



'An Eye and Several Fingers': Israeli Diplomats Should Be Ready

Amani's injuries fuel calls for Iran to take retaliation against Israel to new levels

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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) met with Iran's envoy to Lebanon on November 12th before Mojtaba Amani's return to Beirut. Amani spent two months in Tehran to receive treatment after sustaining injuries during a September Israeli pager attack in Lebanon

Unchecked Israeli violence threatens pursuit of peace in Syria, Astana participants warn

TEHRAN – In a joint statement issued during the 22nd round of Astana talks on Syria held on Tuesday, Iran, Russia, and Turkey condemned Israel's ongoing atrocities against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, as well as its assaults on Lebanon and Syria.

The three nations denounced the Israeli regime's aggressive conduct in the West Asian region, labeling it a breach of international law. They specifically condemned the ongoing genocide in Gaza, the regime's military actions against Lebanon and the West Bank, and repeated its deadly airstrikes on Syrian soil, asserting that these actions violate international legal standards. The statement called for an immediate cessation of Israeli violence in all those areas.

Recognizing the escalating violence in West Asia's impact on the Syrian situation, the three countries highlighted the need for urgent action to assist Lebanese refugees in Syria who have fled there due to the intensification of Israeli aggressions.

They also urged UN bodies to provide immediate assistance to those displaced to Syria following the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon. The statement called upon UNHCR, relevant agencies, and all humanitarian organizations to take action. Page 3

Iran doesn't rule out potential talks with Trump, says national interest paramount

TEHRAN – In response to a question regarding potential negotiations with the incoming U.S. administration at a press conference on Tuesday, Government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani stated that Iran will proactively work to secure its interests.

"We will prioritize actions that uphold the country's interests and the core values of our revolution," Mohajerani said.

Referring to Donald Trump's so-called maximum pressure campaign during his first term, Mohajerani warned against repeating past mistakes.

She urged the president-elect to consider the failures of his previous policies regarding Iran, emphasizing that actions speak louder than words.

In response to a Wall Street Journal reporter's question about Iran's possible actions if Trump deviates from the maximum pressure policy, Mohajerani noted that Trump's strategy had already demonstrated its ineffectiveness, even amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in Iran.

Additionally, she called on the American leader to steer clear of any decisions that could undermine the rights of the Iranian people. Page 2

Israel imposes land blockade by bombing Lebanese border crossings

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT- On September 27, the Israeli regime announced the imposition of a military blockade on Lebanon under the pretext of "preventing Hezbollah from rearming through Syria and Iran", so it bombed most of the border crossings – regular and irregular – which completely disabled these crossings extending over an area of 375 kilometers.

At the same time, the occupation regime is trying to disrupt the operation of Beirut International Airport by threatening incoming aircraft and carrying out airstrikes near it.

Until November 6, 2024, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the aggressor regime targeted the crossings between Lebanon and Syria 32 times. The regular crossings targeted are Masnaa which was struck two times, Jussiyeh and Matraba.

There are only 6 official crossings between Syria and Lebanon, some of which are designated for the movement of people and goods, and some are chosen for the movement of passengers only. They are Al-Masnaa, Al-Qaa-Jousieh, Al-Aboudieh, Al-Arida, Talkalakh and Matraba crossings.

Hezbollah: Our missiles will surprise you

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Addressing the Israeli regime on Monday, Hezbollah's Media Relations Officer Mohammed Afif told a press conference "Our missiles will surprise you."

Afif also told Hezbollah fighters that the actual events on the ground are in "your hands alone".

The fighters, he said, will have the final say in politics, "perhaps determining the fate of the Middle East".

"The enemy is still unable to occupy a single Lebanese village, and the epic of the al-Khiam Fortress stands as a living testament to heroism."

For several weeks, the Israel occupation forces (IOF) made a lot of effort to take control of the strategic Lebanese border village of al-Khiam.

The IOF faced fierce resistance from Hezbollah fighters. Many Israeli troops from two elite units were killed and injured, forcing the occupation to withdraw its military from the village.

The battle of al-Khiam reflects the wider IOF failure to invade southern Lebanon.

West Bank annexation scheme: A vehicle that will jackknife on the road of resistance

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel has been pursuing the annexation of the occupied West Bank while simultaneously conducting an ethnic cleansing campaign in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army has massacred more than 43,600 Palestinians in Gaza since declaring war on the territory in October last year.

It is now trying to expel people from the northern part of the enclave. The regime is starving, killing and forcibly displacing Palestinians in northern Gaza to make way for settlers to move in.

According to health officials in Ramallah, Israeli soldiers or settlers have also killed more than 760 Palestinians in the West Bank since the start of the Gaza onslaught.

The cabinet of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is further increasing its nefarious activities in the West Bank. Page 5

Iran to export 200 wagons to CIS members

TEHRAN – The Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) Jabar-Ali Zakari has said that the country reached an agreement with CIS members to export 200 freight wagons to the mentioned countries.

The agreement was reached last week during the 81st meeting of the Council for Rail Transport of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, according to Zakeri.

Zakeri, who visited Uzbekistan on November 5 to attend the mentioned meeting, said: "One of the achievements of this trip was the signing of an initial quadripartite agreement based on which 200 wagons will be supplied to CIS members."

According to the official, Iran has also obtained permission for its rail freight to be transported through the rail network of CIS countries. Page 4



'Positive relations with all nations': Pezeshkian outlines vision for international ties

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addressed former foreign ministers in Tehran on Tuesday, emphasizing his administration's dedication to fostering constructive relationships with nations around the globe.

Pezeshkian shared insights into his diplomatic initiatives, reporting around 95 meetings with foreign leaders and officials since taking office.

He said he is particularly focused on strengthening ties with neighboring countries and the advancements made in collaborative agreements with China and Russia, especially in areas concerning infrastructure and transit projects. Page 2

Tehran's diplomatic strategy

By Muhammad Mahdi

ISLAMABAD – Ahead of the conference in Saudi Arabia on Gaza and Lebanon, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's visit to Pakistan held significant importance for Pakistan.

During his visit, I had the opportunity to meet him. Given the proximity of Pakistan and Iran and the overlap of interests on many issues, it's always valuable to analyze the objectives of Iran's leadership when they visit Pakistan. However, this visit took on heightened importance due to the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza and Lebanon and the direct tensions with Iran. Understanding Iran's stance at the time on these issues became critical.

At the time of our meeting, the U.S. presidential election results were still unknown. Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

Sea-oriented development prioritized

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

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper discussed the importance of sea-oriented development in the current government and wrote: Despite having a privileged geographical position, being located between two seas and having thousands of kilometers of beaches and of course islands and many capacities, Iran is not among the countries with strategic ports in the world. The sea-oriented economy is one of the neglected capacities of the country. The countries opposed to Iran, being aware of our country's strategic position, have put the national shipping fleet of our country under the most severe sanctions. However, for the development of trade in the sea, Pezeshkian proposed four important and urgent solutions, which are "strengthening the local economies of the region, providing the necessary infrastructure in the field of energy by relying on renewable energies, accelerating the completion of transportation corridors in the region with the cooperation of international partners, and attracting and concentrating on domestic and foreign investment in Makran (a long strip along the coast of the Gulf of Oman).

Shargh: Iran and Trump

In a note, Shargh addressed the return of Trump to the White House and his possible policy towards Iran and said: There is no doubt that the conditions this time are much more difficult for Iran than the previous period (when Trump was president from 2017-2021). Also, it is important what the Trump team's policy about Iran and the Middle East is supposed to be. If the Trump administration intends to focus on great power competition, America's priority in the new era may be China and Russia. But, the alleged claim of "the China-Russia-Iran-North Korea front" against the West may prove problematic. America may try to use Iran as a bargaining chip in its interactions or confrontation with China and Russia. In this case, these two countries will naturally consider their interests. China may be pressured to stop buying oil from Iran and Russia to stop military and security cooperation with Iran. Given these scenarios, one solution is to enter negotiations with the Trump administration at the same level and on the same topics as during the Biden administration.

Jam-e-Jam: Trump's comeback and intensification of media war

In a commentary, Jam-e-Jam discussed the

efforts by the Zionist regime's pro-war media to escalate tensions after the election of Trump as president. It wrote: The Zionist regime's pro-war media outlets are trying to link Trump's election with the tightening of sanctions, tougher negotiations or new measures by the United States against Iran's nuclear program, and the countries that are standing against the Zionist regime. These media outlets try to show that the decision-makers are thinking of a military option rather than a diplomatic approach. For this reason, they seek military views and analyses from all experts, even those specialized in sociological, political and international issues to influence public opinion in the world. They pretend that many believe that Trump's policies in the second term are likely to lean towards nationalist and unilateralist approaches, as Trump has promised to take tougher measures against Iran's nuclear program and to block Iran's access to financial resources by imposing heavier sanctions.

Arman-e-Melli: Convergence in Saudi Arabia

Peace in the region is one of the most important topics of any dialogue in the region, and the two large and influential countries of Iran and Saudi Arabia are the focus of any multilateral dialogue in West Asia. In the current situation, crises in the Middle East have increased to the extent that few analysts speak of peace and tranquility. Therefore, regional consultation centered on Iran and Saudi Arabia has become more important to achieve peace and tranquility. It seems that one of the most important security cases in the region, namely Israel's attack on Gaza and Lebanon, is on the agenda of the special meeting of the leaders of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Riyadh (which was held in Riyadh on Monday). Both Iran and Saudi Arabia are seeking to end conflicts in the region. Of course, they have different views on the Palestine issue. It seems that Iran and Saudi Arabia will put special emphasis on solving the Palestinian issue, and such meetings can send a single message from the region to the West and Israel that Israel's aggression against Gaza and Lebanon should be stopped as soon as possible.

'Can't take in more': Iran struggles with influx of refugees under heavy Western sanctions



TEHRAN – Iran is struggling to cope with the rising numbers of foreign nationals entering the country, with limited international assistance exacerbating the issue, according to Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni.

Speaking in Kerman Province on Tuesday, Momeni emphasized the need for stricter border controls, explaining that Iran "has no other choice" but to limit entries due to the overwhelming strain on national resources.

"International aid in this regard to Iran is close to zero," Momeni stated. "We cannot host any more guests, so we must close the borders to prevent repeated movements."

"We are not anti-immigrant; we have coexisted peacefully with our neighbors for centuries," Momeni noted. However, he stressed that without adequate international support, Iran is reaching a breaking point.

At the ceremony, held to introduce Kerman's new governor, Momeni also praised the regional legacy of martyr Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, highlighting the public's strong show of respect at his funeral.

He then turned to pressing domestic challenges, including Kerman's development needs and the

impact of the increasing foreign population, which has strained provincial resources.

"Kerman Province is suffering from this situation," he said, adding that border closures are necessary to curb repeated unauthorized entries.

The government has prioritized sealing the borders since the fourteenth administration began, Momeni explained. He outlined plans to enforce a full border seal using physical, electronic, and optical measures, adding that recent inspections showed the eastern border closure process is accelerating.

