

# TEHRAN TIMES

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## Martyrs Like Sinwar and Nasrallah Will Determine Fate of the Region



### Nuclear chief says no halt to Iranian nuclear work despite Israeli threats

TEHRAN – The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has told reporters that all Iranian nuclear sites are operating normally, unfazed by recent threats of potential Israeli attacks.

Mohammad Eslami made the remarks after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, emphasizing that the nation's defensive and security capabilities are consistently prepared to address any potential threats.

"We have consistently confronted adversarial threats to our nation, and our defensive and security measures are always equipped to respond effectively," Eslami said, adding, "Our nuclear facilities are integral to the country and are safeguarded under these protocols."

Eslami also highlighted the need for the international community to hold the Israeli regime accountable for the nuclear threats directed at Iran's nuclear installations.

The chief of the Iranian Atomic Energy sector commented on Iran's potential exit from the NPT in case of an Israeli attack, ▶Page 2



### Second Iranian citizen killed by targeted Israeli airstrike in Lebanon

TEHRAN – Israel targeted the vehicle of an Iranian medical doctor in Beirut on Tuesday, bringing the number of Iranian civilians killed during the regime's ongoing aggression in Lebanon to two.

Dr. Ali Heydari had volunteered to join a medical team deployed by Tehran to provide aid in Lebanon, where Israeli airstrikes have been hitting civilian areas in recent weeks. Heydari was killed after Israeli drones shot at the car he was driving in Beirut.

Israel has consistently targeted hospitals, medical facilities, and staff since the start of its ongoing war in Gaza over a year ago. With Gaza's medical system in ruins from continuous attacks, it appears Israel is adopting a similar strategy in Lebanon, given its recent attacks on practitioners as well as hospitals in Beirut.

Iran's foreign ministry published a statement on Wednesday, condemning Heydari's killing as an act of war crime. "The targeting of Dr. Heydari by the Zionist regime, ▶Page 3

### Iran will defend its territory and security at all costs: Zarif

TEHRAN – Iran's former foreign minister and current advisor to President Masoud Pezeshkian has declared that the country would not back down on defending its territorial integrity and national security.

During an "Empowered Society, Powerful Government" meeting at the Strategic Studies Center of the Presidential Office, Mohammad Javad Zarif emphasized the crucial role of non-governmental organizations in the nation's political, social, and cultural advancement.

Zarif asserted, "We are unwavering in our commitment to defend our homeland and values, and we will confront our adversaries with all our might."

He highlighted the persistent threats posed by the Zionist regime to Iran, noting that the Israeli regime is currently entangled in a significant conflict and is attempting to involve Iran in a regional war as well.

### Hezbollah confirms Hashem Safieddine's martyrdom



### Erdogan: From Trump-like lies to ongoing trade with Israel through third countries

By Azar Mahdavan

TEHRAN – While Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan talks about filing a complaint against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), his government has taken no formal action. On the contrary, it appears that trade between Turkey and the Zionist regime is flourishing via third-party countries.

"We will come one night, suddenly," was the phrase Erdogan used last year to show his backing for Gaza against the Zionist regime. He wanted to highlight his opposition to Israel and his support for the occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem) to the Turkish public.

### Blinken's hollow words: Israeli massacres continue unchecked

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Israel's brutal strikes in Gaza and Lebanon continue unabated against the backdrop of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's meeting with the regime's leaders during his latest regional tour.

Blinken held talks with Israeli President Isaac Herzog in Tel Aviv and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem (al-Quds) on Tuesday with the purported aim of advancing efforts for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon.

The top American diplomat urged Netanyahu to revive ceasefire talks to end the war in Gaza.

According to State Department spokesman Matthew Miller, Blinken also "emphasized the need for Israel

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### BRICS members must work with a shared purpose: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – At the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian urged each member state to view the progress of its peers as interconnected with its own development, reinforcing a sense of shared purpose.

Speaking on Wednesday, he stressed that as new members join BRICS, the group must take on greater responsibility for financing initiatives that support its member countries.

President Pezeshkian also emphasized

the importance of implementing the decisions made by the BRICS coalition.

Pezeshkian outlined his administration's commitment to ensuring that BRICS functions effectively without being politicized, aiming instead to reform the global

economic governance system.

"The implementation of BRICS decisions must be guaranteed to ensure that the level of economic cooperation among member states serves as a benchmark for the group's success," he declared. ▶Page 2



### Brick by Brick, Xi Jinping drives BRICS cooperation

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## TEHRAN PAPERS

### BRICS, a nightmare of the West

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

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam discussed the importance of Pezeshkian's trip to Russia to participate in the BRICS meeting and wrote: Many experts consider BRICS a serious competitor for major Western economic blocs such as G7.

BRICS is a sign of the transformation of the world order and the transfer of power from the West to the East.

Adding countries such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, two highly energy-rich countries, to BRICS, has added weight to the bloc, which will be a serious threat to the sovereignty of the dollar.

The members of this economic bloc are seriously determined to de-dollarize and use national currencies or an agreed-upon currency by the BRICS.

To realize the policy of de-dollarization, BRICS has started to create monetary and banking institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The presence of the president in the BRICS meeting can also be a prelude to the finalization of the strategic cooperation agreement between Iran and Russia, which is supposed to be decided after the BRICS summit.

**Arman-e-Emrooz: "National security" is Iran's most important priority**

Arman-e-Emrooz discussed the current situation in Iran in an interview with Bijan Abdolkarimi, a university professor and social analyst. He said: This year has become one of the strangest years in recent decades in Iran.

The events that have happened since the beginning of the year have led to confusion in society that can lead to a gap, and this gap will encourage the enemy to plan a wider war.

The social gap prompted Netanyahu to send a message to the people of Iran and meet with Reza Pahlavi. Relying on this social gap, Netanyahu argues that the people of Iran are unhappy and puts himself in the role of a savior.

This is a big lie because happiness never enters the country from outside the borders. Intellectuals should conclude that preserving Iran is the most important issue at this important juncture.

The country's issues can only be dealt with when Iran is not facing a danger. Today, Iran's national security is being threatened, and clearly in such a situation it is difficult to resolve problems.

**Donya-e-Eqtesad: The importance of travel to Bahrain**

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtesad examined the importance of Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's visit to Bahrain and said: The visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Bahrain and Kuwait in line with the continuation of regional diplomacy of the 14th (sitting) government to stop Israel's war in Gaza and Lebanon and establish a ceasefire has sent important messages amidst widespread tensions in West Asia.

If, in the current situation, the increase in regional tensions turns into a big conflict, it can again cause serious changes in the relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

Iran and Bahrain are trying to use the model of Iran-Saudi relations to manage regional disputes and preserve their bilateral ties. This means that if regional rivalries and challenges cannot be overcome it will be difficult to maintain and strengthen a relatively stable bilateral relationship. If Iran, Bahrain, and other Arab actors in the Persian Gulf region reach this understanding they can open a new page in their neighborly relations.

**Hamshahri: De-dollarization and Trump's threat**

In a commentary, Hamshahri addressed the BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan and the West's concern about it. It wrote: The leaders of the world's emerging economies have visited Russia to attend the BRICS meeting.

As we know the policies adopted by BRICS have endangered the continuation of the current unilateralist Western order. The BRICS+ group has "de-dollarization and creation of a common payment system" on its agenda, and important steps have been taken in this regard.

Also, BRICS members have taken extensive measures to counter Western sanctions. Replacing SWIFT with "BRICS Pay" is one of its manifestations. These cases have caused major concerns in America to the extent that Trump recently reacted to the growing trend of removing the dollar from global transactions during one of his election campaigns.

He promised American voters that he would stop this process. At the same time, Trump warned that abandoning the dollar would be costly for the countries pursuing this strategy, and the United States will impose unprecedented tariffs on imports from countries seeking to eliminate the dollar from foreign trade.

## Nuclear chief says no halt to Iranian nuclear work despite Israeli threats



From page 1 ▶ stating, "The first entity that would have to make such a decision is the parliament. Parliamentary decisions also do not take effect until they are enacted as law and communicated to the government by the Guardian Council."

"Even if Iran ends up deciding to leave the NPT, there will be a 90-day window for negotiations with the Atomic Energy Agency, following which Iran may proceed with its withdrawal from the agreement," Eslami added.

Recently, various military and security officials from the Israeli regime have indicated that, in retaliation for Operation True Promise II which targeted the occupied territories on October 1, Israel should target Iran's nuclear facilities.

Iranian officials have in return, declared that they would look into changing the

country's nuclear doctrine if its sites come under attack. Analysts believe leaving the NPT could be a potential response.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a global accord designed to curb the proliferation of nuclear arms, foster collaboration in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, and work towards nuclear disarmament.

Initially opened for signature in 1968, the treaty came into effect in 1970. With 191 states as signatories, it stands as one of the most widely supported international agreements.

**Iranian officials have declared that they would look into changing the country's nuclear doctrine if its sites come under attack**

As a party to the treaty, Iran has committed to refraining from the development or acquisition of nuclear weapons and has agreed to IAEA safeguards to ensure the peaceful nature of its nuclear endeavors.

# BRICS members must work with a shared purpose: Pezeshkian

From page 1 ▶ In addition to economic matters, Pezeshkian addressed the urgent need for action regarding the ongoing conflicts in Palestine and Lebanon.

He condemned the neglect of the rights of people seeking their ancestral homeland and called on all BRICS nations to leverage their resources to halt the violence in Gaza and Lebanon, advocating for a reduction in regional tensions.

This summit marks a significant milestone for Iran, as it is the country's first official participation as a permanent member of BRICS. The gathering commenced on Tuesday in Kazan, Tatarstan, with leaders from various member



**Iran, Egypt discuss regional stability, conflict resolution**

During a pivotal meeting in Kazan, Pezeshkian and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi addressed critical regional issues, focusing on strategies to end the ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon while preventing the escalation of violence to other areas.

Pezeshkian emphasized his administration's efforts to foster unity and strengthen friendly relations both domestically and internationally.

The Iranian president also criticized the double standards practiced by Western nations in supporting the actions of the Israeli regime. He warned, "If the Israeli regime commits an error, rest assured that Iran will respond with a painful answer."

In response, President el-Sisi underlined the importance of unity among Muslims, stating that their collective strength is paramount. He noted that while there are many facets to power, solidarity is the most crucial element.

