

# United Front

Iranian officials express shared stance on necessity of responding to Israel's Saturday attacks

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Tehran's Valiasr Square features a new mural showcasing Iran's President and military's Chief of Staff as "veterans" alongside U.S. President and Israeli Prime Minister, depicted as "warmongers."

## Tehran, Ankara propose initiative to sanction Israel amid rising tensions

TEHRAN – Esmail Baqaei, spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, addressed the media during a weekly press conference on Monday, highlighting Tehran's initiative with Turkey to propose an arms embargo against Israel.

"We hope more countries will join this campaign. The regime must not use donated weapons for genocide in Gaza and Lebanon," he stated.

Baqaei emphasized that Israel has initiated aggression and must cease its actions. He noted, "At times, we have shown restraint for regional peace, but this has been misinterpreted. Supporters of the regime must persuade it to stop its aggression against Iran."

**'Tehran reserves the right to respond to Israeli attacks'**

In light of recent Israeli attacks on Iranian military facilities, which resulted in casualties, Baqaei asserted that Iran is resolute in its right to respond to these aggressions. "We will not abandon our right to respond to the Zionist regime," he affirmed.

In the early hours of Saturday, Israel targeted the military installations in Iran's Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces in flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter. ▶ Page 2

## China, Armenia condemn Israeli attack against Iran, Iraq files complaint in UN

TEHRAN – China and Armenia have joined the growing list of countries condemning Israel's recent aggression against Iranian territories on Saturday, while Baghdad has submitted a letter of protest to the UN secretary-general and the Security Council over the regime's use of its airspace during the attack.

In an interview with Fars News Agency on Monday, Beijing's Ambassador to Tehran, Cong Peiwu, reiterated China's steadfast support for Iran's sovereignty, security, and national dignity, advocating for peaceful solutions to regional disputes.

The ambassador highlighted China's position on recent Israeli military actions against Iranian defense facilities and called for diplomacy over aggression.

Reflecting on the recent Israeli attacks on military installations in Iran, Cong noted that these actions exemplify the broader impacts of escalating conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon.

Emphasizing China's commitment to peace and stability, he urged all parties to pursue calm through dialogue, warning against the perils of military adventurism. Beijing, he affirmed, remains opposed to any actions that escalate tensions and supports diplomatic engagement to prevent further destabilization in West Asia. ▶ Page 2

## How BRICS thwarts Netanyahu's colonial ambitions

By Sondoss al-Assad

BEIRUT- Given the fluctuations in international and regional variables the Zionist regime's colonial ambitions are a matter of concern as Benjamin Netanyahu considers aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese people an existential war.

Since its inception, the Zionist project has been linked to the growth of imperial colonialism. It has been viewed as a means to extend hegemony in West Asia, a strategic region that connects the most prominent trade routes in Asia with Europe and Africa.

Following World War II, the Zionist project was premised based on the extension of the British Empire. The United States as an Anglo Saxon country inherited hegemonic policies as a colonial empire that is fiercely competing with Russia, China and Iran.

### The Rothschild historical influence

Since the 18th century, the Zionist project has been linked to the expansion of capitalist feudalism led by secular Jewish families, specifically the Rothschilds (a wealthy Ashkenazi family originally from Germany).

## Hezbollah kills 7 more Israeli troops

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Hezbollah continues to show it is a formidable fighting force by killing seven more Israeli troops on the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine.

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) said two officers were among those killed in combat with the Lebanese resistance fighters. Dozens more have sustained injuries. The number of fatalities is expected to rise.

According to official Israeli announcements and army data, October has been the deadliest month for the Israeli army.

The IOF announced that 594 of its soldiers were wounded on the northern front since the start of the botched ground invasion into southern Lebanon. However, statements by Hezbollah indicate the number of injuries exceeds 1,000 Israeli troops.

In the space of just two hours on Monday, Hezbollah said it had targeted gathering of Israeli soldiers four times at Fatima Gate on the southern border. Two of the four strikes used a barrage of rockets while others used mortar shells.

## Barbaric bloodshed: Gaza death toll crosses 43,000

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel has created a doomsday scenario in northern Gaza after launching a new offensive in the area nearly a month ago.

The offensive characterized by mass killings, a siege and a starvation campaign began on October 6. The military operation has claimed the lives of more than 1,000 Palestinians, most of them women and children.

The Israeli air and ground assaults have almost leveled the towns of Jabalia, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza.

Many people remain trapped under the debris of destroyed buildings as civil defense teams have been barred by the Israeli forces from operating in the north.

The regime has also obstructed the delivery of food and other essentials to northern Gaza. It has issued evacuation orders for Palestinians, yet soldiers open fire on some of those who attempt to leave.

Meanwhile, medical facilities such as Kamal Adwan Hospital have been repeatedly bombed and stormed by Israeli forces.

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## Export of agricultural products up 28% in 7 months yr/yr

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 28 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 Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

According to the IRICA report, the country exported 3.8 million tons of agricultural products worth \$2.2 billion in the first seven months of the current year, also indicating 16 percent rise in terms of weight, year on year.

Pistachios with \$614 million of exports, tomatoes with \$226 million, watermelons with \$139 million, apples with \$124 million and dates with \$123 million of exports were the top five exported items in the mentioned period. ▶ Page 4



© Mehr

## Mass funeral processions in Iran honor army officers martyred in Israeli attack

TEHRAN – Iranian citizens gathered on Monday in a solemn tribute to four Army officers killed in the Saturday aggression by Israel.

Funeral processions honoring the fallen soldiers took place across several provinces, including Kermanshah, Khuzestan, and Lorestan, with thousands of mourners coming together to show their respect and solidarity.

The ceremonies paid homage to members of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force: Hamzeh Jahandideh, Mohammad Mahdi Shahrokhi, Sajjad Mansouri, and Mehdi Naghavi. Each procession saw the officers' coffins, draped in the Iranian flag, carried through the streets of Kermanshah, Ramhormoz, Shushtar, and Borujerd.

## Ringleader of terror group executed following Supreme Court ruling

TEHRAN – Iran executed a notorious terror ringleader named James Sharmahd on Monday following a lengthy legal process and the final confirmation of his sentence by the Supreme Court.

The Judiciary Media Center announced the execution, emphasizing that it reflects the government's commitment to combating terrorism and ensuring national security. "This action sends a clear message that those who engage in acts of terror will face the full force of the law," a spokesperson stated.

Sharmahd, who also holds German and U.S. citizenships, was sentenced to death in February on charges of "corruption on earth" by planning and orchestrating a series of terrorist acts against the Iranian population. ▶ Page 2

## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Fear of True Promise III

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

In an analysis, Sobh-e-No discussed the Saturday military operation of the Zionist regime against Iran and wrote: This attack was more of a media show than an effective military attack. Long before this operation, the Israeli regime had launched extensive propaganda campaign and with repeated threats. It was trying to show the face of its military power as a serious threat to Iran. However, the attack, with small explosions, put an end to the Israeli regime's grand claims. This attack proved that the operation was not only a failure but also lacked military impact. In addition, the failure of the Israeli regime in this operation was due to its lack of courage to carry out a larger attack. The Zionist regime is well aware that Iran can directly fire missiles at strategic targets in the occupied territories. These responses have already attracted the world's attention to Iran's power and showed that Iran does not hesitate to defend itself and that it severely punishes aggressors.

**Etemad: The response must create deterrence**

Etemad wrote about the Israeli regime's attack on Iran's military centers. It said: When we examine the enemy operations, it is not important to pay attention to whether the aggression was limited or unlimited; what is important is that the country's military forces must upgrade their technology both in terms of defensive and offensive operations. The Israelis are attacking with the support of the American ammunition depot, but in Iran, we have provided this ammunition by relying on ourselves, so we must keep this important point in mind. The important point is that relying on the policy of ambiguity will be more effective in this field. This policy may be costly, but it causes more harm to enemies. It is not necessary to declare exactly whether we intend to take countermeasures or not. The type of our performance is important, not the way we declare it. Our response should be in such a way as to create deterrence, and this deterrence will not be created only through missiles.

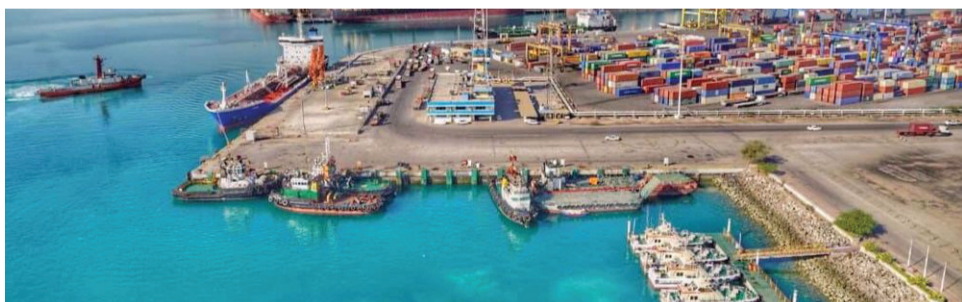
**Farhikhtegan: We will neither hesitate nor act hastily**

In an interview with Reza Sadr al Hosseini, an expert on West Asia issues, Farhikhtegan discussed the type of Iran's military response to the Zionist regime. He said: Since Iran's response to the Zionist regime under Operation True Promise

II the conditions and developments in the region have taken a different form, and speculations had been raised about the time and manner of Israel's attack on Iran. Finally, this happened and the Israeli army organized an attack against our country. The Zionist regime took an adventurous action to undermine peace in the region. The effects of the success of the two operations of the True Promise were to an extent that the Zionist regime had to take an action to respond to the settlers' public opinion and its international supporters. They intended to compensate for the lost dignity of Netanyahu and the military commanders of the Zionist regime. It is quite clear for the Islamic Republic of Iran that this adventure was carried out with the help of America and some European troika states. The Islamic Republic has the right to respond both internationally and militarily. The statement of the Leader of the Revolution that the Islamic Republic will neither hesitate nor act hastily in this matter is one of the issues that will be on the agenda of the responsible authorities in this regard.

**Donya-e-Eqtesad: Diplomacy with small but pragmatic goals**

The continuation of Israel's war in Gaza, which has spread to the back-and-forth attacks between Iran and Israel, has pushed the Middle East to a boiling crisis. This situation can involve other actors in the region. Now, Iran should use its diplomatic capacity to reach a ceasefire. The level of attack by the Zionist regime showed that they were not willing to increase the conflict with the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the current situation, the status is in favor of Tehran, and this opportunity should be turned into a strategic achievement, the first achievement of which could be a ceasefire in the battlefronts of Lebanon and Gaza. The Arab countries of the region condemned this attack and completely avoided cooperation with the regime. This issue showed the success of diplomacy after Operation True Promise II. It showed that diplomacy can serve national interests. If Iran can tactically and pragmatically reach two small but realistic goals by continuing open and secret negotiations, it will be an important step in advancing regional politics. Firstly, the powerful countries of the region should be prevented from cooperating with the regime, and secondly, the countries of the region should join the ceasefire campaign.

