

Tehran reaffirms peaceful nature of nuclear program during Grossi's visit, says confrontational measures will be reciprocated

'Ball in West's Court'



IRGC chief warns of 'painful blows' as Iran prepares for Operation True Promise III

TEHRAN – The commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has renewed Iran's vow to retaliate against Israel's aggression against the country last month, saying the regime will be receiving "painful blows".

In an address to IRGC forces during a combat-security drill in Tehran on Thursday, Major General Hossein Salami declared, "You will receive painful blows. Wait for the retaliation."

To honor the martyrdom of the late leader of the Lebanese Resistance, the IRGC exercise was named "Nasrallah."

Affirming Iran's commitment to defend Muslims against the Israeli regime, the major general asserted, "We will fight relentlessly and will not let you dictate the fate of Muslims."

The IRGC chief highlighted the ongoing suffering caused by Israeli acts of war that have destroyed homes and communities, yet reminded that "history has shown that Muslims will never surrender."

Salami emphasized that a significant and historic confrontation is unfolding, with Resistance fighters in the region seeking retribution for attacks on their leaders and youth. He noted that these fighters remain steadfast and united, delivering substantial blows to the enemy every day.

Since October 2023, West Asia has witnessed escalating Israeli violence, which has devastated Gaza, led to the displacement of thousands in Lebanon, and resulted in over 46,000 civilian casualties. ▶ Page 2

Geagea promoting a new civil war rhetoric shunned by all Lebanese

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – Both the Arab and Western diplomats acknowledge the lie of "Hezbollah's collapse" has been exposed. In Lebanon, however, the anti-Hezbollah team is deliberately discussing its supposed collapse as well as an imminent outbreak of "internal strife".

Those sell-outs are playing the role on behalf of the terrorist US administration and its colonial proxy "Israel," seeking every despicable measure to compensate for their cumulative failures.

Indeed, the "den of terrorism," the American embassy in Beirut, has spared no effort in pushing those mercenaries, specifically Samir Geagea – the Lebanese Forces Party leader – along with the anti-Hezbollah media outlets and personnel to boost the false narrative of a wide "Sunni opposition" to Hezbollah.

America: Making a mockery of the international rule of law

By Professor Hossein Askari

PORTLAND – The United States boasts about its pivotal role in establishing the post-WWII international system and its guardrails, both of which have supported unprecedented social and material progress while avoiding a world war. Yet decades of blind support for Israel is in the process of destroying all vestiges of what America holds so dear, a tragedy that will haunt America and Americans for years to come.

Israel's disdain for the international legal system has exposed America's duplicity as never before, making a mockery of any and all claims to such an ideal. Israel's unchallenged crimes over the years, its arrogance and ongoing indifference to global criticism and America's embrace of all Israeli transgressions are coming home to roost.

Hezbollah strikes Israeli military bases

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has announced a series of operations targeting key Israeli military bases.

Hezbollah announced it targeted the Tel Haim base, which serves as the military intelligence division for Israeli forces, with a "barrage of qualitative missiles".

The base is located 120 kilometers from the Lebanese border in Tel Aviv. The operation, late on Thursday night, marks the first time that this sensitive Israeli site has been attacked.

On Thursday night, Hezbollah said, "Drones targeted the Eliakim base (which houses training camps under the command of the northern region of the Israeli enemy army), located 50 kilometers from the Lebanese-Palestinian border, south of occupied Haifa, hitting the targets precisely."

US shifts gears: From charm offensive to open support for Israeli occupation

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The United States has pulled no punches in supporting Israel despite the heinous crimes perpetrated by the regime over the past decades.

All US presidents, regardless of their affiliation with the Democratic or Republican parties, have unequivocally backed Israel.

However, they have employed different tactics.

Since the start of the Gaza war on October 7, 2023, President Joe Biden has provided Israel with unwavering political and military support.

His administration blocked several efforts at the United Nations Security Council aimed at establishing a ceasefire in Gaza. ▶ Page 5

American media claims Musk met with Iran's UN envoy in New York

TEHRAN – Elon Musk, a close ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, met with Iran's ambassador to the United Nations on Monday, according to the New York Times citing two unnamed "Iranian officials".

The paper said the meeting between Musk and Amir Said Irvani was held at a secret location in New York and lasted more than an hour.

The report did not elaborate on the specifics of the alleged conversation, but claimed the two individuals primarily discussed ways to "defuse tensions" between Tehran and Washington.

Neither Musk nor Iran's UN mission have commented on the authenticity of the report.

Musk is set to lead the new 'Department of Government Efficiency' in Trump's second administration.

Four awards for Iran at 7th Hanoi International Film Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian cinema was the big winner of the 7th Hanoi International Film Festival, as it won four awards from among the total 10 awards.

At the festival, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from November 7 to 11, the top awards for Best Feature Film, Best Director (feature and short films), and Best Actor went to two Iranian films, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

The festival's highest honor of Best Feature Film went to Iran's "Hard Shell". Majid-Reza Mostafavi won Best Director and Payman Maadi received the Best Actor award for his role in the same film.

Moreover, Iranian filmmaker Nasim Forough won the Best Short Film Director for "Typesetter". ▶ Page 8



Larjani delivers Leader's message in visits to Lebanon, Syria

TEHRAN – Ali Larjani, a senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei, pledged Iran's support for the Resistance while delivering the Leader's message to officials in Syria and Lebanon.

"I am here to loudly say that Iran will stand by Lebanon's government and the Lebanese people," Larjani told reporters in the Lebanese capital Beirut after separate meetings with parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri and caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati.

The former speaker of the Iranian parliament also said he had delivered a message from Ayatollah Khamenei to senior Lebanese officials but did not disclose the content of the message. ▶ Page 2

Sitting volleyball player Alipour aims for 2032 Paralympics

▶ Page 3



TEHRAN PAPERS

Main features of Trump's cabinet picks are Zionist and anti-Iran

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

In a note, Kayhan addressed Trump's cabinet picks and wrote: Trump has introduced a group of people for key positions in his government whose obvious and common features are warmongering, love for the Zionist regime, and anti-Iranianism. This is a point that supporters of compromise with America in our country should seriously think about. During his presidential campaigns, Trump promised that he would not involve America in a new war and would also stop the current wars in Gaza and Ukraine. Some people in our country are promoting "compromise and negotiation" with Trump. They believe that Trump has changed, but they are promoting negotiations with a Zionist, warmongering, and anti-Iran group that constantly chants the slogan to attack Iran and destroy Iran. This approach is neither compatible with the country's national interests nor rational. It is obvious that in a negotiation, the two sides should at least recognize each other's existence. But the persons that Trump has picked as members of his new government have bad records, look for war, launch attacks on Iran's infrastructure, and overthrow the Islamic Republic system.

Iran: Keeping diplomacy alive to prevent crisis from escalating

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper discussed the visit by Rafael Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to Tehran. It said: Before the trip, the Agency's director general spoke about the interaction with the 14th (sitting) government and the resumption of dialogue and cooperation between the Agency and Iran. The preparation of his trip by the Iranian authorities and the use of their diplomatic capacity to extinguish the fire of the Middle East war shows that they have not neglected the events that are happening behind the doors in the Agency and the Western-Israeli political and security circles. But what seems important is the continuation of diplomacy by both sides to update the nuclear agreement (JCPOA) and lift the sanctions. Although many consider it difficult to implement it due to Iran's nuclear progress, it still has many supporters who are trying to keep diplomacy alive to prevent the crisis from escalating. It is enough that the unsuccessful move to create a crisis against Iran is a lesson for Western countries.

Sobh-e-No: The reasons for non-attendance at Baku climate summit

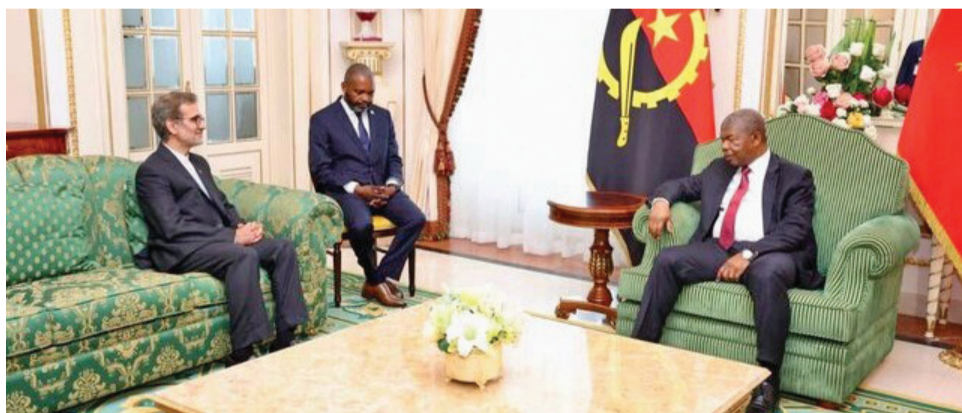
Sobh-e-No analyzed the reasons why the Iranian president did not attend the UN climate change summit (COP 29) in Baku, Azerbaijan.

