



## Iran's Lens Shows Two Faces

Washington's full involvement in Israeli aggressions means U.S. might have to share the consequences too

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U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken(L) met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem (al-Quds) on Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

### Hezbollah takes full responsibility for attack on Netanyahu's home

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT- Mohammad Afif, the head of Hezbollah's media office, Mohammad Afif confirmed on Tuesday that Hezbollah is "fully, completely and exclusively responsible for targeting the criminal Netanyahu's home in the occupied Palestine, Caesarea."

Addressing Netanyahu during a press conference from the southern suburb of Beirut, Afif said, "The eyes of the Resistance fighters see and their ears hear. So, if our hands do not reach you this time, then between us and you are days, nights and the battlefield."

He explained that the Resistance movement's control and coordination system is doing well, noting, "Hezbollah's military and logistical support lines have returned to what they were."

Afif warned the Israeli leaders of retribution, saying, "Iron for iron, blood for blood, and fire for fire." He also pointed out that "the daily average of Resistance operations is increasing, and their average per day is about 25 operations."

### Hezbollah introduces Nasr-2 to the battlefield

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The Lebanese resistance Hezbollah has started using Nasr-2 precision-guided missiles to target Israeli military sites.

The missile has reportedly been used to bomb an Israeli naval base in Haifa.

Nasr-2 is a surface-to-surface missile, with a total weight of 650 kg and a warhead of 140 kg with a range of 150 kilometers.

Sirens sounded across different regions in Israel on Tuesday including Tel Aviv, Haifa, Galilee Panhandle, and the occupied Golan. A number of rockets fell around the city of Nahariya.

Shortly after the sirens, Hezbollah, in its first statement on Tuesday, said it "bombed the Nirit Dome in the outskirts of Tel Aviv with qualitative missiles".

In a second attack on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, the Gilot military intelligence headquarters was struck with a salvo of missiles. The bombings led to a state of emergency being declared in the city.

### Blinken's regional trip: A façade for Israel's ethnic cleansing in north Gaza

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is touring the West Asia region for the 11th time since the start of Israel's genocidal war on Gaza more than a year ago.

The top US diplomat's regional trip comes as an Israeli ethnic cleansing campaign is unfolding in northern Gaza.

Israel launched a brutal offensive in northern Gaza nearly 20 days ago killing more than 600 people in areas such Beit Lahiya and Jabalia.

Relentless Israeli attacks have turned the vast majority of residential buildings and civil infrastructure in the north of the Palestinian territory into ruins.

Israel has ordered families in Beit Lahiya and Jabalia to flee by taking certain roads leading to the checkpoints set up by its army.

Israel has slaughtered more than 42,700 Palestinians since launching war on Gaza on October 7, 2023.

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### Iran submits letter to UN over US president's remarks on possible Israeli attack

TEHRAN - In response to recent comments by U.S. President Joe Biden regarding potential Israeli military action against Iran, Tehran has formally lodged a complaint with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani, addressed the issue in a letter to the UN Secretary-General and the Security Council, expressing grave concern over the implications of Biden's statements.

In his letter, Ambassador Iravani highlighted a comment made by President Biden during an October 18, 2024, press conference in Berlin. The U.S. President reportedly stated that he had knowledge of "how and when" ► Page 3



### Pezeshkian submits \$98.5b budget bill to Majlis

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian submitted the national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year (March 2025-March 2026) to the Majlis (parliament) on Tuesday.

The proposed budget for the next year amounts to about 64.76 quadrillion rials (about \$98.5 billion at the free market rate of 650,000 rials).

The bill has estimated the public resources at 59.876 quadrillion rials (about \$92.116 billion).

The oil, gas, and oil products income is predicted to be 21.07 quadrillion rials (about \$32.415 billion), with 32 percent growth compared to the present year's figure. ► Page 4

### BRICS a pathway to counteract Western unilateralism: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN - The Iranian President says Iran's participation in the BRICS group presents a valuable chance to strengthen our relations with the global community and to challenge the unilateralism and totalitarianism of the United States.

Masoud Pezeshkian made the remarks on Tuesday, before his departure for Kazan, Russia, to participate in the 16th annual BRICS summit. The summit brings together the world's fast-developing economies, traditionally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, with new members including Iran, Egypt, the UAE, and Ethiopia joining the group this year.

President Pezeshkian expressed optimism about the potential benefits of Iran's membership in BRICS, emphasizing that the summit provides an opportunity to bolster Iran's international relations and counteract U.S. dominance.

He also announced that Iran aims to secure "significant agreements" in key sectors such as energy, industry, trade, and tourism during the summit. ► Page 3

### Qalibaf urges Islamic nations to cut off critical resources of Israel

TEHRAN - Iran's Parliament Speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, has called on Islamic countries to unite in imposing economic sanctions and cutting off critical resources to the Israeli regime.

Speaking at a meeting with ambassadors from Islamic nations on Tuesday, Qalibaf stressed the importance of coordinated efforts to condemn Israel's actions on the international stage.

In his remarks, Qalibaf urged Islamic nations to leverage their influence in global forums to hold Israel accountable for its ongoing aggression in Gaza and Lebanon. He argued that the Zionist regime should not be allowed to exploit the resources of Islamic countries while committing atrocities against Muslim populations.

"This regime must not be permitted to exploit the resources of Islamic nations to commit crimes against our Muslim brothers and sisters," Qalibaf declared, calling for immediate action. "Islamic countries should act in coordination to leverage favorable international avenues, condemn the crimes of the Zionist regime, and enforce a ceasefire." ► Page 2



### China's Economy: A Stable Growth Trend

By Cong Peiwu  
Chinese Ambassador to Iran

TEHRAN - In my recent exchanges with the Iranian business community and other circles, I found out that many Iranian friends are very interested in the current status and prospects of China's economy, and I would like to share a few points of view in this regard.

China's economy continues to recover and improve. The Chinese government has united and led Chinese people of all ethnic groups to overcome difficulties, intensified macro-economic regulation, focused on deepening reform and opening up, expanded domestic demand, and optimized the economic structure. As a result, China's economy was generally stable with steady progress, market expectation was boosted, and positive factors promoting the recovery of economy were accumulated. In the first three quarters of 2024, China's Industrial production registered stable growth and the total value added of industrial enterprises above the designated size grew by 5.8 percent. Equipment manufacturing and high-tech manufacturing grew fast, and the value added of these two industries up 1.7 percentage points and 3.3 percentage ► Page 4



TEHRAN PAPERS

An opportunity to bypass sanctions

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

In a note, Kayhan dealt with Iran's official attendance at the BRICS summit in Russia's Kazan and wrote: This attendance has created important opportunities for economic prosperity and evading sanctions. Although officials from Iran have participated the meetings of this group before, our country will attend the BRICS summit as an official member for the first time. The formalization of Iran's membership in this group is one of the most important achievements of the 13th (Raisi) government in the framework of multilateralism policy. By joining the BRICS countries and by facilitating trade and exports, Iran is moving towards cross-border markets, and its participation in the 16th BRICS summit is in this direction. It should be noted that the policy of multilateralism and strong presence in global agreements, which started by the 13th government, has provided the government with great opportunities to both neutralize the sanctions and put the country on the path of progress without depending on a few Western countries. It is appropriate for the 14th (sitting) government to continue the same path with strength so that the benefits of such important achievements can be felt in the economy, as well as people's livelihoods as soon as possible.

Etemad: Conflict in the region has reached a critical point

In an analysis, Etemad discussed the ongoing Israeli war in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon and said: The intensification of conflicts in the region over the past year has become a critical turning point that not only threatens the stability of the Middle East (West Asia) and has made the risk of an all-out war possible, but it can also have extensive consequences for global security. At the core of these tensions, the claim of Israel's possible attack on Iran has become an important and interesting case in political and media circles. The current situation in the Middle East is extremely challenging, and if Israel decides to expand the scope of the conflict with a possible attack on Iranian infrastructure facilities, this action can create a major crisis in the region that will have many consequences. According to Eurasia Review, Iran's possible response will be missile attacks, threats to maritime

security, and cyber-attacks. It added that these levers are on Iran's list of possible responses.

Ettelaat: True Promise III is probably beyond missile response

Hossein Ajorlou, an expert on West Asia issues, in an interview with Ettelaat discussed the possible war between Iran and Israel. He said: Iran will have more options after (Operation) True Promise II. The True Promise III can be other than missile response. Most likely, Israel will resort to three ways. 1: Military action that will be very limited due to the long distance between Iran and Israel. 2: cyber-attacks. 3: purposeful assassinations or dirty war and attack on Iran's infrastructure facilities. The Islamic Republic has shown in the True Promise I and II operations that if it feels that a blow will change the equation, it will respond. The information that Iran has about the conditions in Israel can provide the Islamic Republic with various tools to do a great blow to the Zionist regime. If the Zionist regime's response to Operation True Promise II be at a level that the Islamic Republic wants to respond to, Iran's response will definitely be stronger.

Javan: Netanyahu's "game of chicken" in West Asia

The events of the past weeks have put the West Asia region in a sensitive and complicated situation. Some analysts say that America's purpose in using the B-2 bomber against Yemen's Ansarullah was to send a message to Iran that Washington might act in support of the Zionist regime against Iran. It seems that these threats are a kind of war of will, whose aim is to change equations in the region in favor of the Zionist regime without entering into a large-scale war and suffering vital damages. The strategy of the U.S. and especially the Zionist regime in resorting to recent threats can be understood in terms of the "game of chicken". The goal of the Zionist regime in resorting to the game of chicken is to overcome the shock of October 7 in the first place and to push the enemies back in the second place. Iran must decisively hit the Zionist regime and its interests to strengthen the deterrence of our country and defend the security of the country and the Axis of Resistance.

struggle, particularly in terms of diplomacy and borders, do not allow for a direct presence of the people from Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan."

IRGC commander also emphasized that the U.S. and the U.K. have facilitated maritime routes for the Zionist regime, and currently, the Axis of Resistance is engaged in conflict with both the U.S. and the U.K.

Ultimately, Naqdi warned of the dangers posed by the Zionist regime, stating, "Should Israel commit the tactical error of attacking Iran, it would face the most formidable military retaliation from Iran."

'Axis of Resistance a counter to global arrogance': IRGC commander

TEHRAN – The deputy coordinator of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has stated that the Resistance Axis is actively confronting not only Israel but also the global arrogance, which is actively backing the regime.

In an interview with ISNA, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi noted that there have been no formal requests for combat forces from Resistance groups in the region, yet many young men in Iran and the neighboring countries are expressing the willingness to directly join the fight against Israel.

Naqdi elaborated, "The issues of jihad and

Qalibaf urges Islamic nations to cut off critical resources of Israel

From page 1 ▶ In his remarks, Qalibaf urged Islamic nations to leverage their influence in global forums to hold Israel accountable for its ongoing aggression in Gaza and Lebanon.

He argued that the Zionist regime should not be allowed to exploit the resources of Islamic countries while committing atrocities against Muslim populations.

"This regime must not be permitted to exploit the resources of Islamic nations to commit crimes against our Muslim brothers and sisters," Qalibaf declared, calling for immediate action.