**Pezeshkian highlights focus on Sistan and Balouchistan's development**

TEHRAN – Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian has underscored the importance of Sistan and Balouchistan province to Iran's national development strategy, emphasizing his administration's commitment to addressing the region's challenges.

During a meeting with high-ranking officials in the province, Pezeshkian highlighted Sistan and Baluchistan's strategic location along the international North-South Corridor and its proximity to the vital Makran region. He emphasized the province's significant potential for national growth and outlined the government's active efforts to address its challenges through a dedicated working group.

"We recognize Sistan and Baluchistan's crucial role in our development strategy," Pezeshkian stated. "The government is working tirelessly to address the province's challenges and unlock its economic potential."

Pezeshkian also stressed the importance of bolstering security measures at the border to prevent terrorist activities, emphasizing the need for collaboration between security and law enforcement agencies. "The Sistan and Baluchistan region holds immense potential for regional trade," he added. "We must ensure that terrorist incidents do not hinder this progress."

Sistan and Balouchistan, situated in a

strategically important region, holds significant potential for economic growth and regional influence. Its location, encompassing the Makran coast stretching from Jask westward to Pakistan's Balouchistan province, has attracted recent infrastructural development by Iran. The Chabahar port, a key project, has emerged as a vital trade hub connecting the Indian Ocean to Central Asia.

**Sistan and Balouchistan, situated in a strategically important region, holds significant potential for economic growth and regional influence**

This strategic location and development initiatives have made Sistan and Balouchistan a potential magnet for investment and commerce. However, external separatist groups and opposition forces have actively sought to undermine these efforts. There has been a surge of terrorism in the region in recent years, which analysts believe Iran and its neighbor Pakistan should do more to counter.

**China, Armenia condemn Israeli attack against Iran, Iraq files complaint in UN**

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The ambassador highlighted China's position on recent Israeli military actions against Iranian defense facilities and called for diplomacy over aggression.

Reflecting on the recent Israeli attacks on military installations in Iran, Cong noted that these actions exemplify the broader impacts of escalating conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon.

Emphasizing China's commitment to peace and stability, he urged all parties to pursue calm through dialogue, warning against the perils of military adventurism. Beijing, he affirmed, remains opposed to any actions that escalate tensions and supports diplomatic engagement to prevent further destabilization in West Asia.

Cong also pointed to the critical role of the international



A screenshot shows an Israeli warplane, which the Israeli military says is departing to carry out strikes on Iran, from a handout video released on October 26, 2024.

community, especially major powers, in curbing further conflict in the region. He underscored China's commitment to fostering a stable, multilateral approach that could reduce regional volatility and avert a larger crisis.

The ambassador touched on the recent BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, describing it as a significant milestone in "Greater BRICS" cooperation, which aims to strengthen unity among member nations and amplify the voice of the Global South.

Cong expressed China's appreciation for the momentum gained from BRICS, particularly in light of its mission to enhance representation for developing nations in global governance—a system, he noted, that still inadequately reflects the needs and voices of the Global South.

Cong highlighted the meeting between the presidents of Iran and China on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, calling it a step forward in strengthening political trust between the two nations. As China prepares to assume the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in 2025, Cong welcomed Iran's active engagement in SCO initiatives and looked forward to further collaboration.

Meanwhile, Armenia also voiced its condemnation of actions that threaten regional security, specifically calling attention to last week's Israeli strikes on Iranian facilities. Armenia's Foreign Ministry expressed concern about the growing instability across the region, urging diplomacy to protect international law and

prevent further escalation.

These calls for restraint follow Israel's recent airstrikes on Iranian military sites, which led to the martyrdom of four members of Iran's army forces and one civilian. Iran's Air Defense Base confirmed some limited structural damage and announced an investigation to assess the full impact of the attacks.

Several countries have condemned Israel's Saturday assault on Iran's soil in the past days, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Oman, Malaysia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, Malta, and Switzerland.

**'Iraqi sovereignty violated'**

Iraq has lodged a formal protest with the United Nations, condemning Israel's recent airstrike on Iranian territory from Iraqi airspace as a violation of its sovereignty.

In a statement released Monday, Iraqi government spokesman Basim al-Awadi declared that Iraq will not tolerate its airspace or land being used for attacks against other nations, particularly neighboring countries with whom Iraq shares mutual respect and interests.

"The Iraqi government reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the country's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity," Al-Awadi emphasized.

**Tehran, Ankara propose initiative to sanction Israel amid rising tensions**

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these aggressions. "We will not abandon our right to respond to the Zionist regime," he affirmed.

In the early hours of Saturday, Israel targeted the military installations in Iran's Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces in flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter.

Baqaei pointed out a growing consensus among regional and international nations condemning Israel's actions, citing the 80-year occupation as the root cause of insecurity in the region. He criticized the supporters of Israel for obstructing international organizations from addressing the regime's crimes.

While asserting that Iran does not seek war, he reaffirmed the nation's commitment to self-defense, stating, "The Iranian nation and Armed Forces have no fear of war." He emphasized that Iran will actively work to prevent the escalation of conflict.

On the use of Iraqi territory for Israeli attacks, he remarked, "Countries have a legal, ethical, and international obligation not to allow their land to be used for attacks on another nation. We are confident that no neighboring country has permitted such actions. We urge the Iraqi government to formally protest this matter at the UN."

**'Unwavering US support emboldens Israel for further aggression'**

Baqaei remarked on the impunity Israel has enjoyed due to unwavering US support, which has emboldened further aggression.

He called for an end to American arms and political support for Israel to halt its crimes.

**'Israel's war on Gaza is a one-sided conflict'**

Responding to Egypt's proposal for a temporary

ceasefire and prisoner exchange in Gaza, Baqaei criticized the term "ceasefire," asserting that it implies mutual conflict while in reality, one side is committing genocide.

He expressed Iran's support for any initiative aimed at ending Israel's violent actions in Gaza and Lebanon, but noted that participating nations lack the necessary will to effect change.

**'Iran's stance on weapons of mass destruction is clear-cut'**

The spokesperson for Iranian Foreign Ministry stated that the Islamic Republic does not seek to use nuclear energy militarily considering both the fatwa (religious order) of the country's highest political official and logical assessments.

"Iran's stance on weapons of mass destruction is clear-cut; Iran has no aim to militarize its nuclear program under any circumstances," Baqaei added.

**Ringleader of terror group executed following Supreme Court ruling**

Jamshid Sharmahd, ringleader of the US-based anti-Iran Tondar (Thunder) terrorist group, appears at a court session in the capital, Tehran, on August 23, 2022.

TEHRAN – Iran executed a notorious terror ringleader named James Sharmahd on Monday following a lengthy legal process and the final confirmation of his sentence by the Supreme Court.

The Judiciary Media Center announced the execution, emphasizing that it reflects the government's commitment to combating terrorism and ensuring national security. "This action sends a clear message that those who engage in acts of terror will face the full force of the law," a spokesperson stated.

Sharmahd, who also holds German and U.S. citizenships, was sentenced to death in February on charges of "corruption on earth" by planning and orchestrating a series of terrorist acts against the Iranian population.

Sharmahd was apprehended by Iranian authorities in 2020. He was the ringleader of the Tondar (Thunder) terrorist group, responsible for a string of violent attacks in Iran. These attacks included a devastating 2008 bombing at a religious congregation center in Shiraz, Fars Province, which claimed the lives of 14 innocent civilians and wounded hundreds more. Upon his arrest, Sharmahd admitted to providing explosives for the bombing attack in the Hosseynieh Seyed al-Shohada Mosque in Shiraz.

Sharmahd and his Tondar group were also implicated in a 2010 terrorist bombing at Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's mausoleum in Tehran, injuring several people.

Sharmahd, a 67-year-old man, was further accused of collaborating with U.S. intelligence agencies and spying on Iran's sensitive ballistic missile program.

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry asserted that Sharmahd had orchestrated "armed operations and acts of sabotage" against Iran



Photo shows the aftermath of a bombing orchestrated by the Tondar group at a religious congregation center in Shiraz on April 12, 2008.

from his base in the United States.

The ringleader was planning to carry out several high-profile and potentially deadly attacks across Iran before he was arrested.

Germany and the United States have expressed support for Sharmahd in the past, accusing Iran of "violating human rights" by putting a well-known terrorist on trial. Germany even summoned Iran's charge d'affaires over the ring leader's death sentence in February, with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz condemning the verdict as "unacceptable."

# United front

Iranian officials express shared stance on necessity of responding to Israel's Saturday attacks

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – A chorus of voices has risen from Iran's leadership in the past days, with high-ranking officials from across the spectrum vowing a decisive response to the Israeli attack that targeted Iranian soil early Saturday morning.

Israeli warplanes launched long-range ballistic missile attacks on Iranian defense radars in the provinces of Tehran, Ilam, and Khuzestan. Using Iraqi airspace, the Israeli aircraft were unable to penetrate Iranian airspace after most of their attacks were repelled. While a small number of radars were damaged, which according to Iran's defense minister have already been repaired or replaced, four Army personnel were martyred in fending off the Israeli attacks. A civilian has also been pronounced dead.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Akbar Ahmadian has also declared that Israel's recent aggression did not manage to affect Iran's military capabilities. "This operation did not even have a minimum impact on Iran's military power," the security chief told reporters.

Though the Israeli attack appears to have fallen short of its original goals, experts believe that Israel did not aim to provoke a full-scale war with Iran either. "Israel's actions appear driven by a desire to bolster its reputation and prestige, yet it simultaneously seeks to avoid direct engagement with Iran," said Mahdi Khanalizadeh, a West Asia analyst and



Photo shows Iran's president next to high-ranking military officials

scholar. "Tel Aviv is wary of opening a new front with Tehran while already grappling with conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon. This strategy, however, must fail. Iran's worst response would be a lack of one."

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Al Khamenei on Sunday called for a response that will demonstrate Iran's unwavering "power" and "resolve". He placed the responsibility squarely on the shoulders of Iranian authorities, urging them to craft a decisive response that would leave no doubt about Iran's capabilities.

"The Zionist regime's miscalculation should be thwarted. They (the Israelis) need to understand the power, determination, and innovation of the Iranian nation and its youth," the Leader stated.

In the following hours, multiple high-ranking Iranian officials seemed to take heed of the Leader's

command.

The chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said that Israel's attack is going to have "bitter" and "unimaginable" consequences for the regime. Major General Hossein Salami further added that Israel carried out the assault out of the "frustration" it is feeling on the battlefield, where it has failed to root out Hamas or push back Hezbollah despite the depletion of its resources and the death of its forces.