"Repatriating illegal immigrants has been challenging, partly because of repeated reentries. Achieving a fully secure border is a critical priority," Momeni emphasized, noting that the strain extends beyond borders. The increased need for fuel and housing in provinces like Kerman has driven up smuggling and informal settlement issues, which are now high on the government's agenda.

Without significant international assistance, Momeni warned, Iran will have to rely on its own border control efforts to manage the growing number of foreign nationals entering the country.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

'Positive relations with all nations': Pezeshkian outlines vision for international ties

From page 1 ▶ While the president acknowledged the challenges posed by the Israeli regime's "mischief" in ongoing negotiations with European nations, he underscored the positive developments in Iran's foreign relations.

Notably, he mentioned fruitful discussions with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, which have led to a directive for the foreign ministers of both countries to work towards enhancing bilateral relations after decades of diplomatic absence.

Pezeshkian emphasized that India's eagerness to accelerate the Chabahar port development

project and the Persian Gulf nations' intentions to establish transit routes through Iran are central to the country's regional strategy.

He stated, "For the country's development, we must arrange international relations, resolve tensions, and improve the groundwork for interactions with regional and global countries."

Pezeshkian also commented on potential engagements with the U.S. in regional and international contexts, remarking, "Whether we like it or not, we will have to deal with the U.S. in the regional and international arenas, so it is better to manage this relation ourselves."



Referring to a poem by the Persian poet Hafez, the president concluded by saying, "We have to treat our friends with generosity and handle our enemies with forbearance."

Iran doesn't rule out potential talks with Trump, says national interest paramount



From page 1 ▶ In 2015, Iran successfully negotiated a nuclear agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with the P5+1—comprising China, France, Russia, the U.K., the U.S., and Germany.

Donald Trump, who withdrew the U.S. from

the nuclear deal in May 2018, has recently been elected as the 47th President of the United States and is scheduled to take office in January 2025.

The U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear pact was coupled with anti-Iran sanctions deemed illegal under international law. The sanctions primarily aim to cripple the West Asian country's economy and impose significant hardships on the Iranian populace.

Reflecting on the repercussions of Trump's maximum pressure policy during his first term, Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs

Mohammad Javad Zarif stated on Saturday that this approach resulted in a notable increase in Iran's uranium enrichment levels, which surged from 3.5 percent to 60 percent.

Earlier on Tuesday, Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson for the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee asserted that Trump lacks new methods to exert pressure on Iran, declaring that the incoming president's arsenal of threats, sanctions, and coercive tactics against Iran was depleted during his first term in office.

"Whether the Democratic Donkey or the Republican Elephant holds power, it has no impact on Iran's foreign policy," the spokesperson said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has previously said that Iran may change its tactics when it comes to foreign policy, but its core principles will never change.

Tehran's diplomatic strategy

Relations between Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan in focus amid Israeli aggression

From page 1 ▶ and it was uncertain what approach the next U.S. administration might take on various matters. Nonetheless, the Iranian foreign minister made it clear that the situation in America was of little concern to Iran.

He maintained a strong political stance, asserting that Iran is indifferent to who gains or loses power in the U.S. For Iran, either outcome would likely bring the same result: continued U.S. hostility toward Iran.

Because he had this bold political stance that Iran doesn't care who takes over power in America and who faces defeat. For Iran, the coming to power of either of them has the same meaning that both of them will adopt a policy of hostility towards Iran.

The Iranian foreign minister said regarding the recent severe tension between Israel and Iran and the possible spread of this fire that Iran knows very well that the real problem in war is whether the preparation is complete or not.

Iran has completed all kinds of preparations regarding a possible war with Israel and if Israel does something stupid, in such a situation, Iran is ready to give the strongest response to it.

The foreign minister said that the real strength of Iran is those martyrs who have laid down their lives for the defense of their country. Regarding Iran, he also rejected the idea that Iran is alone in the world.

The Iranian president is going to visit Moscow soon and the most important development expected in this visit is that Iran and Russia will sign a 25-year defense cooperation agreement. And this agreement will be of the same nature as the one between Iran and China a

few years ago. Then Iran is feeling very happy with Pakistan's role in this whole situation. The stance taken by the Pakistani government and the Pakistani establishment regarding the issues of Gaza and Lebanon as well as Iran has actually exceeded their expectations.

If Iran and Saudi Arabia can resolve their differences through meaningful negotiations, the two nations could then be able to present a united front that would strongly counter Israeli aggression in Gaza and Lebanon

Also, efforts are underway to improve relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. With Trump's nomination in the U.S. elections, there had been concern in the Arab world that his return to office would bring unpredictable policies. About a month ago, I asked an Arab friend why the foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf countries had recently met with the Iranian foreign minister in Doha, Qatar. While Iran faces the threat of a direct conflict with Israel, I wondered what concerns were driving the Arab world at this point. My friend smiled and said that their worry is growing—and it's the possibility of Trump's success.

The Arab world has not yet come out of the effects of Trump's public address in which he addressed the Saudi king and said that if we do not protect you, you cannot remain in power for two weeks. Such a statement of the President of the United States at the public level was a big blow and because of this, China got an opportunity to play its role in restoring the

diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The Arab world is completing its preparations to deal with any possible situation and we are not alone.

That is why Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said last week that "We are having very, very clear and honest conversations with the Iranians. "And it seems that this sincerity is having some positive effect."

The presence of the Saudi armed forces chief in Tehran, along with his meeting with the Iranian army chief and Iran's invitation for Saudi Arabia to participate in joint naval exercises, signals a positive shift.

Most notably, in his opening remarks at the Riyadh Conference, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman stated, "We call on the international community to compel Israel to respect Iran's sovereignty and not to attack its territory." This statement from Saudi Arabia sends a clear message that tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia have eased, and this message resonates not only with Israel but with the broader international community.

If Iran and Saudi Arabia can resolve their differences through meaningful negotiations during this time of severe conflict in Gaza and Lebanon, and prioritize a common stance over regional dominance with addressing key issues surrounding Hamas, Hezbollah, and Yemen's Ansarullah, the two nations could then be able to present a united front that would strongly counter Israeli aggression in Gaza and Lebanon.

This cooperation could also reduce the broader threats facing both Iran and Saudi Arabia. Now, it remains to be seen how effectively these two countries will approach the matter with mutual understanding.

Araghchi congratulates Sudan on new FM, insists on commitment to close ties



Top Iranian diplomat Abbas Araghchi (L) congratulated the appointment of Ali Yousuf Al-Sharif (R) as the new foreign minister of Sudan in a message published on November 12

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has extended his congratulations to Ali Yousuf Al-Sharif on his appointment as Sudan's new Foreign Minister.

In a message released on Tuesday, Araghchi expressed optimism for the expansion of diplomatic ties between the two nations, both bilaterally and regionally.

This announcement follows a recent meeting between Araghchi and Sudan's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Jibril Ibrahim Muhammad Fudail, in Tehran on Saturday.

During the meeting, the two sides emphasized the readiness of their respective governments to expand bilateral relations, including the economic ties

Fudail highlighted his country's capacities including fertile soil for agriculture and rich mines, and pointed to them as fortunes of investment for Iran.

He announced the willingness of the Sudanese government and people to develop economic relations and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Furthermore, President Masoud Pezeshkian on August 1st declared Iran's readiness to enhance cooperation with Sudan in the near future. He expressed satisfaction with the progress made by both countries in restoring diplomatic relations.

'An eye and several fingers': Israeli diplomats should be ready

Amani's injuries fuel calls for Iran to take retaliation against Israel to new levels

By Fereydoon Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – Images circulating online on Tuesday of Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, Mostafa Amani, have reignited discussions about Iran's expected attack against Israel.

The photographs show Amani in conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, revealing a visible injury to one of his eyes and a hand.

In September, Amani was one of nearly 3,000 people injured in Lebanon when thousands of pager communication devices exploded across the country.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week admitted he had "okayed" the pager attacks that also claimed the lives of nearly 40 people, some women and children.

The extent of Amani's injuries remains unclear, but the pager explosions have left many with loss of sight and amputations.

The photographs released on Tuesday suggest the Iranian envoy may have suffered the same devastating injuries, potentially including the loss of sight in one eye and several fingers on one hand.

When speaking to Iran's foreign minister after nearly two months of treatment in Tehran, Amani said he was returning to his diplomatic mission to Beirut with hopes and aspirations, said a third Iranian diplomat who also managed to sit down with the injured official on Tuesday.



"Today, I had the chance to meet Dr. Amani. [He expressed his belief] that the Resistance is currently in a strong position, both militarily, politically, and socially," Allah Karam Moshtaghi wrote on X.

"The recent developments in Lebanon, the Axis of the Resistance, and the regional and international landscape are all beneficial to the Resistance.

Hezbollah will emerge from this period even stronger than they did after the 33-day war."

Calls for retaliation intensify

The smile on Amani's face during his meeting with Araghchi, coupled with his evident courage in returning to the country where he was severely injured, filled many with pride and hope.

However, the revelation of his injuries for the first time has also fueled calls for retaliation against Israel.

"We are proud of the steadfastness and camaraderie

along with Hamas Political Leader Ismail Haniyeh, who was assassinated by Israel on Iranian soil in July.

Israel responded 25 days later on October 26th with airstrikes that failed to reach their objectives but killed 4 Iranian soldiers in the air defense forces.

This looming Iranian attack is going to be a direct response to Israel's targeting of Iranian soil.

The anticipated attack, dubbed "Operation True Promise III" and a continuation of Iran's previous two strikes against Israel this year, is expected to be more severe and destructive than its predecessors.

Despite the support Israel received from regional and international partners in intercepting Iranian missiles and drones during the earlier attacks, Iran managed to inflict significant damage on Israeli military bases in the occupied territories.

This suggests that the upcoming operation could pose a far greater threat to Israeli interests, as confirmed by multiple military officials so far.

"I know authorities have said the response will be severe, but seeing our envoy's injuries for the first time, I won't be satisfied with simply targeting military bases.

I want the regime's politicians to bear the visible consequences of our retaliation on their faces," shared a female Iranian citizen under a picture of Amani on Instagram. The post was deleted by Meta hours later.

demonstrated by different fronts of the Resistance, even in the face of such injuries.

While we commend this resilience, we also hope that the day will come when there is a reciprocal response beyond simply damaging the enemy's weapons. We long for the day when justice is fully served," said an Iranian citizen on X.

Hundreds reacted to his post, asking that Iranian authorities inflict a "decisive" blow to the Israeli regime.

An Iranian attack against Israel is already looming. Following the pager attacks, Israel targeted a building complex housing Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah and Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan, a high-ranking commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

In October, Iran responded by attacking Israeli positions in the occupied territories, citing the martyrdom of the two figures,

Unchecked Israeli violence threatens pursuit of peace in Syria, Astana participants warn

The three countries emphasized the importance of ongoing efforts to normalize relations between Ankara and Damascus and voiced their opposition to the ongoing illegal appropriation and transfer of oil and other resources that rightfully belong to the Syrian populace.