"Islamic countries should act in coordination to leverage favorable international avenues, condemn the crimes of the Zionist regime, and enforce a ceasefire."

One of the key actions Qalibaf proposed is the imposition of economic sanctions on Israel, alongside cutting off the vital financial and logistical lifelines that sustain the regime.

He emphasized that such measures would serve as an effective tool in curbing Israel's military operations and influence in the region.

Qalibaf highlighted the critical role that ambassadors of Islamic countries could play in this effort.

He urged them to lobby their respective governments to extend support for the oppressed people of Gaza and Lebanon.

"The ambassadors have a unique responsibility to advocate for the Palestinian and Lebanese people at home and abroad," he said.

The Iranian Parliament speaker went on to discuss the current state of Israel, noting that the regime is facing growing internal unrest and external security threats, which, according to him, put its very existence at risk.



During the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, Arab oil producers cut off exports to Israel's allies in a bid to halt the regime's aggression. In the face of the ongoing Gaza War, however, none have agreed to exert palpable pressure on Israel or the West

"The sinister regime finds itself grappling with internal protests and external security threats, placing its illegitimate existence at risk of collapse," Qalibaf observed.

In this crucial moment, he continued, Islamic countries have a significant moral obligation to respond to the Zionist regime's escalating violence.

"Muslims and Islamic nations bear a significant responsibility to respond in this critical moment," Qalibaf said, urging them to act swiftly.

Qalibaf also pointed to the ongoing acts of Israeli aggression in the region, describing the situation as dire. He criticized the Zionist regime for plunging the region into "bloodshed and chaos."

"The Zionist regime, backed by some nations, is perpetrating violence with the

intent of altering the region's geopolitical landscape.

All the while, it remains unaccountable to any authority," Qalibaf added, warning that Israel's actions pose a threat to regional stability.

He also cautioned against remaining silent in the face of Israeli crimes, stating that indifference only emboldens the regime's violence.

"The occupiers have shown that they do not understand the language of dialogue.

Silence and indifference only bring their barbaric nature to the fore," Qalibaf warned.

Finally, Qalibaf reiterated Iran's unwavering support for the Resistance movements fighting against Israeli occupation.

He also noted that Iran is actively pursuing diplomatic channels to further isolate Israel.

Iran's good neighborliness policy to continue under Pezeshkian administration: FM



TEHRAN – Iranian foreign minister says the policy of good neighborliness that had been championed by Iran's late President Ebrahim Raisi will continue under the leadership of current President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Abbas Araqchi made the remarks in a meeting with the Kuwaiti Crown Prince, Emir Sheikh Meshal Sheikh Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah on Tuesday. This policy emphasizes diplomatic engagement and cooperation with neighboring countries as a means to foster stability.

During this meeting, Araqchi delivered a message from President Pezeshkian to the Kuwaiti leader, reaffirming Iran's commitment to regional security and cooperation.

Araqchi noted that the situation in Gaza and Lebanon has reached a critical point, calling for decisive international action.

He reiterated Iran's support for regional peace efforts and condemned the Israeli regime's military actions, which he described as a deliberate attempt to spread conflict across the region.

Araqchi, who is on a regional tour, arrived in the Bahraini capital, Manama on Monday and then left for Kuwait.

During his tour, Araqchi emphasized that Iran's stance is clear: Israel's expansionist

policies and military aggression are destabilizing the region, and efforts must be made to prevent the conflict from spreading.

In response to escalating tensions, Araqchi also revealed that Iran is closely monitoring the movements of U.S. military bases in the region, including those in Kuwait. He stated that Iran is sharing this intelligence with Kuwaiti officials, ensuring transparency and cooperation in matters of security.

Araqchi further confirmed that Iran is tracking U.S. activities in Jordan and sharing relevant information with the Jordanian government.

In addition to addressing the pressing issue of war, Araqchi touched upon economic and trade relations with regional countries, particularly Kuwait. While the primary focus of his diplomatic visit was to halt the violence in the region, he expressed Iran's interest in strengthening economic ties.

He noted that although differences exist between Iran and some of its neighbors, dialogue remains the preferred path for resolving such issues.

On the topic of Israel, Araqchi warned that any attack on Iran, especially on its nuclear facilities, would provoke a swift and forceful response.

He described such actions as violations of international law, emphasizing that Iran remains ready to defend itself against any threats to its sovereignty.

The Iranian foreign minister condemned the Israeli regime's actions as war crimes, facilitated by U.S. and European support, and underscored the international community's responsibility to hold Israel accountable.

Araqchi concluded by affirming that Iran will continue to pursue diplomatic avenues

for peace, while maintaining vigilance over military developments in the region. He stressed that Tehran's ultimate goal is to ensure long-term peace and stability, both through bilateral talks with countries like Japan and Kuwait and through broader international cooperation aimed at de-escalating conflicts across West Asia.

+Teheran, Tokyo discuss nurturing bilateral relationship

In a significant phone conversation on Tuesday, Araqchi and Takeshi Iwaya, Japan's newly appointed Foreign Minister, engaged in discussions regarding pressing regional developments.

The call, aimed at strengthening diplomatic ties, also addressed the escalating tensions in West Asia, particularly the critical situations in Gaza and Lebanon.

Araqchi opened the conversation by congratulating Iwaya on his recent appointment as Japan's top diplomat, reaffirming Iran's commitment to the long-standing and historically strong relations between Tehran and Tokyo.

Both ministers highlighted the importance of nurturing this bilateral relationship, which they agreed is essential to regional peace and stability.

A substantial portion of the discussion centered on the growing security concerns in West Asia, with particular emphasis on the ongoing violence in Gaza and Lebanon. The two diplomats stressed the urgency of international intervention to prevent further instability.

They called for an immediate ceasefire in both conflict zones and advocated for the swift delivery of humanitarian aid to displaced populations affected by the violence.

Saudi Arabia requests joint naval exercise with Iran to improve regional security

TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian Army Navy has announced that Saudi Arabia has expressed interest in a joint naval exercise, a move aimed at strengthening regional cooperation.

Rear Admiral Shahram Irani highlighted the Iranian Navy's operations in the Red Sea, noting that Saudi Arabia has proposed a combined exercise in that region.

Both nations have extended invitations to each other concerning their presence in the

potentially pave the way for further dialogue and de-escalation of tensions in the region, benefiting both countries and the broader international community.

Irani added that both sides' initiatives include plans for a bilateral exercise and potential involvement from other nations. "Coordination efforts are currently in progress, and delegations from both countries will engage in necessary discussions regarding the execution of the exercise," the commander emphasized.

This collaboration between Saudi Arabia and Iran could

potentially pave the way for further dialogue and de-escalation of tensions in the region, benefiting both countries and the broader international community.

Military observers from both parties will be attentively assessing the results of this exercise and the possible effects it could have on the geopolitical dynamics of West Asia.

This proposed joint naval exercise in the Red Sea would

mark the third instance of military cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia in the region.

In 2018, the two nations, alongside Oman and Pakistan, participated in a joint naval exercise in the Indian Ocean under the banner of the "Coalition of Friendship".

This week, Iran concluded a joint naval drill in its southern waters, with Saudi Arabia among the participating nations.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visited the Tehran office of the Hamas Resistance group on Tuesday to offer condolences over the martyrdom of Yahya Sinwar. He pledged a "decisive" response to any new aggression from Israel.



# Iran's lens shows two faces

Washington's full involvement in Israeli aggressions means U.S. might have to share the consequences too

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Israel's wall-to-wall aggression has spawned a sense of impending doom in the region. Israel wants to use the opportunity created by the war in Gaza to cross every redline and put the Resistance on the back foot.

After assassinating top Resistance leaders in the region, the regime is now flirting with the idea of dealing a direct blow to Tehran, and that could come with Israel's alleged pending attack against the West Asian country.

Iran fired a volley of missiles at Israeli positions in the occupied territories on October 1, after the regime assassinated Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July, and Hezbollah's Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah in southern Beirut last month. Analysts believe the assassinations were merely Israel's opening act. The regime has carved a path toward the elimination of Resistance, and it will continue to move towards its desired destination with the aid of Washington.

Still, many observers thought a direct confrontation between Israel and its most powerful adversary, Iran, was a distant threat.

But, in an unexpected turn of events, Iran drew a line in the sand last October, issuing a firm warning to Israel against further aggression against the Axis of Resistance.

Now, the tables have turned. Israel faces a pivotal moment. It must choose: either dial back its regional aggression or prepare for a head-to-head fight with Iran itself.

Remarks from Iranian officials at least, show that Tehran believes these two are Israel's only options.

During his short stay in Bahrain on Tuesday – which came in continuation of a massive regional tour – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said Iran is not looking for



war, but it won't hesitate to enter one if it has to. "Israel cannot be contained.

There is no hope that the international community would manage to rein in the regime either," the top diplomat told reporters after a meeting with Bahrain's king.

Meanwhile, Iran's top military brass has said either openly or anonymously that any aggression against Iran would be met with a response Israel probably has not foreseen. A source told the Tasnim News Agency in recent remarks that Tehran might be forced to reconsider its nuclear posture if its facilities are attacked. Another source told the media outlet that Iran will not care to stay proportionate in pursuing a response to any potential Israeli aggression.

The message so far has been loud and clear: Iran is ready to fight, and Israel should brace for a storm unlike anything it has seen before if it wants to go that way. The latest developments, however, show that Iran's string of warnings has sunk like a stone for Israel. Recently leaked documents revealed that the regime is preparing for an attack on Iranian soil and that it has already rehearsed its potential operation in mid-October.

This may be disappointing to many observers but not surprising. Israel has committed various un-

precedented crimes in the past year, attacking homes, schools, hospitals, and even UN positions and bringing the region to the brink of war multiple times.

It is not unlikely that the regime would make yet another wild choice.

What Iran's latest warnings indicate, however, is that Israel will not be the only entity to bear the consequences of the regime's folly.

This time around, any party that decides to give Israelis a hand in attacking Iran will also have to pay.

Regional states have already announced they will be skirting the dispute between Iran and Israel.

According to Araqchi, all countries located between Iran and the occupied territories have assured him that their airspace won't be used by Israel to harm Iran.

The one party left in the cross-hairs of the fire exchange between Tehran and Tel Aviv is the United States.

**Washington's year of going above and beyond for Israel**

The U.S. has been a main patron of Israel since the regime was formed over seven decades ago. But the past year has shown that Washington is more than just an ally for the occupying entity.

American politicians' support for Israelis since the beginning of the

war in Gaza transcends the typical ally-ally dynamic.

"While the U.S.'s provision of weapons to Israel is certainly significant, I believe Washington's most crucial support has been on the political front.

While the weapons fuel Israel's military actions, it's the unwavering political backing from the U.S. that truly empowers Israel to continue its campaign," says Seyyed Razi Emadi, a West Asia analyst.

Washington has prompted widespread global criticism in the past year by vetoing any UN Security Council resolution asking for an end to the war in Gaza.

"By doing so, the U.S. has practically rendered the United Nations ineffectual," the expert notes.

On the battleground, beyond the dramatic increase in annual arms shipments to Israel, now exceeding \$22 billion—a five-and-a-half-fold jump—the U.S. has taken its military support a step further.

