

# TEHRAN TIMES

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# Drone Delivery

**If Israel's crimes continue, Golani's cafeteria will be nothing compared to what comes next, Hezbollah warns**



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Israeli war minister Yoav Gallant visits a Golani base in Binyamina that was hit by a Hezbollah drone strike on Sunday, October 14, 2024.

## Economy, foreign relations take center stage in president's weekly meeting with Leader

TEHRAN – Iranian President Maoud Pezeshkian highlighted his administration's economic and international priorities and plans during a Monday meeting with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Pezeshkian told reporters that this week's meeting with Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei focused on how the government can take out the sting of Western sanctions.

One of the key focal points of the meeting was the enhancement of relations with neighboring countries. The President outlined plans to improve transit routes, gas networks, and rail connections while also boosting bilateral trade. ▶ Page 2



## Putin and Pezeshkian's meeting in Ashgabat

By Vladimir Sazhin  
Senior Researcher at

Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

MOSCOW – On October 11th, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Their meeting took place on the sidelines of the "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations—the Basis of Peace and Development" forum, held in honor of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Turkmen poet and philosopher Makhtumkuli Fragi.

The meeting in Ashgabat came as a surprise, as a meeting between the Russian and Iranian presidents had already been planned for October 22-24 in Kazan, within the framework of the BRICS summit. ▶ Page 2

## U.S. THAAD gamble: Moving up the escalation ladder

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN – The reported deployment of American military personnel to operate Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) systems in Israel, a move under consideration by the Biden administration, has once again thrust Israel's actions onto the centre stage of tensions in West Asia. While the U.S. already provided Israel with THAAD systems in 2019, this proposed change — stationing American personnel to operate the system — marks a significant escalation, raising serious concerns about the potential for a direct confrontation with Iran.

This move, fueled by Israel's perceived security threats from Iran and its allies, is seen as a blatant escalation by many observers. It comes at a time when tensions in the region are already high, with Israel's aggressive policies, including airstrikes in Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza, contributing significantly to the volatile situation. ▶ Page 5

## Hezbollah humiliates Golani: "Israel is weaker than a spider's web"

By Sondos al-Assad

BEIRUT – Despite the torrent of claims by the Zionists that Hezbollah has been dismantled and its military capabilities have been drastically weakened following the "Pager & Walkie-Talkie Massacre", the assassination of the commanders of Al-Rodwan Force and the movement's leader Sayyed Nasrallah along with his senior consultants, Hezbollah targeted – with a squadron of attack drones – a camp for the Golani Brigades in Binyamina, south of Haifa with the cry: "We are at your service, o Sayyed Nasrallah."

The qualitative Binyamina Operation is in response to the genocidal massacres committed by the occupation regime in Lebanon and less than a month after the surprise attacks on Hezbollah, which confirms once again the resistance's ability to revive and continue fighting within an effective and exceptional "command and control" system. ▶ Page 5

## The resistance has yet to reveal all its capabilities

By Batool Subeiti

BEIRUT– Active resistance against American hegemony in West Asia has reached a critical point, posing a genuine threat to American regional interests. For some time, the U.S. underestimated the power balance that had shifted in favor of the Axis of Resistance.

October 7 marked a turning point, showcasing the first instance of the resistance taking the offensive. It proved that when mobilized, the resistance possesses both the will and capability to implement its plans despite its adversary's technological superiority and intelligence capabilities.

The occupation entity, characterized by its inherently expansionist tendencies and reliance on swift military engagements, has proven unprepared for a prolonged conflict. Its soldiers lack training in ground warfare, and the settler society is accustomed to luxury rather than enduring the hardships of war. ▶ Page 5



## The legitimacy of defending resistance in international law

By Abbas-Ali Kadkhodaei  
Professor of Law at Tehran University

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), in its Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory advisory opinion issued in 2004, explicitly declared the clear incompatibility of the Israeli regime's actions with fundamental principles of international law. Twenty years later on July 19, 2024, the ICJ once again revealed the illegitimate nature of an occupying regime that adheres to no international rules, obliging the world to end this illegal occupation. ▶ Page 3

## Gaza's grief: Israel's strikes silence innocent souls, young lives

By Ali Hamedin

TEHRAN- As the world reflects on Children's Day, celebrated on October 8 to honor the laughter, dreams, and innocence of children, the stark reality in Gaza casts a long shadow over this global festivity.

In a land where the sounds of laughter should fill playgrounds and homes, the cries of children echo against a backdrop of destruction and despair. For millions of children in Gaza, this day was not one of celebration, but a poignant reminder of their lost childhoods and interrupted dreams by Israel's attacks. ▶ Page 8

## Jeremy Loffredo: another journalist silenced by Israel

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – The arrest and subsequent travel ban imposed on Jewish-American investigative journalist Jeremy Loffredo by Israeli authorities has exposed the hypocrisy of U.S. politicians' platitudes on press freedom. While Washington remains silent, the shocking details of Loffredo's detention are throwing a spotlight on how White House officials are willing to turn a blind eye to the violation of basic human rights, as long as the predator is Israel.

Loffredo, who works for the independent news outlet The Grayzone, was detained alongside four other journalists at a West Bank checkpoint on October 8. According to one of the jailed reporters who later took to X to share the experience, the journalists endured a harrowing ordeal at the hands of Israeli soldiers, including: ▶ Page 3



## Tehran, Muscat urge immediate international action to end Israeli aggression

TEHRAN – The foreign ministers of Iran and Oman have called for swift international intervention to halt what they describe as Israeli genocide and aggressive actions in Gaza and Lebanon.

This appeal was made during a meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and his Omani counterpart, Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, in Muscat on Monday.

The discussions centered on the escalating violence in the region, which has resulted from Israel's military operations against Palestinians and Lebanese groups. ▶ Page 3

## Veteran vocalist Aminollah Rashidi passes away at 99

▶ Page 8



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## The message of Iranian authority from Tehran to the heart of Beirut

In a note, Kayhan discussed the failure and desperation of the Zionist regime in view of the development in the West Asia region. It said: All the events in the region show that the era of the disappearance of Israel has started. The Islamic Republic is sending a message of authority from Tehran to the heart of Beirut. It will not allow a repetition of geographical and political domination of West Asia by Western politicians. Successive defeats of the barbaric Zionist network at the hands of the Resistance Front have caused this regime to struggle to cover up its inability through assassinations, psychological warfare, and brutal crimes in Palestine and Lebanon. The Zionists have always been afraid of the Islamic Republic of Iran standing by the Islamic resistance movements and have understood the imminent and complete realization of the ideal of the Islamic Revolution in countering Israel. They are also facing a global awakening against their existence. The trip of Ghalibaf, Speaker of the parliament, to Beirut and Foreign Minister Araghchi's trip to Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Oman show the authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Resistance Front to the Zionist regime, and this was the demonstration of the complete coordination of diplomacy and battleground.

### Iran: Do not sacrifice your soldiers!

In a commentary on the failure of Israel's air defense systems in the face of Iran's Operation True Promise, the Iran newspaper wrote: Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, who has started a new round of trips to new destinations for regional consultations to de-escalate the crisis in West Asia, on Sunday warned Washington not to sacrifice its soldiers for Tel Aviv's warmongers. Such a statement comes as Washington is deploying a high-altitude anti-missile system (THAAD) and a military crew to Israel to help bolster the regime's air defenses after a missile attack from Iran earlier this month. Tehran's new warning about the deployment of the THAAD system became meaningful when the missile attack on Israel showed that the Israeli defense systems are not effective against hypersonic missiles. This failure was exposed to everyone.

### Ham Mihan: A false claim to put pressure on Iran

In an interview with Seyyed Hani Borhani, a professor of Israel studies, Ham Mihan investigat-

ed the claims of the New York Times and Washington Post. He said: These two newspapers claimed in reports that Hamas intended to implement a big plan (Oct. 7 attack on Israel) and had informed Hezbollah and Iran about the details of a big operation. This is despite the fact that even the Westerners and their intelligence agencies agreed that Iran was unaware of this operation. It seems that some want to increase the pressure on Iran in line with Israel's interests. Hamas was responsible for this operation. Now, Hamas does not have assets and facilities on earth to be targeted. But if they want to prove that Iran was involved in this issue, the situation will be different. Iran is a country and has assets and facilities, and claims may be made against it. Dealing with this issue requires an active diplomacy. Experienced and active diplomats in international law should be used to defend Iran against this possible media-legal attack.

### Jam-e-Jam: Coordination of diplomacy and battleground

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam dealt with the visit of high-ranking Iranian officials to Lebanon and other countries in the region. It quoted Mohsen Pakaein, the former ambassador of Iran to Azerbaijan, as saying: The presence of high-ranking Iranian officials is a result of the authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of foreign policy and excellent ties between diplomacy and battleground. The meeting of Iranian officials with their Lebanese counterparts took place in a situation where the Zionist regime had put Beirut airport and the surrounding area under heavy fire. Despite the many threats that had been made, Mr. Ghalibaf flew to Lebanon aboard an airplane that was piloted by himself; this shows the courage of Iran's diplomacy and is considered a strong point in the foreign policy record of the Islamic Republic. Also, the purpose of the President's trip to Turkmenistan and the Speaker of the Parliament's trip to Tajikistan was to try to form a global mobilization against the Zionist regime. In the current situation and the field of foreign policy, we are facing a complete coordination of diplomacy and battleground, and this issue will effectively help to strengthen our relations with other countries.

er nations interested in strategic partnerships with Iran is a priority for our government," he remarked, adding, "Our cooperation, however, is not limited to just a few neighboring countries; we are engaging in dialogue with various nations worldwide based on the principles of dignity, wisdom, and expediency."

The President also addressed the upcoming budget bill for the 1404 Iranian calendar year, highlighting its focus on increasing the purchasing power of citizens by reducing taxes for low-income groups. He reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing support for health, education, and essential goods for vulnerable populations.

## Economy, foreign relations take center stage in president's weekly meeting with Leader

TEHRAN – Iranian President Maoud Pezeshkian highlighted his administration's economic and international priorities and plans during a Monday meeting with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Pezeshkian told reporters that this week's meeting with Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei focused on how the government can take out the sting of Western sanctions.

One of the key focal points of the meeting was the enhancement of relations with neighboring countries. The President outlined plans to improve transit routes, gas networks, and rail connections while also boosting bilateral trade. "Expanding cooperation with China and oth-

## Iran VP to visit Pakistan for SCO summit

TEHRAN – Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref is set to travel to Islamabad to attend an upcoming summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), according to the deputy head of International Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Iranian Presidential Office.

Ali Najafi Khoshroudi shared this information, indicating that on Monday, Iran's vice president will visit Islamabad at the official invitation of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to take part in the 23rd meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, scheduled for October 16 and 17.

Khoshroudi further underscored, "Alongside the Iranian Vice President, who will be in Islamabad to participate in this meeting and sign relevant documents, the Prime Ministers of China, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, as well as the Foreign Minister of India, are also expected to attend the conference."

According to the Iranian Presidential Office, Mohammad-Reza Aref will engage in discussions with several Prime Ministers and heads of delegations present at the meeting during the event's sidelines.