It wrote: The first main reason for Iran's non-attendance at the Baku meeting is related to the presence of representatives of the Zionist regime in this meeting. The Israeli regime has been officially invited. Considering the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in opposition to the Zionist regime, participation in such meetings that directly or indirectly benefit the Israeli regime is not acceptable from a political and security point of view. The second reason for this decision is related to the policies of the Azerbaijani government. Despite the superficial good relationship in recent years, Azerbaijan has increasingly shown a tendency towards the West and the Zionist regime. This change of approach has caused Iran to act more cautiously in its interactions with Azerbaijan. From Tehran's point of view, attending the Baku meeting, where the Israeli regime was officially invited, could indicate support for the policies of this country and the Zionist regime, which the Islamic Republic considers to be a clear violation of moral and political principles.

Farhikhtegan: Netanyahu's obvious support for "Woman, Life, Freedom" riots

Farhikhtegan analyzed the riots in the autumn of 2022 that followed the tragic death of Mahsa Amini from the satanic perspective of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who in a video message narrated the seditious slogan of "Women, Life, Freedom" in Farsi to incite violence in Iran to pretend that the Zionist regime is a friend of the Iranian people. It wrote: If formerly we had to prove that the Zionists were in the middle of the 2022 chaos in Iran, now Netanyahu openly supports rioters with the slogan "Women, Life, Freedom". The special task of the Zionists in facing public opinion in Iran is to create a gap between the people and the ruling system. They want to convey this idea that the enmity of the Zionists is not with the people of Iran but with the ruling system. On the other hand, the image presented and magnified about the Iranian people in the Persian-language media insinuates that Iranians are not hostile to the Zionists and that it is the Iranian ruling system that seeks to escalate tensions. The important point is that a large percentage of the Iranian population considers the Zionists a threat to Iran's security. The Israelis lack a correct understanding analysis of the Iranian people's view about Operation True Promise II (a retaliatory missile attack on Israel for its back-back assassinations in Iran and outside). Iranian people consider it Iran's success in the region and in confronting Israel.

Angola welcomes Iranian ambassador, calls for curbing of Israeli violence



TEHRAN – The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Angola, Mansour Shakib Mehr, formally presented his credentials to President João González Lorenzo during an official ceremony held at the presidential palace in Luanda.

The ceremony was followed by discussions on bilateral relations and regional matters.

During the dialogue, President Lorenzo extended warm greetings to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also took the opportunity to condemn the actions of the Zionist regime, emphasizing the need for international intervention to halt Israel's aggressions in the region.

Lorenzo stated, "We denounce these assaults and advocate for the establishment of peace and security in the region, urging Israel to cease its attacks." He highlighted the devastating consequences of these actions, including the loss of countless innocent civilians and journalist lives,

as well as the widespread destruction of homes, hospitals, and infrastructure, particularly in Gaza and Lebanon.

The Angolan President further stressed the importance of establishing an independent state of Palestine, expressing Angola's unwavering support for this cause.

Ambassador Shakib Mehr conveyed the greetings of Masoud Pezeshkian to President Lorenzo and advocated for the strengthening of bilateral relations between Iran and Angola, particularly in economic and commercial sectors. He expressed gratitude for Angola's stance against the Zionist regime and expressed hope that nations and the international community would unite against Israel's "apartheid and acts of genocide," mirroring the collective efforts that dismantled the apartheid regime in South Africa.

The Iranian ambassador emphasized that this event marked a significant step forward in solidifying the diplomatic ties between Iran and Angola.

Larijani delivers Leader's message in visits to Lebanon, Syria

TEHRAN – Ali Larijani, a senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei, pledged Iran's support for the Resistance while delivering the Leader's message to officials in Syria and Lebanon.

"I am here to loudly say that Iran will stand by Lebanon's government and the Lebanese people," Larijani told reporters in the Lebanese capital Beirut after separate meetings with parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri and caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati.

The former speaker of the Iranian parliament also said he had delivered a message from Ayatollah Khamenei to senior Lebanese officials but did not disclose the content of the message.

The senior adviser to Iran's Leader asserted that Iran considers it to be its responsibility to support the Lebanese people and their demands, and hopes that the country's conditions be ameliorated as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the senior official expressed hope that the Lebanese people who have been displaced amid incessant Israeli attacks would be able to return to their places of residence soon.

While Larijani's diplomatic meetings were ongoing, the Israeli regime launched renewed aerial attacks on Lebanon.

The regime's warplanes also flew at low altitude over Beirut while Larijani was in the city, trying to create trepidation in the



Ali Larijani, the senior advisor to Iran's Leader, met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (R) in Damascus on November 14, 2024

Lebanese capital.

The Israeli regime has significantly ramped up its deadly attacks against Lebanon since last October, killing more than 3000 people and damaging around 100,000 houses.

In response, Hezbollah has been staging hundreds of retaliatory operations against Israeli positions in the occupied territories.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian official expressed confidence in the Lebanese Resistance movement's capability to safeguard the country, asserting that Hezbollah is steadfast and the Lebanese nation is stalwart.

Earlier in the day, Lebanese acting PM Mikati reportedly said that Lebanon "prioritizes" implementation of the United Nations

Security Council Resolution 1701.

Answering a reporter's question, Larijani commented on the caretaker PM's statement, saying Iran will support any decision the Lebanese government and Resistance end up taking.

Adopted to end the Israeli regime's 2006 war on Lebanon, the 1701 resolution has trusted the preservation of security in southern Lebanon with UN peacekeepers. Israel has attacked UN's positions in Lebanon multiple times in the past months.

The senior advisor to Iran's Leader emphasized: "While Iran and the Resistance front are trying to solve problems in the region, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and his henchmen try to disrupt the situation in the region." Larijani added that this

contrast makes it easy for the Lebanese to tell their friends and enemies apart.

Additionally, Larijani met with President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus on Thursday.

The two sides underscored the need for putting an end to Israel's unchecked violence in Gaza and Lebanon.

The Iranian official also held meetings with the leaders of Palestinian Resistance groups in the Syrian capital, expressing Iran's staunch support for the Palestinian cause.

Larijani is the third high-ranking Iranian official to embark on a regional tour despite threats posed by Israel's relentless attacks against several Arab countries.

IRGC chief warns of 'painful blows' as Iran prepares for Operation True Promise III



IRGC Chief Hossein Salami (center) oversees a military exercise in Tehran, on November 14, 2024.

TEHRAN – The commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has renewed Iran's vow to retaliate against Israel's aggression against the country last month, saying the regime will be receiving "painful blows".

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To honor the martyrdom of the late leader of the Lebanese Resistance, the IRGC exercise was named "Nasrallah."

Affirming Iran's commitment to defend Muslims against the Israeli regime, the major general asserted, "We will fight relentlessly and will not let you dictate the fate of Muslims."

The IRGC chief highlighted the ongoing suffering caused by Israeli acts of war that have destroyed homes and communities, yet reminded that "history has shown that Muslims will never surrender."

Salami emphasized that a significant and historic confrontation is unfolding, with Resistance fighters in the region seeking retribution for attacks on their leaders and

young.

He noted that these fighters remain steadfast and united, delivering substantial blows to the enemy every day.

Since October 2023, West Asia has witnessed escalating Israeli violence, which has devastated Gaza, led to the displacement of thousands in Lebanon, and resulted in over 46,000 civilian casualties.

In response to the Israeli assassination of key Resistance figures including Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and the IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan, Iran initiated a substantial counter-offensive on October 1, launching approximately 200 ballistic missiles aimed at the Israeli regime's military and intelligence installations across the occupied territories.

The operation dubbed 'True Promise II' marked Iran's second direct attack against Israeli positions in the occupied territories, following a similar but smaller operation in April.

In the early hours of October 26, Israeli warplanes launched several air-to-ground missiles at Iranian

military positions, utilizing Iraqi airspace that was made available by the U.S. While the Israeli aircraft were unable to penetrate Iranian territory, they caused limited damage to certain radar installations and resulted in the tragic loss of five lives, including four air-defense personnel from the Iranian Army and one civilian.

'Crushing retaliation'

Also on Thursday, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, the commander-in-chief of the Iranian Army, met with the family of one of the martyrs.

Mousavi praised the bravery of the four servicemen who sacrificed their lives defending Iran's airspace, affirming that their martyrdom stands out due to their valiant struggle against "the worst people on earth."

"We will fight relentlessly and will not let you (Israel) dictate the fate of Muslims as history has shown that Muslims will never surrender."

"We determine the timing and manner of our response, and we will not hesitate," the Army chief asserted, emphasizing that "Our retaliation will be crushing."