The statement concluded with an agreement to enhance efforts to stabilize the situation in the Idlib de-escalation zone and improve humanitarian

conditions. The Astana process, initiated in 2017 by Iran, Russia, and Turkey, aims to facilitate dialogue between the Syrian government and various opposition groups. The recent talks once again brought together key regional stakeholders to engage in discussions, strengthen cooperation, and seek lasting solutions to the persistent crisis in Syria.

Iran's participation in these negotiations underscores its

commitment to contributing positively to the peace process and highlights the importance of reaching a political settlement to the conflict. As the situation in Syria evolves, the continued involvement of regional powers such as Iran, Russia, and Turkey will be crucial in shaping the trajectory of the conflict and the prospects for a sustainable resolution.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

IRGC commemorates martyrdom anniversary of 'father of Iran's missile program'

TEHRAN – In commemoration of the 13th anniversary of the martyrdom of Major General Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, a key figure in the development of Iran's missile program, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a statement hailing his legacy and the achievements of Iran's defense capabilities.

The IRGC statement published on Tuesday, acknowledged the significant growth and advancements achieved through Tehrani Moghaddam's knowledge and expertise, which have strengthened the nation's future and ensured the safety of Iran against the threats posed by the enemies.

"The Iranian nation's resolute and guiding power would ultimately turn the adversaries' aspirations into ashes," the statement emphasized.

It also underscored the Operations True Promise of I and II as a definitive and historic reaction to the malevolence of the Zionist regime, attributing their success to the efforts of martyr Tehrani Moghaddam and his dedicated companions. "These operations were a significant and historic response from Iran to the transgressions and offenses of the Zionist regime, furthering the cause of Quds



The late Major General Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam kicked off and led Iran's missile program until his martyrdom in 2011

liberation."

Major General Hasan Tehrani Moghaddam, a member of the IRGC since its establishment in 1979 and known as the 'father of Iran's missile program', played a vital role in advancing the nation's defense capabilities. During the Iran-Iraq war, he served as the first commander of the artillery division within

the Guards, establishing the artillery unit.

Following the war, Tehrani Moghaddam transitioned to the missile unit of the IRGC, where he assumed leadership and dedicated his efforts to research and development in missile technology until his martyrdom.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran Air Force commander at China military exhibition, signaling stronger ties



Iran's Air Force Commander Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi participating in the Airshow China on Tuesday

TEHRAN – Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi, commander-in-chief of Iran's Air Force, attended China's military exhibition on Tuesday as part of his ongoing visit to the country.

Brigadier General Vahedi is leading a specialized delegation to China, where he is participating in events marking the 75th anniversary of the Chinese Air Force and the 15th International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition (Airshow China) held in Zhuhai from November 12 to 17, 2024. General Vahedi's visit was at the invitation of the commander of the Air Force of the People's Republic of China. So far as part of the six-day event, General Vahedi has explored a variety of military equipment, including the Chinese Air Force G-10 fighter, and engaged in discussions with his Chinese counterpart, General Chang Ding Chiu, as well as other air force leaders from allied nations.

The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral relations across various sectors, including potential joint initiatives, such as the expansion of China's use of Iranian air bases and naval facilities in the Persian Gulf, and the exchange of military experiences and technologies.

The visit will also include tours of various aircraft factories and air bases, providing Iranian and Chinese military officials with a deeper understanding of each other's capabilities and an opportunity to explore potential areas of collaboration.

The 15th International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, Airshow China, serves as a showcase for China's latest advancements in aviation and aerospace technology, attracting participants and attendees from around the world.

SPORTS

Iran to face Philippines at 2024 IWBF U23 Asia Oceania opener

TEHRAN – Iran will start the 2024 IWBF Men's U23 Asia Oceania Championship with a match against the Philippines.

The match is scheduled for Nov. 18 November in Bangkok, Thailand.

The top three teams will qualify for the 2025 IWBF Men's U23 World Championship.

The 2024 IWBF U23 AOZ Championship will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from Nov. 17 to 22.

Schedule:

Nov. 18	Iran	Philippines
Nov. 19	Iran	Australia
Nov. 20	Iran	Japan
Nov. 21	Iran	Saudi Arabia
Nov. 22	Iran	Thailand
Nov. 23	Iran	India

Iranian clubs to withdraw from 2024 FIVB Club World Championship

TEHRAN – Two Iranian volleyball clubs are reportedly considering withdrawal from the 2024 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

The 19th edition of the tournament is scheduled to take place from Dec. 10th to 15th in Brazil.

Foolad Sirjan and Shahdab Yazd are set to represent Iran in the prestigious competition. However, recent reports suggest that both teams are contemplating withdrawal from the tournament and may not travel to Brazil.

Speculations about the Iranian teams' potential withdrawal have surfaced despite both clubs having initially confirmed their participation. With just a month to go before the tournament, the clubs have expressed their intention to pull out.

In recent weeks, both teams have attempted to strengthen their rosters by recruiting players from other domestic clubs. However, these efforts have been met with resistance from other teams, who are currently engaged in their domestic leagues. This has been cited as one of the primary reasons for the potential withdrawals.

As the champions and runners-up of the 2024 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, Foolad and Shahdab, respectively, earned the right to compete in the 2024 World Club Championship.

Iran's participation in the tournament would have provided valuable international exposure for the country's volleyball. However, a withdrawal would deprive Iranian fans of the opportunity to see their teams compete on the global stage.

Foolad Sirjan have been drawn into Group A alongside Praia Clube (Brazil), Lube (Italy), and Al Ahly (Egypt). Meanwhile, Shahdab Yazd will face Trentino Itas (Italy), Sada Cruzeiro (Brazil), and Ciudad Voley (Argentina) in Group B.

A withdrawal from the tournament is likely to have serious consequences for both Iranian clubs. They could face substantial fines from the FIVB, the governing body of international volleyball. The absence of the two Iranian teams would also disrupt the tournament schedule.

Domestic clubs have their own reasons for being reluctant to release their players. They are concerned about the risk of injuries during the intense competition, which could impact their players' availability for the remainder of the domestic league season.

The domestic league is scheduled to resume just two days after the conclusion of the World Club Championship, leaving little time for players to recover.

It remains to be seen whether Foolad Sirjan and Shahdab Yazd will ultimately decide to withdraw from the tournament. Their decision will have a significant impact on Iranian volleyball and could damage the country's reputation in the international sports community.

Joel Kojo on Esteghlal's radar: report

TEHRAN – Joel Kojo, who has been playing for Dinamo Samarqand since February 2023, has been reportedly linked with Esteghlal football team.

The 26-year-old forward had been linked with the Iranian team in September but Dinamo management did not accept the transfer.

Now, the media reports suggest that Esteghlal head coach Pitso Mosimane has shown interest in signing the forward.

Ghana-born Joel Kojo plays for Kyrgyzstan football team.

Team Melli arrive in Vientiane

TEHRAN – Iran national football team arrived in Vientiane, capital of Laos Tuesday morning.

Team Melli are scheduled to play North Korea at the Lao National Stadium KM16, Vientiane, Laos (neutral venue) on Thursday in the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26 Group A.

Iran will also face Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek five days later.

Iran, headed by Amir Ghalenoei, top Group A with 10 points and North Korea sit sixth with just two points.

Sepahan linked with Djamel Belmadi

TEHRAN – Sepahan football club have reportedly negotiated with French coach Djamel Belmadi.

The Iranian team are without a coach since parting ways with Jose Morais in early October.

Belmadi has most recently headed Algeria football team and media reports suggest that a financial agreement has not yet been agreed.

Sepahan lead Iran football league with 21 points out of 10 matches.

The team also have a chance to advance to the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Two next stage.

Khaleej defeat Mes at Asian Club League Handball C'ship

TEHRAN – Defending champions Khaleej Club of Saudi Arabia defeated Sanat Mes Kerman of Iran 31-22 in Group B of the 27th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship on Tuesday.

The Iranian team are scheduled to meet Oman's Ahli Sidab (Thursday), Kuwait's Kazma SC (Saturday) and Qatar's Al-Duhail SC (Sunday).

Group A consists of Al-Kuwait SC (Kuwait), Al-Rayyan SC (Qatar), Al-Shabab Club (Bahrain) and Sharjah SC (United Arab Emirates).

The tournament is being held from Nov. 11 to 22 in Doha, Qatar and will serve as a qualifier for the 2025 IHF Super Globe.

Former Tractor coach Jemez appointed UD Ibiza coach

TEHRAN – UD Ibiza football club and Paco Jemez have reached an agreement, Marca reported.

The 54-year-old coach will link a deal until June 30, 2025 and lead participate in his first training session on Thursday.

Jemez's last adventure was at Tractor in the Iranian League, a club he left last April due to the family problems.

UD Ibiza is currently eighth in Group II of the First Federation.

The club parted ways with Josep Lluís Martí following the poor results.

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$7.3b to Iraq in 7 months

TEHRAN- Iran has exported non-oil commodities valued at \$7.3 billion to Iraq in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), the former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mohammad Rezvaniyar said that Iraq was the second top export destination of the Iranian non-oil goods in the mentioned seven-month period.

Iraq is a strategic neighbor of Iran and Iran-Iraq annual trade stands at about \$10 billion, he noted.

In late May, the head of the Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Planning of the Iranian Plan and Budget Organization said that Iran exports some 2,200 products, valued at \$12 billion, to neighboring Iraq annually.

Speaking in a meeting entitled "Reviewing opportunities and challenges of attracting Iraqi investors and strengthening trade relations between the two countries in line with demarcating Iran in the regional value chain", Jafar Hosseini said that Iraq, benefiting from \$85 billion foreign exchange reserves, 130 tons of gold reserves, and 147 billion barrels of proven reserves of crude oil, is among the richest countries in West Asia.

He went on to say that Iran's exports to Iraq have increased 15-fold over the past 20 years, rising from about \$600 million in 2003 to more than \$10 billion last year (ended March 19, 2024).

Currently, Iran exports over 2,200 various types of goods and products to Iraq, he said, adding that more than half of the active Iranian traders are present in the Iraqi market, IRNA reported.

Developing the trade infrastructures to facilitate trade between the two countries, encouraging traders to invest in Iraq, promoting trade through dispatching and admitting

trade delegations and participating in exhibitions of the two countries, etc. are suggested to strengthen the trade and economic relations between Iran and Iraq, he underlined.

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

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

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

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

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

According to Rezvaniyar, Iran exported 511 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$20.2 billion to the neighboring countries in the seven-month period of this year, while importing 13.4 million tons of goods valued at \$20.9 billion.

Regarding Iran's main export destinations among the neighboring countries, he said: "Iraq, the UAE, Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan were the five main export destinations of Iran among the neighboring countries."

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

Watermelon export stands at \$139m in 7 months



TEHRAN- Iran exported \$139 million of watermelons in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

As the IRICA has reported, the value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 28 percent in the seven-month period of this year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

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 a 16 percent rise in terms of weight, year on year.

