

# Clear-cut Command 'Zionist regime must realize Iran's power and resolve'

Opinion **T**

## Iran owes security to his wisdom

By Mohammad Sarfi  
Editor-in-Chief

TEHRAN - At the end of his speech on Sunday with the families of the martyrs of security, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei pointed to Israel's pre-dawn attack on Iran on Saturday. Although his remarks were brief, they carried great significance as his first reaction following the assault on Iran.

The first noteworthy point is that the meeting took place in the same venue where the Leader holds meetings with the people. It demonstrated that despite some recent claims by certain Western and pro-Israel media outlets that the Iranian leader is in hiding, his scheduled meetings are continuing at the same place.

In the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei approached the subject realistically, criticizing both the exaggeration of the Israeli attack and warning against downplaying it. This logical approach comes at a time when Tel Aviv is attempting to amplify the incident, claiming it has achieved all its objectives, while simultaneously asserting that Iranian officials are trying to downplay the operation to avoid a response. The position of the Leader, as the foremost authority in the country, refutes this claim and indicates that the policy of the Islamic Republic is grounded in realism. **▶ Page 3**



▶ Page 3

## Iran and the response to Israel's aggression

By Abbas Akhondi

TEHRAN - The Israeli regime invaded the territory of Iran on Saturday. Iran's air defense system was targeted through this aggressive military attack. Responding to this act of aggression is Iran's inherent defense right.

While it is necessary to analyze the situation accurately, several principles should be considered. The first is the joint responsibility of Israel's supporters in this act of aggression. The second is the collective security of the nations of the region, and the third is to preserve the possibility of exiting the spiral of escalation of conflict, which is Israel's will.

1. According to the official announcements and the news broadcasted about this aggression, it seems that Israel targeted Iran's air defense system in this attack, which led to the martyrdom of four proud fighters of the country's Army. This apartheid regime had also targeted Iran's air defense system in its previous aggression against Isfahan. **▶ Page 2**

## Araghchi calls for UN action against dangerous escalation of Israeli aggression

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister has issued a strong condemnation of recent Israeli actions, urging swift action to mitigate a growing threat to peace and stability in the region.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and members of the Security Council, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi emphasized that Israeli operations in the region pose a serious risk to global peace and deepen instability in West Asia.

This letter, disclosed by Kazem Gharibabadi, Deputy for Legal and International Affairs at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, outlines Iran's concerns about the deliberate and unlawful aggressions by Israel.

In his letter, Araghchi urged the Security Council to convene an emergency meeting to address Israel's blatant act of aggression and to take a decisive stance in condemning Israel's actions. **▶ Page 3**

## Officials say Iran will respond to Israel's attack as public demand for retaliation grows

TEHRAN - Multiple Iranian officials have asserted Iran's right to respond to Israel's Saturday attack on the West Asian country's soil, as the nation mourns the loss of four soldiers who died in fending off the regime's airstrikes.

Hamzeh Jahandideh, Mohammad Mehdi Shahrokhifar, Sajad Mansour, and Mehdi Naqavi were martyred as Israel attacked defense radars located in the provinces of Khuzestan, Ilam, and Tehran. The four individuals were part of the Iranian Army's air defense forces, who managed to prevent dozens of Israeli fighter jets from entering Iran's airspace in the early hours of Saturday. The war jets used long-range ballistic missiles equipped with cluster warheads to shoot at their intended targets inside Iran. **▶ Page 2**

## Non-oil trade with neighbors up 23% in 7 months on year

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's non-oil trade with its neighboring countries increased 23 percent in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mohammad Rezvanifar put Iran's non-oil trade with its neighbors at 64.5 million tons worth \$41.1 billion in the seven-month period, IRIB reported.

He said trade with the neighbors also increased by 16 percent in terms of weight. **▶ Page 4**

## Tel Aviv truck-ramming: Israel given a taste of its own medicine

TEHRAN - The weekend's deadly truck-ramming attack in Israel appears to be the tip of the iceberg for the regime in the wake of growing resentment against its atrocities in Gaza and Lebanon.

A truck driver rammed his vehicle into a crowd of people at a bus stop near Gilot military base north of Tel Aviv on Sunday morning.

Nearly three dozen people were injured and the truck driver was shot dead. Israel media said on Sunday evening that a man died of wounds he sustained in the crash.

Ronit Glazer, of Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical services, described a chaotic scene in a video posted on X, as responders received a call of a "mass casualty event" near Gilot Junction, according to NBC News. **▶ Page 5**

## Japan stands with Palestine

TEHRAN - The people in the only country that has been hit by nuclear bombs, namely Japan, are getting more and more angry at the Israeli regime's genocidal war on the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The ongoing Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip following a Hamas retaliatory attack on Oct. 7, 2023, has drawn widespread international condemnation. The regime's insistence on continuing its offensive despite its failure to break the Gaza Resistance and also international outcry comes in violation of the UN Security Council resolution which calls for an immediate cease-fire.

Back in May, the International Court of Justice accused Israel of genocide and ordered a halt to its military operations in Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge before the city was invaded on May 6.

The Israeli regime's genocidal campaign has left over 42,900 Palestinians martyred and more than 100,000 wounded, according to Gaza health authorities. **▶ Page 5**

## Iranian freestylers win two golds at 2024 U23 Worlds

TEHRAN - Iran's freestyle wrestlers Amirhossein Firouzpour and Amirreza Masoumi won two gold medals in the 2024 U23 World Championships.

Two years after they won their first U23 world titles, Masoumi and Firouzpour repeated as U23 world champions in 125kg and 92kg respectively in Tirana, Albania.

Now a six-time age-group world champion, Masoumi showed another dominant performance in the tournament, outscoring his opponents 41-0. A month ago, Masoumi won the U20 world title as well.

Carrying the injured left elbow, Masoumi faced U23 European champion Alen KHUBULOV (BUL) in the final on Saturday and won 11-0 with yet another masterclass in underhooks and aggressive wrestling. Khubulov struggled to find an opening as Masoumi kept an eye on his attempted underhooks. **▶ Page 3**



© Mehr/Amir Berenjakar

## Thousands gather in Shiraz for funeral of Iranian woman martyred in Lebanon

The city of Shiraz witnessed a solemn gathering on Sunday as the funeral procession for martyr Masoumeh Karbasi began at Shohada Square in the Iranian city of Shiraz.

Karbasi 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.

## Scholars in Iran call for accountability after a year of Israeli violence

TEHRAN - Over 60 professors and academics from Iran's prestigious Sharif University of Technology have condemned a year of brutal Israeli violence in Gaza and Lebanon, simultaneously criticizing the West's deafening silence and inaction as a glaring display of hypocrisy.

In an impassioned letter, the scholars said they find the events that have transpired in the past year "appalling".

"We, a group of Iranian university professors and academics, wish to express our horror and outrage at the appalling crimes and acts of genocide committed by the State of Israel in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Southern Lebanon over the past year, from October 2023 to October 2024." **▶ Page 2**

TEHRAN PAPERS

Wait for the response

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

Kayhan devoted its editorial to Israel's Saturday morning attack on Iran. It wrote: Air defense systems countered the attacks of the Zionist regime in an admirable way. They prevented the enemy from hitting all the targets it desired to the extent that General McKenzie, the former commander of CENTCOM, said in an interview with CNN that the Israeli attack was disgraceful. I have told the Israelis many times, even when I was in charge of CENTCOM, that Iran's sky is impenetrable and the best way to attack Iran is terror. Although the Zionist regime did not succeed as it claimed, the aggression against Islamic Iran should not go unanswered. Iran's response to this aggression must be much more powerful than the destructive and powerful Operation True Promise II. We have the necessary strength and preparation to realize and implement it. All the undeniable documents clearly indicate that America is another party in the war. Therefore, in response to the recent aggression of the Zionist regime, we must also include the interests, resources, and military of the United States in our list of legitimate and legal goals.

Iran: Israel wants to, but it can't

The Iran newspaper reviewed the recent events in the region. The paper said: Iran fired 180 ballistic missiles at Tel Aviv and Israel's air defense systems did not work well. By regaining its command and operational power, Lebanon's Hezbollah intensified missile and drone attacks on the occupied territories. Despite the martyrdom of their leaders, the Palestinian resistance continues to harass the Israeli army and there is no news Yemen's Houthis are stopping their attacks. All these send a message to the Zionists and that is the threat to Israel and its inability to provide security. A massive attack and a big blow to Iran could restore Israel's position, at least in the public opinion of settlers, but what happened in the battleground was a limited attack on several Iranian defense systems. The fact is that no matter how successful the Zionist regime was in rhetoric against Iran, it did not achieve much success in the operational phase. Israel wanted but it couldn't take significant action against Iran. If Israel's blow to Iran is destructive, Iran's counter-blow to Israel will definitely be devastating.

Iran will stand firm against enemies, Zarif vows as Israeli violence engulfs the region

TEHRAN – Iran's vice president for strategic affairs has emphasized Iran's determination to stand firm against all enemies and defend its sovereignty, even in the face of potential Israeli military retaliation.

Mohammad Javad Zarif shared his sentiments on the social media platform X, stating, "I express my deepest sympathies for the martyrdom of the courageous defenders of our army who stood firm against the Zionist aggressors. I wish strength

Hamshahri: The aggressor will be punished

In a note, Hamshahri discussed Iran's strategic approach to Israel's pre-dawn attack on Saturday. It wrote: The aggressive attack of the Zionist regime on targets in three provinces in Iran was faced with a powerful response by the country's air defense systems and Israel failed to achieve its goals. Given the escalation of tensions by Israel, Iran's political and military officials have emphasized during the past months that the Islamic Republic does not seek to escalate tensions in the region, but at the same time "proportionate, decisive and calculated" response has been one of Iran's central strategies in facing the threats and aggressions of the Zionist regime. Iran has so far punished the Zionist regime for its aggressive actions during two missile operations. Tel Aviv has clearly understood that Iran will respond decisively to anti-Iran adventures based on its deterrence strategy. As the Leader said if it is necessary, the Zionist regime will once again suffer heavy blows from the Iranian armed forces.

Ham Mihan: Positive feedback from Israel's attack

Ham Mihan wrote about the positive feedback of Israel's attack on Iran: After several weeks of propaganda war and media publicity, Israel accepted responsibility for breaching Iran's territory for the first time and some decades of shadow war turned into a direct confrontation. Let's not forget that all the claimed power of the Israeli army is based on the indisputable domination of the sky in the region that Netanyahu said we can target anywhere in the Middle East we want. But it became clear that in its first serious and big test it was not successful in its attack on Iran as Iran is armed with an effective air defense system. But the events on Saturday morning put a new option on the table, and it is the defense power of the Iranian side against the attacks of the foreign enemy. Iran showed that in addition to offensive power, it also enjoys capable deterrence power. This is not something that can remain hidden from the eyes of external and internal observers. Moreover, the positive feedback of the Iranian market and economy towards this attack is a good sign and proof of it.

and pride to their families."

Zarif remarked, "Today, bolstered by the faith, bravery, and wisdom of the late Imam and our esteemed leader, along with the courage and sacrifices of our armed forces, including the army, IRGC, and police, our resilient nation has demonstrated that it can make the reckless aggressors, despite the extensive military, political, and propaganda backing from global tyrants, and will not shy away from defending this sacred land."