Also on Thursday, former IRGC chief and current member of Iran's Expediency Council, Mohsen Razaee said Iran is preparing to directly attack Israel for the third time this year.

"We are preparing to execute Operation True Promise III," he said during a ceremony.

Iranian envoy discussing restoration of ties in Morocco, report says



TEHRAN – Signs of a thaw in relations between Morocco and Iran are emerging, with the Moroccan news outlet Ya Biladi reporting that an Iranian "security envoy" has engaged in discussions with Moroccan officials in Rabat.

Ya Biladi revealed that an Iranian envoy, accompanied by representatives from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, met with their Moroccan counterparts in Rabat earlier this month. The discussions focused on the possibility of re-establishing diplomatic ties, which were severed in 2018.

While the report emphasized that it is too early to anticipate a full resumption of relations, the Iranian envoy reportedly conveyed Morocco's conditions for re-engagement to his superiors for consideration. "If the Moroccan requests are met positively, diplomats are expected to follow up on the matter," the report added.

The ongoing conflict over Western Sahara has been a significant source of tension between Morocco and Iran. Since the end of Spanish colonial rule in 1975, the Polisario Front has been advocating for the independence of Western Sahara, while Morocco insists the region is an integral part of its territory, proposing an autonomous governance arrangement for the Polisario.

The 1991 ceasefire agreement brought a halt to the armed conflict between Morocco and the Polisario Front, but the issue remains unresolved.

Morocco's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Iran in May 2018 was based on accusations of Tehran's support for the Polisario Front, a claim that Iran vehemently denied. These recent talks, however, suggest a potential willingness on both sides to explore a path towards reconciliation.

Recent administrations in Iran have repeatedly emphasized the need to establish unity among Muslim countries in the face of Western and Zionist aggression.

'Ball in West's court'

Tehran reaffirms peaceful nature of nuclear program during Grossi's visit, says confrontational measures will be reciprocated

TEHRAN – The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi's visit to Tehran this week underscored Iran's ongoing commitment to constructive dialogue over its nuclear program.

During meetings with top Iranian officials, including President Masoud Pezeshkian and the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, both sides stressed the importance of cooperation while addressing potential international tensions.

Grossi praised Iran's willingness to maintain transparent relations with the agency, describing the discussions as "positive and constructive."

He also expressed optimism that continued dialogue would strengthen collaboration and help neutralize external pressures on Iran's nuclear activities.

Call for cooperation and interaction

At a joint press conference with Grossi, AEOI chief Mohammad Eslami emphasized that Iran remains ready to cooperate if the other parties approach the situation with goodwill. However, he warned of an "immediate response" to any resolution by the IAEA Board of Governors targeting Iran's nuclear activities.

"Confrontation, resolution, and disruption will receive a reciprocal response," Eslami stated, reaffirming Iran's intention to advance its nuclear program in line with national interests and international regulations. His comments came amid reports that European powers are drafting a resolution to increase pressure on Tehran.



Iran's President Pezeshkian echoed this sentiment, asserting the peaceful nature of the nation's nuclear program during his meeting with Grossi. He cited a religious decree by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei prohibiting the development of nuclear weapons.

"We seek peace and security, and our actions align with international legal frameworks," Pezeshkian said.

Commitment to NPT

After his own meeting with Grossi, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reiterated Iran's adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), highlighting the nation's consistent cooperation with the IAEA.

"We are willing to negotiate based on mutual respect and national rights, but we reject negotiations under pressure or intimidation," Araghchi wrote on social media following his meeting with Grossi.

Araghchi emphasized that dialogue remains the best approach to resolving differences and expressed hope that the IAEA would

succeed," Eslami declared, reaffirming Iran's resolve to continue its peaceful nuclear activities within the bounds of international law.

IAEA's perspective

Grossi's visit reflected the IAEA's recognition of Iran's efforts to maintain transparency and compliance with its international obligations.

"Good interaction and cooperation between Iran and the agency will neutralize any schemes against Iran's nuclear activities," Grossi remarked during one of his many high-ranking meetings.

Grossi toured Iran's Fordow and Natanz nuclear enrichment facilities on Friday.

He was accompanied by Behrouz Kamalvandi, Deputy Head of the AEOI for International, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs, as well as Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs.

A path forward

As the IAEA Board of Governors prepares to convene, the future of Iran's nuclear program remains at a crossroads. Tehran has consistently signaled its readiness for constructive engagement but expects reciprocal commitments from other parties.

President Pezeshkian summarized the stakes succinctly: "War benefits no one, but any aggression will be met with a decisive response. We are ready to cooperate, but the choice lies with others."

The coming weeks will reveal whether Western powers will choose cooperation over confrontation, shaping the path for future diplomacy and stability in the region.

4 IRGC members martyred as hunt for terrorists continues in SE Iran



TEHRAN – The Quds Base of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force has announced the martyrdom of four of its members during a successful counterterrorism operation in Rask, a region in southeastern Iran.

In a statement, the IRGC revealed that its forces successfully dismantled a terrorist group during an ongoing counterterrorism exercise dubbed "Martyrs of Security" in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

The operation, conducted in Rask City, involved identifying, surrounding, and engaging the terrorist group. The IRGC reported the deaths of four terrorists and the arrest of six others.

The statement identified the fallen IRGC servicemen as Ahmad Reza Saheb, Reza Barzegar, Ahmad Zarei, and Ali Rahmanian.

Since the commencement of the operation on October 26, the IRGC has made significant progress in stabilizing the area, resulting in the deaths of at least 21 terrorists, the detention of 42 individuals, and seven who have surrendered to authorities.

This intensified effort comes in direct response to a series of lethal attacks on Iranian security personnel in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, including an ambush on a police convoy in Taftan city on October 26, which claimed the lives of ten Iranian border guards and police officers.

The IRGC is working in coordination with forces in neighboring Pakistan to address these terrorist groups, as Islamabad faces similar threats from the same organizations.

Iranian embassy in Damascus strongly condemns Israeli attack on Islamic Jihad office

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in Damascus has vehemently condemned the recent Israeli airstrike on the Islamic Jihad Movement's office in Syria, which resulted in the martyrdom of two prominent leaders of the Palestinian group.

In a statement released on X, the Iranian embassy mourned the martyrdom of Abdulaziz Al-Muniyawi (Abu Said) and Rasmī Abu Aisa (Abu Issam),

two significant figures within the Palestinian Movement. The embassy described the Israeli attack as a cowardly act and offered condolences to the Islamic and Arab nations for the loss of these individuals.

The Islamic Jihad Movement itself has confirmed the deaths of several of its members in the Damascus attack, extending its own condolences to the Islamic and Arab nations.

Iran will make Israel 'regret' its act of aggression: IRGC commander

TEHRAN – A high-ranking commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says Iran will "definitely" give a response to Israel that will make the regime regret its latest act of aggression against the country.

Brigadier General Ali Fadavi, the IRGC Deputy Commander, made the remarks in the city of Qom on Wednesday on the sidelines of a ceremony to mark the 40th day of the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, and a number of other commanders of the resistance front by the Israeli regime. "During its more than 45-year existence, the Islamic Revolution has not left any vicious act unanswered and we will definitely give a regretful response to this Israeli measure," the IRGC's Deputy General Fadavi stated.

On October 26, Israeli warplanes used US-controlled airspace over Iraq to fire projectiles at military installations in Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam

provinces in flagrant breach of Iran's national sovereignty, killing four servicemen of the Armed Forces and one civilian.

The General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces said that a significant number of the missiles were intercepted, and the Israeli warplanes were blocked from entering Iran's airspace.

Iran has said it is resolved to respond to the act of aggression and will not forego its right.

Asked whether the re-election of Donald Trump as U.S. president will make any difference for Iran, Fadavi said the "evil" nature of the United States does not change. He also stressed the importance of providing full support for Hezbollah and the Axis of Resistance in general, calling on every individual to play a role in helping the Resistance in the fight against enemies.

The IRGC commander emphasized that Iran has fully stood by Hezbollah for more than 40 years and will absolutely continue to support it.



The commando and security brigades of the Mohammad Rasoulollah unit of the IRGC hold military exercises codenamed "Nasrallah" on the eve of Basij Week.

IRAN IN FOCUS

NOVEMBER 16, 2024

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Sitting volleyball player Alipour aims for 2032 Paralympics

TEHRAN – Iran's sitting volleyball powerhouse server Meisam Alipour has set his sight on competing in the 2032 Paralympic Games.

Alipour was selected as MVP in the Paris Games, helping Team Melli win their eighth gold medal in the Paralympics.

Alipour's explosive serving and versatile play were crucial throughout the tournament, particularly in the gold medal match against Bosnia and Herzegovina, where his commanding serves tipped the balance in Iran's favor. In total, Alipour delivered 21 aces in the competition, maintaining his reputation as one of the sport's most feared servers.