General Salami spearheaded two direct strikes against Israeli positions in the occupied territories this year. The second attack, known as Operation True Promise II, saw Iran launch over 200 ballistic missiles on October 1st. Despite efforts by multiple regional and international powers to intercept them, the majority of the missiles successfully hit their targets. The first attack took place 6 months prior, involving hundreds

of Iranian drones and missiles with significantly older technologies than the ones used against Israel in October. Iran says its arsenal boasts more advanced weaponry than what has been publicly displayed in past operations.

In similar remarks, Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei said during a meeting with his subordinates that Tehran should make Israel pay for its Saturday attack. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf have also vowed that Iran will make Israel realize that no limit of aggression against the country will be tolerated.

How Iran will directly be responding to Israel for a third time remains a mystery.

"The enemy has grown bold due to a flawed assessment of our strategies and power. This audacity stems from the erroneous perception we have inadvertently created," explained Ali Abdi, an Iranian expert on Israel. "To counter this, we must shatter their perception of us. We need to disrupt their calculations and demonstrate that their assumptions are incorrect. Only then can we take the first step towards disciplining them."

The expert emphasized that establishing a new order against Israel will require a multifaceted approach, combining military strength with diplomatic and media campaigns.

# IRAN IN FOCUS

OCTOBER 29, 2024

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Iran freestyle wins U23 Worlds for first time

TEHRAN – Iran won the Freestyle team title at the U23 World Championships in Tirana, Albania as it got 158 points. Japan had an incredible run and finished with 102 points for second position and Azerbaijan was third with 100 points.

It was Iran's first title in world championships.

Mahdi Yousefi claimed the 79kg gold medal for Iran after he defeated Paris Olympian Feng LU (CHN), who became the first wrestler from China to reach the final in Freestyle.

Mahdi Hajilouei also seized a silver after he lost to Rizabek Aitmukhan of Kazakhstan 11-6 in the 97kg final bout.

Ali Hossein Momeni in the 57kg and Abbas Ebrahimpour in the 65kg won two bronze medals.

Iranian wrestlers Amirhossein Firouzpour in 92kg and Amirreza Masoumi in 125kg had earlier won two gold medals as well as a bronze medal, which was won by Ebrahim Khari in 61kg.

Iran's Greco-Roman had already won the title in the 2024 U23 World Wrestling Championships.

### Chamanian proud of his Iran U17 team

TEHRAN – Iran U17 football team head coach Abbas Chamanian gave credit to his boys after they booked their place at the 2025 AFC U17 Asian Cup.

Iran advanced to the event as one of the five best second-placed teams in the qualification stage.

Iran defeated Jordan 4-2 Sunday night in Group A. The young Persians had previously defeated Hong Kong, Syria and lost to North Korea.

"First of all, I have to congratulate my boys and all Iranian people, who sent us positive energy. We played four matches in seven days and my boys deserved recognition for the great work they did," Chamanian said.

"From the first day, we fought with our hearts and qualified for the Finals. Syria were the champions of West Asia and Jordan were the hosts but we emerged victorious against them," he added.

"Iran will have a difficult task in the 2025 AFC U17 Asian Cup and we should prepare well for the competition," Chamanian concluded.

A total of 43 teams were divided into ten groups for the U17 Asian Cup qualifiers. The group winners, along with the five best second-placed teams, joined host Saudi Arabia for the finals scheduled from April 3 to 20, 2025.

### Iran advances to 2025 AFC U17 Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Iran booked their place in the 2025 AFC U17 Asian Cup as one of the five best second-placed teams in the qualification stage.

Iran defeated Jordan 4-2 Sunday night in Group A. The team had defeated Hong Kong, Syria and lost to North Korea.

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### AFC Player of the Year 2023: Afif eyes repeat

TEHRAN – Qatar talisman Akram Afif could become the first player from his nation to win the AFC Player of the Year accolade twice, following a sensational 2023/24 campaign.

Nominated for a second occasion, the 2019 recipient will fancy his chances of a repeat triumph at the AFC Annual Awards Seoul 2023 that takes place on Tuesday, October 29, at the Grand Peace Palace of the Kyung Hee University.

Afif spearheaded Qatar's stunning defense of the AFC Asian Cup earlier this year, claiming the Most Valuable Player and Yili Top Scorer prizes, while he was named Best Player in the Qatar Stars League after helping Al Sadd SC to a record 17th league title.

The mercurial forward could also become only the third man to win the award more than once after Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata (1997, 1998) and Uzbekistan's Server Djeparov (2008, 2011) – an achievement he will cherish. "I am very happy to be nominated again and it is something very special, there are no words to describe how grateful and happy I am," Afif told the AFC.com.

"I hope that I can be the third player to win it twice and also the first Qatari to do so; it would mean a lot to me and I could make history in Qatar."

### Sepahan, Foolad share the spoils: PGPL

TEHRAN – Sepahan and Foolad football teams shared the spoils in a 2-2 draw on Matchweek 9 of 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) on Sunday.

Sepahan forward Kaveh Rezaei found the back of the net with a powerful shot in the 25th minute in Ahvaz's Foolad Arena but their defender Siavash Yazdani scored an own goal in 33rd minute. Mohammadmehdi Mohebi put Sepahan ahead once again in the 39th minute, however a header from Amirmasoud Sarabadani equalized the match in the 43rd minute.

Earlier in the day, Tractor defeated Aluminum 2-0 in Tabriz's Yadegar-e Emam Stadium thanks to first half's goals from Tomislav Štrkalj and Mehdi Hashemnejhad.

Sepahan are second with 17 points behind Persepolis due to an inferior goal difference.

Tractor moved up to third place with 16 points.

### Reza Dehdar misses 2024 World Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Reza Dehdar will not participate at the 2024 IWF World Championships because of injury.

Dehdar has suffered a foot injury and has not participated in the training ahead of the world championship.

Dehdar, 29, has won a silver and a bronze medal in the 2022 and 2019 held in Bogota and Pattaya in 102kg, respectively.

The Championships will take place from Dec. 6 to 15 in Manama, the capital of Bahrain.

### Tripple Islands of Persian Gulf Beach Volleyball Cup to be held

TEHRAN – A volleyball tournament, known as Tripple Islands of Persian Gulf Beach Volleyball Cup, will be held in Abu Musa Island.

The tournament will bring four teams namely, Abu Musa, Persian Gulf, Greater and Lesser Tunbs together in Abu Musa on Tuesday.

The four-team competition will serve as preparatory matches for the 2024 Asian Senior Beach Volleyball Championships.

The competition will be held at the Nuvali Sand Courts in the City of Santa Rosa, the Philippines from Nov. 6 to 10.

### Israel's attack against Iran 'unlawful', Tehran reserves the right to respond: FM



TEHRAN – In a phone call with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Sunday, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi asserted that Iran considers the defense of its sovereignty an inherent and legal right, a stance he reinforced as he discussed the "unlawful" Israeli attacks against the country.

Araghchi emphasized that Iran will unreservedly defend its territorial integrity against any acts of aggression.

During the conversation, Araghchi outlined the Islamic Republic's firm position regarding the unlawful Israeli actions targeting defense

sites in Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam Provinces.

Iran's Air Defense Force successfully intercepted and neutralized these assaults, according to Iranian authorities. Araghchi reaffirmed Iran's commitment to an appropriate response within the boundaries of international law and the United Nations Charter, promising retaliation that aligns with globally accepted norms.

The Iranian diplomat called on the international community, particularly the United Nations, to swiftly and decisively condemn the aggression, pointing out at Israel's actions as an extension of its broader campaign in Gaza and Lebanon. Araghchi urged immediate international measures to hold Israeli leadership accountable, advocating for an end to Israel's "war of genocide" in Gaza and escalating violence in Lebanon.

He highlighted that the ongoing aggression has taken the lives of tens of thousands since the latest offensive began in October.

**Iran to work with regional partners to address humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Lebanon**

In a separate call, Araghchi spoke with Omani Foreign Minister Seyyed Badr Albusaidi, who also condemned Israel's recent actions.

Albusaidi stated that the Israeli attacks are clear violations of Iran's sovereignty and international law. He stressed the importance of collective regional efforts to curb the growing instability and prevent the spread of insecurity across West Asia. Albusaidi echoed calls for urgent international intervention to stop the bloodshed in Gaza and Lebanon.

Araghchi expressed gratitude for Oman's supportive stance and confirmed that Iran would not overlook the aggression. He pledged that Iran would continue working alongside regional partners like Oman to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and Lebanon and protect the rights of displaced populations.

Following the Iranian-Omani discussions, Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement condemning the Israeli attack, calling it a severe breach of Iran's national sovereignty.

### Iran aims to de-escalate tensions by ramping up international pressure on Israel, diplomat says

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs has announced that Iran is preparing to take legal steps to inform both the global public and international organizations about recent hostile actions of Israel.

Kazem Gharibabadi emphasized that these efforts aim to increase pressure on Israel to answer for its recent aggressions which are considered as serious violations of international law. He noted that Iran's aim has always been to de-escalate the tensions across the region.

Gharibabadi condemned Israel's recent actions against Iran, describing them as direct acts of aggression that breach the United Nations Charter.

He confirmed that Iran had promptly reported the incident to the UN Secretary-General and the Security Council, highlighting the urgency with which Iran views these actions.

Gharibabadi noted that Iran is exploring several strategies to respond to these provocations, emphasizing that the legal dimension is particularly vital.

He explained that legal action serves not only to hold Israel accountable but also to raise international awareness and engage organizations worldwide to recognize and respond to these acts. In the early hours of Saturday, Israel targeted the military installations in Iran's Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces in flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter.

On Saturday, Iran's Air Defense Base issued a statement asserting that its air defenses successfully intercepted and countered Israeli

acts of aggression. The statement mentioned that although some limited damage was sustained in certain areas, a full assessment is ongoing to determine the extent of the impact.

Gharibabadi's statements reflect Iran's broader approach to confront the repeated Israeli provocations, which he said encompass not just military, but also political, diplomatic, and legal realms.

"Our goal is to heighten international pressure on Israel and ensure it faces consequences for its actions," he added.

### IRGC arrests four suspects in connection with Taftan terrorist attack

TEHRAN – Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has reported the apprehension of four individuals linked to the terrorist attack that occurred on Saturday in Taftan, located in the southeastern part of the country.

In a statement released on Monday by the Quds headquarters of the IRGC Ground Force, the arrests were noted to have been made during a coordinated operation involving units from the headquarters, as well as intelligence and law enforcement agencies from Sistan and Baluchistan Province, where the incident transpired.

The statement further indicated that four additional terrorists were killed and several others sustained injuries during the operation, which utilized drone technology.

The IRGC emphasized that efforts will persist until all individuals associated with the Saturday attack are captured.

Following the attack, Saeed Montazer-al-Mehdi, the spokesman for the Police Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran, confirmed that one of the assailants had been detained.