Officials say Iran will respond to Israel's attack as public demand for retaliation grows

From page 1 ▶ In a post on X, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran reserves the right to respond to Israel's latest aggression. "We strongly condemn the criminal attack on Iranian military centers as a violation of international law and the UN Charter. Four of our Army heroes sacrificed their lives in defeating this reckless and cowardly assault," he said before asking the international community to unite against "this common threat to international peace and security."

In his subsequent exchanges with his Syrian, Qatari, and Egyptian counterparts, Araghchi added that Iran will not hesitate to give a decisive and appropriate response to aggression against its territorial integrity and security "in due course".

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf was in the same mind as Araghchi as he addressed a parliamentary session behind closed doors on Sunday.

"The Islamic Republic will definitely react to the Zionist regime's most recent act of aggression," Qalibaf said during a speech at the beginning of the session which was made public. He said Israel's Saturday attack was done out of the regime's "passivity" but that doesn't



mean Tehran will not make Israelis pay for violating Iran's territorial integrity and national sovereignty. "The U.S. as the main sponsor of the Zionist regime, has to push for an end to the massacre of people in Gaza and Lebanon and restrain Israel from waging wars," the official stated.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian also said during a cabinet meeting a day after the attacks that Iran is not "looking for war" but will certainly respond to Israel's latest aggression.

Grief and anger spark calls for retaliation

Iran's successful defense against the Israeli attack seems to have instilled a sense of confidence among the Iranian people – a spirit reflected in a surge on the stock market hours

after the failed aggression.

Nevertheless, for a nation that hadn't experienced the loss of life from foreign airstrikes since the end of the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, Saturday's attack has also ignited a sense of outrage and a determination to ensure such an event never happens again.

"This is unacceptable," declared a 54-year-old Tehran resident. "The fact that we heard those explosions, that we were all aware of Israel's violation of our territorial integrity, means there must be a response. A response that will ensure they never dare to repeat this mistake."

The female citizen talking to Iranian media said the sounds that shook Tehran in the early hours of Saturday brought back memories of Saddam Hussein's airstrikes.

"We lost countless young lives defending our country then. We cannot allow the peace and security they sacrificed for to be threatened."

People from all sectors of the Iranian society have been echoing the same sentiments.

A lawmaker representing Iran's Jewish community urged the country's Armed Forces on Sunday to deliver a swift response to Israel.

"The ability of the Zionist army to penetrate into Iran's territory has been very weak, and the protection of the country's airspace by the defense system of our country was very effective and excellent," Homayoun Sameyah Najaf Abadi stated.

"Still, we support Iran's legitimate defense and demand Iran's decisive response to the aggressive act of the Zionist regime at the right time."

Israel's attack against Iran came 25 days after Tehran launched a barrage of 200 ballistic missiles at the occupied territories, successfully targeting several of the regime's military and intelligence sites. The operation dubbed "True Promise II" was a response to a series of Israeli terrorist attacks martyring a number of high-ranking Resistance figures.



Civilian pronounced dead after Israeli airstrikes on Iran, raising number of martyrs to five

TEHRAN – A civilian casualty has been reported in the aftermath of recent Israeli airstrikes against Iran, which occurred in the early hours of Saturday. Allahverdi Rahimpour, a civilian worker, tragically lost his life during these assaults.

According to Iranian media outlets, a farewell ceremony honoring the memory of Rahimpour was held on Sunday evening.

The Israeli strikes targeted military sites in Tehran, as well as in the provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan. Iran reported that most of the incoming projectiles were intercepted by its air defense systems.

In a separate statement, Iran's Army confirmed that four of its soldiers also lost their lives as a result of the pre-dawn attacks.

Iran and the response to Israel's aggression

From page 1 ▶ The extent to which this regime has been successful in its evil intentions requires additional and accurate information that is beyond the competence and ability of this writer.

However, it seems that it is thinking of continuing its aggression and is trying to weaken Iran's air defense to have more maneuverability in the event of a continuation of the conflict for the next time.

2. According to the regime's official announcement, its military operation will likely end at this stage, but this does not mean it is entirely over.

Based on the record of its actions, it is likely that Israel will attempt to assassinate some individuals or carry out other sabotage activities in Iran without accepting responsibility.

Therefore, Iran's intelligence system must be at a high level of vigilance.

3. Self-defense at the appropriate time is Iran's inherent right and has been internationally recognized and legitimized according to Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Principally, this response must include deterrence from further aggression by the aggressor. Before and during this aggression, and specifically, afterward, the United States and the United Kingdom consistently emphasized Israel's right to self-defense.

The United States has stated that it was not present during this aggressive operation, although there are doubts about this.

The United States and the United Kingdom, without condemning Israel's aggression and reaffirming its right to self-defense, have both called on Iran to refrain from responding to the aggression and to de-escalate tensions.

I suggest that in light of the

responsibility of the United States in arming Israel and its comprehensive financial, military, intelligence, and political support to it, and its request to Iran, it should commit to preventing further military aggression and sabotage by Israel, including anti-security and terrorist measures against Iran, and to establish a ceasefire in the region.

As a rule, the United States, which defends Israel within the limits of its 51st state, must accept responsibility for its support for it, and a commitment must accompany its request. In this case, this measure can be considered a deterrent measure. Otherwise, this request is meaningless.

4. The countries of the region have condemned Israel's aggression against Iran's territory with varying intensities and weaknesses. They are well aware that the expansionist idea of Zionism will include many Arab

lands, and as the Persian saying goes, "It is a camel that will sleep on their doorsteps as well".

With the participation of international and regional powers, the United Nations should take collective action to maintain the region's security.

Holding a peace conference in the region under the guidance and leadership of the United Nations can be a solution.

5. Iran, as a country whose territory has been invaded, must provide all the necessary facilities to defend its territory.

At the same time, the Islamic Republic should never forget diplomacy in the pursuit of military power – as it has not done, and it must always be prepared to get out of the spiral of escalation at the right time. Iran's national interest in establishing peace is entrenched. However, Israel's survival is in war and bloodshed.

Scholars in Iran call for accountability after a year of Israeli violence

From page 1 ▶ The academics specifically pointed to the destruction of homes, the displacement of millions, and the deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure, all in violation of international law.

"The State of Israel has effectively transformed the Gaza Strip into an extermination camp. The Israeli army has destroyed the homes of 2 million people in Gaza, displaced a million in Southern Lebanon, and devastated urban infrastructure in several West Bank cities through bombing and by heavy machinery. These horrific actions are blatant violations of international law and clear indicators of genocide in the occupied territories," the scholars stated.

The academics also criticized the West's silence on the atrocities, arguing that the international community's failure to hold Israel accountable for its actions is a grave injustice. "To our colleagues in the West, we

ask: if you consider the French partisans during the Nazi occupation, the resistance movements in Greece, in Belgium, in the Netherlands, and the armed resistance in Yugoslavia during World War II as legitimate, then you must also recognize the Palestinian resistance movement as righteous as well."

The letter also calls for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied territories.

"We call for an immediate ceasefire on all fronts and an end to the human slaughter by the Israeli military (IDF) everywhere.

Furthermore, we demand the withdrawal of the Israeli army from all occupied territories and call for the prosecution of all war criminals involved in the mass killings and assassinations in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Lebanon, akin to the trials of Nazi war criminals in 1945 and Serbian war criminals in the 1990s."



A man carries an injured child following Israeli bombardment at al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, June 16, 2024.

The statement concludes with a powerful plea to all peace-loving individuals: "We invite all peace-loving individuals and those with a clear human conscience, regardless of origin or nationality, to condemn these criminal actions by Israel."



A new mural was unveiled on Saturday in Palestine Square in Tehran, featuring a striking message written in both Hebrew and Persian: "Another storm is looming."

The unveiling of this mural comes in response to the recent Israeli aggression against Iran, during which the regime targeted military facilities in the provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam.

Iran's integrated air defense system effectively tracked and countered these attacks, resulting in only limited damage to certain areas.

# Clear-cut command

Zionist regime must realize Iran's power and resolve: Leader

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has hinted that Iran will be responding to Israel's Saturday attacks, telling the country's military officials to make Israel realize the power and resolve of Iran through a response they see fit.

"They (the Israelis) need to understand the power, determination, and innovation of the Iranian nation and its youth," he said during a Sunday meeting with families of Iran's fallen military personnel. "How to convey this power and resolve of the Iranian nation to the Zionist regime is for our officials to determine, and what is in the best interests of the nation and the country should be done."

The Leader further emphasized that Israel's evil act should "neither be exaggerated nor downplayed."

Israeli fighter jets fired long-range ballistic missiles at Iran's defense radars from Iraq's airspace in the early hours of Saturday. While the attacks were mostly repelled



and the regime's war jets were prevented from entering Iran's airspace, four military personnel serving the country's Army lost their lives during the airstrikes. One civilian was also pronounced martyred on Sunday.

During his Sunday remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei also condemned the appalling atrocities committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza, highlighting the martyrdom of tens of thousands of women and children

as emblematic of the most horrific war crimes. "War operates within a framework of rules, laws, and limitations. These limitations can't just be disregarded during a war. However, the criminal gang ruling over the occupied lands has trampled all boundaries and rules underfoot," he remarked.

Regarding the issue of confronting the Zionist regime, the Leader mentioned a major shortcoming on the part of governments, nations,

and international organizations such as the United Nations.

"What the regime did and is doing in Gaza and ... Lebanon is one of the most brutal war crimes," he pointed out. "The world must stand against them (the Zionists), governments must stand up, especially the Islamic governments."

Helping Israel is among "the worst and biggest sins," the Leader stressed, calling for the formation of a global political and economic coalition against the evil regime, and if deemed necessary a military one.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei warned that a weak nation that cannot defend itself will naturally lose its security.

"The thing that maintains the security for a country is its national power; it is the strength of that country ... in all fields," including science, economy, defense capability and producing and possessing weapons, he stated.

## Iran owes security to his wisdom

From Page 1 ▶ This realism has led him to publicly and explicitly emphasize the necessity of responding to Israel's attack, instructing the country's officials to decide on the manner of the response. The objective that Ayatollah Khamenei outlined regarding the aggressive Israeli regime is both intelligent and strategic: changing the enemy's miscalculations.

Israel believed that Iran, for various reasons, fears war, and this fear allows the regime to strike Iran without hesitation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran aims to demonstrate in practice to the enemy that this assumption is incorrect. Although Iran does not

desire war, it is not willing to pay any price to avoid it.

Conflict and security are often two opposing concepts, but sometimes engaging in a conflict is necessary to achieve security.

Iran's retreat in the face of the Israeli regime, which has massacred around 50,000 people in Gaza and Lebanon since October of last year and has crossed all red lines in its crimes, would be tantamount to suicide.

History has shown that nothing but power can prevent the invasions and crimes of this illegitimate regime, and security is not a matter that can be compromised or traded. Displaying

weakness in this regard opens the Pandora's box.

Two factors can lead to doubt and errors in decision-making and taking action: first fear and second reliance on the empty promises of the West regarding an end to the conflict.

Over the past three decades, Ayatollah Khamenei has shown that despite his intelligence and insightfulness in decision-making, he harbors no fear of the enemy's threats and simultaneously does not fall for empty promises. Today's security in Iran, despite all challenges and heavy external threats, is owed to this man.