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 in-

crease 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 by 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 \$153.178 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

time Organization (PMO) Ali-Akbar Safaei, in a meeting on Monday, President Pezeshkian called on all the executive bodies to quickly put the activities that cause employment and production in coastal regions on the agenda, the portal of PMO reported.

Transport Ministry assigned to compile Maritime-oriented Development Plan

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has urged the country's Transport and Urban Development Ministry to prepare the Maritime-oriented Development Plan with a special focus on Markar Coasts.

According to the Head of Ports and Mari-

56 Iranian trade centers active in 35 countries

TEHRAN - Iran currently has 56 trade centers active in 35 different countries around the world, an official with the country's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

"For example, we have five business centers in Iraq, four in China, one center in Pakistan, two centers in India, and 13 trade centers in Africa," Mohammad-Sadegh Ghanadzadeh told IRIB.

These centers are run by the private sector and act as a platform for the representatives of this sector, and the freedom of action of business operators in these centers is greater than that of commercial attaches, the official explained.

These centers provide a set of consulting services, and conduct financial transfers under contracts with traders which



will help increase efficiency and facilitate business activities, according to Ghanadzadeh.

Earlier this year, TPO issued licenses for opening nine new trade centers in various countries.

The new trade centers would be established in Iraq's Basra

and Mosul, India's Mumbai, Kazakhstan's Almaty, China's Tianjin, Vietnam's Hanoi, Thailand's Bangkok, and Oman's Muscat.

Iran also has five trade centers in Russia, three ones in Syria, and some other trade centers in Central Asia, Uzbekistan, Poland, the UAE, and other trade partners,

according to a TPO report published earlier this year.

Underlining the significance of commercial attachés in trade ties between countries, the TPO report said that Iran currently has as few as 17 commercial attachés in different countries with the number expected to grow to 30.

Iran will appoint two commercial attaches ones in Brazil and Uzbekistan in the near future, and other Iranian commercial attachés also expected to start their missions in Indonesia, the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Shanghai, Nigeria, and East Europe countries such as Poland and Serbia, the report added.

Appointing a commercial attaché to Saudi Arabia is also on the agenda of Iran's Foreign Ministry, it said.

Iran to export 200 wagons to CIS members

From page 1 ▶ "We also reached an agreement regarding the permission of Iranian wagons to travel in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, and a protocol was signed between the two countries," he said.

The CIS Rail Transport Council meets twice a year, with the heads of member states present.

The Russian Federation chairs this council, and Iran is also present as an affiliated member.

In this meeting, various issues such as research and development plans for international rail transportation, presentation of

performance reports of members in freight and passenger transportation, performance reports of institutions and specialized commissions of the Council, tariff policy of railways for international transit, and also the status of mutual settlements between the members of the Council are discussed and then approved.

The 81st meeting of the CIS Rail Transport Council was held concurrently with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Uzbekistan Railways, and Zakeri also met with the head of Uzbekistan's railways to discuss ways of increasing international rail trans-

port between the two countries.

Commonwealth of Independent States, also known as the CIS, was formed in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union and is comprised of Armenia, the Azerbaijan Republic, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

The development of economic relations with the CIS member countries has been one of Iran's major priorities in recent years, and cooperation in transportation and transit with these countries, especially after the recent geopolitical developments, has become more important for both sides.

Belarus calls for holding joint economic committee meeting with Iran

to other export markets."

Iran exported \$20 million worth of commodities to Belarus in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), registering a 34 percent rise compared to the year before.

Based on the data released by Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), carpets, polystyrene, polyester, powder paint, mineral oils, medicine, fruits, polyethylene, pistachios, raisins, and tomato paste have been the main items exported to Belarus in the mentioned year.

The Islamic Republic also imported \$59 million worth of products from Belarus in the past year, which indicates an increase of 35 percent compared to the year before.

Back in October 2023, the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) hosted an Iran-Belarus business forum in which the two sides stressed the need to take necessary measures for reaching an annual trade of \$1.0 billion.

During the forum, which was attended by a delegation from the Minsk Department of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and representatives of several Iranian companies, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand cooperation between the two chambers to achieve the above-mentioned trade target.

Iran and Belarus also signed a comprehensive cooperation roadmap and seven memorandums of understanding in mid-March 2023, as Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko visited Tehran.

The cooperation roadmap and MOUs include various commercial, transportation, agricultural, and cultural fields.

The roadmap was signed by the presidents of the two countries, while the MOUs were inked by senior officials from the two sides.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Belarusian

counterpart after signing the document, the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said: "Good agreements were made in the field of industry, mining, trade, agriculture, roads, and various fields, and we hope that it will be a step towards the development of the two countries."

Referring to the determination of Iran and Belarus to develop relations in all fields, Raisi said: "Both countries are against unilateralism. We believe that independent countries can have good relations with each other which leads to the neutralization of sanctions."

Lukashenko, for his part, pointed to his last visit to Iran in 2006 and said that no sanctions or pressures have been able to stop the Iranian nation from progressing, and it is a fact that an independent and strong Iran is continuing its path.

Referring to the MOUs between the two countries, Lukashenko noted that if all these MOUs are implemented, the two countries can achieve \$100 million in annual trade.

"The volume of trade between the two countries tripled in 2022 compared to 2021," he noted.

The Belarusian president expressed hope that the implementation of the comprehensive cooperation roadmap will help develop the relations between the two countries even more.

As part of the Belarusian delegation's schedule in Tehran, the country's Minister of Industry Rogozhnik Alexander Nikolaevich met with former Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin to discuss ways of developing mutual ties.

During the meeting with Nikolaevich, who was accompanied by a group of industrial officials, Fatemi-Amin referred to the cooperation of the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) with its Belarusian counterpart and also an agreement between banks of the two countries, emphasizing that the infrastructure needed for the development of trade

between the two countries has been created.

He stated that an agreement on the possibility of barter trade between the two countries is also going to be signed soon, adding: "With the full accession of Iran to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in less than a year from now 80 percent of the tariffs between the two countries will be zeroed."

Nikolaevich in his turn said Belarus pays special attention to the expansion of trade relations with Iran.

"In the days when both countries have been subjected to heavy and cruel sanctions, we must make a double effort to defeat the sanctions," Nikolaevich suggested.

Stating that with Iran's joining the EAEU, many issues in the field of transportation will be resolved, he emphasized: "Our goal is for Iranian products to flourish in the Belarusian market and Belarusian products to enter the Iranian market."

In his joint press conference with the Belarusian leader after a meeting at the Saadabad Palace, Raisi asserted that the Islamic Republic has capitalized on the threat of unilateral sanctions as a chance to advance significantly. "Iran has benefited from the sanctions put on the country, and we have achieved remarkable advances despite the threats," Raisi said.

He added, "We are eager to share our experiences with our good friend Belarus."

Raisi also said the only way to overcome sanctions and advance is mutual opposition to unilateralism.

Lukashenko, for his part, stated that "Iran is flourishing and Iran keeps growing despite sanctions and pressure. The signing of several documents today can result in a 100 million dollar increase in commerce between the two nations if they are fully implemented."

West Bank annexation scheme: A vehicle that will jackknife on the road of resistance

From page 1 ▶ Settler violence against Palestinian residents in full view of Israeli forces has become a regular occurrence. Settlers brutally victimize Palestinians and burn their homes with impunity.

Likewise, Israeli authorities have approved strategic land seizures and major settlement construction. This is while Israeli settlements are illegal and constitute a violation of international law. Furthermore, the demolition of Palestinian property has increased.

The Netanyahu regime has been emboldened by the unwavering support of the administration of US President Joe Biden.

The Biden administration has allocated approximately \$18 billion in military assistance to Israel, marking a historic expenditure more than a year into the conflict in Gaza.

The election of Donald Trump as the next US president seems to have further egged the regime officials on.

On Monday, the Israeli finance minister welcomed Trump's vic-



Bezalel Smotrich seeks carte blanche from Donald Trump to transform Israeli occupation of the West Bank into annexation.

tory over Vice President Kamala Harris in last week's presidential election.

"Trump's victory brings an important opportunity for the State of Israel," Bezalel Smotrich told supporters at a conference of his Religious Zionist Party.

He called for exerting full Israeli sovereignty over parts of

the West Bank which amounts to turning the territory's occupation into annexation in the wake of the president-elect's victory.

"Moving forward, I intend to lead a government decision stating that the Israeli government will work with President Trump's new administration and the international community to apply sovereignty and seek

American recognition," Smotrich said.

Smotrich has already advocated for the creation of a "Jewish state" that would encompass all Palestinian territories and neighboring Arab territories.

He said in October, that this "Jewish state" must extend into Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

It is yet to be determined if Trump will grant Israel unrestricted authority to proceed with its plan to annex the West Bank, which has been under its occupation since 1967.

Currently, anti-Israel sentiment and resentment against the US over its support for Israel's genocidal war in Gaza and brutal strikes in Lebanon has reached an all-time high.

The potential carte blanche to transform the occupation of the West Bank into annexation could incite a new uprising, potentially cascading like a tsunami with unpredictable repercussions for both Israel and the United States.

Hezbollah: Our missiles will surprise you

From page 1 ▶ "You will not win your war through air superiority, bombings, or killing civilians, including women and children," Afif asserted.

Officials in Tel Aviv have claimed to have wiped out 80% of Hezbollah's missile stockpile, which experts say is part of the Israeli propaganda war to satisfy public opinion back home.

"The Israeli claims about our depleted missile stock are mere fabrications; our missiles will surprise and offer the answer [to these fabrications]," Afif underlined.

Touching on the recent Israeli-instigated hooligan violence in Amsterdam, he said, "The message from pro-Palestine protesters in the Netherlands and around the world is that Israel is isolated."

Afif also described relations with the Lebanese army as "strong", saying, "We appreciate its role in protecting our land and national security."

He also warned the regime, "To those who fought the (Lebanese) army and killed its officers, you will not succeed in breaking the bond between the army and the resistance."

"Our resistance, our people, and our environment have been targeted for a year by various political and media campaigns with clear objectives. Our resistance was born on our occupied land, our fighters are Lebanese, and we are not a faction serving anyone," he emphasized.

In response to a question about the political process and the resistance, Afif replied, "If you hear of a political movement, know it is due to the steadfastness of the heroes of the resistance on the battlefield. We are not creators of defeat, and our concept of victory is to prevent the enemy from achieving its political and military objectives; non-resistance is defeat."

Afif went on to say, "There are those promoting a culture of defeat, waging a war of terminology by describing the aggression as Israel's war on Hezbollah."

He also said there is a growing political debate in Moscow, Washington, Tehran, and other capitals following Trump's return to the White House.

However, he noted that Lebanon has received no updates yet on a political solution to the war and is still in a probing phase, and what Hezbollah is hearing is "limited to media outlets."

Afif also said Hezbollah is prepared for a prolonged war with the occupation regime.