El-Sisi expressed his belief in advancing their shared interests through understanding and friendship. "Despite the challenges in our relationship over the years, I have never taken a stance against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is vital to correct the distorted image that has been presented of Iran in the region and globally over the past 40 years," he added.



TEHRAN – Top Iranian officials have expressed their condolences to Hamas following the assassination of Yahya Sinwar, the Palestinian group's leader.

During separate visits to the Hamas office in Tehran both Kamal Kharrazi, the Leader's political advisor and the head of the Iranian Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, and Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the Iranian par-

## Iran Air Force chief begins official visit to Pakistan

TEHRAN – The Commander-in-chief of Iran's Air Force arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday after an official invitation from his Pakistani counterpart to visit the neighboring country.

Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi touched down at Nur Khan Air Force Base in Islamabad as the head of a high-ranking military delegation.

There, he received a warm reception from officials of the Paki-

states, including Pezeshkian, coming together to discuss crucial international issues.

The summit's overarching theme is "Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security," reflecting a collective commitment to global progress.

Additionally, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi noted that the issues surrounding Gaza and Lebanon will be integral to the summit's discussions and will be highlighted in the final communiqué.

Araghchi emphasized the transformative role of the BRICS coalition, describing it as a burgeoning center of global influence aimed at challenging Western dominance and unilat-



**Iran, UAE leaders highlight commitment to preventing regional violence**

On the sidelines of the BRICS summit, President Pezeshkian also engaged in a brief meeting with Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, where they discussed bilateral concerns and regional stability.

During their discussion, which took place on Wednesday, the leaders addressed the urgent need to halt the attacks carried out by the Israeli regime. Pezeshkian and Al Nahyan highlighted their countries' shared commitment to preventing further violence in the region.

In a related meeting, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate talks with UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Araghchi confirmed that the primary focus of their discussions was the necessity to stop Israeli attacks on Gaza and Lebanon, reinforcing the common ground shared by both nations on this critical issue.

The Foreign Minister also mentioned that during these discussions, some areas of disagreement were addressed, emphasizing their commitment to clearly and firmly advocate for the interests of Iran, particularly regarding the sovereignty of the three Persian Gulf islands.

liament's speaker, conveyed their sympathies and the Leader's condolences to Khaled Qad-doumi, Hamas's representative in the Iranian capital.

They asserted that Sinwar's martyrdom would not weaken Hamas, highlighting his bravery in confronting the occupying regime.

Kharrazi, emphasizing the Palestinian people's firm resolve, stated that the ongoing Israeli threats and violence would only fuel their Resistance.

Qalibaf, in turn, vowed retribution against Israel, declaring that Sinwar's sacrifice would not be in vain.

He asserted that the assassination of Resistance leaders would not yield any strategic success for the enemy.

Qalibaf further criticized Israel, noting that the regime, despite its claims of security, re-

eral actions.

The minister further elaborated on the collaborative efforts within BRICS to devise strategies that diminish Western economic hegemony, particularly in political, security, and economic arenas.

Notably, he mentioned the establishment of a new development bank as a key initiative of the bloc.

With a collective population nearing 3.5 billion and a combined economic output surpassing \$28.5 trillion—approximately 28 percent of the global economy—BRICS is positioning itself as a significant force on the world stage.



**Iran, Russia urge swift signing of strategic cooperation agreement**

Pezeshkian and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin emphasized the urgent need to finalize a strategic cooperation agreement between their countries. The two leaders met on Wednesday during the BRICS summit in Kazan, where they discussed strengthening bilateral ties. In their discussions, Pezeshkian and Putin indicated that a "comprehensive cooperation agreement" is expected to be signed "soon." High-ranking officials from both nations, including their foreign ministers, were present during the talks, underscoring the significance of the discussions.

Putin reiterated Russia's active support for Iran's full membership in both the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS. He expressed the importance of quickly formalizing the cooperation agreement and thanked Pezeshkian for his commitment to making a separate trip to facilitate this process.

Highlighting the strategic nature of their relationship, Pezeshkian referred to Russia as a "friendly" nation and stressed the importance of direct communication if any issues arise in advancing the agreement.

He also noted that "BRICS members can help to disrupt US totalitarianism," indicating a broader geopolitical context to their collaboration. Additionally, both leaders agreed to prioritize discussions on issues concerning West Asia and Syria in their ongoing dialogue.



**Iran, Ethiopia say Western support main fuel of Israeli crimes**

During a meeting with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Pezeshkian said that any potential Israeli act of aggression against Iran would be met with a "decisive and unbelievable" response from the Islamic Republic.

"We are not inclined towards the expansion of conflict and tension in the region, and welcome any action that is in line with peace and calm," Pezeshkian said, adding, "The Zionist regime's actions, however, are being carried out with the precise aim of setting the entire region on fire." Pezeshkian cited the regime's assassination of the Palestinian Resistance movement Hamas's former Political Bureau chief, Ismail Haniyeh, in the Iranian capital Tehran on July 31, only a day after his presidential inauguration, as an instance of the regime's attempts at obstructing the Islamic Republic's goal of enhancing relations and cooperation with the countries of the world.

He considered Western countries' support for the regime to be instrumental in the continuation of its atrocities, urging those countries to take action towards controlling the regime.

The Ethiopian official, for his part, said his country was "following the developments in your (the West Asia) region with concern."

The prime minister also praised Iran as a «strong and independent» country, which was well-recognized in Ethiopia, saying his country's people maintained a positive image of Addis Ababa's bilateral relations with Tehran.

## Top Iranian officials visit Hamas office in Tehran to condole Sinwar's martyrdom

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He asserted that the assassination of Resistance leaders would not yield any strategic success for the enemy.

Qalibaf further criticized Israel, noting that the regime, despite its claims of security, re-

mains deeply insecure due to the sacrifices of martyrs and their triumphs.

Brigadier General Ismail Qaani, commander of the IRGC Quds Force, and Brigadier General Iraj Masjedi, deputy coordinator of the IRGC Quds Force in Syria, also offered their condolences to Hamas and the Palestinian people.

Qaani reiterated that Sinwar's martyrdom would not diminish Hamas, stating that his bravery would inspire continued Resistance.

Yahya Sinwar, the leader of the Hamas Resistance group, was killed while fighting with Israeli forces in Gaza on October 17.

His martyrdom has been hailed by people around the region and the world, who say the Resistance fighter fought for the Palestinian cause till his last breath.

between the two nations.

The Indus Shield exercise is an important multinational aerial exercise organized by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) at the PAF Base Mushaf in Sargodha, Pakistan.

This event, hosted by the PAF Airpower Centre of Excellence (ACE), brings together key air forces from several countries, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Iran, to conduct joint training and improve interoperability.

# Martyrs like Sinwar and Nasrallah will determine fate of the region: Leader

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has stated that West Asia is currently in a critical condition, the outcome of which will be determined by Resistance forces who are taking after martyrs like Hezbollah's Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas' Yahya Sinwar.

The Leader made the remarks during a Wednesday meeting with organizers of a congress honoring over 15,000 martyrs from Fars Province during the Sacred Defense in the 1980s.

"Today, we stand at a pivotal moment in the region. The events unfolding in West Asia, Lebanon, Gaza, and the West Bank are shaping history. Each incident has the potential to alter the course of events and lead us into a new era," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

"If there were no people like Martyr Sinwar who would fight until the last moment, or if there were no great people like Martyr Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah who combined jihad, wisdom, courage, and sacrifice to bring them to the field, the fate of the region would have been determined differently," he said.

The Zionist regime is supported by the coalition of evil, but the Resistance front stands strong against this wickedness, the Leader pointed out, noting by God's grace, victory will belong to the Resistance.

The Leader said what's transpired in the region in the past year has not only dealt a blow to Israel but



also significantly undermined the regime's Western backers. "The events we've witnessed represent a crushing defeat—not just for the Zionist regime, but for Western civilization, its culture, and its claims. They thought they could easily dismantle and destroy the Resistance, but they were wrong."

He noted that while Western politicians have claimed to be defenders of human rights for years, they have fully backed Israel in its killing of Palestinian children. "The Westerners have shown that during these years, or even centuries, when they spoke of human rights, they were entirely lying."

They have proven and demonstrated this. Ten thousand children were killed! Is this a joke? A child is the embodiment of innocence and tenderness. A child is the central figure that stirs human emotions. Israel killed ten thousand of these innocent beings with two-ton bombs, with all kinds of

weapons, and the Westerners didn't even bat an eye."

The Leader added, "After killing fifty thousand or more innocent civilians and several prominent Resistance leaders, they see no change in the Resistance front. The Resistance fights with the same strength and determination as before. Isn't that a defeat? It's a resounding defeat."

Ayatollah Khamenei further explained how the Zionist regime has been defanged, saying, "They poured resources into this, they exerted every effort, they had the full support of America and many Europeans."

Despite the crimes they committed, their image is now tarnished, hated, and despised worldwide. Even in America, people are protesting them in the streets and universities. Yet the Resistance remains – Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, the young fighters in the West Bank, they are all still fighting.

This is a great defeat, the greatest defeat."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Leader praised Fars Province as a prominent symbol of the harmonious blend of religion, heroism, and art. He paid tribute to the province's distinguished martyrs, past and present, including martyr Masoumeh Karbasi, who was recently assassinated by the Zionist regime in Lebanon. He emphasized that the congress should serve as a platform to immortalize this unique combination.

The Leader highlighted the attempts during the Pahlavi era to undermine religion in Shiraz and Fars Province in general, particularly through events that contradicted people's beliefs and values. He denounced these efforts, stating that they were misguided attempts to separate art from spirituality and heroism. Ayatollah Khamenei asserted that the true path to national advancement lies in the harmonious integration of religion, heroism, and art.

He advised the congress organizers to carefully evaluate the impact of their cultural and artistic productions, emphasizing the importance of educating young people about the proud history of Iran, especially in the years following the Islamic Revolution. He stressed the need for accurate narratives surrounding events like the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran and the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War.

## Second Iranian citizen killed by targeted Israeli airstrike in Lebanon



Ali Heydari (L) and Masoumeh Karbasi (R) were killed in the past week during Israeli drone strikes in Beirut

TEHRAN – Israel targeted the vehicle of an Iranian medical doctor in Beirut on Tuesday, bringing the number of Iranian civilians killed during the regime's ongoing aggression in Lebanon to two.

Dr. Ali Heydari had volunteered to join a medical team deployed by Tehran to provide aid in Lebanon, where Israeli airstrikes have been hitting civilian areas in recent weeks.