## Araghchi calls for UN action against dangerous escalation of Israeli aggression

From Page 1 ▶ Araghchi's letter points to the Israeli attack as a clear infringement on Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity, calling it a violation of fundamental international laws.

He specifically highlighted Article 2, Paragraph 4 of the UN Charter, which forbids the use of force against another nation's sovereignty. By invoking this article, the foreign minister emphasized that these actions are not merely provocations but constitute serious violations that undermine the very principles of international governance and security.

The Iranian foreign minister further contextualized the attack within a broader pattern of hostility, citing Israel's military actions in Gaza and

Lebanon. He argued that Israel's actions are escalating violence across West Asia, destabilizing an already fragile region and posing a direct threat to global peace and security.

**'Israel is destabilizing an already fragile region and posing a direct threat to global peace and security'**

"This aggressive act is not an isolated incident but part of a systematic approach to war and regional destabilization," Araghchi stated, pointing to the impact on civilians

and infrastructure in neighboring regions.

Excerpts from the letter reveal the immediate consequences of the attack. "Although Iran's air defense systems successfully intercepted most of the projectiles," Araghchi noted, "the assault still caused damage to targeted sites and, more gravely, led to the martyrdom of four members of Iran's Armed Forces, who were defending our nation's security." This human toll, he emphasized, further underscores the need for accountability on the global stage.

In his letter, Araghchi affirmed Iran's commitment to adhering to the UN Charter and international law while preserving the nation's right to self-defense. "The Islamic Republic

of Iran reserves its inherent right to respond to this criminal aggression," he wrote, underscoring Iran's legal standing to defend itself against such actions. Meanwhile, Iran's Permanent Mission to the UN noted the United States' complicity in the Israeli aggression against Iran.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the mission said that Israeli warplanes used Iraqi airspace—currently under U.S. military control—to conduct their attack on Iranian military and radar sites.

"The Zionist regime's warplanes attacked several Iranian sites from Iraqi airspace, approximately 70 miles from Iran's border," the mission stated, asserting that the U.S. bears responsibility for enabling the aggression.

## Iran mourns terror victims, targets suspects in retaliation



TEHRAN – Iran's military went after terrorists responsible for the deaths of 10 soldiers and police officers in Sistan and Baluchestan, as the province's governor declared a day of mourning on Sunday.

Three terrorists were killed and one other was injured during a targeted drone strike on their hideout. The operation was conducted with the cooperation of Iran's police and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC). The injured terrorist has been detained and will be under investigation.

tion.

On Saturday morning, armed insurgents attacked a police patrol in Goharkouh, Taftan County, leading to the martyrdom of several police officers and soldiers. The so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group, known inside Iran as Jaish al-Zulm, has claimed responsibility for the recent attack, which took place around 1,200 kilometers (746 miles) southeast of Tehran.

The governor of Sistan-Baluchestan declared a day of public mourning across the province on Sunday to honor the lives of the victims.

Provincial officials, grieving families, and local citizens gathered to pay their respects to the martyrs, whose loss has left a deep impact on the community.

The bodies of the ten martyrs were brought to the Sistan-Baluchestan police headquarters, where a formal funeral ceremony was held. This solemn event, attended by families, government

officials, and local residents, included prayers and speeches that underscored the bravery and sacrifice of these fallen officers.

One of the martyrs will be laid to rest in Sistan-Baluchestan, where the community can continue to pay tribute.

The remaining nine bodies are being transported to their hometowns in the provinces of Gilan, Fars, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi, Yazd, and Golestan, allowing loved ones across the nation to mourn their loss.

The Sistan-Baluchestan province, which shares borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan, has seen multiple attacks targeting civilians and security forces in recent years.

Iran's Minister of Interior Eskandar Mo'meni has called for an immediate and thorough investigation into the incident, instructing officials to examine the circumstances and broader implications of the attack.

## Tehran rebukes UK PM's stance on Israeli aggression

TEHRAN – The Iranian Embassy in London has expressed its disapproval of the British Prime Minister's position regarding the recent aggressive actions taken by the Israeli regime against Iran, labeling it as inconsistent with international law and the principles outlined in the UN Charter.

In a statement posted on its official social media account on X platform, the Iranian Embassy criticized Prime Minister Keir Starmer's comments

suggesting that Iran should refrain from retaliating against Israel.

The Embassy emphasized that for the UK to align its stance with the UN Charter and international legal standards, it must unequivocally condemn the Israeli regime's actions as a violation of Iran's national sovereignty and advocate for a Security Council meeting to address and denounce these actions.

In response to the Israeli regime's aggression, on Saturday, Starmer advised that Iran should not retaliate and noted, "London, in collaboration with its allies, is closely monitoring the situation."

Starmer's remarks did not acknowledge the ongoing aggressions by the Israeli regime in the region over the past year, including the loss of life in Gaza and Lebanon, nor the assassination of a Hamas political

leader in Tehran. Instead, he asserted that Tel Aviv possesses the right to defend itself.

In light of these developments, the Iranian Foreign Ministry released a statement reiterating that the Islamic Republic of Iran views itself as both entitled and obligated to defend against foreign aggression, a right that is enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter.

### Iranian freestylers win two golds at 2024 U23 Worlds

From Page 1 ▶ The gold medal was the 20-year-old's sixth in the age-group World Championships and second at U23 level. However, he has Olympic silver medalist Amirhossein ZARE (IRI) as the biggest domestic competitor, and he will have to beat him next year to be Iran's representative on the senior team.

The bronze medals went to Abdulla Kurbanov (Individual Neutral Athlete) and Volodymyr Kochanov (Ukraine).

Iran's second gold as Firouzpour added his second U23 world title to take his total to five. Firouzpour gave up a takedown and turn against Jacob CARDENAS (USA) but looked in control of the 92kg final and won it 11-4.

Firouzpour, who had moved up to 97kg in a bid to be at the Paris Olympics, was back at 92kg at the start of this year and has won all the three tournaments he has participated in.

Firouzpour defeated his American rival Jacob Cardenas 11-4 in the 92kg final bout.

Mustafagadzi Malachdibirov (Individual Neutral Athlete) and Ion Demian (Moldova) won two bronze medals.

### Iran defeat Jordan at AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025 qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Jordan 4-2 to conclude their AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025 Qualifiers Group A campaign on Sunday.

With DPR Korea having already taken the top spot, Iran's hopes of advancing depend on the outcome of all 10 groups, with the best five second-placed sides to also advance to the Finals.

Hong Kong meet Syria in the final group fixture with neither team in a position to qualify.

Despite knowing that their fate was out of their hands, Iran started on the front foot and took the lead through Jordan captain Karz Shadi Alqasem's 15th minute own goal.

Jordan, already eliminated after suffering three defeats, fought back to draw level through defender Nour Aldeen Amro in the 37th minute with forward Mohammad Mustafa Aburomeh putting them ahead three minutes later.

Iran, however, turned on the power in the second half with defender Abolfazl Kazemi netting the equalizer in the 71st minute.

Strikes from forward Salman Ghafari (77th) and midfielder Mehrdad Agha Mohammadi (90+4, penalty) then confirmed the win.

### Iranian rower banned for seven years for doping

TEHRAN – Iranian rower Kia Skandani was banned for seven years after he was tested positive for the banned substance meldonium.

Meldonium is also known as mildronate, it increases exercise capacity in athletes.

In performance athletes, meldonium is now considered a doping agent due to its capacity to decrease lactate production during and after exercise, its capability to enhance the storage and utilization of glycogen, and its protective action against oxidative stress. He had also used clomifene, drostanolone propionate and metenolone in the domestic competition.

Skandani had won a bronze medal in the Men's double canoe competitions of the 2022 Asian Games. He will be ineligible from 13 July 2024 until 14 July 2031 for competition and other sporting activities. Furthermore, cross country runner Saber Charkhi has been banned for three years for testing positive for erythropoietin (EPO). He will be ineligible from 21 Aug. 2024 until 21 Aug. 2027.

### Mohebhi scores as Rostov lose to Akhmat Grozny

TEHRAN – Akhmat Grozny football team defeated Rostov 3-2 in the 13th round match of the Russian Premier League (RPL) on

Saturday.

Daniil Utkin opened the scoring for the visiting team in the 33rd minute. Nikolai Komlichenko leveled the score one minute later.

Lechi Sadulaev scored a double (36th minute, 51) and Mohammad Mohebi pulled a goal back in the 69th minute.

Akhmat Grozny won their first match in the current season of the Russian championship. Grozny are in 15th place in the RPL standings with nine points. Rostov are in ninth place with 13 points.

In the next match, Valery Karpin's team will play away against Moscow's Dynamo on November 1, and two days later, Akhmat will host Nizhny Novgorod's Pari NN.

### Saharkhizan on target for Orenburg: RPL

TEHRAN – Orenburg forward Saeid Saharkhizan scored against Rubin Kazan on Matchweek 13th of the 2024-25 Russian Premier League (RPL) on Sunday.

The Iranian forward was on target in the 27th minute at the Gazovic Stadium.

Veldin Hodza scored twice for the visiting team in the 48th and 87th minutes.

Orenburg remained at the bottom of the 16-team table with eight points, while Rubin Kazan moved up to 13th with 18 points.

Krasnodar lead the table with 30 points and one game in hands.

### International Volleyball Hall of Fame honors Rezaei

TEHRAN – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame welcomed its 2024 Class of Inductees on October 19 in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Among the nine honored were individuals who have profoundly influenced sitting volleyball, including Iran's Hadi Rezaei and the United States' John Kessel and the late Bill Kauffman, whose achievements in coaching, development and communications have helped elevate the sport on the global stage.

Rezaei, who was inducted as part of the Class of 2024, is one of the most successful figures in sitting volleyball history.

His career began as a standout athlete, leading Iran's men's team to gold medals at the Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996 Paralympics.

Rezaei's transition to coaching marked a new chapter of dominance for the Iranian team. Under his leadership, Iran claimed five more Paralympic golds, including Sydney 2000, Beijing 2008, Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and most recently in Paris 2024. Rezaei also guided the team to silver finishes in Athens 2004 and London 2012, further solidifying his reputation as the most decorated coach in sitting volleyball.

While Rezaei's induction highlighted his extraordinary achievements, the Hall of Fame also recognized others who have been instrumental in sitting volleyball's growth.

John Kessel, a recipient of the Mintonette Medallion of Merit Award, has been a key advocate for inclusive volleyball development through his work with World ParaVolley.

Kessel's efforts have centered on creating coaching resources and programs that promote sitting volleyball's accessibility and growth at all levels, worldparavolley.org reported.

Bill Kauffman, honored posthumously with the Media Excellence Award, was another pivotal figure in the promotion of sitting volleyball.

As a communications leader for USA Volleyball and World ParaVolley, Kauffman brought attention to sitting volleyball through detailed coverage of events, including the Paralympics.

His work ensured that the stories of athletes and coaches were told with depth and accuracy, increasing the sport's visibility and recognition.

## Iran's export to Tajikistan increases 33% in H1

TEHRAN- Iran's export to Tajikistan has risen 33 percent in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the vice chairman of Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee stated.