Iran officially joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a full member in July 2023, representing a pivotal development in its foreign policy and initiatives for regional collaboration.

The SCO, founded in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, serves as a Eurasian platform for political, economic, and security cooperation, emphasizing regional security, trade, and cultural exchange.

As Iran seeks to expand its economic and diplomatic ties amid ongoing sanctions, its membership in the SCO is expected to contribute to the country's strategic interests and reinforce its role in regional affairs.

# Europe sanctions Iranian airlines, officials over refuted claims of missile transfer to Russia

TEHRAN – Foreign ministers of the European Union have approved a fresh round of sanctions targeting seven Iranian individuals and seven entities, accusing Tehran of supplying ballistic missiles to Russia for use in the Ukraine conflict.

Among those hit by the sanctions are prominent Iranian airlines, officials linked to the country's defense sector, and key military figures.

The sanctions list includes Iran's flagship airline, Iran Air, as well as Saha Airlines and Mahan Air, which have been accused of involvement in the alleged missile transfers.

High-ranking officials, such as Seyyed Hamzeh Ghalandari, Iran's Deputy Defense Minister, and key figures in the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), were also named. Additionally, the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters and the IRGC Aerospace Force are subject to the sanctions.

The EU's measures also target the managing directors of



the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA) and the Aerospace Industries Organization (AIO), both key players in Iran's defense industry.

The sanctions come amid ongoing claims by Western nations that Iran has been supplying Russia with ballistic missiles, which Tehran has consistently denied. President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized last month that Iran has never provided Russia with ballistic missiles, calling for an end to the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine. During a meeting

with European Council President Charles Michel at the UN General Assembly in September, Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's position, insisting Tehran seeks peace, not escalation.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi also strongly rejected the allegations. In a statement on social media on September 11, he dismissed the claims as being based on "faulty intelligence and flawed logic." He added that Iran has not delivered ballistic missiles to Russia and questioned the effectiveness of sanctions, calling them part of the problem

rather than the solution.

Iran and Russia, both subject to Western sanctions, have maintained a close partnership in recent years. Military cooperation between the two countries dates back to at least 2015, when Iran acquired the Russian-made S-300 anti-missile system. Despite facing sanctions, Iran has continued to enhance its military capabilities, including missile and drone technology, which it insists are purely for defensive purposes and non-negotiable.

Meanwhile, Russia has repeatedly criticized the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine, warning that it only serves to extend the conflict. Since the outbreak of the war, the United States alone has provided more than \$44 billion in military aid to Ukraine, with no signs of the conflict abating.

The United Kingdom also announced new sanctions against Iran on Monday. The move was reportedly done in support of the Zionist regime.

## General Hajizadeh expresses gratitude for nation's backing of Operation True Promise II

TEHRAN – The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Division has expressed gratitude to the Iranian people for their messages of support, following Iran's Operation True Promise II, which saw missile strikes against Israeli military bases in the occupied territories.

"In response to the Israeli regime's actions, including the assassination of Hamas leader

Ismail Haniyeh and Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, as well as the civilian casualties in Gaza and Lebanon, Iran successfully executed Operation True Promise II," Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said in a message published on Monday.

Hajizadeh emphasized that the decision to carry out the retaliatory operation was a collective one, authorized by the National Se-

curity Council and supported by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, with guidance and approval from Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The operation, which took place on October 1, involved the launch of approximately 200 ballistic missiles targeting Israeli military and security installations. 90% of the projectiles reportedly hit their targets.

## Putin and Pezeshkian's meeting in Ashgabat

From page 1 ▶ This means that something forced and made the leaders of the two countries hurry up with their acquaintance. And this "something," apparently, was the ultimate tension between Iran and Israel, ready to break into a big Middle East war.

Without going into much detail, it should be noted that after the Iranian missile attack against Israel on October 1, the world froze in anticipation of an Israeli response, which will undoubtedly take place. The only question is what it will be: either a 'demonstration', as in April, or "deadly", as declared by the Israeli generals. The future development of events in the Middle East largely depends on this – either a gradual detente or a war.

In this dramatic situation, Iran needs to know how Russia, one of the main non-regional actors in the Middle East, will react to one or another development of events. Therefore, it cannot be ruled out that it was the Iranian leadership that took the initiative to organize an urgent meeting between Mr. Putin and Mr. Pezeshkian in Ashgabat. It seems that this was the right step. In the current

difficult geopolitical conditions, when only one day (or night) can radically change the situation not only in the Middle East region but also in the world, a timely personal acquaintance of the leaders of the two most important countries is simply necessary.

"I am very glad, dear Mr. President, that I have the opportunity to meet you personally and discuss our current issues," President Putin said at his first meeting with President Pezeshkian.

The communication between the Russian and Iranian presidents began with the participation of delegations. Then the meeting continued face-to-face. Of course, there is no detailed information about what the presidents talked about. Officially, it was stated that the issues of the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations were considered.

Based on this very generalized announced agenda, an understanding of the role and place of the Russian Federation and Iran in the current military and political processes in the Middle East, and the specifics of bilateral relations, it can be stated that there is no

absolute unity of views between Moscow and Tehran. In principle, this is natural for large ambitious powers that have and defend their interests in the world, the region, and in bilateral relations.

During his conversation with Masoud Pezeshkian, Vladimir Putin stated, "We are actively collaborating on the international stage, and our views on global events often align." While it's true that Russia and Iran are currently presenting a united front against the West, striving for a new, just, and equitable world order, Putin's use of the word "often" hints at a nuanced reality. It suggests that while their positions often coincide, there may be instances where their perspectives diverge.

In fact, Russia and Iran have somewhat different nuances in their approaches. For example, they differ in their perspectives on the South Caucasus, security in the Persian Gulf (given Russia's relationship with Arab states), the future of Syria, and, what's extremely important for Iran today, Israel.

Western political scientists and journalists call Vladimir Putin Russia's most pro-Israeli lead-



er, though and albeit in the past. And this is understandable, there are 1.6 million Russian-speaking residents in Israel (20% of Israel's population) – immigrants from the USSR and the Russian Federation, who have made and are making a significant Russian cultural contribution to Israeli society. Relations between the two countries developed in a businesslike and stable manner after the collapse of the USSR. Israel has not joined Western sanctions against Moscow and has introduced a visa-free regime for Russian citizens. Until recently, Putin and Netanyahu had good personal relations. Everything was changed by the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and the harsh responses of Tel Aviv. In fact, it was the beginning of a new Middle East war.

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

## Pezeshkian stresses importance of regional cooperation in meeting with Azeri official

TEHRAN – The President of Iran highlighted the importance of bilateral collaboration to mitigate regional tensions during a discussion with Azerbaijan's deputy prime minister.

On Monday, Masoud Pezeshkian met with Shahin Mustafayev, the deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, where he acknowledged the historical and cultural ties shared by the two nations.

Pezeshkian emphasized the need for a coalition among regional countries to achieve peace and stability in addressing tensions.

Pezeshkian remarked, "You are our brothers, and enhancing our relations is of significant importance to us."



In response, Shahin Mustafayev conveyed Azerbaijan's willingness to strengthen ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasizing that Azeri President Ilham Aliyev is committed to fostering tranquility and ensuring

peace in the region.

Mustafayev affirmed, "We have no territorial claims against any nation, and we do not accept any claims from others regarding our territorial integrity, as we believe that regional issues should be resolved through dialogue among the countries involved."

"As neighbors with a history of cultural and economic links, Iran and Azerbaijan have much to gain from increased collaboration and dialogue. By reaffirming their commitment to partnership and mutual understanding, the two nations can help ensure stability and prosperity in the region, setting an example for other countries to follow," the diplomat underscored.

# Jeremy Loffredo: another journalist silenced by Israel

From Page 1 ▶ Illegal search and seizure: Their car was searched, personal belongings were removed, and they were forced to surrender their phones, with one journalist being beaten and threatened with a gun when he refused.

Cruel and inhumane treatment: The journalists were held in the scorching sun, and denied shade, water, and medical attention. They were blindfolded, handcuffed, and transported in a military jeep, subjected to verbal abuse and threats of sexual violence.

Further abuse at the police station: They were forced to pose for photos with nationalist slogans, endured further insults and threats, and were denied food, water, and legal representation.

Loffredo ended up in detention for three days before being released on October 11. He is now barred from leaving the occupied territories until October 20 while Israeli authorities continue to withhold his phone and passport, leaving him stranded and unable to keep up with his work.

Loffredo has been accused of en-



dangering the regime's "national security" and "aiding and sharing information with the enemy", apparently because he reported on Iranian airstrikes that hit Israeli military bases in the occupied territories on October 1.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) launched approximately 200 ballistic missiles toward the Israeli military, espionage, and intelligence bases in retaliation for the regime's assassination of top Resistance figures, including Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh and Hezbollah's Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah.

Iran went to great lengths to hide the extent of the damage caused by the Iranian missiles. The IRGC announced 90% of its projectiles had hit their targets, while Tel Aviv and Washington claimed the operation had "failed".

A few days after the attack, Loffredo released a video report on the YouTube channel of the Grayzone, to shed light on the situation. The report demonstrated that Israeli authorities largely concealed the true extent of the damage inflicted on the regime's bases following Operation True Promise II.

To prepare his report on the Israeli bases hit by Iran, Loffredo traveled to the Israeli-occupied territories and documented several impact sites that had not been reported by Israeli authorities, including areas near the Mossad headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Loffredo also took the time to speak to the Israelis residing next to the targeted areas but said the majority of them refused to speak on the matter.

The latest report of Israel's violence against journalists is yet another horrific example of the regime's utter disregard for human rights and the freedom of the press. This brutal regime has now murdered well over a hundred journalists in its ongoing war in Gaza, with strong evidence suggesting that most of these killings were deliberate. Many journalists and their families have also been subjected to death threats from Israeli officials for doing their jobs.

Analysts believe Israel has adopted a pattern of calculated violence designed to silence dissent and control the narrative.

## Tehran, Muscat urge immediate international action to end Israeli aggression

TEHRAN – The foreign ministers of Iran and Oman have called for swift international intervention to halt what they describe as Israeli genocidal and aggressive actions in Gaza and Lebanon.

This appeal was made during a meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and his Omani counterpart, Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, in Muscat on Monday.

The discussions centered on the escalating violence in the region, which has resulted from Israel's military operations against Palestinians and Lebanese groups. Both ministers expressed deep concern over the potential expansion of the conflict and urged regional and international actors to intensify diplomatic efforts to preserve peace and prevent further destabilization.

Araqchi's visit to Oman is part of a broader diplomatic tour aimed at reducing tensions as Israel's military campaigns in Lebanon and Gaza continue. The Iranian foreign minister has already visited Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Iraq as part of efforts to coordinate regional responses to the unfolding crisis.

During the talks, Araqchi reiterated Iran's readiness for a "war situation," while emphasizing that Tehran is committed to pursuing peace

in the region. In his separate meeting with Mohammed Abdulsalam, a senior representative of Yemen's National Salvation Government, the focus remained on securing diplomatic solutions to regional conflicts.

Later in the day, Araqchi met with Omani Minister of the Royal Office Sultan bin Mohammed al-Numani to further discuss the latest developments in Gaza and Lebanon.