Beyond his serving, Alipour's leadership on and off the court propelled Iran to their third straight gold, following triumphs in Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020. The 30-year-old was also the top scorer in key moments, guiding his team through a perfect tournament run. "I have won three gold medals with the national team and I want to add two more golds to my accolades. I hope to remain in my best form for the upcoming Paralympics," Alipour said in his interview with Tehran Times.

"I started my playing career in Iran in the 2010 Asian Para Games and competed in three more Asian Para Games. I hope to be part of the team in 2028 Los Angeles and 2032 Brisbane," he added.

"We had a difficult task in Paris because the Iranian people just want gold and expectations are high. Bosnia and Herzegovina and the other teams have improved during the recent years and this is not an easy task to win the gold but we succeeded to claim the gold once again," Alipour said.

"I will do my best to be part of Iran's sitting volleyball in next two Paralympics. We have so many young and talented players in our team and it means I have to be in my best form if I want to convince the coaching staff playing me," Alipour concluded.

Mixed feelings for Iran's Ghalenoei after N. Korea win

TEHRAN – Iran head coach Amir Ghalenoei admitted to having mixed feelings following his side's 3-2 win over North Korea in the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26 Group A clash on Thursday.

Iran's fortitude was put to the test by a fighting North Korea before Ghalenoei's side, who were reduced to 10 men in the 50th minute, took a huge step towards qualifying for the FIFA World Cup 2026, with the tactician admitting that some important lessons were learnt.

"The game taught us a very important lesson, we had two totally different halves," said Ghalenoei. "In the first half we were fantastic, scored three goals and didn't give the Korean team any opportunities but in the second half, we didn't have a good game after losing one of our players and control of the match.

"During the break, we reminded the players to treat the score as if it was level because North Korea are a dangerous team, and their past performances have shown they cannot be underestimated. We were fortunate to hold on for the three points in the second half."

Ghalenoei emphasized on the need for recovery with Iran to play Kyrgyzstan next with a win likely to confirm their ticket to the FIFA World Cup 2026.

"We managed to control the game through our substitutions, though we were fortunate that football spared us today and didn't punish our mistakes. We needed to be more focused in situations where we fell short, and that is something I take seriously as a coach. Nevertheless, I am extremely grateful to my players. "But we have to be happy we got the three points and from tomorrow we must be focused for the next match against Kyrgyzstan."

N. Korea coach Sin Yong-Nam unhappy with performance against Iran

TEHRAN – North Korea head coach Sin Yong-Nam admitted his side fell short of expectations

against Iran national football team in the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26 Group A.

On Thursday, the Korean team were defeated against Iran 3-2 in neutral venue in Laos, with the defeat ending their hopes of a top-two finish which would have meant automatic qualification to the global Finals.

"The game did not go as expected; the players were too nervous to secure the win. The tactics and strategies were as we prepared, but in the second half, we managed to come back and score twice," Yong-Nam said.

"We need to learn from our mistakes to move forward," he added.

Iran beat Ireland at 2024 Cerebral Palsy World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran's football team defeated Ireland 3-0 at the 2024 Cerebral Palsy World Cup under-way in Salou, Spain on Thursday.

Iran, who had defeated Venezuela 4-0 in their opening match, will meet Germany in their last group match.

The 2024 IFCPF World Cup continues IFCPF's commitment to promoting CP Football, a sport recognized by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and featured in the Paralympic Games since 1984.

The Women's tournament features teams from the U.S., Denmark, Australia, Ireland, and Japan in what promises to be an intense competition.

The top two teams in each four-team group will advance to the Knockout Round, leading to the World Cup Final on Friday, Nov. 22.

Iran NOC Chief Khosravi Vafa meets Mohammad Nassiri

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa visited legendary weightlifter Mohammad Nassiri on Friday.

Nassiri was hospitalized at a hospital in Tehran due to a brain stroke last month but discharged after recovered.

Nassiri competed at three Olympic Games and claimed three medals. He snatched a gold medal in the 1968 Mexico City as well as a silver and a bronze medal in 1972 Munich and 1976 Montreal, respectively.

Nassiri also won five gold medals in world championship as well as one silver and three bronzes.

Iran cycling captain Sohrabi suffers broken collarbone

TEHRAN – Iran national cycling team's captain Mahdi Sohrabi has been sidelined after breaking his collarbone.

He suffered the injury during the training on Thursday.

Sohrabi collided with a car in the road.

In January 2020, Sohrabi was banned for a four-year term by the International Cycling Union due to the use of the prohibited substance.

Mes beat Ahli Sidab at Asian Club League Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Sanat Mes of Iran defeated Oman's Ahli Sidab 33-19 at the 27th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship on Thursday.

Sanat Mes had lost to Khaleej Club of Saudi Arabia 31-22 in Group B in its opening match.

The event is taking place from November 11 to 22 and serves as a qualifier for the 2025 IHF Super Globe.

Khaleej Club entered the tournament as the defending champions, having secured its first title in the 2023 edition held in Sabah Al-Salem, Kuwait.

Iran, Qatar discuss expansion of trade ties



Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi (R) and Qatar's Ambassador to Iran Saad Abdullah Saad Al Mahmoud Al Shareef (L)

TEHRAN- During a meeting between Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi and Qatar's Ambassador to Iran Saad Abdullah Saad Al Shareef, at the place of the ministry in Tehran, the two sides discuss the ways to expand economic and trade ties between the two countries.

In this meeting, the Iranian minister emphasized the implementation of the economic cooperation documents signed by the two sides and offering necessary facilities to the traders and those active in the economy sector.

Addressing the same meeting, Reza Jabari, an Iranian MP and also the chairman of Iran-Qatar Friendship Group, referred to the scientific, technical and economic potential and capacities of Iran and called for the facilitation of the relation between Iranian and Qatari traders.

In the meeting, which was mainly on the issue of holding the 10th Iran-Qatar Economic Cooperation Conference, three issues of "Planning for holding this conference in Doha", "Expanding economic cooperation between the two countries and establishing necessary infrastructure", and "Expediting the project of synchronizing the two countries' power networks" were emphasized.

The 10th Iran-Qatar Economic Cooperation Conference is planned to be held in Doha during December 10-12. Back in May, Aliabadi, who was Iran's minister of industry, mining, and trade at that time, and Assistant Undersecretary for Commerce Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and

Industry of Qatar Saleh bin Majed Al-Khulaifi met and stressed broadening economic and investment ties between the two countries.

Aliabadi held talks with Al-Khulaifi at the 6th Export Potential Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also known as Iran Expo 2024, in Tehran.

Describing the presence of Qatar in Iran Expo 2024 as an opportunity to learn more about Iran's export capabilities, the Iranian minister highlighted Iran's significant progress in technical and engineering services, which could potentially aid Qatar with repairing turbines and complex machinery. Additionally, the official expressed Iran's willingness to cooperate with Qatar in various industrial, agricultural, and industrial fields.

Iran and Qatar signed a comprehensive cooperation document at the end of the ninth Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Committee meeting in Tehran on December 11, 2023.

The document was signed by Iran's Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim Al Abdullah Al Thani as the heads of the Joint Economic Committee.

In the mentioned document, cooperation in the fields of energy (water and wastewater, electricity, oil, gas, and environment), exchanging experiences and technical knowledge, holding events, including exhibitions, and specialized training courses in the fields of water and water technologies, and renewable energies were emphasized. Exchanging private sector delegations active in the fields of consulting, contracting, and industries, production of equipment related to the electricity industry, and the readiness of the environmental organizations of the two countries to expand relations have also been covered in the document.

The document also covered cooperation in other fields including banking, insurance, customs, national development funds, technical and engineering services, trade, industries and mines, free zones, investment, and standards.

Cooperation in the fields of transportation, communication and information technology, agriculture, judicial, legal, labor, and border are also among the axes of this cooperation document.

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$1.3b to Afghanistan in 7 months

TEHRAN- Iran has exported non-oil commodities valued at \$1.3 billion to Afghanistan 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 Rezvanifar said that Afghanistan was the fifth top export destination of the Iranian non-oil goods in the mentioned seven-month period.

In a meeting with an Iranian trade delegation in Kabul in mid-August, Afghanistan's interim Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund said that his country is eager to attract Iranian investors in order to develop Afghan mining industry, generate solar electricity and expand railway connectivity.

The Iranian delegation also proposed to launch a joint special industrial zone with Afghanistan.

Noting that Afghanistan has turned into a good place for making investment, Mullah said that the relevant ministries and organizations there, will cooperate and work closely with the investors.

The Iranian delegation, made up of economic and trade players, also held a separate meeting with Afghanistan's acting minister of commerce Haji Nooruddin Azizi. They called for the formation of a joint economic-mining zone between the two neighboring countries. In early August, Iran's commercial attaché in Afghanistan said that in order to improve Iran's presence in Afghanistan's markets, the trade between the two countries should move towards newer models of cooperation.

