselves as the defenders of "Israel" to preserve their unelected thrones and secure Israel's economic, political and strategic in-

terests that the Yemenis have destabilized.

Major Western think tanks acknowledge that what has enabled "Israel" to survive so far - despite its internal deterioration - is the unwavering Arab support, manipulating their media empire to demonize Iran and justify the genocides in a bid to rid of the free Islamic resistance movements that enjoy great popular support. Resistance groups have presented a more rational discourse that guarantees the independence of the region whose role has gone beyond practicing religious rituals. They are not racist, fanatical, or superficial nationalist movements. Rather they are liberation movements.

Today we are facing colonial functional regimes whose legitimacy is at rock bottom; the free peoples must practice all means of resistance to weaken the American hegemony in our region before it is too late since we are facing an existential pivotal crossroads that cannot tolerate half-solutions. It is enough that the West has martyred more than 42,000 in Gaza.

Today the only eligible option is armed resistance that preserves our identity. The Palestinian cause has revealed who is the enemy and who is the ally. Exaggerating the bet on changing or awakening the world is no longer rational, for "what is watered badly will eventually produce bitter fruit."

Nobel peace winner Nihon Hidankyo says Gaza situation 'like Japan 80 years ago'



The situation for children in Gaza is similar to the situation in Japan at the end of World War II, the co-head of new Nobel Peace Prize winner Nihon Hidankyo said Friday.

"In Gaza, children in blood are being held. It's like in Japan 80 years ago," Toshiyuki Mimaki told a news conference in Tokyo.

The Nobel Peace Prize was on Friday awarded to the Japanese anti-nuclear group Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also known as Hibakusha.

The group, founded in 1956, received the honor "for its efforts to achieve a world free

of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again," said Jorgen Watne Frydnes, the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee in Oslo.

The co-head of the group expressed surprise at winning the award.

"Never did I dream this could happen," Mimaki told reporters in Tokyo with tears in his eyes.

The Nobel committee expressed alarm that the international "nuclear taboo" that developed in response to the atomic bomb attacks of August 1945 was "under pressure."

Israel's ethnic cleansing plan revealed

The Israeli military is currently enacting a plan that would effectively ethnically cleanse the Palestinian population in northern Gaza after a siege that could last months, according to an Israeli report based on conversations with military officials.

The plan was conceived by retired Major-General Giora Eiland and aims to empty northern Gaza of its 400,000 residents to make way for a "closed military zone," the Middle East Eye reported.

"The general's plan," which was launched in an Israeli TV campaign, calls for the ethnic cleansing of northern Gaza, warning that those that remain will face starvation.

"The right thing to do is to inform the approximately 300,000 residents who remained in the northern Gaza Strip... we are ordering you to leave," Eiland said last month.

"In a week, the entire territory of the north-

ern Gaza Strip will become military territory."

According to a report published Friday in the Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth, the Israeli military is now implementing a "scaled-down" version of the plan in the Jabalia refugee camp, north of Gaza.

The military launched an assault on Jabalia a week ago. The densely-populated area has been encircled and besieged, with no food or water coming in, where tens of thousands of people are trapped.

According to the report, even though the "general's plan" aims to create conditions to force the population to flee south, most people have refused to leave their homes so far.

The assault, including the siege, is unlike raids conducted by the army in the previous year and could last for several months, the report said.

Israel's Gaza war emboldens settler attacks in West Bank

There has been a massive increase in settler attacks in the occupied West Bank since last October, when Israel's war on Gaza started, according to Yara Hawari of Al-Shabaka, the Palestinian Policy Network.

"Every day, there are several settler attacks, which have resulted in dozens of Palestinians being killed, hundreds of injuries and destruction of properties," she said, Al Jazeera reported.

"This is emboldened by the genocide in Gaza, where we have seen the Israeli regime commit horrific acts of violence. Obviously, they have not faced any kind of consequences for that. Worse than that, the Israeli government also actively encouraged them [settlers] more than ever before for them to attack Palestinians," Hawari said.

She reminded that the Israeli government distributed hundreds of firearms to Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank.

UN concerned about impact of north Gaza evacuation orders on polio campaign

United Nations officials voiced concerns on Friday that an Israeli offensive and evacuation orders in northern Gaza might affect the second phase of its polio vaccination campaign set to start next week.

Aid groups carried out an initial round of vaccinations last month, after a baby was partially paralyzed by the type 2 polio virus in August, in the first such case in the territory in 25 years, Reuters reported.

As in the first phase, humanitarian pauses in the fighting in Gaza between Israel and the Palestinian resistance group Hamas are planned in order to reach hundreds of thousands of children.

In Gaza's north, the Israeli military has been pursuing an offensive in recent days,

sending its troops into Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, and the nearby towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya.