Both sides agreed that Israel's ongoing military operations are a primary cause of regional instability, and called for immediate international action to stop the violence.

The ministers underscored the importance of continued consultations between neighboring countries to prevent further insecurity and promote peace.

'Indirect Iran-US talks halted amid regional crisis'

During his visit, Araqchi also addressed the status of indirect talks between Iran and the United States, mediated by Oman. The Iranian foreign minister revealed that these discussions have been suspended due to the current crisis in the region. He praised Oman's past role in facilitating communication between Tehran and Washington, but noted that the current situation

offers little opportunity for progress.

"There is no ground for talks at the moment until the regional crisis is resolved," Araqchi said, adding that no messages were exchanged between the US and Iran during this visit. He emphasized that Tehran remains committed to diplomacy but is fully prepared for any potential conflict.

Iranian, Chinese FMs discuss West Asia developments in phone call

In addition to regional efforts, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Araqchi on Monday, where both parties discussed the worsening situation in West Asia.

Wang emphasized China's strategic relationship with Iran and called for increased diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation. Araqchi welcomed China's involvement and criticized the inaction of the United Nations Security Council, attributing it to US support for Israel.

The two diplomats also discussed bilateral relations and plans for a future meeting between the presidents of Iran and China at the upcoming BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. Araqchi reiterated Iran's desire for peace in Gaza and Lebanon and praised China's efforts to promote stability in the region.

## Iran's parliament speaker warns west to end support for Israel before it's too late



TEHRAN – Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf delivered a stark warning to Western nations, urging them to stop supporting and arming the "criminal Zionist regime" before it leads to irreversible consequences.

Speaking at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva on Monday, Qalibaf emphasized the dangers of continued military and political support for Israel as it continues its aggression in the region.

During his address, Qalibaf reflected on Israel's failed attempt to

weaken the Lebanese Resistance, particularly after the assassination of Hezbollah's former Secretary General, martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Israel's efforts, he said, were met with defeat, as demonstrated by Hezbollah's drone strike on the Israeli Golan Division. According to Qalibaf, this proves Hezbollah remains not only active but strongly supported by the Lebanese people.

The main theme of the IPU summit focused on the role of science and innovation in building a sustainable future. However, Qalibaf criticized how scientific advancements are being used to fuel war and terror rather than to benefit humanity. He accused Israel of exploiting modern technology to wage war, massacre civilians, and engage in what he described as state-sponsored terrorism.

"Instead of paving the way for a peaceful future, science is being

weaponized for war and mass murder, particularly by the Zionist regime," Qalibaf remarked, highlighting how technological innovations are misused to commit atrocities.

Qalibaf, who had just arrived from Lebanon, recounted the devastation he witnessed in Beirut following Israeli bombings. He described the ruins and destruction caused by Israeli airstrikes, which displaced over a million people and claimed the lives of many civilians. He called himself "the voice of the oppressed and resilient Lebanese people," who continue to resist despite the looming threat of American fighter jets.

He highlighted that despite these attacks, the Lebanese Resistance, represented by Hezbollah, remains a powerful force, and the people of Lebanon stand united behind it.

Qalibaf emphasized Iran's support for any ceasefire agreement bro-

kered by Lebanon's government, parliament, and the Resistance Movement. He pointed out that the Israeli regime is responsible for widespread destruction, particularly in Palestinian territories, and has killed over 10,000 children—acts it appears to be proud of, according to Qalibaf.

"We are dealing with a criminal regime that burns civilians alive in refugee camps, demolishes Palestinian homes, and now destroys entire cities and infrastructure with American-made weapons," Qalibaf declared. "This is a regime that disregards all legal and moral standards."

Qalibaf warned that if Israel's actions continue unchecked, it will lead to a deepening crisis, not only in West Asia but globally. He predicted that the continued violence would spark further military and security conflicts across the region, potentially leading to an unending cycle of war.

estinians' right to self-determination, which is also a peremptory obligation. Therefore, States must not maintain this situation [created by Israel's illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory] and instead take positive action to end the occupation.

The United Nations General Assembly, in resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 of September 13, 2024, followed by the ICJ's recent ruling, ordered the Israeli regime to withdraw all its military forces from the occupied territories.

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



### Iran to face Qatar in 2026 FIFA World Cup quest

TEHRAN – Iran's national football team will face off against Qatar in a crucial match on Tuesday as both sides continue their quest to qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The match, originally scheduled to be held in Iran, will now take place at a neutral venue in Dubai due to a controversial decision by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The AFC's decision to strip Iran off their home advantage has sparked widespread criticism and disappointment among the Iranian fans. The organization cited "prevailing security concerns" as the reason for the change.

Qatar, the host nation of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, will be looking to build on their recent success. Their victory over Iran in the Asian Cup semifinals ended a 14-year unbeaten streak for Team Melli.

\*A neutral venue

The match will be played at a neutral venue in Dubai, which could potentially impact the atmosphere of the game. However, both teams will be focused on achieving a positive result and securing their place in the 2026 World Cup.

\*Iran's need for goals

One of the major concerns for Iran has been their lack of goalscoring opportunities. Despite having a number of talented attacking players, the team have struggled to find the net consistently. This will be a key area that coach Amir Ghalenoei will look to address in the match against Qatar.

Despite their relatively low goal-scoring output, Iran have demonstrated a formidable defensive record. Team Melli have maintained a clean sheet in all three of their qualifying matches thus far, highlighting their defensive prowess and resilience. As they face Qatar, Iran will be aiming to extend their streak of shutouts and solidify their position at the top of the group.

\*Revenge mission

Iran will be eager to avenge their 3-2 defeat to Qatar in the 2023 AFC Asian Cup. The loss was a significant setback for the team, and they will be looking to regain their pride and confidence with a victory.

With both teams desperate for a win, this match promises to be a thrilling encounter. As Iran looks to secure their place in the 2026 World Cup, they will need to overcome the challenge of a determined Qatar side.

### Taremi looks for win against Qatar in 2026 World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran national football team forward Mehdi Taremi says that the win against Qatar in the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 26 will pave their way to secure their place in the 2026 World Cup.

Iran and Qatar are set for a blockbuster clash when they meet in Group A in Dubai's Rashid Stadium on Tuesday.

Iran lead the standings together with Uzbekistan while a win for Qatar will see the two-time AFC Asian Cup champions drawing level with Tuesday's opponents.

Iran had to be satisfied with a draw against Uzbekistan on Thursday and will know that it can't afford to drop points against Qatar.

"We want to pave our way to reach the 2026 World Cup and defeating Qatar will help us to reach our goal. There is no excuse but we would rather play Qatar in our field not neutral field," Taremi said.

Team Melli lost to Qatar 3-2 in the 2023 AFC Asian Cup but Taremi believes that they will not try to avenge the loss.

"We have lost to Qatar just one time in our 10 recent matches and we are not here to avenge them. This is different and both teams try to reach the 2026 World Cup," he added.

"We played well in the matches against Kyrgyzstan, the UAE and Uzbekistan but failed to capitalize on our chances. We have not conceded a single goal as well and it shows that we are a strong team in defense," he added.

"All players are ready and motivated to play a good match against Qatar and we want to win the match, that's why we are here," the Inter Milan striker concluded.

### Yusuke Araki to referee Iran – Qatar match in World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – FIFA announced the names of the referees who will officiate the match between Iran and Qatar in the qualifying tournament for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The 38-year-old referee will be assisted by his compatriots – assistant FIFA referees Jun Mihara and Kota Watanabe.

The fourth official will be Hiroki Kasahara.

The match will be held on Tuesday in Group A in Dubai's Rashid Stadium.

### Iranian rowers win three more medals in Asian Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian athletes claimed three more medals in the 2024 Asian Rowing Championships.

Iran's Kimia Zareei and Zeinab Norouzi defeated Thailand's Parisa Chaempudsa and Nuntida Krajangjam in the final of lightweight double sculls. The bronze medal went to Vietnamese rowers L?ng Th?o and Nguy?n Th? Giang.

In the lightweight single sculls, Amir Hossein Mahmoudpour lost to Iraqi rower Mohammed Riyadh in the final. Vietnam's Bui V?n Hoan claimed the bronze medal.

Furthermore, Kimia Zareei and Fatemeh Mojallal seized a bronze medal in the double sculls. China and Uzbekistan won gold and silver, respectively.

Iranian rowers had won three medals on Saturday.

Zeinab Norouzi had won a gold medal in the in the lightweight single sculls. Fatemeh Mojallal collected a silver medal in the single sculls. And Team Melli seized a silver in the quadruple sculls.

### Iranian teams learn fate at ICF Canoe Polo World Championships

The best Canoe Polo teams are ready to fight for top honors as the 2024 International Canoe Federation Canoe Polo World Championships begins in Deqing, China on Tuesday.

Iran's men's team are drawn in Group F along with France, Portugal and Singapore.

Iran's women's team are also pitted against France, the Netherlands and Chinese Taipei in Group B.

Stakes are high as six men's and women's teams can also seal a spot at the The World Games 2025 in Chengdu.

Set to run until October 20, a total of 71 teams from 27 countries and all five continents will give it their best to be crowned world champions.

Germany will enter the World Championships as the defending champions among men and women.

The tournament was inaugurated on Monday with a spectacular Opening Ceremony, including a parade of the athletes and traditional Chinese dance performances.

### Mes, Navidkia part ways: IPL

TEHRAN – Moharram Navidkia stepped down as head coach of Mes Rafsanjan football team.

Navidkia, who had been named as Mes coach in February, announced his resignation Friday night.

The former Sepahan coach led Mes to final of 2023-24 Iran's Hazfi Cup, where the team lost to Sepahan 2-0.

Amir Hossein Peyrovani has been named as the team's interim coach.

Under leadership of Navidkia, Mes sits 14th in Iran Professional League (IPL)'s 16-team table.

## The legitimacy of defending resistance in international law

The United Nations General Assembly, Security Council, and International Court of Justice have explicitly condemned the use of force to acquire territory. In fact, the prohibition on the acquisition of territory through the use of force is a fundamental principle of international law, considered a peremptory norm, that cannot be deviated from. As such, occupying or seizing territory through force is illegal under the international system.

Accordingly, the forcible seizure of Palestinian territories by the Israeli regime does not grant sovereignty to the occupying power. Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territory violates the Pal-



## Iran plans to become a member of BRICS Development Bank

TEHRAN – The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said Iran is going to become a member of the New Development Bank, formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, IRIB reported.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the BRICS annual summit in Russia, Mohammadreza Farzin said: "The New Development Bank can pursue many of the development goals of the BRICS member countries, because today the World Bank operates within the framework of the goals of the United States and Western countries. We hope that the BRICS Development Bank will play this role for BRICS member countries and we intend to become a member of this bank."

During the period when Iran was the secretary of BRICS, the Islamic Republic made good agreements with the Central Bank of Russia regarding the connection of the two countries' banking networks and financial and monetary cooperation, all of which have been raised again at BRICS summit, Farzin said.

"We have a payment system between countries based on local currencies, which was one of the topics of this meeting. China, Russia and Iran are very interested in this issue," he noted.

The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).

