

Message Is Clear

Iran says ready to respond to any aggression



UN mission refutes allegations linking Tehran to Al-Aqsa Storm Operation

TEHRAN- Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York released statements refuting allegations that connect the Hamas-led Al-Aqsa Storm Operation to the Islamic Republic.

Recent statements from certain security officials and U.S. newspapers have accused Iran of being the orchestrator of the Al Aqsa Storm Operation that took place on October 7, 2023.

The mission emphasized that officials from Hamas, based in Doha, have publicly stated they were unaware of the operation beforehand, asserting that all planning, decision-making, and execution were carried out exclusively by Hamas's military wing in Gaza.

Any attempts to associate the operation with Iran or Hezbollah, either in part or in full, are baseless and stem from false documentation, according to the statement issued on Saturday.

The mission asserts that such claims lack credibility and are founded on fabricated documents.

The U.S. publication suggested that an examination of these documents indicated that Hamas had been planning the operation for an extended period and had engaged in discussions with Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah to enlist their support. ▶ Page 2

Collaboration with criminal Zionist regime must cease immediately: Iranian parliament speaker

TEHRAN- The Iranian Parliament speaker stated that all forms of collaboration with the criminal Zionist regime must cease immediately.

Speaking at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Summit and during an emergency session of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) in Geneva on Sunday, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf stressed the necessity of halting any cooperation, support, dialogue, or political and economic initiatives involving the Zionist regime.

"Before I participated in the PUIC, I visited Beirut to carry the message of the Lebanese people's struggle and resistance to Geneva. The Islamic Republic is prepared to assist in establishing a shared security framework to address the historical threat posed by the Zionist regime. All forms of cooperation, aid, dialogue, and political and economic projects with the Zionist regime must be terminated," he asserted.

Qalibaf further stated, "In the current situation, we must make a decisive choice. If we can reach a collective agreement, victory is imminent, and divine support is assured. Failure to do so will result in consequences for all of us." ▶ Page 3

Amid Israeli aggression, US pushes for an anti-resistance president in Lebanon

By Sondos al-Assad

BEIRUT - In Lebanon's political history "presidential vacuum" is a recurring case. The current one dates back to October 31, 2022, after the end of the term of former President Michel Aoun.

In a sceptical manner, and amid the raging US-Israeli genocidal war, the issue of electing a president has been brought back to the forefront as it is being proposed as a condition for stopping the aggression, in addition to implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

Obviously, what the US is pushing for is not electing a president but accepting a president who satisfies the wishes of Washington and the imperialist West.

Currently, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken has been entrusted with managing the entire Lebanese political file, along with the provocative pressure exerted by US envoy Amos Hochstein. In parallel, US Secretary of "War" Lloyd Austin has requested his Israeli counterpart, "War" Minister Yoav Galant, to "move from military operations to the diplomatic track quickly."

Hezbollah confronts invading forces

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The pace of ground confrontations between Hezbollah and Israeli occupation forces (IOF) has escalated since Saturday evening.

On Sunday, the Lebanese resistance faced off against Israeli forces that attempted to infiltrate the village of Ramya.

The IOF is attempting to invade southern villages, particularly around Ramya, where clashes continue to erupt with medium and light weapons at "zero distance."

Hezbollah says it has inflicted heavy losses on the Israeli forces in Ramya.

At the same time, the resistance has been targeting IOF positions based in Israeli settlements across the Lebanese border.

Hezbollah also targeted the IOF's Zar'it barracks with rocket-propelled grenades and announced a rocket strike on the Tirat HaCarmel base, southern Haifa, in statements on Sunday.

According to an Al-Mayadeen correspondent in southern Lebanon, more than 20 Israeli soldiers were either killed or wounded in ambushes, with the Israeli army being unable to retrieve the bodies amid intense clashes.

Israel's ethnic cleansing of north Gaza unfolds

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel's brutal strikes on northern Gaza over the past 10 days have highlighted the regime's nefarious schemes in the early stages of its onslaught against the Palestinian territory.

Soon after Israel launched war on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023, its post-war scenarios came to the fore.

In mid-October last year, Israel acknowledged that its Intelligence Ministry had drafted "a wartime proposal" to transfer the Gaza Strip's 2.3 million people to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

The move was quickly dismissed by the Egyptian president. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said Egyptians in their millions would reject the forced displacement of Palestinians into Sinai.

About 400,000 Palestinians who are living in northern Gaza are trapped there. Israel has issued evacuation orders but does not allow people to leave the area.

On Saturday, the Israeli army renewed its evacuation orders for Palestinians still living in the north. But many residents say the Israeli sniper fire makes it impossible to leave.

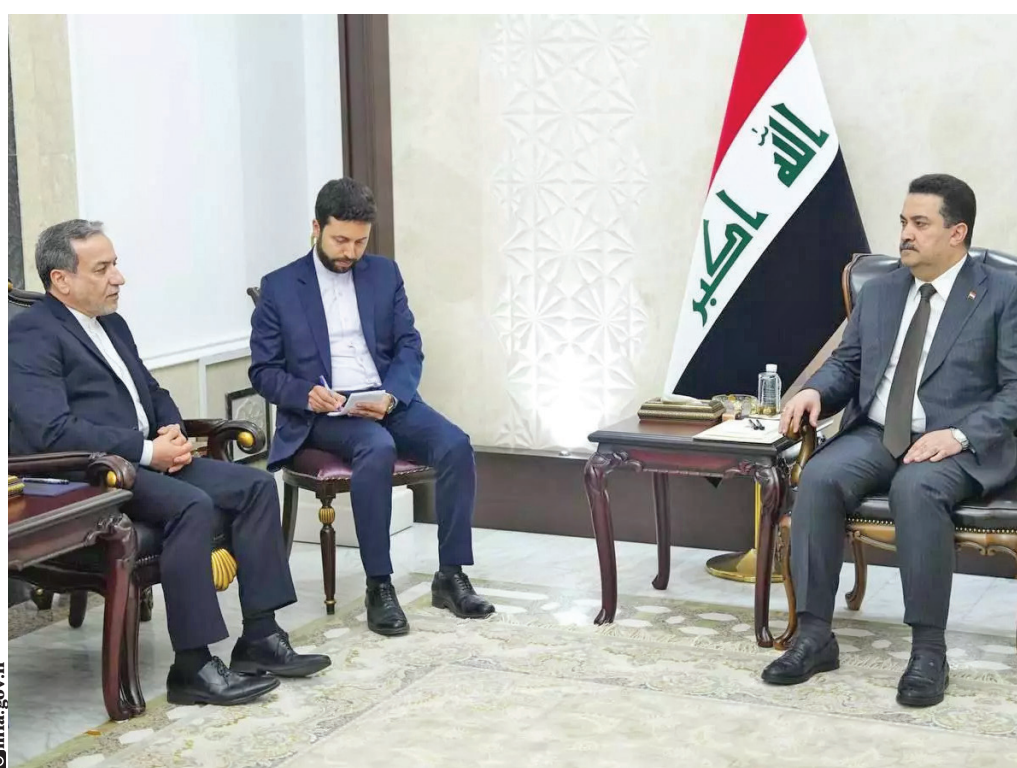
Non-oil exports to Russia rise 12% in 6 months on year

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's non-oil exports to Russia rose 12 percent in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) compared to last year's first half, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) data showed.

According to the mentioned data, Iran exported 1.3 million tons of commodities worth over \$494 million to Russia in the first half of the current Iranian year, IRIB reported.

Non-oil exports to the Russian Federation also increased by 20 percent in terms of weight.

The main exported goods to Russia in the first half of this year include bell pepper, polystyrene and shelled pistachios, which accounted for 5.9 percent, 5.8 percent and 4.9 percent of the country's total export value, respectively. ▶ Page 4



Immediate halt to Israeli crimes key to regional stability: Iran FM

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister says an immediate halt to the crimes of the Israeli regime in Gaza and Lebanon can be the only thing that saves the West Asian region from a dangerous escalation of conflicts.

Abbas Araqchi made the remarks in a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani in Baghdad on Sunday.

During their discussions, Araqchi referenced his recent travels to Beirut and Damascus, where he met with officials from neighboring countries.

He expressed serious concern over the current volatile situation in the region, calling for all nations to bolster their efforts to end the aggression of the Israeli regime, particularly its military operations in Gaza and Lebanon. ▶ Page 2

Hadi Choopan wins silver in Mr. Olympia 2024

TEHRAN - Hadi Choopan of Iran came second in the 2024 Mr. Olympia held at the Resorts World Theater in Las Vegas, NV Saturday night.

Samson Dauda won the 2024 Mr. Olympia contest and received \$600,000. ▶ Page 3



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran will not give in

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its editorial to the West's position against Iran. It said: After Operation True Promise II, thinkable moves have been propounded about Iran by the United States and some European countries, especially the United Kingdom. They start from a package of new sanctions to the war against Iran's allies in the region and the Iranophobia approach in the media. There are two viewpoints. The first one is that the Western countries, with the lessons they have learned from Operations True Promise I and II, are looking to manage the tension between Iran and the Zionist regime to prevent the expansion of the war in the region. The second viewpoint is that by depicting Iran as a security threat to the region and the larger world, Westerners are promoting hostile goals. Regardless of which of these scenarios is the goal of the Westerners, it will not change Iran's reaction. As in the past, Tehran uses all its diplomatic capacities to establish a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon and security in the wider region. Iran has also an active presence in the battleground, and along with its decisive and comprehensive support for the resistance, it will give a decisive response to any threat and will not submit to Western pressure and blackmail.

Etemad: A successful mission

In an interview with former diplomat Amir Mousavi, Etemad dealt with the visit of Foreign Minister Araghchi to Riyadh. He said: Mr. Araghchi's interesting action in this regard was that he tried to remind that regardless of the differences, if Riyadh works in harmony with Tehran to achieve peace, it will gain more benefits. Israel is trying to impose the idea on the Persian Gulf (Arab) countries that if the resistance movement in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Iran are weakened, this group of actors will be able to expand their domain of power. Following the trip, Araghchi was probably able to convey the message that if Israel's recent actions extend and reach Iran, then the entire region will be in crisis. Given that Tehran and Riyadh have established a good relationship, the Islamic Republic of Iran can return peace to the region through negotiations.

The Persian Gulf kingdoms need to know the extent of Iran's military strength and deterrence. Some countries should not have the idea that they will be safe if they cross the red lines in the current inflammatory situation.

General Soleimani's daughter lauds Leader's guidance as 'exemplary'

TEHRAN - In a recent letter, the daughter of late lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani characterized the deliberate and timely leadership of the Islamic Revolution's leader as the most significant teacher and exemplar of this tumultuous and anarchic period.

On Sunday, Zeinab Soleimani conveyed her condolences to Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei following the martyrdom of Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary-general of Hezbollah, along with other Quds Force commanders.

In her letter, she expressed, "While we continue to grieve the profound loss of my father's martyrdom, which remains a source of pain for us, the recent martyrdom of my father's dear companion, Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, has intensified our sorrow."