"I am of course, concerned about the developments in the north, and specifically with these evacuation orders," Rik Peeper, WHO representative for the occupied Palestinian territory, told reporters in Geneva, saying dozens of healthcare facilities across the Strip were under such orders by the Israeli military.

Jean Gough, a UNICEF special representative also voiced concern and described conditions as "more complicated" than in the first phase of the vaccination campaign last month. The first vaccinations are set to start in central Gaza on Monday, before moving to the south and then the north, she added.

Museum chief sheds light on showcased Achaemenid tablets recently repatriated from U.S.



symbolic representations.”

Heroic figures dressed in elaborate garments face mythical creatures such as bulls, winged lions, and scorpion-tailed entities. These depictions emphasize themes of strength and valor, with celestial elements like stars and crescent moons adding to the mythological context, he explained.

In addition to heroic scenes, the seals often portray ritualistic processes. Figures are shown in processions, offering items to sacred structures, accompanied by attendants in distinctive attire. The inclusion of symbols such as flowers and stylized plants suggests themes of fertility and a connection to the divine, according to Nokandeh.

These seals reveal a complex visual language that reflects the cultural values and beliefs of the Achaemenids.

“The combination of heroic, ritualistic, and celestial imagery forms a multi-layered visual language that invites viewers to explore the stories and meanings within each scene,” Nokandeh said, emphasizing their importance in understanding the ancient empire’s social and religious practices.

“These seals serve as important artifacts that connect us to the past and illuminate the cultural heritage of the Achaemenids.”

The exhibition, which will run until November 20, offers visitors a rare opportunity to view these remarkable artifacts and explore the stories embedded within their ancient seals.

Nokandeh concluded by underscoring the significance of these pieces in connecting modern-day Iran to its rich Achaemenid heritage.

The clay documents were originally discovered in 1933 during archaeological excavations in Persepolis, led by a team from the University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute. In 1935, under an agreement between Iran and the Oriental Institute, the tablets were sent to the U.S. for translation and study. However, the process of returning the tablets has been ongoing for decades.

TEHRAN – Jebrael Nokandeh, director of the National Museum of Iran, has provided detailed insights into the 30 recently repatriated Achaemenid tablets currently on display at the prestigious museum.

These clay tablets, part of a larger collection of 1,100 pieces, have recently been returned from the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures at the University of Chicago. They date back to the reign of Darius the Great (509–493 BC).

According to Nokandeh, these tablets, which feature seal impressions but no text, were likely used alongside inscribed tablets without seal impressions.

He described how the tablets were often linked by a string through a hole, possibly serving as substitutes for original seals in administrative offices.

“They were often linked together with a string through a single hole, possibly as substitutes for original seals in busy offices.

The seal impressions on the tablets provide a fascinating glimpse into Achaemenid art and culture.

Nokandeh also described how many seals depict heroic encounters, ritualistic scenes, and celestial symbolism.

“The seal impressions on the tablets depict heroic encounters, ritualistic processes, and

Urgent restoration planned for late Ayatollah Taleqani’s house



TEHRAN – The historical house of the late Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleqani is set to undergo urgent restoration, according to the head of Tehran province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department.

Parham Janfeshan on Thursday revealed recent discussions with the Tehran Municipality over the restoration of the house, which is located near the Pich-e Shemiran area in downtown Tehran.

Janfeshan emphasized the importance of the restoration project, which will be conducted by the municipality under the supervision of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts. “We have worked in coordination with the head of the Tehran Municipality’s Cultural and Artistic Organization to ensure the preservation of this valuable historical structure,” Janfeshan said.

The architectural significance of the house and its association with Ayatollah Taleqani, a prominent revolutionary figure, are key factors driving the registration process.

According to Janfeshan, the house is also being considered for inclusion on the national list of cultural heritage sites, with officials currently preparing the necessary documentation.

Born to a religious family in 1911, Taleqani was an Iranian theologian, Muslim reformer, democracy advocate, Islamic scholar, and thinker, who shoulder to shoulder with millions of Iranians, revolted against Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the last Shah of Iran.

6,000-year-old Neolithic longhouse discovered in Sandomierz, Poland

Recent excavations in Sandomierz-Mokoszyn, located in Poland’s Świętokrzyskie region, have unveiled one of the earliest examples of a Neolithic “long house” on the Sandomierz Upland. Dating back to between 5300 and 4900 BC, this remarkable discovery marks a significant contribution to understanding the Neolithic period in Central Europe.

The excavation project, conducted by the Three Ages studio from Klimontów, was originally launched to confirm the presence of a Funnel Beaker culture settlement (3700–3200 BC). This culture, known for large storage pits, pottery fragments, flint tools, stone querns, and animal bones, was already evidenced in the area. However, the archaeolo-

gists made an unexpected and earlier discovery: remnants of a Neolithic settlement from the Linear Pottery culture, which predates the Funnel Beaker culture.