According to the Agreement on the NDB, "the Bank shall support public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments." Moreover, the NDB "shall cooperate with international organizations and other financial entities, and provide technical assistance for projects to be supported by the Bank."

Last week, Farzin, who visited Russia to attend the 2nd BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Banks Governors Meeting, said that Russia has proposed a new cross-border payment system to be conducted among BRICS countries to circumvent the western financial system.

He said this new system includes developing a network of commercial banks that can conduct



banking transactions in local currencies as well as establishing direct links between central banks.

"The BRICS Payment system was proposed with the aim of creating a settlement platform for cross-border payments based on Real Time Gross Settlement Systems (RTGS) and considering Central Bank Digital Currency Tracker (CBDC) mechanisms," Farzin explained.

Referring to the necessity of using artificial intelligence in electronic banking and Iran's readiness to transfer its experiences to BRICS members, he said: "We believe that due to the political desire and will that exists in the BRICS group and the technical and infrastructure investments that have been made, we can move towards creating financial communication systems specific to BRICS which can facilitate cross-border payments among the members, and finally increase the speed, reduce the costs, and create a more competitive environment."

Referring to the BRICS economic outlook and the role of member countries in it, the CBI governor stated: "The Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the new members of BRICS, enjoyed acceptable GDP growth in 2023 and 2024 despite the existing restrictions."

Farzin further emphasized that the BRICS countries account for 41 percent of the world's population, 26 percent of the land area in the four continents, and in total produce more than 25 percent of the world's oil and 50 percent of the world's iron ore.

"We hope to witness a stronger, more stable, fairer, and more balanced world by increasing strategic coordination among BRICS members, and BRICS definitely has the ability, capacity, and potential to do so," he noted.

## Improving business environment, a priority of free zones in Iran

TEHRAN – The new secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council has said that improving business environment should be the main priority in the country's free commercial-industrial and special economic zones, IRNA reported.

Speaking in a gathering of Qeshm Free Zone's economic operators on Sunday, Reza Masrouf said development of logistics, international transportation, expansion of international trade and improvement of the business environment are among the main priorities of free and special economic zones in the country.

The establishment of free trade zones (FTZs) in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989 - March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azarbaijan Province and Maku in West-Azarbaijan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

The development of existing free trade zones and the establishment of new FTZs has become one of the major economic approaches of the Iranian government.

## Tomato export stands at \$207m in 6 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported \$207 million of tomatoes in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

As the IRICA has reported, the value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 26 percent during the first half of this year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year. According to the IRICA report, the country exported 3.2 million tons of agricultural products worth \$1.7 billion in the first half of the current year, also indicating 20 percent rise in terms of weight, year on year.

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

of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade has said. According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian producers managed to export about \$6.3 billion worth of the mentioned products in the said year.

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

Iraq was the top destination for Iran's agro-food products in the mentioned year importing \$1.986 billion worth of the said items. The Arab neighbor accounted for 31.5 percent of the total exports of food and agricultural products from Iran.

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

The value of Iran's total foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.17.8 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

# Thermal power plants' output breaks new record in H1

TEHRAN - Iran's thermal power plants generated over 193 million megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), registering a new record high.

According to Esmail Namazi, the director of Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) Production and Technical Office, the electricity generation by the country's thermal power plants increased by two percent in the first half of the current year compared to the same period last year.

Thermal power plants accounted for more than 93 percent of the country's total power generation in the mentioned six months, Namazi said. Pointing out that the electricity generation by thermal power plants during the summer peak period exceeded 50,000 megawatts, he said: "Combined-cycle power plants accounted for 57 percent of the electricity generation by thermal power plants, which produced over 110 million MWh of electricity in the



said six months."

Also, during this period, the electricity produced by gas units increased by two percent to reach 38 million megawatts, and the production share of steam units also increased by 2.5 percent to 45 million megawatt hours.

Most of Iran's power generation capacity is supplied by thermal power plants. Currently, combined cycle power plants account for the biggest share of the country's total power generation capacity followed

by gas power plants.

The total capacity of the country's thermal power plants stands at over 72,000 MW, according to the Thermal Power Plant Holding.

Increasing the country's power generation capacity and preventing blackouts during peak consumption periods have been among the Iranian Energy Ministry's top priorities in recent years.

Earlier this month, the new TPPH head said the electricity generation

capacity in the country's thermal power plants would increase by 16,000 MW to reduce the country's power supply and demand imbalance. In his introduction ceremony on Monday, October 6, Abolfazl Asgari said: "Development of power plants and increasing electricity generation will be the main goal of the TPPH during his tenure."

In early May, the former head of TPPH said the country is the world's ninth-biggest producer of thermal electricity.

Mentioning an increase of 9,000 MW in the capacity of the country's thermal power plants over the past two years, Abdolrasoul Pishahang said thermal power plants currently account for 92 percent of Iran's total power production capacity.

"Last year, 389 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity were produced in the country's power plants, and thermal power plants with the production of 360 billion kilowatt-hours supplied 92.5 percent of the country's electricity needs," Pishahang said.

## TPO plans to take new measures to reduce foreign trade imbalance

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has criticized the imbalance in the country's exports and imports and said the TPO is taking new measures to reduce the imbalance in the country's foreign trade.

Speaking at a press conference on Sunday, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi mentioned the negative balance of the country's foreign trade in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), noting that imports were about \$7.0 billion more than the exports.

As Mehr News Agency reported, the official said the country's trade balance was also \$16.8 billion negative in the previous Iranian calendar year.

According to Dehghan Dehnavi, TPO is in talks with the government to revive the Export Development High Council in order to help boost the country's non-oil exports.

Mentioning four major reasons for the imbalance in the country's foreign trade, he said: "The decrease in global prices, especially in petrochemical products, with an average decrease of 30 to 60 percent, and the occurrence of some problems in the export of natural gas, which led to a \$5.3 billion drop in the exports of the mentioned product, were among the external factors of the decline in exports."

He underlined the ban on exports of raw materials as the third reason for the reduction in non-oil exports, saying: "We agree that exporting raw materials is not a good idea, but we disagree with the way the situation is handled. If we want to reduce the exports of such goods, we have to invest in the production of products with higher value-added, which requires financing."

"Export duties should be imposed in such a way that encourages exporters rather than hindering exports; For example, the imposition of duties in the field of decorative stones caused a sharp drop in exports in this sector," Dehghan Dehnavi explained. The official went on to say that the fourth factor is the imposition of redundant regulations and the instability of regulations.

"The accumulation of regulations has led to the country's export process being severely disrupted. Today the exporters are unhappy since they are caught in a web of regulations in such a way that they prefer not to export at all," he regraded.

Regarding the revival of the Export Development High Council, the official said: "In a meeting we had with First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref, it

was decided that the first meeting of the High Council will be held soon."

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports increased by 6.5 percent during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year. Mohammad Rezvani said that the country exported 70 million tons of non-oil products valued at \$25.8 billion during the first half of this year, also indicating 3.5 percent growth in terms of weight, year on year.

According to the IRICA head, Iran also exported \$23.2 billion of oil and \$600 million of technical and engineering services during the mentioned period, boosting the country's total exports to \$49.6 billion.

During this period, the imports reached \$32.6 billion, including \$2.5 billion of gold bullion.

Stating that the country's total trade exchange during the first half of the current year was \$82.2 billion, he added: "During this period, the trade balance of the country without oil and technical and engineering services was 6.8 billion dollars negative, and taking into account oil and technical and engineering services, it was 17 billion dollars positive."

"The average value per ton of export goods increased by three percent to \$366 in the first six months of this year," he noted.

China with \$7.2 billion, Iraq with \$5.2 billion, United Arab Emirates with \$3.4 billion, Turkey with \$2.4 billion, Afghanistan with \$1.1 billion, Pakistan with \$1.0 billion, and India with \$900 million were the main export destinations of Iranian goods during the mentioned period.

These seven countries accounted for 81 percent of the weight and 82 percent of the total value of Iran's exports, according to Rezvani.

The UAE with \$10 billion, China with \$8.5 billion, Turkey with \$5.1 billion, Germany with \$1.2 billion, the Russian Federation and India with \$800 million each, and Hong Kong with \$600 million were also the top sources of imports for Iran in the first half of the current year.

China, UAE, and Turkey were Iran's top trading partners in the mentioned six months, Rezvani said. The official has also announced that the value of Iran's foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.17.8 billion in the last Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on

March 19).

According to Mohammad Rezvani, the value of the Islamic Republic's trade with the partners in the previous year increased by 2.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

The official put the country's non-oil exports, excluding exports of electricity, crude oil, and techno-engineering services, at 136.4 million tons worth \$49.33 billion which shows a 9.82 percent rise in terms of tonnage and an 8.87 percent decline in terms of value.

Iran exported \$35.87 billion of crude oil, \$370 million of electricity, and \$1.293 billion of technical engineering services in the mentioned year, according to Rezvani.

According to him, during this period, 48.8 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$19.4 billion were also exported, which shows a decrease of 11.32 percent and 28.59 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively.

During this period, liquefied natural gas with \$3.9 billion, liquefied propane with \$3.62 billion, and bitumen-oil with \$2.19 billion were Iran's top exported items.

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$13.915 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq with \$9.215 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$6.611 billion, Turkey with \$4.16 billion, and India with \$2.17 billion.

The official put the average customs value of each ton of exported goods at \$362 which has decreased by 17 percent compared to the preceding year.

During this period, 39 million tons of goods worth \$66.28 billion were also imported into the country, which shows an increase of 4.39 percent in terms of weight and 77.9 percent in terms of value, he said.

The country's top five sources of imports in the previous year were the UAE with \$20.782 billion, China with \$18.545 billion, Turkey with \$7.541 billion, Germany with \$2.155 billion, and India with \$1.917 billion worth of imports.

Corn, mobile phones, and gold ingots were the top three imported items followed by soybeans, automobile parts, sunflower seeds, and safflower were the five main items imported by the Islamic Republic.

Rezvani said the average customs value of each ton of imported goods increased by \$5.16 and reached \$1,697.

## Tehran hosting energy efficiency exhibition, conference

TEHRAN – The 3rd Iran Energy Efficiency Conference and Exhibition (IREEC 2024) kicked off at Milad Tower Conference Center on Monday.

According to the event portal, the current year's IREEC is mainly focused on investment and economic opportunities in energy efficiency.

Several officials and scholars are going to deliver speeches at the conference among which Malek Shariati, member of the Parliament Energy Committee, Arash Najafi, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Energy Committee can be mentioned.

The event is due to wrap up on Tuesday, October 15.

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 generation 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.

## If Israel's crimes continue, what comes next will be nothing compared to Golani's cafeteria, Hezbollah warns

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Hezbollah highlighted its military prowess and startled Israel into a state of panic by carrying out a surprise drone attack on a military base near the port city of Haifa on Sunday night.

Several Israelis were killed and dozens of others injured in the attack that hit the facility and its cafeteria in the Binyamina area.

Hezbollah said in a statement that it fired dozens of rockets toward Nahariya and Acre to engage Israel's air defense systems during the attack by "squadrons" of drones.