It has directly intervened on Israel's behalf by engaging Resistance forces in Syria, Iraq, and most notably Yemen. When it comes to Israel's face-off with Iran, it is already known that the U.S. will continue to help Israel in downing Iranian missiles screaming in the occupied territories just as it did during Tehran's April and October attacks against Israel. To that end, the most advanced U.S. anti-missile system, THAAD, was deployed to occupied territories last week, with American soldiers accompanying the system to ensure its operation.

"I like to believe that Americans know better than to join Israel in its potential attack against Iran," Emadi says. "But if they do take part in the attack, their bases in Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE, Jordan, and Oman will be legitimate targets for the Iranian military."

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Sepahan lose to Sharjah in 2024/25 AFC Champions League Two

TEHRAN – Iran's Sepahan lost to Sharjah of the UAE 3-1 on Matchday 3 of 2024/25 AFC Champions League Two on Tuesday.

Ousmane Camara opened the scoring for the hosts in the 26th minute but Mehdi Limouchi equalized the match six minutes in the second half.

Luanzinho and Caio Lucas were on target on 70th and 90th minutes, respectively.

Jordan's AlWehdat also defeated Tajikistan's Istiklol 1-0 in the group.

Sharjah moved up to Group C top place with seven points thanks to a better goal difference than AlWehdat.

Sepahan remained third with three points out of three matches.

### Nekounam, Shojaei nominated to lead Mes: PGPL

TEHRAN – Former Esteghlal coach Javad Nekounam and ex-Havadar coach Masoud Shojaei are nominated to take charge of Mes in the 2024/25 Iran Professional Persian Gulf.

Mes are without coach since parting ways with Moharram Navidkia in early October.

Nekounam has recently stepped down as head coach of Esteghlal and Shojaei led Havadar last season and now is a free agent coach.

Nekounam and Shojaei were teammates in La Liga side Osasuna from 2008 to 2012.

Rafsanjan-based Mes are 14th in the 16-team table.

Mes will host third-pace Malavan on Friday.

### Persepolis edged by Al Sadd in 2024/25 AFC Champions League Elite

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team of Iran lost to Qatari side Al Sadd 1-0 on Matchday 3 of the 2024/25 AFC Champions League Elite on Monday.

Mateus Uribe's first half stoppage time goal was enough to seal the three points for the Qatari team at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium.

Persepolis created so many chances in the second half but their players failed to capitalize on their opportunities.

Persepolis moved down to 10th place in the 12-team group, while Al Sadd climbed to second place with seven points.

Persepolis will look to revive their campaign when they meet Al Gharafa of Qatar on Nov. 4, while Al Sadd take on Saudi Arabia's Al Wasl.

### Al Sadd deserved to win against Persepolis: Sanchez

TEHRAN – Al Sadd head coach Felix Sanchez feels his side deserved to win the match against Persepolis in the AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 on Monday.

The Qatari side had to dig deep to secure the 1-0 victory in a match in which Persepolis had the better of the chances but Mateus Uribe's first half goal was enough to decide the tie.

"I congratulate the players on winning a very difficult match against Persepolis, we got very important points and I congratulate the players and the fans on the win," said Sanchez.

"Persepolis played its way and lost, and we played our way and won, and we deserved to win the match.

"Winning two matches and drawing one indicates that we are on the right track towards qualification and this is the most important thing for us at the moment. After this, we think about the future."

The win means Al Sadd are two points shy of Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal and Al Ahli Saudi FC, with the top eight teams to advance to the knockout stage.

### Garrido rues missed chances against Al Sadd

TEHRAN – Juan Carlos Garrido was perplexed as to how his team went away without any reward after such a rounded away performance against Al Sadd in the AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25.

Persepolis had the better of the chances but Mateus Uribe's first half goal was enough to decide the tie.

"It is unfortunate that we lost and I do not know how we lost today, we did everything in football," said head coach Garrido.

"We played well but then conceded a goal and even though we produced a high-quality display in the second half, we still wasted the opportunities we created.

We know that Al Sadd is a very good team but we controlled most of the match, we were the better team and could have scored even at the last moment."

The defeat left Persepolis on only one point with the Iran side facing a battle to advance to the Round of 16.

Al Sadd meet UAE's Al Wasl on November 4 with Persepolis seeking a rebound when they face another Qatari side in Al Gharafa on the same day.

### Iran secure spot in 2025 Men's Youth Beach Handball World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran secured their place in the 2025 IHF Men's Youth Beach Handball World Championship.

The Persians are among the top three team in the 3rd Asian Men's Youth Beach Handball Championship underway in Bangkok, Thailand.

Iran have earned four wins over Oman 2-1, Jordan 2-0, China 2-1 and Qatar 2-1 so far.

The Iranian team are scheduled to meet Indonesia on Wednesday.

The 2025 Youth Beach Handball World Championship is the third edition of the event, following its 2017 debut in Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius (U17) won by Spain (men) and Hungary (women) and the second edition in 2022 played in Heraklion, Greece (U18) with Croatia (men) and Spain (women) taking the titles.

### Tractor, Ravshan looking for win in 2024/25 ACL Two

TEHRAN – Tractor football team of Iran is determined to cement its place in Group A of the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Two with a win over Tajikistan's Ravshan.

Ravshan will look to kick start their campaign when they welcome Tractor to Dushanbe's Central Republican Stadium.

The Tajikistan side suffered a 1-0 defeat to Qatar's Al Wakrah SC last time out and another loss on Wednesday will see the team six points behind Tractor.

The match will be held at the Central Republican Stadium in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Mohun Bagan SG has previously kicked out from the competition after the Indian team didn't travel to Tabriz to face Tractor.

## Iran submits letter to UN over US president's remarks on possible Israeli attack



From Page 1 ▶ Israel might launch an attack on Iran. According to the Iranian envoy, this remark indicates that the U.S. is not only aware of but potentially endorsing Israel's military intentions, raising serious alarms in Tehran.

The letter emphasized that such statements, if true, signal the U.S.'s tacit approval and direct support for any potential Israeli military aggression, which Iran views as a blatant violation of international law. Iravani pointed out that this stance starkly contradicts the United

States' repeated calls for de-escalation in the Middle East, and expressed concern over the possible consequences of such provocations.

Citing Iran's Foreign Minister, who responded to Biden's comments via X (formerly Twitter) on the same day, Iravani echoed the warning that anyone possessing knowledge of or facilitating an Israeli attack on Iran should be held accountable for the potential loss of life and damage that could result.

The Foreign Minister's message further noted that U.S. involvement through the provision of advanced military equipment and air defense systems to Israel could embolden Israel to act aggressively against Iran, making the U.S. complicit in any future escalation.

The Iranian envoy's letter also accused the U.S. of already being complicit in Israel's ongoing military operations in Gaza and Lebanon, where the Israeli Defense Forces have been

accused of war crimes and targeting civilian infrastructure.

Iravani warned that further U.S. support for Israeli military actions could exacerbate regional instability and lead to catastrophic consequences for international peace and security. The letter called on the Security Council to condemn the U.S. for its provocative actions and to urge the Biden administration to fulfill its obligations under international law and the UN Charter.

In addition, Iran urged the UNSC to demand that the U.S. use its influence to halt Israel's alleged war crimes in Gaza and Lebanon, which Iran claims are destabilizing the entire region and endangering global security.

The letter concluded by asking the UN to circulate the communication as an official document of the Security Council, further amplifying Iran's call for international action.

## BRICS a pathway to counteract Western unilateralism: Pezeshkian

From Page 1 ▶ With BRICS now representing nearly 46 percent of the global population, 36 percent of the world's GDP, and a quarter of global exports, Pezeshkian underscored the strategic importance of Iran's role within the bloc.

Upon his arrival in Kazan, Pezeshkian met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the first time since taking office. The two leaders discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation and addressed regional concerns.

Modi congratulated Pezeshkian on his July election victory and welcomed Iran's entry into the BRICS economic bloc. The leaders

reviewed existing bilateral relations and explored avenues for further collaboration in

BRICS represents nearly 46 percent of the global population, 36 percent of the world's GDP, and a quarter of global exports

various sectors. Both leaders highlighted the significance of the Chabahar Port contract,

a crucial milestone in India-Iran relations, for facilitating Afghanistan's reconstruction, bolstering trade, and strengthening economic links with Central Asia.

The discussion also touched upon regional developments, including the ongoing conflict in West Asia. Modi expressed deep concern over the escalation of the conflict and reiterated India's call for de-escalation. He emphasized the need to protect civilians and underscored the vital role of diplomacy in resolving the conflict.

Pezeshkian is also set to meet with China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin during his short stay in Kazan.

people by the occupying regime," Baqaei remarked.

Since the onset of Israel's dual-front military actions in early October 2023, local sources report that the death toll in Gaza has surpassed 42,603, with an additional 2,464 fatalities recorded in Lebanon.

Recently, there has been a marked increase in airstrikes by the Zionist regime's military in southern Lebanon, leading to significant civilian casualties and displacement.

measures to counter the crimes committed by the Zionist regime and emphasized that regional nations, in partnership with their allies, are striving to coordinate public mobilization efforts aimed at countering Israel's military actions and safeguarding the lives of innocent individuals.

"The nations in the region, together with their partners, are working to organize public mobilization against the violence inflicted upon innocent

## Iran condemns escalating Israeli violence in Gaza, Lebanon

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson has strictly condemned the escalating violence and attacks perpetrated by the Zionist regime, particularly in Gaza and Lebanon.

Ismail Baqaei vehemently condemned the loss of innocent lives in Lebanon and Gaza, as well as the ongoing assaults by the Zionist regime in these regions.

Baqaei urged regional nations to take decisive



### China's Economy: A Stable Growth Trend

From page 1 ▶ points faster than that of the whole industrial enterprises above the designated size respectively. Service sector continued to recover with the total value added went up by 4.7 percent. Modern services enjoyed sound development. The Business Activity Index for industries like postal services, telecommunication, broadcast, television and satellite transmission services, internet software and information technology services, and monetary and financial services were within the high expansion range of 55.0 percent and above.

China's economy has great potential and strong resilience. The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held a meeting on Sep 26th to analyze and study the current economic situation and make further arrangements for economic work. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, presided over the meeting. The Chinese government took a comprehensive, objective and sober view of the current economic situation, faced the difficulties squarely and remain confident, enhanced the sense of responsibility and urgency in doing a good job in economic work. The meeting accelerated the introduction of a package of incremental policies, which greatly enhanced market confidence and stimulated market vitality. In particular, data from the first three quarters showed that the general trend of solid progress in China's high-quality development has not changed. Investment in high-tech industries maintained a relatively fast growth rate, and the value added of high-tech manufacturing above designated size went up by 9.1%.

China's steady economic progress is a shot in the arm for the world. As the world's second largest economy, China's sustained economic improvement is good news for the world. At present, global trade barrier has increased, the geopolitical situation is complicated, and the world economic recovery is weak. According to the latest forecast of the International Monetary Fund, the global economy will grow by 3.2% this year, which is lower than last year. And based on the performance of China's economy in the first three quarters and the effect of the implementation of incremental policies, the positive factors driving China's economy to stabilize and rebound are increasing, and the confidence in achieving the expected target of 5% GDP growth is strengthening. Undoubtedly this will bring power and hope to global economic growth. Meanwhile, the expanded opening up of the Chinese market has created win-win opportunities for all countries.