The Linear Pottery culture, one of the earliest Neolithic cultures in Central and Eastern Europe, thrived from approximately 5500 to 4500 BC. Its name is derived from the distinctive linear patterns found on ceramic vessels, often filled with white paste. These early farmers, believed to have migrated from the Transcarpathian region, settled in what is now Poland, and their way of life revolved around farming and animal husbandry.

(Source: archaeologymag.com)

Iran to introduce electronic registration for entry and exit of foreign tourists

TEHRAN – Iran is set to introduce electronic registration for the entry and exit of foreign tourists, eliminating the need for physical stamps on their passports.

The initiative was discussed on Thursday during a meeting between Iran’s deputy tourism minister, Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, and Omid Nodehi, the commander of the Iranian Immigration & Passport Police Office.

Shalbafian announced that the electronic registration system is in line with broader efforts to streamline the arrival process for international visitors.

Foreign tourists will no longer need to have their entry and exit physically stamped on their passports, Shalbafian stated, emphasizing that this step is designed to enhance the overall tourism experience in Iran.

During the meeting, which was held to commemorate National Police Week and to acknowledge the contributions of the Immigration & Passport Police, Shalbafian highlighted the significant role various agencies, particularly the police, play in supporting Iran’s tourism sector.

The official noted that the police are often the first point of contact for tourists entering the country and their professionalism has a lasting impact on visitors’ perceptions of Iran.

Shalbafian also lauded the ongoing cooperation between the tourism ministry and the police in facilitating the entry of tourists,



The new electronic registration system is expected to boost Iran’s appeal as a tourist destination, particularly for visitors who prefer to avoid having physical entry or exit stamps on their passports.

including the introduction of international vehicle license plates, and the easing of travel for Iraqi pilgrims as well as Armenian citizens with private cars, to name a few.

He further mentioned that elec-

tronic registration is part of a series of efforts to simplify the process for foreign visitors, alongside the unilateral visa waiver agreements that have already led to a 30% increase in tourism from countries with visa exemptions.

Nodehi, for his part, echoed Shalbafian’s remarks, stating that the police are committed to further supporting the growth of Iran’s tourism sector.

The commander highlighted their efforts to improve the training and cultural awareness of officers to ensure a smooth experience for incoming tourists. The new electronic registration system is expected to boost Iran’s appeal as a tourist destination, particularly for visitors who prefer to avoid having physical entry or exit stamps on their passports.

Iran has unilaterally waived visas for citizens of approximately 30 countries including India,

United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Indonesia, Brunei, Japan, Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brazil, Peru, Cuba, Mexico, Bolivia, Venezuela, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Belarus, Lebanon, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Mauritania, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

In addition, the Islamic Republic has previously introduced some visa simplifications with a selection of countries like Turkey, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Oman, China, Armenia, Lebanon, and Syria, in various forms of unilateral, bilateral, and group visa cancellations.

Moreover, such a privilege has been granted to tourist groups from Russia based on a mutual agreement inked between Tehran and Moscow.

According to available data compiled by the tourism ministry, more than six million foreign tourists arrived by air, road, and sea in the country during the past Iranian calendar year, which came to an end on March 19. The figure marks a substantial year-on-year increase compared to a year earlier (1401) in which approximately 4.23 million tourists visited the Islamic Republic.

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

Minister arrives in Shiraz, visits historical sites, tourism projects

TEHRAN – On Thursday, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, arrived in Shiraz to attend a commemoration ceremony of Hafez, the illustrious Persian poet of the 14th century.

During his two-day stay, Salehi-Amiri paid visits to the holy shrine of Shah Cheragh as well as several historical and touristic sites, ISNA reported on Friday.

Accompanied by Fars Governor-General Mohammad-Hadi Imanieh and the province’s tourism chief Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi, the minister also inspected ongoing projects aimed at preserving and promoting the city’s rich cultural legacy.

His visit included a tour of the under-construction Fars Regional Museum and the Garden Museum of Notables, where he reviewed the progress of these significant tourism developments.

The Fars Regional Museum, covering 30,000 square meters, will house four main galleries totaling 1,600 square meters, alongside an auditorium, cinema, laboratory, prayer room, café, and a secure storage area for valuable artifacts.

According to local officials, it is designed to be one of the safest museum structures in the country, with blast-resistant walls to protect its collections.

The Garden Museum of Notables, with 19,000 square meters of space, is set to pay tribute to a selection of notables including the exhibition of statues of 48 prominent Iranian and international poets, including Hafez.

The museum will also feature a specialized library and serve as a venue for future Hafez Studies Center events. Once completed, the garden museum is expected to become a major cultural attraction in Shiraz.

During the trip, Salehi-Amiri also visited the restoration and water



management project at the historical Karim Khan Citadel, a prominent site from the Zand dynasty era. The citadel remains one of the most important architectural landmarks in Shiraz.