"Afghanistan supplies more than 80 percent of its market needs through imports, and imports from Iran constitute 25 percent of this amount," Hossein Roustaei said in a meeting on opportunities and challenges of the Afghan market, held by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

Referring to Afghanistan's import priorities, including food, agriculture, fuel, basic goods such as flour, oil, eggs, day-old chickens, medicine, medical equipment, and construction equipment, he continued: "Iran exported more than 724 million dollars of goods to Afghanistan in the first four months of the current [Iranian calendar year] (March 20-July 21) which has increased by 28 percent compared to the same period last year."

"The establishment of national security and the central government in Afghanistan over the past two years have improved the conditions of trade with this country," he added.

Afghanistan has prioritized the exploitation of the country's mines. Therefore, Iran's traditional economic relation with Afghanistan should enter into newer models of cooperation, he stressed.

According to Roustaei, investment and operation of mines, technical and engineering services, mechanization of agriculture and smart agriculture, construction of transportation infrastructure, and renewable energies are among the new fields that should be considered for cooperation between the two countries.

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 Rezvanifar 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 Rezvanifar, 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.

Value of Iran's petchem export up 24% in 7 months on year

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's petrochemical export increased by 24 percent in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Mohammad Rezvanifar said that 37.9 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$15.2 billion were exported in the seven-month period, indicating also 23 percent growth in terms of weight, year on year.

Based on Iran's seventh National Development Plan (2022-2027), the country's petrochemical production capacity is planned to increase by eight percent to reach 130 million tons.

Iran is also going to invest over \$40 billion in the petrochemical industry for the eighth National Development plan to further expand the mentioned sector and complete its value chain.

Currently, Iran accounts for 2.8 percent of the world's petrochemical capacity and about 28 percent of the capacity of this industry in the region, and with the plans made, the capacity of the petrochemical industry will increase significantly in



the horizon of the seventh development plan.

According to the data released by the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) the capacity of Iran's petrochemical production will reach 103 million tons by the end of the current Iranian year (late March 2025).

Also, considering that about 60 petrochemical projects are planned to go operational during the seventh National Development Plan, 35 million tons will be added to the country's petrochemical capacity by 2027.

However, in order to achieve development goals, set for the seventh and eighth National Development Plan, the country needs at least \$7.0 billion of investment annually.

Achieving this figure and realizing the mentioned target

is a focal point for cooperation between the government and the petrochemical industry because the petrochemical industry alone cannot achieve the mentioned goal and requires government assistance to attract the necessary funds.

Earlier this month, Hassan Abbaszadeh, the head of National Petrochemical Company (NPC), put the country's current petrochemical production capacity at 100 million tons, noting that the country's petrochemical capacity is expected to exceed 130 million tons by 2027.

Earlier in May, Ahmad Mahdavi Abhari, the director general of the Association of Petrochemical Industry Corporation (APIC), said Iran's petrochemical output has increased by 15 million tons over the past two years.

Abhari put the country's current petrochemical output at 82 million tons.

He said Iran's petrochemical output stood at 67 million tons before late President Raisi took office in August 2021.

The official also noted that the Iranian petrochemical industry has created as many as 143,000 direct jobs in the mentioned period.

He put the current growth of Iran's petrochemical industry at 40.6 percent up from 27.5 percent in the country's third five-year development plan.

Iran's petrochemical industry accounts for 28 percent of the region's petrochemical capacity and 2.7 percent of the world's petrochemical capacity, he announced.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical export is the country's second-largest source of revenue after crude oil.

Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

According to former NPC Head Morteza Shahmirzaei, the company plans to increase its annual petrochemical production capacity to 200 million tons over the next 10 years.

Bank loans to knowledge-based firms increase 47.7%

TEHRAN- The Iranian banking system paid 1.891 quadrillion rials (about \$3.152 billion) of facilities to knowledge-based companies in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), to register a 47.7 percent rise compared to the same period in the previous year.

According to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the mentioned figure has been paid in the form of 12,912 loans to more than 2,134 knowledge-based companies, IRNA reported.

The banking system's paid facilities to the knowledge-based companies also rose 52.8 percent in the first half of the present year (March 20-September 21), as compared to the same period in the past year.

As reported, 1,599 quadrillion rials (about \$2.665 billion) was paid in the form of 10,793 loans to more than 1,998 knowledge-based

companies in the mentioned six-month period.

Iranian banks paid 2.7 quadrillion rials (about \$4.5 billion) of facilities to more than 2930 knowledge-based companies in the previous Iranian calendar year.

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

The Iranian government underscores the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge-based companies. The number of



companies, which was around 5,000 in 2021, has now reached 10,000 with a total value of two billion dollars.

The law on supporting knowledge-based companies and institutions, and commercializing innovations and inventions, was approved by the parliament in Iranian year 1389 (2010 -2011), to achieve a knowledge-based economy.

Pistachio export stands at \$614m in 7 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported \$614 million of pistachios 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 increase of 26 percent in value year on year.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, the exports of the mentioned products also increased 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 \$153.17.8 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

Export from Markazi province rises 34%



TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, the value of export from Markazi province in the center of Iran rose 34 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Rouhollah Gholami, the director-general of the province's Customs Department, said

that products worth over \$899 million were exported from the province in the seven-month period.

The official said that the products were exported to 78 countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Armenia, Russia, Uzbekistan, India, and Turkmenistan.

As previously announced by the former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's foreign trade reached \$99.7 billion during the first seven months of the present Iranian year.

Mohammad Rezvanifar said that of the mentioned figure, \$60.2 billion was the value of the country's export, and \$39.5 billion was the worth of the import.

He put the value of non-oil export at

\$32.5 billion, the oil export at \$27 billion, and technical-engineering export at \$700 million in the seven-month period.

Saying that the value of the country's non-oil export rose 15 percent in the first seven months of this year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the official put the weight of non-oil export at 88.7 million tons in the mentioned seven-month, with 11.48 percent growth, year on year.

He further put the weight of the seven-month import at 21.7 million tons.

According to Rezvanifar, the average value of each ton of exported goods has increased by three percent to \$367 and the average worth of each ton of imported products has risen six percent to \$1,819 in the first seven months of this year, as compared to the same time span of the past year.

Hezbollah strikes Israeli military bases

From page 1 ▶ The Israeli Stella Maris Naval Base (a strategic surveillance and monitoring base along the northern coast) 35 kilometers northwest of Haifa also came under missile fire.

This is while drones “accurately hit their targets” at the Eliakim Base (housing training camps under the Israeli army’s Northern Command) 50 kilometers south of Haifa.

The Lebanese resistance movement said the latest strikes were part of the Khaybar Operations.

On Friday, Hezbollah said its fighters “targeted the Shraga Base (the administrative headquarters of the Golan Brigade command) north of the occupied city of Akka with a missile barrage”.

Also on Friday, Hezbollah continued its Khaybar Operations that included a missile barrage on the Israeli Tirat Carmel Base, south of Haifa.

Hezbollah further announced in a statement that another Israeli Hermes 450 drone was shot down over Lebanon.

According to Hezbollah’s previous statements, this is the sixth Hermes 450 and the ninth Israeli drone that has been shot down since the beginning of the ground



The Tel Aviv military base struck for the first time 120 km from the Lebanese border

attack on Lebanon in late September.

Experts say the live images transmitted from the long-term flights of these Israeli drones play an important role in identifying positions and fighters of Hezbollah and managing the battlefield by the Israeli army.

The resistance also says it has inflicted heavy losses on the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) on the Lebanese border.

Over the past 48 hours, the Is-

raeli military has announced the death of at least seven troops during combat in South Lebanon. There have been conflicting reports on the number of troops that have sustained injuries.

According to Israeli media, an initial IOF probe on Thursday indicated that six troops from the Golan Brigade were killed in armed clashes with four Hezbollah fighters.

Israeli Channel 14 revealed that 11 Israeli officers and soldiers

were killed and over 10 others were injured within 48 hours during ongoing confrontations in Gaza and the southern Lebanese border.

According to Israeli Army Radio, the IOF has laid out plans to create 600 additional graves for soldiers at the Mount Herzl military cemetery in occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Military analysts have said that the actual death toll announced by the IOF may be higher, accusing the Israeli authorities of trying to conceal the real numbers.

Reports also indicate that indirect talks have started between Hezbollah and the Israelis on a path to end the indiscriminate bombing campaign on Lebanon.

Several days ago, Lebanon’s Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said, “There is no sane person who thinks that we will agree to a settlement or solution that achieves the interest of Israel at the expense of Lebanon and its sovereignty.”

Analysts say the Lebanese resistance is escalating its operations in terms of quality and quantity, and the IOF is escalating its bombing of civilian areas in the suburbs of Beirut and elsewhere.