In recent years, China and Iran have made continuous progress in practical cooperation in various fields, including politics, economic and culture etc. China has remained as Iran's largest trading partner for many years in a row and is also the most important export market for Iranian goods. China has the world's most promising mega market which will provide more development opportunities for all countries in the world, including Iran. The 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE) will be opened in Shanghai on November 5th, and Iranian enterprises are welcome to actively participate in it to further explore the opportunities in the Chinese market and strive to cultivate new highlights of China-Iran cooperation.

### Tehran, Riyadh seek to enhance air transport cooperation



TEHRAN - The acting head of the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran (CAO) and the Saudi Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran discussed expanding air transport cooperation between the two countries.

Hossein Pourfarzaneh met and held talks with Abdullah bin Saud Al-Anzi on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

In this meeting, the two sides discussed expanding air transport cooperation to facilitate the movement of passengers and tourists, as well as commercial flights.

In late September, Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad has expressed hope that the Joint Economic Committee meeting of Iran and Saudi Arabia will be held in the near future.

Speaking at a celebration held on the occasion of the Saudi National Day, Paknejad said: "As the head of the joint economic committee of the two countries, I am very pleased to congratulate National Day to the government and the dear people of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

"The 14th government, headed by Masoud Pezeshkian, pays special attention to the development of relations with Saudi Arabia, and believes that the cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia as two important countries in the Persian Gulf region and West Asia, can bring stability and security to the countries in the region, and ensure the development and improvement of the welfare of the people of these countries," he stressed.

From page 1 ▶ Crude oil production is estimated at 3.75 million barrels per day at an average sales price of €57.5. Tax revenues are predicted to be 17 quadrillion rials (about \$26.153

billion) which is 39 percent more than the figure for the current year's budget bill.

Yesterday, the president sub-

mitted the first part of the budget bill for the next year to the parliament.

This is the second budget after

the implementation of the country's seventh national development plan.

After the presentation of the first part of the budget bill, President

Pezeshkian called inflation reduction as an agenda of the bill.

"This budget was the result of numerous meetings with the top

experts and parliament. Accuracy in the implementation of the law of the seventh development plan has been a priority for budget formulation", the president stated in the parliament.

TEHRAN - The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) has announced that the company is taking new measures to boost the efficiency of the country's railway industry by 20 percent during the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 22, 2024-March 20, 2025).

Jabar-Ali Zakeri said RAI is determined to benefit from the views of the private railway companies, scholars, and experts to achieve the mentioned goal, IRNA reported.

He noted that the railway industry is currently 10 percent behind the scheduled plans for growth in the first six months of the current year, saying: "For the next five months, a plan will be developed to repair the locomotives and manage them so that a 20 percent jump will be achieved in the second six months."

The Deputy Transport Minister called for the reform of the structure, especially in the field of foreign trade, and noted: "It is necessary to

make some modifications in the tariff rates so that the rate of rail tariff is suitable compared to the road transport and traders prefer rail to the road transport."

He mentioned the agreements reached between RAI and the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) and stated: "A joint action plan has been developed so that rail-friendly loads will be identified in the ports in the next month and the share of cargo transported from ports will reach 25 percent at the end of the program."

Earlier this week, Zakeri said Iran welcomes cooperation with the TRACECA member countries in the field of transportation.

He made the remarks in a meeting with TRACECA Corridor Secretary General Asset Assavbayer in Tehran.

Referring to the country's 7th national development plan to increase the amount of cargo transit, both by rail and road, he said: "We will welcome the transportation cooperation

# Russia, Iran almost completely shift to national currencies: Kremlin

TEHRAN - Iran and Russia have been using national currencies in more than 96 percent of their mutual payments, the Kremlin's press service said on the verge of the meeting between presidents of the two countries to be held on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan.

"The leadership of both countries pay priority attention to development of trade and economic ties. Growth of mutual trade in 2023, despite a certain decline, totaled over \$4.0 billion. We record growth by 12.4 percent as of the end of January - August. The share of national currencies in mutual payments is over 96 percent," the press service informed.

Russia and Iran are implementing several large-scale mutual projects in the sphere of transport and energy, the Kremlin said. The North-South international transport corridor project is being developing. Russian-Iranian relations are on the rise, the press service noted.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports to Russia rose 12 percent in the first six months of the current



Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) compared to last year's first half.

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

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

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

The Islamic Republic had exported 2.2 million tons of

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

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

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

In late January, Iran's late President Ebrahim Raisi said that the Islamic Republic and Russia have reached an agreement to

boost the trade between the two countries up to \$10 billion.

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

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

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

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

### Iran, Tanzania chambers of commerce ink MOU to form joint trade committee

TEHRAN - Iran and Tanzania chambers of commerce signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a joint trade committee on the sidelines of the fifth Iran-Tanzania Joint Economic Committee meeting which was held during October 18-21 in Dar es Salaam, the ICCIMA portal reported.

The MOU was signed by the representatives of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), with Iranian Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezalchah and Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Thabit Kombo in attendance.

As reported, the MOU aims to increase communication between the two countries' economic operators to strengthen cooperation, promote new forms of economic interactions, and ensure the mutual benefits of the business communities.

In total, Iran and Tanzania signed seven MOUs for cooperation in various sectors during the fifth Joint Economic Committee meeting of the two countries.

Iranian agriculture minister announced about the expansion of cooperation between Iran and Tanzania in the fields of agriculture, petrochemicals and tourism.

Ghezalchah who traveled to Tanzania to attend the two countries' fifth Joint Economic Committee meeting, said this meeting is held after several years of postponement, adding

that 11 documents have been prepared in various areas of the governmental and private sectors, which will be finalized and signed at the end of the meeting.

"The Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the president emphasize on the development of relations with Africa, and we hope that the signing of cooperation documents will bring these developing relations into a new phase", the minister further emphasized.

During a meeting with Tanzania's Deputy Foreign Minister Dennis Lazaro Lando, the Iranian minister called for the expansion of economic ties with the African country.

In the meeting, Nouri Ghezalchah emphasized the necessity of expanding the relations between the two countries in various fields and said: "Iran and Tanzania have a lot in common and the cultural interests of both sides paves the ways for the development of relations."

He said: "We prioritized the joint committee of the two countries, and in the new government, this is the first joint committee meeting to be held, and this shows the interest of our country in developing relations with Tanzania."

Lazaro Lando for his part said the visit of Iranian delegation to Tanzania is expected to provide the basis for the development of communication between the two countries.

In mid-March, Iranian and Tanzanian tax officials have signed the draft of an

agreement to eliminate double taxation on income taxes and prevent tax evasion with the presence of the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tanzania.

As reported, the draft was signed by Hossein Abdollahi, director general of the Legal Office and Tax Contracts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and William M. Moja, the acting commissioner of the policy analysis department of the Ministry of Finance of Tanzania.

According to Abdollahi, the two sides have so far held three rounds of negotiations to prepare the mentioned agreement for signing.

This agreement has various goals such as the elimination of double taxation in the two countries, the attraction of direct investment, further development of economic relations and expansion of tax cooperation between the two countries, exchange of information to promote transparency in the tax behavior of the parties, assistance in tax collection, and the provision of facilities, the official explained.

The final signing and approval of this agreement will be done in the legislative assemblies of the two countries in the near future.

Tanzania is considered one of the most important countries in East Africa and Iran is taking new measures to expand economic ties with this country.

### Pezeshkian submits \$98.5b budget bill to Majlis

### RAI plans to boost railway efficiency by 20%



# Blinken's regional trip: A façade for Israel's ethnic cleansing in north Gaza

From page 1 ▶ Since the start of the onslaught, Israel has been accused of starving Palestinians by largely restricting the entry of essentials such as food. The regime is currently using starvation as a weapon in northern Gaza while forcibly displacing the local population.

The head of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has painted a gloomy picture of the situation of Palestinians in northern Gaza.

"The smell of death is everywhere as bodies are left lying on the roads or under the rubble. Missions to clear the bodies or provide humanitarian assistance are denied," Philippe Lazzarini said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

The UNRWA chief called for an "immediate truce, even if only for a few hours", to allow safe passage for families seeking refuge.

In the early weeks after the beginning of the Gaza onslaught, Israel lobbied Egypt and the European Union for a plan to drive Palestinians "out of Gaza".



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem (al-Quds) on Tuesday.

apartheid-style proposal.

This week, Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir urged Palestinians to "voluntarily" leave the Gaza Strip.

"We will encourage voluntary transfer of all Gazan citizens. We will offer them the opportunity to move to other countries because that land belongs to us," Ben-Gvir said.

Israel withdrew its military and settlers from Gaza in 2005 after a nearly 40-year occupation. But Israel is preparing to rebuild settlements in northern Gaza after expelling Palestinians from the area.

Concurrently with the war of genocide in Gaza, Israel is also massacring Lebanese people.

Israel has killed more than 2,400 people in Lebanon since October last year, including 1,800 in the past weeks in the wake of its recent massive bombing campaign and acts of sabotage in the country.

The Israeli carnage in Gaza and Lebanon has drawn global outrage leading to growing pressure on the United States which is the Tel Aviv regime's main arms supplier and staunch ally.

To alleviate the pressure precisely two weeks prior to the US elections, Blinken has been dispatched to the region.

Blinken is seeking to divert global attention away from Israel's ethnic cleansing plan in northern Gaza and its savage air attacks on Lebanon.

The White House claims that the top American diplomat is actively working to avert a full-scale war in the region by seeking a diplomatic resolution to the ongoing conflict in Gaza.



Israel is forcibly displacing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from northern Gaza.

But his regional visit is just a smokescreen for Israel to ethnically cleanse northern Gaza and press ahead with its military adventurism in Lebanon and beyond.



Israel has slaughtered more than 42,700 Palestinians in Gaza and injured over 100,000 others since October last year.

Israel acknowledged at that time that its Intelligence Ministry had drafted "a wartime proposal" to transfer the Gaza Strip's 2.3 million people to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

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

The latest comments made by an Israeli far-right minister are reminiscent of the

## Hezbollah introduces Nasr2- to the battlefield

### Resistance targets Israeli bases in Haifa, Tel Aviv

From page 1 ▶ The Lebanese resistance also released a second statement declaring that it struck the Stella Maris naval base in northwest Haifa with a missile salvo.

Footage has shown the intensity of the explosions heard in Israel after sirens sounded across different regions.

A rocket launched from Lebanon made a direct impact on an Israeli settlement west of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. The explosion was reportedly heard across different areas surrounding the settlement.

Meanwhile, as was widely expected the Lebanese resistance has declared "its full, complete and exclusive responsibility for the Caesarea operation targeting the private residence of [Israeli Prime Minister] Benjamin

Netanyahu," the movement's Media Relations Officer, Mohammed Afif, told reporters.

The spokesman for Hamas' al-Qassam Brigades, Abu Obeida, said:

"We commend the special operation in which Hezbollah targeted the residence of the war criminal Netanyahu, sending a message to the criminal leaders of the occupation that even if they manage to evade the blind international justice, they will not escape the rightful retribution from the free and resistant people of the nation."