The Jaish al-Zulm terrorist group has taken

responsibility for the assault, which involved gunfire directed at two police vehicles in the Goharkooh area of Taftan. 10 soldiers and police officers were martyred during the attack.

The Jaish al-Zulm terrorist organization was established in 2012. It originated as a breakaway faction from Jundullah, another terrorist group, and rapidly became known for its violent assaults on Iranian security personnel and civilians. Since its formation, Jaish al-Zulm has been classified as a terrorist organization by several nations, including Iran, India, China, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States.

## Iran, China to expand cooperation in renewables



**TEHRAN** – Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Ali-Abadi has said the country is in talks with China to expand cooperation in the renewables sector.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the 24th Iran International Electricity Exhibition (IEE 2024), Ali-Abadi mentioned his recent visit to China, saying: “During my trip to China, negotiations were held with some Chinese companies to develop cooperation in the field of renewables.”

According to the minister, during the meetings, the Iranian side briefed the Chinese about Iran’s potential in the renewable sector and invited the representatives of the mentioned companies to visit the Islamic Republic to explore cooperation opportunities.

China has dominated recent progress in global green transition, said an opinion article published by The New York Times in mid-September.

“When you look at the world outside of China, those eye-popping global curves flatten out considerably -- green energy is still moving in the right direction, but much more slowly,” said the article published at the time.

In the area of solar power, in 2023, the world including China installed 425 gigawatts of new solar power; the world without China installed only 162 gigawatts, said the article. “China accounted for 263 gigawatts; the United States accounted for just 33.”

From 2019 to 2023, China grew its amount of new added capacity more than eight times

over, and the world without China didn’t even double its rate, said the article.

The pattern extends beyond solar. According to one recent estimate, nearly two-thirds of all big solar and wind plants being built globally this year are in China, which is deploying green energy at more than eight times the scale of any other country in the world.

China is also helping power green transitions of other countries, said the article. “In 2022, roughly 90 percent of the solar wafers and solar cells produced in the world were Chinese -- by some measures more than twice as many as the rest of the world was even ready to install.”

China is wagering an enormous amount of its future on nascent energy technologies -- and racing well ahead of the global promises it has made about the speed of its own transition.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021.

The document was signed between Iran’s former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Back in December 2022, Iran and China finalized 16 MOUs under the framework of the two countries’ strategic 25-year agreement.

The MOUs were signed in an Iran-China comprehensive cooperation program summit which was held in Tehran on December 13 in the presence of Iran’s former First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and China’s Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

The summit was focused on four areas explored by four committees between the two countries with the aim of paving the way for the implementation of the 25-year agreement.

Iran and China also signed 20 memoranda of understanding in the presence of the presidents of the two countries in Beijing in mid-February, 2023.

## ‘Islamic capital markets, good platforms for offering financial instruments’

**TEHRAN** – The head of Iran Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said that Islamic capital markets are great platforms to offer financial instruments with positive socio-economic impacts, IRNA reported.

Speaking at the 16th Islamic Capital Market Conference in Tehran, Hojatollah Seyedi stated that financial innovation is the basis of any progressive financial system, including the Islamic financial sector, adding: “Today, we are witnessing a leap in financial instruments that meet both Sharia principles and modern investment needs.”

“For example, green sukuk is a modern tool that enables the financing of environmentally sustainable projects in accordance with Islamic principles,” he noted.

In addition, the integration of blockchain-based smart contracts in sukuk structures can increase transparency, reduce costs, and simplify management processes, Seyedi said.

According to the official, such developments are an example of the adaptability and potential of the Islamic capital market in facing today’s complex challenges.

## 10,000 EVs expected to join Iran’s public transport fleet by March 2025

**TEHRAN** – The Managing Director of Iran’s MAPNA Group has said 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs) are expected to join the country’s public transport fleet by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the 24th Iran International Electricity Exhibition (IEE 2024), Mohammad Olia said MAPNA Group is taking the necessary measures to accelerate the establishment of charging stations for such vehicles in big cities, IRNA reported.

## ICCIMA to introduce new incentives for investment in Makran region

**TEHRAN** – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Makran Coast Development Council based on which the chamber is going to introduce new regulations and incentives to facilitate private sector investment in the region.

During a meeting of the ICCIMA Technical Engineering Services Committee with the representatives of the Makran Coast Development Council on Sunday, the ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh pointed out that

the development of the Makran region is a great capacity and advantage for the economic development of the country and the region and the connection with the coastal countries of the Oman Sea and the Persian Gulf.

“Makran development project should not suffer the fate of some government projects that were halted after a period. In addition, the government should leave the work in this field to the private sector and prepare the necessary space for domestic and foreign investors without interference,” the official said.

# Export of agricultural products up 28% in 7 months yr/yr

From page 1 ► As previously announced by the IRICA, Iran exported about 3.2 million tons of agricultural products valued at \$1.7 billion in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20–September 21), registering an increase of 26 percent in value year on year.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, the exports of the mentioned products also increased 20 percent in terms of weight.

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



International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran’s House of Industry, Mining and Trade has said.

According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian producers managed to

export about \$6.3 billion worth of the mentioned products in the said year.

As reported, agro-food products accounted for 12.8 percent of the country’s total non-

oil exports in the previous year.

Iraq was the top destination for Iran’s agro-food products in the mentioned year importing \$1.986 billion worth of the said items.

The Arab neighbor accounted for 31.5 percent of the total exports of food and agricultural products from Iran.

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

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

## Loading, unloading of goods in Bushehr port up 69% in H1



**TEHRAN** – As announced by a provincial official, the loading and unloading of goods in Bushehr port, in the southwest of Iran, increased by 69 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20–September 21), as compared to the first half of the past year.

Mohammad Shakibi-Nasab, the head of Bushehr province’s Ports and Maritime Department, said that 3,372,630 tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at this port during the mentioned six-month period.

Of the mentioned figure, 1,593 million tons was the amount of non-oil goods and 1,779 million tons was the oil products, the official added.

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

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

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

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and 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 Organization has put it on the agenda to attract 300 trillion rials (about \$600 million) of investment from the private sector in the country’s ports by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 14th government is determined to formulate and implement additional and

more comprehensive plans and programs in the field of sea-oriented development,” Aref stated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## TEDPIX rises 25,600 points on Monday

**TEHRAN**– TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 25,644 points to 2,051,596 on Monday, which is the third day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran’s over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

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

“We are taking special measures in relation to the budget bill and issues that directly or indirectly affect the capital market,” Hojatollah

Seyedi stated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“The important variable is the improvement of market

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

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

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

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

# Barbaric bloodshed: Gaza death toll crosses 43,000

From page 1 ► The Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza said on Monday that Israel has “arrested and deported all the medical staff” at Kamal Adwan Hospital except one pediatrician.

The ministry “appealed to international institutions to quickly send surgical medical teams to the hospital.”

It called on anyone with surgical skills to assist at Kamal Adwan Hospital to “save as many wounded and sick as possible.”

Israel’s raids against the hospital have killed patients, including children and newborns over the past three weeks.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed horror at the situation in northern Gaza.

“The plight of Palestinian civilians trapped in North Gaza is unbearable,” Guterres’s spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Sunday.

He added, “The Secretary-General is shocked by the harrowing levels of death, injury and destruction in the north, with civilians trapped under rubble, the sick and wounded going without life-saving health care, and families lacking food and shelter.”

Israel seeks to make the whole northern Gaza uninhabitable by



Israel has butchered more than 1,000 Palestinians in northern Gaza in the last 25 days. AFP

targeting the few remaining residential buildings, public facilities and evacuation centers. The main aim is to prevent people from coming back to the area.

The cabinet of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to develop its nefarious schemes through the forcible displacement of Palestinians.

The recent remarks made by far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich have clearly illustrated such schemes.

Speaking at a conference in Jerusalem (al-Quds) on Sunday, Smotrich called for forcibly displacing Palestinians to Arab countries.

“Those who do not want or are unable to put aside their national ambitions will receive assistance from us to emigrate to one of the many Arab countries where the Arabs can realize their national ambitions, or to any other destination in the world.”

His words clearly indicate that Israel is pursuing a policy of eth-

nic cleansing in Gaza.

Since the early stages of the Gaza war, Israel has been attempting to evacuate Gaza’s 2.3 million population to Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula.

Israel has butchered more than 43,000 Palestinians and injured over 101,000 others since declaring war on Gaza on October 7, 2023.

The Netanyahu regime, however, has failed to bring the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement to its knees.

The slaughter of defenseless Palestinian people is Israel’s sole achievement since the start of the conflict.

Amid the inaction of Western and Arab countries, the Israeli carnage in Gaza goes unchecked.

Certain Arab states have either openly or secretly normalized ties with Israel. These states only pay lip service in an attempt to cover up domestic resentment against Israel’s genocide in Gaza.

Palestinians feel they have been betrayed by Arab countries. However, the strong resistance demonstrated by Palestinians has served as a barrier to Israel’s ethnic cleansing plan in the Gaza Strip.

## United against Israeli apartheid: Over 1,100 authors launch historic boycott

More than 1,100 authors have launched “a mass boycott of Israeli publishers complicit in the dispossession of the Palestinian people”, a coalition of solidarity groups said in a press statement, Al Jazeera reported.

The declaration is the biggest cultural boycott against Israeli institutions in history, it said, adding that “signatories have stated that they cannot in good conscience engage with Israeli institutions without interrogating their

relationship to apartheid and displacement.”

According to the statement, authors have joined the campaign launched more than 20 years ago by Palestinian civil society, which calls for “those working in cultural industries to refuse working with Israeli academic and cultural institutions that are complicit in Israel’s human rights abuses against the Palestinian people and upholding apartheid and genocide.”

## Egypt urges two-day Gaza truce as Israel’s war aims remain elusive

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has proposed a two-day truce in Gaza that would potentially pave the way for a long-term ceasefire.

El-Sisi’s proposal includes exchanging four Israeli captives held in Gaza for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

At a news conference in Cairo on Sunday, el-Sisi said the 48-hour lull in fighting and prisoner exchange would be followed by more talks in the next 10 days, with the hope that negotiators could hammer out a peace deal.

El-Sisi did not say whether the plan had been formally presented to either Israel or Hamas.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has so far derailed multiple efforts aimed at reaching a ceasefire in Gaza.

Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until the elimination of Hamas. But Israeli military officials have admitted that the premier’s goal will remain elusive. War minister Yoav Gallant has also described Netanyahu’s “total victory” dream over Hamas as “gibberish”.

## Hezbollah kills 7 more Israeli troops

From page 1 ► Footage has been published of the scenes showing Hezbollah forces confronting the incursion of the Israeli troops in the vicinity of the towns of Taybeh and Rub Thalatheen on the southern border.

The IOF has been unsuccessful in its invasion of southern Lebanon. One month after the initial attempt to invade southern Lebanon with ground operations, no areas have fallen to IOF control. Analysts say the Israeli army has resorted to hit-and-run raids inside the Lebanese territory.