Heydari was killed after Israeli drones shot at the car he was driving in Beirut.

Israel has consistently targeted hospitals, medical facilities, and staff since the start of its ongoing war in Gaza over a year ago. With Gaza's medical system in ruins from continuous attacks, it appears Israel is adopting a similar strategy in Lebanon, given its recent attacks on practitioners as well as hospitals in Beirut.

Iran's foreign ministry published a statement on Wednesday, condemning Heydari's killing as an act of war crime. "The targeting of Dr. Heydari by the Zi-

onist regime, who was diligently working as a physician and rescuer to aid the injured and assist patients, constitutes a flagrant violation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which prohibit attacks on hospitals, medical facilities, doctors, and healthcare personnel, and is classified as a war crime," the statement read.

The foreign ministry also noted that the international community has an obligation to stop Israeli crimes.

"We emphasize the responsibility of relevant organizations and institutions, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organization, to document the ongoing egregious violations of international humanitarian law and the assaults on hospitals and medical personnel in Gaza and Lebanon."

The international community has done little to rein in Israel in the past year, despite numerous instances of crime against humanity committed by the regime.

Israel has even targeted UN aid workers and UN positions in the region without facing any consequences.

The attack on the Iranian physician was the second such assault by Israel in the past week. On Sunday, Masoumeh Karbasi, an Iranian woman, was killed along with her Lebanese husband, Reza Awadeh, when their car was targeted on a Beirut highway. The couple fled the vehicle after realizing they were under attack but were tragically killed while running hand-in-hand in an adjacent field.

'My parent were madly in love'



The couple who was tragically assassinated by Israel on Sunday leaves behind five children, ages 17, 14, 10, 8, and 3. The children met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday, during a meeting he had with organizers

of a congress honoring the martyrs of Iran's Fars Province. The children's mother, a native of Fars Province, is set to be laid to rest in a holy shrine in Shiraz.

The oldest of the children, Mahdi, revealed to the Leader that both his parents were computer engineers.

"My mom was a computer engineer and my dad held a PhD in the same field. They were madly in love with each other."

They were even holding hands when they were losing their lives," the teenager said while standing close to Ayatollah Khamenei.

The children were accompanied

## Israel turning Lebanon into another Gaza, warns Iran UN envoy

TEHRAN – Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Ali Bahreini, has intensified alarm over Israel's ongoing violence in the region, warning that the regime's actions are transforming Lebanon into another Gaza, amidst the inaction of the international community.

Bahreini delivered this urgent message during a meeting of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva. He emphasized the critical need for global action to halt Israel's ongoing atrocities in both Lebanon and Gaza.

Bahreini demanded an immediate cessation

of Israeli attacks on Lebanon and the establishment of unrestricted access routes for humanitarian aid to reach those affected by the ongoing conflict.

During the same session, Lebanon's permanent representative at the UN office in Geneva, Salim Baddoura, sharply criticized international organizations and mechanisms, deeming them ineffective in addressing the escalating crisis.

Baddoura painted a grim picture of Lebanon's current state, highlighting the country's struggle against a full-scale war, a humanitarian crisis, widespread displacement, a dire

economic situation, and political instability.

He voiced deep concern over the relentless Israeli bombings in southern Lebanon, emphasizing the devastating impact on the country's employment and economic activities, particularly in the agricultural sector.

The bombings, Baddoura asserted, are compounding the already dire economic conditions and hampering Lebanon's ability to recover.

Israel's deadly military campaign in the region which began over a year ago has so far killed over 42,000 people in Gaza and almost 3,000 civilians in Lebanon.

### Shamsaei's uncertain future in Iran futsal

TEHRAN – Iran's national futsal team are facing a potential coaching change after a disappointing performance at the 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Uzbekistan.

The team, led by Vahid Shamsaei, suffered a shock 4-3 defeat to Morocco in the Round of 16, marking a premature exit from the tournament.

Following the unexpected elimination, the Iranian Football Federation's technical committee and futsal committee have held several meetings to evaluate the team's performance and discuss future plans, including preparations for the 2028 Futsal World Cup.

Sources close to the federation suggest that a decision has been made to part ways with Shamsaei, and an official announcement is expected in the coming days. The federation is reportedly in the process of selecting a suitable replacement to take the reins of Team Melli.

Shamsaei took over as head coach in February 2021, succeeding Mohammad Nazemolsharieh. Despite leading the team to the final of the 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup in his first major tournament, Iran fell short against Japan, missing out on the continental title.

The 2024 World Cup was seen as a litmus test for Shamsaei and his side. While Iran secured victories over Venezuela and Guatemala in the group stage, concerns were raised about the team's defensive structure. Despite topping their group, their journey ended abruptly in the Round of 16. With the World Cup now behind them, the Iranian football federation is keen to make changes to ensure the team's success in future competitions. While Shamsaei still has a year remaining on his contract, it appears that the federation is prepared to terminate his contract and seek a new coach.

Several names have been floated as potential replacements for Shamsaei, although the names have not been confirmed yet.

The federation is expected to conduct a thorough search for a new coach who can lead the team to greater heights.

### Tractor defeat Ravshan in AFC Champions League

TEHRAN – Tractor of Iran defeated Tajikistan's Ravshan Kulob 3-1 in Group A of the 2024/25 AFC Champions League Two on Wednesday.

Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh was on target twice in 26th and 32nd minutes. Tomislav Strkalj made it 3-0 in the 80th minute.

Two minutes into injury time David Mawutor swept in a right-foot finish to earn a consolation for Ravshan but Tractor closed out the game to secure a deserved win.

### Naghousi wins gold in U23 World Championships

TEHRAN – Mohammad Naghousi of Iran won a gold medal in the 2024 U23 World Championships in Greco-Roman Tuesday night.

He defeated American wrestler Beka Melelashvili in the 82kg final. Naghousi kept his cool and managed to eke out a 4-3 win.

Daniel Sohrabi also defeated Swede Georgios Baranos 9-0 in the 72kg bronze medal match and in the 97kg weight class Shayan Habibzare beat Richard Karelson from Estonia 8-5 to win Iran's second bronze. More than 650 wrestlers compete in the event with 240 wrestlers each in Freestyle and Greco-Roman and 184 wrestlers in Women's wrestling.

### Bakhtiarizadeh laments Esteghlal's missed chances

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team head coach Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh lamented his

team's missed chances despite a disciplined performance against Al Nassr.

Esteghlal lost to the Saudi Arabian side 1-0 in the AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 on Tuesday.

"I believe we saw a very good game from a technical standpoint. Both teams started with different plans, aiming to score, and we focused on playing behind the opponents, knowing they had creative and experienced attackers. Our goal was to close the spaces and limit their chances while looking to strike on counter-attacks," said Bakhtiarizadeh.

"Defensively, we performed well except for a lapse that led to their goal. We had good chances to score on the counter, but we didn't capitalize," he added.

"Even after conceding, we had opportunities to equalize but failed to take advantage. Our strategy was based on the resources we had, not on whether it was a home or away game. We believed this approach could neutralize Al Nassr's stars like Ronaldo and Mane while hurting them on the break. Unfortunately, we didn't make the most of our chances, which cost us the result," Bakhtiarizadeh concluded.

### Mohammadi sidelined for three months

TEHRAN – Esteghlal winger Mehrdad Mohammadi suffered a broken tibia and is set for surgery.

Mohammadi suffered the injury in the match against Al Nassr and was forced to leave the field in the 10th minute.

Esteghlal lost to the Saudi Arabian team 1-0 on Matchday 3 of 2024/25 AFC Champions League Elite in Dubai.

He could miss up to three months due to the injury.

Mohammadi's absence will be a huge blow to Esteghlal.

The Blues sit 11th in the 2024/25 Iran Persian Gulf Professional League table with eight points, eight points shy of leaders Sepahan.

### Iran beat Indonesia in Asian Youth Beach Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Indonesia 2-0 in the 3rd Asian Men's Youth Beach Handball Championship on Wednesday.

The Iranian team had previously defeated Oman 2-1, Jordan 2-0, China 2-1 and Qatar in their previous matches.

Iran will face Thailand on Friday and will win the title if defeats the host.

The 3rd Asian Youth Beach Handball Championship is taking place in Bangkok, Thailand.

This marks the third consecutive time that the competition takes place in Thailand, which has hosted the event since the inaugural edition in 2016. The championship features players born in 2008 and 2009.

Iran has already secured its spot in the Youth (U-17) Beach Handball World Championship, to be held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from June 17 to 22, 2025.

### Mohajeri named Shams Azar coach

TEHRAN – Mohammadreza Mohajeri was named a s new head coach of Shams Azar football team on Wednesday.

Mohajeri replaced Saeid Daghighi, who parted ways with the Qazvin-based team to join Kheybar.

Under Daghighi's leadership, Shams Azar sits 12th in the Iran Professional League (IPL) 16-team table.

Mohajeri last recently worked in Kheybar but parted company with the team in late September.

## Chabahar Port's container capacity to reach 100,000 TEUs

TEHRAN – According to a report by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL), six cranes in Iran's southeastern Chabahar Port have been equipped with container unloading and loading tools, so the container operation capacity of the port has reached 100,000 TEUs.

As reported, one of the mentioned cranes is already operational and the rest will start operating in the coming days, IRNA reported.

All the equipment and parts used in the mentioned cranes have been designed and assembled by Iranian engineers and experts.

As Iran's only oceanic port on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar Port holds great significance for the country both politically and economically. The country has taken serious measures to develop this port in order to improve the country's maritime trade.

The port consists of Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti terminals, each of which has five berth facilities. The port is located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province and is

about 120 kilometers southwest of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, where the China-funded Gwadar port is situated.

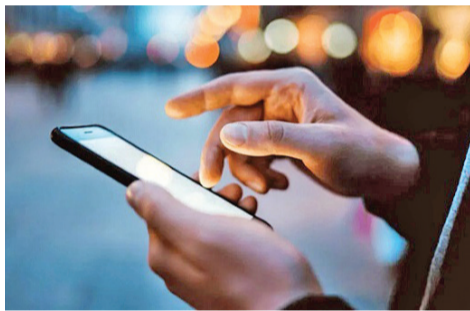
In May 2016, India, Iran, and Afghanistan signed a trilateral agreement for the strategically-located Chabahar port to give New Delhi access to Kabul and Central Asia.