"The aggression is already extensive, and the occupation has avoided setting specific objectives to avoid repeating its mistakes of the (2006) July War. The occupation refrains from setting ultimate goals or high expectations due to the strength of the resistance in Lebanon and the difficulty of confronting it."

Hezbollah's military media office issued 22 statements by Tuesday outlining the

operations that the Lebanese resistance movement has conducted against Israel.

Hezbollah maintained that all its operations came "in support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and backing their courageous and honorable resistance, and in defense of Lebanon and its people."

The statements offered details on the operations that were aimed at repelling the IOF's attempts to advance along the Lebanese-Palestinian borders, countering enemy drones and warplanes, and targeting enemy military sites, bases, and settlements in northern and central occupied Palestine.

Some of the operations came "in the context of the evacuation warnings issued by the Islamic Resistance (Hezbollah) to northern settlements."

Among the notable operations, Hezbollah struck Israeli military bases and targeted the Zvulun Military Industries Base, north of Haifa with a rocket barrage.

The Israeli Amiad Base (Northern Command Headquarters), south of the city of Safad, was targeted with a large rocket barrage.

Drones were also used as part of the "Khaibar operations" to strike the Raghavim Base (the main training base for the Golani Brigade) 65 km from the Lebanese-Palestinian border south of Haifa. They hit "hit the target precisely," the media office said.

Israel imposes land blockade by bombing Lebanese border crossings

From page 1 ▶ The crossings labeled as "irregular" are usually used by residents on both sides to exchange goods and move to schools and fields. They are like regular roads within one town divided by border maps, exactly like the village of Hosh al-Sayyid Ali in which about 4,000 dunams of it is inside Lebanon and about a thousand dunams in Syria.

On October 5 and 22, Israel bombarded the Jdeidet Yabous Crossing, aka the Masnaa Crossing, which sees a daily influx of thousands of Lebanese and Syrians fleeing the war in Lebanon to safer places in Syria and Iraq. The attacks left a 4-meter (12-foot) crater in it and put it out of service. The bulldozers that were trying to repair it were targeted too.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, about 52% of the displaced people across the border fled through the Jdeidet Yabous

crossing, reaching more than 470,000 people. He said this crossing is the main artery for the movement of people and goods between Lebanon and Syria.

In 2023, Lebanon imported about \$344 million worth of goods, such as electrical appliances, cars, plastic products, aluminum, etc. through it. Lebanon exported \$176 million through it; the most important exports were fruits with a value of \$29 million.

The Jussieh crossing is about 40 kilometers away from the city of Homs, which is an important commercial and administrative center. For the Lebanese, the crossing is a major point for transporting goods. In late 2012, the crossing was completely closed due to clashes with terrorist Takfiri groups in the Qusayr area. It was then reopened in 2017.

The Jussieh crossing was

bombarded on October 25, killing 3 Syrian security personnel. The targeting put the crossing completely out of service. It was targeted again on October 28, causing severe damage. The crossing resumed its work, partially, on October 29.

On November 1, Israeli aircraft targeted it again and Ali Hamieh, the Public Works and Transport Minister in the Lebanese caretaker government, announced the closure of the crossing again.

In a post on the X platform, Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for his part, said: "Even fleeing (and taking care of those who flee) are becoming difficult and dangerous as the war continues to spread."

On September 26 and 27, the Israeli Air Force bombarded the Matraba crossing that connects the Qusayr area from the Syrian side to the Hermel region in

Lebanon, putting it out of service after sustaining significant material damage. It was then bombed again on October 26.

This crossing was opened in 2022 to facilitate movement, as about 10,000 Lebanese had to travel more than 40 kilometers to reach the Qaa crossing or the Masnaa crossing, mainly for trade, religious tourism, or treatment in Syria.

On October 3, the Zionist regime bombed the "irregular" Janta crossing that connects Syrian territory from the Damascus countryside with the outskirts of Nabi Sheet.

On October 10, it bombed another crossing in the town of Qasr near the city of Qusayr, which is used for the passage of agricultural vehicles and students and the sale of agricultural products (used by more than 30,000 Lebanese).

Babies bear the brunt of Bibi-Biden barbaric bombings



Fatima Zayoun sits next to her daughter Ivana Skakye in Geitaoui hospital in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 29 [Hussein Malla/AP Photo]

TEHRAN- Israel has targeted Lebanese civilians, including women and children, in the wake of its military attacks against the country that began in October 2023.

The Israeli army has killed more than 3,200 people, including 201 children and injured over 14,000 others in Lebanon since then.

Most of them have lost their lives since Israel began a massive bombing campaign in the Mediterranean country in mid-September this year.

According to the Associated Press, a fifth of newly admitted patients at the burns center in Beirut's Geitaoui hospital are children.

Ivana Skakye is among those kids who have been hospitalized there.

She has suffered third-degree burns over 40 percent of her body following an Israeli attack on her home on September 23.

Ivana, who turned two last week, remains wrapped in gauze around her head, arms and lower body.

Fatima Zayoun, her mother, told the AP that the Israeli attack damaged their house and caused a fire.

Ivana and her sister were playing on the terrace at the time of the strike. Zayoun said she found the two children covered in black ash. Ivana was unrecognizable. Her hair had burned away.

American media outlets have acknowledged that numerous civilians in Lebanon have lost their lives due to the weapons supplied by the administration of US President Joe Biden to Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, known as Bibi, claims that his army hits positions of the Hezbollah resistance group. But facts on the ground indicate that civilians fall victim to the American-provided Israeli bombs.

End of American hegemony

How the world is rebuilding a new multipolar order

Dr. Mohammad Ali Senobari

TEHRAN - Today, the world stands at a crossroads — a dangerous yet transformative moment — marked by the collapse of traditional power structures and the emergence of a multipolar world order.

This transformation is not merely a matter of geopolitical reorganization; it signifies a break from decades of Western domination, especially by the United States and its key allies, and offers an opportunity for historically oppressed peoples to rise and align with the ascending powers in global politics. The Al-Aqsa Flood, led by courageous Palestinians, Russia's military actions, and the emergence of powers like China, Russia, and Iran all point to a new era in which the interests of the Zionist entity and its Western allies will no longer dictate global affairs.

Rise of a multipolar world order

The concept of a unipolar world dominated by a single superpower wielding unmatched economic, military, and political influence is rapidly being challenged. For years, Russia, China, and Iran have been quietly fostering an alliance that aims to displace the United States from its role as global hegemon. This coalition is fueled by a shared vision of a world free from imperialist oppression, where sovereignty and self-determination replace exploitative foreign policies, military interventions, and colonialist practices.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has openly articulated this vision, asserting that the era of American hegemony is fading.

After Donald Trump's election, Putin congratulated him, emphasizing the fundamental transformations reshaping the global landscape. He hinted at a new world order, starkly different from one based on colonialism and interventionism, a sentiment echoed by China and Iran, who have

long suffered under Western economic and political dominance.

US decline and its implications

The United States, long accustomed to setting global norms and conducting military interventions with minimal opposition, now faces unprecedented internal and external pressures.

Domestically, the U.S. grapples with deep-rooted economic challenges, including inflation, unemployment, and rising political instability. The American public has grown weary of endless foreign entanglements that deplete resources and offer little tangible benefit to the average citizen. This sentiment peaked with Trump's rise, symbolizing a shift toward isolationism and a rejection of costly foreign interventions.

The billions of dollars directed toward both Ukraine and the Zionist entity reveal how American taxpayers are burdened by conflicts that serve little or no purpose for U.S. national security. Russia's operation in Ukraine and the Al-Aqsa Flood by Hamas have exposed inherent weaknesses in America's alliances. Rather than delivering a strategic advantage, these interventions have drained American resources and eroded its global influence. The Biden administration's continued support for these allies, often seen as exploitative, has failed to yield significant gains, underscoring the unsustainability of America's imperialistic model.

Role of Oct. 7 and reshaping the world order

October 7, marked by Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, was a symbolic moment in shifting Middle Eastern power dynamics. This bold stand against the Zionist entity resonated globally, further highlighting the vulnerabilities of the apartheid state supported by Western powers.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Archaeologists unearth ancient skeleton at Cheshmeh-Ali mound in southern Tehran



TEHRAN - Archaeologists have discovered an ancient burial containing a skeleton during excavations at the 7,000-year-old Cheshmeh-Ali mound in Rey, southern Tehran.

Preliminary evidence suggests that the skeleton may date back to the Sialk III period, around 4300 BC, marking it as a significant prehistoric find in the region.

According to Hamidreza Valipour, head of the Cheshmeh-Ali excavation team, the burial site and skeletal remains were uncovered within architectural layers attributed to the Sialk III era.

Pottery and architectural features from this period support the preliminary dating, aligning with artifacts previously identified from the early settlement phases of this region.

"The continuation of excavations in future seasons may enhance our understanding of the architectural layout and daily life within

this ancient settlement," ISNA quoted Valipour as saying on Monday.

The team hopes the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage will authorize sampling of the skeleton for further dating analysis to accurately establish the burial period.

This excavation at Cheshmeh-Ali marks the first archaeological investigation at the site in nearly three decades. The project, which began following the opening of Shahid Beheshti University's Archaeological Field Research Center, is led by Valipour and his deputy, Iman Mostafapour, and includes professors and students from the university's archaeology department.

Located near an ancient spring, Cheshmeh-Ali lies in the historical city of Rey. The mound, approximately seven meters high, is situated next to remnants of the Islamic city walls of Rey, which reach 15 meters in height.

Cheshmeh-Ali is a historical and recreational spot located in the south of Tehran and north of Rey as the history of settlement in the latter goes down to the 3rd millennium BC.

Rey is one of the oldest cities in the central Iranian plateau with a history of human settlement that stretches over 8,000 years, according to Qadir Afrovand, the director of Rey National Heritage Base.

The history of Rey, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica is featured in the Avesta (the original document of Zoroastrianism, an Iranian religion) as a sacred place, and it is also mentioned in the book of Tobit, of the biblical Apocrypha, and by classical authors.

Italy stops mass tourism with a focus on Venice, Pompeii, Rome, and Florence

Italy is taking significant steps to address the impact of mass tourism on its cultural heritage and the quality of life for residents in popular destinations.

From Venice to Florence, Italian cities are implementing a range of measures to balance tourism management with the preservation of local culture and the daily lives of their citizens.

These initiatives come as the country aims to protect its historic sites and iconic landmarks from overcrowding while ensuring residents have affordable housing and maintain a high quality of life.

One of the primary concerns is in Pompeii, where the immense influx of tourists has placed unprecedented pressure on the ancient archaeological site. Pompeii, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, attracted around four million visitors during the summer alone. Starting next week, the archaeological park will enforce a daily visitor limit, allowing a maximum of 20,000 people per day to enter. To enhance security and manage visitor flow, personalized tickets will also be introduced. This system

aims to prevent overcrowding and ensure a more manageable and enjoyable experience for those visiting the ruins of this historic city, while also safeguarding the delicate archaeological remains.