Making the remarks in a meeting between a Tajik Trade Delegation and a number of traders and businessmen from Iran's North Khorasan province, in Bojnourd, the center of the province, Kazem Shirdel said that the trend of the export of Iranian products to Tajikistan has been rising in recent years.

Stating that the people of Tajikistan are interested in using Iranian products, he added: "Fortunately, the Iranian goods exported to this country are of very high quality, and this makes the people of Tajikistan welcome Iranian goods."

In late September, senior energy officials of Iran and Tajikistan stressed their willingness to expand energy ties between the two countries.

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad discussed ways of expanding mutual cooperation with Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan Daler Juma in a meeting in Tehran at that time.

Speaking at the meeting, Paknejad said capable Iranian companies are ready to enter Tajikistan and Central Asian oil industry's upstream and downstream activities.

Referring to the cultural, language, civilizational, and historical commonalities of the two countries of Iran and Tajikistan, the oil minister said that expanding economic relations with the friendly and brotherly country of Tajikistan, especially in the energy sector, is of significant importance.

Paknejad continued that some effective steps have already been taken for expanding economic relations with Tajikistan which is hoped to be strengthened in the future.

Elsewhere, the official said that Iranian exploration and production companies with high capabilities are ready to enter Tajikistan and Central Asia's oil and gas market.

Juma for his part emphasized developing bilateral economic cooperation, particularly in the oil and gas sector, saying: "In 2023, the ceiling of trade exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan reached 300 million dollars, and based on forecasts, it seems that this figure will increase by 60 percent in the current year."

The Tajik minister noted that trade of crude oil and oil products between the two countries could double their trade exchanges, adding: "We hope that during the visit of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Tajikistan, the necessary preparations for expanding trade with Iran in the oil and gas sector will be made."

He noted that a significant portion of Tajikistan's crude oil and petroleum products' daily needs are currently met through imports adding: "Tajikistan has two oil refineries with a refining capacity of 500,000 tons per year to ensure its energy security."

"We are interested in having Iranian companies actively participate in Tajikistan's domestic market," he continued.

The Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan thanked the efforts of Iran's Oil Ministry for training Tajikistan's oil and gas industry specialists and requested the Iranian Oil Minister to provide the necessary assistance for conducting advanced courses.

Furthermore, he called for deploying Iranian knowledge-based companies' capabilities for exploration, development, and production from Tajikistan's oil and gas fields.

Juma also formally invited Paknejad and Iranian

oil industry experts to visit Tajikistan.

In the end, Iran's Oil Minister emphasized maximum assistance and cooperation with Tajikistan's Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

Meanwhile, in mid-June, Iran and Tajikistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the field of geomatics.

The MOU was signed by the Director General of the National Cartographic Center of Iran (NCC) Ali Javidaneh and the Chairman of the State Committee for Land Management and Geodesy of Tajikistan.

According to Javidaneh, the MOU was a turning point in enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

The Tajik official also termed the expansion of bilateral cooperation by implementing the agreement as an important step in solidifying and strengthening the bilateral relations, Mehr news agency reported.

Khojzoda Orif Ashuri added that the two countries enjoy high potential and capabilities to expand their cooperation in the relevant field.

Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran Zohidi Nizomidin Shamsiddinzoda, who attended the signing ceremony, expressed hope that Iran and Tajikistan would witness accelerated bilateral cooperation in the field of geomatic sciences and export of technical and engineering services.

Speaking in a later meeting with the head of Iran Mapping Organization to follow up the agreements inked previously between the two countries, the Tajik envoy stated that Iran and Tajikistan signed 44 cooperation documents in the previous three years, which shows that relations between the two countries are on a trajectory of growth.

He pointed to the expansion of relations between Tehran and Dushanbe and said the two sides signed 44 cooperation documents over the past three years.

The envoy underlined that Iran and Tajikistan have witnessed the expansion of political, economic and cultural relations over the past years.

He put the value of trade exchanges between the two countries in the last Iranian year (ended March 19, 2024) at \$270 million.

The presidents of the two countries agreed that the value of bilateral trade should reach \$500 million in near future and this shows that the bilateral cooperation is on an upward trajectory especially in the fields of trade and economy, the ambassador stressed.

Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe hosted the 16th meeting of Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee in late December 2023.

Former Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Tajikistan Energy and Water Resources Minister Daler Juma co-chaired the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting.

Meanwhile, the first specialized exhibition "Made in Iran" was also held on the sidelines of this meeting.

The exhibition, aimed at introducing the capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in basic industries, with the presence of 30 top Iranian companies, is being held in Dushanbe, during December 26-29.

Iran and Tajikistan on November 8, 2023 signed a joint statement and 18 cooperation documents and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to deepen bilateral strategic relations.

The joint statement was signed between late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe.

country's security at all levels by comprehensive planning and foreseeing all challenges."

He considered security to be the most basic driving force of any country and emphasized: "Carrying out any scientific, social, economic and political activities in a safe environment is the main responsibility of the police."

Rahimi pointed to economic activities that promote production and entrepreneurship as the complementary link for security and added: "Security is a public production that everyone in the country is responsible for."

# Non-oil trade with neighbors up 23% in 7 months on year

From page 1 ▶ The official named United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, and Russia as the top five trade partners of the country among neighbors in the mentioned seven months.

In the seven months of this year, Iran's trade with the UAE was \$16.2 billion, trade with Turkey was \$9.9 billion, exchanges with Iraq stood at \$7.6 billion, with Pakistan the figure was \$1.6 billion, and the Russian Federation traded \$1.5 billion of goods with Iran.

According to Rezvanifar, Iran exported 51.1 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$20.2 billion to the neighboring countries in the seven-month period of this year,



while importing 13.4 million tons of goods valued at \$20.9 billion.

Regarding Iran's main export destinations among the neighboring countries, he said: "Iraq,

the UAE, Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan were the five main export destinations of Iran among the neighboring countries."

"United Arab Emirates, Turkey,

Russia, Oman, and Pakistan were the five major sources of imports among the neighboring countries in the seven months of this year," the official added.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely the UAE, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

## Iran's exports to OIC member states rises 22%

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's exports to the members of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) increased by 22 percent in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

According to the IRICA, Iran exported 50.6 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$20.364 billion to OIC member countries in the first seven months of the current Iranian year, IRNA reported.

IRICA report added that the country's exports to OIC members registered a 15 percent increase in terms of weight in the mentioned period.

During the period under review, the import of products from the mentioned countries also increased by 14 percent and 21 percent in terms of value and weight, respectively.

Iran imported 12.4 million tons of commodities worth \$20.356 billion from OIC members in the mentioned period.



Iran's total trade exchanges with the aforementioned countries in the seven months of this year were 63 million tons worth \$40.7 billion, according to the IRICA.

In May 2023, the former head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) stressed the need to establish a joint Islamic market among OIC members over the next 10 years.

Addressing a gathering of the heads of OIC member chambers of commerce on the sidelines of the "Russia - Islamic World: Ka-

zan Forum 2023" in Russia, Gholam-Hossein Shafeie said: "An important issue that has been discussed a lot in the past and the organization should pay attention to it in the current situation is the creation of a common Islamic market in the next 10 years, which can be achieved by concluding a free trade agreement among Islamic countries and removing tariff and non-tariff barriers."

"Experts have worked on the Islamic market plan, and using the experiences and studies of these experts can be a way forward," he added.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which was formed in 1972, today has reached a position where, according to statistics, the future of the world's energy would be in the hands of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Shafeie said in his speech.

## Over 135m tons of goods loaded, unloaded at Iranian ports in 7 months

TEHRAN - Based on the latest data released by the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), some 135,555,142 tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at the country's ports in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21).

As reported, during the mentioned seven months more than 16.233 million tons of oil products and over 30.184 million tons of non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports, while the loading of oil products in ports was reported to be 46.75 million tons, and the loading of non-oil goods was 43.61 million tons.

Totally, more than 46.418 million tons of oil- and non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports in the said four months, and over 89.136 million tons of oil- and non-oil products were loaded.

During the mentioned period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 1,831,960 TEUs, which

was 16 percent more than the 1,576,884 TEUs in the first seven months of the past 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 to ports and more development of them 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 unloading 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 Organiza-

tion 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.

Earlier this year, 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 on July 10, 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 the 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 sector.

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 ports of the Caspian Sea," he added.

## ICCIMA holds conference on economic security

TEHRAN - Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture held the second National Economic Security Conference on Sunday in collaboration with Economic Security Police of Iran, the ICCMA portal reported.

The conference was attended by military and economy officials along with economic operators and representatives of the private sector.

Speaking at the conference, Commander Hossein Rahimi, the head of the Economic Security Police of Iran, referred to the importance of security at the community level and said: "We defend the

country's security at all levels by comprehensive planning and foreseeing all challenges."

He considered security to be the most basic driving force of any country and emphasized: "Carrying out any scientific, social, economic and political activities in a safe environment is the main responsibility of the police."

Rahimi pointed to economic activities that promote production and entrepreneurship as the complementary link for security and added: "Security is a public production that everyone in the country is responsible for."

## Annual saffron production expected to reach 400 tons

TEHRAN - Iran's saffron production is expected to reach about 400 tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in late March 2025), Hossein Zeynali, the director of Agriculture Ministry's medicinal plants national plan, announced.

"This year, 127,000 hectares of farmland have been allocated for saffron cultivation. Currently, 23 provinces of the country grow saffron and more than 93 percent of the country's saffron is produced in North Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, and South Khorasan provinces," Zeynali said.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has signed a project with the Ministry of Agriculture aimed at warranting access to safe and authentic saffron products.

Titled "Control of Food Authenticity and Management of Food Supply Chain for Successful Achievement of SDGs," the project is

in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UN-SDCF), Sustainable Development Goals, and FAO Country Programme Framework (CPF).

The initiative is part of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and is set to span two years, concluding in December 2025.

Under the auspices of the Deputy for Horticulture of the MAJ, the project targets the enhancement of a transparent and reliable saffron supply chain, ensuring food and nutrition security and safety for consumers. The initiative seeks to address the challenges posed by the globalization of food supply and the complexities of modern trade, particularly in the saffron industry, where Iran holds a dominant position, contributing approximately 90% of the world's production.

The project's impact will be profound, warranting consumers access to safe and

authentic saffron products through the enhanced capacity for immediate response and effective enforcement mechanisms for food quality testing and traceability.

This project represents a significant step towards enhancing transparency and traceability in the saffron industry, ultimately contributing to food security and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

This project exemplifies FAO's commitment to fostering sustainable agriculture and food systems, aligning with the global agenda for achieving the SDGs. By collaborating with national counterparts and leveraging expertise, FAO aims to empower countries like Iran in enhancing the resilience and sustainability of their agricultural sectors.

# Hezbollah kills 4 Israeli soldiers, injures over 60

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The Israeli military has revealed that another four of its troops have been killed in combat in southern Lebanon.

The Israel occupation forces (IOF) announced the names of the soldiers as Captain Rabbi Avraham Yosef Goldberg, Master Sergeant Gilad Elmaliach, Captain Amit Chayut and Major Eliav Amram Abitbol.

The IOF also acknowledged that over 60 soldiers have been wounded while fighting in Lebanon during the past 24 hours. At least five are in critical condition, according to the Israeli military.