Later, based on a separate deal with Iran, India agreed to install and operate modern loading and unloading equipment including mobile harbor cranes in Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar.

Under the framework of the mentioned agreement, the Indian side has been operating in Shahid Beheshti port in the form of a build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract; this is the first time that such a contract has been implemented in one of the country's ports with 100 percent foreign investment.

The first consignment of Indian equipment for the development of port activities at Chabahar port worth \$8.5 million arrived in the southeastern port in January 2021.

## Cellphones imports drop 9% in 7 months yr/yr



TEHRAN – Based on the latest data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), some 6,720,659

cellphone handsets, valued at \$1.497 billion, were imported into the country in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20–October 21).

According to IRICA, the cell phones imported in this period registered a 16.5 percent and an 9.0 percent reduction in volume and value, respectively.

In this period, more than 6,521,446 mobile handsets were imported by commercial companies while 199,213 of the cellphone handsets were imported by passengers, IRIB reported.

## Over 25,000 passenger cars imported in 7 months

TEHRAN – The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said 25,448 passenger cars were imported into the country in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20–October 21).

According to Mohammad Rezvani, the total value of the imported cars was \$525.042 million, IRNA reported.

The number of passenger cars imported in

the first seven months of last year was 2,999 units with a total value of \$60.498 million, the official said.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade lifted the ban on car imports in late May 2022.

The decision was made to reduce the imbalance between supply and demand and to improve the country's economic conditions with regard to foreign currency revenues.

## IRICA calls on private sector to invest in customs

TEHRAN – In a joint meeting between the customs and agriculture committees of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), the director general of the Transit Office of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) called on the private sector to invest in the country's customs to modernize their equipment.

In the meeting, which was attended by the representatives of the IRICA, the challenges that the customs are currently facing for storing, and clearing or exporting agricultural products that are perishable and must be exported under special conditions were discussed, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Speaking at the gathering, IRICA Deputy Head Payam Pishran pointed to the non-oil



exports as the main driver of the economy and noted that only part of the exports process is handled by exporters.

According to him, executive bodies, logistics departments, legislators, etc. must all work properly so that the export can be realized.

## Over 96,000 tons of alumina powder produced in 5 months

TEHRAN- Production of alumina powder in Iran stood at 96,685 tons during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20–August 21), according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous

fields of application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corrosion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder.

Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.

# IMF revises up its 2024 economic growth forecast for Iran

TEHRAN – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its economic growth forecast for Iran in 2024 amid signs the country is becoming increasingly immune to the economic impacts of U.S. sanctions. In its latest World Economic Outlook published on Tuesday, the IMF forecasted that Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) will grow by 3.7 percent this year, up from a previous estimate of 3.3 percent announced in July.

That comes as IMF's estimates show that Iran's economy grew by 5.0 percent in 2023.

The forecasts showed that inflation in Iran will decline to 31.7 percent in 2024 from 40.7 percent last year, while unemployment will drop



to 8.0 percent this year from 8.1 percent in 2023. The IMF said that Iran's current account balance will be 2.9 percent of its GDP this year, slightly up from 2.8 last year.

The figures are the latest sign

that Iran's economy has actually recovered from the impacts of the U.S. sanctions imposed in 2018 which have mainly targeted the country's oil exports and its access to the dollar-based banking ser-

vices in the world.

Iran has been reporting record oil exports in recent months despite the U.S. bans which impose major penalties on buyers with interests in the U.S. economy.

The IMF said that the 2024 global GDP growth will be unchanged from the 3.2 percent projected in July and one percentage point below last year. However, the entity dialed back its global growth expectation for 2025 from 3.3 percent in July to 3.2 percent in its latest report.

IMF forecasts showed that the U.S. economy will expand by 2.8 percent in 2024 and by 2.2 percent next year while China's GDP will grow by 4.8 percent this year and by 4.5 percent in 2025.

## Strengthening transit to continue in Imam Khomeini port: PMO head

TEHRAN- The head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), mentioned the advantages of transit activities in Imam Khomeini port, in the southwestern Khuzestan province, and emphasized on the strengthening, continuity and expansion of this activity in order to create employment and fulfill the vision goals of the Seventh National Development Plan.

During his visit to Imam Khomeini Port's special economic zone, Ali Akbar Safaei referred to the actions and achievements in the investment, marine and technical fields in the ports and maritime department of Khuzestan province and said: 840 ships have docked in the area since the beginning of this year, remarkable in terms of safety and accident-free status.

As announced by a provincial official, the loading and unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port increased by 10.5 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the first half of the past year.

Aboutaleb Geraylou, the head of Khuzestan's Ports and Maritime Department, said that 24 million tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at this port during the mentioned six-month period.

Of the mentioned figure, 13 million tons was the amount of non-oil goods and 11 million tons was the oil products.

Based on the latest data released by Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased by seven percent in the first six months of the present year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As reported, 81 million tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports in the first half of the current Iranian year while the figure was 76 million tons in the first half of the previous year.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support for ports and their development serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unload-

ing of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

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

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

As reported by the PMO portal, the mentioned investment is going to be used to develop the infrastructure and operational capacity of the country's ports.

Back in July, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei said over the past few years the organization has managed to attract nearly \$1.7 billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country's ports and maritime sector.

Speaking in a press conference, Safaei said some 620 trillion rials (about \$1.24 billion) of domestic investment and \$470 million of foreign investment have been attracted in the mentioned sectors.

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

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

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

"In the first quarter of the current year, 60 million tons of maritime trade was recorded, which shows a 10 percent growth compared to the same period last year, and even a 70 percent growth was recorded in some parts of the Caspian Sea," he added.

On September 30, Iran's Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said that the initial draft of the country's Maritime-oriented Development Plan has been prepared by the government.

## TEDPIX loses 22,800 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 22,874 points to 1,970,882 on Wednesday, which is the fifth day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one.

The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

In mid-September, the head of Iran Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) said the entity will take the necessary measures to ensure that the direct and indirect interests of the stock market are considered in next year's budget bill.

"We are taking special measures in relation to the budget bill and

issues that directly or indirectly affect the capital market," Hojatoollah Seyedi stated.

He has also said that improving the stock market's efficiency is the main priority of the SEO in the current government administration.

"In the 14th government, our mission is to protect the rights and interests of shareholders, facilitate the formation of capital, and improve the efficiency of the market which is the priority of the SEO programs," Seyedi undelined.

"The capacities of the capital market are huge and I believe that this market has room for a leap and now we are on the threshold of that leap," the official further noted.

"Now, in addition to great capital and capabilities of the companies, we have powerful workforces, investors and competent managers in the market, so there is no rea-

son why our capital market should not develop and reach at least 300 to 400 billion dollars of gross domestic product," he added.

Emphasizing that big steps should be taken in this regard, the official continued: "I have decided to work to this end with high motivation to play a small role in the development of the country."

The head of the Securities and Exchange Organization pointed to the capital market as a regulatory and supervisory body and said: "In this regard, our mission is to protect the rights of shareholders, promote market efficiency and facilitate capital formation, which are connected to each other like the sides of a triangle. But the question is, which of these factors can be the driving force as a more independent variable?"

"The important variable is the improvement of market efficien-

The 14th government is determined to formulate and implement additional and more comprehensive plans and programs in the field of sea-oriented development," Aref stated.

The Vice President also congratulated the World Maritime Day to the members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in a message published by IRNA.

"Since the beginning of human creation, the sea has always been the field of communication and the platform for development and civilization.

Those countries that have access to the sea have the potential to become powerful in various regional and global arenas, as well as the ability to develop faster. In any country, having access to the sea is a great opportunity for progress and maintaining national interests," he said in his message.

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

He also emphasized the necessity for the country's scholars and think tanks to help the government realize its plans for developing the maritime sector.

PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei also congratulated the World Maritime Day in a separate message.

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

cy, that is, the formation of more capital, which, in addition to increasing capital, also preserves the rights of shareholders," he finally said.

In late January, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) stressed the need for diverse financing tools in the country, noting that such tools are currently being provided by the stock market.

"To reduce the speculative and profit-seeking activities of dealers in the country, financing tools should be diversified," Mohammad Shirjijan said.

"The capital market is an institution that directs capital to production in an efficient manner. Now, to accelerate the process of resource transfer and high productivity, the financing should be directed to the enterprises," the official explained.

# Hezbollah confirms Hashem Safieddine's martyrdom

TEHRAN - Hezbollah announced on Wednesday that Sayyed Hashem Safieddine, the head of the Lebanese resistance movement's Executive Council, was martyred in an Israeli airstrike on Beirut earlier this month.

"We pledge to our great martyr and his martyred brothers to continue the path of resistance and jihad (struggle) until achieving its goals of freedom and victory," Hezbollah said in a statement.

The Israeli army said on Tuesday that Safieddine was killed during a strike on October 4.

Safieddine was widely expected to be formally elected as the next Hezbollah leader after Israel assassinated Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah last month.

Israel killed Nasrallah, who was the movement's chief since 1992, in an airstrike on a neighborhood in southern Beirut on September 27.

US media acknowledged that Israel used American-made 900kg (2,000-pound) bombs in the strike that killed Nasrallah and levelled residential buildings in Beirut's suburb of Dahieh.

Israel has killed multiple Hezbollah commanders amid the exchanges of fire with the resistance group since October 8, 2023. That is a day after Israel launched its war of genocide in Gaza. Hezbollah has carried out attacks against Israel in a show of solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

Israel also launched a massive bombing campaign in Lebanon on September 23 this year and launched a ground incursion into southern Lebanon on October 1.

Israel has killed about 2,500 people in Lebanon since October last year, including 1,800 in the past few weeks.

In response to Israel's attacks, Hezbollah has intensified its retaliatory operations targeting strategic military sites in Tel Aviv and Haifa.

The resistance movement's reprisal strikes have spread a growing sense of panic among Israelis keeping the regime on its toes.



## Israel's illusions

Israel is under the illusion that its war on Lebanon along with the assassination of Hezbollah's leaders and commanders will bring the movement to its knees.

But Israel's previous wars on Lebanon clearly illustrated that the regime is unable to weaken Hezbollah.

Hezbollah dealt a major blow to Israel after ending the regime's nearly 20-year occupation of Lebanon.

Israel launched an offensive in Lebanon in 1982, sending its tanks all the way to Beirut. It occupied southern Lebanon until it was driven out by Hezbollah in 2000.

Israel carried out the assault after coming under attack from Palestinians in Lebanon.