In Venice, where mass tourism has reached new heights, an entrance fee for day tourists has been implemented to reduce strain on local resources. Barely 50,000 residents now live in the historic center, yet the city attracts over 15 million tourists annually. Venice became the first city in the world to charge an entrance fee for day visitors, currently set at five euros. This fee is expected to increase to ten euros by 2025 as part of an ongoing effort to alleviate the pressures of tourism on the city's infrastructure. While Venice residents are exempt, the fee helps support maintenance and upkeep efforts, as well as limiting the number of daily visitors to manage crowding. Despite the fee, Venice continues to attract millions of tourists each year, drawn by its canals, architecture, and unique history.

(Source: travellandtourworld.com)

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Bamiyan Valley

Enclosed between the high mountains of the Hindu Kush in the central highlands of Afghanistan, the Bamiyan Valley opens out into a large basin bordered to the north by a long, high stretch of rocky cliffs.

The Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley comprise a serial property consisting of eight separate sites within the Valley and its tributaries. Carved into the Bamiyan Cliffs are the two niches of the giant Buddha statues (55m and 38m high) destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, and numerous caves forming a large ensemble of Buddhist monasteries, chapels and sanctuaries along the foothills of the valley dating from the 3rd to the 5th century CE. In several of the caves and niches, often linked by galleries, there are remains of wall paintings and seated Buddha figures. In the valleys of the Bamiyan's tributaries are further groups of caves including the Kakrak Valley Caves, some 3km south-east of the Bamiyan Cliffs where among the more than one hundred caves dating from the 6th to 13th centuries are fragments of a

10m tall standing Buddha figure and a sanctuary with painted decorations from the Sasanian period. Along the Fuladi valley around 2km southwest of the Bamiyan Cliffs are the caves of Qoul-i Akram and Lalai Ghami, also containing decorative features.

Punctuating the centre of the valley basin to the south of the great cliff are the remains of the fortress of Shahr-i Ghulghulah. Dating from the 6th to 10th centuries CE, this marks the original settlement of Bamiyan as stopping place on the branch of the Silk Route, which linked China and India via ancient Bactria. Further to the east along the Bamiyan Valley are the remains of fortification walls and settlements, dating from the 6th to 8th centuries at Qallai Kaphari A and B and further east still (around 15km east of the Bamiyan Cliffs) at Shahr-i Zuhak, where the earlier remains are overlaid by developments of the 10th to 13th centuries under the rule of the Islamic Ghaznavid and Ghori dynasties.

(Source: UNESCO)

Hasht Behesht: a jewel of Safavid architecture in Isfahan

TEHRAN - Standing tall in the heart of Isfahan, Hasht Behesht ("Eight Paradises") is a must-see historic mansion and a captivating reminder of Iran's Safavid era.

Constructed in the second half of the 17th century, by the order of Shah Ismail I, this enchanting palace sits within a lush garden, itself part of the larger Naghsh-e Jahan garden complex.

Known in its time as one of the most beautiful palaces in the world, Hasht Behesht draws visitors today with its remarkable architecture, intricate design, and serene ambiance.

The palace is an octagonal masterpiece, featuring four distinct facades, each with unique details.

Raised two meters above the garden, Hasht Behesht has two floors, with stairways on each side leading to the upper level.

The rooms on the first floor are exquisitely adorned with



stucco, colorful paintings, and delicate details that reflect the rich artistic heritage of the Safavid period.

One of the palace's most striking features is the octagonal marble pool at the center of the main hall, known as the Pearl Pool. Ingeniously carved, the pool's design allows water to flow gently through its holes, creating a mesmerizing effect

reminiscent of pearls cascading across its surface.

Surrounded by a beautiful park that is now one of Isfahan's most popular promenades, Hasht Behesht is a serene and luxurious space for visitors to enjoy.

A visit to this palace offers an unforgettable glimpse into the grandeur of Safavid architecture and the tranquil beauty of

Persian gardens.

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

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

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

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.

Efforts begin for UNESCO registration of Old Jiroft in southern Iran

TEHRAN - Kerman province's tourism chief announced on Monday that efforts have begun for a possible registration of the ancient site of Old Jiroft, also known as Dakyanus in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Saeid Shahrokhi, made the remarks on the sidelines of his visit to Old Jiroft, adding that the provincial directorate for tourism and cultural heritage seeks to turn the vast site into a natural archaeological park.

"It will be the first natural archaeological park to be inaugurated in the country," the official said.

Situated in southern Iran, Jiroft is widely believed to be a cradle of civilization, holding invaluable historical and cultural significance.

The official highlighted that both administrative and scientific processes are underway to gather and document the data required for UNESCO registration.

He emphasized the need to integrate archaeological findings with scientific data to ensure a comprehensive foundation for the proposed park.

"The Jiroft Plain is an interconnected expanse where various regions such as Dakyanus, Konar Sandal, and other areas cannot be viewed separately," Shahrokhi explained. "Human life has persisted in this plain for thousands of years, making it a unique setting for historical continuity and cultural richness."

Earlier this year, the legal boundaries of the ancient Jiroft were determined after nearly half a century, and as the result of a systematic archaeological work.

The ancient city of Dakyanus (aka Daqyanos) is located along the banks of the Halil River, adjacent to the modern city of Jiroft.



The Jiroft culture, also known as the Inter-cultural style or the Halilrud style, is an early Bronze Age (3rd millennium BC) archaeological culture located in what is now the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan and Kerman.

Until the early 21st century, no one had ever imagined that a refined, forgotten culture could re-emerge from the sands of a remote and arid region in southeast Iran.

The story started when heavy floods swept away the topsoil, revealing thousands of previously unknown tombs in a Bronze Age cemetery in Jiroft.

The remarkable findings at Jiroft demanded a reassessment of the earlier interpretation that Mesopotamia was the sole cradle of civilization.

In 2001, a flood of archaeological objects began appearing on the antiquities market, seemingly out of nowhere.

In a short time, distinctive pieces of jewelry, weapons, finely crafted ceramics, drinking vessels, and game boards featuring unusual artistry and magnificent inlays of carnelian and lapis lazuli found their way to antique markets for sale.

These extraordinary pieces displayed a

complex symbology of animals, both wild and domesticated, depicted fighting among themselves or with human figures, the humans always triumphant.

There were beautifully realized bucolic scenes of animals grazing in vast palm groves and architectural reproductions of temples or palaces.

Data provided by the internet sites and auction houses selling these mysterious pieces is sparse and, at best, vague.

Their origins were often listed as "from Central Asia."

At first, it was assumed that the pieces were the work of expert forgers.

However, as more items appeared on the market in the following months, scholars began to speculate that they could be genuine, originating from an undocumented site. In 2002, more artifacts appeared on the market.

Iranian police solved the mystery later that year. A coordinated investigation led to the arrest of several traffickers and the confiscation of a hoard of artifacts.

These objects were being prepared for shipment from Tehran, Bandar Abbas, and Kerman to buyers around the world.

Investigators revealed that most of these distinctive pieces could be traced back to the Halil River Valley, about 25 miles south of Jiroft, a remote and peaceful city in southeastern Iran, not far from the Persian Gulf.

Layers of sediment were washed away, exposing the remains of an ancient cemetery. Locals and looters quickly recognized the importance of the find and moved to collect and sell the artifacts they had found.

50 historical stucco reliefs of Seymareh to undergo restoration

TEHRAN - The tourism chief of Ilam province has announced a new initiative to document, clean, and reinforce 50 historical stucco reliefs previously discovered in the ancient city of Seymareh, located 100 kilometers south of Ilam.

Farzad Sharifi detailed the scope of the project, which includes creating specialized documentation for each relief and stabilizing the fragile elements to prevent further degradation.

This conservation effort is part of a broader project to preserve and study the artifacts and architectural elements of the largest known ancient city in Ilam province, the official explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Sharifi said as part of a compre-

hensive preservation and registration project, more than 1,000 stucco pieces from Seymareh have been cataloged, with registration documents issued for each item.

The historical city of Seymareh, located on the western side of the present-day Darreh Shahr, spans approximately 70 hectares, making it the largest ancient city within Ilam province.

It was once a summer capital for the Elamites, an ancient civilization active from 2700 to 539 BCE, and later flourished under the Sassanid Empire (224-651 CE). Remnants of its architecture, including sections of walls and arches, remain visible or are buried beneath debris.

The site also reveals traces of streets and alleys, showcasing the city's organized urban layout

with its use of stones, gypsum, and lime in construction.

The first archeologist to visit Seymareh was Sir Henry Rawlinson. He began an expedition to the site in 1836.

Jaques de Morgan also visited this historical land in 1891 and introduced it as the same ancient city of Madakto. Then it was Aurel Stein who attempted to explore it in 1936, according to Visit Iran, the official travel guide of Iran.

The archeological findings show that the city included about 5,000 houses with some modern aspects, like a water distribution system through clay pipes and underground sewers.

The city was destroyed and deserted after a huge earthquake around 950 BC.

The name Elam was given to



the region by others—the Akkadians and Sumerians of Mesopotamia—and is thought to be their version of what the Elamites called themselves – Haltami (or Haltamti) – meaning "those of the high country."

Elam, therefore, is usually translated to mean "highlands" or "high country" as it comprised settlements on the Iranian Plateau that stretched from the southern plains to the elevations of the Zagros Mountains.

Iran targets world's 12th spot in science production by 2027

TEHRAN –Despite ongoing sanctions, Iran is planning to elevate the country's ranking for scientific productions from currently 17 to 12 by 2027.

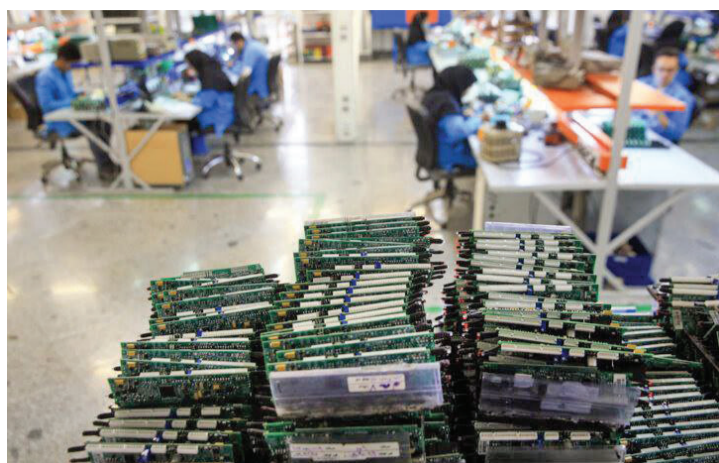
Due to sanctions, economic restrictions, and the limitations on publishing papers by Iranian scholars, particularly during the last three years, Iran's ranking in scientific productions has lowered from 15 to 17, Shahin Akhoundzadeh, an official with the health ministry, has said.