Nir Dvori, the military correspondent for Israeli Channel 12, revealed that three Hezbollah fighters confronted an Israeli force, injuring and killing 20 of them.

The Israeli news outlet Haaretz has reported, “It is impossible to ignore the price involved in continuing the fighting for a long time. The greatest danger lies in Lebanon, and Hezbollah has already begun a certain path toward recovery, after appointing new leaders to replace many of the leaders who



were killed.”

Hezbollah issued a fresh warning on Monday to the northern Israeli settlement of Kiryat Shmona stating: “To those [still] residing in the settlement, you are required to evacuate immediately.”

This follows Hezbollah’s evacuation orders for dozens of settlements in northern Israel and the occupied Golan in which the Lebanese resistance movement warned settlers

that the Israeli military “is using your settlements to attack Lebanon”.

“For your own safety, you are required to leave these areas,” Hezbollah added.

In separate operations waged by Hezbollah’s missile forces on Monday, the resistance targeted the “Yodfat Military Industries Company southeast of Acra with an attack drone that accurately hit its target.”

The site has come under attack for the second consecutive day further highlighting Hezbollah’s ability to evade Israeli defense systems.

In a series of other operations, a Hezbollah drone made impact in Liman in northwestern Israel, resulting in a fire.

As Hezbollah focuses its attack on Israeli military targets, the IOF continues to indiscriminately bombard neighborhoods in Lebanon, targeting and killing an increasing number of civilians.

## How BRICS thwarts Netanyahu’s colonial ambitions

From page 1 ► As the wealth of Mayer Amschel Rothschild, a German court official, expanded, his 5 sons established banks in Paris, Frankfurt, London, Vienna and Naples, and dominated the European financial system.

The Rothschilds, based in France, financed Napoleon’s wars. After the failure of his campaign in Egypt, he was encouraged to establish a Jewish entity in Palestine, believing that it would preserve French influence in the Levant.

For their part, the Rothschilds were influenced by the Protestant movement that restored the Old Testament in defiance of the Catholic Church. They were also influenced by the positivist school that focused on the material dimension in science, which led them to consider the Old Testament as a book of the history of the Jewish people.

The 19th century witnessed a social movement that helped the Jews to leave the ghetto and integrate into European societies, contrary to the interests of the Jewish financial bourgeoisie. This class considered itself distinct from the surroundings due to its elite financial status. This openness turned into a secular nationalist movement seeking to establish a national homeland for the Jews, the basis of which was the concept of the “nation state.”

Following the failure of Napoleon III’s dream of establishing a dominant empire in mainland Europe – due to his defeat by the Germans in 1870 – the Rothschilds decided to establish themselves in London, where Baron de Rothschild promised the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Arthur James Balfour, to establish a national homeland for the Jews in Palestine.

In the second half of the 19th century, the Rothschilds moved their centers of influence to the American market, where they allied with the Protestant Morgan family.

There, Ashkenazi Jewish families from Europe also came to the fore, mainly Goldman and Schiff, who established – in 1913 – the Federal Reserve System to become a system to protect Jewish capitalist interests. This coincided with the British occupation of Palestine, and its facilitation of the passage and settlement of Jewish settlers.

With the end of World War II, the influence of the Zionist movement expanded in the world through the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, coinciding with its control over the entire land of historical Palestine.

In 1991, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the expansion of the influence of the



unipolar American system, the role of capitalism escalated. In parallel the Zionist intentions to control all of West Asia were revealed, not least what Netanyahu declared at the beginning of the ongoing war.

### BRICS currency threatens Netanyahu’s dreams

Currently, Netanyahu’s colonial project, which he serves in his capacity as a US colonial proxy, is being obstructed and challenged by Iran, along with the peoples of the pro-Resistance axis, as well as Russia and China, who are determined – especially after the establishment of the Shanghai and BRICS organizations – to challenge the US financial hegemony. The US is the main pillar for shielding the West’s top colonial military base called “Is-

rael”. The US is also the primary financier of its failed ambitions in the region, including the current genocidal campaigns in Palestine and Lebanon.

Indeed, the decision at the Kazan Summit to launch BRICS common currency threatens Netanyahu’s dream, who is well aware that his functional colonial entity’s dependence on the hegemony of global financial capitalism is no longer secured. Observers believe that this imminent threat is what drives him to more exterminations. Whatsoever, the blood of the oppressed have always triumphed over the Merkava, the Iron Dome, the THAAD and the entire Western advanced intelligence and military weapons.

## South Africa’s legal team says ‘intent is clear’ in Israel’s Gaza genocide

### Lawyers submit hundreds of pages of evidence to meet ICJ deadline to prove that Israel is guilty of genocide in Gaza

While South African legal researchers were in an undisclosed location last week, racing against time to finalize hundreds of pages of evidence proving Israel’s intent to commit genocide in Gaza, in Israel, leaders gathering near the Gaza border were calling for the besieged and bombarded Strip to be emptied of Palestinians.

During the “preparing to settle Gaza” conference, held at a restricted military zone in Be’eri last Monday, Israeli Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir was recorded calling for the “migration” of Gaza’s current inhabitants, and the possibility of future Israeli settlement expansion there – something considered illegal under international law.

“[We will] tell them, ‘we are giving you the chance, leave from here to other countries,’” Ben-Gvir said, while Israeli forces continued their more than year-long bombardment of Gaza. “The Land of Israel is ours.”

South African diplomats assert that statements like these offer undeniable evidence of Israel’s genocidal intent – something they must prove before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in an ongoing case.

Monday (October 28) was the deadline for South Africa to submit a detailed memorial against Israel to the ICJ, lawyers and diplomats told Al Jazeera. Its legal submission aims to definitively establish that Israel’s military actions in Gaza amount to genocide.

Despite new evidence emerging daily, senior South African officials instructed the legal team to stick to what they had already collected to meet the approaching deadline.

The legal team is however confident that the hundreds of pages of evidence are more than enough to sustain their case.

“The problem we have is that we have too much evidence,” Ambassador Vusumuzi Madonsela, South Africa’s representative to The Hague, explained to Al Jazeera.

Zane Dangor, the director-general of South Africa’s Department of International Relations and Cooperation, said: “The legal team will always say we need more time, there’s more facts coming. But we have to say you have to stop now. You [have] got to focus on what you have.”

The 500-page South African legal submission aims to expose a pattern of mass casualties in Gaza, where almost 43,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 2023, which South African officials argue exceeds any proportional military response to Hamas’s attacks on October 7 last year.

South Africa has maintained since its in-

terim application in December last year that Israel’s intent goes beyond military objectives, aiming instead at the wholesale depopulation of Gaza through extreme violence and forced displacement.

In its initial application, South Africa submitted 84 pages pleading with the court to find Israel guilty of suspected genocide and order it to, among other things, halt its invasion in Gaza.

During oral arguments in The Hague, the South African legal team relied on statements made by Israeli politicians at the time, video clips of the destruction in Gaza and maps that showed how Palestinian land had been encroached on.

### ‘Unprovable’?

The ICJ set firm its Monday deadline for South Africa to prove, on paper, that Israel is guilty of genocide.

However, this is a feat described by international law experts as “nearly unprovable”.

Professor of international law at the University of Cape Town, Cathleen Powell, said South Africa’s challenge is to prove genocidal intent on behalf of the state of Israel and to show a link between comments made by officials and the programmatic nature of the destruction of Gaza.

“If they can find genocidal statements from state officials and show that that directly led to a particular program that led to destruction on the ground, then that’s probably a very strong case, but it is a very difficult link to prove.”

She said there was no doubt war crimes were being committed in Gaza, but invoking the genocide convention meant that South Africa had to prove that the state was responsible.

“It is difficult to attribute the intent of officials to the state. You have to find something different on behalf of the state [of Israel] to show genocidal intent,” Powell explained.

Legal insiders said if South Africa fails to prove *dolus specialis* – the specific intent to destroy a group, either in whole or in part – its case would fall flat.

South Africa’s Dangor said his country’s case was rock solid.

“It’s a textbook case of genocide,” Dangor said, adding that the “intent is clear”.

“Genocidal acts without intent can be crimes against humanity. But here, the intent is just front and centre.

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

## Masuleh nears UNESCO recognition with key restoration projects



TEHRAN - Recent efforts to preserve and restore Masuleh's cultural landscape have revitalized 97 cultural and historical elements, a key step towards achieving UNESCO World Heritage status, according to Vali Jahani, Gilan province's tourism chief.

Masuleh, a historic hillside village in Iran's Gilan province, is known for its traditional stepped architecture and stunning natural landscape.

Jahani on Sunday emphasized the village's significance as an iconic example of traditional Iranian terraced cities, noting that the ongoing projects bring it closer to being recognized as a World Heritage site, IRIB reported.

The official explained that 52 cultural, historical, and natural landmarks were restored and put back into use over the past year, with the total number now reaching 97.

"Our recent restorations include key heritage sites such as northern Iran's oldest mill, several historic natural springs, mosques over 800 years old, ancient mausoleums, and traditional houses and commercial buildings," Jahani said.

He added that bilingual signage and revitalized marketplaces have also enhanced the cultural presentation of Masuleh.

Additional projects have included archae-

ological excavations, the establishment of three museums in Masuleh, the national registration of over 20 historical sites, and the documentation of more than 100 cultural, historical, and natural landmarks within the region. Over 50 cultural and historical properties in Masuleh are currently undergoing the registration process for the national heritage list.

With its thousand-year history and preserved traditional structures, Masuleh's unique architectural heritage and historical sites are positioning it as a strong candidate for UNESCO recognition, IRIB said.

Masuleh is famed for its Lego-shaped earthen houses built on another's rooftop. Surrounded by green valleys, misty forests, and 3,000m peaks, Masuleh is the ultimate trekking destination in Iran, offering several trails that include both day treks and multi-day treks.

### Stepped villages

Iran is home to several magnificent stepped villages, of which the most popular ones are Masouleh, Kang, and UNESCO-tagged Uramanat.

Kang in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi, which has been recently inscribed on the national heritage list, with an antiquity of more than 3,000 years, is situated at a distance of some 30 km from Mashhad, the provincial capital.

The village, located on the highlands of Mount Binalud, is also adjacent to Neishabur, known for its turquoise handicrafts and mines.

Uramanat in the west of the country is also another stepped village, which is considered a cradle of Kurdish art and culture from the days of yore.

## Rafsanjan exhibit to welcome artisans from 31 provinces



TEHRAN - Rafsanjan, an ancient city in the southern Kerman province, will host a major handicraft exhibition, showcasing traditional arts and crafts from 31 provinces across Iran.

The exhibition, organized by the provincial cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts department, will run from November 4 to 8, highlighting the rich heritage of Iranian craftsmanship, IMNA reported on Monday.