Sporadic clashes between Israel and Hezbollah continued even after it was forced to leave southern Lebanon.

## From hubris to humiliation

Tensions boiled over in 2006 when Israel went to war with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

The war started on July 12, 2006 - days after the Lebanese resistance movement captured two Israeli soldiers.

The conflict ended in mid-August after

Israel, which had displayed a lot of hubris, failed to defeat Hezbollah.

Israel killed more than 1,000 Lebanese, mostly civilians in the 34-day conflict.

Israel lost more than 120 soldiers in the 34-day war.

Before his martyrdom, Nasrallah had said on multiple occasions that the 2006 war, known as the July War, was a success for the resistance movement.

In August 2021, an Israeli inquiry acknowledged the regime's failure to achieve its goal in the 2006 war, describing the conflict as "unsuccessful" and "missed opportunity".

"Israel initiated a long war, which ended without its clear military victory," the inquiry found.

## Hezbollah's military power

The military capability of the Lebanese resistance movement has grown since then.

Hezbollah's martyred chief, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, had said that the resistance movement has 100,000 fighters.

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

## Blinken's hollow words: Israeli massacres continue unchecked

From page 1 ► to take additional steps to increase and sustain the flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza and ensure that assistance reaches civilians throughout Gaza."

Israel launched war on Gaza on October 7, 2023. It has so far killed about 42,800 Palestinians and devastated much of the territory.

### Ethnic cleansing in the making

Israel also launched an offensive in northern Gaza nearly three weeks ago ordering people to evacuate areas such as Beit Lahiya and Jabalia. The regime's army has killed nearly 800 people in northern Gaza during its offensive and prevented essentials such as food from reaching there. Israel stands accused of starving Palestinians and carrying out an ethnic cleansing campaign in the north of the enclave.

An Israeli human rights group has said Israel is taking advantage of the world's diverted attention to commit "ethnic cleansing" in northern Gaza.

B'Tselem said the Netanyahu regime intends to forcibly displace residents of northern Gaza, perpetrating some of the "gravest crimes" under the laws of war.

It demanded that nations and international organizations take "immediate, decisive" action.

### Hitting hospitals

On Wednesday, more Palestinians lost their lives in Israeli attacks. The regime's heavy artillery fire hit a school housing displaced Palestinians in Beit Lahiya.

An Israeli air raid also hit near the Kamal Adwan Hospital.

An orthopedic surgeon from Doctors Without Borders (MSF) described the situation at the hospital as "disastrous".

"There is death in all types and forms in Kamal Adwan hospital and north Gaza. The bombardment does not stop. The artillery does not stop. The planes do not stop. There is heavy shelling, and the hospital is targeted too. It just looks like a movie; it does not seem real," Dr. Mohammed Obeid said.

The physician added that the hospital is overwhelmed, and has no medical or surgical equipment to treat the injured.

He said there are currently 30 people dead inside the hospital, and around 130 injured patients who require urgent care.

### Aggression on Lebanon

In his meeting with Netanyahu, Blinken also discussed ways of implementing a 2006 UN resolution in an attempt to "restore security and calm" along the Israel-Lebanon border.

In addition to its war of genocide in Gaza, Israel has also killed about 2,500 people in Lebanon since October last year under the pretext of hitting Hezbollah targets.

Israel further intensified attacks on Lebanon following Blinken's visit to Tel Aviv and al-Quds in line with its massive bombing campaign against the Mediterranean country that began a month ago.

Israel bombed Tyre, Lebanon's fifth-largest city, on Wednesday. The city is located on the Mediterranean coast of southern Lebanon and is also one of the region's oldest and historically most significant cities.

Tyre is also known for its Roman ruins, including a hippodrome and triumphal arches, which have earned UNESCO World Heritage status, according to Al Jazeera.

### War of extermination

The UN special rapporteur on the right to

adequate housing has said Israel's destruction of villages in southern Lebanon indicates that the regime's objective "is not military, but extermination and annexation".

"Israel doesn't just wage war - in Gaza and now in Lebanon - but a scorched earth campaign that levels all houses, mosques, schools and signs of habitation," Balakrishnan Rajagopal said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Israel's relentless strikes against Lebanon and Gaza following Blinken's discussions with Netanyahu clearly illustrate that his call for a ceasefire is just a distraction from growing global anger at the regime's carnage.

Israel has massacred people in Lebanon and Gaza. But Western officials such as Blinken only pay lip service in a desperate attempt to put a halt to the Netanyahu's regime's international isolation.

As Israel persists in its brutal raids in Gaza, resistance groups put up resistance on the battlefield.

Hezbollah also continues to retaliate Israel's fatal strikes.

Early on Tuesday, Hezbollah said it had launched volleys of rockets at two Israeli military bases near Tel Aviv as well as a naval base in Haifa. The resistance movement fired medium-range missiles towards Tel Aviv, temporarily shutting down Ben Gurion Airport.

Over the past decades, Israel has failed to bring regional resistance groups to their knees through military action. The regime's warmongering and military adventurism could only push the region into an abyss. The US, as Israel's main supporter, will undoubtedly be responsible for such a dangerous escalation.

of the entrance of Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), which is located some 40km (25 miles) outside the capital.

Firefighters and medical teams were dispatched to the scene.

Local media reported that blast took place around the time of a shift change, and staff had to be directed to shelters.

Some outlets have carried a photograph

purporting to show one suspect climbing over a turnstile and entering the building holding a gun. Turkey's Justice Minister, Yilmaz Tunc, announced on X that the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has launched a "judicial investigation" into the incident.

TAI is a key player in Turkey's aerospace industry, designing, developing and manufacturing various aircraft for commercial and military use.

## Erdogan: From Trump-like lies to ongoing trade with Israel through third countries

From page 1 ► There has been a lot of media spotlight on Erdogan's regular criticism of Israel, though these rebukes have mostly been verbal and lack any practical measures.

Although officials in Ankara have tried to condemn the Zionist regime's actions and fully support Palestine in the past year, the question remains: to what extent has Turkey's ruling party, the Justice and Development Party, followed through on its anti-Israeli rhetoric when it comes to actual policy?

In this report, we will examine Turkey's stance on the Palestinian issue over the past year:

### From calls for restraint to personal criticism of Netanyahu

In the early days of Operation al-Aqsa Storm and Israel's response, including attacks on Gaza, Ankara's officials merely called on Hamas and Israel to exercise restraint. However, as Israeli forces continued killing civilians in Gaza, Erdogan expressed his support for Hamas and stressed that it is not a terrorist group.

He directed his criticism solely on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. It's important to note that personalizing issues is a frequent tactic of the Turkish government.

For instance, Erdogan often levels personal attacks on his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron without targeting the French government.

Erdogan similarly blames Netanyahu for Israel's assaults on Palestinians, preferring to criticize him rather than the regime's broader ideology.

Just like in 2009, when Erdogan publicly and directly criticized Shimon Peres at the Davos summit, calling Israel a "child killer" regime in a bid to portray himself as a national hero. A similar tactic is being followed now.

However, the ongoing Ankara-Tel Aviv trade relations caused the Turkish public to doubt Erdogan's sincerity.

### From pro-Gaza rallies to continued trade with Israel

About 21 days into Israel's attacks on Gaza (which started in October last year), Ankara decided to hold large-scale rallies in support

of the Palestinian people. Yet, these rallies were met with criticism. The Turkish public and even political circles believed that mere rallies were not enough and that trade relations with Israel should be severed.

However, the Justice and Development Party, ignoring the complaints, argued that trade and politics are separate issues and chose to maintain economic ties as before.

In 2023, official statistics showed that trade between Ankara and Tel Aviv amounted to \$6.8 billion, a large portion of which was Turkish exports. According to these figures, seven commercial ships traveled daily from Turkey to Israel.

Following the Justice and Development Party's defeat in the 2023 municipal elections, the Islamic and conservative bodies began distancing themselves from the party.

Many shifted toward the New Welfare Party as its leader Fatih Erbakan condemned Erdogan's policy on Palestine.

This pushed Erdogan to seriously consider severing trade ties with Israel. As a result, Turkey officially announced that as of May 2, 2024, trade with the Zionist regime would come to an end.

Though on the surface trade between Ankara and Tel Aviv has stopped, it seems that trade relations are continuing through third countries.

It appears that Ankara is bypassing restrictions by trading with the West Bank based Palestinian Authority while continuing exports to Tel Aviv.

For example, Turkey-Palestine trade in June amounted to \$61.28 million, rising to \$128.89 million in July 2024.

In August, trade reached \$138.34 million. However, reports indicate that Turkish companies still trading with Israel declare Palestine as the destination in documents at customs, but the ships change course to Tel Aviv after departure.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan's oil exports to Israel via Turkey's Ceyhan port is still flowing.

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

## Ground invasion stalled: Israel escalates destruction campaign in Lebanon

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - Israel has chosen to destroy Lebanon's infrastructure in an attempt to achieve its objectives, having failed to make significant progress in its ground invasion. On the night of Sunday, October 21, Israeli fighter jets carried out multiple attacks in the southern part of the country, with a total of 13 airstrikes affecting villages, towns, and neighborhoods in Beirut, according to Al Jazeera.

Following the doctrine applied in Gaza, Israel is preparing the ground for bombing the al-Sahel hospital in Dahyeh, baselessly claiming that Hezbollah is hiding money in a bunker beneath the facility. While in Gaza Israel operates with impunity, backed by the unwavering support of the U.S. and its Western allies, in Lebanon it finds itself compelled to create justifications in this early stage of the conflict.

Several Lebanese experts, including political scientist Amal Saad, warn that an attack on this hospital could intensify Hezbollah's response, which declared a "new phase of escalation" last week. Furthermore, it is evident that the destruction of infrastructure in Lebanon highlights Israel's lack of a military strategy after three weeks of failed attempts to invade the southern part of the country.

One of the most significant aspects of this offensive is the destruction of the social institution Qard al-Hassan, described as "Hezbollah's bank" by Avichay Adrae, the Israeli army's Arabic spokesman. He indicated that "there are hundreds of Qard al-Hassan branches throughout Lebanon, many of which are located in residential buildings and apartments." Israel's goal is clear: to dismantle Lebanon's financial infrastructures and destabilize its economy.