Soleimani's daughter pointed out, "With his passing, we feel the loss of General Soleimani anew; we are once again engulfed in grief. Those who understand the deep bond of love, affection,

Hamshahri: America once again requests Iran to show self-restraint

In an article, Hamshahri wrote about America's request from Iran to exercise self-restraint. It said: Amid a meeting of the security cabinet of the Israeli regime to vote on how to respond to the recent IRGC missile attacks on the heart of the occupied territories, the officials of the Biden government expressed their irritation at the lack of coordination between the Israeli regime and the United States. American officials who do not take any concrete step to stop supporting the Israeli regime have asked Iran to show self-restraint. This is not the first time that Washington has made such a request. Previously, following Israel's terrorist act in martyring Ismail Haniyeh, America also asked Iran to be self-restraint. On the other hand, informed sources have declared to Washington and Tehran that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar will not allow the Israeli regime to use their airspace to attack Iran. However, Washington is worried because it does not know what Iran will do. The next response of the Islamic Republic depends on the extent and range of the possible action of the Israeli regime.

Kayhan: Admitting Iran's power

Kayhan dedicated its editorial to the admission of the power of Iran by Netanyahu and said: Today we see the Zionist regime in a situation that despite committing unspeakable crimes against the people of Lebanon and Gaza, it has not been able to achieve its goals, and we are just now realizing how the military advisers of the Islamic Republic were able to support the resistance front in Palestine, Lebanon and the oppressed people of this region. Today is the time to acknowledge the strength of Iran and the resistance front. Netanyahu's recently revealed conversations in a private meeting with the regime's military and intelligence members are indicative of the fact that the Zionist enemy is acknowledging its fake power. To respond to Iran, Netanyahu said, we must consider two issues: First, the response must be at a level that Iran does not attack again. Second, the attack should be magnified in the media to make a media impact. Now that the Zionist enemy admits the authority and strength of Iran and the resistance front in general, it is good for others to admit that they have been defeated by the resistance front.



and camaraderie shared between them can relate to this shared sorrow."

She stated, "Your actions and leadership, marked by awareness and timeliness, serve as the greatest lesson and model for this challenging era. Your example provides invaluable insight for our generation, which often lacks a historical perspective on events. We have learned from you the importance of perseverance, reliance on, and seeking assistance from Almighty God in the face of challenges, enabling us to resist and remain steadfast."

Iran Air Defense chief affirms commitment to regional peace, denounces war

TEHRAN - The commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force has affirmed the commitment of Iranian armed forces to fostering peace and stability in West Asia.

Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard made these remarks during a speech to the commanders and personnel of the Air Defense Force on Sunday.

He emphasized that the Islamic Republic opposes any form of conflict or violence in the region. Sabahifard highlighted that national development necessitates unity and diligent effort from all segments of society, underscoring the importance of prioritizing scientific advancements across various fields.

"The advancement of Iran's military capabilities, particularly in air defense technology, is ongoing," the commander stated.

Sabahifard praised the relentless dedication of air defense personnel and mentioned that Iran's armed forces are collaborating effectively to safeguard the nation and maintain peace and noted that Iran's military strength poses a challenge to foreign powers, complicating their strategic assessments.

Following Operation True Promise II, certain U.S. security officials indicated that the Zionist regime may retaliate against Iran in the coming days, potentially escalating tensions in the region.

Immediate halt to Israeli crimes key to regional stability: Iran FM

From page 1 ▶ In his remarks, Araqchi reiterated Iran's dedication to regional security and stability.

He stressed the urgent need for an immediate halt to Israel's actions in both Gaza and Lebanon to prevent further escalation of violence.

Additionally, he highlighted the role of the United States and other countries that supply arms to Israel, underscoring their responsibility in this conflict.

Prime Minister Al-Sudani resonated with Araqchi's concerns, emphasizing the importance of fostering dialogue between Iraq, Iran, and other regional states to prevent a potential full-scale conflict.

He articulated the need for urgent and coordinated action from the international community and reaffirmed Iraq's commitment to supporting the Palestinian and Lebanese people against what he described as the genocide and aggression of the Israeli regime.

In addition to his meeting with Al-Sudani, Araqchi held discussions with Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein.

This round of talks is part of Araqchi's broader diplomatic tour of the region, which has already included visits to Lebanon, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

Iran fully prepared for war but strives for peace: FM

During a joint press conference with Foreign Minister Hussein in Baghdad, Araqchi stated, "We are fully prepared for a war situation. We are not afraid of war, but we do not want it. Our priority is to work for a just peace in Gaza and Lebanon."

He further explained that while Iran is ready for any situation, its firm position remains one of



Iranian FM Araqchi and Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein(R) hold joint press conference in Baghdad.

seeking peace and stability.

Both diplomats agreed on the pressing need to halt Israel's military actions and restore peace

Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein said the potential use of Iraqi airspace by Israel for military operations would be "completely unacceptable."

in Gaza and Lebanon.

Araqchi emphasized that the ongoing crisis has dangerous implications, stating, "The situation is alarming, and we face very dangerous challenges in our region."

He noted that Israel's actions are the root cause of the instability spreading from Gaza to Lebanon and beyond.

Araqchi expressed regret over the international community's insufficient response to the plight

of displaced people affected by the violence, noting that Israeli operations have obstructed humanitarian assistance. He reaffirmed Iran's commitment to supporting the Lebanese population and Palestinian refugees in Syria through various means.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein conveyed Iraq's opposition to any escalation of conflict that might involve Iran.

He condemned the potential use of Iraqi airspace by Israel for military operations, declaring that such actions would be "completely unacceptable." Hussein underscored that any war in the region would have serious consequences for stability and peace.

Araqchi to leave for Oman

Following his time in Baghdad, Araqchi will proceed to Oman to engage in talks with his Omani counterpart aimed at addressing regional tensions.

Prior to the visit to Iraq, Araghchi has been to Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

He also went to Turkmenistan

UN mission refutes allegations linking Tehran to Al-Aqsa Storm Operation

From page 1 ▶ On Saturday, the Iranian Mission released another statement addressing the Washington Post's assertion regarding an alleged Israeli document that purportedly details a request from Hamas for \$500 million from Iran. The newspaper indicated that it had not received any response from Tehran.

Iran's mission dismissed the document cited by the Washington Post, labeling it as a

fabrication by the Zionist regime.

The Iranian mission characterized Israel as a criminal, inhumane, and deceitful regime, asserting that it does not acknowledge its unfounded claims.

The statement emphasized that the Zionists have a longstanding history of disseminating falsehoods, counterfeit documents, and engaging in psychological



manipulation.

Following the Al-Aqsa Storm

Operation, which was succeeded by what Iran describes as Israel's genocidal campaign against Gaza, the Iranian authorities have consistently stated that they had no prior awareness of the operation, asserting it was entirely a Palestinian initiative.

Tehran denies sending ballistic missiles to Russia

In a related development, Araqchi strongly denied allegations that Iran supplied ballistic missiles to Russia amid reports that the European Union is considering sanctions against the Islamic Republic based on these claims.

In a social media post, he reiterated, "We have NOT provided ballistic missiles to Russia," and stressed that military cooperation between Iran and Russia is not a new phenomenon, having existed long before the current geopolitical tensions surrounding Ukraine.

The foreign minister criticized European nations for their hypocrisy in supplying advanced weaponry to Israel while targeting Iran.

He suggested that if Europe seeks to appease Israeli interests, it should not fabricate narratives about Iran's missile capabilities.

These tensions have intensified recently, particularly as the United States and European countries have imposed new sanctions on Iran's national airline, Iran Air, for its alleged role in transferring missiles to Russia.

Iranian officials maintain that these accusations are unfounded and part of a broader strategy to justify punitive measures against Iran.

The backdrop to these developments is the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, which began with Russia's military invasion in February 2022.

Iran has consistently maintained a neutral stance in this conflict, refusing to take sides while facing repeated accusations from Western governments of supplying arms to Moscow.

Funeral arrangements announced for IRGC commander martyred in Beirut

TEHRAN - Funeral processions have been arranged in both Iraq and Iran to honor Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan, a senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), who was martyred in an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon on September 27.

The attack also claimed the life of the secretary-general of Hezbollah, marking a significant moment in the ongoing conflict between Israel and regional forces allied with Iran.

On Sunday, the IRGC's public relations department announced that funeral services for General Nilforooshan, a highly respected military adviser, would be held in several cities.

The processions will take place in the Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala, as well as in Mashhad, a northeastern holy city in Iran, on October 14.

These cities are of profound religious importance for both Iran and Iraq, and the services are expected to draw large crowds of

mourners.

In addition to these services, the people of Tehran will have the opportunity to pay their respects at a funeral ceremony scheduled for October 15 at Imam Hussein Square.

The ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. local time and is expected to attract significant public attention.

Following this event, the final burial will take place on Thursday, October 17, in the central city of

Women in Tehran show solidarity with Resistance by donating gold jewelry, money

TEHRAN - In a powerful display of support for the Lebanese people, Tehran women donate gold and jewelry in solidarity with the Resistance forces.

On Saturday, a remarkable ceremony took place at Tehran, where a group of women from the Iranian capital gathered to express their solidarity with the people of Lebanon and Resistance groups. The event, characterized by the spontaneous and passionate donations of gold and money, served as a testament to the deep empathy

and support of the Iranian people for oppressed communities worldwide.

This significant gesture was not just a charitable act; it symbolized the Iranian commitment to the shared struggles of resistance movements, particularly in Lebanon, where the people continue to face hardship.

The keynote speaker of the event, Hossein Yekta, a well-known veteran of the Iran-Iraq War and public figure, lauded the women for their enthusiastic participation, praising their



actions as a direct response to the guidance of Iran's leadership.

"Although we cannot be on the battlefield physically, by gathering here and offering our contributions, we are fulfilling our moral and religious duties," Yekta said.

Message is clear

Iran says ready to respond to any aggression

By Fereydoon Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – In the aftermath of Iran's missile strike on Israeli military and intelligence targets on October 1, Tehran has made its readiness for any potential Israeli retaliation unmistakably clear.

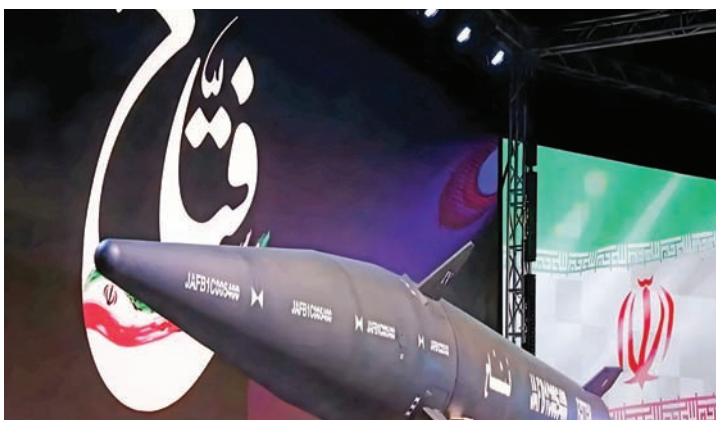
During a recent visit to Iraq, Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araqchi, emphasized that the country is fully prepared for any scenario that might arise as tensions escalate.

This marks a significant shift in Iran's strategic posture, signaling Tehran's intention to both deter Israeli aggression and showcase its ability to respond decisively to any provocation.

The missile strike, named Operation True Promise II, was not an isolated action but part of a broader pattern of tit-for-tat military exchanges. Iran has consistently stated that its military operations are defensive measures in response to Israeli provocations, and this strike was no different.

Operation True Promise II was a justified, retaliatory move meant to counter Israeli actions in the region including the July assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh and the killing of Hezbollah Secretary General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah and IRGC general Abbas Nilforooshan in Beirut in September in a massive bombardment.