According to Hezbollah statements, the Israeli losses on the Lebanese border are far higher than what the IOF has announced. Reports indicate significant damage to Israeli tanks and other armored military vehicles on the border.

This comes amid ongoing Israeli attempts for nearly one month now to invade southern Lebanon. The ground operations have faced intense and deadly confrontations by Hezbollah that have prevented the IOF from taking full control of a single village across the entire Lebanese border.

Israeli Reserve Colonel Jack Neria raised concerns on Sunday over Hezbollah's growing strength and strategic use of tunnels in southern



Hezbollah issues evacuation orders to over a dozen settlements in northern Israel

Lebanon, which he labeled as traps targeting Israeli forces.

On Sunday, Hezbollah launched a squadron of attack drones that targeted the Yodfat Military Industries Company southeast of the city of Acre. The operation resulted in two injuries, according to the IOF. However, Hebrew reports indicate that nine injured persons have been transferred to a hospital as a result of the drone attack.

Hezbollah published footage of its fighters targeting a gathering of Israeli soldiers in Shomera near the

Lebanese border.

Another statement by the Lebanese resistance movement said that an Israeli infantry force in the town of Houla was targeted with a guided rocket, resulting in deaths and injuries.

In another statement, Hezbollah said it fired a drone at a gathering of Israeli forces northeast of Manara that accurately hit its target, killing and wounding them.

Throughout Sunday, missiles landed across northern and central Israel as well as areas near Haifa

amid the launch of missile salvos from Lebanon.

This comes after the Lebanese Hezbollah issued evacuation orders for "settlers to leave" dozens of areas in northern Israel and the occupied Golan.

The video message informed the settlers that the Israeli army is "using your settlements to launch attacks at Lebanon". The video warned that these settlements will come under Hezbollah fire and warned the residents there to evacuate "for your own safety".

A gathering of Israeli soldiers in Malikiyah, Karmiel, Nahariyya was also targeted with a rocket barrage, which Hezbollah said was carried out "within the framework of the warning issued by the Islamic Resistance to settlements in the north."

Sirens also sounded in Kiryat Shmona and its surroundings, as well as in Kfar Giladi, Misgav Am, and Margaliot.

On Sunday evening, Hebrew media reported that 26 IOF soldiers were injured in southern Lebanon over the past 24 hours.

Hezbollah emphasized in its statements that these operations are being carried out in support of the resilient Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in defense of Lebanon and its people.

## Tel Aviv truck-ramming: Israel given a taste of its own medicine

From page 1 ▶ Hamas and the Islamic Jihad resistance movements praised the attack. Hamas said it was a "natural response" to Israel's actions in "Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem (al-Quds)."

Sunday's truck-ramming incident will haunt people in Tel Aviv and other cities amid retaliatory attacks carried out by regional resistance groups against Israel.

Hezbollah has ratcheted up reprisal attacks against Israel and its troops in response to the regime's massive bombing campaign that began on September 23 followed by a ground military incursion.

Israel and Hezbollah have been trading fire since the regime launched war on Gaza on October 7, 2023.

The Lebanese resistance movement has hit Israeli strategic and military positions in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

Israeli strikes against Lebanon have killed some 2,500 people in Lebanon since October last year.

Israel's genocidal war on Gaza has also claimed



Hamas says the truck-ramming attack was a "natural response" to Israel's actions in "Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem (al-Quds)."

the lives of about 43,000 Palestinians including approximately 17,000 children.

But Hamas has put up resistance against Israeli troops on the battlefield. Three more Israeli soldiers were killed during fighting in the northern Gaza Strip's Jabalia on Friday. They were among hundreds of Israeli troops who have been killed since Hamas launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

It was a surprise military attack on October 7 last year, which was followed by Israel's brutal war on Gaza.

Yemen's Ansarullah movement has also hit Israeli positions with missiles and drones in solidarity with Gazans.

Besides, Israel's crimes in Gaza and Lebanon have caused global outrage.

Protesters across the globe, including in the US, the UK, Germany and France, which are Israel's close allies, have called for imposing an arms embargo on the regime to force it to end the war on Gaza.

Currently, the attack near Gilot military base reflects widespread anger at Israel's crimes against Palestinian and Lebanese people.

The attack keeps Israelis on their toes; filling them with considerable anxiety.

Israel has just been given a taste of its own medicine in the face of the apartheid regime's war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza and Lebanon.

## Japan stands with Palestine

From page 1 ▶ The Japanese government maintained a cordial relationship with Israel before October 7, 2023. However, there has been a change in public discourse in Japan about Palestine with regular events and protest demonstrations held to push for a cease-fire and an end to the genocide.

In a path-breaking move, the historic city of Nagasaki, hit by a US nuclear bomb during World War II, refused to invite Israeli officials to its peace memorial ceremony, which takes place every year on August 9.

In line with the public demand, Japan has become one of the leading providers of humanitarian aid to Palestine. The East Asian economic powerhouse had shipped aid worth \$125 million since last October, the country's officials told media earlier this year.

It is a 'fallacy' that nuclear weapons can bring peace

The Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations often shortened to Nihon Hidankyo is a group that represents survivors (known as Hibakusha) of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After winning the Nobel Peace Prize this year, it became the largest and most influential Hibakusha organization in Japan.

The prize was awarded to the organization in October for its activism against nuclear weapons.

At the start of the Israeli geno-

cidal campaign in the Gaza Strip, some Israeli officials threatened the Palestinians with nuclear bombs. Amichai Eliyahu, the Heritage Minister in the cabinet of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, called for dropping a nuclear bomb or expelling the population from Gaza as a solution to resolve the issue once for all.

After receiving the news of winning the Nobel Peace Prize, Tomoyuki Mimaki, co-chair of Nihon Hidankyo, warned the world about the danger of nuclear weapons.

"It would be a great force to appeal to the world that the abolition of nuclear weapons can be achieved," he said.

Mimaki told reporters the idea that nuclear weapons can bring peace is a "fallacy".

"For example, if Russia uses them against Ukraine, Israel against Gaza, it won't end there. Politicians should know these things," he warned.

The occupying regime is said to possess hundreds of nuclear warheads and has refused to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Japanese man protests outside the Israeli embassy every week

Ramen chef Chikahiro Naoya, a Japanese man, holds a one-person protest rally outside the Israeli embassy in Tokyo every week after work. He shouts: "Don't kill the children!" and "Stop the genocide." He started his action in February 2024.



Japanese Ramen Chef continues to diligently hold one-man protests outside Israeli embassy

According to media reports, Naoya is a restaurant owner in Tokyo, where the municipal police have tried to silence him. His activism has continued rain or shine. He has been calling on the Israeli regime to stop the genocide in Gaza, resisting attempts by law enforcement to shut him up.

Sinwar depicted as Samurai

Social media was awash with illustrations and old photos of Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas political chief who was martyred in Gaza recently, praising him for his defiant stand.

Sinwar's final moments, under attack by Israeli forces in Gaza, have inspired artwork around the world, with a Japanese newspaper publishing an illustration of the Hamas leader as a Samurai warrior.

Drone footage released by the Israeli military showed the wounded

Sinwar defiantly throwing a piece of wood at the UAV as it hovered over him before he was martyred by Israeli forces on October 16 in the southern Gaza Strip.

He was wearing military attire, draped in a keffiyeh, and carrying a handgun as he fought Israeli soldiers during his last moments, contrasting with the information spread by Israel that he was living underground surrounded by Israeli human shields.

Public anger grows in Japan over Israeli genocidal war in Gaza

Despite a 9,000 kilometers distance between the Gaza Strip and Japan, the Japanese have shown that anyone can act to stand with Palestinians and express solidarity with them amid the Zionist regime's genocide.

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

## Resistance Axis: People mock Israel and bet on Hezbollah's heroism in southern Lebanon

By Sondoss al-Assad

BEIRUT - On the eve of the unprecedented attacks on Israel's Merkava tanks by Hezbollah, the Axis of Resistance's peoples have literally received the "Israeli retaliation" on Iran with mockery and disdain.

Observers believe that the purpose of this "attack" is symbolic, meaning that Tehran has succeeded through Operation "True Promise 2" in securing its own deterrence. Others consider that it indicates the reactivation of international policy after it had been in favor of the colonial Israeli entity during the past year, due to the US absolute support to Netanyahu's hysteria and narcissism. This confirms Washington's desire not to take further risks and to be satisfied with the alleged achievements so far, including "weakening" the resistance movements, Hezbollah, Hamas and others, amid real fears of what the Iranian response - "True Promise 3" - would bring if the "Israeli retaliation" is harder.

Meanwhile, the eyes of the whole world are on Lebanon, on the steadfastness of the Lebanese, on the heroism of Hezbollah, on the shrewdness of Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, the diplomatic resistance leader, and on the wisdom of the wise political factions in not fulfilling the Zionists' desire to be dragged into an internal conflict that would facilitate the failed US-oriented Israeli mission.

On the border with Palestine, an unparalleled legendary epic is taking place between two forces that are unequal in terms of equipment. One has tremendous technological and firepower superiority. The other only excels in its high spirit and the justice of its legitimate cause, succeeding in humiliating dozens of Merkava tanks. So far, 37 tanks have been crushed on the edge of the border, failing to fully invade any of the villages that the occupation regime has hysterically been bombing since October 8, 2023.

In practice, this legendary success of Hezbollah has forced the occupation leaders to recalculate their illusory "victories," i.e. the assassinations and the massacres against civilians, journalists and paramedics. The corpses of its soldiers in the corridors of hospitals in northern occupied Palestine no longer leave

them room to boast about what they have "achieved".

In the same context, statements from inside the occupied territories continue to be declared through Hebrew media about the imminent cessation of the "ground operation" in Lebanon, which has failed miserably.

Monsters usually enjoy shedding blood, so retreat will not be easy for Netanyahu, a monster who escaped from the Western stable of savagery. Nevertheless, Hezbollah's second miraculous birth from the womb of seasoned commanders will soon make this malicious monster feel that its intoxication has pushed it to devour the flesh of itself and its corrupt gods, i.e. the "wild West".

Just a few days away from the presidential elections, it seems that the Democrats are seeking to control the war in the "Middle East" and achieve a settlement if possible by taking into consideration Netanyahu's intransigence and his clear blackmail of Trump.

Indeed, the failed aggression against Iran confirms the hypothesis that Washington allowed a limited, framed strike, as it is wary of Netanyahu's malice, as it is wary of Iran's ability to drown the aggressive West in a prolonged war, close waterways, and exhaust the global economy to the point of collapse. In turn, the Yemeni front seems most capable of strangling the global economy comprehensively.

Waiting for the election results seems useful and painful at the same time. After that, either a major agreement will result in the region or a full-fledged war. For this reason, Netanyahu is trying by all means to boost Trump's success by portraying Harris as a failure to support Israel.

If Trump wins, the Russia-Ukraine crisis will diminish as Trump is expected to establish a settlement with Russia. Consequently, the chances of a major settlement in West Asia will likely accelerate, in which Iran's policies of strategic patience will bear fruit. However, an "unknown" event can change the scenarios, especially in a political world led by bloodthirsty psychopaths, such as Netanyahu.

## Israel turns north Gaza into death zone

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - The Israeli carnage in northern Gaza shows no signs of abating more than three weeks after the occupying regime launched a new brutal offensive there.

At least 20 people, including women and children, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on residential buildings in Jabalia on Sunday morning.