US shifts gears: From charm offensive to open support for Israeli occupation



Donald Trump’s pick for ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, said there is “no such thing” as the occupied West Bank, referring to the Palestinian territory as the “promised land” and “Judea and Samaria”.

From page 1 ▶ The White House has also allocated \$17.9 billion in military assistance to Israel, marking a historic expenditure more than a year into the conflict in Gaza.

Washington’s staunch support for the regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has caused a huge outcry.

To appease domestic opposition, the Biden administration has made critical remarks of Israel’s brutal war on Gaza which has so far killed more than 43,700 Palestinians in the enclave.

More than a month ago, the Biden administration also set a deadline for Israel to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

The 30-day deadline lapsed on Tuesday; however, the White House announced that it will not impose restrictions on arms transfers to Israel, contrary to its previous threats.

This is while Israel has obstructed the delivery of essentials such as food to northern Gaza. Experts have warned the United Nations Security Council that famine is “occurring or imminent” in parts of northern Gaza.

The United States under the leadership of a Democratic president has used political ploys to shift focus away from its involvement in Israel’s brutalities in Gaza.

Trump tactic

But President-elect Donald Trump is revealing the true face of the United States.

His pick for ambassador to Israel has publicly acknowledged Washington’s support for the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Speaking to Israeli media, Mike Huckabee doubled down on his position that there is “no such thing” as the occupied West Bank, instead referring to the Palestinian territory

as the “promised land” and “Judea and Samaria”. It is the biblical term often employed by right-wing Israelis to refer to the occupied West Bank.

He added, “It is a land that is ‘occupied’ by the people who have had a rightful deed to the place for 3,500 years, since the time of Abraham.”

Huckabee, who has been an outspoken advocate for Israel’s annexation of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, vowed to continue to use his preferred “nomenclature unless I’m instructed otherwise”.

Huckabee has also advocated for the forcible displacement of Palestinians during Israel’s war on Gaza.

“If the so-called Palestinians are so loved by the Muslim nations of the world, why won’t any of those nations at least offer to give temporary refuge to their brothers and sisters in Gaza,” Huckabee said in October last year.

Huckabee is the first non-Jewish American to be named ambassador to Israel in almost two decades.

Huckabee was the governor of Arkansas from 1996 to 2007. He ran twice for the Republican presidential nomination, in 2008 and 2016. During that time, he claimed, “There’s really no such thing as a Palestinian.”

Huckabee’s positions clearly indicate that under the presidency of Trump, the United States will not mince words when supporting Israel’s fascist and apartheid ideology.

Biden has thrown his full weight behind Israel’s savageries while launching a charm offensive towards Palestinians. But Trump has taken a more overt approach in his backing for the regime.

Geagea promoting a new civil war rhetoric shunned by all Lebanese

From page 1 ▶ To implement his vile dreams, which the US-led Israeli aggression has failed to implement, Geagea has held a series of meetings at his headquarters to dissect a “post-Hezbollah era” in exchange for one ambition: the presidency of the Lebanese Republic.

He had called for the parliament to convene to elect a president without Shiite MPs.

In parallel, Lebanon’s official security services have received accurate information about meetings between the Lebanese Forces and Syrian “oppositionists” – inside and outside Lebanon – to exploit the displaced Syrians in Lebanon to carry out an “uprising against Hezbollah”.

Informed sources quoted diplomats at the US embassy as saying “we are working with Israel to rid the Sunnis of their biggest enemy.” However, various prominent Sunni leaders have firmly expressed displeasure over this sectarian rhetoric.

Lebanon’s caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati had met with Sunni MPs to urge them to avoid contributing to the seditious plan despite their differences with Hezbollah over some internal affairs.

Fouad Makhzoumi, one of Beirut’s influential MPs, has firmly refused to engage in any anti-Hezbollah propaganda campaign claiming that the large number of displaced people threatens the security of the capital.

Meanwhile, the Saudi TV channel Al Arabiya displayed a suspicious sectarian documentary entitled “Who Killed Hariri” and announced the

targeting of a Hezbollah leader “accused of killing Hariri”, knowing that most Lebanese, even Hezbollah’s opponents, only point the finger at the Zionists for the assassination.

Since the onset of the US-led Israeli aggression against Lebanon, martyr Rafiq Hariri’s son, former Prime Minister Saad Hariri, has called on his supporters to help the displaced in every way possible. This was accompanied by the refusal of media figures close to his political bloc to get involved in the anti-Hezbollah propaganda campaign.

It is worth mentioning that the Saudi-Iranian talks on Lebanon led to a reduction in the intensity of this propaganda, as Al Arabiya channel ordered the cessation of the appearance of the seditious figure, “Sayyed” Mohammed Al Hussein, in one of its talk shows, in which he seemed to be a semi-official spokesman for Mossad.

Obviously, Geagea is in a hurry for the US-led Israeli aggression to finalize the battle and get rid not only of Hezbollah but Lebanon’s Shiites in general. He spreads lies.

When the former and current warlord stated that there is no harm in “holding a session to elect a president for the republic without the Shiite MPs”, Geagea assumed that the rest of Lebanon’s political groups would not oppose “eliminating” Hezbollah, isolating the Shiites and implementing international resolutions that breach Lebanon’s sovereignty.

America: Making a mockery of the international rule of law

There will be a price to pay!

From page 1 ▶ Ever since the tragic attack of October 7, where about 1,200 Israelis, including dual citizens and women and children were killed and 250 hostages taken, Israel has embarked on a bloody carnage. The indiscriminate bombing of Gaza and the willful destruction of parts of the West Bank have been an unimaginable horror show for much of the world to see, with Israel’s media largely shielding its citizenry from the human catastrophe that they have entirely supported.

The condemnations of Israel have been widespread—from demonstrations across the world, students on university campuses, podcasts and blistering opinion pieces. Credible voices, including the United Nations and the World Food Program cite Israel’s denial of medicines, food and water to Palestinians who face imminent starvation and disease; witnesses highlight the targeting of hospitals, aid workers and journalists; and Israel’s utter disregard for the United Nations and its workers. These are war crimes and crimes against humanity by any definition and standard.

There are two legal cases that are the most damaging to Israel and by extension to Israel’s supporters, especially the United States of America. South Africa has accused Israel of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in a case that has been enjoined by dozens of other countries. The Court saw sufficient evidence to accept the case for its judgment and ordered Israel to do all it can to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in Gaza. Yet Israel has ignored the Court’s initial ruling and has continued its murderous strikes in Gaza and escalated its operation into the West Bank and most recently into Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor, Karim Khan, has called on the court to consider the arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant for their promotion of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip.

Shamefully, the United States and its allies have done whatever they can to undermine and delay progress on these two cases in these international courts, actions that a country that purportedly champions the rule of law would not ever imagine doing. Although such cases may take years before a decision is reached at the ICJ, the United States has attacked the legitimacy of the Court to take up the case along with personal attacks on the judges—Mafia tactics at best.

Simultaneously, although the United States has not ratified the statutes creating the ICC, it has wasted no time in challenging the jurisdiction of the court for looking into the case and has made personal attacks against its judges, including allegations of sexual misconduct against its chief prosecutor, who has requested arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his defense minister. America has clearly succeeded in swaying the judges as the issuance of the arrest warrants has already taken nearly six months, an unusual



and inexplicable delay in the face of a mountain of evidence, whereas the normal delay for issuance has been 1-3 months. Ironically the warrant for Putin’s arrest for the Ukraine War took all of 22 days. Two very different applications of international law—one for a criminal Western ally, Israel, and another for a Western adversary, Russia! What hypocrisy and undermining of the international rule of law, engineered by its purported promoter, the United States? Who can respect the ICC after the onslaught by the United States in support of Israel?

“The United States of America has been supporting Israel for over 70 years with over \$350 billion in aid, arms and dozens of vetoes at the United Nations Security Council to give Israel diplomatic cover for its crimes.”

With all this as the landscape, in a letter “... more than 500 scholars and practitioners of international law, international relations, conflict studies, politics and genocide studies have urged the United Nations General Assembly and its member states to unseat Israel from the United Nations General Assembly. The UN General Assembly suspended apartheid South Africa in 1974 until its transition to democracy. The scholars argue there is a stronger case for suspending Israel, given its persistent disregard for international law over more than seven decades, including violations of the UN Charter, Security Council resolutions, and orders by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).” (<https://www.middleasteye.net/news/why-more-500-scholars-think-israel-should-be-unseated-un>)

The letter goes on to say “To permit Israel to continue participating in the General Assembly as it commits grave illegalities that pose a threat to international peace and security in contravention of the premises of the UN Charter aggravates a crisis of legitimacy in the international legal order,” and added,

“The unseating of the Israeli state, by contrast, signals that the General Assembly, as well as the UN more broadly, remains dedicated to defending and protecting the rights and principles upon which the UN was founded nearly eighty years ago.”