The operation was a significant success for Iran. The missiles bypassed Israel's defense systems, causing considerable damage to



Israeli air bases and radar installations. In response, Israel is now reportedly seeking to strengthen its missile defense capabilities by turning to the U.S. for additional support.

According to media reports, the U.S. is considering deploying the THAAD missile defense system in the occupied territories to bolster Israel's air defenses.

The Israeli regime's reliance on U.S. assistance suggests that its air defense network has been severely compromised, and there are concerns that this reinforcement may not be enough.

The THAAD system is designed to intercept short, medium, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles during their terminal phase.

However, the system is not equipped to counter the growing threat of hypersonic ballistic missiles, which Iran reportedly possesses in its arsenal.

Previously, Israeli air defenses relied on three systems: Arrow for long-range, David's Sling for medium-range, and Iron Dome for short-range, all of which failed to intercept many Iranian missiles during the recent attack.

Following the success of this strike, Iran has openly announced its preparedness for multiple strategic responses to any potential Israeli action.

Sources within the Iranian military have disclosed that the country has developed at least ten different scenarios for Israeli counterattacks, ranging from limited airstrikes and cyberattacks to more comprehensive military engagements.

This level of preparation underscores Tehran's confidence in its military capabilities and its determination to confront any Israeli action with calculated precision.

Amid rising tensions, there is renewed attention on Iran's nuclear program.

While Tehran has repeatedly denied intentions to develop nuclear weapons, recent events have intensified speculation that Iran may accelerate its nuclear activities as part of a stronger deterrence strategy.

This shift is underscored by a group of 39 Iranian lawmakers who have recently called for the development of nuclear weapons.

Despite a long-standing religious decree by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei prohibiting nuclear weapons, regional hostilities have sparked public debates on whether this policy should be reconsidered.

As Iran and Israel continue to engage in a high-stakes conflict, the potential for further escalation is considerable.

Iran's missile strike on October 1 and its subsequent warnings to Israel and its allies highlight Tehran's strategic readiness for any outcome. The fact that Iran has prepared multiple contingency plans shows its determination to confront any threat head-on.

How Israel responds to Iran's moves will shape the trajectory of this conflict and could have long-term implications for the security architecture of West Asia.

For now, Iran's message is clear: it is prepared for any scenario and it is ready to defend its interests against any aggression, no matter the cost.

Iran, France hold urgent talks on Lebanon crisis

TEHRAN – In a phone call on Sunday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and French President Emmanuel Macron discussed the escalating crisis in southern Lebanon, focusing on efforts to halt the ongoing conflict.

The two leaders explored potential pathways to achieve a ceasefire between Hezbollah and the Israeli regime, as violence in the region continues to threaten broader instability.

The conversation centered on the pressing need for de-escalation. Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's long-standing position in favor of a peaceful and secure region, free from war and turmoil.

He expressed Iran's openness to any efforts aimed at establishing peace, stating that the Islamic Republic has always supported ceasefires and the cessation of hostilities.

He emphasized that Iran has exercised restraint in the past, citing the assassination of Martyr Haniyeh in Tehran by the Israeli regime. Pezeshkian noted that despite promises of a ceasefire by Western leaders at the time, Iran held back in hopes of preventing further innocent casualties.

However, he criticized Israel's continued aggression, stating, "The Zionists, by intensifying

their bombings and atrocities in Gaza and expanding their actions to Lebanon, have shown complete disregard for human rights and international law."

Pezeshkian called on Macron and other European leaders to strengthen their efforts in pressuring Israel to stop what he described as genocide and war crimes in both Gaza and Lebanon. He also welcomed the recent steps taken by the French government, which condemned Israeli actions in Lebanon and suspended arms shipments to the Israeli regime, viewing them as positive moves toward peace.

Collaboration with criminal Zionist regime must cease immediately: Iranian parliament speaker

From Page 1 ▶ Qalibaf underscored that the Zionist regime aims to dominate all regional infrastructures, and if it cannot succeed, it will destroy them.

"Given these circumstances, fostering unity, friendship, and solidarity is essential for our collective security," he emphasized.

"We are committed to making a vigorous and urgent effort to establish a common security understanding regarding this historical threat, and we will do everything possible to eliminate this danger from the Islamic Ummah," Qalibaf declared.

Iranian Parliament speaker concluded by highlighting that the Zionist regime is attempting to



mask its significant weaknesses and limited power through aggressive posturing to hinder the growth of unity and friendship among nations.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is an international organization that unites national parliaments from across the globe.

Established in 1889, it holds the distinction of being the oldest international parliamentary body, with membership comprising the national parliaments of 180 countries.

The IPU's primary functions include promoting parliamentary diplomacy, hosting global conferences and assemblies, offering technical support to parliaments, and aiding in the advancement of international law and institutions.

Iranian and UAE Parliamentary speakers hold bilateral talks

The speaker of the Iranian Parliament engaged in discussions with Saqr Ghobash, the speaker of the National Assembly of the UAE.

Qalibaf met with Ghobash during the Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Geneva.

The union of Muslim countries in support of Palestine and preventing the escalation of tensions in the region by the Israeli regime was one of the main topics of this discussion.

Qalibaf traveled to Switzerland accompanied by a parliamentary delegation to participate in the 149th Assembly of the IPU.

U.S. paying ransom to rogue Israeli regime by imposing sanctions on Iran: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN – Iran has fiercely criticized the latest round of U.S. sanctions targeting its petroleum and petrochemical sectors, saying that the sanctions amount to nothing more than the U.S. paying ransom to the rogue Israeli regime.

On Sunday, Esmaeil Baqaei, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, released a statement strongly denouncing the new U.S. measures, which come in the wake of Iran's October 1 retaliatory missile strike on Israeli military targets.

In his remarks, Baqaei emphasized that Iran's missile strike was fully justified under international law, asserting that the country was exercising its

right to self-defense in response to Israeli aggression. He argued that the U.S. sanctions, in contrast, lacked any legitimate or legal basis.

Baqaei went further, stating that the U.S. of plays a "negative and destructive" role in destabilizing the security of West Asia.

He pointed to Washington's long-standing political and military support for Israel, particularly its role as a major arms supplier to the Israeli government, as evidence of complicity in crimes committed by the Israeli regime.

"The U.S. is not only the primary political sponsor of the Zionist regime but also its main provider of weapons, which are used

in genocidal attacks on Gaza and aggressive actions against Lebanon," Baqaei stated. "This makes the U.S. an accomplice in some of the most heinous international crimes."

The spokesman further said that the U.S. of is responsible for the escalation of tensions in the region, stating that the sanctions would only embolden Israel and encourage it to continue its violent actions against Palestinians and neighboring states.

According to Baqaei, these measures are a direct threat to regional peace and security, as well as global stability.

Baqaei also reaffirmed Iran's

right to respond to these sanctions, warning that Tehran would not be deterred by U.S. pressure tactics.

He described the U.S. government's ongoing strategy of "maximum pressure" against Iran as ineffective, stating that such actions would not sway Iran from defending its sovereignty and national interests.

"The U.S. regime's addiction to the policy of maximum threat and pressure against the Iranian nation has no effect on the Islamic Republic's determination to safeguard its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national interests," Baqaei declared.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Hadi Choopan wins silver in Mr. Olympia 2024

From Page 1 ▶ Dauda's victory ensured that the Mr. Olympia title would return to the United Kingdom for the first time since Dorian Yates' six-year run atop the industry ended in 1997.

Choopan, nicknamed 'The Persian Wolf', received \$250,000.

The 2023 winner, Derek Lunsford, failed to successfully defend his title and finished third in this year's event.

Choopan won two bronze medals in 2019 and 2021. The 'Persian Wolf' claimed a historic gold medal in 2022 and also won two successive silvers in 2023 and 2024.

Jafari praises Bam Khatoon's resilience

TEHRAN – Head coach Marziyeh Jafari praised Bam Khatoon's resilience after they sealed a 2-1 win over Thailand's College of Asian Scholars in the AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25 Group B tie on Saturday.

The Iranian side's triumph was sealed in dramatic fashion with Zahra Ghanbari scoring the winner in the second minute of added time.

"It was very difficult for us to play against a motivated Thai team, especially with the support they had from the fans, but we showed everyone that we can be one of the best teams in Asia," said Jafari.

"I want to express my gratitude to our president for his kind support and to the players as well.

"We analyzed College of Asian Scholars after we conceded that last-minute goal against Kaya FC-Iloilo (on Matchday Two). I spoke to the players, and they were motivated to get the points, win the game, and create history for Iran women's football."

Defeat meant College of Asian Scholars were eliminated with head coach Nuengrutai Srathongvian expressing disappointment

"Our team did our best, but the opponents performed better than us," said Nuengrutai.

"We had our chances, but we couldn't capitalize on them. We want to thank the fans for showing their support. Some of the players are still studying, and we will go back, develop, and come back stronger."

Iran sitting volleyball captain Alipourian feels at peace

TEHRAN – Iran's men's sitting volleyball captain Davoud Alipourian remains realistic that the Paris 2024 could be his last Paralympics Games.

Alipourian, 39, helped Team Melli win their eighth gold medal in Paris, where they came from a set down to defeat Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-1.

"Actually, I am feeling at peace at the moment. I need to spend more time with my family. I am a member of Iran national team for about 22 years," Alipourian told Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

He is one of the Iranian volleyball legends in sitting volleyball. As a playmaker and driving force behind Iran's symphony of success, his career spans seven Paralympic Games with an impressive tally of four gold medals (Beijing 2008, Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024) and two silver medals (Athens 2004 and London 2012).

"I like to win more awards with the national team but I must to consider my body's conditions first. Then, the coach has the right to decide whether he wants to invite me or not. If I will be invited to the national team, I am happy to help Team Melli," he added.

Iran sitting volleyball team were the favorites heading into Paris 2024, and they showed why on day nine of the Paralympic Games, winning their eighth Paralympic title with a 3-1 win over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"All people expect we win a gold medal but

there is no guarantee in sport. As you see, Bosnia won the first set and almost won the second but we grabbed the medal. It was a difficult match since the all sitting volleyball teams have improved during the recent years. I am happy to make our nation happy," Alipourian concluded.

Alipour takes bronze at 2024 IFSC Asian Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian climber Reza Alipour claimed a bronze medal at the IFSC Asian Championships Tai'an 2024 on Sunday.

Wu Peng of China won a maiden individual men's speed title due to Kazakhstan's Amir Maimuratov's false start in their duel.

In the small final, Alipour defeated Rishat Khaibullin with a time of 4.95s. The Kazak climber Rishat Khaibullin registered 5.12s.

The 2024 Asian Championships started on Oct. 9 in Tai'an, China and will run until Oct. 14.

Saeidabadi seizes gold in World Karate Championship Junior

TEHRAN – Fatemeh Zahra Saeidabadi won a gold medal in the 2024 World Cadet, Junior & U21 Championships on Sunday.

Saeidabadi defeated Egyptian karateka Menatalah Elhawary 2-0 in the U21 Female Kumite 55kg final.

Slovakian Nina Kvasnicova and Thailand's Hokprasertgul Sirikamonnate won the bronze medal in the weight class.

In the U21 Female Kumite -50kg, and Yalda Naghi Beiranvand of Iran won a bronze medal.

Japanese Mizuki Ishihara defeated Croatia's Ema Sgardelli in the final to win the gold.