On the ground, Israeli forces continue to face challenges in their invasion of Lebanon.

Hezbollah has revealed that while an Israeli force was infiltrating the outskirts

of the town of Taybeh on Monday night "we clashed with it using appropriate weapons and inflicted direct hits on it".

"At that point, the enemy brought in armored vehicles to support the clashing force, so we confronted it again and forced it to retreat. Then we bombarded the retreating force in the assembly area with rocket weapons and achieved direct hits on it," a statement read.

Another statement read, "Our fighters targeted a Merkava tank while it was advancing between Rab El-Thalathine and Taybeh, which led to its burning and the deaths and injuries of its crew."

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

## US proposal for Lebanon "ceasefire" sparks outrage

TEHRAN – Recent attempts by the US to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon have triggered a wave of anger and rejection in Beirut, with Lebanese officials accusing Washington of proposing a "surrender" rather than a genuine peace agreement. The US plan, presented by senior envoy Amos Hochstein, seeks to amend UN Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 war, by

expanding the mandate of international forces and imposing stricter controls on Lebanon's sovereignty.

**A proposal seen as a "surrender"**

According to Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar, citing diplomatic sources, Hochstein arrived in Beirut with a pre-determined script, informed of Israel's re-

fusal to accept any agreement that didn't meet its demands. The proposed amendments to Resolution 1701, which Hochstein reportedly presented as a U.S. vision for peace, have been met with widespread condemnation in Lebanon.

The proposal seeks to expand the geographic scope of international force operations to include areas north of the Litani River,

granting them the authority to conduct "surprise patrols" and inspections of homes, vehicles, and sites suspected of holding weapons. It also calls for increased deployment of Lebanese army forces in the region, the establishment of inspection teams at Lebanese airports, and the installation of watchtowers across the country.

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

## Hezbollah takes full responsibility for attack on Netanyahu's home

From page 1 ▶ The head of Hezbollah's media office announced that "targeting the north and the depth of the Zionist (regime) will continue and its strength will increase in type and quantity with time."

Since the intensification of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon last month, there have been mercenaries in Lebanon racing to declare Hezbollah's defeat and push the resistance to surrender.

Washington and Tel Aviv are quite certain that no force is capable of forcing Hezbollah to surrender. Given their understanding of

the Lebanese political environment, experience has taught them that anyone who volunteers to serve them is only seeking political gains.

The group that supports the Zionist aggression believes that what it is doing serves their interests, even if they become complicit with the enemy. It is led by Lebanese Forces Party under Samir Geagea with the help of its pro-Israel media outlets. The group considers the Israel-US axis a strategic ally but Hezbollah and the Palestinian resistance groups, Syria and Iran as bitter enemies.

According to their narratives, the Resistance is the root cause of the war. They intentionally ignore the fact that the Israeli occupation is the root cause of all these bitter incidents. They spare no effort to prove to the US embassy in Beirut that they are capable of carrying out this filthy mission. This was exposed in the statement of the MTV correspondent addressing Trump. The correspondent said, "We are the only media platform that consistently challenges Hezbollah's influence in Lebanon." Trump replied: "Congratulations!"

## US threatens, bullies and sanctions Iran and then expects Iranian restraint!

### Even assassinating and aiding in Israel's assassination of Iranians

By Professor Hossein Askari



PORTLAND

The United States squeezes Iran and pushes it into a corner where Iran has little choice but to either submit or push

back and fight. And when Iran pushes back it is called a rogue or terrorist state and America's enemy; and when it takes on the rapprochement option, it is invariably spurned. As you will read, Iran has tried rapprochement with the U.S. but has been rebuffed on a number of occasions, in one case with the conduit being me. Why has the United States acted so? Is there light at the end of the tunnel between these implacable adversaries? What should Iran do now and what are its options?

Although the history of American-Iranian animosity could be traced to the August 1953 CIA coup that toppled Iran's legitimately elected prime minister, the more recent cataclysmic event that still permeates hostile relations was the 1979 student annexation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran. The students captured 66 American citizens and held 52 of them for over a year. Although no Americans died, this tragic episode was inflamed when the students further infuriated Americans by routinely parading the hostages before cameras, an unnecessary provocation that was displayed on American television every night by those hostile to Iran, causing Americans great humiliation and anger.

America did not stand still in its quest to free the hostages. However, its major effort to do so, Operation Eagle Claw, was aborted in the Iranian desert. In 1980, Iraq invaded an Iran paralyzed in the aftermath of the Iranian Revolution, in part to get better access to the Persian Gulf. Reportedly, many assert that the United States gave Iraq the green light to attack Iran, or at least encouraged the war to so weaken Iran that it would release the hostages. The United States supported Iraq politically at the United Nations and even facilitated the transfer of internationally banned chemical weapons after Iran managed to evict the Iraqi army and threatened Iraq's second largest city, Basra. Thousands of Iranians were killed by these illegal weapons of mass destruction and one could see dozens of victims visible on the streets of Tehran wearing oxygen tanks throughout the 1990s.

Concurrently, the United States began a program of economic sanctions against Iran beginning in 1979, starting with asset freezes and ramping up to a smorgasbord of sanctions over the years that have crippled and continue to cripple Iran's economy and severely limit the economic wellbeing of all Iranians ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_sanctions\\_against\\_Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_sanctions_against_Iran)). Over the years, sanctions have reduced Iran's exports, crucial imports and its access to international finance, capital markets and technology. Arguably, Iran has been the most sanctioned country in the world over the last 40 or so years. These sanctions have been spearheaded by the United States, and are today at their extreme. The sanctions are not limited to Iran, but are threatened and imposed on any third country that dares to deal with Iran—commonly referred to as secondary sanctions—in order to deter economic engagement with Iran. It is difficult to overestimate the adverse fallout of sanctions on Iran. Unlike armed conflicts when peace ushers in a new era, the impact of many kinds of sanctions will be felt for years into the future due in part to the real possibility that the sanctions could be re-imposed at the drop of a hat, thus deterring economic engagement with Iran.

During 1980-81, in the midst of an ongoing war with Iraq with little access to military equipment, and faced with political isolation, economic sanctions and military threats in the region, Iran pushed back in the best ways it could. Iran supported and nourished Hizballah in Lebanon as its most important surrogate in the region to counteract U.S. and Arab pressure on the Iranian regime's survival. In October of 1983, the U.S. marine barracks in Beirut were bombed, killing 220 marines, 18

sailors and 3 army servicemen. Islamic Jihad, very loosely connected to Iran, was assumed to be responsible for the carnage, which resulted in an adverse fallout for Iran. Iran also closed ranks with the Al-Asad regime in Syria, the only Arab country that supported Iran in its struggle with Iraq. The rich Persian Gulf Arab states financed and politically supported Saddam Hussein and Iraq. Iran needed friends wherever it could find them, as it faced America's crippling political, military and economic isolation.

The Iran-Iraq War ended in 1988 and Iran was hopeful that its isolation would also end. In 1991-1992, and after the death of Iran's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran sought to earnestly begin rapprochement with the United States. During the period when two Arab governments, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, asked me to help restore their relations with Iran, a senior member of Iran's government asked me to help establish a dialogue with the United States in order to improve relations. To establish my authenticity as an intermediary, I was told of a message that the President of the United States had apparently sent to Iran, a communication that only a handful of people in the United States were privy to. I asked a highly placed friend in the State Department to facilitate a meeting for me with the appropriate person in the State Department.

I was ushered into a big room. The chief counsel of the U.S. Department of State (I don't recall his name but I think he was the Assistant Secretary or Deputy Secretary) sat on a couch. I sat on another couch across from him. The chief counsel introduced me to another man saying he wanted to have a third person present since the issue was Iran. I told him the secret message that I had been told to mention in order to establish my credentials. He listened to what I had to say about Iran's desire for developing better relations. His remarks were astonishingly brief: Mr. Askari, you would do well to forget what you reported as a message from our president to Iran. While we appreciate any assistance you can give to American companies in their dealings with Iran, we do not want you involved in our dealings with Iran. The meeting lasted less than 15 minutes. I came out of the room amazed at how I had been essentially threatened and how little interest there was in establishing better relations with Iran.

Iran tried other avenues for rapprochement, knowing full well that the business of America was business. Iran invited American companies to participate in Iran's oil and natural gas industries (with Iran having larger combined deposits—oil equivalents—of natural gas and oil than Saudi Arabia), in other mining ventures and in infrastructure projects. Initiatives that looked promising were quickly shut down by President Clinton, resulting in 1996 in the Iran Libya Sanctions Act and with more sanctions on tap.

Then after the tragic events of 9/11, from a distance I imagined a new opportunity for improving Iran-US relations. The United States was determined to invade Afghanistan to capture Osama bin Laden and leaders of the Taliban who had aided bin Laden. The United States sought the support of leaders opposed to the Taliban. Iran and the Taliban were mortal enemies. The United States managed to partner, through Iran, with the Northern Alliance, a close ally of Iran whose leader Ahmad Shah Massoud had been assassinated by Al Qaeda suicide bombers posing as journalists just two days before the 9/11 attacks. Iran blessed and supported the U.S. cooperation with the Northern Alliance. I thought, what an opportunity for rapprochement! This cooperation was further strengthened when Iran's top commander, the late General Qassem Soleimani, also assisted in the fight against the Taliban. I became even more hopeful when General Soleimani supported the Iraqi militias in 2003. However, Iran nurtured and supported Iraq's Shia militias who were later seen as American adversaries or at least as unhelpful by the United States. Sadly Iranian and American interests in Iraq soon diverged as Shia militias, allied with Iran, fought and killed many U.S. servicemen using IEDs. Once again, interests diverged and Soleimani, and by extension Iran, was now seen as an enemy by the United States.

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



### Mil-e Ejdeha: off-the-beaten-path temple of Parthian era



TEHRAN - Mil-e Ejdeha, meaning "Dragon Tower", is the ruin of a fire temple believed to date back to the Parthian period, also known as the Arsacid Empire (247 BC to 224 CE).

Located seven kilometers west of the town of Nourabad, in the northwestern part of Fars province, this historic site rests in a secluded valley alongside the Tang-e Kalaghi Mountain.

The area is surrounded by rugged, lush landscapes, with no nearby villages, making it a peaceful yet adventurous destination for visitors.

The temple's architecture reflects an influence similar to the Achaemenid constructions found in the region. It features a square stone tower, reminiscent of the Kaaba of Zoroaster or the prison tower at Pasargadae.

According to Visit Iran, the structure stands over seven meters tall, with a base width of about four meters, expanding slightly at the top to 4.3 meters. The stones, crafted with precision and skill, showcase a systematic design using white-streaked blocks in various sizes.

A staircase within the upper part of the

tower—accessible from the south side, about three meters high—suggests the use of ladders to climb it. The interior comprises 15 rows of white, cube-shaped stones, with evidence that a sacred fire once burned atop the tower.

Narratives say that during the Parthian and Sasanian eras, towers like Mil-e Ejdeha served multiple purposes beyond religious significance. They were used for guiding caravans, signaling information, and monitoring the surrounding area. The architectural elements seen in the Mil-e Ejdeha later influenced minaret designs in the Islamic period, reflecting the cultural continuity in the region.