Qard al-Hassan operates 31 branches across the country under the official license of the Lebanese Ministry of Interior. Its work focuses

on Islamic banking, providing interest-free loans to the most vulnerable sectors of the population. One of its most notable services has been offering loans to families affected by the energy crisis in Lebanon. The institution has stated that its funds come from donations and benefactors, and it grants loans without discrimination, regardless of religion, sect, or political affiliation.

Although Iran helped establish Qard al-Hassan in the 1980s, today it is a fully self-funded organization, primarily supported by the Shiite community in Lebanon. Since the country's economic collapse in 2019 and the bankruptcy of its banking system, Qard al-Hassan has become a vital resource for thousands, providing assistance for everything from school tuition payments to financing small businesses and solar panel installations. The NGO serves all communities: in the Santa Teresa branch near Hadath, between 30% and 40% of the clients are Christians, while in Sidon, most are not Shiite.

Despite Qard al-Hassan's claims of safeguarding people's deposits and savings since the war began, Israel's actions are part of a strategy aimed at further impoverishing Lebanon's already vulnerable and largely displaced Shiite community, as approximately 85% of depositors and borrowers belong to this group.

Amal Saad points out that this collective punishment entails not only a physical eradication but also a socioeconomic one, aimed at annihilating, uprooting, and impoverishing Hezbollah's support base. This situation exacerbates the crisis facing the country and raises serious concerns about the future of the Shiite community in Lebanon.

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

## Attackers kill several people at Turkish state aviation site

Several people were killed and over a dozen others injured in an attack at the headquarters of an aviation company near the Turkish capital Ankara on Wednesday.

The country's Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya posted on X that two attackers were "neutralized" in the incident, which saw gunshots and explosions, BBC reported.

Initial images shown by the NTV television channel were of a large cloud of smoke in front

## Isfahan's historical fabric boundaries set for revision



TEHRAN - Legal boundaries for Isfahan's historical fabrics will undergo updates to enhance their preservation, the provincial tourism chief said on Wednesday.

Amir Karamzadeh stated that this revision aims to address growing challenges resulting from population growth and the evolving urban landscape.

"Our primary concern is to implement expert measures to optimize the protection of the historical areas," he said.

Karamzadeh emphasized that some decision-makers have not adequately distinguished between old and historical zones, leading to potential risks for heritage sites.

He underscored the importance of taking a scientific approach to reviewing the historical zones, considering the city's urban development in recent decades.

"Many areas of Isfahan's historical fabric, particularly around the Zayanderud river and its five iconic bridges, have experienced dissonance in construction styles due to modern developments," Karamzadeh noted.

He assured the public that the boundary revision project would be conducted at a national level by senior experts, with funding provided by the provincial Department of Cultural Heritage.

"We want heritage enthusiasts to know that this project will be comprehensive, en-

suring that Isfahan's historical essence is preserved for future generations."

Isfahan was once been a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons as it is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

Isfahan, the provincial capital, is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility. Isfahan has long been nicknamed Nesf-e-Jahan, which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see half the world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside. The huge Imam Square, best known as Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (literary meaning "Image of the World"), is one of the largest in the world (500m by 160m), and a majestic example of town planning. Constructed in the early 17th century, the UNESCO-registered square is punctuated with the most interesting sights in Isfahan.

Apart from its cultural heritage gems, Isfahan is home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts. A top destination when it comes to medical tourism, the ancient city is also home to a gigantic, professional, and state-of-the-art healthcare city, which is a major destination in the realm of medical tourism.

## Tourism is a key economic asset for Iran, head of Planning and Budget Organization says

TEHRAN - Hamid Pour-Mohammadi who presides over Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), has emphasized the importance of tourism as a vital driver of the nation's economy, urging comprehensive planning to fully harness its potential.

In an interview with CHTN, Pour-Mohammadi stated, "Tourism is one of Iran's key economic strengths, and we believe that attracting tourists is essential for our economic growth."

He noted that tourism, alongside cultural heritage and handicrafts, remains a top priority for the PBO.

The official also highlighted Iran's rich cultural and historical heritage as a major advantage, adding that the country's tradition of hospitality, rooted in Iranian-Islamic civilization, makes it a welcoming destination for visitors.

"Iran is also one of the most affordable travel destinations in the world," he said, underlining the need for comprehensive national policies to maximize this potential.

He also pointed to the country's natural, cultural, religious, and health tourism opportunities, along with its year-round climate, emphasizing that nationwide cultural heritage sites ensure that



tourists can find significant historical and cultural landmarks in every region.

"Preserving and promoting our national and Islamic heritage is essential for the sustainability of tourism," he added.

"By doing so, we not only protect our identity but also build a stronger foundation for economic growth through tourism."

Pour-Mohammadi also highlighted the importance of handicrafts, noting that they serve both as cultural ambassadors and drivers of economic development.

"Handicrafts create employment opportunities with minimal

investment and offer export potential, which is why we are committed to supporting artisans and promoting the industry."

His remarks reflect the government's growing focus on tourism and cultural heritage as tools for economic diversification.

Iran's tourism industry witnessed a 21% upsurge in 2023, signaling a strong recovery in the post-COVID-19, according to data compiled by the World Travel and Tourism Council.

According to the WTTC, the increase was part of a broader recovery following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw the

industry plummet by 45% in 2020.

In comparison, the years 2021 and 2022 boasted growth rates of 40% and 39%, the data revealed.

As per records, Iran's tourism sector not only expanded its share to 4.7% of the national economy in 2023 but also boosted its market value to 7400 trillion rials.

The rate of employment in this sector grew by 10.3%, with 1.6 million people working in tourism, which accounts for 6.6% of the country's total employment, according to the WTTC report.

Furthermore, WTTC forecasts that in 2024, the tourism industry in the Islamic Republic will continue its upward trajectory with a predicted growth of 12.1%, potentially reaching a market value of 8300 trillion rials.

As revealed by the annual report, foreign tourists in Iran spent a substantial 700 trillion rials in 2023, showcasing an 83.6% increase compared to the previous year.

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

## Spanish ambassador visits National Museum of Iran

TEHRAN - On Tuesday, the Spanish ambassador to Iran, Antonio Sánchez-Benedito, and his wife toured the National Museum of Iran.

They were accompanied by Jebrael Nokandeh, the museum's director-general, and Ali Pakdaman, the former director-general of public diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation visited the Iran Bastan Museum, emphasizing the exhibition of Achaemenid

tablets, which returned to Iran from the U.S. recently.

Concluding the visit, Nokandeh presented two catalogs showcasing collaborative exhibitions between the Alicante Museum in Spain and the National Museum of Iran, highlighting the ongoing cultural exchange between the two countries.

Chock-full of priceless objects showcasing the juicy history of the nation, the National



Museum showcases ceramics, pottery, stone figures, and carvings, mostly taken from excavations at Persepolis, Ismail Abad (near Qazvin), Shush, Rey, and Turang Tappeh to name a few.

## Exhibit on preservation and restoration of museum objects opens in Tehran

TEHRAN - A special exhibition showcasing preservation and restoration efforts for museum artifacts from across Iran was inaugurated yesterday at the National Museum of Iran.

The exhibition titled "Selected Preservation and Restoration Efforts of Museum Objects Nationwide," opened in the presence of several officials, regional and national managers, experts, and professional conservators, ILNA reported.

It features 69 restored cultural and historical objects from both the public and private sectors. These items span a wide range of periods, from the first millennium BC to the contemporary era, and include a variety of artifacts such as ceramics, seals, metal tools, coins, manuscripts, paintings, glassworks, and textiles.

According to organizers, the purpose of the exhibition is

to highlight the importance of preserving cultural heritage by showcasing the extensive work done to safeguard historical artifacts. It aims to raise public awareness about the significance of conservation and inspire greater appreciation for the maintenance of the nation's cultural and historical treasures.

The exhibition will remain open to the public until November 4, inviting enthusiasts of history and culture to explore the restored works and learn more about the conservation efforts behind them.

The National Museum of Iran is somewhat chock-full of priceless relics that represent various eras of the country's juicy history. Massive and tiny statues, ceramics, pottery, stone figures, bas-relief carvings, metal objects, textile remains, rare books, and coins are amongst the objects that build up the innumerable collections inside.

## A museum dedicated to barbecue is opening soon

Burnt ends, whole hogs, smoked brisket or dry-rub ribs? Few foods stir more debate than barbecue, and a new museum opening next year aims to look at all aspects of beloved barbecue culture.

"With big flavors and big personalities, you're going to have an opinion about barbecue."

And once you've been to two barbecue restaurants, you'll definitely be ready to debate which is the better one," Museum of BBQ founder Jona-

than Bender told CNN Travel.

Billed as the "world's first museum of barbecue," its location in Kansas City, Missouri, will no doubt kick off the great regional barbecue rivalries with arguments from some corners that such an institution dedicated to expertly cooked meat might be better suited to Texas or the Carolinas or Memphis, Tennessee.

The Museum of BBQ's interactive exhibits will get into the different regions and styles of barbecue after

it gives visitors an education about barbecue's elements: meat, rub/spice, wood, fire, smoke and sauce.

And of course, the gift shop will feature sauces, rubs and other barbecue-themed items.

Set to open in spring 2025, the museum will occupy a 4,223-square-foot space at Crown Center shopping center in Kansas City.

(Source: CNN)

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo

The frescos of the Ivanovo churches reveal exceptional artistry and a remarkable artistic sensitivity for 14th-century painting and Bulgarian medieval art; they are an important achievement in the Christian art of South-Eastern Europe.

Posterior to the Khora monastery mosaics (Karia Djami) of 1303 - 10, these frescoes, by their very expressiveness surpass any other historical monuments discovered, characteristic of the Palaeologues style.

Neo-classical in spirit and in elements of their subjects, the frescoes represent a departure from the canons of Byzantine iconography.


They show close ties with expressive Hellenistic art and a clear preference for the nude, the landscape, an

architectural background in a composition, drama, an emotional atmosphere - qualities which combine to make an exceptional masterpiece of the Tarnovo school of painting and monumental art.

The five historical monuments in this group (chapels, churches, etc.), dating from the 13th and 14th centuries, serve as examples that pave the way for the distinctive character development, and mastery in the art of the Second Bulgarian State.


The richness, the variety of the cells, chapels, churches, monastery complexes, and the original architectural solutions - all set in a magnificent natural environment - confirm the value of this extraordinary historical grouping.