Azam Alikhani, an official with the department, announced the event in a press conference, emphasizing the nationwide representation at this year's exhibition. "With contributions from 31 provinces and displays

of 299 handicraft categories, this exhibition aims to celebrate and promote Iran's diverse artisan culture," Alikhani said on Monday.

As mentioned by organizers, the event not only promotes Iranian handicrafts but also seeks to advance Rafsanjan's recognition as a key player in the nation's handicraft industry. "Our goal is to gain national recognition for Rafsanjan in the handicraft sector, underscoring our responsibility to preserve the artistry of our ancestors," Alikhani noted.

Iranian handicrafts boast a rich history, deeply embedded in the country's cultural and artistic heritage.

From intricate Persian carpets and porcelains to decorative pottery, metalwork, and textile arts, Iranian crafts are renowned worldwide for their artistry and intricate designs.

Each province carries its own distinct styles, materials, and techniques, reflecting the cultural and environmental diversity.

Currently, a selection of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as "world cities of handicrafts".

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Tikal National Park

Tikal National Park is located in Northern Guatemala's Petén province within a large forest region often referred to as the Maya Forest, which extends into neighboring Mexico and Belize.

Embedded within the much larger Maya Biosphere Reserve, exceeding two million hectares and contiguous with additional conservation areas, Tikal National Park is one of the few World Heritage properties inscribed according to both natural and cultural criteria for its extraordinary biodiversity and archaeological importance.

It comprises 57,600 hectares of wetlands, savannah, tropical broadleaf and palm forests with thousands of architectural and ar-

chaeological remains of the Mayan civilization from the Preclassic Period (600 BC) to the decline and eventual collapse of the urban center around 900 AD.

The diverse ecosystems and habitats harbor a wide spectrum of neotropical fauna and flora.

Five cats, including Jaguar and Puma, several species of monkeys and anteaters and more than 300 species of birds are among the notable wildlife.

The forests comprise more than 200 tree species and over 2000 higher plants have been recorded across the diverse habitats.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Padeh: a village frozen in time

TEHRAN - Nestled on the northern edge of a barren desert, Padeh is a hidden gem in Semnan province that beckons history enthusiasts and adventurous travelers alike.

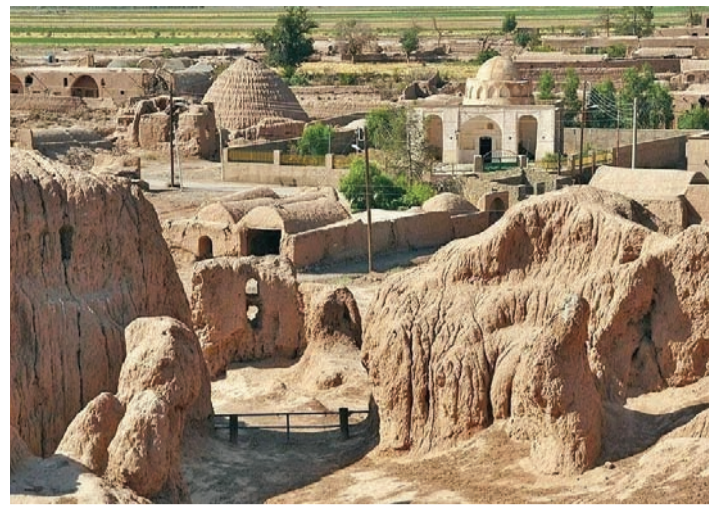
Situated some 130 kilometers from Tehran in an eastward direction, and just 25 kilometers east of Garmsar, this ancient village offers a fascinating blend of cultural diversity, historical ruins, and natural beauty.

Its location between the Alborz Mountains and the vast desert has shaped its unique landscape, climate, and vegetation.

At the heart of Padeh lies the ruins of a colossal citadel, standing as a testament to its 1500-year-old history.

The weathered structure, now a monumental sculpture of crumbling mudbrick, evokes a sense of mystery and awe.

Once home to around 150 inhabitants, this ancient fortress was not only a residence but also a key defensive stronghold believed to date from the Sassanid era.



The ruins of the citadel are still visible in the village center, offering a glimpse into Padeh's storied past. Listed as a national heritage site, this historic treasure makes Padeh a destination for history lovers.

Exploring Padeh, visitors can also uncover more remnants of traditional Persian architecture. Preserved hammams (bathhouses), ice houses, and three neighborhoods—Hesar-e Bala, Hesar-e

Pain, and Chalk-e Khesht-Mali—paint a picture of the village's vibrant cultural history.

Padeh was once a melting pot of different tribes and cultures, creating a unique community with rich traditions.

The village's layout and expansion over time, from the original citadel to its present form, reveal the ingenuity of its people in adapting to the natural environment.

Padeh's natural surroundings are equally captivating. The steppe climate brings scorching summers and chilly winters, with hardy vegetation like alhagi, salt cedar, and wormwood dotting the landscape.

The area is also home to various wildlife, including foxes, wolves, and hawks, making it an ideal spot for nature lovers and birdwatchers.

Padeh may no longer be bustling with life, as many of its inhabitants have migrated, but its rich history, cultural significance, and serene desert atmosphere offer visitors a peaceful retreat and an opportunity to step back in time.

Whether you're tracing the steps of ancient traders along the Silk Road or marveling at the ruins of its ancient fortress, the ancient village of Padeh promises a memorable journey into the past.

## Experts to address challenges of troglodytic architecture at Khoramabad conference

TEHRAN - The 4th International Troglodytic Architecture Conference, focusing on the theme "Resilience against Risks, Climate Change, and Disasters," will be held in Khoramabad, the capital of Lorestan province, from November 12 to 14.

Organized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, the conference aims to address the challenges and opportunities surrounding troglodytic architecture in the face of modern environmental and cultural pressures.

Troglodytic architecture, a unique building tradition involving structures carved into cliffs or constructed within natural caves, reflects centuries of human adaptability and environmental harmony.

Iran boasts several prominent examples of this architecture, including the village of Kandovan, known for its cone-shaped cave homes, and Meymand, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring rock-cut dwellings used continuously for over 2,000 years.

According to organizers, a number of international experts, scholars, and enthusiasts



have been invited to gather to explore the relevance of troglodytic structures in addressing contemporary issues, such as climate change and disaster resilience. With troglodytic sites often situated in fragile ecosystems, participants will discuss ways to adapt conservation strategies that protect both the built heritage and the surrounding environment.

The conference's broad agenda includes discussions on five key topics: Theoretical concepts and foundations; cultural background

and intangible heritage; natural environment in troglodytic architecture; case studies and experiences; and conservation of troglodytic architecture.

The conference will also highlight the importance of safeguarding the intangible heritage linked to these spaces, including the traditional knowledge, practices, and cultural values passed down through generations.

Results from previous editions suggest that the conference is intended to be a significant platform for generating new ideas and fostering collaborations to ensure that these architectural marvels continue to inspire and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Man-made caves, or troglodytic spaces, are a unique form of architecture created without the use of construction materials.

Instead, they are formed by carving into rock formations or excavating rocky masses from the ground. These spaces, shaped entirely through human effort, have been identified and documented in various regions across Iran.

## Intl. conference of Isfahan historians to be held in 2025



TEHRAN - The University of Isfahan is set to host an international conference about the historians of the ancient Iranian city in November 2025.

Prearranged by the University of Isfahan, Farhangian University, the Isfahan Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and the Isfahan Seminary, the event aims to explore and analyze the contributions of native and international historians of Isfahan across centuries, ISNA reported on Monday.

Ali-Akbar Kajbaf, President of

Farhangian University in Isfahan and a faculty member in the University of Isfahan's history department, announced the event, emphasizing its focus on reviewing the rich historiographical traditions of the city.

"With a longstanding legacy of historical documentation by historians, sociologists, and geographers, we aim to introduce and analysis the works of Isfahan's historians, from ancient times to the present," Kajbaf told ISNA.

According to organizers, the conference is set to explore the expertise of multiple academic disciplines, including geography, sociology, and political science, in partnership with national and international universities.

Organizers also plan to invite foreign scholars who have conducted research on Isfahan by sending conference posters to encourage their participation.

Kajbaf noted that details regarding participation, as well as the scientific and executive chairs of the conference, will be finalized in an upcoming meeting at the University of Isfahan.

"The selection of judges and announcement of awards will also be discussed in future sessions," he added.

Moreover, the secretariat of the conference will consider submissions from oral historians, with no restrictions on contributions from scholars or students.

"Researchers, including post-graduate students and enthusiasts, are welcome to submit their papers for consideration," Kajbaf emphasized.

### A city of historical significance

Isfahan, situated at the crossroads of Iran's north-south and east-west trade routes, reached its zenith between the 9th and 18th

centuries. During the Safavid era, it became Iran's capital under Shah Abbas the Great.

Renowned for its Persian-Islamic architecture, the city is home to historical landmarks such as Naqsh-e Jahan Square, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Moreover, the ancient city was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons.

It is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

The Persian proverb "Isfahan nesf-e-jahan ast" (Isfahan is half the world) reflects the city's cultural and historical prominence.

## Tiny house with exquisite frescoes uncovered in Pompeii

Archaeologists have unveiled a newly discovered residence in Pompeii, known as the House of Phaedra. This small yet exquisitely decorated home was uncovered during excavations along Via dell'Abbondanza and showcases an array of stunning frescoes that highlight both the artistic talent and cultural attitudes of its ancient residents.

The House of Phaedra, named after the mythological queen of Athens, features vibrant wall paintings that include mythological scenes, such as depictions of the gods Venus and Adonis.

Despite its modest size, the house decorations rival those found in more opulent residences in the area. Unlike many Roman homes that featured a central atrium—a courtyard designed

for collecting rainwater—the House of Phaedra lacks this traditional element, suggesting a shift in architectural practices during this period. The Pompeii archaeological park emphasized that the dwelling "strikes us for the high level of its wall decorations," reflecting a cultural aesthetic that valued rich artistry even in smaller homes. The findings contribute to the understanding of Pompeii's social dynamics and artistic preferences.

Archaeologists also noted the presence of a painted domestic altar at the entrance, adorned with motifs of flora and fauna, along with remnants of a lamp and a ceramic incense burner, indicating that the house was likely in the midst of renovations when the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius occurred in CE 79. This eruption

not only buried the city in volcanic ash but also preserved its intricate artworks and daily life.

This discovery follows recent excavations revealing additional frescoes in Pompeii, including an impressive depiction of Helen of Troy and the god Apollo in a banquet hall known as the "black room."

Gabriel Zuchtrigel, the director of the Archaeological Park of Pompeii, remarked on the significance of these finds, stating, "Here people gathered to feast after sunset"

The House of Phaedra adds to the narrative of a city that, despite facing a tragic fate, continues to inform and inspire contemporary understanding of ancient Roman life.