For travelers seeking a blend of history, nature, and adventure, Mil-e Ejdeha offers a glimpse into ancient Zoroastrian practices and Persian architectural heritage. Its remote location makes it ideal for explorers who appreciate off-the-beaten-path destinations.

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power in ancient Iran. The Parthians largely adopted the art, architecture, religious beliefs, and royal insignia of their culturally heterogeneous empire, which encompassed Persian, Hellenistic, and regional cultures. At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to eastern Iran. Parthian wealth obtained through lucrative trade networks resulted in substantial patronage of the arts, in particular, relief sculpture, statuary (large and small scale), architectural sculpture, metalwork, jewelry, and ceramics; coins with images of Parthian rulers form another important category of objects.

### Tourism revenues drop 1.8% in Greece despite rise in arrivals

Tourism revenues in Greece during August 2024 saw a revenue decline of 1.8% compared to the same month last year, despite a 6.6% rise in arrivals, according to a report from the Bank of Greece.

This trend is becoming persistent, as it is the second consecutive month that revenues have dropped this year, which is causing concern within the domestic tourism industry, as it is no longer seen as an isolated incident. The question is whether this is a global trend or whether it is specific only to Greece.

According to data from the Bank of Greece, in August 2024, revenues were 78.6 million euros lower than in August of 2023. This decrease occurred even though the number of non-resident travelers increased by 6.6%.

For the eight month period from Jan. to Aug., overall travel revenues reached 15.179 billion euros, up from 14.703 billion euros during the same period in 2023, marking a 3.23% increase.

To maintain year-over-year parity in tourism revenues, the remaining months of the year would need to experience a revenue drop of more than 476.1 million euros, which is the current year-to-year difference for the first eight months. This would mean an 8.22% decline if compared with last year's

Sept. to Dec. revenues.

However, tourism experts consider such a major revenue drop highly unlikely unless something extraordinary occurs. The most probable scenario is that 2024 will achieve a new revenue record, albeit with some difficulties during the final four months, with Sept. being a crucial month as to whether this negative trend will continue.

Tourism experts attribute this decline in revenues to several factors, including, first of all, the fact that tourists spend less on non-hotel-related expenses as noted by restaurant owners in tourist areas.

Furthermore, short-term rental properties, such as Airbnbs, are becoming increasingly more popular where total spending is considerably lower compared to hotels.

The changing spending habits of tourists is also impacting the revenues. Tourists are more cautious with their spending this year, which is most likely linked to the economic situation in their home country.

Finally, higher airfare prices reduce the amount left in tourists' budgets for accommodation and dining, as experts from the tourism sector note.

(Source: tovima.com)

### Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Prehistoric Sites and Decorated Caves of the Vézère Valley

Located in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region in the Department of the Dordogne, the Vézère Valley is a privileged prehistoric territory that contains more than 150 deposits dating back to Paleolithic times and about thirty decorated caves.

This vast territory of roughly 30km by 40km is of outstanding interest from the ethnological, anthropological and aesthetic point of view with its cave paintings, in particular those of the Lascaux Cave, discovered in 1940. It also enabled the establishment of a chrono-

logical cadre for the prehistoric civilizations of the European quaternary period.

The property comprises 15 prehistoric sites that bear witness to a strong Paleolithic occupation: decorated caves, funerary places, workshops, exploitation areas for raw materials, habitats, hunting scenes. Furthermore, its potential as an archaeological reserve is considerable, as demonstrated by the discoveries carried out as preventive excavations since inscription on the World Heritage List.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Archaeological discoveries shed light on ancient urban settlement in southeast Iran

TEHRAN - A recent archaeological survey in the Girdi region near the former course of the Helmand River has uncovered a range of artifacts, hinting at the presence of an urban settlement dating back to the mid-to-late Islamic period.

The excavation, led by archaeologist Mojtaba Sa'adatian, marks the completion of a systematic field study carried out in the desert areas of southern Sistan Plain. The team of five archaeologists explored a 4,000-hectare area, identifying cultural landmarks and cataloging both movable and immovable objects.

During the survey, the team uncovered remains of four ancient fortresses, 22 ruins of other architectural structures, remnants of three workshops, seven archaeological mounds, 14 pottery and brick kilns, seven cemeteries, 36 burial sites, three windmills (Asbads), and various water management structures. These discoveries provide insights into the architecture, industrial activities, and water



control systems of the region, ISNA reported on Monday.

The excavation also yielded significant artifacts, including glazed and decorated pottery fragments, decorative beads, stone and bronze objects, and a human figurine.

Prehistoric and historical sites were also documented within the surveyed area, indicating the continuity of human settlement over time. According to Sa'adatian, the similarities between the collected artifacts and architec-

tural elements suggest the site was likely an urban center during the middle to late Islamic periods.

"This project offers a new understanding of Girdi's archaeological significance, as little information was available about the site prior to this survey," Sa'adatian noted.

The Girdi archaeological area is located in the Hamoun region of southeastern Iran, within Sistan-Baluchestan province. These findings not only contribute to

the understanding of regional history but also highlight the need for further exploration and conservation efforts in this culturally rich area.

Sa'adatian had previously expressed hope to discover ruins and relics of the Bronze Age. "We expect to find remnants from the Bronze Age that correlate with Shahr-e Sukhteh, alongside historical mounds and various Islamic-era artifacts such as fortifications, tombs, and irrigation channels," Sa'adatian said in early September.

"The survey's outcome may hold the key to unraveling the mysteries surrounding the rise and fall of Shahr-e Sukhteh and its contemporaries," he said.

Shahr-e Sukhteh, which flourished between 3550 and 2300 BC, is recognized for its significant contributions to understanding Helmand culture and the complexities of ancient urban life. Artifacts unearthed from Shahr-e Sukhteh reveal a distinct culture that appeared independent of neighboring civilizations in ancient Mesopotamia.

### Conference on Iranian observatories and zijes held in Tehran

TEHRAN - A conference on the historical observatories and astronomical manuscripts known as zijes was held yesterday at the main hall of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

The event marks the first in a series of conferences focusing on historical monuments and shared cultural heritage in Iran, Mehr reported.

The conference brought together researchers in the fields of the history of science, historians, archaeologists, and geographers.

The discussions revolved around a wide range of topics, including historical observatories in Iran and the greater cultural region; the development of astronomy in the country and the contributions of prominent Iranian scholars to astronomy and cosmology in the Islamic world; and the role of Iranian observatories and zijes in advancing global astronomical knowledge.

Translation and commentary on Greek scientific texts by Iranian scholars; geograph-



ical studies of observatories in Iran and the Islamic world; architectural style and geometry of observatories; prospects for Iranian astronomical research as well as preservation, restoration, and revival of astronomical sites and artifacts were among the topics discussed.

The conference, conducted in both Persian and English, featured presentations from prominent academics. Nader Karimian Sardashti, a distinguished historian, served as the scientific secretary of the event.

A special volume compiling the conference

papers will be published, further contributing to the scholarship on this topic.

According to organizers, the event highlighted the significance of Iranian observatories and zijes in the development of astronomy, showcasing Iran's role as a key player in the global history of science. A zij refers to an Islamic astronomical text that contains tables for calculating the positions of celestial bodies, including the sun, moon, stars, and planets.

One of the well-known historical observatories in Iran is located in Maragheh, a must-see destination for people interested in medieval astronomy.

Construction of the site commenced in the mid-13th century under the patronage of Hulagu Khan, the grandson of Genghis Khan, who selected Persian polymath Nasir al-Din al-Tusi as the director of the observatory.

Experts say ideas initiated by the Maragheh school created a considerable impact beyond the Islamic territories and influenced the astronomical revolution of the 16th century.

### Tourism infrastructure development begins at Konar Sandal, a Bronze Age site in southern Iran



TEHRAN - Work to construct basic tourism infrastructure has begun at Konar Sandal, a Bronze-Age archaeological site located in the Jiroft region of Kerman province, southern Iran.

According to Nader Alidadi Soleimani, the provincial tourism chief, the project which entails some restoration work has been made possible through national funding.

"The plan includes both restoration efforts and the enhancement of visitor amenities to promote tourism at this historic site," IRNA quoted Alidadi Solei-

mani as saying on Tuesday.

"Emergency preservation measures are underway, along with traditional restoration techniques such as brickwork, waterproofing, plastering, and joint filling," the official explained.

"On the tourism side, our goal is to create better conditions for travelers and improve access to the site to attract more visitors."

Situated in the Jiroft plain of Kerman province, the site consists of two mounds a few kilometers apart, called Konar Sandal A and B with a height of 13 and 21 meters, respectively. At Konar Sandal B, a two-story, windowed citadel with a base of close to 13.5 hectares was found. Tablets with scripts of unknown nature were reportedly discovered at the site.

An initial archaeological dig at the site occurred about twenty years ago, led by Iranian archae-

ologist Yousef Majidzadeh and a team of international experts. This survey uncovered a Bronze Age settlement nestled in the Halil-Rud Valley.

Jiroft's discoveries are viewed by many Iranian and international experts as evidence of a civilization as significant as Sumer and ancient Mesopotamia. The remarkable Jiroft site's discovery was accidental in the early 21st century when severe floods along the Halil River unearthed numerous previously unknown tombs, revealing artifacts believed to date back to the Early Bronze Age (late 3rd millennium BC).

Reports initially described the sight of "an ancient object floating on the water's surface." Recognizing its value, villagers, impacted by two years of drought, swarmed the riverbanks the following day, searching for 5,000-year-old relics.

Despite its historical significance, geological factors led to the site's oversight by tourists and archaeologists, who were typically more focused on locations like Mesopotamia, situated roughly 1,000 km away.

In 2003, Iran invited Jean Perrot, the renowned French archaeologist who directed excavations in the Shush (or Susa) area from 1969 to 1978 as head of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).

Referring to the discovery of Jiroft's artifacts as an archaeological revolution, Perrot remarked: "An area once thought inhabited solely by nomads and their livestock was the center of an incredibly advanced civilization. Here, a structured society thrived, distinct from the Sumerians. We must now consider Jiroft as the birthplace of civilizations, shaping our view of those that came before and after."

### Uzbekistan leads in tourist visits to Kazakhstan

Uzbekistan topped the list of tourists to Kazakhstan with 40,452 visitors, according to the statistics of the eQonaq system for September, the Tourism and Sports Ministry's press service reported on Oct. 21.

Russia ranked second with 34,650 tourists, followed by China with 15,868 visitors. Tourists' reasons for visiting varied: 39.1% came

for leisure, 28% for personal matters, 10.3% for business meetings, 4.6% for work, and 18% for other purposes.

Since the launch of the eQonaq system, more than 3.3 million tourists have been registered, with over 140,000 notifications sent in September. Data analysis reveals that Kazakhstan's administrative centers and western regions remain the most popular desti-

nations for foreign visitors.

Age analysis shows that most tourists are under 39 years old, with a gradual decline in visitors beyond that age group. Additionally, 69% of foreign tourists staying in accommodations in September were men, while 31% were women.