The minister’s tour extended to the Emirat-e Divan-Khanah, a historical mansion also dating back to the Zand period, located near Karim Khan Citadel.

The two-story structure covering 840 square meters, is noted for its intricate stonework, murals, and traditional Shiraz-style painting.

The mansion’s courtyard features a long reflecting pool, and its architecture embodies the inward-facing design typi-

cal of Zand-era buildings.

Moreover, Salehi-Amiri paid a visit to the Pars Museum (Kolah Farangi Mansion), another relic of the Zand dynasty, where he reviewed ongoing efforts to preserve the structure.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation.

It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Shiraz is home to some of the country’s most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital.

Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa’di, Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

The ancient city is also home to some magnificent historical gardens such as Bagh-e Narenjestan and Eram Garden, which are top tourist destinations both for domestic and international sightseers.



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IFRC: Sanctions has significantly hindered Iran's capacity to address natural disasters

TEHRAN –The imposition of unilateral sanctions by the United States on Iran has significantly hindered the country's capacity to address humanitarian emergencies effectively, according to the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC).

These sanctions have restricted access to vital resources, including medical supplies and equipment, thus impeding disaster response initiatives and worsening the effects of natural disasters on already vulnerable populations, the IFRC website reported in a press release on October 10.

Iran is highly susceptible to seismic events, with earthquakes occurring frequently and resulting in severe humanitarian crises. Additionally, seasonal flooding poses a significant risk, often intensified by deforestation and inadequate infrastructure. For instance, in 2019, extensive flooding affected over 25 provinces, leading to loss of life, large-scale displacement, and widespread damage to homes and critical infrastructure.

The World Risk Index 2023 and the vulnerability rate for Iran suggest that Iran has a relatively high level of vulnerability and the significant lack of coping capacities highlight the need for improved disaster preparedness and capacity building.

The challenges issuing from the pandemic, coupled with increasing



US sanctions imposed in mid-2018, have led to the deterioration of Iran's economy. Unemployment and inflation rates have increased, weakening the banking system and decreasing income generation in the country. With limited fiscal space and high inflation, economic pressures on poor households are expected to continue.

The country's recovery is projected to be slow and gradual. The repeated sanctions on Iran have led to a wide range of negative economic outcomes for Iran, which include the rapid devaluation of the Iranian currency, severe trade and fiscal deficits, inflation, and a rise in the poverty rates in the country.

Moreover, Iran is home to a substantial number of refugees, primarily from neighboring Afghanistan.

The country continues to face a multitude of humanitarian challenges, such as natural disasters, economic strain, displaced populations, and public health crises.

Some 250 natural disasters annually

In October 2023, Jafar Miadfar, head of Iran's Emergency Organization, said approximately 250 natural disasters hit the country every year.

Based on a report published by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the country is in the risk level eight out of ten, he added.

A total of 40 natural disasters are known in the world, 32 of which occur in Iran, ISNA quoted Miadfar as saying.

"Iran is one of the ten highly hazard-prone countries in the world. It

ranks fourth in Asia.

The Iranian people's vulnerability to natural disasters is 80 percent."

As a result of these natural hazards, some 3,000 people are killed, 9,000 people are physically injured, and 1.5 million people are affected, he noted.

"Geographical location, topographical features of Iran, and high structural and non-structural vulnerability of the society strengthens natural hazards impacts leading to countless deaths and injuries and other health consequences," Miadfar highlighted.

He added the rapid development of urbanization has caused many rural residents to live on the outskirts of big cities, places which do not have the necessary resistance against disasters.

In March, the head of Crisis Management Organization said that the international organizations have failed to support the crisis management organization and crisis-affected areas in the last few years, showing a double standard toward Iran.

He went on to state that international organizations are known to have good capacities in the field of crisis management, but the performance of these organizations is affected by the domination system so their claims do not match their behavior, IRNA reported.

World Migratory Bird Day stresses need for proactive conservation measures

TEHRAN - World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD), October 12, is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

Every year people around the world take action and organize public events such as bird festivals, education programs, exhibitions, and bird-watching excursions to celebrate WMBD. All these activities can also be undertaken at any time of the year because countries or regions observe the peak of migrations at different times, but the main days for the international celebrations on the second Saturday in May and in October.

for the first time ever, World Migratory Bird Day focuses on the importance of insects for migratory birds, and highlight concerns related to decreasing populations of insects.

Insects are essential sources of energy for many migratory bird species, not only during the breeding seasons but also during their extensive journeys and greatly affect the timing, duration, and overall success of bird migrations.

Along their migration routes, birds actively seek out insects in fields, forests, wetlands, and

various habitats during stopovers. The timing of bird migration often coincides with peak insect abundance at stopover locations, supplying nourishment for birds to replenish their energy reserves before continuing their journeys.