Bronze medal went to Naghi Beiranvand and Ukraine's Valeria Sergaieva.

The 2024 World Cadet, Junior and U-21 Karate Championships, is a karate event is being held in Venice, Italy from 9 to 13 October 2024.

Nearly 2000 athletes from 113 countries have participated in the event.

The last edition of the event was held in 2022 in Konya (Turkey). Japan topped the medal table of the event with 13 medals including 10 golds. Hosts of Turkey and Egypt also registered successful performances with 12 medals each.

Afif and Lopez emphasize importance of Iran match

TEHRAN – Akram Afif, who was named the best player in Qatar's 3-1 victory over Kyrgyzstan on Thursday, and Qatar coach Marquee Lopez emphasized the importance of securing win against Iran at the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

"Our objective in every game is not to lose points. We need to approach every match with seriousness, as the road ahead remains tough," Lopez said.

He looked forward to the next match against Iran, stressing that Qatar must continue to push hard to claim one of the two qualification spots in the group.

Qatar play heavyweights Iran in Dubai on Tuesday, and Akram Afif stressed the win against Kyrgyzstan will serve as a great morale booster ahead of the crucial tie.

"The victory is important motivation before our game with Iran, which will be vital in our journey through the qualifiers," he added.

Asia is assured of eight spots in the expanded 48-team FIFA World Cup 2026, to be co-hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States.

The top two finishers from the three groups will confirm their places directly. The third and fourth-placed teams from each group – six in total – will progress to the Playoff, to be contested in two groups of three teams in a single round robin format, with both group winners qualifying for the 23rd FIFA World Cup.

New passenger rail service to connect Tehran to Turkey's Van



TEHRAN – Newly appointed head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railway (known as RAI) has said a new passenger rail line is going to be launched between Iran's capital Tehran and Turkey's eastern city of Van.

Jabar-Ali Zakeri said RAI is taking new measures to expand the country's passenger railway fleet, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Iran and Turkey had already launched a passenger rail line between Tehran and Van in 2019 but it was suspended due to some geopolitical issues.

Located near the Iranian border, Van is a tourist attraction for its natural wonders and historic monuments. Over the years, it has become a top destination for Iranian tourists, especially during Iranian national holidays.

Iran exported non-oil goods worth \$2.4 billion to Turkey in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21). As reported, Turkey was the fourth export destination of Iran among its other neighbors during the six-month period.

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

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

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

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

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

the private sectors of the two countries.

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

In this meeting, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi-Arab referring to the trade balance of 1.6 billion dollars between the two countries, which is also positive for Turkey, mentioned the re-export of some Iranian products through this country as one of the opportunities to optimize the trade relations between the two countries.

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

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

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

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

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

He further put the export value of Turkey in 2023 at \$357 billion and the import value at \$410 billion, and reminded that the country plans to rise the value of products export to \$375 billion and the value of services export to \$200 billion by 2028.

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

Sponge iron export stands at \$146m in 6 months



TEHRAN – Iran exported 596,000 tons of sponge iron worth \$146 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 903,000 tons of the product worth \$232 million in the first six months of the past year.

Sponge iron export fell 37 percent in terms of value, and 34 percent in terms of weight, in six months, year on year.

Direct reduced iron (DRI), also called sponge iron, is produced from the direct reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps,

pellets, or fines) into iron by reducing gas or elemental carbon produced from natural gas or coal. Many ores are suitable for direct reduction.

While Iran is fighting the U.S. severe sanctions on its economy, and the country's different industrial and economic sectors have been affected by the limitations and difficulties caused by the sanctions condition, the country's mining sector is moving forward noticeably, overcoming such barriers.

Among the mining sector's different products, sponge iron is an outstanding example, as the production of this item is rising more and more in the country.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has stated that one of the most important reasons for the increase in sponge iron production in Iran is the establishment of new sponge iron plants, adding that in recent years, with its new strategy and with the participation of the private sector, the organization has been able to launch several projects to produce sponge iron.

Non-oil exports to Russia rise 12% in 6 months on year

From page 1 ▶ In the first half of the current Iranian year, foreign transit through Iran from Russia reached 526,000 tons with a growth of 17 percent, and foreign transit to Russia was 56,000 tons, which decreased by 18 percent.

The Islamic Republic had exported 2.2 million tons of commodities worth \$965 million to Russia in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), which also registered a 54-percent increase in weight and a 28-percent rise in value.

The main Iranian products exported to Russia in the previous year were fresh or dried pistachios, ordinary non-expandable polystyrene, fresh kiwi and synthetic fibers, and other types of polyester.

Iran and Russia have been taking serious steps to boost their mutual trade over the past few years.

In late January, Iran's late President Ebrahim Raisi said that the Islamic Republic and Russia have reached an agreement to boost the trade between the two countries up to \$10 billion.

"We agreed to remove trade barriers and boost the economic exchanges between the two countries. Currently, the level of mutual trade is not acceptable, so the two countries agreed to increase trade to \$10 billion a year," Raisi said on January 21,



upon arrival to Tehran after a two-day visit to Moscow.

He also noted that the two sides also discussed monetary and banking issues during his talks with Russian officials.

The two countries also agreed to identify mutual agricultural capacities as well as suitable areas for the exchange of agricultural products in order to increase the level of trade in the agricultural sector, according to the official.

He went on to say that the Islamic Republic of Iran has very good capacities in the field of transit and transportation, saying: "During this visit, it was agreed to activate the north-south corridor. This transit route will make the time and distance of transiting goods from Russia and different northern countries to the southern regions much shorter."

On September 30, Iran's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnasser Hemmati and Russia's Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov called for strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

Hemmati met and held talks with Reshetnikov on the sideline of the talks between high-ranking delegations of Iran and Russia.

Referring to the increasing trade between Iran and the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, Reshetnikov expressed hope that this process will accelerate further.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed customs issues, Russian investments in the oil industry, the progress of the Rasht-Astara railway, the North-South Corridor, truckers' insurance, trade currency settlement,

strengthening the Eurasian Economic Union, and other economic issues between the two countries.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said in the same day that an agreement to transform Iran into a regional transit and gas hub is a prime example of cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

"We believe that if important joint projects between Iran and Russia are implemented, they will create significant capacities for both countries to counter cruel sanctions," Pezeshkian said during a meeting with visiting Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

The president underscored that the Iran-Russia partnership not only serves the interests of both nations but will also promote sustainable development, economic growth and integration in the region.

Pezeshkian called for efforts from both sides to ensure the successful execution of the joint projects.

He pointed out that regional cooperation through international organizations like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) strengthens independent countries, including Iran, Russia, and China, in their efforts to resist US unilateralism.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Safeguard international fairness and justice, build a beautiful home of the SCO

The 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will be held in Pakistan. This will be beneficial for delivering the outcomes of the Meeting of the Council of Heads of State, and joining hands to build a more beautiful home of the SCO.

This July, Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and delivered an important speech. President Xi pointed out that, the SCO founding members made a historic decision to pursue peaceful development, commit themselves to good-neighborliness and friendship and build a new type of international relations, and the "Shanghai Spirit" has become a shared value and guiding principle for its member states. The SCO family now has 26 countries, up from 6 members in its early days, including 10 member states, 2 observer states, and 14 dialogue partners. SCO member states now account for nearly half of the world's population and about one quarter of the global GDP. It has grown into a comprehensive regional cooperation organization that covers the largest area and population in the world. The SCO's development is a vivid

illustration of the Shanghai Spirit, and a clear example of its strong vitality.

"A just cause finds great support, and a journey with many companions gets far." President Xi stressed that the fundamental reason that the SCO has been able to withstand the test of the changing international landscape lies in the fact that the SCO members have remained committed to the fine tradition of solidarity and coordination, adhered to the principles of equality and mutual benefit in cooperation, upheld the values of fairness and justice, and stayed broad-minded and inclusive and embraced mutual learning. As the world is faced with accelerating changes unseen in a century, human society is again standing at a crossroads in history. It is of crucial importance to the world that the SCO stands on the right side of history and on the side of fairness and justice. China calls for building common home of solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighborliness and friendship, and fairness and justice. We need to bear in mind that we live in a community with a shared future, and always uphold the Shanghai Spirit. We need to stay firmly on the development paths that suit our respective

national conditions and regional realities.

China and Iran are both important developing countries and both adhere to true multilateralism. Since Iran successfully joined the SCO one year ago, it has actively participated in various cooperation under the SCO framework and achieved fruitful results. Iran's joining to the SCO has injected new vitality into it, which is in line with the expectations of the international community and the common interests of emerging market countries and developing countries.

Following the Astana summit in July, China has formally taken over the rotating presidency of the SCO for 2024-2025 and will host a summit in 2025 as is the common practice. China attaches great importance to the presidency and has fully started our work. China will use the good opportunity of our rotating presidency to work closely with SCO partners including Iran in political, security, economic and cultural areas, give full play to the SCO's role as a shield of security, a bridge of cooperation, a bond of friendship and a force for good in the region, and contribute more to the peace, stability, development and prosperity of the region and beyond.

Renewables prevent emission of 12.8m tons of GHG in H1

TEHRAN – Generating electricity from renewable sources prevented the emission of 12.8 million tons of Green House Gases (GHG) in Iran during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), according to the Iranian Energy Ministry

As reported, the provinces of Khuzestan, Bushehr, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Tehran, Kermanshah and Ilam respectively had the highest production of clean energy among the provinces of the country, IRNA reported.

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

Speaking at a meeting of the Parliament Energy Committee, Aliabadi said that each renewable power plant with one kilowatt hour capacity (kWh) produces 1,800 kilowatt hours of electricity in a year.

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

In late July, Hea of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) Mahmoud Kamani said 600 renewable power plants with a total capacity of 13,500 megawatts (MW) are under construction across the country and with these power plants going operational the share of renewables in Iran's power gener-

ation will reach 15 percent.

"We hope that by implementing these power plants, the share of renewable energies in Iran's electricity production will increase to more than 15 percent in the next two years," Kamani said.

Based on the Energy Ministry data, renewables, currently, account for nearly seven percent of the country's total electricity generation capacity.

Of the country's total renewable capacity, 44 percent is the share of solar power plants while the share of wind farms stands at 40 percent and small-scaled hydro-power plants generate 13 percent of the total renewable capacity.

Earlier that month, SATBA reported that the capacity of Iran's

renewable power plants has reached 1,199.71 MW.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has taken serious measures to accelerate the growth and development of renewable energies in the country.

Diversification of financing models for renewable projects, increasing the ceiling of guaranteed electricity purchase, providing the possibility of buying and selling renewable electricity in the green board of the Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) and providing the possibility of exporting renewable electricity have been the most important measures taken for this purpose.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

840km of highways to be inaugurated across Iran by late Mar. 2025

TEHRAN – Some 840 kilometers of roads and highways are going to be inaugurated across Iran by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025), the managing director of Iran's

Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC) announced.

According to Kheirollah Khademi, there are

about 400 kilometers of traffic bottlenecks along the country's highway network, which will be resolved with 70 trillion rials (about \$140 million) of investment, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Israel's ethnic cleansing of north Gaza unfolds

From page 1 ▶ The residents also say the Israeli army has isolated the areas of Beit Hanoun, Jabalia and Beit Lahiya from Gaza City, and completed severed access.

They are also posting about the dire situation on social media.

"As the world is focused on Lebanon and possible Israeli strike against Iran, Israel is wiping out Jabalia," Nasser, a resident of Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza, said, according to Al Jazeera.