(Source: UNESCO)



In the name of Allah

**The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance**



**17<sup>th</sup> International Award on Cultural Research (IACR)**

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, introduces the best works and presents the researchers with a plaque of appreciation and a fine prize. It aims to appreciate and support the researchers who research in various cultural, art, and communication fields. Scientific and research centers, Iranian and foreign researchers, and experts if they have studied one of the topics of the CFP between 2023 and September 2024 (in the domestic division) and 2023 to 2024 (in the international division), are invited to send their studies to the festival secretariat. Research in the culture and cultural issues in/about Iran may be in one of the formats of a research project, master's thesis, doctoral thesis, authored book, paper (highly cited), or policy report. Pathological works that are practical and include solutions are given priority. The works of non-Iranian researchers are only accepted in the field of Islam and Iran.

**Topics**

**New technologies and cultural future studies**

- Startups
- Scholars
- Artificial intelligence
- Creative and cultural industries
- Expos
- Cultural marketing

**Art**

- Philosophy of art and sociology of art
- Traditional and Islamic arts
- History and stylistics of art
- Economy and art market
- Art education
- Management and artistic organizations
- Literary research and Persian language
- Art and literature of revolution and resistance
- Islamic Iranian architecture and urban planning
- Cinema and performing arts
- Music
- Artistic diplomacy

**Culture**

- Public culture
- Cultural history
- Theoretical issues of culture
- The cultural situation of Iran today
- The realms of culture (books and reading, etc.)
- Cultural diplomacy
- Cultural communication

**Religious and Islamic research**

- Quranic research and rhetoric
- History of Islam and Shiism
- History and biography of Ahl al-Bayt
- Studies of modern Islamic civilization
- Mysticism and Sufism
- Arbaeen studies
- Jurisprudence studies (art and communication jurisprudence)
- Islamic studies and the Islamic world
- Pilgrimage studies and religious rites and rituals and religious institutions
- Nazr and endowment
- Mosque studies

**Media and communication**

- Media studies
- Governance of Cyberspace
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**last deadline for work submission :5November 2024**

**date of the festival's closing: Research Week, December 2024**

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Mailbox: 14155-6676, Postal code: 1416783841, Tel. +982188919176, Telefax: +98217893076, e-mail: [ertebatat17@ricac.ac.ir](mailto:ertebatat17@ricac.ac.ir)

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# Importance of social resilience, responsibility against climate change

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN –Climate change, global warming, seasonal transitions, and intense drought in the world have not only destroyed the environment but have also made people's lives more difficult.

Every year, October 24 is commemorated as the International Day against Climate Change by the UN.

It highlights the significance of raising awareness of climate change threats, taking actions to address its adverse effects, as well as boosting community resilience to climate change.

Climate change is a long-term atmospheric-oceanic phenomenon on a global scale, which is affected by factors such as solar as well as human activities.

It has caused long-term fluctuations on the planet affecting various regions.

Changes in seasonal patterns, wildfires, drought occurrence, and a global surge in diseases are just a few examples of climate change consequences.

Human-induced climate change is the biggest and most pervasive threat to the natural environment and societies that the world has ever experienced, and the poorest countries are paying the highest price.

In Iran, like other parts of the world, climate change has impacted parameters like precipitation, temperature, wind, amount of snowfall, and runoff.

Over the past decades, the number of weather-related extreme events and weather hazards has increased drastically, like torrential rains hitting the country during unusual times, ISNA reported.



In recent years, the issue of climate change, global warming, and the loss of comfort in cities has been ignored by governments and mayors.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) report on the State of the Climate in Asia, enumerating climate hazards and severe weather events in Iran in 2023, extreme events such as floods, drought, dust storms, and strong winds that affected the country.

According to the report, below-normal rainfall in most regions of Iran for the third consecutive year in 2023 has led to widespread drought in the country.

The eastern half experienced severe rainfall shortage within the year. Decreased rain and severe drought in the region along with above-normal temperatures have resulted in the drying up of the main inland lakebed, the Hamoun Lake.

In Iran, autumn 2023 was much warmer than normal with severe shortages of rainfall throughout the country.

Severe dust storms hit most parts of Asia. In mid-September,

a dust storm affected Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan causing serious health problems.

High winds in the southeast of the country from September 18 to 25, caused severe dust storms resulting in severe injuries and hospitalization.

Levar wind along with the dust from dried Hamoun wetland affected the region, causing adverse health effects, closure of schools, transportation hazards, and damage to crops.

The number of weather-related extreme events and weather hazards has increased drastically.

The flood that struck Astara city from September 17 to 19 significantly affected 300 households. The flood resulted from intense and prolonged rainfall in

Astara on September 18.

Within a span of 12 hours, 220 mm of rain was recorded causing profound damage.

The Paris Climate Agreement is one of the most important international agreements on climate change, highlighting the need for joint action to maintain the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial revolution by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In the Iranian calendar year 1395 (2016-2017), Iran agreed to the Paris agreement. Nevertheless, it has not been implemented in the country, yet.

Conference of the Parties (COP) is one of the many conferences held globally on climate change.

The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29) will convene in November in Baku, Azerbaijan.

This event will include the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29), the 19th meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 19), and the sixth meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 6) that will convene to complete the first enhanced transparency framework and the new collective quantified goal on finance, among other matters.

The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP.

A key task for the COP is to review the reports submitted by Parties on their greenhouse gas emissions and climate action.

## Isfahan hosting AI Event 2024

TEHRAN –Supported by the Vice-Presidency of Science and Technology, the second Isfahan Artificial Intelligence (IAI) Event kicked off on Wednesday in Isfahan and will conclude on Friday.

The event aims to bring together faculty members, academicians, experts, and students to discuss the latest developments in the field of AI.

Sharing and showcasing the capacities and the latest achievements of the national and international knowledge-based companies in the field of artificial intelligence is the other goal of the event, ISNA reported.

One of the main goals of IAI is to improve the quantitative and qualitative level of the economy based on artificial intelligence which will consequently develop the artificial intelligence ecosystem in the country through fostering international businesses and the internationalization of the capacities and capabilities of individuals and companies.

The IAI is composed of four sections.

AI gatherings, meetings, and expert panels: more than 500 individuals active in AI are attending the events.

The exhibition of the latest AI achievements: A total of 100 companies have registered in the exhibition to showcase their products in artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence investment event: six large economic units are participating in the event. Currently, the investment axes are AI in steel, petroleum refining, and mining industries.

Artificial intelligence competitions: 179 teams have participated in 5 competitions based on real data.

The competitions serve as a platform for providing innovative solutions based on data and artificial intelligence tools.

Fostering effective teamwork and networking, as well as sharing expertise and exchanging ideas among active people in AI are among other main objectives of this section.

### Iran to become a leading country in AI

In January 2022, Shahram Moein, head of the innovation and development center of artificial intelligence at the Research Institute of Information and Communication Technology, said, "Iran will be placed among the top 10 countries in artificial intelligence (AI) by 2032 based on the national document on artificial intelligence strategy."

The study of the national artificial intelligence development roadmap started two years ago at the Research Institute of Information and Communication Technology and was officially completed by the end of November 2021.

According to a report released by the Web of Science database, Iran ranks first for the highest number of documents in artificial intelligence (AI) among Islamic countries.

The country issued 2,638 AI documents between 2013 and 2022. Saudi Arabia (2,465) and Turkey (2,303) were ranked second and third, respectively, IRIB reported.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Iran suspends China flights due to coronavirus

Iran has restricted all flights and recreational travels to and from China due to coronavirus outbreak, IRIB news agency reported on Saturday.

Health Minister Saeed Namaki said that screening and surveillance is underway across all the country's air and sea borders, and no cases of coronavirus have been reported so far.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Mehdi Gooya, head of the health ministry's center for infectious diseases, told IRNA that rumors that the novel coronavirus has reached Iran's neighborhood are untrue, according to reports by the World Health Organization.

Gooya went on to say that the novel coronavirus has not been reported in Iraq, Kurdistan of Iraq, Pakistan or any of the neighboring countries and the only country in the region which has confirmed the virus, is the UAE.

### لغو پروازهای ایران - چین برای پیشگیری از شیوع ویروس کرونا

ایران تمام پروازهای به مقصد چین و بالعکس را برای پیشگیری از شیوع ویروس کرونا بطور موقت لغو کرده است.

به گزارش خبرگزاری صدا و سیما، سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت، گفت غربالگری و مراقبت‌ها در همه مرزهای زمینی، هوایی و دریایی کشور در حال انجام است و هیچ موردی در خصوص ابتلا به ویروس کرونا مشاهده و گزارش نشده است.

در همین حال، به گزارش ایرنا، محمد مهدی گویا رییس مرکز مدیریت بیماری‌های واگیر وزارت بهداشت اعلام کرد آنچه شایعه شده که ویروس کرونای جدید به همسایگی ایران رسیده، بر اساس گزارش‌های سازمان جهانی بهداشت صحت ندارد.

## RCSK invites IRCS to boost services in Kyrgyzstan

TEHRAN –The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) has said it welcomes the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) to expand services in Kyrgyzstan.

During a meeting held on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which will be held from October 28 to 31 in Geneva, Switzerland, the head of the IRCS, Pirhossein Kolivand, and his Kyrgyz counterpart discussed ways to enhance cooperation.

The Kyrgyz official asked the IRCS to launch a medical center, a rehabilitation clinic, and a joint medical university in Kyrgyzstan, as well as export medicines, and medical equipment made by the IRCS, and provide healthcare staff to the RCSK.

Highlighting the IRCS capabilities, Kolivand for his part, said that the Iranian Red Crescent Society manages 16 medical and rehabilitation centers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Also, two specialized hospitals are providing services in Dubai and Iraq.

Over three million volunteers and some 70,000 relief workers are cooperating with the organization to provide rescue services during emergencies, Kolivand stressed.

### MOUs with 19 societies over three years

The IRCS has signed memorandums of understanding with red crescent societies

of 19 countries over the past three years to expand and enhance cooperation in humanitarian as well as rescue and relief operations.

The IRCS has been always among the first societies to dispatch rescue forces and provide relief services in both national and international hazards, the IRCS website quoted Razieh Alishvandi, the IRCS director for international affairs, as saying.

The IRCS looks forward to boosting cooperation with other societies to promote awareness, resilience, and capabilities of the societies in confrontation with disasters and the provision of relief services.

### IRCS is a top organization

In May, Kolivand said the IRCS is recognized as one of the five prominent societies worldwide thanks to its wide range of activities and great achievements both nationally and internationally.