The loss and disturbance of insect populations at breeding sites and along avian migration routes threaten bird survival and well-being. Natural spaces like forests and grasslands that have been transformed or endangered by intensive agriculture and urban development and its effects such as light pollution can result in a decline in insect populations. Pesticides and herbicides designed to protect crops harm insects that birds rely on for food. A scarcity of energy- and protein-rich insects can hinder bird migration and breeding, leading to weakened immune systems, reduced reproductive success, and increased mortality rates for both adult birds and their offspring.

Birds play crucial roles in pollination and pest control, and a lack of insects disrupts these ecosystem functions. Overpopulation of certain insects, without natural predators from birds, can also cause outbreaks that damage plant health and agriculture.

The World Migratory Bird Day campaign in 2024 stresses the need for proactive conservation measures. This includes reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and where possible, switching to organic farming. Other measures

include maintaining and connecting areas of natural vegetation that provide food and shelter for birds and other species, in agricultural landscapes.

World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on two days, 11 May and 12 October, aligning with the cyclic nature of bird migration in different hemispheres.

Iran hosts over 5% of world's wintering birds

Iran hosts more than five percent of the world's migratory birds in 450 sites in winter, the Department of Environment's director for natural environment and biodiversity has said.

Encompassing numerous wetlands, reservoirs, and diverse water bodies, Iran welcomes millions of migratory birds every year. It is a wintering home for more than 1.8 million birds of 166 species, IRNA quoted Hassan Akbari as saying.

"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.

The collected data and related analyses have significant scientific value in protecting wetlands, beaches, and biodiversity, he noted.

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

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran starts five-year tobacco-free national plan

A national plan aiming to protect people from secondhand smoking in 63 cities and 63 villages over the course of five years has just piloted in the central city of Qom.

Following Article 8 of the Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organization to protect people from tobacco use and reduce its side effects, Iran declared Qom city as the country's first "tobacco-free city".

This five-year program will eventually launch in 63 cities and 63 selected villages of the country, however, it is probably can cover the whole cities, Behzad Valizadeh, head of the National Secretariat of Tobacco Control said.

برنامه ۵ ساله شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات اجرایی شود

رئیس دبیرخانه کشوری کنترل دخانیات گفت: این برنامه یک برنامه پنج ساله است که از سال ۱۳۹۸ به صورت پایلوت در شهر قم کلید خورد و تا سال ۱۴۰۴ ادامه خواهد یافت و در نهایت ۶۳ شهر و روستای منتخب کشور عاری از دخانیات خواهند شد. مهندس بهزاد ولی زاده با بیان این مطلب اظهار داشت: ابتکار شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات بر اساس ماده ۸ کنوانسیون کنترل دخانیات سازمان جهانی بهداشت به منظور محافظت از مردم در مواجهه با دود دست دوم دخانیات و کاهش عوارض آن از سال ۱۳۹۸ به صورت پایلوت در شهر قم کلید خورد و از مرداد سال جاری هماهنگی های لازم جهت اجرای آن در ۶۳ دانشگاه علوم پزشکی سراسر کشور انجام شده است.

More Iranian universities in THE rankings 2025

TEHRAN –The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 has placed 85 Iranian universities among the top institutions compared to 75 universities in 2024.

The 2025 rankings include 2,092 ranked universities from 115 countries. There are 185 new entries compared with last year.

Recognized as the world's most comprehensive evaluation of university performance, the latest methodology includes 18 carefully calibrated indicators to assess institutions across five key areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, industry engagement, and international outlook.

Sharif University of Technology is ranked first in the country with a global ranking of 301-350.

Amirkabir University of Technology, and Iran University of Science and Technology (ranking globally 351-400) are placed second.

Kermanshah University of Medical Science, and University of Tehran are placed third with a global ranking of 401- 500.

Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, Shiraz University of Technology, and Tehran University of Technology are ranked joint fourth, they ranked 601-800, globally.

Three new countries join the top 200 – Brazil, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – highlighting the rise of emerging markets in higher education.

Oxford holds on to the top spot for the ninth consecutive year.

Massachusetts Institutes of Technology rises to second place, overtaking Stanford, which drops to sixth, and Harvard University ranked third.

Latest rankings

A total of 100 universities from Iran were ranked by EduRank based on research outputs, non-academic prominence, and alumni influence.

The rankings were determined by analyzing 14.9 m citations received by 1.26 m academic publications made by 310 universities from Iran, the popularity of 867 recognized alumni, and the largest reference database available.

This year, 14131 universities from 183 countries were ranked across 246 topics.

According to the report University of Tehran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology were the best universities in the country, IRIB reported.

The Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities, also known as the National Taiwan University (NTU) Rankings, placed 21 Iranian institutions among the top 1,200 universities worldwide, compared to 18 universities in 2023.

University of Tehran won the best ranking among Iranian institutions, ranking 291 globally.