He added, "The occupation is blowing up roads and destroying residential districts. People also don't find anything to eat. They are trapped inside their homes, fearing bombs could fall onto their heads."

Starving civilians

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) said on Saturday that no food aid has reached northern Gaza since October 1, with a 35% drop in the supply of food to families around the rest of Gaza. This has raised new fears of extreme hunger and famine that have already plagued the territory since the start of the war more than a year ago.



Israel is starving Palestinians in northern Gaza. The WFP says no food aid has reached the area since October 1. (Omar al-Qattaa/AFP)

The Israeli military launched a deadly offensive in Jabalia earlier this month under the pretext of stopping the Hamas resistance movement from regrouping.

Hamas on Saturday slammed the Israeli army and said its "massacres are a continuation of the ongoing criminal genocide against our people, shielded by American support".

Dr. Mounir al-Bursh, the head of Gaza's Health Ministry said on Saturday that 200 people have been killed in the wake of the Israeli siege in northern Gaza with many dead bodies left on the streets.

Carnage in camp

The UN special rapporteur for the occupied Palestinian territory has slammed Israel's intense strikes on northern Gaza.

Francesca Albanese said Israeli forces are committing "another massacre" in the Jabalia



Israel has renewed its evacuation orders for Palestinians in northern Gaza but the regime's sniper fire makes it impossible to leave. [Ramadan Abed/Reuters]

refugee camp.

She said Palestinian civilians in Jabalia "are killed - both in groups and one by one - amid unspeakable cruelty and sadism" by Israeli troops "who have accepted to be willing executioners of a genocidal plan".

Albanese added that the Israeli attacks are being conducted with Western support and weapons.

"It blows my mind to think that WE KNOW what Israel is doing and altogether we cannot stop it. Looking at where we were 100 years ago, no much progress has been achieved," she said.

Sinister plan

Israel's savage attacks on northern Gaza are aimed at making the area uninhabitable for Palestinians. In fact, the strikes are in line with the regime's ethnic cleansing of Palestine.

This sinister plan is a prelude to forcibly transfer Palestinians from the entire Gaza Strip.

But that will not be the end of the story. Israel is also plotting to expel Palestinians from the West Bank.

The latest comments made by Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich provide greater insight into the issue.

Smotrich has advocated for the creation of a Jewish state that would encompass all Palestinian territories and neighboring Arab territories, including Syria.

Smotrich, in an interview for the Arte documentary "Israel: Extremists in Power", said he hopes to expand Israel's borders deep into Arab land, according to Jewish scripture.

"It is written that the future of Jerusalem is to expand to Damascus," he was quoted as saying.

This Jewish state, he said, must extend into Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, highlighting the long-standing vision of many Israeli ultra and religious nationalists for significant territorial expansion across West Asia.

Israel has slaughtered more than 42,000 Palestinians in Gaza since October last year. The Israeli army has also killed more than 2,200 people in Lebanon in the same period in the wake of its attacks against the country.



Francesca Albanese says Palestinian civilians in Jabalia "are killed amid unspeakable cruelty and sadism" by Israeli troops.

Israelis have no scruples about butchering Palestinians, Lebanese and residents of some other Arab countries. This reflects their mentality and their fascist and apartheid beliefs.

Resistance and unity among the regional Islamic nations is the sole means to counter the malevolent schemes of the regime.

Amid Israeli aggression, US pushes for an anti-resistance president in Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ Washington is pressuring at all levels to elect Army Commander Joseph Aoun as President of Lebanon. In an interview with Lebanon's MTV (anti-resistance channel), Hochstein has highlighted Washington's desire for "the presidential election to be held quickly." This demonstrated Washington's conviction that "Israel" is quite reluctant to proceed with its ground invasion of Lebanon. Hochstein's statement has revealed Washington's intention to create a buffer zone at the Lebanese-Palestinian border as soon as possible in fear of escalatory operations by Hezbollah in the upcoming weeks.

Lebanon's elite and ordinary citizens fully realize that the United States is the main and only party concerned with stopping the aggression and that it has proposed this condition of "surrender" to blackmail the resistant people.

According to the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University, Washington spent no less than \$22.76 billion on military aid to the occupying colonial entity between October 7, 2023 and September 30, 2024 (the largest recipient of US aid since World War II / the cumulative value of US aid to date is approximately \$251.2 billion).

According to an agreement concluded under the Obama administration for the period 2019-2028, the Israeli occupation regime receives \$3.8 billion annually in US military aid, including \$500 million allocated to fund missile "defence" systems. However, this announced figure is not the actual value of US

support; neither the Pentagon nor the State Department have provided comprehensive lists of the aid delivered to the occupation entity, as was the case with regard to the transfer of weapons to Ukraine.

Historically, the Israeli army has provided intelligence to the Israeli army and largely helped it economically, militarily, and diplomatically along with developing its arms industry. During the 1960s, the Kennedy administration was keen to increase this military aid as the US administration considered the occupation entity a strategic ally against the Soviet Union. After the signing of the Camp David Accords in 1978, military support increased steadily.

In March 2024, The Washington Post revealed that the Biden administration had concluded at least 100 arms deals with the occupation entity without informing Congress of the details of the deal. The quantity and type of arms are unknown.

Besides, in August 2024, the Biden administration announced other agreements worth \$20.3 billion to be implemented through the Foreign Military Sales program, including 50 Boeing F-15 fighter jets at a cost of \$18.8 billion. According to the Washington Post, the deals, which were not reported to Congress, include thousands of precision-guided munitions, small-diameter bombs, tunnel-busting bombs, and other lethal military aid.

In 2026, the Financial Times estimates the world's 15 largest arms companies will receive cash flows of at least \$52 billion (nearly double the amount they received

in 2021). \$26 billion to 5 major arms companies in the US due to increased military spending allocated to Ukraine and the colonial Israeli entity.

In this context, the US is making futile attempts to impose a president on the Lebanese as Washington is frightened that Hezbollah is regaining the momentum of its heroic operations in defence of Lebanon's sovereignty and Iran has taken strenuous steps in defence of the Lebanese people.

Washington has just imposed new sanctions on Tehran in response to the legitimate military action carried out by Iranian forces against strategic targets in the occupied Palestinian territories. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei described the operation as a legal measure in accordance with international law and consistent with the exercise of the inherent right to self-defence.

The current war has exposed Washington's bloody face; its constant incitement against the Lebanese resistance has failed. Washington has not learnt from previous historical experiences that the foolish ambition to eradicate any resistance movement is a failed behaviour. Further, the upcoming days will show that the international community's -especially Islamic and Arab governments- procrastination will have a reactionary effect; their people will undeniably emulate the honourable resistance method of the Lebanese as the only legitimate path to freedom.

Protests against Israeli attacks on Gaza, Lebanon held across Europe



Protests against Israel's attacks on Gaza and Lebanon were held in several European cities at the weekend, with hundreds rallying in Stockholm, Paris, and Berlin calling for an immediate ceasefire, Anadolu reported.

In Stockholm, demonstrators gathered at Odenplan, marching toward the Swedish parliament while chanting slogans, such as "Killer Israel, get out of Palestine" and "Immediate and unconditional ceasefire."

Swedish activist Kajsa Ekis Ekman said that the ongoing violence constitutes genocide, highlighting the support of Western democracies for Israel.

In Paris, supporters of Palestine and Leb-

anon convened near the Fontaine des Innocents, demanding an end to Israeli attacks and urging the French government to withdraw its support for Tel Aviv.

Protesters displayed banners with photographs of Palestinians and criticized President Emmanuel Macron for his unwavering support of Israel.

In Berlin, around 2,000 participants marched from Innsbruck Square to Steglitz metro station, denouncing the attacks with slogans like "Stop funding genocide" and "Freedom for Palestine."

Police briefly detained several protesters amid minor scuffles during the protest.

Israel's war on Lebanon: ICRC's mission to treat physical, mental wounds



Hospitals and medical staff in Lebanon are working round the clock to treat patients in the wake of Israel's deadly strikes against the country.

Elisabeth, a nurse at Rafik Hariri University Hospital, has explained the key role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Lebanon in providing health care services.

She said the ICRC also provides psychological support and rehabilitation services to patients wounded in the Israeli war on Lebanon.

Elisabeth said one of the patients was at risk of losing both legs due to the severity of his injury.

The nurse added that the ICRC did its best to facilitate his return to normal life. Elisabeth said in addition to medical treatment, the patient benefited mental health and social support as well as physiotherapy sessions.

Lebanon PM condemns Netanyahu's call to move UN peacekeepers

Lebanon's prime minister has condemned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's call to UN chief Antonio Guterres to remove peacekeepers from the Lebanese side of the border.

Lebanon "condemns Netanyahu's position and the Israeli aggression against UNIFIL," said Najib Mikati. "The warning that Netanyahu addressed to Guterres demanding the removal of the UNIFIL represents a new chapter in the enemy's approach of not complying [with international norms]," he added.

Meanwhile, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni told Netanyahu that attacks on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon are "unacceptable".

"Prime Minister Meloni reiterated the unac-

ceptability of UNIFIL being attacked by Israeli armed forces," the Italian government said in a statement.

In a phone call with Netanyahu, Meloni called for the "full implementation" of the UN's Security Council Resolution 1701 on Lebanon, stressing the urgent need to de-escalate conflict.

Italy is a significant contributor to the UN peacekeeping mission on the Israel-Lebanon border.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is a mission of about 9,500 troops of various nationalities and was created following Israel's 1978 invasion of Lebanon.

Hezbollah confronts invading forces

Intensity of ground combat escalates

From page 1 ▶ The first attack took place at 1:45 am when Hezbollah fighters targeted Israeli forces positioned in the al-Manara settlement with a barrage of rockets. This marked the beginning of a coordinated and relentless series of strikes against Israeli targets.

Israeli media said on Sunday that at least eleven soldiers were transported to hospitals due to a "serious security incident at the northern border with Lebanon."

Helicopters were seen evacuating wounded soldiers from the Lebanese border.

The spokesperson for the Israeli military announced that a reserve soldier from the 9220th

Battalion, 6th Atsioni Brigade, was seriously injured on Sunday during combat in southern Lebanon.

In another incident, a combat officer, also from the 9220th Battalion, 6th Atsioni Brigade, was seriously injured on Sunday, during combat in southern Lebanon.

Earlier, Hezbollah said it carried out an operation on the outskirts of Tel Aviv with combat drones.

Israeli media reported that "Herzliya, part of the greater Tel Aviv area, was damaged due to the launch of two drones from Lebanon."

A relic of Karizi civilization

By Seyedhossein Hosseineddiqu,
Assistant Professor of History at
Islamic Azad University

This is a photo of a carbide lamp. A lamp that was linked to our great and ancient civilization, which was founded on Kariz (or aqueducts, a way that is dug underground to direct underground water to the surface of the earth).



Few people may have thought that how was it possible to dig Qanat or Kariz and extract water from several miles underground? And those who spent many days underground and built aqueducts, in the dark underground, with what tools did they see their surroundings and recognize their path?

It was a carbide lamp that lit their way un-

derground. Our ancestors realized that burning a lamp under the ground, which is lit with tallow or oil, burns the air and life is no longer possible there. Therefore, a lamp should be lit under the ground that does not destroy the air.

The solution for this was carbide stone, which was called Karpeit stone in the speech of the local people. The stone was obtained from mines and used in the carbide lamp. A stone that burned and gave light.