It said the unmanned aerial vehicles were able to "get past Israeli air defense radars without being detected" and hit the target.

"These drones broke through Israel's defense radars without detection and reached its target at the training camp of the elite Golani Brigade in Binyamina," the statement said.

Hezbollah added that the drones "exploded in the rooms where dozens of officers and soldiers of the Israeli enemy were present".

The Lebanese resistance movement called the drone attack a retaliation for Israeli strikes on Beirut on Thursday that claimed the lives of nearly two dozen people.



Israel's army chief described Hezbollah drone strike on the military training base near Haifa as "difficult and painful".

It vowed to intensify retaliatory operations if the regime does not stop aggression against Lebanon. The movement said Sunday's drone operation caused more than 110 casualties and constituted only a minor attack in the face of Israel's atrocities against Lebanese people.

Hezbollah said the troops that were targeted in the Binyamina area were preparing for aggression against the Lebanese territory.

Hezbollah continued missile strikes against Israeli positions on Monday inflicting more losses on the regime.

Aircraft sirens were heard in central Israel following the attack.

Hezbollah also hit the Israeli naval base in Haifa. Israeli sites in the occupied Shebaa Farms were also targeted.

Hezbollah and Israel began trading fire a day after the regime launched war on Gaza on October 7, 2023. Hezbollah has hit Israeli military positions in solidarity with Palestinians in the enclave.

Tens of thousands of people have been displaced in northern Israel and southern Lebanon amid the exchanges of fire between the two sides over the course of the Gaza war which has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians.

## Hezbollah humiliates Golani: "Israel is weaker than a spider's web"

From page 1 ▶ The success of the drone in reaching its target south of Haifa to hit a Zionist military base immediately after Hezbollah's military media broadcasted a video letter from the fighters to their martyred leader, Sayyed Nasrallah, pledging to serve the resistance.

Besides, the attack coincides with a series of daily operations to repel ground invasion by four Israeli divisions. (The ground invasion has so far resulted in the death and injury of more than 100 Israeli soldiers as Hezbollah launches no less than 200 rockets against Israeli military bases on a daily basis).

The Binyamina Operation has also proven that the aggression against Lebanon was not and will not be as easy as imagined by Washington and its proxy Israel, as Hezbollah has currently plunged them into a war of attrition that will burden the colonial entity.

Two issues should also be taken into account: the "Haredim" refusal to enlist in the occupation army and the refusal by reserve soldiers to extend their service period. This



Hezbollah drones successfully penetrated Israel's defense radar systems hitting an army base near Haifa.

Israel launched a massive bombing campaign in Lebanon on September 23. The regime also assassinated Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in a massive airstrike on a neighborhood in southern Beirut on September 27. On October 1, Israel launched a ground offensive in southern Lebanon.

Israel, which has killed more than 2,200 people in Lebanon since October last year, has said the ground offensive is aimed at removing Hezbollah from the border area and allowing evacuated Israelis to return to northern Israel.

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem rejected the Israeli dreams in a speech last week. He stressed that the Lebanese resistance group will continue striking Israel until there is a ceasefire in Gaza.

### Israel's vulnerability

Israel claims that it has one of the most sophisticated defense systems in the world, known as the Iron Dome, which is primarily designed to counter short-range rockets and artillery. But the Hezbollah drone attack once again turned the spotlight on the movement's military strength and revealed the regime's vulnerability.

According to CNN, there were no reports of alerts in the Binyamina area at the time of the attack, raising questions of how the drone was able to penetrate so deep into Israel without being spotted.

The American news channel described the Hezbollah drone attack as one of the bloodiest on Israel since the beginning of the Gaza war.

### Israel caught off guard

Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari pledged to conduct an investigation to determine how the drone was able to penetrate the base without triggering any alarms.

"We will learn from and investigate the incident. The threat of UAVs is a threat we are dealing with since the beginning of the war. We need an improvement to our defense," he added.

Israeli military Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi also described the Hezbollah drone attack "difficult and painful".

"We are at war and an attack on a training base on the home front is difficult and the results are painful," he said.

Citing a paramedic, the Israeli emergency service acknowledged the severity of the Hez-

bollah drone attack.

"We declared it a mass casualty event and treated patients suffering from blast injuries and shrapnel. The injuries were severe, and we evacuated the injured to hospitals as quickly as possible for further medical treatment."

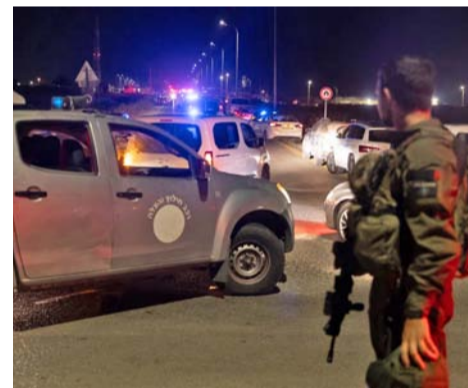
### Israel's illusions

Israel has maintained the misconception that the assassination of Nasrallah and senior Hezbollah commanders has diminished the strength of the resistance group.

Under such erroneous beliefs, Israel assassinated Nasrallah's predecessor Sayyed Abbas Al-Mousawi in 1992.

But Nasrallah turned the movement into a more powerful political and military force.

Hezbollah currently has 100,000 fighters. It has also increased its stockpile of missiles from 14,000 in 2006 to about 150,000 and has developed precision-guided missiles and its drone programs.



CNN: There were no reports of alerts in the Binyamina area at the time of Hezbollah's drone attack on Sunday.

Israel waged war on Lebanon in 2006 but Hezbollah forced the regime's army to retreat after 34 days.

Israel has also assassinated other regional resistance leaders and commanders in an attempt to cripple their movements. Nonetheless, this policy has fallen flat.

For now, the Hezbollah drone attack on Israel's elite military unit in Binyamina has demonstrated that its military capabilities are intact and assassinations of its leaders remain counterproductive.

en place amid anticipation of the response to Iran, as many Zionist leaders - including former war minister Avigdor Lieberman and former prime minister Naftali Bennett - are calling for seizing the opportunity of what they call "Hezbollah's retreat" to target Iranian nuclear facilities and oil fields, as they stupidly believe that Iran has lost one of its most prominent deterrent tools.

In the same context, the Pentagon has announced that it will send 100 American soldiers to the occupied Palestinian territories to operate the THAAD anti-missile systems to protect the "weaker than a spider's web", in anticipation of an expected "True Promise 3" operation by Iran in response to the awaited Israeli attack.

"Weaker than a spider's web" is a reference to a Quranic verse that Martr Hezbollah leader Nasrallah used for Israel.

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

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## Palestinians burned alive in central Gaza

### Israel targets tent camp for the displaced in attack on hospital

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Medics say at least four Palestinians were burned alive and 40 others sustained severe burn injuries after the Israeli military bombed a tent camp for the displaced in the Gaza Strip.

The death toll is expected to rise with reporters on the ground speaking of many tents burnt that were overpacked with displaced Palestinians in a small space.

The Israeli airstrike targeted the courtyard of al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, in the central part of the besieged Palestinian territory.

The Gaza Civil Defense stated that the targeting of al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital "proves that there is no safe place in Gaza, especially after this bombing caused the tents of displaced persons at the hospital to catch fire in the early hours of Monday."

Graphic scenes in the aftermath of the Israeli strike show the intensity of the fire, which burned dozens of tents, spreading to the hospital as people struggled to contain the flames.

The Civil Defense also noted that its workers "attempted to control the fire that broke out, knowing that more than 30 tents began to burn and the flames spread to the hospital!"

Al-Aqsa Hospital was already overwhelmed with the injured from an Israeli attack in nearby Nuseirat.

At least 28 people were killed, including 15 children and several women, and around 80 others were injured when the Israeli occupation forces struck the al-Mufti school-turned-shelter in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza with heavy artillery fire.

Entire families have reportedly lost their lives.

Dr Mohammed Tahir, a volunteer surgeon, who has been dealing with the carnage after the Israeli attack on al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital told al-Jazeera: "We were inundated. We had women, men, children as young as one year of age dying in front of our eyes."

Speaking outside the hospital Tahir added: "Patients with significant high percentage burns, unfortunately, their fate is sealed. They won't even make it to the ICU. They will die."

"It's a horror show here. Honestly, sometimes I feel like this is not real life - that this can go on and this degree of suffering is allowed to happen in this world."

Targeting a hospital and places designated as safe zones for displaced civilians are war crimes.

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

## Anger mounts in Iraq over Israeli threats to Ayatollah Sistani

TEHRAN- Last week, the Israeli right-wing Channel 14, closely aligned with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, published a photo of Iraq's Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani as a potential assassination target.

Ayatollah al-Sistani has held the position of Iraq's highest religious authority for decades. The Israeli threats to his life have been met with strong condemnation and warnings at government levels and across Iraq.

Activists were among the first to respond on social media just hours after the threat was published, calling on the government of Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani to make its position clear.

As did other Iraqi resistance factions that have fought Daesh and American occupation.

President Abdul Latif Rashid's office condemned such "audacity" toward the Grand Ayatollah.

An official government statement said: "After the Zionist regime entered the war of genocide, committing disgraceful crimes against humanity, and clear massacres and aggression in Gaza and Lebanon, it has now turned to its racist media, which seeks to damage the position and reputation of the religious authority."

The Iraqi government warned of the danger that this will pose, saying, "It is clear that these actions are based on a racist mindset and foundations that encourage disregard for the sanctities of people, posing a real threat to international peace and security."

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

## U.S. THAAD gamble: Moving up the escalation ladder

From page 1 ▶ The presence of American personnel to operate the THAAD systems would inevitably be viewed by Iran and its allies as a direct provocation. Critics argue that this move, coupled with Israel's consistent push for military action, risks igniting a wider regional conflict, potentially drawing the U.S. into a direct confrontation with Iran.

Many experts argue that the deployment of THAAD, in conjunction with Israel's recent aggressive actions, is a clear attempt to leverage American military power and entrench Israel's security interests in the region. This move, they argue, is a reckless gamble, potentially jeopardizing regional stability and dragging the U.S. into a conflict that it may not be prepared for.

The decision to deploy American personnel to operate THAAD, therefore, raises serious questions about Israel's reckless pursuit of security, often at the cost of regional peace and stability. Critics argue that Israel's actions, particularly its constant escalation of tensions and reliance on American military intervention, are a key driver of instability in the region.

The potential consequences of this move are far-reaching and potentially catastrophic. The presence of American personnel operating advanced military systems in Israel could trigger a domino effect, leading to further militarization of the region and increasing the likelihood of unintended escalation.

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

## The resistance has yet to reveal all its capabilities

From page 1 ▶ Despite failing to achieve its primary strategic objectives and suffering losses, the Israeli regime remains committed to continuing the war. Netanyahu appears determined to toughen Israeli society, confronting the reality that they are engaged in an existential struggle for survival.

America is now redefining the functional role of the Israeli occupation entity after decades of involvement, allowing it to undertake tasks that the U.S. has struggled with for the past thirty years. The time has come for Israel to demonstrate its capability to achieve stated objectives.

The Israeli military is now given a free hand to operate as it sees fit, setting the stage for a New Middle East by year's end.