Jabalia is the largest of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps which has been the focus of Israel's fresh offensive in the north of the enclave since October 6.

More than 40 Palestinians were also killed and dozens of others injured after an Israeli airstrike leveled several buildings in a residential area of Beit Lahiya to the ground on Saturday evening.

Many people are believed to be missing and under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

Israel has stepped up its deadly military campaign in northern Gaza under the pretext of removing Hamas from the area. But facts and figures clearly indicate that civilians have fallen victim to the regime's strikes.

Israel has killed around 800 Palestinians in the towns of Jabalia, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza during its three-week offensive and siege, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Palestinian health officials say Israel's aerial and ground offensive has crippled the healthcare system in northern Gaza. They say the offensive has also blocked medical teams from reaching bombed sites.

Sinister schemes

Over the past weeks, Israel has ordered Palestinians in northern Gaza to evacuate to "safe zones" in order to avoid being bombed. But whenever they have done so, the Israeli army has opened fire on them. Israel has not only killed Palestinians but also maimed

many of them.

In fact, Israel lures Palestinians into moving to these "safe zones" and then turns them into "death zones".

Besides, Israel has conducted airstrikes on hospitals in northern Gaza, and its military has stormed these facilities, forcing both medical personnel and patients to evacuate.

Israeli forces caused widespread damage to Kamal Adwan Hospital after bombing and storming it. They have killed people, including children and infants in the hospital. Dozens of medics and some patients have also been detained.

The United Nations special rapporteur on health has described the widespread and systematic attacks by Israel on healthcare workers in Gaza as "medicide".

Israel has also obstructed the delivery of essentials such as food to northern Gaza over the past weeks.

Israeli genocide

The UN special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories has said that "the entire population of Gaza is at risk of dying in a genocide that has been announced and executed under our watch".

Francesca Albanese made the comments on X, formerly known as Twitter, in response to an earlier statement from UN humanitarian chief Joyce Msuya warning that "the entire population of North Gaza is at risk of dying" under Israel's siege.

Israel has killed about 43,000 Palestinians and injured more than 100,000 others since launching war on Gaza in October last year.

More than a year into the onslaught, the regime is massacring and starving Palestinians in northern Gaza in line with its attempts to carry out an ethnic cleansing plan in the area and pave the way for settlers to move in.

## Iranian cultural attaché highlights tourism ties with Turkmenistan



TEHRAN – Iran's Cultural Attaché to Turkmenistan has said that historical and religious bonds serve as the backbone of tourism ties among the two neighboring countries.

"Shared cultural, religious, and historical links serve as compelling factors that encourages travel between Iran and Turkmenistan," Navid Rasouli said on Saturday.

He made the remarks at a meeting, held at the Art Academy in Ashgabat, attended by a number of local officials and representatives of travel agencies.

Rasouli emphasized that tourism, as a "profitable and clean industry," could play a significant role in economic growth, boosting related sectors such as handicrafts, textiles, jewelry, and home decor.

"Wherever tourism flourishes, it brings substantial economic benefits, promotes job creation, and fosters social equity," he noted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he underscored

the importance of regulatory support from both governments to simplify visa processes, a long-standing challenge for travelers.

The meeting followed the second Iran-Turkmenistan Tourism Exhibition, reflecting the countries' increasing commitment to expand tourism cooperation. As Rasouli expressed, "Through such conferences, we hope to take effective steps toward fostering greater facilitation and advancing tourism relations between Iran and Turkmenistan."

During the session, participants explored strategies to ease travel between Iran and Turkmenistan, highlighting tourism's economic potential.

In the event, a number of representatives from Iranian tourism companies shared insights into ways to overcome existing barriers and encourage bilateral tourism expansion.

Visa simplification outlooks was among the issues discussed. Currently, obtaining a Turkmenistan visa without an invitation and collaboration with Turkmen travel agencies can take up to a month and cost up to \$200.

Last week, the capital city of Ashgabat hosted a joint tourism festival highlighting the cultural heritage and tourism potential of the two neighbors. The three-day event, which concluded on Thursday, brought together government officials, diplomats, tourism representatives, and business leaders from both countries to promote cooperation and mutual understanding.

## Italy revives long-awaited dream of suspension bridge to Sicily

Construction is scheduled to begin at the end of this year and officials say the bridge will be in use by the early 2030s.

Italy has long toyed with the idea of building a bridge between the island of Sicily with the mainland.

The hugely ambitious engineering project was in preliminary stages for decades before being shelved in 2013.

In 2022, Italy's newly elected right-wing government announced it wanted to revive the plans for what will be the world's longest suspension bridge.

Prime minister Giorgia Meloni said she would ask the EU to help fund the multi-billion euro proposal.

This week, the bridge's construction company Società Stretto di Messina and the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency of the European Commission (CINEA) signed a new funding proposal.

The Grant Agreement will see the EU cover 50 per cent of the executive design costs of the rail infrastructure amounting to around

€25 million.

In her first budget as PM in 2022, Meloni reinstated the company that would oversee the construction of the Strait of Messina suspension bridge.

"This is the government and legislature that have the ambition to lay the first stone and start building this blessed project," said Matteo Salvini, Italy's infrastructure minister and leader of the League coalition party.

The proposed road and rail connection will have a central span of over 3km long, making it the longest suspension bridge in the world.

The estimated total cost of the structure is €4.6 billion and construction sites are set to open by the end of this year.

"Starting work on the construction of the Strait Bridge is one of my goals," Salvini told Italian broadcaster RAI last month.

"The transshipment of ferries, in addition to pollution and time wasting, costs people more in a year than it would cost to build the bridge."

(Source: euronews)

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Stari Ras and Sopoćani

Stari Ras and Sopoćani is a serial property consisting of four separate components located in the Raška region of southern Serbia: Sopoćani Monastery, Djurdjevi Stupovi Monastery, Holy Apostles St Peter and St Paul Church (St Peter's Church), and the archaeological site of the Medieval Town of Ras.

The impressive collection of three ecclesiastical monuments dating from the 10th to the 13th centuries eminently illustrates the birth of artistic activity in medieval Serbia, which attained the highest standards in the art and culture of the Byzantine Empire and the regions of Central and Southeastern Europe. The unique architectural complex formed by numerous structures in Stari Ras (Old Ras), situated at a crossroads of eastern and western influences, testifies to the period from 12th to the early 14th centuries when the ancient town was the first capital of the Serbian state.

The frescoes in the Sopoćani Monastery church, dating from about 1270-1276, are among the finest in Byzantine and Serbian medieval art. These exceptional paintings

represent the work of the best artists of that period who were unable to work in the territory of the Byzantine Empire and found refuge at the court of the Serbian king. At Sopoćani these artists introduced a refined spirit of antiquity to the prevailing medieval conventions. St George's Church in the Djurdjevi Stupovi Monastery, founded in 1170-1171, is the earliest example of a distinctive new regional architecture that blended Romanesque and Byzantine styles. Known as the Raška School, this style came to dominate architecture in this area for almost a century and a half. The church also features two layers of preserved frescoes dating from 1175 and 1282-1283 that are among the finest from that period in the Balkans. The preserved frescoes in St Peter's Church, built in the 10th century on the foundations of a 6th century baptistry and now the oldest surviving Christian church in the Balkans, also present evidence of the developments that took place in pictorial art between the 10th and 14th centuries.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Bazaar of Fuman: a lively reflection of tradition in Gilan

TEHRAN – The bazaar of Fuman, located in the ancient city of the same name in the northern Gilan province, is a vibrant marketplace that reflects the lifestyle, traditions, and customs of the local people.

Steeped in history and largely unchanged over generations, the bazaar offers visitors a glimpse into the everyday life of farmers, artisans, and traders. With a wide variety of goods on display, it serves as both a hub for commerce and a social gathering space for locals and tourists alike.

Like many other local markets across Gilan, it is not just a place for commerce—it's closely intertwined with the lives of the people in the region. Here, farmers bring their local and agricultural products to sell, while others come to buy fresh supplies for their homes. Women often take part in the business, proudly selling their family's goods, such as vegetables, fruits, fish, and handicrafts, dressed in colorful traditional clothing and speaking with the region's sweet accent to attract customers.

Narratives say those who arrive



first secure better spaces, although many believe that daily sustenance is ultimately in God's hands. The bazaar operates with an energetic rhythm, where vendors of all ages compete to attract buyers, creating an atmosphere that is both lively and nostalgic.

Fuman's traditional bazaar is known for offering a diverse range of products, including locally made crafts and food specialties. In addition to the region's staple items like tea and rice, the bazaar features handwoven mats, pottery, knives from Masuleh, and livestock prod-

ucts from nearby villages.

Two of the most famous products sold in the Fuman Bazaar are Siah Mazgi cheese and Fuman cookies. These items, cherished for their unique flavor and craftsmanship, are especially popular among both locals and tourists. The bazaar also stocks essential harvesting tools and handmade goods, reinforcing its role as a center of rural commerce and craftsmanship.

**A social and economic hub**

The weekly markets in Fuman are not just about shopping—they also

play an essential role in maintaining social connections. Many locals treat the bazaar as a meeting place, where friends and acquaintances can gather, chat, and exchange news. Economically, these markets offer significant benefits. Goods are cheaper here than in other stores, and the quality of produce is generally higher, making it an attractive shopping option for locals. The weekly bazaar also helps stabilize prices, preventing sudden inflation of goods in the area.

**A destination for locals and tourists alike**

The diversity and vibrant colors of the bazaar make it one of the most attractive marketplaces in Iran. Its cultural authenticity and friendly atmosphere draw not only locals but also tourists eager to experience the charm of traditional Iranian marketplaces. Visitors are encouraged to explore the bustling stalls, sample fresh produce, and engage with the sellers to better understand the region's deep-rooted traditions.

## Cobblestone paths to enhance tourism experience in UNESCO-listed Maymand, renowned for troglodyte architecture

TEHRAN – Maymand, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Iran's southern Kerman province, has undergone improvements with cobblestone paving along sections of its touristic routes.

The effort aims to preserve the visual appeal of the ancient village while facilitating easier access for visitors, according to Reza Riyahian, the director of the Maymand World Heritage Base.

"With funding from national, provincial, and local sources, more than 2,500 square meters of pathways in the village have been paved," Riyahian stated.

He further explained that the initiative included building access ramps, installing water drainage channels, and paving pedestrian walkways to enhance infrastructure for both residents and tourists.

Maymand, renowned for its troglodyte architecture, is a rare example of human adaptation to harsh environmental conditions. The village is part of a larger 12,000-hectare cultural landscape, registered by UNESCO in 2015 for showcasing the unique interaction between humans and nature. The locals' lifestyle revolves around a centuries-old tradition known as the "three-stage migration," reflecting their resourceful response to the region's demanding climate.

Riyahian emphasized the importance of these improvements, noting that Maymand is a major destination for both domestic and international



tourism due to its historical, cultural, and natural significance. With the new cobblestone paths, visitors will have a more comfortable and immersive experience as they explore this ancient site.

Sandwiched between a desert and a mountain, Maymand has cold winters and exceedingly hot summers yet abundant with mulberry and blackberry trees. Living conditions in the village are considered severe due to the aridity of the land, high temperatures in the summer, and very cold winters.