Israel’s arrogance and contempt for international law and for the United Nations was underscored by “the Israeli UN ambassador’s utter contempt for international law at a General Assembly session back in May. On May 11, Gilad Erdan pulled out a paper shredder at the podium of the General Assembly and shredded a copy of the UN Charter. He wanted to vent his anger at the assembly’s resolution in support of Palestinian membership.”

None of this should come as a shock, the United States of America has been supporting Israel for over 70 years with over \$350 billion in aid, arms and dozens of vetoes at the United Nations Security Council to give Israel diplomatic cover for its crimes. It should be embarrassing for a self-respecting country such as the United States to claim that it was instrumental in establishing the post-WWII international legal system as it continues to undermine that very system with its unconditional support of Israel in its war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide and thus making a laughing stock out of the United Nations and its Security Council.

There will be a heavy price to pay, not just for Israel and the United States, but also for Arab and Muslim rulers who will have to answer to the billions of Muslims whose lives have been shattered and their offspring who will thirst for revenge. The rule of law is being trashed. There is no moral high ground for any country. Arms and force rule the day. There is no place for the United Nations; its Security Council with outdated veto power for a privileged few is itself a vehicle for undermining the rule of law and subjugating the powerless; and the financial contributions to its coffers could be better served as food and medicine for the needy around the world.

The world is becoming more and more a jungle, where voices calling out rogue actions by a country such as Russia will be dismissed as hypocritical in the aftermath of America’s attack on the international legal system. Israel and its American support have ushered a future with little or no regard for international law and with more conflicts and wars on the horizon.

The United States may have been the indispensable nation, but it has become the catalyst for a rogue nation, Israel, to commit unspeakable crimes that are destroying our admittedly flawed and fragile international legal system.

“*Hossein Askari is an emeritus professor of business and international affairs, George Washington University*

Traditional side dish Khoresh-t-e Maast gains WIPO label



TEHRAN - Khoresh-t-e Maast, a traditional Iranian stew made with yogurt, has been officially patented by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a subsidiary of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mojgan Izadi, an official from the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, announced the registration on Wednesday.

The side dish, which features beef, yogurt, sugar, and saffron, is a culinary staple in Iranian cuisine and holds cultural significance in the central region of Isfahan.

Speaking on the occasion, Izadi emphasized that food is an integral part of a region's intangible heritage. She noted that securing patents for traditional dishes not only preserves cultural identity but also serves as a catalyst for boosting tourism in the areas where such recipes originate.

As mentioned by Izadi, the new registration highlights global recognition of Iranian cuisine and underscores the value of protecting traditional culinary practices on an international scale.

Isfahan is Iran's top tourist destination for good reason. Its profusion of tree-lined boulevards, Persian gardens, and important Islamic buildings gives it a visual appeal unmatched by any other Iranian city, and the many artisans working here underpin its reputation as a living museum of traditional culture.

Walking through its historical bazaars, over the picturesque bridges, and across the gigantic UNESCO-listed Naqsh-e Jahan Square are sure to be highlights of a holiday in the ancient city.

Specialized tour at National Museum of Iran showcases Paleolithic heritage



TEHRAN - On Wednesday, the National Museum of Iran hosted a specialized tour of its Paleolithic galleries, led by Fereidoun Biglari, head of the Paleolithic Department and cultural deputy at the museum.

The tour, attended by approximately 25 tour guides, offered an in-depth exploration of Iran's Paleolithic heritage.

Participants had the opportunity to examine a variety of stone tools from the Lower, Middle, Upper, and Epipaleolithic periods.

Key highlights included the tooth of a Neanderthal child from Wezmeh Cave, the oldest human skeletal remains on display at the museum, as well as animal bones from the Paleolithic era. Other significant exhibits included the earliest known personal ornaments, older than 35,000 years, discovered in Yafteh Cave, as well as cave bear fossils and stone tools from the lower paleolithic cave site of Darband Rashi in Gilan. The group also had the rare opportunity to touch and handle experimentally made stone tools made by Biglari himself, offering a hands-on experience of ancient tool-making techniques.

The three-hour tour featured an interactive Q&A session, and attendees were provided with a detailed brochure to further explore the Paleolithic galleries.

This initiative, part of the museum's ongoing educational efforts, aims to equip tour guides with the latest research on exhibits spanning prehistoric, historical, and Islamic periods, ensuring they can share accurate and comprehensive knowledge with visitors.

The National Museum of Iran, established in 1937 in Tehran, serves as the country's principal museum and a vital institution for preserving and showcasing Iran's archaeological and cultural heritage. The museum houses a diverse collection of artifacts that span from prehistory to the Islamic era, including invaluable pieces such as ancient pottery, textiles, and coins. As a center for research and education, the National Museum plays a crucial role in fostering an understanding of Iran's rich history and its connections to other cultures, particularly through significant collections like the Chinese ceramics that highlight the interactions along the Silk Road.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Asante Traditional Buildings

Near Ghana's Kumasi, a group of traditional buildings are the last remaining testimony of the great Asante civilization, which reached its peak in the 18th century. The buildings include ten shrines/fetish houses (Abirim, Asawase, Asenemaso, Bodwease, Ejisu Besease, Adarko Jachie, Edwenase, Kentinkrono, Patakro and Saaman). Most are to the north-east of Kumasi, and Patakro, to the south.

Arranged around courtyards, the buildings are constructed of timber, bamboo and mud plaster and originally had thatched roofs. The unique decorative bas-reliefs that adorn the walls are bold and depict a wide variety of motifs. Common forms include spiral and arabesque details with representations of animals, birds and plants, linked to traditional "Adinkra" symbols. As with other traditional art forms of the Asante, these designs are not merely ornamental, they also have symbolic meanings, associated with the ideas and beliefs of the Asante people, and have been handed down from generation to generation.

The buildings, their rich color, and the skill and diversity of their decorations are the last surviving examples of a significant traditional style of architecture that epitomized the influential, powerful and wealthy Asante Kingdom of the late 18th to late 19th centuries. Asante Traditional Buildings reflect and reinforce a complex and intricate technical, religious and spiritual heritage.

The traditional religion, still practiced in the Asante shrines, takes the form of consulting with the deities to seek advice on specific situations, or before an important initiative. That is why the shrines have been maintained complete with all their symbolic features.

Protection and management requirements

Between 1960 and 1970 the buildings were acquired by the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) and scheduled as a National Monument under the Law of Ghana NLC Decree 387 of 1969.

(Source: UNESCO)

President Pezeshkian visits 37th National Handicrafts Exhibition

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visited the 37th National Exhibition of Handicrafts on Friday evening, marking the third day of the major event.

Accompanied by the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, Pezeshkian toured various sections and booths of the exhibition, engaging directly with artisans and exhibitors to understand their challenges and contributions.

The president held discussions with several artists, craftspeople, and booth operators, taking a closer look at the wide array of handicrafts on display, expressing his appreciation for their dedication to preserving and promoting Iran's rich cultural heritage through traditional crafts.



Earlier this month, Pezeshkian

to preserving and promoting Iran's rich cultural heritage through traditional crafts.

an officially issued the "National Document for the Development of Handicrafts," as a pivotal step to bolster the country's traditional arts and crafts sector. The document, approved during the 903rd session of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution on August 27, sets a comprehensive framework for revitalizing and promoting Iranian handicrafts on national and international stages.

The annual exhibition showcases the creativity and skill of artisans from every corner of the ancient country, offering a platform to celebrate the nation's cultural identity while fostering opportunities for growth and recognition in global markets.

Private sector collaborates to boost handicraft exports

TEHRAN - Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture is stepping up efforts to promote Persian handicrafts by fostering international partnerships and implementing policy reforms.

Through collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts and leveraging joint chambers with foreign nations, the initiative seeks to expand market access, simplify export regulations, and support the livelihoods of artisans, said Morteza Miri, who presides over the chamber's commission for carpet, art, and handicrafts.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 37th National Handicrafts Exhibition on Wednesday, he highlighted the growing cooperation between the Chamber and the ministry's handicrafts department.

He also emphasized the importance of strengthening global partnerships to access new markets and implementing reforms to support artisans' economic rights.

"Key areas of focus include addressing regulatory barriers, such as foreign exchange re-



quirements for exporters, and working with government bodies like the Ministry of Industry and Foreign Affairs to resolve challenges in the sector."

Miri underlined the vital role of international exhibitions in showcasing Iranian craftsmanship and facilitating networking opportunities. He noted a significant interest in Iranian handicrafts, particularly from Persian Gulf nations and Latin America, and stressed the need for better coordination across various Iranian provinces to capitalize on this demand.

Moreover, he underlined efforts to align with international standards are underway, including new training programs for artisans in specialized

crafts such as Baloochi needlework. These initiatives aim to produce culturally authentic products that meet global market expectations.