University of Tehran ranked 30 in chemical engineering as well as energy science and engineering, 34 in mechanical engineering, and 73 in agriculture.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (with a global ranking of 359), Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences (491), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (540), and Tarbiat Modarres University (577) were placed second to fifth, respectively.



Tehran University of Medical Science's best ranking globally was 22 in pharmacology and toxicology.

Moreover, Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology and Yasouj University were among the top 1200 institutions in the world based on full-time academic staff.

The 2024-2025 edition of Best Global Universities rankings included 69 Iranian universities, up from 52 in 2023, among the world's 2,250 top universities.

These institutions from 104 countries were ranked based on 13 indicators that measure their academic research performance and their global and regional reputations which helps students to explore the higher education options that exist beyond their own countries' borders and to compare key aspects of schools' research missions.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 275), Islamic Azad University (374), Sharif University of Technology and Tehran University of Medical Sciences (516), University of Tabriz (521), and Amirkabir University of Technology (649) ranked first to fifth in the country, respectively.

Shanghai ranking 2024 placed nine Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide.

The 2024 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) was released by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy.

Since 2003, ARWU has been presenting the world's top universities annually based on transparent methodology and objective third-party data. It has been recognized as the precursor of global university rankings and the most trustworthy one.

This year, more than 2,500 institutions were scrutinized, and the best 1,000 universities in the world were published.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran, which were among the top 500 universities in the world with a rank of 401-500, were placed top in the country.

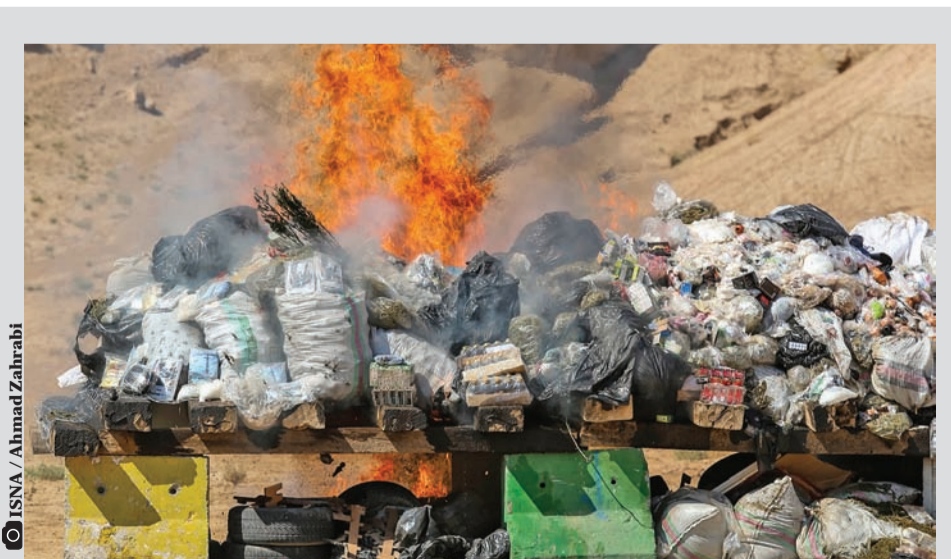
Tarbiat Modares University (601-700) was placed second.

Iran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology with a ranking of 701-800, shared the third rank in the country.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, and University of Tabriz (901-1000) were ranked joint fourth.

According to data released by Web of Science (WoS), Iran's ranking in Quantum Science and Technology publications improved from 23 in 2014 to 16 in 2023, placing the country top among Islamic nations in all quantum technology fields.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Two tons of narcotics set on fire

The anti-narcotics police burnt two tons of various narcotics and chemical substances in the province of Qom on Thursday.

Since the beginning of the current year (March 20), some 470 tons of narcotics have been seized from smugglers all over the country.



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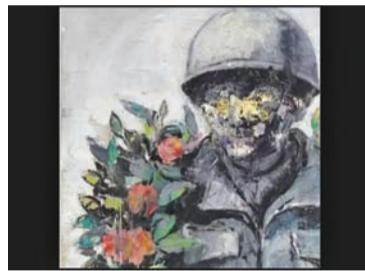
GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Every religion has its distinct characteristic, and the distinct characteristic of Islam is modesty.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:51 Dawn: 4:46 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:09 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* An exhibition of paintings by Amin Tavakol is underway at Yafteh Gallery.

The exhibition named "Goodbye Tehran" will run until October 25 at the gallery located at 8 Taleqani Dead End, Yarmohammadi St. in the Darus Neighborhood.

* Shamis Gallery is showcasing paintings by Sima Novin in an exhibition.

The exhibit named "The Madness of Nature" will run until October 21 at the gallery located at 8 Daniali St., Andarzgu Blvd. in the Farmanieh neighborhood.



* Paintings by Behnush Hadi-Irani are currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

Titled "Suspension", the exhibit will continue until October 22 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.