(Source: archaeologymag.com)

# Deputy health minister, Cuban envoy hold meeting

TEHRAN – The deputy health minister for international affairs, Mohammad-Hossein Niknam, and the Cuban ambassador to Tehran, Alexis Bandrich Vega, have discussed ways to foster cooperation.

The officials attended a coordinating meeting on Sunday to discuss issues for the upcoming Iran-Cuban Joint Economic Committee Meeting.

Referring to the friendly relations, Vega said the main goal of the meeting was to boost solidarity between the two countries, IRNA reported.

"The two countries seek to establish peace not only between Iran and Cuba but among all the countries of the world," the Cuban official stressed.

Sadly, sanctions have made life more difficult for targeted nations due to imposed barriers and restrictive measures, he added.

However, Iran and Cuban relations are growing; Iranian knowledge-based companies will attend an exhibition planned to be held next month in Havana, and the Cuban minister of information and communication technology will pay a visit to Iran next week.



"Holding the joint committee meeting will bring positive outcomes for the two countries. Cuba is a safe market for Iran. Also, it can be a reliable friend with potential benefits in the long-term for the country."

Niknam, for his part, said the friendly relations between Iran and Cuba are exemplary. There have always been positive interactions between the two countries, but the current relations can be expanded.

The official touched also on the joint projects to develop vaccines during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He expressed optimism that the

This discussion occurred during the fourth meeting of the working group on the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention (BTWC), held from August 19-23, 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland.

During the meeting, officials from the Razi and Pasteur Institute highlighted Iran's advancements in biological sciences and its collaborative efforts with nations such as Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Uzbekistan, and Cuba in vaccine and serum production, as well as the organization of various training programs.

They also emphasized the difficulties Iran encounters in exercising its international rights due to the sanctions imposed by the United States on the Islamic Republic.

The BTWC, an international treaty that prohibits the development and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, was enacted in March 1975 and has since been ratified by 187 countries.

Nevertheless, the United States undermines the rights of nations to engage in international cooperation and to leverage the advancements in biological sciences, as it imposes unlawful sanctions and disregards its international legal responsibilities in this area.

joint commission will help develop the relations between Iran and Cuba.

The 19th Joint Economic Committee Meeting will soon be held in Havana, and several agreements are scheduled to be signed.

**Iran, Cuba discuss joint response to decry U.S. sanctions**

In August, representatives from Iran's Pasteur Institute and the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute convened with their Cuban counterparts to address the impacts and challenges posed by the illegal unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States.

## Occupational Therapy for all

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN –Occupational Therapy Day is observed annually on October 27. The day highlights the role of occupational therapists in improving mental health and physical performance.

This year's theme 'Occupational Therapy for All' further reflects the important role of the profession in facilitating the ability of individuals, communities, and populations to participate in everyday activities.

The day was first launched on October 27, 2010. Since then, it has become an important date to promote and celebrate the profession internationally.

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) is the international voice of the occupational therapy profession which globally comprises 111 national occupational therapy professional organizations. In 2006, Iran joined the federation.

World Occupational Therapy Day is the opportunity to heighten the visibility of the profession's development work and to promote the activities of WFOT locally, nationally, and internationally.

It is also a unique opportunity to unite the occupational therapy communities to share experiences with practitioners and students around the world.

Occupational therapy is a branch of healthcare; occupational therapists help individuals of all ages to prevent or improve their health, despite their injuries, illness, or disabilities.

They empower needed individuals to carry out their daily tasks (such as doing their jobs or attending school), and other activities.

The aging population is one of the most important challenges facing the country. It is forecast that old individuals outnumber the youth population, particularly in developing countries, in seven years. Hence population aging, as a

global trend, is reshaping societies worldwide.

The number of older people (defined as those aged 65 years or older) tripled from around 260 million in 1980 to 761 million in 2021. Between 2021 and 2050, the global share of the older population is projected to increase from less than 10 percent to around 17 percent.

Consequently, the demand for comprehensive healthcare, care, and social support services has grown substantially, particularly for older persons with conditions such as dementia.

The trend also highlights the significance of promoting health, as well as preventing, and treating illnesses throughout the entire course of life.

Hence the significance of occupational therapists' role is felt more than ever concerning the emerging challenges such as the aging population, increase in non-communicable diseases, and road traffic injuries.

## IRCS proposes establishing joint humanitarian network

TEHRAN –Establishing a joint humanitarian network by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the governments can help explore diverse aspects of support and integrate effective humanitarian measures, an official with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has said.

It will also lead to the creation of sustainable added value and ultimately increase the credibility of the humanitarian network, Mehr news agency quoted Meysam Afshar as saying.

The official made the remarks following the statutory meetings held in Geneva, Switzerland, ahead of the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which will be held from October 28 to 31.

The basis of the global humanitarian services offered by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, particularly during emergencies including natural disasters and armed conflicts, lies in supporting people and alleviating human suffering.

To create balance and proportion between growing expectations, and the needs of the vulnerable people, as well as the financial and spiritual capacity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, especially during crisis, in the first place highlights the need for more dialogue and interaction between the societies.

In the second place, it underscores fostering interactions with other agents such as governments and relevant international organi-

zations, through humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy.

The 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent will present a critical opportunity to focus on concrete humanitarian solutions for some of the world's most pressing challenges.

The conference is co-organized by the ICRC and IFRC. It is a unique event, where States and the members of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement converge.

## ENGLISH IN USE

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### Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

The country is predicted to receive above normal rainfall over the next three months (February 20-May 21), head of the climatological research institute affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO) has said. The whole country will meet normal and above normal rainfalls, the northern parts will receive above normal rainfall while southern provinces will receive normal to lower-than-normal rainfall, IRNA quoted Iman Babaeian as saying on Sunday. This month, northern and eastern provinces will receive rain above normal averages, while in the first month of spring precipitation will be at normal amounts across the country, he noted, adding, during the second month of spring rainfall will reach its peak.

### بارش‌های کشور در سه ماه پیش رو بیش از نرمال است

رئیس پژوهشکده اقلیم‌شناسی سازمان هواشناسی گفت: پیش‌بینی‌ها نشان می‌دهد میزان بارش در کشور در سه ماهه پیش رو (اسفند ۹۷، فروردین و اردیبهشت ۹۸) در حد نرمال و متمایل به بیش از نرمال خواهد بود.

ایمان باباییان روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: مجموع بارش‌ها در سطح کشور نرمال و متمایل به بیشتر از نرمال است اما در نیمه شمالی، بیشتر از نرمال و در نیمه جنوبی در محدوده نرمال تا کمتر از نرمال خواهد بود.

وی اظهار داشت: بارش‌ها در اسفندماه ۹۷ در نیمه شمالی و شرقی بیشتر از نرمال است، در فروردین ماه ۹۸ نیز بارش‌ها در محدوده نرمال و برای اردیبهشت بیشتر از نرمال پیش‌بینی شده است.

## Tehran hosting Iran smart city intl. exhibition, conference

TEHRAN – The fifth Iran smart city international exhibition and conference kicked off on Monday in Tehran and will wrap up on Wednesday.

The event is being held concurrently with World Cities Day.

A smart city is the key to achieving a smart society and sustainable development. Transferring global experiences and exchanging knowledge and expertise can facilitate and accelerate the movement towards the creation of smart cities.

### A smart city is the key to achieving a smart society and sustainable development.

Supported by the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, the exhibition showcases the latest achievements of modern technologies in smart city development.

The conference focuses on different topics including smart economy, smart life, smart governance, smart environment, smart transport, and smart transformation.

The other main objectives of the event include improving the quality of urban and rural life, developing smart city markets, and becoming familiar with new concepts in smart designs and structures.

The event is serving as a platform to connect scientific and executive institutions, realize the economy of resistance in smart cities, explore the country's construction challenges, and provide scientific and practical solutions.

Concluding contracts with the private sector to develop transportation infrastructure and traffic in smart cities is another main goal of the conference.

### World Cities Day

World Cities Day is celebrated annually on 31 October. It aims to create awareness of the role of urbanization in global sustainable development and social inclusion.

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) declared the Day to promote interest in global urbanization and encourage cooperation among countries in addressing the challenges of urbanization and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

The Day takes place during Urban October, which the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) launched in 2014 to emphasize the world's urban challenges and engage the international community on the New Urban Agenda (NUA), which highlights inclusive cities. Urbanization offers opportunities for new forms of social inclusion, including greater equality, access to services and new opportunities, and engagement and mobilization.

As cities around the world continue to grow, they are increasingly home to a new wave of young leaders committed to addressing the pressing issues of climate change. Youth are at the forefront of local action and innovation, playing a catalytic role in shaping sustainable urban futures.

World Cities Day 2024 will be observed under the theme 'Youth climate changemakers: Catalyzing local action for urban sustainability'.

It is a call to action for youth and local governments to work hand-in-hand to address the climate crisis.

With climate change intensifying urban challenges, particularly in rapidly growing cities, this year's observance emphasizes the power of youth to lead in urban adaptation and climate resilience.

By taking the lead, today's youth can shape their cities to be inclusive, equitable, and environmentally sustainable for generations to come.

## Iran appoints first representative to Integrated Marine Biosphere Research



TEHRAN – Maryam Qaemi, a faculty member of the Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences, has been appointed as the first representative of the country in the Integrated Marine Biosphere Research global project (IMBeR).

IMBeR is a large global research project which focuses on ocean sustainability in the context of global change. Understanding past, present, and future changes to the ocean, and exploring ways to achieve a sustainable ocean for the benefit of society are among the main objective of the research.

It aims to quantify and compare historic and present structure and functioning of linked ocean and human systems to predict and project changes including developing scenarios and options for securing or transitioning towards ocean sustainability.

Promoting integrated marine research and enhancing capabilities for the development and implementation of ocean sustainability strategies within natural and social sciences, as well as sharing relevant information and knowledge needed by society to secure sustainable and healthy oceans are listed as the most important missions of the global project.

The main responsibility of the representatives focuses on making necessary arrangements for boosting international contribution and cooperation, in line with

the goals of the project, IRNA quoted Qaemi as saying.

IMBeR supports collaborative, disciplinary, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and integrated research that addresses key ocean science issues generated by or impacting society.

Such research is required to provide evidence-based knowledge and guidance, along with options for policy-makers, managers and marine-related communities, to help achieve sustainability of the marine realm under global change.

### Preserving oceans

The ocean covers over 70 percent of the planet. It is the life source, supporting humanity's sustenance and that of every other organism on earth.

### IMBeR is a global research project on ocean sustainability in the context of global change.

The ocean produces at least 50 percent of the planet's oxygen. It is home to most of Earth's biodiversity and is the main source of protein for more than a billion people around the world. Not to mention, the ocean is key to our economy with an estimated 40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

Even with all its benefits, the ocean is now in need of support.

With 90 percent of big fish populations depleted, and 50 percent of coral reefs destroyed, humans are taking more from the ocean than can be replenished.