He made the remarks on the occasion of the World Red Cross Day which is celebrated on May 8.

He highlighted the capabilities, dedication, and selflessness of the IRCS women, who work hard in different sectors.

The official went on to elaborate on the IRCS's effectiveness.

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

## Some 2 million illegal refugees to be expelled: official

TEHRAN – By the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2025), two million undocumented foreign nationals who are residing and working in the country will be located and sent back to their home countries, the Iranian Police Chief, Brigadier General, Ahmad Reza Radan, has said.

They have entered the country through illegal channels, Mehr news agency quoted the official as saying.

### Organization for immigrant, refugee rights to take shape

The establishment of a national organization responsible for protecting the rights of immigrants and refugees is in the final stages, the deputy chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said in August.

The organization will utilize a precise and managed approach to organize foreign nationals, deal with undocumented migrants, and maintain the security and peace of the country, Mehr news agency quoted Ebrahim Azizi as saying.

Deportation of undocumented nationals is the right of the people, and we must stand firm against illegal immigration to the country, the official stated.

The entry of immigrants without observing requirements for legal entry is against the national interests and security of the country, and all institutions are responsible in this regard.

### Iran may rethink refugee policies if global support is not enough

In case the international community refrains from taking responsibility and fairly sharing the burden of hosting refugees, the Islamic Republic of Iran will probably revise its immigration policies, Nader Yar-Ahmadi, an official with the National Organization for Migration, has said.

Yar-Ahmadi, leading a delegation, participated in the 75th Annual Session of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (ExCom) held from October 14 to 19 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The official made the remarks in a meeting held on the sidelines of the annual session with Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Lauding the support and the efforts of the UNHCR in Iran, the Iranian official said the increase in foreign nationals' population along with educational, economic, cultural-social, and health infrastructure pressure on one hand and the lack of consistency between the UNHCR budget and the needs and costs of refugees in the country on the other hand have caused numerous problems, IRNA quoted Yar-Ahmadi as saying.

The official emphasized less than one percent of the costs of refugees have been paid for; hosting more refugees is improbable, and they have to return to their home country.

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



## Ardebil hosts first autumn snowfall

The northwestern city of Ardebil experienced the first snowfall on Wednesday, causing some schools and educational centers across the city to be shut down.

# Brick by Brick, Xi Jinping drives BRICS cooperation



Chinese President Xi Jinping poses for a group photo with other leaders attending the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue in Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 24, 2023. (Xinhua/Li Xueren)

As Chinese President Xi Jinping and a host of other leaders gather in Kazan, Russia, for the 16th BRICS summit, the world is once again turning its limelight on the burgeoning international mechanism for how it will push forward self-development and respond to global woes.

A steadfast champion of BRICS cooperation, Xi once compared its five members back then to the five fingers of one hand: They are short and long if extended, but form a powerful fist if clenched together. Now that hand has grown bigger and stronger, as its membership expanded last year, yet the essence of Xi's metaphor is just becoming more relevant.

With the world trudging on in a new period of turbulence and transformation, the leader of the largest developing country is poised to help guide BRICS, the leading echelon of the Global South, to play a bigger role in building a better shared future for humanity.

## GOLDEN VALUE

BRICS, an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is literally called "gold bricks" in Chinese, indicating optimism for its great potential and shining future.

The sanguine view features prominently in Xi's engagement with the group. He has consistently placed BRICS high on China's foreign policy agenda. His first appearance on the multilateral stage as China's head of state was at the 2013 BRICS summit in Durban, South Africa, and he visited all other four BRICS countries during the first two years of his presidency.

"China led by President Xi Jinping has contributed significantly to the success of BRICS," noted Bunn Nagara, a senior China researcher in Malaysia.

Thanks to the joint efforts of its members, the golden value of BRICS has kept rising. World Bank data show that the share of BRICS in global GDP grew from 18 percent in 2010 to about 26 percent in 2021, with increases in all years during the period.

Among the drivers of its remarkable growth is a strong orientation toward real results. "BRICS is not a talking shop, but a task force that gets things done," Xi once stressed.

Following this spirit, practical cooperation has always been the foundation of the BRICS mechanism, a good example of which is the launch of the New Development Bank (NDB). Headquartered in Shanghai, the multilateral

institution had approved 105 projects in all member countries for approximately 35 billion U.S. dollars by the end of 2023.



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the extraordinary joint meeting of BRICS leaders and leaders of invited BRICS members on the situation in the Middle East with particular reference to Gaza on Nov. 21, 2023. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

In view of BRICS' evolving development needs, Xi, at the 2017 summit in China's coastal city of Xiamen, joined other member leaders in formally incorporating cultural and people-to-people exchanges into the engines of BRICS cooperation, in order to further enhance the bond between these nations and reinforce the foundation of BRICS interaction.

Powered by the three engines, namely political and security, economic and financial, as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges, the BRICS cooperation has witnessed even more substantial progress and growing popular support.

The unique value of the BRICS cooperation goes beyond economic terms, and the mechanism is an innovation of international cooperation, which is in marked contrast to some protectionist, exclusive political, military or economic alliances in the West, said Wang Lei, director of the BRICS Cooperation Research Center at Beijing Normal University.

In Xi's words, the BRICS cooperation transcends the old formula of political and military alliances, the old mindset of drawing lines on the basis of ideology as well as the obsolete notion of

"you-win-I-lose" and "winner-takes-all."

The golden track record, as many observers have pointed out, has not only amply busted various gloom-and-doom claims such as that BRICS is nothing but "a motley crew," but also significantly increased its appeal to the rest of the world.

## GREATER BRICS

On Aug. 24 morning last year, the Sandton Convention Center in Johannesburg erupted with applause upon the announcement of BRICS' historic expansion. That, Xi said at the press conference, demonstrates "the determination of BRICS countries and developing nations to unite."

Since the inception of the BRICS mechanism, openness and inclusiveness have remained its members' abiding commitment. Xi has repeatedly emphasized that BRICS countries gather not in a closed club or an exclusive circle. "A tree cannot make a forest," he said as early as at his BRICS summit debut in Durban in 2013. A year later at the Fortaleza summit in Brazil, he proposed the "BRICS spirit" of openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation.

With such an open mind, the group developed a tradition of inviting leaders of other countries to its summits. Then at the 2017 gathering in Xiamen, an ancient port city that has evolved into a dynamic hub in China's opening-up and reform, Xi built on that outreach practice and put forward the "BRICS Plus" program, encouraging more participation of other emerging markets and developing nations.

In fact, this southern Chinese city of Xiamen happened to be where Xi came to work as deputy mayor in 1985 at 32. Now, under Xi's initiative, an innovation base for the BRICS partnership on the new industrial revolution has taken root there.

Over the years, with profound changes reshaping the world at a degree rarely seen in history, the Chinese president has unwaveringly championed openness and cooperation. "Under the new circumstances, it is all the more important for BRICS countries to pursue development with open doors and boost cooperation with open arms," Xi said at the 14th BRICS summit in 2022.

A year later, more than 60 countries gathered in Johannesburg for the BRICS summit. The gathering "is not an exercise of asking countries to take sides, nor an exercise of creating bloc

confrontation," Xi said. "Rather, it is an endeavor to expand the architecture of peace and development"

Other than the countries that became new full members on Jan. 1, 2024, more than 30 nations have also formally applied to join BRICS, while many other developing countries are seeking deeper cooperation with the group.

"There is a reason why these countries choose to join BRICS," said Mekhri Aliev, a board director of the BRICS innovation base in Xiamen. "Because they see future, they see potentials and opportunities within the BRICS."

## BIGGER VOICE

Three months after its expansion decision, BRICS convened an extraordinary joint summit on the Gaza situation with leaders of invited members, as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. That was a first-of-its-kind meeting for the group. The meet-

ing, as Xi said, marks "a good start" for greater BRICS cooperation following its enlargement.

Commenting on this summit, Al Jazeera said that leading countries of the Global South are looking for "a greater say in a global order dominated by the West." Steven Grudz, an analyst at the South African Institute of International Affairs, said: "It does reflect on the

modernization of more developing countries. Rousseff shares Xi's vision. "It is a vision that we don't want BRICS to speak just for a few countries. What we want is for most countries to be part of BRICS," she told Xinhua.

As Xi has observed, strengthening global governance is the right choice if the international community intends to share development opportunities

and tackle global challenges. "Economically, non-Western nations -- with BRICS at the vanguard -- are pushing the globe into a new reality: An emerging economic, social, and monetary status quo that is upending what the world has accepted as normal for nearly eight decades," Jeff D. Opdyke, a global investment expert, has observed.

To Guan Zhaoyu, a research fellow with the Eurasian Studies Institute at Renmin University of China, BRICS cooperation "is neither anti-Western nor aimed at overthrowing the existing global order, but rather constructively reforming its unfair aspects to give more opportunities to the developing world."

Xi maintains that development is an inalienable right of all countries, not a privilege of a few countries. Under his grand vision to build a community with a shared future for mankind, China has been joining hands with other developing countries in advancing their re-

growing assertiveness and confidence of the BRICS grouping, not waiting for the West."

Effective coordination between BRICS members and other Global South countries is "adding more bricks to the global governance architecture," said Wang Lei, the Chinese expert with Beijing Normal University.

The New Development Bank (NDB) exemplifies this effort. "The establishment of the bank serves as a beneficial supplement and improvement to the existing financial system," Xi said, "which can encourage deeper reflection and more active reforms in the global financial system."

During a meeting with Dilma Rousseff, former Brazilian President and incumbent NDB chief, in Beijing in 2023, Xi called on the NDB to help with the



Young Chinese and Russians perform on stage in Moscow, Russia, Sept. 22, 2024. The annual launch of "UPanda Cinema" and the BRICS film and cultural exchange event is participated by over 900 representatives from media organizations, film institutions, and youth groups of BRICS countries. (Xinhua/Bai Xueqi)



A visitor views a model of Xiamen Metro train at the exhibition of BRICS New Industrial Revolution 2024 in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province, Sept. 10, 2024. (Xinhua/Lin Shanchuan)



This aerial photo taken on Sept. 28, 2021 shows the headquarters building of New Development Bank (NDB) in east China's Shanghai. (Xinhua/Fang Zhe)



A villager washes utensils at a water supply pipeline at village Gora in Bhopal, capital of India's Madhya Pradesh state, June 22, 2022. The rural water supply project is funded by the New Development Bank. (Xinhua)