* A collection of paintings by Hossein Tamjid is on view in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until October 22 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

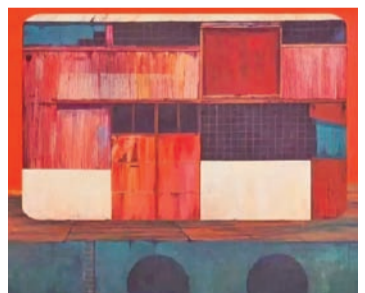


* An exhibition of paintings by Avis Hashemi is currently underway at Didar Gallery.

The exhibition named "Confusion" will run until October 25 at the gallery located at 10 Mobini Alley, Mofatteh St.

* Bashgha Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Hossein Shirahmadi.

Entitled "Black and Blue", the exhibition will be running until October 25 at the gallery located at No.13, Hosseini St., Karim Khan Ave.

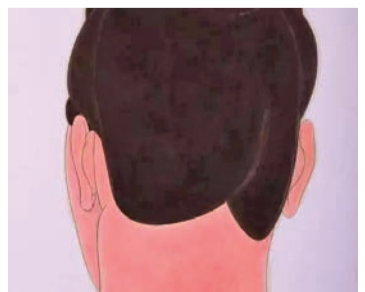


* Qassem Mohammadi is showcasing his latest paintings in an exhibition at Far Gallery.

The exhibition titles "The Long Shadows of Summer" will run until November 1 at the gallery that can be found at 17 Bidar St., Fereshteh Ave.

* Paintings by Zahra Shahcheraghi are on view in an exhibition at O Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until October 22 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Shahin St., Sanai St.



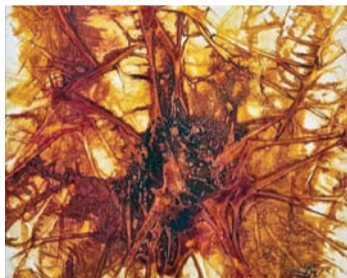
* Paintings by Mohsen Alverdili are currently on view in an exhibition at Dastan Basement Gallery.

The exhibit named "Beautiful" will be running until November 1 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.

Multimedia

* An exhibition of artworks in different media by Gita Montazer is underway at Ehsan Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "My Dining Table" will run until October 16 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.



Isfahan children's film festival announces winners

TEHRAN- The 36th edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth came to an end in the central Iranian city of Isfahan on Thursday, recognizing the achievements of winners across various categories.

The Golden Butterfly for the Best Film was awarded to the feature "The Dog Thief" directed by Chilean filmmaker Vinko Tomicic, ISNA reported on Friday.

A joint production of Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, France, and Italy, "The Dog Thief" is about Martin, a shoeshine boy, who works in the streets of La Paz, Bolivia.

One day he decides to steal the dog of his best client, a lonely tailor he has begun to imagine as his father.

Golden Butterfly for the Best Director went to Goran Radovanovic from Serbia for his anti-war movie "The Erl-King".

The film deals with the consequences of bombarding of NATO of Serbia, and how it affected a child's perception of the world and their childhood.

The cast of the "O'PENing: 2:15" by Jung Se-Ryeong from South Korea received the best actor and actress awards, while the film also earned the best screenplay award for Park Yeon-Ok.

The film follows Hyun Soo, who one day spots a little girl trapped inside a house through a window in her neighborhood.

There, she meets Min Ha, and the two begin to spend time together every day at 2:15 p.m. for exactly 15 minutes, just before Min Ha's frightening father returns home.

Min Ha has one simple wish: to visit the playground. Meanwhile, Hyun Soo's mother has made



plans to send her to Canada to stay with her aunt.

Determined to fulfill Min Ha's wish, Hyun Soo decides to take her to the playground for what will be their first and last time together, unaware of just how profoundly this day will impact their lives and their feelings of longing for each other.

Isfahan children's film festival aims to promote peace and hope among children and young adults.

Additionally, "Barren" by Iranian director Mansour Vosouqi received the special jury award in the international section of the festival.

"My Wild Friend" by Anna

Kurbatova from Russia received the Special Jury Award of the International Center of Films for Children and Young People (CIFCJ).

The movie is about Sasha Menshikov, a seventh-grader, who lives in Moscow with his aunt Nina, however, he suffers from loneliness. Fate brings him together with a little fox who has fallen into a trap, and an unexpected friendship develops between the two.

In the national section of the festival, the Golden Butterfly for the Best Film was awarded to "Kianoush's Garden" directed by Reza Keshavarz Haddad.

The film follows Hamzeh and Abbas as they plan to invade Kianoush's son's garden on his wedding day.

This unexpected incident coincides with the crash of an Iraqi bomber plane near the garden.

The arrival of the plane's pilot in Kianoush's garden sets off a series of unexpected adventures,

intertwining the lives of the characters in surprising ways.