The country's advancement in science production requires compensating for the regression in research and technology through providing funds, facilitating research, and promoting meritocracy which will reduce young elites' migration, as well, the health ministry's website quoted Akhoundzadeh as saying.

Scientific associations grow by 23%

The number of scientific associations as one of the pillars of science in the country has increased from 322 in the Iranian year 1392 (2013 -2014) to 396 last year (ended on March 19), signifying a 22.9 percent growth.

Interdisciplinary and hu-



manitarian associations have experienced the highest growth. Within a decade, the number of interdisciplinary and humanitarian associations has increased from 50 and 102 to 85 and 142, respectively, IRNA reported.

Scientific associations have always played an essential role in producing knowledge and achieving scientific development.

They are the main foundation of institutions beyond political, racial, ethnic, religious, and sexual boundaries.

Scientific associations have emerged in response to the needs of the world of democracy and the enhancement of

human solidarity. They have also created an appropriate environment for free thinking and the establishment of a culture of conversations.

Their independence from governments in finance and human resources, speed of action, high decision-making power, limited bureaucracy, and flexible mechanism bolster their efficiency at national and international levels.

Iran's world ranking for scientific publications

According to data released by Scopus, Iran published 78,225 scientific articles in this database in 2022. Accordingly, Iran is ranked 15th in the world in terms of publica-

tion of scientific works for the fourth consecutive year.

Scopus data in 2022 shows that Iran ranks first among countries in the region in terms of the number of scientific publications.

A review of Scopus data from 2014 to 2022 showed that Iran has always been the first among the countries in the region in terms of the number of publications and has been able to maintain this position.

In total, 3,950,305 works have been indexed in the Scopus. China, with 1,016,311 works, is the source of about 25 percent of the world's scientific publications and has the first place in this regard.

The United States, India, England, and Germany are also in the second to fifth place.

According to the data of the Scopus index, the Tehran University of Medical Sciences had the largest share in Iran's scientific publications by publishing more than 6,800 works.

In total, nearly half of Iran's scientific publications in 2022 have been published by 10 universities in the country.

Bill on women's dignity yet to be approved

TEHRAN –It has been four years since a bill on protecting women's dignity against violence was first submitted to the parliament for approval. However, the bill is still in the process of being approved.

Titled 'Protection, Dignity, and Security of Women against Violence', the bill has been under review since September 2019.

It criminalizes any act or behavior that causes "physical or mental harm" to women "as a vulnerable gender".

It recommends a fund for safeguarding women's rights with provisions for providing medical expenses for the victims of violence and imparting skill development training to them.

For the first time in Iran's legal system, this bill defines violence against women, considering various types of violence as "crimes" and provides "punishments" for them.

At the same time, it has set tasks for the relevant judicial and executive bodies to prevent the occurrence of violence against women and provide support to the victims of violence by directing and regulating the aforementioned bodies.

About one and a half years ago, in April 2023 the parliament approved the generalities of the bill, IRNA reported.

Apparently, the bill needs to be amended to suit women's rights in Iranian, Islamic society.



Once approved, and implemented, the bill will eliminate different types of violence against women and further improves their positions in society.

Empowering women

Women's participation in decision-making councils of ministries, insurance coverage for rural women, mothers with three or more children, and pregnant women are some of the great measures taken by the administration in recent years.

The status of women in various fields was improved after the Islamic Revolution and women, as half of the country's population, have been leading in many fields.

The Islamic Revolution provided them a chance to build their distinct identity and they have been tremendously successful in doing that.

There were extensive changes in the

fields of science, education, economy, employment, and presence in management positions for women. Now a large part of activists in various fields of academia, business, and management are made up of capable Iranian women.

Education as a social value for women is seen as real freedom for them. Illiteracy among women and girls has been nearly eradicated as the literacy rate reached 99.3 percent and the ratio of female to male students has increased by 28 percent.

According to the latest data, nearly 60 percent of all university students are females today. The percentage of women in higher education has increased nearly 21 times since the Revolution.

The notable presence of women in the education sector has had a remarkable impact on the job market of the country as well, with women taking more jobs in both the public and private sectors.

The empowerment programs have also resulted in the self-sufficiency of more than 126,000 women heads of household.

According to Majid Maleki, an official with the Social Security Organization, there are more than 511,000 housewives in the country under insurance coverage.

All the women between 18 and 50 years of age can apply for insurance, IRNA quoted the official as saying.

ENGLISH IN USE

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'Green taxes not used for environmental development'

Taxes paid by pollutant industries are not used for developing the environment or improving the industries, Ali Moridi, an official with the Department of Environment, has said.

The DOE is trying to revise the law and receive green taxes to use it toward eradicating air and water pollution, wastewater treatment and environmental issues, along with technology and industries improvement, he said, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

"There are rules which obliges the waste management affairs of the DOE to make the manufacturing and import industries pay taxes and spend the taxes on waste management and recycling."

عوارض آلاینده‌گی صرف ارتقای محیط زیست نمی‌شود

عوارض اخذ شده از صنایع آلاینده در محل خودش و با هدف رفع چالش محیط زیست هزینه نمی‌شود.

به گزارش روز سه شنبه ایرنا، «علی مریدی» از مسئولان سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: در تلاش برای بازنگری این قانون هستیم تا عوارض آلاینده‌گی به حساب صندوق ملی محیط زیست وارد و صرف حل مسایل زیست محیطی شود و بتوانیم به صنایع برای ارتقای فناوری و تصفیه پساب‌ها کمک کنیم.

البته قوانین خوبی در زمینه مدیریت پسماند تصویب شده است که سازمان محیط زیست را مکلف کرده تا از صنایع تولیدی و وارداتی درصدی را به عنوان مالیات اخذ و به صندوق ملی محیط زیست واریز کند تا صرف هزینه پسماند و بازیافت شود.

29 Iranian universities on ShanghaiRanking GRAS 2024

TEHRAN –ShanghaiRanking has placed 29 Iranian universities on the 2024 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS) from more than 1,900 out of 5,000 universities across 96 countries and regions.

This year league table contains rankings of universities in 55 subjects across Natural Sciences, Engineering, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Social Sciences.

GRAS 2024 uses a range of objective academic indicators and third-party data to measure the performance of world universities in relevant subjects, covering 5 major evaluation categories.

A brand new category, World-Class Faculty, has been introduced to reflect the concentration of top-tier scholars.

This category includes four new indicators: International Academic Award Laureates (Laureate), Highly Cited Researchers (HCR), Chief Editors of International Academic Journals (Editor), and International Academic Organization Leadership (Leadership).

Beyond the new category, GRAS 2024 also retains traditional indicators across categories like World-Class Output, High Quality Research, Research Impact and International Collaboration.

Iranian universities had a better performance in engineering and medical sciences fields being ranked in 71 and 24 subjects, respectively.

The best global rankings in the five major evaluation categories are as follows.

In Engineering, Amirkabir University of Technology ranks 20 in textile science and engineering, Iran University of Science and Technology ranks 50 in civil engineering, and University of Tehran ranks 51-75 in Water resources, and Mining and mineral engineering, IRNA reported.

Tehran University is also ranked 76-100 in Civil engineering, and Metallurgical engineering. University of Tabriz is placed 76-100 in Water resources.

Amirkabir University of Technology and Tarbiat Modares University rank 76-100 in Mining and mineral engineering.

In Medical Sciences, Tehran University of Medical Sciences' best ranking is in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (51-75), it has a ranking of 151-200 in Public health and Nursing.

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences ranks 151-200 in Food science and technology, as well as Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences ranks 151-200 in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Mashhad University Medical Sciences is placed 151-200 in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

In Life Sciences, Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, University of Tehran in Agricultural sciences, and Shiraz University in Veterinary Sciences rank 101-150

In Social Sciences, Iran University of Science and Technology, is place 201 -300 in Management.

In Natural Sciences, the university ranks 201-300 in Mathematics, and University of Tehran ranks 201-300 in Geography.

Recent rankings

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings placed 32 Iranian universities in the list of top universities in 2025, compared to 31 universities in 2024.

Published annually since 2009, the QS Asia University Rankings highlight the top universities in Asia each year.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 87) is placed first among Iranian universities, followed by Sharif University of Technology (ranking 97 globally) and Amirkabir University of Technology (ranking 114 globally), Mehr news agency reported.

Isfahan University of Technology, Shiraz University, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, University of Tabriz, Shahid Beheshti University, and University of Isfahan were ranked fourth to tenth, respectively.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 placed 85 Iranian univer-

sities among the top institutions compared to 75 universities in 2024.

The 2025 rankings include 2,092 ranked universities from 115 countries. There are 185 new entries compared with last year.

Recognized as the world's most comprehensive evaluation of university performance, the latest methodology includes 18 carefully calibrated indicators to assess institutions across five key areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, industry engagement, and international outlook.

Sharif University of Technology ranked first in the country with a global ranking of 301-350.

Amirkabir University of Technology, and Iran University of Science and Technology (ranking globally 351 -400) were placed second.

Kermanshah University of Medical Science, and University of Tehran were placed third with a global ranking of 401-500.

Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, Shiraz University of Technology, and Tehran University of Technology were ranked joint fourth, they ranked 601-800, globally.

A total of 100 universities from Iran were ranked by EduRank based on research outputs, non-academic prominence, and alumni influence.

The rankings were determined by analyzing 14.9 m citations received by 1.26 m academic publications made by 310 universities from Iran, the popularity of 867 recognized alumni, and the largest reference database available.

This year, 14131 universities from 183 countries were ranked across 246 topics.

According to the report University of Tehran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology were the best universities in the country, IRIB reported.

The Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities, also known as the National Taiwan University (NTU) Rankings, placed 21 Iranian institutions among the top 1,200 universities worldwide, compared to 18 universities in 2023.

University of Tehran won the best ranking among Iranian institutions, ranking 291 globally.

University of Tehran ranked 30 in chemical engineering as well as energy science and engineering, 34 in mechanical engineering, and 73 in agriculture.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (with a global ranking of 359), Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences (491), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences(540), and Tarbiat Modarres University (577) were placed second to fifth, respectively.

Tehran University of Medical Science's best ranking globally was 22 in pharmacology and toxicology.

Moreover, Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology and Yasouj University were among the top 1200 institutions in the world based on full-time academic staff.

The 2024-2025 edition of Best Global Universities rankings included 69 Iranian universities, up from 52 in 2023, among the world's 2,250 top universities.

These institutions from 104 countries were ranked based on 13 indicators that measure their academic research performance and their global and regional reputations which helps students to explore the higher education options that exist beyond their own countries' borders and to compare key aspects of schools' research missions.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 275), Islamic Azad University (374), Sharif University of Technology and Tehran University of Medical Sciences (516), University of Tabriz (521), and Amirkabir University of Technology (649) ranked first to fifth in the country, respectively.

Shanghai ranking 2024 placed nine Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide.