(Source: The Astana Times)



# IRCS to attend Intl. Conference of Red Cross, Red Crescent

TEHRAN –Head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, Pirhossein Kolivand, has departed the country to attend the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which will be held from October 28 to 31 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The official is scheduled to hold meetings with the president of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), the secretary general of the ICRC, and the president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to share expertise and enhance joint activities.

He will also hold a meeting with the secretary general of the IFRC, focusing on ways to provide aid to the war-torn areas in Lebanon and Gaza, as well as to end the war.

Submitting documentation regarding the violation of humanitarian rights to international forums, setting up a field hospital, and following up on the Israeli attack on the IRCS filed hospital are among the other main objectives of attending the conference.

The fifty-six-bed hospital, established to assist displaced Lebanese on the Syrian-Lebanese border, was clearly marked with the Red Crescent flag and



Head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, Pirhossein Kolivand, in an undated photo

symbols. Despite this, the Israeli attack left the facility and its supplies, including food, medicines, and medical equipment, completely destroyed.

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

The IRCS has so far dispatched four humanitarian shipments to Lebanon and Gaza.

On Wednesday, October 16, the IRCS dispatched 100 trucks carrying humanitarian aid including essential items, food-stuff, as

well as medicine to war-affected people in Lebanon and Syria.

Following that, 35 trucks carrying 350 tons of urgently needed medical items were sent to Lebanon.

## Intl. Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent will present a critical opportunity to focus on concrete humanitarian solutions for some of the world's most pressing challenges.

The conference is co-organized by the ICRC and IFRC. It is a

unique event, where States and the members of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement converge.

Right now, global divisions dominate headlines. By contrast, the International Conference is a platform for collaboration and dialogue. Its apolitical nature ensures that the focus remains steadfastly on humanitarian action and our collective commitment to save lives and alleviate suffering. Discussions will focus particularly on compliance with international humanitarian law; enhancing the protection of civilians and humanitarians; the promotion of sustainable locally-led humanitarian action; anticipation, preparation and adaptation in the face of the climate challenge, the importance of 'disaster law'; the impact of digital technologies in warfare.

By bringing diverse voices together – including representatives from 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and 196 States party to the Geneva Convention – the International Conference serves as a vital space where humanitarians and governments can come together, set aside differences, and focus on a shared responsibility to protect and help those in need.

## Knowledge-based firms in health sector doubled in 3 years

TEHRAN –The number of knowledge-based companies that are operating in the health sector has nearly doubled from 762 in the calendar year 1400 (2021-2022) to 1,501 in the current Iranian year that started on March 20.

Knowledge-based companies work for the convergence of science and wealth, boost the knowledge-based economy, realize scientific and economic goals, as well as commercialize research and development results in the field of health, IRNA quoted Yunes Panahi, the deputy health minister, as saying.

Currently, knowledge-based companies in the health sector operate in various fields including agriculture, biotechnology, and food industry, medicine, and high-tech treatment and diagnostic tools, as well as medical devices, supplies, and equipment, the official noted.

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

### Over 60 countries import Iranian medical equipment

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than

60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment such as anesthesia machines and other equipment are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Producing 20 drugs, including radiopharmaceuticals, anticancer drugs, sedatives, prostate cancer detection drugs, eye solutions, and traditional medicine, by knowledge-based companies has saved one million dollars for the country.

Six out of the mentioned drugs were related to cancers and skin diseases, IRNA reported.

Last year (March 2023-March 2024), insufficient drugs decreased from 420 items to 100 items. Most of the drugs were antibiotics, serums, suspensions, neurology and psychiatry drugs, and anesthetics.

### Medicine exports to increase

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is developing a plan to increase pharmaceutical exports by 30 percent in the mid-term, an official with the FDA has said.

"In the past years, medicine exports in Iran accounted for a small share of non-oil exports. However, over the past year, it experienced a growing trend," IRNA quoted Seyyed Ali Maboudi as saying.

The official went on to point out that the exports of raw materials and pharmaceutical products over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2023-March 2024) were valued at more than 100 million dollars.

"The Food and Drug Administration is planning to double the medicine exports in the short term and tenfold in the long term," the official added.

Given the impacts of drugs on the health of society in all countries, they are one of the most complicated types of goods to export as they require registration and quality approvals in each destination country, Maboudi stressed.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market. Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

Iranian knowledge-based companies have succeeded in producing recombinant drugs which are mainly used for treating hard-to-treat diseases such as cancers, MS, hemophilia, and viral diseases.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iran starts five-year tobacco-free national plan

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

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

A tobacco-free city is a place in which the sale, supply, and use of tobacco are regulated in such a way that people are protected from secondhand smoke, and direct and indirect incentive mechanisms are restricted, tobacco consumers will be encouraged to quit.

## برنامه ۵ ساله شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات اجرایی شود

برنامه ۵ ساله شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات به صورت پایلوت در شهر قم کلید خورد و در نهایت ۶۳ شهر و ۶۳ روستای منتخب کشور عاری از دخانیات خواهند شد.

ابتکار شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات بر اساس ماده ۸ کنوانسیون کنترل دخانیات سازمان جهانی بهداشت به منظور محافظت از مردم در مواجهه با دود دست دوم دخانیات مرداد سال جاری در ۶۳ دانشگاه علوم پزشکی سراسر کشور آغاز شد.

شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات، عبارت از شهری روستایی که در آن فروش، عرضه و استعمال محصولات دخانی ضابطه مند شده به نحوی که مردم از مواجهه با دود دست دوم محافظت شوند، تبلیغات و ساز و کارهای تشویقی مستقیم و غیرمستقیم آن محدود شده، مصرف کنندگان دخانیات به ترک آن تشویق شوند.

## National poison prevention week kicks off

TEHRAN –The national poison prevention week started on Tuesday, aiming to raise awareness of the risks of being poisoned, highlight the dangers, and promote the prevention of poisoning.

This year, the week is being observed under the theme of 'promoting health by raising awareness and taking preventive measures against poisoning'.

Each day of the week focuses on a specific point.

Tuesday, October 22, Preventing drug poisoning

Wednesday, October 23, Preventing poisoning in children

Thursday, October 24, Preventing carbon monoxide poisoning

Friday, October 25, Preventing food, plant, and mushroom poisoning

Saturday, October 26, Preventing chemicals, and pesticide poisoning

Sunday, October 27, Preventing poisoning by venomous bites and stings

Monday, October 28, Preventing drug intoxication.

In the first five months of the current Iranian year (started on March 20), a total of 4,235 individuals have lost their lives due to being poisoned by medicines, and narcotic drugs, IRNA reported.



As mentioned, prevention is the best way to prevent irreparable damages and even permanent disabilities that may be caused by poisoning. Here are some points to keep in mind.

Children, pregnant women, and older adults are at higher risk of being poisoned.

Children under five years of age are the most frequent of accidental poisonings.

Carbon monoxide is a significant cause of unintentional poisoning in the country, particularly in cold seasons.

Pharmaceutical toxicity is known as the most common cause of acute poisoning worldwide. Avoid risking your health by self-medicating.

When using pesticides, wear a mask, and gloves, and refrain from using more than the recommended amount.

## Life expectancy reaches 78 years for Iranian women

TEHRAN – In the past four decades, women's life expectancy has increased from 54 years to 78 years, Malihe Kianfar, an official with the health ministry, has announced.

According to a survey conducted in the calendar year 1399 (2020 - 2021), ischaemic heart diseases (caused by narrowed heart arteries that supply blood to the heart muscle), heart attack, stroke, and diseases associated with high blood pressure and diabetes, as well as breast cancer are among the top 20 leading causes of death among women, Mehr news agency quoted Kianfar as saying.

Despite the increase in women's life expectancy, there are still significant challenges regarding chronic disease and lack of self-care. Raising awareness and promoting social support are essential steps to further boost women's health, she added.

The latest edition of the World Health Statistics released in May by the World Health Organization (WHO) reveals that the COVID-19 pandemic reversed the trend of steady gain in life expectancy at birth and healthy life expectancy at birth (HALE).

The pandemic wiped out nearly a decade of progress in improving life expectancy within just two years. Between 2019 and 2021, global life expectancy dropped by 1.8 years to 71.4 years (back to the level of 2012). Similarly, global healthy life expectancy dropped by 1.5 years to 61.9 years in 2021 (back to the level of 2012).

### Improved literacy rate

According to the latest statistics, education space per student in Iran has increased from 5.17 square meters in the calendar year 1396 (2017-2018) to 5.28 square meters in the year 1402 (2023 - 2024).

According to the latest statistics, education space per student in Iran has increased from 5.17 square meters in the calendar year 1396 (2017-2018) to 5.28 square meters in the year 1402 (2023 - 2024).

The literacy rate, as well, has increased from 87.9 percent in 1396 to 90.7 percent in 1402, IRNA reported.

In the mentioned six-year period, the ratio of resilient classrooms improved from 0.64 to 0.82, sport space per student grew from 0.17 to 0.20, and the ratio of classrooms equipped with cooling and heating systems rose from 0.48 to 0.68.

The literacy rate has improved in urban areas as well as rural areas. From 1396 to 1402, the literacy rate among men and women amounted to 93.9 percent and 87.4 percent, respectively.

The literacy rate in urban areas was announced to be 92.8 percent, males had a literacy of 95.4 percent and females had a literacy rate of 90.2 percent.

In rural areas, the literacy rate reached 83.5 percent. Men accounted for 88.8 percent and women for 78.3 percent of the figure.

Moreover, the number of out-of-school students in primary, secondary, and high school lowered from 2.17, 6.71, and 18.19 percent in 1396 to 2.10, 5.23, and 16.12 percent in 1402, respectively.

### Per capita education space extended

In June, former Education Minister Reza-Morad Sahraei said "Per capita education space has extended to five meters and 35 cm as eight schools were constructed on a daily basis on average, ISNA reported.

Also, some 2,700 sports and educational spaces have been built in the same period, the official stressed.

In August 2023, the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipment of Schools announced that the number of newly built schools across the country has increased by 104 percent over the past two years.

### Literacy growth rate in Iran 2.5 times the world average

In the past four decades, the growth of literacy in the world has been about 18 percent, while in the same period, this figure in Iran has been 50 percent, IRNA reported.

In the past four decades, the growth of literacy in the world has been about 18 percent, while in the same period, this figure in Iran has been 50 percent, IRNA reported.

Nearly one year after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Literacy Movement Organization was established by the order of Imam Khomeini with the aim of eradicating illiteracy.

At that time more than half of Iran's population, over the age of six, was illiterate. Now, Iran is on the verge of removing illiteracy.

To improve the literacy rate in the country, the Literacy Movement Organization has taken several measures.

"In line with the development plans of the Literacy Movement Organization to accelerate the literacy movement in the country, it has been decided to select 10 prioritized provinces of the country as pilots to implement the project," ISNA quoted Borouji, an official with the Literacy Movement Organization, as saying.

The Literacy Movement Organization also plans to benefit from the capacity of students to improve the country's literacy rate in the near future.

"In an effort to promote literacy and make illiterates more interested in learning, we will engage students and leverage their capabilities and knowledge in tackling illiteracy," Pana quoted Borouji as saying.