The lamp had a chamber that was filled with carbide stones. The rod above the chamber was twisted to close the door. When the Kariz digger was stepping into the corridor of Kariz, he was pouring a cup of water on the stones of the chamber and waited for a gas to rise from the mixture of stones and water. The gas came out of a small tube in the body of the chamber and ignited by striking a match. For hours, the fire came out of the pipe and lit the path of the well borer. The carbide fire would not be extinguished until the stock of stone in the chamber was exhausted. Then the Kariz digger would pour some stone from his bag into the chamber and set it on fire again and continue the work.

Those who worked in Kariz knew that the carbide stone should not come into contact with water. Because it could catch fire at once and cause great damage. In this way, they were making sure that the bag of carbide stone that they had taken with them into Kariz remained dry.

Later, carbide stone was used in welding and it was called carbide welding. Carbide welding was a form of exploitation of carbide stone that evolved and was used in the age of industry. What happened in the pre-industrial era had another value, which was the result of the knowledge and experience of our ancestors. A large part of Iran's history has lived and remained on the basis of Kariz. Kariz civilization is one of the pride of mankind.

Gabbeh: a handicraft marvel from Bushehr

TEHRAN - Similar to carpets but distinct in motifs, size, and colors, Gabbeh showcases the rough and primitive beauty of nomadic craftsmanship.

It is woven in many regions of Iran. However, Gabbeh rugs being made in Bushehr are among the most famous ones. They distinguish themselves through their unique characteristics, setting them apart from conventional carpets.

Crafted by nomadic artisans, these masterpieces utilize handspun wool for both the pile and warp, enhancing the authentic touch. The use of plant dyes for yarn coloring further exemplifies the commitment to traditional techniques.

In fact, Gabbeh patterns draw inspiration from the nomadic way of life, embodying simplicity and raw beauty. Rectangular objects containing animals form the core of

these patterns, reminiscent of a primitive art style. The motifs often resemble the innocent paintings of children, portraying a genuine connection to nature and the weavers' surroundings.

One of the captivating aspects of Gabbeh is the freedom given to weavers in creating patterns. Unlike traditional carpets, Gabbeh may lack margins or symmetry, allowing for a more unrestrained expression of creativity. The motifs, rooted in the weavers' memories, become a canvas for their imagination, resulting in patterns that are both unique and deeply personal.

For Gabbeh of Bushehr, raw wool colors dominate a significant portion of the Gabbeh featuring plain backgrounds in white, cream, brown, black, and grey. The vibrant patterns, in contrast, come to life in black, red, dark blue, and similar hues, creating a harmonious blend of simplicity and vibrancy.

Hurtigruten's zero-emission cruise ship to sail in 2030 with groundbreaking tech

Norwegian cruise ship company Hurtigruten has released updated plans for its groundbreaking Sea Zero project, a zero-emission cruise ship scheduled to debut in 2030.

The ship, currently in the research and development phase, aims to revolutionize the cruising industry by sailing emission-free during normal operation while reducing energy consumption by 40-50%.

The project, initially announced in October 2022, has made significant progress. A second version of renderings, developed in collaboration with Norwegian maritime industry partners, showcases advanced features designed to minimize environmental impact.

"The cruising industry is a significant polluter, and it is crucial that we now take major steps to reduce emissions. Our goal is to have an emission-free ship in operation by around 2030," said Hurtigruten CEO Hedda Felin.

The Sea Zero design features aimed at reducing energy consumption and environ-

mental impact. At its core are large batteries with a capacity of around 60 megawatt-hours, serving as the primary energy source, and contra-rotating propellers as the main propulsion.

The ship also incorporates retractable sails from that could potentially cut energy use by 10%, while solar panels contribute an additional 2-3% in energy savings. Hurtigruten is considering retractable sails developed by French-based OceanWings, which are already in use on the cargo ship Canopée. The technology will allow the ships to reach areas where a lack of overhead clearance may be an issue.

"We still see significant energy savings from having retractable sails with solar panels, but this requires thorough studies, including model tests to be conducted in the coming months. We have also changed the sail type to a more mature design already in use on cargo ships," said Hurtigruten Chief Operating Officer Gerry Larsson-Fedde.

(Source: [gcaptain.com](https://www.gcaptain.com))

Tehran exhibit of Chinese arts celebrates centuries of exchange along Silk Road

TEHRAN - A loan exhibition showcasing selected works of Chinese art and culture was inaugurated in Tehran on Saturday evening, marking centuries of trade and cultural exchange along the Silk Road.

The event, held at the Malek National Library and Museum, drew prominent attendees from both countries, including Hu Muqing, the president of the Shanghai Art Collection Museum, Amir Khorakian, the president of the Malek National Library and Museum, and Cong Peiwu, the Chinese Ambassador to Iran.

The exhibition, titled "Endless Clouds of the Silk Road," will run until November 10, featuring a carefully curated collection that reflects centuries of cultural interaction along the ancient Silk Road. On display are paintings created by Chinese artists, manuscripts by renowned Chinese authors, and ancient coins used in Silk Road trade, all of which highlight the profound historical ties between the two nations.

During the opening ceremony, the Chinese envoy emphasized the deep historical relationship between China and Iran.

He noted that such historical ties have created a solid foundation for the two countries' present cultural exchanges.

The successful holding of the



Chinese Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu addresses the opening ceremony of an exhibition of selected works of Chinese art and culture at the Malek National Library and Museum in Tehran, Iran, Oct. 12, 2024. (Xinhua/Shadati)

exhibition will inject new vitality into cultural exchanges between China and Iran, providing more support for the deepening of friendship between the two countries, the ambassador added.

Khorakian, for his part, echoed the ambassador's sentiments, noting that despite the great distance between the two countries in ancient times, the bonds of cultural exchange have remained unbroken for thousands of years.

"In the vast political landscape of the world, only a handful of countries can take pride in millennia-old civilizations rich in

culture. Iran and China are among those few," Khorakian said.

He also highlighted the historical significance of the Silk Road in Iranian culture. "In ancient Iranian thought, China was regarded as the farthest and most inaccessible part of the world," he said, quoting a well-known saying attributed to the Prophet of Islam: Seek knowledge, even if it is in China.

This reverence for knowledge and connection, he emphasized, has driven the historical friendship between the two nations.

Hu, also addressed the audience, expressing his enthusiasm

for the cultural partnership between China and Iran.

The Shanghai Art Collection Museum has been at the forefront of international cultural exchange, particularly along the Silk Road, Hu said.

He added that the cooperation between his museum and the Malek National Library and Museum was a pivotal step in expanding the reach of Chinese art to Iranian audiences.

The exhibition includes a number of works by contemporary Chinese artists, one of whom gave a speech during the ceremony. The artist, whose works are among the highlights of the exhibition, expressed gratitude to both the Chinese Embassy and Iran's cultural heritage authorities for the opportunity to display his pieces.

"My goal with these works was to portray the cultural exchanges that took place along the Silk Road, where merchants not only traded goods but also brought parts of their culture with them," the artist explained.

The exhibition, which will remain open to the public until November 10, offers an immersive journey into the artistic and cultural achievements of China, highlighting the historical significance of the Silk Road as a bridge between East and West.

Archaeological work sheds new light on Anahita Temple in western Iran

TEHRAN - The ancient Anahita Temple in western Iran has undergone an archaeological excavation after nearly two decades, according to Morteza Geravand, director of the National Base of Anahita Temple.

In an interview with ISNA, Geravand on Sunday explained that the latest round of excavations at the temple began in late August under the supervision of Dr. Mostafa Dehpahlavan, head of Iran's Cultural Heritage Research Institute.

"The excavation was carried out in two main areas: a geophysical study and an archaeological dig, both yielding important findings," Geravand said.

The geophysical study was conducted in the central section of the temple, between the first and second platforms, in a 10x10-meter area. "The results suggest that extensive industrial activities took place in this part of the site in the past," Geravand stated. Although the precise timeline of these activities remains unclear, evidence points to a workshop that might have been used for baking bread or preparing food, possibly during the contemporary era.

One of the most significant discoveries during the study was a large quantity of furnace slag. Geravand said further investigation is needed in future excavation seasons to better understand this discovery, but initial findings suggest the site may have housed lime and plaster kilns. These kilns likely produced materials used in construction, and available evidence suggests they were operational from the Qajar era through to the second Pahlavi period.

"Further exploration is required to determine whether the [building] lime and plaster production dates back to earlier periods,"



Geravand added, noting that the proximity of limestone quarries used for temple construction could suggest that stone materials brought to the site may have been processed in these kilns for use in building the temple.

Geravand also emphasized the long-standing use of these kilns during the construction of the temple. "It is possible that these kilns date back to the time the temple itself was built, and were utilized for completing the masonry work," he said.

A geophysical study was also conducted in the southern part of the temple, where future infrastructure development is planned. "We wanted to ensure that no significant archaeological remains were located in this area, and fortunately, this was confirmed," he said.

In the archaeological excavation itself, work was concentrated on the highest point of the temple's grounds. "We opened five trenches, each 10x10 meters, and uncovered structures from the contemporary architectural period, the late Sassanian era, and the Islamic era," Geravand said.

Furthermore, he explained that prior to 1968, some areas of the temple had been buried under a number of residential units.

During this latest excavation, remnants of these homes were uncovered.

Geravand also noted earlier hypotheses that the upper part of the temple might contain the remains of a "Chahartaqi," a traditional Iranian four-arched structure. "During this excavation, we found the continuation of a wall built on a rocky base, raising the possibility that it may have been part of a fire temple or a Chahartaqi, but further investigation is required."

Stressing the importance of ongoing research, Geravand said, "Continued archaeological work is essential to restore order to the disorganized layout of the temple and understand the function and relationship of its platforms and other sections."

The exact date of the temple's construction and its original purpose remain unclear, and Geravand explained that one season of excavation is not enough to provide conclusive information. "We explored about 600 square meters of the temple, but given the temple's vast size, this is only a fraction of the area that needs to be studied," he said.

The official estimated that future excavations will need to cover between 1,500 and 2,000 square meters per phase, pending sufficient funding.

Anahita is the name of one of two archaeological sites in Iran popularly thought to have been attributed to the ancient deity Anahita. The larger and more widely known of the two is located at Kangavar in Kermanshah province. The other is located in the Bishapur region of the southern Fars province.

Anahita, also known as Anaitis, and Anahit, was an ancient Iranian goddess of royalty, water, and fertility; she is particularly associated with the last.

EU delays new electronic system for border checks, floats phased-in approach

The Entry/Exit System is a comprehensive reform to modernize checks at the EU's external borders and promote information-sharing.

The European Commission has decided to delay the introduction of the Entry/Exit System (EES), the bloc's automated registry for short-stay travelers that was expected to come into force on 10 November.

The announcement was made by Ylva Johansson, the Commissioner for Home Affairs, at the end of a meeting of EU interior ministers on Thursday where the issue was discussed.

"10th of November is no longer on the table," Johansson told reporters, noting that Germany, France and the Netherlands had declared their unreadiness.

"I hope we can start as soon as possible but there's no new timeline so far. This also depends on the legal assessment that we will do and we're working on it right now."

Johansson spoke of "some concerns when it comes to the resilience of the system."

As an alternative, she said, the EU could introduce the EES in a phased-in manner "with a little step by step going into the system, not a Big Bang of all border crossing points at the same time."