The 2024 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) was released by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran, which were among the top 500 universities in the world with a rank of 401-500, were placed top in the country.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When two persons are together, two of them must not whisper to each other, without letting the third hear; because it would hurt him.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:20 Dawn: 5:10 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:36 (tomorrow)

TMoCA cinemathèque reviews “How Green Was My Valley”



TEHRAN- The cinemathèque of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA) screened American filmmaker John Ford's film “How Green Was My Valley” on Monday.

Released in 1941, the screenplay of “How Green Was My Valley”, penned by Philip Dunne, is adapted from Richard Llewellyn's 1939 novel of the same name. Featuring a talented ensemble cast that includes Walter Pidgeon, Maureen O'Hara, Anna Lee, Donald Crisp, and the young Roddy McDowall, the film delves deeply into the life of a Welsh mining family during the late Victorian era.

At the heart of the narrative is Huw Morgan, the youngest son of the Morgan family. The story unfolds from his perspective, allowing viewers to experience the profound love shared among family members and the challenges they face living in the South Wales Valleys.

The Morgans are a hard-working family, with Huw's father, Gwilym, and his brothers toiling in the coal mines, while Huw's sister, Angharad, assists their mother, Beth, in managing the household. Their idyllic existence in a picturesque village soon encounters the turbulent realities of the mining industry, as economic hardships and labor disputes begin to take a toll on their lives.

The fictional setting is inspired by Gilfach Goch, a village where Llewellyn spent summers visiting his grandfather. Although he claimed to have based his personal experiences in the book on his Welsh heritage, Llewellyn was, in fact, born in England and spent little time in

Wales. Nevertheless, he gathered valuable insights by engaging in conversations with local mining families, grounding his narrative in authenticity and emotional depth.

“How Green Was My Valley” garnered widespread acclaim, earning ten Academy Award nominations and winning five—an impressive feat for any film, especially considering it triumphed over classics like “Citizen Kane”, “Sergeant York”, and “The Maltese Falcon” for Best Picture. Ford's direction was recognized, leading to his Academy Award win, while Crisp's portrayal earned him the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. The film also secured awards for Best Cinematography and Best Art Direction-Interior Decoration. In recognition of its cultural and historical significance, the film was selected for preservation by the United States National Film Registry in 1990 and later preserved by the Academy Film Archive in 1998.

The plot thickens as the Morgans confront the harsh realities of life in the coal mines. When mine owners reduce wages, an inevitable strike ensues, leading to familial and community strife. Huw observes the widening rift between his father and brothers, who choose to join the strike, further complicating their once-harmonious household. As the story unfolds, tragedy strikes the Morgan family with the death of Ivor, Huw's older brother, in a mining accident. This heartbreaking event further complicates the dynamics within the family and the broader community.

With themes of sacrifice, resilience, and the struggle for dignity, “How Green Was My Valley” examines the impact of industrialization on traditional ways of life. Huw's journey from childhood to adulthood underscores the importance of love, family, and community amid adversity. The film resonates with audiences for its powerful storytelling, masterful direction, and evocative cinematography, ensuring its status as a timeless classic.

Cartoon of Day



Famine in Gaza

Cartoonist: Ahmad Rahma from Turkey

“Phoenix of Quds” art exhibition honors martyrdom of Hassan Nasrallah, resistance fighters

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- A group exhibition titled “Phoenix of Quds,” commemorating the 40th day of the martyrdom of the leader of the Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and honoring the martyrs of resistance, was inaugurated at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran on Monday.

The opening ceremony was attended by several cultural officials and artists, including Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman, director of the Art Bureau, and Mohammad Zarui Nasrabad, the director of the Visual Arts Center of the Art Bureau, along with other participants.

This exhibition showcases works by artists including Mehdi Farokhi, Nasser Seifi, Hossein Esmati, Mohammad-Reza Miri, Abdolhamid Qadirian, Sediqeh Salman, Mohammad-Ali Naderi, Ali Bahreini, Seyyed Ali Mirfatah, Mohammad-Reza Doost Mohammadi, and Masoud Nejabat.

In a statement penned by Nasser Seifi, he expresses: “The resistance front has depicted and generalized a continuous duty from the uprising of Imam Hossein (AS) to this day, aiming for the destruction of tyrants and oppressors.

In the era of Imam Khomeini, we witness a vast horizon opening in the realm of the comprehensive fight against the contemporary Satan.

The field of resistance has become a magnificent display of faith, jihad, and martyrdom—three components of strength ingrained within the hearts and minds of the world's faithful.”

He continues, “In this arena, both young and old, men and women are united in their determination to expel the tyrants from the realms of light and monotheism, sacrificing everything they have for this noble cause.

The killing of children and infants is a testament to the fury and animosity of the racist progeny of the devil against the ancient



and natural doctrines of jihad and resistance, along with their emergent manifestations on today's extensive fronts.

By divine command and will, victory and salvation will belong to the believers and the oppressed of the world.”

Speaking at the ceremony, Seyyed Shahabedin Shakiba, the artistic director of the “Phoenix of Quds,” discussed the inspiration behind the exhibition: “From the very night of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's martyrdom, Ali Bahreini, a passionate painter, created a piece for the Art Bureau that became the cornerstone of this exhibition.

Gradually, other artists began contributing their works, which were then added to the ‘Phoenix of Quds’ collection.”

He explained that the exhibition features 16 illustrative pieces, 10 paintings, and one drawing, stating, “Mohammad Reza Doost Mohammadi created the illustrative works using the typography of Masoud Nejabat, while these illustrations were drawn over the last 40 days, incorporating every Iranian commander and member of Hezbollah who was martyred into this collection.”

“In addition, one drawing and

10 paintings from artists such as Ali Bahreini, Abdolhamid Qadirian, Seyyed Ali Mirfatah, Nasser Seifi, Hossein Esmati, Mehdi Farokhi, Seyyed Mohammad Reza Miri, Sediqeh Salman, and Mohammad Ali Naderi are also on display.”

Shakiba noted the positive feedback from the “Phoenix of Quds” collection, mentioning that the set of illustrated works featuring the martyrs was shared with friends in Hezbollah in Lebanon before the exhibition began, who welcomed it enthusiastically and even requested the open layers to publish in their media outlets. Thus, simultaneously with the exhibition's opening, these works are also being disseminated in Lebanon.

The exhibition will run for one month and may feature artworks for sale to assist the people of Gaza and Lebanon, with the possibility of additional pieces being added, he noted.

For his part, Zarui Nasrabad emphasized the swift response of visual artists to current events and the organization of this exhibition: “As cultural and artistic managers, we express our gratitude for the sense of responsibility displayed by these artists.

We strive to create spaces like

the ‘Phoenix of Quds’ exhibition for them to showcase their works and, as far as we can, provide them with tools and platforms for their creation and presentation.”

The “Phoenix of Quds” group exhibition will be open until December 10.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, a formidable Arab leader in West Asia, has made an indelible impact on contemporary Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the broader region.

He was tragically killed at the age of 64 during a series of intense Israeli airstrikes in southern Beirut on September 27.

Under Nasrallah's leadership, whose name means “victory through God,” Hezbollah evolved from a grassroots armed movement into the largest political party in Lebanon's recent history.

Renowned for his captivating speeches, Nasrallah garnered attention throughout the West Asia and beyond, establishing himself as a significant figure within the Axis of Resistance, which includes Hezbollah, the Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the Houthi movement in Yemen, and various Iraqi paramilitary factions.

Iranian feature film “Hook” wins at Milano International Sport Movies & TV Festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian feature film “Hook” directed by Hossein Rigi won an award at 42nd Milano International Sport Movies & TV Festival in Italy.

The movie was announced the winner of the Guirlande d'Honneur in the feature fiction category at the closing ceremony of the festival, which was held from November 5 to 9, Honaronline reported.

The 84-minute movie is about Shir Khan, a boy who embarks on a journey to become a champion in the sport of boxing. However, various challenges and incidents make his path to achieving his dream quite difficult.

Amir Jafari, Roya Teymourian, Amir Mahdi Jule, Alireza Jafari, Ali Ousivand, and Mahtab Servati



are in the cast among others.

Hossein Rigi, 46, was born in Sistan and Baluchestan Province. He started his career from 1995 by completing some filmmaking programs at the Iranian Youth Cinema Society. He has made several movies including documentaries, short and feature films.

His works has been shown in many domestic and international film festivals and won some awards. He is the first Baluch filmmaker in the history of Iranian cinema.

With the participation of 130 nations, the Milano International Sport Movies & TV Festival was organized by FICTS - Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs (recognized by the

International Olympic Committee).

The event is part of the calendar of the Cultural Olympiad of Milan Cortina 2026, a multidisciplinary, plural and widespread program to promote Olympic and Paralympic values through culture, heritage, and sport.

The event promotes the production of cinematographic and audiovisual works that represent the values of sport as an element of aggregation and development of countries and people.

This year's edition of the festival was characterized by international and national participation, with 100 screenings (selected from 1,560 participating movies and including 25 world and European premieres, exclusive Olympic footages, etc.), four meetings, three workshops, four exhibitions, two conferences, and eight side events.

“Shortest History of India” published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book “The Shortest History of India” written by the Australian writer John Zubrzycki has been released in the Iranian book market.

Markaz publishing house has brought out the book in 288 pages with a translation by Hassan Afshar, Mehr reported.

From the tantalizing traces of ancient Harappan civilization to today's emerging superpower, here is India's story, expertly condensed and brimming with color.

The author transforms five millennia of gods and kings, conquerors and colonizers into an epic tale, teeming with personalities both legendary and largely unknown outside India.

Gautama Buddha, Alexander the Great and Gandhi share the stage with Nizam Saqqa, the slave made king for a day, and Raziyya, the first Muslim woman to rule the subcontinent.

India—a cradle of civilization with five millennia of history, a country of immense consequence and contradiction—often defies ready understanding. What holds its people together—across its many cultures, races, languages, and creeds—and how has India evolved into the liberal democracy it is today?

From the Harappan era to Muslim invasions, the Great Mughals, British rule, independence, and present-day hopes, John Zubrzycki distills India's colossal history into a gripping true story filled with legendary Alexander the Great, Akbar, Robert Clive, Tipu Sultan, Lakshmi Bai, Lord Curzon, Jinnah, and Gandhi. India's gifts to the world include Buddhism, yoga, the concept of zero, the largest global diaspora—and its influence is only growing. Already the world's largest democracy, in 2023, India became the most populous nation.

The later chapters reveal a modern India

riven by contrasts: the brutal reality of partition and the fantasies of Bollywood, the call centers and the expanding slums.

Five thousand years of history are no guarantee of the future, and as he concludes his story, Zubrzycki asks whether internal challenges – from religious tensions to an increasingly undemocratic government – could thwart India's rise to dominance.

“The Shortest History of India” has been published in India, the UK, and the US with translations into multiple languages.

John Zubrzycki is an Australian author and researcher, specializing in South Asia, in particular India. He is an award-winning journalist whose long association with India has included stints as a Hindi student, diplomat, consultant and foreign correspondent. He is the world commentary editor at the Australian newspaper and lives in Sydney.