If successful, it stands to gain significant rewards, potentially expanding its territory to include all of Palestine, parts of Lebanon and beyond. The U.S. provides the necessary support but it does not seek direct intervention. However, failure to defeat the resistance could jeopardize the Israeli occupation entity's current trajectory.

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

## Legal boundaries set for Viranshahr archaeological site



TEHRAN - The legal boundaries and protective regulations for the Viranshahr archaeological site in northeastern Iran have been officially determined and announced by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

The site, situated in the Faruj region of North Khorasan province, is believed to have been inhabited during the Parthian and Sassanian eras.

On Monday, Mohammadreza Qahremanian, the provincial tourism chief, confirmed that the site's designated boundaries and preservation guidelines are now under the strict protection of North Khorasan's cultural heri-

tage department.

With the protective measures now in place, Viranshahr will remain under the supervision of cultural authorities to ensure the preservation of its archaeological and architectural integrity.

"Any unauthorized alterations or violations within the protected area will be considered a crime and subject to legal penalties," the official said.

Viranshahr was officially registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2006 under registration number 16588. The site is of significant historical importance, offering insights into the ancient civilizations that once thrived in the region.

Khorasan — meaning the "Land of the Sun" — is a historical region and realm comprising a vast territory now lying in northeastern Iran, southern Turkmenistan, and northern Afghanistan. The historical region extended along the north, from the Amu Darya (Oxus River) westward to the Caspian Sea and, along the south, from the fringes of the central Iranian deserts eastward to the mountains of central Afghanistan.

## Qazvin sees 13% rise in tourist visits in H1

TEHRAN - Qazvin province has experienced a 13 percent increase in the number of visits to its tourist attractions during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), compared to the same period last year.

More than 1.8 million people visited Qazvin's historical and cultural sites in the first half of the year which shows a 13 percent rise year on year, the deputy provincial tourism chief Nader Mohammadi said on Monday.

Dowlat-Khaneh Safavi ("Safavid Government Complex"), the Sa'd al-Saltaneh Caravanserai, the religious shrine of Imamzadeh Hossein, and the historical attractions of Alamut and Avaj draw the largest numbers of tourists during the period, the official said.

In addition, Mohammadi noted a 17 percent rise in the number of tourists staying in the province's accommodation facilities, including hotels, guesthouses, and eco-lodges, with over 459,000 visitors making use of these services during the first six months of the year.

"This upward trend in both visitor numbers and the use of accommodation reflects the province's commitment to developing tourism and encouraging investment in this sec-



tor," Mohammadi said.

Looking ahead, Qazvin has planned several events to attract more tourists during the autumn and winter seasons, including a traditional food festival and a sweets festival, with participation from provinces across Iran.

Mohammadi also highlighted the 25 percent growth in the issuance of preliminary permits for new tourism facilities in the province, emphasizing the government's efforts to support investment in the construction and development of accommodation and recreational centers.

Situated some 160 km northwest of Tehran, Qazvin was the capital of the Safavid Empire for over forty years (1555-1598 CE) and is nowadays known as the calligraphy capital of Iran.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Jesuit Block and Estancias of Córdoba

The Jesuit Block in Córdoba, the heart of the former Jesuit Province of Paraguay, contains the core buildings of the Jesuit system: the university, the church and residence of the Society of Jesus, and the college.

According to UNESCO, the 38-ha ensemble of the Jesuit Block and five of its estancias (rural farming and manufacturing establishments) in the province of Córdoba, near the geographical center of Argentina, contains 17th and 18th century religious and secular buildings that illustrate an unprecedented 150-year-long religious, social, and economic experiment.

The Jesuit Block in the city of Córdoba contains the core buildings of the capital of the former Jesuit Province of Paraguay: the church, the Jesuit priests' residence, the university, and the Colegio Convictorio de Montserrat. The Block's supporting estancias — comprised of Alta Gracia (located 36 km from the Block), Santa Catalina (70 km from the Block), Jesús María (48 km from the Block), La Candelaria (220 km from the Block), and Caroya (44 km from the Block) — each included a church or chapel, priests' residence, ranches for slaves and indigenous peoples, work areas (camps, mills, beating mills, etc.), hydraulic systems (breakwaters, irrigation ditches, canals, etc.), farmhouses, and large extents of land for cattle breeding.

The Jesuit Block and Estancias of Córdoba is an exceptional example of a vast religious, political, economic, legal, and cultural sys-

tem. It is likewise an excellent illustration of the fusion of European and Native American cultures, with the added contributions of African slave labourers, during a seminal period in South America.

The ensemble is a particular example of territorial organization, an economic complement between urban and rural settlements that allowed the Society of Jesus to pursue its educational and missionary goals.

The outstanding nature of this ensemble is illustrated by the convergence of two typologies: on the one hand, the European convent layout, with a main church, residence, and college in the city; and on the other, novel rural settlements, where the church, residence, and trading post merged in a productive and interrelated territory. This kind of articulation, where the various productive specializations in each estancia were supported by the construction of complex hydraulic systems, was unique in the American cultural context.

The outstanding achievements of the Jesuit Block and Estancias of Córdoba include the development of technologies based on local resources, both material and human, and the use of the respective knowledge of the participants — the religious Order and the indigenous and African slave labourers — all of which resulted in a mixture of architectural, technological, and artistic expressions reflecting mannerist and baroque influences adapted to the locality.

# Concerns raised over subway construction near Hafez's tomb in Shiraz

TEHRAN - Recent reports of a subway tunnel being constructed near the tomb of Persian poet Hafez in Shiraz have sparked concern among cultural heritage enthusiasts and experts, who fear the project could pose a threat to the historical site.

In response to these concerns, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, has ordered an investigation into the project.

A delegation led by Mostafa Dehpahlavan, head of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Institute, along with several specialized managers and experts, was dispatched to inspect Line 2 of the Shiraz Metro, which passes near the Hafez Tomb complex, ISNA reported.

The team has been tasked to assess the project under legal requirements and expert opinions before making a final decision.

Following a complaint filed by the Fars province's cultural heritage department, construction on Phase 2 of the Shiraz Metro has been temporarily halted pending further evaluation.



During the visit, Dehpahlavan criticized the Shiraz Municipality and Shiraz's urban rail transport organization for not consulting the Ministry of Cultural Heritage before starting construction, as required by law.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official emphasized that dialogue, adherence to regulations, and expert input are essential to resolving such challenges.

"In developed countries, cultural heritage is not a barrier to development but the very foundation of it.

Development that sacrifices a city's historical and cultural heritage is not true development,"

Dehpahlavan stated.

He added that while the ministry does not oppose metro construction, projects must comply with legal requirements to protect cultural sites.

Dehpahlavan assured that the ministry's priority is to ensure the subway construction does not harm the Hafez Tomb, emphasizing that the poet is a cherished cultural figure, both domestically and internationally.

Meanwhile, Ali Kalantari Mazraeh-No' head of Shiraz's urban rail transport organization, sought to ease concerns, noting that the subway tunnel, running 26 meters underground and

at least 80 meters from the complex's rawaq (an arcade or portico open on at least one side) and 120 meters from the tomb itself, will not damage the historical site.

He also highlighted the potential benefits for the tourism sector in Shiraz.

Construction projects near cultural heritage sites in Iran must receive approval from the ministry's technical council for urban development, in line with guidelines for protecting historical and cultural assets.

Better known as Hafezieh in Iran, the site is set in a charming orchard.

Hafez's tomb is surmounted by an octagonal dome supported by eight stone columns. The internal side of the tomb bears elaborate tilework.

Hafez poetry soaked in a deep sense of humanity echoes ranges of historical events, biographical descriptions, and details of life in his hometown, Shiraz.

He is most famous for his Divan and among the many partial English translations of this work are those by Gertrude Bell and H. Wilberforce Clarke.

## Bersian Mosque well qualified for UNESCO status, official suggests

TEHRAN - Ali Darabi, Iran's deputy minister for cultural heritage, has expressed optimism about the potential of the 11th-century Bersian mosque to earn a UNESCO World Heritage designation.

During a visit to the historical mosque on Sunday, Darabi highlighted its distinctive architectural design and unique decorations as a testament to the rich history of the Bersian village, where the mosque is named after.

According to Darabi, those features make the mosque a strong candidate for UNESCO recognition. "Bersian Mosque, with over 950 years of history, stands as a testament to the region's deep-rooted civilization," Darabi said.

The modest yet impressive mosque, particularly known for its striking minaret, has long been regarded as an architectural jewel of cen-

tral Iran, embodying the rich heritage of the region.

According to inscriptions, the Bersian Mosque was built in 1105, while its minaret dates back to 1098, during the reign of Barkiyaruq, the fifth sultan of the Seljuk Empire, who ruled from 1094 to 1105.

The minaret, believed to be the fourth oldest in Iran with an inscription, stands at 34 meters high. Its lower section features plain brickwork, while the upper part is adorned with decorative brick patterns. The mosque itself is renowned for its masterful brickwork, a remarkable mihrab, and intricate stucco decorations. The brickwork and dome design closely res-

emble those of the Taj ol-Molk Dome in Isfahan's Jameh Mosque, leading some to believe that both structures may have been designed



by the same architect.

During the reign of Tahmasp I, the second Safavid king, a courtyard and an iwan were added to the mosque's northern side, enhancing its architectural significance.

The mosque is located in the village of Bersian in Isfahan province, central Iran.

## Bahrain to host UN World Forum on gastronomy tourism

TEHRAN - The 9th edition of the UN World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism will take place in Manama, Bahrain, from November 18 to 19.

The event is being organized by the UN Tourism in partnership with the Basque Culinary Center (BCC) and the Government of Bahrain.

Held for the first time in West Asia, the forum will explore the theme, "Gastronomy Tourism: A Driver of Economic Diversification and Inclusion", according to organizers.



Through panel discussions, presentations, masterclasses,

and thematic visits, the event aims to highlight the transformative power of gastronomy tourism in fostering economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

It will also examine how culinary tourism can enhance regional cohesion and strengthen the resilience of local communities.

The forum will bring together global leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and renowned chefs to showcase how gastronomy can create strong destina-

tion branding through innovative practices and initiatives.

Participants will discuss ways in which gastronomy tourism can serve as a catalyst for economic diversification, contributing to sustainable development in local and international contexts.

The forum is aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices between tourism and culinary experts.

Moreover, it seeks to promote the role of gastronomy tourism in boosting the development and identity of destinations worldwide.

## Scientists shed new light on findings from Scythian burial site

A group of Russian scientists has presented a new study on a large burial mound previously discovered in southern Siberia.

The monument, which dates to the transitional period between the Bronze and Iron Ages, has become one of the earliest known evidence of Scythian funerary practices, TV BRICS reported. The study focuses on excavations in a tomb dating back to the 9th century BC.

Inside the mound, the remains of at least 18 horses and one human were found.

The discovered harness items also indicate links to the ancient equestrian cultures of Mongolia.

Horses began to occupy a significant place in funerary ceremonies in southern Siberia from the mid-second millennium BC, but the details of their use remain poorly researched until the

emergence of clear equestrian cultures in the first millennium BC.