It is essential to work together to create a new balance with the ocean that no longer depletes its bounty but instead restores its vibrancy and brings it new life.



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OCTOBER 29, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*I wonder at a man who loses hope of salvation when the door of repentance is open for him.*  
**Imam Ali (AS)**

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

## Sir Roger Stevens' book on Iran published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "The Land of the Great Sophy" written by Sir Roger Stevens will be unveiled in Tehran on Tuesday.

The unveiling ceremony, organized by Bukhara Magazine, will be held at the Negarestan Museum Garden, with the translator of the book Ali Mohammad Tarafdari and cultural figures Gholamreza Azizi, Hamed Iranshahi, and Ali Dehbashi in attendance, ISNA reported.

Sir Roger Stevens (1906-1980) was a British academic, diplomat and civil servant. From 1954 to 1958, he served as the British Ambassador to Iran. During that period, despite manifold official duties, he, besides doing much reading, travelled very extensively in the country, setting down his impressions with clarity and care.

The author had called "The Land of the Great Sophy," a book for those visiting Iran or involved in

Persian affairs or interest, without any previous knowledge of Asia or background of Persian history and civilization.

A good introductory section on the land and its people is followed by an outline of Persian history and a reference to Iranian legend, in which Sir Roger Stevens briefly draws attention to the triumph of legend over history. The second part of the book describes in a lively way, various regions of the country and their monuments.

It is abundantly clear from the pages of the author's narrative that his work was a "labor of love" and his hope that readers' appetite will be whetted by his account is likely to be fulfilled.

In addition to "The Land of the Great Sophy" (1962), Sir Roger Stevens wrote "First View of Persia" (1964), and continued to contribute to academic journals on the same subject later in his life.

## 3rd painting biennial "The Seeds of My Homeland" honors young artists

TEHRAN-The closing ceremony of the third painting biennial "The Seeds of My Homeland" was held at the Ariana Art Gallery in Tehran.

The third biennial had received 8,000 works created by the young art students of Daneh Art School, of which 1,300 works by children and teenagers were selected and put on show from October 11 to 18 at Ariana Gallery, Honaronline reported.

At the closing ceremony, founder of Daneh Art School Anahita Teymourian and veteran authors Mostafa Rahmandoust and Mahmoud Dowlatabadi honored 163 artists of Daneh Art School and awarded 20 artists, 10 from Tehran and 10 from other cities.

Founded in 2012, Daneh Art School is active in teaching painting to children and teenagers.

Elevating the talents of Iranian children in all parts of the world is one of the long-term goals of this cultural center.

Anahita Teymourian is an architect, painter, writer and illustrator of books for children and teenagers whose books have won various awards from major fairs such as Bologna Children's Book Fair and Noma Concours among others. Her picture books have also been translated and published in Germany, Austria, Japan, China, Switzerland, Hong Kong, and some other countries including Arab states.

Her books have stories that appeal to children and are accompanied by marvelous and unique illustrations. Her illustrated books simultaneously include signs of the culture she lives in and a global, inclusive language that children from different countries can relate to.

## Cartoon of Day



Israel's Great Attack!

Cartoonist: José Alberto Rodríguez Avila from Cuba

# Iranian cultural figures unite in defense of national sovereignty over Persian Gulf islands

TEHRAN- A collective of esteemed Iranian scholars, intellectuals, and artists has issued a statement underscoring that the Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb are inseparable parts of Iran's territory and will remain so.

"Iran, the unified and historical land of all Iranians, finds itself facing a new concern amidst a multitude of challenges and perils. The European Union, by supporting the unfounded claims of the UAE government, labeled our historical and legal sovereignty over the eternally Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf as 'occupation.' This action poses a threat to Iran's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, contradicting fundamental principles of law and international relations," the statement, published on Sunday, notes.

"The implications of legal documents, historical precedents, and clear geographical, cultural, and political characteristics provide substantial evidence that outweighs any doubts regarding Iran's rightful sovereignty over the islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa," it continues.

The statement emphasizes, "Iranian governments have not only exercised their indisputable right to national sovereignty over these islands for more than half a century since the last international and regional agreements, but historically and since ancient times, these three islands have been and will remain integral parts of Iran's territory."

"Our present and future are inextricably linked to the preservation of this land,



inseparable from our past. As children of Iran, we call upon all beloved Iranians, both at home and abroad, to raise their voices in a resounding defense of Iran's integrity and territorial integrity across all realms of thought, culture, history, art, society, politics, civility, law, and communication."

"Iran is a land of differences, diversities, and pluralities; but now, more than ever, we must unite as guardians of Iran and remain vigilant!" it concludes.

Among the 81 distinguished signatories of this statement are literary figure Esmail Azar, linguist Mohammad Ali Azarshab, composer Majid Entezami, filmmaker Habib Ahmadzadeh, director Marzieh Boroumand, screenwriter Farhad Tohidi, architect Gholamreza Eslami, miniaturist Zinat al-Sadat Imani and poet Sa'ed Baqeri.

Other prominent names

include history scholar Daryoush Rahmanian, journalist Mohammad Qouchani, actor Reza Kianian, director Kamal Tabrizi, philosophy scholar Najaf Qoli Habibi, cinematographer Afireza Zarrindast, vocalist Hesameddin Seraj, sociologist Hossein Serajzadeh and law scholar Mohammad Hossein Saket among numerous others.

Also included are veteran actor Ali Nasirian, cineast Afireza Shoja-Nouri, journalist Younes Shokrkah, veteran miniaturist Mahmoud Farshchian, writer Mehrdad Ghaffarzadeh, filmmaker Hassan Fat'hi, musician Farhad Fakhreddini, painter Hossein Mahjoubi and calligraphist Yadollah Kaboli.

On October 17, a joint meeting was held in Brussels featuring the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union. The final statement from this gathering included unfounded claims regarding Iran's territorial

integrity, calling on Iran to end its alleged occupation of the three islands—Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa—that are claimed by the United Arab Emirates. The statement asserted that this occupation violates the sovereignty of the UAE and contravenes the principles outlined in the United Nations Charter.

Legal experts indicate that when British colonial rule ended in the region in 1971, the newly established nations, including the UAE and Bahrain, rightfully transferred ownership of the islands to Iran, as all historical records affirm their Iranian heritage.

Following the EU's support for baseless claims regarding the three Persian Gulf islands, a widespread wave of solidarity for these islands has emerged among artists, social media activists, and various segments of society.

## Moscow's Cosmospow Fair concludes, showcasing Iranian contemporary art vibrancy



Reza Derakhshani's work from the «Hunting» series

TEHRAN- The Cosmospow contemporary art fair concluded in Moscow, Russia, on Sunday, marking a significant first opportunity for the public to engage with modern Iranian art.

The exhibition featured a special Persian section showcasing 59 paintings and nine art objects from 50 Iranian artists.

These works were brought to the Russian capital by four prominent Iranian galleries: Artibition A Gallery, Artibition B Gallery, Bashgah Gallery, Nian Art Gallery, and NAM Art Gallery.

Iranian galleries have long fostered collaborations with countries across the West

Asia, and their participation in Cosmospow signals a new initiative to connect with Russian collectors and the local art community.

The fair, which brought together over 1,500 works from 91 galleries, represented a significant milestone for Iranian artists as they sought to penetrate the Russian market.

Masoud Ahmadvand, the cultural attaché of the Iranian Embassy in Russia, emphasized that the primary aim of the Persian section was to highlight the broad range of genres, themes, and motifs that characterize Iranian art.

"The variability of the Iranian art scene is our distinctive feature. Iranian artists have earned national and international recognition due to their critical approaches and their skill in blending religious motifs and traditions with contemporary cultural influences," he said.

Among the standout pieces was a striking work by artist Maryam Abedi, who utilizes strips of traditional Iranian fabric in her geometric monochrome canvases that pay homage to Mesopotamian architecture.

Another notable piece was "Endless Prayers (Rumi) I" by YZ Kami (Kamran Yousefzadeh), which creatively incorporates excerpts from

Rumi's poetry to evoke the shape of a mosque dome.

Collectors were particularly drawn to Reza Derakhshani's work from the "Hunting" series, where the artist embodied rhythm and movement through traditional royal horseback hunting scenes.

Visitors also admired Timo Nasser's "Peony," which reinterprets Iranian architecture and calligraphy, resonating with audiences familiar with the kinetic works of Russian artist Francisco Infante.

The Persian art exhibition at Cosmospow was made possible through the support of the Kulturing Russian, which is dedicated to nurturing cultural dialogue between Russia and Iran.

In summer, Muscovites had the opportunity to explore works by emerging Iranian artists at the Moscow Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts of Sergey Andriyaka, part of the Iran-Russia Creative Festival "Patterns of Friendship."

This exhibition will now travel to Saint Petersburg at Tsarskoye Selo, followed by appearances in Sochi and several cities in Iran, including Shiraz, Tehran, and Isfahan.

## Documentary "Grebe the Lover" to represent Iran at Ménigoute Festival

TEHRAN-The documentary film "Grebe the Lover" directed by Amir Agha Abdollahi is the only film from Iran participating in the competition section of the 40th Ménigoute International Ornithological Film Festival, due to be held from October 29 to November 3 in Ménigoute, France.

In this year's edition of the festival, "Grebe the Lover" will compete alongside works from renowned directors, producers, and global networks for the top award, Honaronline reported.

A production of 2022, the 39-minute film narrates the life of a bird from the grebe species named Keshim, which lives in the Choghakhor Wetland in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari

Province.

The documentary portrays the strange behavior and environmental threats the bird faces. Keshim experiences vivid dreams that carry profound meanings.

Through the expressive voice of Keshim, we delve into the intricate details of its life, as the bird shares its own story and dreams.

The film unfolds, offering a unique perspective on the world through the eyes and experiences of this captivating character.

With a diverse background in environmental engineering, mountaineering, ecotourism, wildlife photography, and filmmaking, Amir Agha Abdollahi

has established himself as a prominent director and cinematographer in the realm of wildlife and nature documentaries.

His passion for nature and animals, combined with a comprehensive skill set, has not only resulted in acclaimed films but has also contributed to environmental education and awareness. Abdollahi's dedication to his craft is evident through the numerous awards and recognitions earned for his outstanding work in the field.

Regarding "Grebe the Lover," he said: "In the creation of the film, my aim was to weave a narrative that extends beyond the mere documentation of wildlife. This film is a heartfelt exploration

of the life of Keshim, a bird with dreams that transcend the ordinary.

The essence of "Grebe the Lover" lies in the symbiotic relationship between the bird and the environment, emphasizing the urgency of preserving the delicate balance within our natural world.

The film serves as a poignant reminder that the fading of this love, if neglected, poses a threat not just to the avian protagonist but to the very fabric of our shared planet."

The Ménigoute Festival is recognized as one of the most prestigious wildlife film festivals in Europe.