It is believed to be one of human's primary residences in the country as its history stretches far back in time to about 10,000 years ago. Some of its natural and manmade caves are still used for housing and shelter.

The houses in the continually inhabited village are carved like caverns inside the mountain. The

internal spaces have corridors and pillars featuring rural architecture. The houses are situated on four or five stories, one on top of the other.

Narratives say the early residents did not use a hammer and chisel, but rather a type of local, pointed stone that was hard enough to carve images onto the rocks. This method of carving is still practiced in the region. Some of the stone engravings in the village date back to 10,000 years ago.

For the time being, the majority of inhabitants are semi-nomadic shepherds. They raise their animals on mountain pastures, living in temporary settlements in spring and autumn.

The community has a strong bond with the natural environment that is expressed in social practices, cultural ceremonies, and religious beliefs.

The local dialect contains words from the ancient Sassanid and Pahlavi languages. The dialect has barely changed due to the remoteness of the village.

The area is also home to various animals such as snakes, lizards, hedgehogs, deer, leopards, wolves, foxes, and also birds of prey. Few seasonal springs around the village contribute to the flourishing of agriculture in the area. In such an arid climate, residents have to collect every drop of water to make a living as their ancestors did.

## Narin fortress in Isfahan to become a site museum



TEHRAN – The tourism chief of Isfahan province has announced plans to transform Qale Narin, an ancient mud-brick fortress in Nain county, into a site museum, aiming to highlight the region's rich history and attract more tourism.

Amir Karamzadeh shared the news during a recent visit to Nain, where he reviewed ongoing restoration projects and historical sites

in the area, CHTN reported on Sunday.

"This initiative aligns with our efforts to make Nain a major tourist destination in Isfahan, given its wealth of historical sites and cultural attractions," Karamzadeh said.

The fortress, often regarded as one of the most significant historical structures in Nain, is undergoing a new phase of restoration launched earlier this year. The impressive mud-brick citadel, believed to date back to the Parthian era, is a testament to the area's architectural and historical importance.

Experts say, Qale Narin's transformation into a site museum is expected to provide visitors with a deeper understanding of the re-

gion's heritage, showcasing artifacts and stories tied to its long history. Mahmoud Madanian, head of Nain's local office for heritage and tourism, has emphasized the significance of the project in preserving the fortress for future generations while enhancing the cultural experience for tourists.

As a site museum, Qale Narin will not only serve as a monument to the past but also contribute to the local economy by attracting domestic and international visitors to Nain and its surroundings.

Qale Narin, which spans approximately 2,500 square meters, was originally used as a citadel and administrative-military center before the Islamic era. The site is listed as

a national heritage site under registration number 4177.

Since antiquity, mankind has assumed the need to fortify properties to survive in an ever-changing world of invasion and conquest. Commencing from simple earthworks and wooden walls, fortifications gradually evolved into complex, unconquerable, imposing citadels.

Those strongholds were normally erected and maintained along significant routes and cities, particularly at heights overlooking steep slopes or cliffs. Many of the fortifications of the ancient world were built using mud brick, often leaving them no more than mounds of dirt for today's archaeologists.

## Syedra ancient city in Türkiye unearths its 3,000-year-old theater

Excavation efforts are actively underway at the 3,000-year-old Syedra Ancient City, located in the Alanya district of Antalya, where archaeologists are working diligently to reveal the site's historical theater.

Located on the southwestern coast of Türkiye, Antalya is renowned for its stunning Mediterranean beaches and rich histori-

cal heritage, the Syedra site, located in Seki neighborhood, carries the legacies of Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Anatolian Seljuk civilizations, making it a significant archaeological site in Türkiye.

The excavation project is part of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's "Future Heritage Project," which aims to preserve and promote

the region's historical treasures.

Led by Ertuğ Ergürer, a faculty member at Alaaddin Keykubat University's Faculty of Tourism and the head of the Syedra Ancient City excavation, the project has been ongoing for six years.

(Source: Daily Sabah)

# IRCS to boost co-op with German Red Cross, Emirates Red Crescent

TEHRAN –The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Pirhossein Kolivand, has held separate meetings with the president of the Emirates Red Crescent, Hamdan bin Zayed, and the president of the German Red Cross, Gerda Hasselfeldt.

The meetings were held on the sidelines 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 Iranian and German officials highlighted the need to develop joint humanitarian activities.

"We look forward to promoting the capabilities of the onset teams of the Iranian Red Crescent Society by purchasing German rescue dogs, as well as jointly manufacturing smart prosthesis and rehabilitation tools like wheelchairs," Kolivand noted.

Referring to the IRCS medical centers in different countries, Kolivand proposed establishing an Iranian-German hospital in Turkey and holding training courses in an earthquake simulation center.

The German official announced readiness to take part in an international conference which is scheduled to be held by the IRCS in the field of rehabilitation.

During the other meeting, the Emirates Red Crescent official stressed the need to enhance joint humanitarian activities.

Kolivand, for his part, highlighted merging capabilities to expand and provide better and more specialized services in the IRCS hospital in the



United Arab Emirates.

## IRCS ready to boost co-op with other societies

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 reported.

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.

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.

A total of 300 ambulances and 600 rescue vehicles have been purchased. It is planned to add 1,500 more rescue vehicles to the IRCS fleet, Kolivand stated.

Equipping mountain rescue bases, providing insurance for rescuers, and increasing their incomes were among the other measures to enhance the services.

"The Iranian Red Crescent Society has also been active and successful in international missions like helping earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey which made the organization receive the Turkish government's award for its sacrifice and help," he further noted.

The official attributed the organization's achievements to the unwavering dedication of volunteers, whose number has already reached 3 million.

Initiatives to develop and empower Crescent houses in remote, deprived areas and enhance prevention and education programs are other parts of the society's ef-

fort to expand its services.

The IRCS offers public education and relief services courses in universities, schools, seminars, and barracks to improve the whole society's resilience in the face of disasters.

Health, treatment, and rehabilitation are another part of the IRCS activities, the IRCS hospitals, pharmacies, and clinics meet the medical and therapeutic needs of thousands of citizens every day.

The IRCS medical centers abroad are reputable worldwide. Soon, the Red Crescent Medical Center will be opened in Tajikistan.

As a humanitarian organization, the IRCS is trying to alleviate the suffering of the people involved in accidents, emergencies, and conflicts.

Today, collaborations with knowledge-based firms have resulted in advancements in manufacturing orthoses, prostheses, artificial organs, and new medications, with plans to extend cooperation to rescue and relief efforts as well.

## Over 1,000 Iranians among world's 1% most-cited researchers

TEHRAN –A total of 1056 Iranian researchers have been recognized among the world's top one percent most-cited researchers in 2024, indicating a 12 percent increase compared to 938 identified researchers in 2023, the head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Institute has said.

"The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (with 427 researchers) represents 40.44 percent, and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education (with 518 researchers) accounts for 49.05 percent of the most-cited Iranian researchers," IRNA quoted Ahmad Fazelzadeh as saying.

Clinical medicine with 22.54 percent, Multi-disciplinary with 21.78 percent, Engineering with 17.05 percent, Pharmacology and Toxicology with 9.66 percent, Chemistry with 8.43 percent, and Agricultural sciences with 7.01 percent held the highest shares of the most-cited researchers, respectively.

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

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

The selection is based on the top 100,000 scientists by c-score (with and without self-cita-



tions) or a percentile rank of 2 percent or above in the sub-field. This version (7) is based on the August 1, 2024, snapshot from Scopus, updated to the end of the citation year 2023.

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

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

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

into both long-term contributions and recent achievements.

### Iran ranks 14th for most-cited institutes

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

Essential Science Indicators, or ESI, is a fundamental analysis and evaluation tool that reveals emerging science trends, as well as the performance of influential individuals, academic institutions, papers, journals, countries, and regions in various fields of scientific research.

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

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

The number of institutions in the subject areas of engineering was 67, chemistry 57, agricultural sciences 29, materials sciences 28, pharmacology and toxicology 27, social sciences, general sciences 21.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## \$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said. One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained. According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

## تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامه‌ریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهرداری تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد. وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی است. به گزارش روز یکشنبه خبرگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران، موضوع توجه به دوچرخه‌سواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تأکید قرار گرفته است.

## WHO, Japan further support Iran in eradicating malaria

TEHRAN –In an effort to enhance the capacity of the health ministry to address the prevalence of malaria in southeastern regions, the World Health Organization (WHO) in cooperation with the Government of Japan has procured 50,000 malaria rapid diagnostic tests as well as 4,902 mosquito dome tents.

Due to frequent movement between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran, the country's southeastern regions are at risk of malaria.

The tests, which provide clear evidence of the presence of malaria parasites in human blood allowing for timely and appropriate treatment, are an essential tool in the fight against malaria, the WHO website announced in a press release on October 24.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Education's Center for Communicable Disease Control is currently distributing the tests to health centers and hospitals in Sistan-Baluchestan Province through 3 universities of medical sciences, namely Zahedan, Iranshahr and Chabahar – in the Province.

Also, the mosquito dome tents, are designed to provide a mosquito-free resting environment for individuals at risk, particularly vehicle drivers who frequently travel between the 3 countries, border guards, and health care workers stationed in high-risk areas.

The mosquito tents have been distributed to the same 3 universities of medical sciences in the province.

The universities will oversee the final distribution of tents within the province.

"By offering protection against mosquito bites, these tents help reduce the risk of malaria transmission. The initiative is a testament to the collaborative efforts of international partners in addressing public health challenges and supporting vulnerable communities," said WHO Representative and Head of Mission in the Islamic Republic of Iran Syed Jaffar Hussain.

Hussain highlighted the broader impact of the donations: "The impact of these donations, made with the support of the Government of Japan, extends beyond immediate malaria prevention and diagnosis. By strengthening the capacity of local healthcare systems, these efforts contribute to the long-term goal of malaria elimination in the Region. The availability of rapid diagnostic tests ensures that suspected cases of malaria can be confirmed quickly, reducing the risk of severe illness and death, while the use of mosquito tents provides a practical and effective means of protection for those most at risk, helping to break the cycle of transmission."

"This project is a response to the increase in the number of malaria cases in Sistan-Baluchestan Province which is largely due to the floods that occurred in Pakistan in 2022.

The project aims to strengthen Iran's capacity to respond to the threat of malaria and prevent the spread of the disease," said the Ambassador of Japan to Iran, Tamaki Tsukada.

Further bolstering the fight against malaria, WHO procured insecticides, including deltamethrin, bendiocarb, and Fludora Fusion, which are critical to vector control strategies. The use of insecticides will complement other malaria control measures such as the distribution of mosquito

nets and implementation of indoor residual spraying programmes.

The comprehensive support provided by WHO and the Government of Japan enhances the capacity to combat malaria, protect public health and contribute to the overall well-being and resilience of affected populations.

This collaboration between international partners and local authorities underscores the importance of solidarity and shared responsibility in addressing global health challenges.

As the fight against malaria continues, the continued commitment of all involved parties is crucial.

WHO's ongoing support, combined with the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and local health care providers, will make a significant difference in the lives of those at risk, and pave the way for a malaria-free future in southeast Iran, bringing relief to countless individuals and families.