However, that approach is not foreseen under the current regulation and "targeted amendments" to the legal text would be required to make it happen.

At any rate, she stressed, the gradual introduction would not start on 10 November.

What is the Entry/Exit System?

The EES is a comprehensive reform that dates back to 2016 and had been repeatedly delayed. Its main purpose is to modernize checks at the EU's external borders and replace the traditional physical stamping of passports.

It will apply to non-EU citizens who come to the bloc for visits, holidays or business trips and stay for a total duration of up to 90 days within a 180-day period.

Once the system goes live, visitors will have to provide their passports on arrival, alongside having a photo of their face taken and their fingerprints scanned electronically.

All entries and exits from the passport-free Schengen Area will be recorded.

(Source: [euronews](https://www.euronews.com))

Health minister to attend WHO regional committee meeting

TEHRAN –A delegation led by Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi is going to attend the Seventy-first session of the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO).

The meeting will be held in Doha, Qatar, from October 14 to 17 under the theme “health beyond borders: action, access, equity.”

The health minister is scheduled to deliver a speech on various regional health issues, such as the status of diseases like dengue fever and monkeypox in regional countries, the health status in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as the achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of health despite sanctions.

Also, at the end of the opening ceremony, the Kuwait government award for the control of cancer, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean region will be awarded to Dawood Khalili, a faculty member of the Endocrine Sciences and Metabolism Research Institutes of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences.

On the sidelines of the event, Zafarqandi is scheduled to hold meetings with the health ministers of the state countries, as well as Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General, and Hanan Hasan Balkhi, WHO director of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office.

The annual meeting of the member countries of EMRO is one of the most important regional events in which Ministers of health and high-level representatives of the 22 Member States and territories of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region, as well as representatives of partner organizations and civil society, will meet to discuss priority public health issues, make decisions, and regulations.

The 71st EMRO meeting will include pre-summit sections, a specialized section, and side meetings.

During the session, Balkhi will



present her regional vision for the endorsement of Member States. The vision, which aims to secure the best attainable level of health for everyone in the region, includes 3 flagship initiatives: expanding timely and equitable access to life-saving medicines and vaccines; building a more resilient health workforce, and reducing the morbidity, mortality, and social costs associated with substance use disorders.

The Regional Strategic Operational Plan describes what WHO aims to achieve in the coming 4 years in response to country priorities, and how it will do it.

The Regional Committee will also include discussions of priority public health issues, technical papers, updates and a wide range of panel discussions and side events.

The technical papers that will be presented cover topics from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and health information systems (HIS) to addressing the burden of trauma in humanitarian settings and scaling up mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies.

AMR is a major global health problem. The Eastern Mediterranean Region has the highest – and fastest growing – rate of antibiotic use of any WHO region. Antimicrobial mis- and overuse fuels the development and spread of drug-resistant infections and is a major threat to human and animal health.

Participants will receive an up-

Region, moving from theory to action to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

WHO EMRO to support cooperation between Iran, neighboring countries

In April, Balkhi paid a four-day visit to the provinces of Isfahan and Tehran to assess the country's healthcare system's capabilities and progress.

She started the travel on April 13, visiting Isfahan University of Medical Sciences as well as several healthcare centers and infrastructures in the province.

The official held meetings with health authorities, and the WHO representative to the country, participating in a G5 (the group of four countries – Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan – plus the World Health Organization) meeting, and non-communicable disease campaign report meeting, and also visited Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) as well as some health and treatment centers.

Balkhi announced WHO's support for multi-country partnerships including subregional collaboration between the Islamic Republic of Iran and neighboring countries.

“WHO would like to share the Islamic Republic of Iran's valuable experiences in primary health care, family medicine, the local production of medical supplies, health insurance, and preventive health initiatives with other countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and beyond,” WHO website quoted Balkhi as saying.

“It's impressive to see how a quality integrated medical education has played a role in improving health services in the country, leading to higher life expectancy, lower mortality rates, and wider vaccination coverage,” the WHO website quoted Balkhi as saying.

With over 800 research centers, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made great efforts to expand its research capacity, she highlighted.

date on the health and humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. In the Gaza Strip, an entire population has been cut off from sustained aid, and polio has resurfaced after 25 years, paralyzing an unvaccinated 10-month-old boy. In September, Ministry of Health with WHO and partners was able to vaccinate around 560 000 children under ten years during the first round of a vaccination campaign to stop the polio outbreak and prevent its international spread, that was made possible by adherence to humanitarian pauses by all parties and an enthusiastic response from families in Gaza.

There have been an estimated 40 600 deaths so far, most of them women and children, and the toll is rising all the time. Civilian spaces and health care have come under sustained attack and the threat of disease outbreaks grows daily.

Ministers of Health and other participants will also receive updates on the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB), polio eradication in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, progress on the strategic framework for blood safety and availability 2016–2025, the regional strategy to improve access to medicines and vaccines in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 2020–2030, building resilient health systems to advance universal health coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean

Iran re-elected as WHS executive committee member

TEHRAN –Amir-Hossein Takian, head of the Department of Global Health and Public Policy, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, has been re-elected as a member of the World Health Alliance (WHS), formerly M8 Alliance, Executive Committee, for two more years.

The World Health Summit is the international platform for global health. It brings together stakeholders from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society from around the world to set the agenda for a healthier future and well-being for all.

The WHS Academic Alliance aims to promote academic knowledge and research as the foundation for evidence-based decision-making in global health policy. The network currently consists of 30 members

worldwide, including the Inter Academy Partnership (IAP), which represents the national academies of medicine and science in more than 100 countries.

Among other activities, the alliance organizes annual WHS Regional Meetings in the home countries of the member institutions and the International Presidency of the World Health Summit rotates annually among the members. The network was initiated by Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin in 2009 on the occasion of the first World Health Summit.

The World Health Summit strengthens exchange, stimulates innovative solutions to health challenges, fosters global health as a key political issue, and promotes the global

health debate in the spirit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The World Health Summit as a conference and strategic forum takes place every year in October in Berlin. The World Health Summit 2024 is held from October 13 to 15, under the theme “Building Trust for a Healthier World.”

Over 3,000 participants from all regions of the world are expected to attend, including numerous ministers, government officials and representatives from science, the private sector, civil society and international organizations.

The agenda includes topics such as health equity, climate change, pandemic threats, Mpox, and antimicrobial resistance.

ENGLISH IN USE

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“Noora” vaccine successfully passing first phase of clinical trial

“Noora” coronavirus vaccine, domestically made by Baqiatalah University of Medical Sciences affiliated to the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), is successfully passing the first phase of the clinical trial.

The vaccine is well undergoing the first phase of human testing, he noted, adding, the first phase of human testing lasts 2 months, so far more than a month has passed, IRNA reported on Saturday.

He stressed the need to integrate the human testing phase of the Noora vaccine and said that “this must be done to make the vaccine available for the mass vaccination; while many vaccine producing countries have done the same.”

واکسن نورا مرحله پایانی فاز اول تست انسانی را طی می کند

تهران – رییس دانشگاه علوم پزشکی بقیه الله گفت: تزریق دز اول واکسن نورا به تمام داوطلبان انجام شد و دز دوم هم به نیمه تزریق رسیده است. دکتر حسن ابوالقاسمی روز شنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا، روند فعالیت کارآزمایی بالینی واکسن نورا را مطلوب ارزیابی کرد و افزود: این واکسن به نحو مطلوبی در حال طی کردن فاز اول تست انسانی است. وی با یادآوری اینکه طبق برنامه ریزی انجام شده طول دوره مرحله اول تست انسانی ۲ ماه است، ادامه داد: تاکنون بیش از یک ماه از این دوره سپری شده است.

وی بر لزوم ادغام مراحل تست انسانی واکسن نورا تأکید کرد و گفت: این کار باید صورت گیرد و بسیاری از کشورهای تولید کننده واکسن هم از این ظرفیت بهره بردند.

Knowledge-based companies to attend Chinano, UzStory

TEHRAN –The Innovation and Prosperity Fund will support knowledge-based delegations to set up their pavilions at the Chinano Conference and Expo, and the Uzstory Expo in China and Uzbekistan respectively.

The knowledge-based firms will display their capabilities and latest achievements in the nanotechnology field at Chinano 2024 which will be held from October 23 to 25 in Suzhou, China.

Chinano 2024 consists of four parts, summits (keynote speeches, specific technology discussion sessions, and application forums), exhibitions, competitions, and product launching conferences.

It focuses mainly on micro-nano manufacturing, advanced semiconductors, flexible printed electronics, nano-imprint lithography, inkjet printing, nano health, and other aspects within the nanotechnology field, dedicating itself to building an international nanotech industry exchange and collaboration platform for enterprise display, product promotion, capital cooperation, technology matchmaking and exchange.

The 13th International Exhibition “UzStoryExpo2024” is scheduled to take place from October 29 to 31.

UzStory Expo will showcase construction and finishing materials, construction machinery and equipment, as well as heating, ventilation, water supply, woodworking, and interior innovations.

Chinese envoy praises Iran's advancement

On September 18, the Chinese ambassador to Tehran said Iran is a leading country in different fields of technology with significant achievements in certain fields such as nanotechnology.

Cong Peiwu along with some other Chinese officials paid a visit to Tehran's Pardis Technology Park to get familiar with the technology and innovation ecosystem of the center as well as the companies' achievements in the field, IRNA reported.

Attending a meeting, the officials exchanged views and explored ways to boost technological ties.

“Some countries become upset with the technological advancement of other nations. They want to hold a monopoly on technology,” the Chinese envoy stressed.

To face these challenges, developing countries need to cooperate closely in all fields, particularly technology, Peiwu added.

Notable growth in knowledge-based companies

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

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

Standards in Iran date back to Achaemenid era: expert

TEHRAN – The concept of standards has been present in Iran since ancient times, dating back to the Achaemenid era, Ali Jalali, the former secretary and board member of the Iranian Scientific Standard Association, and an official standards expert, has said.

“If you look at the pyramids of Egypt and compare them with the statues of Persepolis, you will notice that the Iranian statues appear joyful, while the Egyptian pyramids have sad faces.

One of the main reasons for this is that a standard management system in Iran at that time included worker leave, regular quality planning, motivational systems, personnel replacement systems, and a specific discipline that prevailed among Iranians.”

“Standard means the degree of compliance with predetermined requirements and regulations,” he said on the occasion of October 14, which is recognized as World Standards Day.

Jalali stated that the concept of standards has been present in Iran since ancient times, dating back to the Achaemenid era.

He further assessed the current status of standards in Iran across various industries, stating that in some industries, such as food, the situation is relatively good.