The best director award went to Arash Moayyerian for his film "Bamboulak".

The film features a protagonist who strives to fulfill a girl's wish to have a brother or sister, despite her parents' opposition.

In animation section of the festival, "The Gools" brought Farzad and Kianoush Dalvand the best director award, while "Woolina and the No Birds", co-directed by Hossein Saffarzadegan and Meisam Hosseini, was named best animated movie.

The special jury award of the section was given to "Summer of the Same Year" by Mahmoud Kalari.

This year, the festival received 176 submissions from 48 countries.

The festival aims to promote peace, tolerance, moral values, and instill hope among children and young adults.

Iranian calligrapher's works on display at Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial

TEHRAN-The 11th Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial is underway in the UAE with works by Iranian calligrapher Hossein Feizabadi among the displayed items.

The biennial in Sharjah, known as the cultural and literature hub of the UAE, has put on show 17 calligraphy works by Feizabadi, created in Shikasteh style, ILNA reported.

Feizabadi, 56, is known for his expertise in the art of calligraphy, particularly in the Shikasteh style.

He is a prominent author of educational books on this form and has been involved in teaching it since 1996.

Shikasteh is a style of Persian calligraphy that is known for its rapid writing and fluidity.

It is a form of calligraphy that partly derives from the Nastaliq script but is characterized by letters and words that may connect in ways not typically seen in more formal scripts.

The biennial is being organized by the Directorate of Cultural Affairs at the Department of Culture under the theme "Inscriptions".

This year's exhibition features a variety of works representing the artistic experiences of calligraphers from around the globe. It showcases more than 600 artworks by 260



A calligraphic work by Hossein Feizabadi

artists from different countries. The works showcase artistic diversity both in form and content.

The calligraphic styles presented include Thuluth, Naskh, Kufi, and others whose revival is being recorded by the exhibition.

The diverse artworks on display includes verses from the Quran and poems in various calligraphic styles created by artists from the United Arab Emirates and other countries.

This year's winners of the biennial awards were also honoured at the opening ceremony of the biennial on October 2.

The winners of the Authentic Direction awards included calligrapher calligrapher Fardin Ghozlou from Iran for his work "Surat

Yasin" as well as calligraphers Ziad Al-Muhandis from Iraq and Ahmad Al-Bashir from Syria.

The winners of the Modern and Contemporary Calligraphic Arts awards included artist Jaafar Ali from Iran for his work "The All Wise" as well as artists Sanaz Al-Barzi from Turkey and Rashid Aghli from Morocco for his work "In".

Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial was launched in 2004 to introduce the art of calligraphy theoretically and practically, with all its divisions, schools, and conventions.

The biennial invites renowned calligraphers and practitioners from around the world to showcase their art and projects to help in enhancing the development of calligraphy art.

The biennial is also a platform for the artists to experience technical, aesthetic and intellectual advancement. It also encourages exploration and research to deepen the history of the calligraphy in the region.

The duration of the Biennial varies from a month to two months with eventful days. This year's edition of the biennial also features 94 activities including specialised workshops, lectures, and various seminars hosted by the Sharjah Culture Department. The event will run till November 30.

"World of Shahnameh" event highlights Persian poetry, culture in Russia

TEHRAN- The cultural event "World of Shahnameh", highlighting Persian poetry and culture, was held at the Moscow State Linguistic University in Russia on Thursday.

The event was organized to commemorate the 1035th birth anniversary of the Persian poet Persian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi.

Organized by the Ibn Sina Foundation in collaboration with the Sadra Publishing House, the event featured a book exhibition showcasing the history and culture of Iran,

educational materials for Persian language study, as well as children's literature translated from Persian. The books were presented as gifts to the attendees of the event.

The event was held with the participation of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Ferdowsi, born in 940 CE in the city of Tus, eastern Iran, is celebrated as one of the greatest Persian poets and the author of the epic Shahnameh, also known as the Book of Kings. Comprising

over 50,000 verses, this magnum opus recounts the mythical and historical tales of Iran from its creation to the Islamic conquest. Ferdowsi spent over three decades composing the Shahnameh, a labor of love and dedication to preserving Persian cultural heritage and language. His work not only became a cornerstone of Persian literature but also played a crucial role in revitalizing the Persian language during a time of Arab domination in Iran.

Ferdowsi's poetry is not only renowned for its literary

excellence and storytelling prowess but also for its nationalistic and patriotic themes. Through his epic tales of ancient kings, heroes, and battles, Ferdowsi immortalized the virtues of bravery, honor, and loyalty. His emphasis on the timeless values of justice and righteousness continues to resonate with readers and audiences to this day, making him a revered figure in Iranian culture and history. Ferdowsi's enduring legacy as the "Homer of Iran" cements his status as a literary giant whose impact transcends generations and borders.