A number of horse bones and elements of harness were discovered during the excavations, which help to present funerary practices characteristic of Scythian traditions.

The work on the mound is completed by another find — a bronze artifact with seven spikes and three loops, probably intended for fastening.

## Protesters in Spain told tourists to 'go home.' Instead more arrived.

On July 6, thousands of anti-tourism protesters marched through the streets of Barcelona, shouting: "Tourists go home!"

A little more than a month later, Spain's tourism board sent a mass email with a different message: "Spain: the summer you'll want to repeat every year... We can't wait to see you!"

Tourists caught in the crossfire of Barcelona's July protest — some of whom endured water guns and confrontations caught on tape — may not be inclined to return. But data shows others weren't frightened away.

International arrivals to Spain continued to rise this summer, with some 10.9 million arriving in August — a 7% year-on-year increase, according to Spain's National Statistics Institute.

And the top three most popular destinations were the very spots where protesters staged marches this year.

Some 2.4 million international travelers visited the Balearic Islands — home to Mallorca — in August, a 4% jump from the same period in 2023, data showed. Another 2.3 million foreigners went to Catalonia — where

Barcelona is located — a 6% increase from 2023. Some 1.6 million went to Andalusia, up 9% year-on-year.

A survey published by Mallorca's tourism board showed 89% of American travelers said they were either unaware or unconcerned about the protests that occurred on Mallorca this year, according to the travel news website Skift.

Of those who knew about the demonstrations, nearly 70% said they had "no impact" on their travel intentions, Skift reported.

(Source: CNBC)

# Most-cited researchers affiliated with medical universities sharply rise

TEHRAN – A total of 453 out of 938 Iranian researchers who have been placed among the world's top one percent most-cited researchers are affiliated with medical universities, a significant increase compared to the past two years.

The latest data show that 222 out of 481, and 287 out of 841 Iranian scientists among the top one percent of the highly-cited scientists worldwide were affiliated with medical universities in 2021, and 2022, respectively.

In 2023, Ahmad Fazelzadeh, the head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Institute, said over 900 Iranian researchers have been placed among the world's top one percent most-cited researchers, which shows a 12 percent increase compared to the previous year.

Over the past decade, the number of highly-cited researchers in the country has been growing, according to Fazelzadeh.

"The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology represents 40 percent, and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education accounts for 48 percent of the most-cited Iranian researchers," ISNA quoted Fazelzadeh as saying.

Medicine and Health with 33 percent share, Multidisciplinary with 23 percent share, Engineering with 20.5 percent share, Basic Sciences with 12 percent share, Agriculture and Environment with 10 percent share, and Social and Human Sciences with 1.7 percent share held the highest shares of the most-cited researchers, respectively.

The University of Tehran, Tarbiat Modares University and Amirkabir University of Technology from the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, and Tehran University



of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences from the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education have the highest number of one percent researchers.

Based on 22 subject areas, 23 percent of these researchers belong to the field of Clinical Medicine. The field of multi-disciplinary subjects with 22.6 percent and engineering with 19 percent, are ranked second and third in terms of having the greatest number of highly-cited Iranian researchers. These three fields account for about 65 percent of all highly-cited researchers in Iran.

## Over 2,500 Iranians among world's top 2% most-cited researchers

Stanford University, using Scopus data provided by Elsevier, listed 2,503 Iranian researchers among the top 2 percent of the most-cited scientists in the world, a significant growth compared to 1,870 researchers in 2023.

The selection is based on the top 100,000 scientists by c-score (with and without self-citations) or a percentile rank of 2 percent or above in the sub-field. This version (7) is based on the August 1, 2024,

snapshot from Scopus, updated to the end of the citation year 2023.

The inclusion in the 'Top 2%' list is determined by several key metrics. C-score which is the composite score based on various bibliometric factors, including the total number of citations, h-index, and the number of citations with and without self-citations.

Field and Sub-field Percentiles: scientists are classified into 22 broad fields and 176 sub-fields. Only those who rank in the top 2% of their sub-field are included.

Career-Long vs. Single-Year Impact: the ranking is available for both career-long impact and single-year performance, offering insights into both long-term contributions and recent achievements.

## Iran ranks 32nd in 2024 Research Leaders worldwide

The 2024 edition of the Nature Index Research Leaders report placed Iran 32nd among Research Leaders globally. The report is based on Nature Index data from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

Institute for Fundamental Sciences (IPM), University of Tehran, and Sharif University of Technology were ranked first to third in the country.

The country was ranked second in Physical Sciences, third in Chemistry, as well as Health Sciences, fourth in Earth and Environmental Sciences, and fifth in Biological Sciences in the region.

Iran's best global ranking was in Physical Sciences with the rank of 27.

The Nature Index is an open database of author affiliations and institutional relationships. The Index tracks contributions to research articles published in high-quality natural science and health science journals, chosen based on reputation by an independent group of researchers.

The Nature Index provides absolute Count and fractional share counts of article publications at the institutional and national levels and, as such, is an indicator of global high-quality research output and collaboration.

Data in the Nature Index are updated regularly, with the most recent 12 months. The database is compiled by Nature Research Intelligence, part of Springer Nature.

The number of top Iranian universities and research institutes in the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database has increased from 115 last year to 134 this year, ranking the country 14th worldwide, and second among Islamic countries, the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has reported.

A total of 9,019 universities and research institutes in all subject areas are ranked by the ESI database in a ten-year period, from 2014 to 2024.

Iran's top universities and research institutes are present in 19 subject areas, and the largest number is in the clinical medicine subject area with 74 universities and research institutes.

## BRICS welcomes Iran's proposal on NCDs

TEHRAN – Attending the 14th meeting of BRICS Ministers of Health, Alireza Raeisi, the deputy health minister, proposed adopting a child-centered, rather than adult-centered, approach in addressing non-communicable diseases, which was well received by BRICS member states.

The meeting of Ministers of Health was held from October 10 to 11 in Moscow.

"Currently, most of the existing protocols in the world regarding non-communicable diseases focus on care and treatment in adults," IRNA quoted Raeisi as saying.

"However, the change in lifestyle all over the world has led to the prevalence of issues such as obesity, inactivity, computer games, apartment living, air pollution, lowered onset age of diabetes, and sleep disorders which pose a threat to children's health. It highlights the need for preventive interventions at early age at schools," the official noted.

Therefore, BRICS member states decided that Iran presents its proposed plan to be discussed as the main topic in BRICS next meeting.

## Adopting a child-centered approach in addressing non-communicable diseases was proposed.

### Meeting of BRICS health ministers

During 14th meeting, the participants discussed ways for enhancing cooperation in the field of health and treatment, utilizing new medical technologies, developing industries associated with production of advanced medical equipment, and improving the quality of education in health sector, IRNA reported.

The event also focused on the challenges and threats facing healthcare in BRICS, as well as the outlook for cooperation in new areas such as nuclear medicine, combatting antimicrobial resistance, and public health.

The establishment of a BRICS Medical Journal and BRICS Medical Association, the creation of an Integrated Early Warning System for Preventing the Risk of Mass Infectious Diseases in BRICS, the BRICS Tuberculosis Research Network and BRICS Vaccine Centre, and regulatory cooperation were among other main topics



discussed.

During the meeting, Russian health minister Mikhail Murashko said that the main objective of the meeting is to bolster physical and mental health in BRICS member states through enhancement of intra-BRICS cooperation.

The official emphasized that Russia supports joint manufacture of medicines and the establishment of early warning systems for diseases in the BRICS member states.

Addressing the meeting, Raeisi highlighted Iran's commitment to promote global health and expand cooperation with BRICS member states.

With the slogan 'health for all', Iran has always underscored fair access to medical services for everyone throughout the country, particularly in remote areas, Raeisi noted.

The official went on to propose collaboration in the field of health and treatment research, as well as fair access to medicine and vaccines globally.

The meeting ended with the adoption of a joint declaration.

On the sidelines of the event, Raeisi held a meeting with his Russian counterpart.

The officials explored avenues for boosting cooperation in health sector including medical and pharmaceutical fields.

### Tehran seeks to boost health cooperation with SCO, BRICS

The fourth coordination and consensus meeting of the special working group for boosting cooperation with the BRICS and SCO was held on August 17 in Tehran, the health ministry website reported.

During the meeting, Mohammad-Amir Amirkhani, the deputy director of the health ministry's department for international affairs, said the health ministry is planning to strengthen collaborations with the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS intergovernmental organization.

## Knowledge-based delegation attending GITEX 2024

TEHRAN – A total of 12 Iranian knowledge-based firms are attending the 44th edition of the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX) 2024 from October 14 to 18 in Dubai Trade Center, the UAE.

The chamber of commerce, in collaboration with the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, has supported knowledge-based firms in setting up their pavilions at the exhibition.

Known as one of the largest and most prominent technology events in West Asia, North Africa, and South Asia (MENASA) region, GITEX is bringing together 6,500 leading companies from 180 countries.

Over 40 halls of exhibition space, are showcasing tech giants and innovative startups in fields like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, mobility, sustainable tech, education, energy and utilities, environment and social impact, robotics, and smart cities.

Iranian knowledge-based companies aim to leverage the exhibition to showcase their latest innovations, products, and services to the global market, establish a network connection with other companies active in the field of technology, as well as attract investors.

They are scheduled to hold face-to-face meetings with other participating companies from India, Russia, Lithuania, Tunisia, and Canada to present their capabilities to attract potential customers.

GITEX has been held annually since its inception in 1981. The event typically takes place over the course of several days and attracts participants from around the world.

During the five-day exhibition, there will be conferences, live-action workshops, matched concierge networking, and business partnerships.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund will also 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.

## Rural women 'agents of change'

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN – Observed annually on October 15, International Day of Rural Women highlights rural women's critical role in food production, environmental conservation, and sustainable agriculture.

The day also raises awareness of women's role in rural areas and the unique challenges they face.

Women are responsible for half of the world's food production while working as environmental and biodiversity stewards.

As farmers, women have learned how to cope with and adapt to climate change, for example, by practicing sustainable agriculture in harmony with nature, switching to drought-resistant seeds, employing low-impact or organic soil management techniques, or leading community-based reforestation and restoration efforts.

Given their position on the frontlines of the climate crisis, women are uniquely situated

to be agents of change — to help find ways to mitigate the causes of global warming and adapt to its impacts on the ground.

Achieving gender equality and empowering women is not only the right thing to do but is a critical ingredient in the fight against extreme poverty, hunger, and climate change.

Indigenous women have been at the forefront of environmental conservation by bringing invaluable ancestral knowledge and practices, and rural women have been leading global and national climate movements that have spotlighted the need for action for the sake of this and future generations.

However, reports prove that climate change has a more pronounced impact on

women, primarily indigenous and peasant women, whose agricultural dependence, living conditions, and marginalization expose them to a greater degree of changes due to climate, loss of diversity, and pollution.

## Observed annually on October 15, International Day of Rural Women highlights rural women's critical role in society.

Let's promote their work as food providers and protectors of the environment. Let's demand their participation in decision-making within their communities. Let's promote rural areas where women can have the same opportunities as men.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## 'Salt particles raising from Lake Urmia contained by 80%'

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), Sarkhosh said.