“However, in some industries like automo-

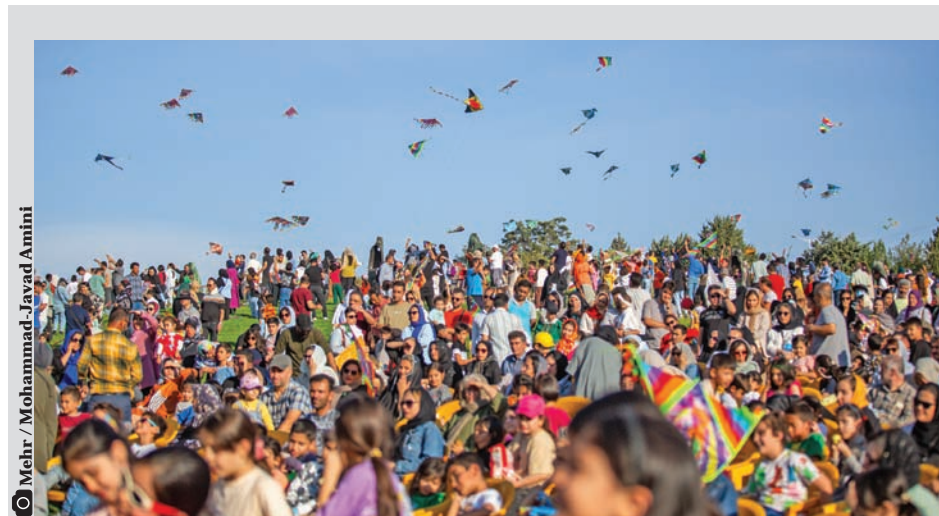
tion, despite significant efforts by industry workers, we unfortunately lag far behind our international competitors. In the service sector, such as tourism, we also have a considerable gap with international standards.”

He went on to say that statistically, the number of issued ISO management system certificates worldwide exceeds one million, with more than half belonging to China. In contrast, countries like the USA, Italy, Japan, and the UK have each achieved about 20% of the certificates that China has obtained. This statistic indicates that in the not-so-distant future, China will become the world's leading power.

The ISO standard logo does not indicate product quality, and these symbols are proof of the management system of that organization. For example, food producers are not allowed to place the ISO 22000 standard logo on the packaging of primary or secondary products based on the new version of ISO 22003.

They are not even allowed to write any statement regarding this on their product. The reason for this strictness may be to avoid misunderstandings regarding the safety of the product, as this standard proves the food safety management system, not the product standard.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Families get together for kite festival

A large number of families in the city of Qazvin got together on Friday, October 11, flying kites to mark National Children's Week.

The event was held under the theme of ‘for children, for future.’



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Cursed is the one who puts the load of his life responsibilities upon the shoulders of the people.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon: 11:50 Evening: 17:49 Dawn: 4:47 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:10 (tomorrow)

Indian author Arundhati Roy donates PEN Pinter Prize to Palestine

Renowned Indian author, writer and activist Arundhati Roy has been awarded the PEN Pinter Prize 2024. This is an annual award set up by English PEN in the memory of playwright Harold Pinter. Shortly after having been named for the prize at a ceremony at the British Library in London, Roy, 62, announced that her share of the prize money will be donated to the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund, Muslim Mirror reported.

Roy's donation is not just a financial contribution; it also serves as a symbolic act of resistance against the injustices faced by Palestinians. By redirecting the prize money, she hopes to raise awareness about the humanitarian crisis in Palestine and encourage others in the literary and artistic communities to take a stand.

The ongoing conflict in Palestine, and particularly the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, has long been a focus of her activism. In her speech, she drew parallels between the struggles of the Palestinian people and those of other oppressed communities, making a poignant plea for global solidarity.

She said she was speaking of her friends and comrades in prison in India—lawyers, academics, students, journalists – Umar Khalid, Gulfisha Fatima, Khalid Saifi, Sharjeel Imam, Rona Wilson, Surendra Gadling, and Mahesh Raut as well as thousands of incarcerated people in Kashmir and across the country.

Speaking about the ongoing Israeli offensive in Gaza, the Indian author said the US and Israel unflinching ongoing "televised genocide in Gaza and now Lebanon in defense of a colonial occupation and an Apartheid state".

Established in 2009 by English PEN in memory of Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter, the PEN Pinter Prize carries with it a legacy of truth-telling.

The PEN Pinter Prize is awarded annually to a UK, Republic of Ireland, Commonwealth, or former Commonwealth writer whose literary merit and intellectual determination define the truth of our lives and societies. The prize holds a profound meaning in a world where freedom of expression is increasingly under attack.

The prize, however, is not just a celebration of literary merit; it is a call to arms. In a world where writers, journalists, and activists are increasingly silenced, the PEN Pinter Prize reminds us of the critical role literature plays in resisting authoritarianism.

Arundhati Roy's career has been one of balancing the roles of an author and an activist. From her Booker Prize-winning novel "The God of Small Things" to her trenchant critiques of corporate globalization, nationalism, and state violence, Roy has never flinched from controversy. Over the years, she has lent her voice to issues ranging from indigenous rights in India to the injustices faced by marginalized communities. Yet, it is her unwavering support for political prisoners, whether in India or abroad, that stands out as a core aspect of her activism.

The total death toll from the Israeli war on Gaza has climbed to 42,175, more than half of them women and children, since the start of the conflict on October 7, 2023, the Health Ministry in Gaza has announced.

The ministry made the announcement on Saturday, saying that the number of the injured people has also risen to 98,336 since last October. The ministry also estimates that 10,000 bodies remain trapped under rubble.

In over a year, Israeli attacks on Gaza have never ceased. More than 2 million Palestinian civilians have been displaced as a result.

Marivan hosting 17th International Street Theater Festival

TEHRAN-The 17th Marivan International Street Theater Festival is underway in Marivan, Kordestan Province.

A total of 34 theatrical works have been selected in two sections of national competition and international competition, ISNA reported.

Film director, screenwriter, and puppeteer Marzieh Boroumand from Iran is serving on the jury of the international competition section along with jurors from Turkey and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Boroumand, 73, is a graduate of theater from the University of Tehran's Faculty of Fine Arts.

She is best known for puppet TV shows "School of Mice," "Grandma's House," "Tabeta Tales," "Kelileh and Demneh Town" as well as puppet films "City of Mice," and "City of Mice 2".

Marivan City is located in the west of Kordestan Province, in the west of Iran. This city shares a 100 km border with Iraqi Kurdistan.

Marivan International Street Theater Festival is one of the most important major artistic events in the field of performing arts in the country. Since 1994, the city of Marivan has been included in the list of cities with independent theater festivals in



the country by holding the first memorial of Marivan theater.

The year 2001 should be considered as the starting point for the performance of street shows in Marivan, because the sixth anniversary of the Marivan Regional Theater was held that year. The first national festival of Marivan street theater was held in 2004.

Street theater is a form of theatrical performance and presentation in outdoor public spaces without a specific paying audience. These spaces can be anywhere, including shopping centers, car parks, recreational

reserves, college or university campus and street corners. They are especially seen in outdoor spaces where there are large numbers of people.

The actors who perform street theatre range from buskers to organized theater companies or groups that want to experiment with performance spaces, or to promote their mainstream work.

It was a source of providing information to people when there were no sources of providing information like television, radio, etc. Nowadays, sometimes performers are commissioned, especially for street festivals,

children's shows or parades.

Street theater is a way to make traditional theatre accessible for those who may not be able to otherwise attend or afford tickets.

The audience typically consists of anyone and everyone who wants to watch and for most performances is free public entertainment.

Having been launched on October 11, this year's edition of the Marivan International Street Theater Festival will run through October 16.

New head for Iran's Cinema Organization appointed



TEHRAN-During a ceremony on Saturday in Tehran, Raed Farizadeh was appointed as the new head of the Iran's Cinema Organization by the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi.

Farizadeh, 46, replaced Mohammad Khazaei who held the position in the past three years, IRNA reported.

Holding a Ph.D. in philosophy and literature from the Freie Universität Berlin, Farizadeh is a faculty member at the Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University.

In the past six years, he has been involved in cultural and cinematic activities. He has served as the head of international affairs of

the Farabi Cinema Foundation, the head of the international section of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth, and the secretary of the high council of Iran's Cinema Organization among others.

Moreover, Farizadeh has collaborated as a juror with festivals in Iran, Armenia, Russia, and India among others.

He has also published several articles and books on philosophy, literature, art, and cinema both inside and outside the country.

New educational hub for Persian language opens in Kyrgyzstan

TEHRAN- On the occasion of the commemoration of Hafez Day, the Iranology and Persian Language Room, named after Kyrgyz poet Yusef Balasaguni, was inaugurated on Saturday at the Kyrgyz National University with the collaboration of the Institute of History and Regional Studies of the university and Iran's Saadi Foundation.

During the ceremony, Abuzar Toqani, the cultural attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kyrgyzstan and the representative of the Saadi Foundation, expressed his delight at the establishment of the Iranology and Persian Language Room.

He emphasized the importance of cultural familiarity and language acquisition for a deeper understanding of each other's cultures. Toqani stated, "In order to know each other better, we must become acquainted with the culture of our people. Understanding culture requires knowledge of language so that one can acquire information from primary sources."

He further remarked that despite centuries of shared culture and living experiences between the peoples, the current understanding of each other has diminished. "Our present duty is to strengthen and develop cultural relations to foster closer ties between the two nations and to achieve mutual development and prosperity," he added.

In a further statement, Nazargul Ishekeyev, the Chairman of the National State Language Commission at Kyrgyz National

University, reflected on their past studies during the Soviet Union era, noting the significant influence of renowned scholars and poets such as Omar Khayyam and Ferdowsi. He stressed that during the period when Iranians embraced Islam, the populace was in a phase of Arabization, yet Iranian scholars managed to preserve their language and culture.

"I hope this newly inaugurated Persian language room will have a lasting impact on our youth. In this era of globalization, learning various languages is essential. Our university students are learning multiple languages, including Persian. I wish for those studying Persian to gain a closer familiarity with Iranian culture and civilization, mastering the language and becoming a bridge for enhancing relations between our two countries in the future."

This Iranology and Persian Language Room at Kyrgyz National University has been refurbished and prepared for operation this summer with the support of the Saadi Foundation, Iran's organization that promotes the Persian language abroad, to facilitate Persian language education and studies.

Persian, also known as Farsi, is an ancient language spoken primarily in Iran, Afghanistan (as Dari), and Tajikistan (as Tajik), boasting a rich literary heritage that dates back over a millennium. Its script, derived from Arabic, can initially pose challenges for learners unfamiliar with the right-to-left writing system. Persian vocabulary is



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

The difficulty level of learning Persian can vary significantly based on a learner's background and native language. For speakers of languages that share similarities with Persian, such as Turkish or certain Indo-European languages, the transition may be smoother due to overlapping linguistic features.

However, learners from languages with markedly different structures, like Mandarin or Vietnamese, may find the concepts of Persian syntax and grammar more daunting. Additionally, the rich cultural context embedded in Persian literature and expressions can require learners to engage

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

Hafez, one of most celebrated Persian poets, is renowned for his profound influence on Persian literature and culture. Born in Shiraz in the 14th century, his poetry reflects deep philosophical inquiries, spiritual themes, and the richness of human emotions. Hafez's ghazals, often characterized by their lyrical beauty and intricate metaphors, explore themes of love, mysticism, and the transient nature of life. His ability to blend everyday experiences with profound insights grants his work universal appeal, resonating with readers across generations and cultures.

Hafez's poetry often touches upon the idea of divine love, inviting readers to contemplate the relationship between the human soul and the divine. His verses have inspired countless poets, artists, and musicians, not only within Persia but also throughout the world. Hafez's influence extended beyond literature, as seen in the tradition of "ghazal" singing and even contemporary music that evokes his verses. His thoughts on love and beauty continue to be a source of inspiration, elevating his stature as a symbol of Persian culture, wisdom, and the quest for truth. Today, Hafez is celebrated not only for his artistic genius but also for his role in shaping the spiritual and cultural identity of Iran.

Cartoon of Day

THE GROUND INVASION



The Ground Invasion
Cartoonist: Hala from the U.S.