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## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*There are many educated people who have ruined their future on account of their ignorance of religion. Their knowledge did not prove of any avail to them.*

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon: 11:49 Evening: 17:37 Dawn: 4:55 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:19 (tomorrow)

## Maestro Farhad Fakhreddini to conduct "Simorgh" concert after ten-year hiatus

TEHRAN- The latest work of veteran Iranian composer and conductor Farhad Fakhreddini, titled "Simorgh," will premiere on November 20 at Tehran's Vahdat Hall, marking Fakhreddini's return to the stage after a decade away.

Fakhreddini's composition, inspired by "The Conference of the Birds," a timeless masterpiece by Persian poet Attar Neyshaburi, is structured in five movements and will be performed by an orchestra comprising approximately 100 renowned musicians from Iran's classical music scene, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

Born in 1938 in Tabriz, East Azarbaijan, Fakhreddini is a distinguished Iranian composer and conductor, recognized as the founder of Iran's National Orchestra. He directed Iran's Radio and Television Orchestra from 1973 until 1979. Fakhreddini has also composed music inspired by the poetry of notable Iranian poet Fereydoon Moshiri.

In recognition of his contributions to Iranian culture, he received the 1st Class Order of Culture and Art from the Iranian government in June 2005. In July 2008, a commemorative stamp was released in his honor.

Fakhreddini stepped down from his role with Iran's National Orchestra in July 2009. He is also celebrated for his film and TV series scores, including music for "Avicenna," "Imam Ali (AS)," "Once Upon a Time," and "The English Briefcase," showcasing his influence and legacy in Iranian music.

"The Conference of the Birds," also known as "Mantagh al-Tayr," is a celebrated Persian poem written by the 12th-century Sufi mystic and philosopher Farid ud-Din Attar.

This allegorical masterpiece is considered one of the pivotal works in Persian literature and Sufi thought. Composed in rhymed couplets, it narrates the profound journey of a

group of birds in search of their mythical king, Simorgh, a name that translates to "thirty birds," embodying both the concept of unity and the divine.

The story opens with the birds discussing their dissatisfaction with their current lives under the oppressive rule of the tyrannical Hoopoe.

Motivated by a longing for spiritual enlightenment and purpose, they convene a conference to decide to embark on a quest to find Simorgh, their ultimate king. Each bird represents different human traits and dilemmas, illustrating various philosophical perspectives on existence, spirituality, and the path to self-realization.

As the birds undertake their arduous journey, they encounter various challenges and obstacles, each of which serves as a metaphor for the inner trials faced on the path to enlightenment.

The birds must cross seven valleys, each symbolizing the stages of spiritual growth: the Valley of Quest, the Valley of Love, the Valley of Knowledge, the Valley of Detachment, the Valley of Unity, the Valley of Wonderment, and finally, the Valley of Poverty and Annihilation.

Each valley demands the birds to shed their material attachments and ego, refining their spirits in pursuit of the divine truth.

Ultimately, the birds discover that Simorgh is not a distant king but a reflection of themselves. The revelation emphasizes the Sufi concept that the divine is found within and that true enlightenment comes from self-discovery and unity with the universe.

"The Conference of the Birds" continues to resonate with readers today, inspiring countless adaptations and interpretations, and solidifying Attar's legacy as a seminal figure in Persian literature and Sufi mysticism.

# Tehran International Short Film Festival announces jury for international section

TEHRAN-The jury for the international section of the 41st Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF) has been announced with two jurors from Iran and five foreign jurors.

The members of the jury include the Indian musical composer and record producer A. R. Rahman, Ghanian-Belgian director Anthony Nti, Bangladeshi screenwriter and film critic Sadia Khalid Reeti, Italian filmmaker Maja Costa, and Russian festival producer Ekaterina Yakovleva, as well as Iranian filmmakers Ahmad Reza Motamedi and Masoud Madadi, IRNA reported.

A. R. Rahman is an Indian music composer, record producer, singer, songwriter, musician, multi-instrumentalist, and philanthropist known for his works in Indian cinema; predominantly in Tamil and Hindi films, with occasional forays in international cinema.

He is popularly known as the man who has redefined contemporary Indian music. Rahman has sold more than 150 million copies of his work comprising of music from more than 100 film soundtracks and albums across over half a dozen languages.

In 2008, Rahman's work gained global prominence with the extraordinary success of his score for "Slumdog Millionaire" that won eight Academy Awards including two for Rahman - Best Score and Best Song. Rahman won over 15 awards for this score including two Grammys, the Golden Globe and the BAFTA.

Rahman's music led him to be noticed internationally with several of his tracks featured in movies such as "The Lord of War," "Inside Man" and "The Accidental Husband." He also scored the music for Hollywood productions, "Elizabeth - The Golden Age," "Couples Retreat," "127 Hours," "People Like Us," "Warriors of Heaven & Earth," "The 100 Foot Journey," "Million Dollar Arm" and "Pele."

He has also collaborated with the world-renowned Iranian directors Muhsen Majidi in two films, "Muhammad, the Messenger of God" and "Beyond the Clouds."

Anthony Nti is a Ghanaian-born filmmaker from Belgium. After attending the Royal Institute of Theater, Cinema and Sound (RITCS) in Brussels, he went on to direct many commercials, music videos, and shorts. His first two short films "Kwaku" and "Only Us" picked up seven awards, including first prize at the Zanzibar Film Festival.

His short "BOI" (Fight), won the Critic Award and Best Debut at the Leuven Film Festival and the Jury and Public Prize at the Ghent Film Festival 2016. His 2019 short



film "Da Yie" was shortlisted for the 93rd Academy Awards for Best Short Live Action and won the Grand Prix at the 42nd Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, becoming a hit at more than 200 film festivals all over the world.

His first feature-length film "Postcard" won second prize at the Sam Spiegel FilmLab and the TV show "Clemenceau" was selected for Torino Series Lab. In 2020, he was listed as one of the most promising filmmakers in Belgium and the Netherlands by the NRC, Dutch national newspapers.

Sadia Khalid Reeti is a film critic and screenwriter. She studied screenwriting at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She has also worked as an entertainment journalist in Dhaka and Los Angeles since 2012. Currently the cultural editor of Dhaka Tribune, Sadia has served as a jury member at different international film festivals in Italy, India, England, Nepal, France, Russia and Bangladesh.

She served as a FIPRESCI jury at the Cannes Film Festival, International Film Festival of Kerala, and Dhaka International Film Festival.

A Berlinale Talent Press alumna, she attended mentorship programs with Film Independent and Locarno Open Doors. She also teaches film studies at different universities and institutions and is the recipient of Charles Wallace Fellowship from the British Council.

Maja Costa is a multilingual writer/director. After studying Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Cello in Milan, she graduated in Screenwriting from the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFB). She has collaborated with many European production companies and film festivals in several positions, and currently works as a freelance screenwriter

and director in Berlin.

Ekaterina Yakovleva is the head of documentary broadcasting at Russia Today and general producer of the International Documentary Film Festival "RT.Doc: Time of Our Heroes".

Yakovleva is a graduate of the School of Screenwriting and Film Studies of the Russian State University of Cinematography (VGIK). She has produced more than 1,500 documentary films as the head of documentary broadcasting at Russia Today.

She has also served as a member of the Expert Council of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for selecting national non-fiction film projects. She has won dozens of awards at national and international festivals.

Ahmad Reza Motamedi earned a Master's degree in economics and a Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Tehran.

He began his career as the screenwriter of the film "Companions" in 1993. For years, he has been involved in the theoretical field of art and philosophy of aesthetics in the media. He has written the scripts as well as directing "The Beautiful and The Hideous" (1998), "Rules of the Game" (2006) and "Alzheimer" (2010) among other films.

Motamedi is the founder of film philosophy in Iran and has a history of 43 years of teaching screenwriting, directing, art philosophy, film philosophy, cinema history and film criticism and training hundreds of students and filmmakers in his academic and film career. He has won several Crystal Simorgh awards from Fajr International Film Festival as well as some prestigious international awards.

Masoud Madadi is an Iranian cinematographer, director, writer, cinema teacher at the University of Arts and Soore University. Be-

fore turning to directing, he has worked as a cinematographer. One of the most famous films he has shot is Majid Majidi's "The Color of Heaven" in 1999. Madadi made his directorial debut with "Dementia" (2012).

Madadi has served as a member of the filmmaking department of the Iranian Youth Cinema Association (IYCS) and the Supreme Production Council of the IYCS as well as the selection and judging committees of several national festivals.

This year's edition of the Tehran International Short Film Festival received 13,651 submissions from more than 30 countries.

The number of submitted films is a new record in the history of the event, about twice the number of submissions last year. Of the total submissions, 107 short films are competing for the top awards.

The line-up includes 59 short fiction films, 21 animated movies, 18 documentaries, and nine experimental films.

The submitted works are from India, China, Poland, the U.S., Egypt, Greece, France, Palestine, Turkey, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Russia, Australia, Japan, Germany, Italy, and Cuba among others.

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

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

Having launched on October 18 at Mellat Cineplex in Tehran, this year's edition of the TISFF will run until October 23.

## Cartoon of Day



World War III  
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

## Iran's children's theater festival to honor Gazan martyred children

TEHRAN- The 29th edition of Iran's International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults plans to dedicate a segment to honor the martyred children of Gaza, the organizers have announced.

The festival aims to emphasize unity and awareness with tribute to martyr children of Gaza, killed by Israeli army, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The festival will carry the theme "Theater: A Dialogue Without Borders," aimed at strengthening empathy and collaboration, fostering growth and awareness, and building the self-confidence of Iran's children through the art of theater in the historical city of Hamadan.

The festival's objectives also encompass achieving social participation for children and adolescents, enhancing public culture, strengthening the foundations of authentic family ties and intergenerational relationships, and promoting citizenship education and increasing responsibility through the active participation of Iranian children and youth in the production of theatrical works.

These goals reflect the commitment to



safeguarding the rights of the vibrant and influential segments of society.

The 29th edition of Iran's International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults is scheduled to be held from November 1 to 7.

Last week, the United Nations reported that "one million children in the Gaza Strip are living in hell on earth," with approximately 40 children killed every day over the past year.

James Elder, spokesperson for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), emphasized the ongoing suffering of children in Gaza more than a year after the onset of the conflict. He stated, "Gaza is the true embodiment of hell on earth for the one million children

there. The situation is deteriorating rapidly." Current estimates suggest that the death toll among children in Gaza has surpassed 14,100, translating to about 35 to 40 children killed daily.

Elder described the figures as reliable, noting that the total number of casualties has exceeded 42,400, with many more likely trapped under the rubble. Survivors of the ongoing airstrikes and military operations face extremely dire living conditions. "Children are repeatedly displaced due to violence and constant evacuation orders, all while the entire territory suffers from severe deprivation," he stated.

The implications of this humanitarian crisis are profound. Families have become increasingly desperate, as they find no safe refuge. "Where do the children and their families go? They are not safe in schools and shelters. They are not safe in hospitals. And they are certainly not safe in overcrowded camps," Elder lamented.

The ongoing genocide and relentless violence in the region have left countless vulnerable children exposed to unimaginable hardships, highlighting the urgent need for international attention and humanitarian aid.