In March, the WHO launched a new project with the financial support of the Government of Japan to revive malaria prevention and control in south-eastern provinces of Iran, which host vulnerable populations, including Afghan refugees.

Iran was well on track to eliminate malaria. Recently, however, climate change-related floods have affected the country, expanding its mosquito habitat and driving malaria transmission.

The project, entitled Reinforcing Malaria Elimination as Humanitarian Assistance in the Islamic Republic of Iran, will run throughout 2024. WHO is implementing the project with the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education, WHO website reported on March 20.

Hussain stressed the vital importance of collaborative action with the Government of Japan, "The financial support provided by the people of Japan arrives at a critical juncture, following recent heavy rains and floods in Sistan-Baluchestan province in late February 2024. Through concerted efforts and sustained investment, WHO and its international and local partners remain steadfast in their commitment to combat malaria and safeguard public health in the Islamic Republic of Iran and beyond."

Tsukada, for his part, said, "The effect of climate change has led to frequent flooding in many parts of the world, including Iran.

Malaria, one of the world's 3 major infectious diseases, spreads through mosquitoes after floods. In order to protect the Iranian people from malaria, it is important to exterminate mosquitoes, protect oneself from mosquitoes, and quickly diagnose and treat malaria cases at an early stage. We hope that this project will strengthen Iran's crisis response capacity and prevent the spread of malaria and other infectious diseases."

The country is prone to natural disasters, especially floods, and the Iranian health system remains vulnerable. More than one-third of the country's 877 urban health centers are in flood-prone areas

WHO will help improve risk communication and community engagement to reach target populations with appropriate health messages on how to protect against malaria.



## Tech Olympics 2024 wraps up

The Tech Olympics 2024 opened on Tuesday, October 22, and wrapped up on Sunday, October 27. The event was held in artificial intelligence, programming, cyber security, robotics, warrior robots, and drones.



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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
Email: info@tehrantimes.com  
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

OCTOBER 28, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*The greatest Jihad is to battle your own soul. To fight the evil within yourself.*

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

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

## Iran's children's theater festival to welcome performers from six countries



By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- Six international groups from Uzbekistan, Armenia, Iraq, Brazil, Turkey, and Russia are set to perform at the 29th edition of Iran's International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults, the secretary of the festival announced during a press conference in Tehran on Sunday. Despite the inherent challenges of bringing international teams to Iran under current circumstances, we have managed to secure all necessary arrangements, Amir Mashhadi Abbas said. The festival has encountered logistical hurdles, including flight delays and transportation issues for the international groups. "We faced challenges such as rising airfare costs and the need to coordinate flights amidst current regional conditions," he noted.

"Ultimately, with the support of the Dramatic Arts Center and Hamedan Municipality, we successfully navigated these complexities, and the situation for the international segment of the festival is looking promising," he added.

Regarding the participation of international troupes, Mashhadi Abbas explained that the festival typically does not invite foreign works since it enjoys a strong global reputation that

diminishes the necessity for such invitations. A crucial consideration is aligning the festival dates with those of other major worldwide events, he remarked.

"We have made every effort to ensure that this year's festival is more successful and of higher quality than its predecessors."

Concerning the reduction in the number of international works, the festival's secretary mentioned that factors such as ticket costs, necessary coordination, budgeting, and other considerations play significant roles.

"Given our global standing in children's theater — we ranked among the top 20 last year — we face no shortcomings compared to the international landscape of children's and youth theater."

"We have made progress, but achieving favorable outcomes will depend on meticulous planning, organizational support, and adequate funding," he explained. Even under these circumstances, we have successfully attracted lecturers from various countries with high academic credentials, he added.

"We also have special programs to honor the children of Gaza. Two performances addressing the situation in Gaza will premiere on opening day, with a special presentation planned for November 4," he stated.

"Our promotional campaigns have addressed this important issue because we believe that children around the world deserve a sense of peace." The festival's motto is 'Theater: Dialogue Without Borders.' If many countries can understand this language, the challenges will diminish," he concluded.

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

## Cartoon of Day



Soldiers Of the Homeland  
Cartoonist: Mansoureh Dehghani from Iran

# "Storm of Art" exhibition launched at Palestine Museum of Contemporary Art

TEHRAN-The group exhibition "The Storm of Art" was launched on Sunday at the Palestine Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran.

The exhibition, showcasing performance art, conceptual art, and installation art, addresses the theme of Operation al-Aqsa Storm, ISNA reported.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, abbreviated Hamas, launched Operation al-Aqsa Storm into the occupied territories on October 7, 2023, in response to intensified crimes by Israeli forces and settlers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

In response, the Zionist regime waged an all-out war on Gaza, killing more than 44,000 people, about half of them children, and wounding tens of thousands in the tightly besieged enclave.

Curated by Mohsen Rahimi, the exhibition features selected works by various artists and will be open to visitors until November 13.

The opening ceremony was attended by prominent figures such as Mahmoud Salari, Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance in Art Affairs; Ahmad Qayoumi, Governor of Tehran; and Ali Forouzanfar, Director of the General Directorate of Culture and Guidance of Tehran Province among others.

"In my opinion, all freedom-loving and thoughtful individuals



will welcome such an exhibition. The insights drawn from the exhibition foster both intellectual and emotional growth, creating a blend of intensity and heroism," Salari said in his address at the ceremony.

"Installation art and the art of presenting ideas through tools that convey thoughts result in blessed events like this exhibition, and I invite all art enthusiasts to visit," he added.

Salari emphasized that conceptual art depends on the viewer's artistic insight and literacy.

"Those familiar with artistic symbols, motifs, and their

connection with contemporary social and political issues will have a richer experience here. This exhibition engages visitors in a mutual exchange of emotions and ideas, continuing beyond the gallery walls," he noted.

For his part, Forouzanfar recalled the first anniversary of the Operation al-Aqsa Storm, and said: "The exhibition celebrates the great uprising of the Palestinian people, which brought joy to the hearts of the oppressed and Muslims worldwide, while also commemorating a year of crimes by the Zionist regime."

Referring to a recent three-day event at the Palestine Museum of Contemporary Art, he added:

"The three-day event at the museum led to the creation of 19 artworks, produced in three sections by Iranian artists in collaboration with artists in Gaza. The exhibition, now open to the public, showcases part of this creative output."

The Palestinian Museum of Contemporary Art is an institution affiliated with the Academy of Arts, which was opened in 2005. The building is dedicated to holding exhibitions of the Islamic world.

The name of the museum is a reminder of the art of resistance and patriotism. It is located at No. 74, junction of Bozorgmehr and Mozaffar streets.

## Slawomir Mrozek's "Out at Sea" on Mehrab Theater stage

TEHRAN-Mehrab Theater in Tehran hosted the first performance of the play "Out at Sea" written by Polish dramatist Slawomir Mrozek on October 27 and will continue staging the play until November 15.

Morvarid Afsari has directed the 50-minute play and also performs in it along with Nima Morshedi and Mahshid Sadri.

The single-set black comedy is an absurdist tale of survival and democratic decision making.

It traces the fortunes of three very different castaways starving on a life raft, who attempt to find a democratic way of deciding which of them shall be eaten by the other two.

One is thin, one is medium, and one is fat.

The arguments become steadily more outlandish, the bullying and sycophancy more intense, until the intervention of a passing postman and an old manservant take the play



into a hilarious surreal overdrive, building to a chilling climax.

"Out at Sea" was written in 1960's censorship-ridden Poland. Satirist Slawomir Mrozek was forced to find many unusual angles with which to carry his biting comments

against the Soviet regime.

One of his regular techniques was to write absurd comedic plays that carried a dark message beneath the laughter. Perhaps his finest one-act effort is the little known "Out at Sea".

Slawomir Mrozek (1930-2013) was a Polish dramatist, writer and cartoonist.

He joined the Polish United Workers' Party during the reign of Stalinism in the People's Republic of Poland, and made a living as a political journalist.

He began writing plays in the late 1950s. His theatrical works belong to the genre of absurdist fiction, intended to shock the audience with non-realistic elements, political and historic references, distortion, and parody.

Mehrab Theater is located at the junction of Imam Khomeini and Vali-e Asr streets.

## Palestinian photojournalist Samar Abu Elouf honored with International Press Freedom Award

Palestinian photojournalist Samar Abu Elouf was honored with a 2024 International Press Freedom Award by Canadian Journalists for Free Expression on October 23, for her work capturing war in Gaza.

She has been working for The New York Times since the Israel-Gaza conflict in 2021.

In addition to her assignments, Abu Elouf dedicates her time to her ongoing projects focusing on presenting women in Gaza and the effects of wars, The Globe and Mail reported.

For as long as she can remember, she has been surrounded by sounds of sirens and bombings; these have only intensified during the Israel-Hamas war.

Since she left Gaza, the absence of those sounds has been no less alarming.

Now, living in Doha, Qatar, with her four children, ranging in age from 11 to 22, she longs to hear any news from her homeland. "Since leaving Gaza, I haven't heard any bombing.

I had suffered with it for so long that I got used to it," Elouf said. "My soul is in Gaza. My family is there. I'm still living it."

Elouf, 40, who has contributed to The New York Times, The New Yorker, Reuters and other media outlets, left the Gaza Strip on Oct. 14, 2023 — a week after the Hamas attacks and Israel's subsequent war on the region.

"I was in the north and there were evacuation orders because of the Israeli aggression."

She was against the idea of leaving. "My purpose was to stay and photograph what was going on. I had sacrificed my life and my children's lives.

I had to leave them for long periods of time because I was with a group of journalists who were always targeted.

But as their lives became under threat, I had to leave for their sake." Thirteen relatives of Elouf died in Israeli attacks.

The last year of not photographing the war has made Elouf feel lost.

"I don't know what to do; I don't know where to start and how to pursue my career."

Her career began more than a decade ago, when she defied her now ex-husband to pursue a life beyond being a housewife.

In Gaza, border protests and

Israeli retaliation were always a battle.

"My life has always been about war.

I discovered the only way to tell the world about my country was through the camera."

In essence, Elouf felt like she was fighting two wars. "I was the only woman journalist among those documenting what was going on in Gaza."

Today, Elouf is recognized as among the top in her profession.

Even though she is accustomed to capturing war and destruction, the level of brutality in this latest conflict has changed her life.

"The difference now is that I have lost everything I have built," she said.

"I also saw people dying in the street, including babies and children."

Before Hamas attacked Israel last year, she could photograph Palestinians in their day-to-day life despite the backdrop of violence.

"I photographed people enjoying the beach, eating in restaurants. Gaza will never be that way again. No one is safe in this war."

This time, not only is she targeted for being a journalist, civilians don't want to be anywhere near her.

"Now when people saw journalists, they wanted to stay away from us." Elouf has lost many colleagues during the course of this war. "They were just doing their job."

Families of journalists being targeted is another reason why she chose to leave.

"I don't want anyone to die because of me. Even if they get injured, they cannot be treated.

There are no hospitals. Nothing can be done for them. I would not be able to bear it," she said emotionally.

"I feel guilty that I cannot do anything for my family left in Gaza."

For now, Elouf is doing what she can from Qatar. "I did a story for The New York Times on the injured people who were evacuated."

She's waiting for the war to end so that she can go back to Gaza and perhaps start work on a documentary.

"I would go as soon as they open the borders — even if what's left is just sand and ashes."