He went on to say that the major salt particle hotspots in the West Azarbaijan province include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghan, Urmia, Choopanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation, ISNA reported on Saturday.

## کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایسنا با اشاره به اینکه حجم آب ورودی به دریاچه ارومیه باعث مرطوب شدن نمک‌های سطح دریاچه و کنترل ریزگردهای نمکی آن می‌شود افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

وی با بیان اینکه کانون بحرانی ریزگرد در آذربایجان غربی خاطر نشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سپورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میاندوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند.



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

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

*Keep yourself far from envy; because it eats up and takes away good actions, like a fire eats up and burn woods.*

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

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

## Veteran vocalist Aminollah Rashidi passes away at 99

TEHRAN—Veteran Iranian vocalist Aminollah Rashidi died of natural causes in Tehran on Friday at 99. According to his daughter, Afsaneh, the body of the singer will be donated to the University of Medical Sciences for research. In this regard, no funeral procession will be held for him, Honaronline reported. Born in Ravand, Isfahan Province, Rashidi became familiar with Radif in Iranian music by listening to gramophone records and the works of Iranian singers. In 1946, the veteran singer mi-



grated to Tehran, where he enrolled at Roudaki Hall under the tutelage of Mousa Maroufi to hone his singing skills. Thereafter, he continued his education with Mehdi Forough at the Conservatory of Music, studying the theory of contemporary music and vocalization. He composed and sang in Radio Iran from 1948 until 1956. He has composed more than 120 songs. "Afsaneh" (Legend), "Ashk-e Sepideh" (Dawn Tears), "Jaan-e Jahan," "Gol Afshan," and "Jelve-ye Eshgh," are among his famous works.

## "Alone Together" honored at Germany's LUCAS International Festival

TEHRAN—The Iranian short film "Alone Together" directed by Omid Mirzaei received an Honorable Mention at the 47th LUCAS International Festival for Young Film Lovers which was held in Frankfurt, Germany, from October 3 to 10.

The only film from Iran participating in the competition section of the German festival, "Alone Together" was given the Special Mention of the Teens Competition section by the jury, ILNA reported. "As a jury, we have taken it upon ourselves not to award 'honorable mentions' lightly.

The child actor in particular amazed us. From the very first scene, you could identify with him through his acting. We were quickly drawn into a different reality; that of a little boy in a difficult situation. Themes such as justice, responsibility and family are portrayed and conveyed through the characters, making the movie relevant to the world," the jury of the Teens Compe-

tion section said in a statement.

A 2024 production, the 15-minute film follows the journey of a young boy traveling alone on a bus. One winter night, he draws the attention of the police, the driver, and fellow passengers at a roadside checkpoint. Alireza Sanifar, Parham Gholamlou, Sadegh Barghaei, Saba Amiri, and Mohammad Movahednia play in the film.

LUCAS International Festival for Young Film Lovers is Germany's oldest festival for young audiences. Within the competition sections for "Kids," "Teens," and "Youngsters," LUCAS puts its focus on outstanding, international productions of children and youth films, including all filmic forms from fiction, documentary, to animation and experimental formats.

During the festival week, filmmakers, producers, film literacy experts and professionals from all over the world meet in Frankfurt, attend the festival program and discuss the films with the young audience.

## Cartoon of Day



Israel Bombed Tents of Displaced Palestinians at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, Causing A Massacre.

Cartoonist: Mo Qasem from the Netherlands

# Gaza's grief: Israel's strikes silence innocent souls, young lives

From Page 1 ▶ Since October 2023, 'the most moral army in the world' has completely destroyed the concept of a 'safe zone' by dropping tons of bombs on the Gaza Strip.

During these attacks, about 17,000 children have turned into lifeless bodies that were placed in the arms of their parents or beneath the rubbles. They were sheltered in schools and hospitals along with their parents—places that the Israeli regime bombarded under the name of " Hamas hide-outs."

Israel made every effort to turn the Gaza Strip into a fictional city that is discussed in stories; of course, a full-fledged dystopian city that perhaps no novelist has ever been able to create.

Rifk Ebeid and Shereen Malherbe are two children's authors of Palestinian origin who shared their feelings about the situation of children in Gaza with the Tehran Times.



Ebeid, a Palestinian American author, said: "As a Palestinian living in the U.S., I am horrified and haunted by the fact that the government to which I pay taxes is funding and supporting the genocide against my people.

I go about my daily life as if through a haze, living but not living, feeling extreme levels of guilt while also being more hyper-aware of how grateful I should be for even the most mundane of things that I took for granted before."

She emphasized the psychological toll of the ongoing attack: "I cycle through every emotion possible with just one scroll through my social media.

I am in awe and admiration of



our continued resistance against oppression, while at the same time feeling utter despair at the complete destruction of every single facet that makes life possible and livable."

As a mother, the Palestinian author expressed particular horror at the targeting of children: "If the Israelis aren't taking our children's lives or maiming them forever, or destroying any family they have left, they have also completely destroyed any capacity for our children to learn, play, heal, laugh, wash, eat, and thrive."

Ebeid explained, "Any words I write can do no justice. I feel that even my writing about how I feel is a non-issue because I'm not the one suffering through the genocide."

Despite the despair, the author strives to maintain hope and resilience. "I remind myself not to fall into despair; we all rely on each other. When one part of us hurts, the other part must take over," she stated.

Her commitment to education shines through her work: "I've always believed in the power of education, which is why I write my children's books about Palestine.

Those of us living outside of Palestine have a duty to educate our children and instill in them the knowledge of their responsibility to carry on the fight for justice for our people."

Ebeid has written many children's books about Palestine, among which "Birthday Kunafa," "You Are the Color," and "Baba, What Does My Name Mean?" could be mentioned.



Shereen Malherbe, a British-Palestinian novelist and children's author, shared her deep anguish over the situation in Gaza and told the Tehran Times: "To witness the utter devastation as thousands of children in Gaza are maimed, murdered, and starved has thrown into question the very foundation

on which the 'free world' is supposedly built."

"The majority of the world has plunged to new depths, ripping bare the dehumanization of others.

Never again will you be able to recover if you stand idle now in the face of such atrocities," the Palestine Book Awards nominee added.

She has written children's books such as "The Girl Who Lives Between Two Worlds" and "The Girl Who Stitched the Stars," as well as Palestinian novels like "Yassini Girls" and "Jasmine Falling."

Malherbe's words resonate with the resilience she sees in the children of Gaza. "Children of Gaza and Palestine, you are changing us because we are witnessing your faith and steadfastness, despite the horrors.

From the ashes, you will rise in ranks and you are changing the world's future," she adds, underscoring the strength of the human spirit in the face of overwhelming adversity.

## Divar Art Home to stage "The Murder at Haversham Manor"

TEHRAN—The play "The Murder at Haversham Manor" written by Susie H. K. Brideswell will be performed at the Divar Art Home in Tehran from October 27 to November 12.

Mohammad Vosoughi will be the director of the 75-minute play. Mohammad Amin Mouvivand, Malek Khademi, Mahsa Chizari,

Fatemeh Taheri, Armin Ahmadvand, Ali Ahmadi, and Mahtab Moeini are in the cast.

A thrilling mystery unfolds at Haversham Manor as Charles Haversham is found dead on the night of his engagement party.

The long-time butler of Haversham Manor,

Perkins, is desperate to solve the murder of his employer and friend.

Inspector Carter is brought in to investigate the mysterious circumstances of Haversham's death. Divar Art Home is located at No. 72, Sepand St., Nejatollahi St.

## Tehran cultural center reviews Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine"

TEHRAN— American filmmaker Woody Allen's 2013 movie "Blue Jasmine" was reviewed during a session at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday.

Iranian film critic Kurosh Jahed attended a screening of the film followed by a review session.

"Blue Jasmine" follows Jasmine Francis, portrayed by Cate Blanchett, a Manhattan socialite whose life spirals downward after losing her wealth, forcing her to relocate to San Francisco and seek refuge with her working-class sister, Ginger, played by Sally Hawkins.

The film garnered significant critical acclaim, particularly for the performances of Blanchett and Hawkins, as well as Allen's screenplay.

Blanchett's portrayal of Jasmine earned her an Academy Award for Best Actress, while Hawkins received a nomination for Best Supporting Actress.

Allen's screenplay was also nominated for an Oscar.

Additionally, Blanchett triumphed at various awards ceremonies, including the Golden Globe, SAG, and BAFTA Awards, all in the category of Best Actress in a Leading Role.

The story begins with Jasmine arriving in San Francisco after a flight from New York.

As she takes a taxi to her sister Ginger's apartment, the disparity

between their lives becomes evident when Ginger expresses dismay at Jasmine's first-class travel, despite Jasmine claiming she is broke.

Jasmine has recently suffered a nervous breakdown and faces considerable debt, leading her to seek comfort from her sister.

Flashbacks reveal Jasmine's tumultuous past, particularly regarding her husband, Hal, a financial manager who was arrested for defrauding clients, including Ginger and her husband, Augie.

Jasmine's life takes a downward turn after Hal's suicide in prison, following his public disgrace.

Understandably, Jasmine turns to alcohol and anti-anxiety medications for solace while struggling with the fallout of Hal's actions.

Living with Ginger, who is now romantically involved with a mechanic named Chili—someone Jasmine looks down upon—complicates matters further. While Ginger's life moves forward, Jasmine is caught in her past.

She longs to become an interior designer, but her lack of computer skills pushes her to take a computer class first.

Financial struggles push Jasmine into a receptionist job with a dentist who harasses her, leading to a sudden exit when she fights him off during an assault.



Jasmine's fortunes seem to change when she meets Dwight Westlake, a wealthy widower and aspiring congressman, at a party.

Presenting herself as an accomplished interior designer, Jasmine spins a web of lies about her past life and husband.

As Jasmine navigates this new relationship, it's contrasted with Ginger's tumultuous romance with Al, a married man she eventually distances herself from to reconcile with Chili.

When Jasmine's relationship with Dwight reaches a turning point, her past catches up with her.

An encounter with Augie exposes the truth about Jasmine's deception and her family's suffering at the hands of her husband, leading to Dwight ending their engagement. Devastated, Jasmine seeks out her estranged stepson Danny, only to be met with rejection due to her role in her

husband's downfall.

Ultimately, Jasmine returns to her sister's apartment, only to find Ginger back with Chili.

Tensions rise as Jasmine insists she will marry Dwight, a promise that is now shattered.

As she sits alone on a park bench, muttering to herself, the film concludes with a powerful representation of her desolation, bringing her tragic journey full circle.

Woody Allen is an American filmmaker, actor, comedian, and playwright known for his distinctive storytelling and neurotic humor.

Born Allan Stewart Konigsberg in Brooklyn, New York, he began his career as a comedy writer before moving into stand-up and filmmaking.

His early work in the 1960s laid the groundwork for his unique style, blending wit with existential themes.

Allen's films, such as "Annie Hall," "Manhattan," and "Hannah and Her Sisters," often explore complex relationships, urban life, and the human condition, earning him critical acclaim and several Academy Awards.

His signature blend of romance and comedy has made him a prominent figure in American cinema.