Miri emphasized that adopting high standards in presentation and packaging will be critical for enhancing the global competitiveness of Iranian handicrafts.

By combining targeted reforms, international collaboration, and strategic market engagement, the Iran Chamber of Commerce aims to elevate the country's handicrafts sector as a key player on the world stage, he said.

Iran's handicraft industry experienced a remarkable 53% increase in exports during the first quarter of the current Persian year (started on March 20), compared to the same period last year.

According to available data, some 26 tons of handicrafts, valued at \$74.5 million, were exported in the three months, compared to about 16 tons worth \$48.6 million in the same period last year.

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

Hormozgan handicrafts eye potential export opportunities in Austria

TEHRAN - Hormozgan province may soon see its traditional handicrafts reaching new international markets, with Austria being a primary target.

In a recent announcement, Mohammad Mohseni, the tourism chief of Hormozgan province, revealed that the Iran-Austria Joint Chamber of Commerce is prepared to support the export of these locally crafted goods to Austria.

The announcement came following a meeting on the sidelines of the

37th National Handicrafts Exhibition, where Mohseni met with Ali Ayanbod, secretary-general of the joint chamber of commerce.

The discussions primarily focused on evaluating the feasibility and potential for introducing Hormozgan's handicrafts to European markets.

Mohseni emphasized the high quality and unique appeal of Hormozgan's traditional crafts, particularly the Minab palm-weaving cluster, which he believes holds strong appeal for European consumers. He

also highlighted the province's capacity to meet export demands with its distinctive and skillfully crafted products.

Ayanbod, for his part, expressed the Chamber's support in facilitating sales and aiding Hormozgan's handicrafts in finding a place in the Austrian market. The collaboration is expected to help Hormozgan artisans expand their reach while offering international buyers a unique glimpse into Iranian craftsmanship and culture.



The four-day exhibition will run until November 16, hosted in exhibition halls 7, 8, 9, 10, and 27 of the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Isfahan's handicrafts exports exceed \$15 million in 2023

TEHRAN - Isfahan province has exported over \$15 million worth of handicrafts during the past Iranian year (ended on March 20), the provincial tourism chief said on Thursday.

Amir Karamzadeh said the figure doubles that of a year earlier. He attributed the substantial growth in exports to the province's recovery efforts following the COVID-19 pandemic and expressed optimism about future prospects.

"While exceeding \$15 million in exports is a significant achievement, we believe this figure does not fully reflect Isfahan's true potential. Through strategic planning, we aim to further boost this number in 2024," he added.

Karamzadeh made the remarks during the 37th National Handicrafts Exhibition, highlighting Isfahan's remarkable progress in the sector.

"We are honored to present over 20 handicraft categories at this exhibition, showcasing the work of skilled artisans, many of whom hold national and global certifications," he said.



Elsewhere in his remarks, Karamzadeh emphasized the exhibition's role in enhancing the quality and quantity of handicrafts from Isfahan, a province renowned for its rich artistic heritage.

Isfahan continues to strengthen its position as a leading exporter of handcrafted goods, contributing to Iran's cultural and economic growth, the official said.

A city of historical significance

The ancient city of Isfahan, situated at the

crossroads of Iran's north-south and east-west trade routes, reached its zenith between the 9th and 18th centuries. During the Safavid era, it became Iran's capital under Shah Abbas the Great. Renowned for its Persian-Islamic architecture, the city is home to historical landmarks such as Naqsh-e Jahan Square, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

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

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

Archaeologists discover ancient site of key Iraq battle thanks to old spy photos

Declassified spy satellite imagery from the 1970s has led archaeologists to what they believe is the site of a seventh-century battle that became decisive in the spread of Islam throughout the region.

The Battle of al-Qadisiyah was

fought in Mesopotamia — in present-day Iraq — in the 630s CE between Arab Muslims and the army of the Sassanid Persian dynasty during a period of Muslim expansion.

The Arab army prevailed and

continued on its march into Persia, now Iran.

A joint team of archaeologists from Durham University and the University of Al-Qadisiyah stumbled across the site while undertaking a remote sensing survey to

map the Darb Zubaydah, a pilgrimage route from Iraq's Kufa to Mecca in Saudi Arabia built more than 1,000 years ago. The findings were published on Tuesday in the journal *Antiquity*.

(Source: Independent)

DOE discusses environmental issues with UNFCCC, ECO

TEHRAN – Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), in separate meetings with Simon Stiell, the executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and Asad Majeed Khan, the secretary general of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), have explored ways to boost international and regional cooperation.

The meetings were held on Thursday on the sidelines of the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which is taking place from November 11 to 22 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

During a meeting held with the UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, Ansari pinpointed the effects of imposed cruel sanctions on the country as well as the threats of Western countries against Iran, IRNA reported.

“Environmental challenges need to be addressed irrespective of political issues since conducting global joint efforts is impossible without the cooperation of all nations,” Ansari stressed.

Stiell, for his part, said “We will follow up on Iran’s concern for international cooperation in all joint meetings. The obstacles must be removed from the mechanisms channeling funds towards greenhouse gas emission reduction policies so that Iran also gain access to the tech-



nologies and financial mechanisms needed to deal with climate change.’

The head of the DOE also held a meeting with the ECO secretary general.

The officials highlighted regional cooperation and discussed the significance of the last two COPs held in the region.

Referring to the ECO secretariat operating in Tehran, Majeed Khan said the ministerial meeting of the ECO member states should be held soon to discuss the expansion of the green economy and address common environmental problems of the regional countries.

COP29 an opportunity to condemn sanctions

A key focus of COP29 will be on finance, as trillions of dollars are required for countries to drastically reduce greenhouse gas

emissions and protect lives and livelihoods from the worsening impacts of climate change.

The main goals of the convention include stabilizing the greenhouse gas concentration in the earth’s atmosphere, submitting periodic reports on the national climate change situation, and the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as implementing programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Among the key priorities of COP 29 are securing a new goal on climate finance, ensuring every country has the means to take much stronger climate action, slashing greenhouse gas emissions, and building resilient communities.

The fact is that some countries have played the greatest role in the destruction of the environment, and they have the most

facilities to prevent the resulting crisis.

However, there are countries that have done the least to contribute to environmental destruction. By imposing unfair sanctions, the first group has deprived the second of their rights to access needed resources to tackle these problems.

Iran is one of the countries that has been greatly affected by climate change. However, coercive measures have deprived the country of its rights in many sectors including the environment.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change requires substantial funding to update technologies and make sure industries are efficient enough to emit less pollution into the atmosphere.

Iran’s participation in COP29 is of great importance. Attending the conference will serve as an opportunity to hold international negotiations to defend the rights and interests of the country and call for ending cruel sanctions.

It should be noted that environmental issues are cross-border; when dust rises from a country like Iraq, Iran, and other neighboring countries are also affected. In such a situation, sanctions and restrictions are meaningless.

Academy of Sciences of Iran elected as AASSA vice-president

TEHRAN –The Academy of Sciences of Iran has been elected as the vice president of the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA).

The AASSA is a non-profit international organization with science, technology, and innovation (STI) interests. It is a regional affiliated network of InterAcademy Partnership (IAP). Currently, 32 national academies and societies of sciences from 30 countries and one regional academy of engineering and technology have membership.

The 6th AASSA General Assembly Meeting was held on October 29-30 in Muntinlupa City, Philippines.

Mohammad-Reza Shams-Ardakani, the Secretary and Associate Fellow at the Academy of Sciences, represented Iran in the event.

During the meeting of the General Assembly, the Vice President of AASSA and six members of the Board of Directors were also elected.

Academy of Sciences of Iran

The Academy of Medical Sciences of Iran was formally inaugurated in the winter of 1990. It had received its mandate from the High Council of Cultural Revolution and Legislature of the Islamic Republic of Iran two years earlier and its existence had been foreseen in the 1986 Charter of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education.

It is one of the four academies of the Islamic

Republic of Iran. The other three are Academy of Sciences of Iran, Iranian Academy of the Arts and Academy of Persian Language and Literature.

Among the major objectives of the Academy of Sciences of Iran are the attainment of scientific and cultural independence, promotion of science and technology, encouragement of the spirit of research, access to the latest scientific findings and innovations through teamwork, and absorbing, encouraging and supporting eminent researchers and scholars.

AASSA

The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia was launched in 2012 through the merger of two organizations, Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (founded in 2000) and Federation of Asian Societies and Academies of Sciences (founded in 1984).

It is made up of scientific and technological academies and science societies in Asia and Oceania.

The AASSA is a forum for scientists and technologists to discuss and provide advice on issues related to science and technology, research and development, and the application of technology for socio-economic development.

The principal objective of AASSA is to achieve a society in which science and technology play a major role in the development of the region.

Winners of Science Promotion Award honored

TEHRAN – The winners of the 25th edition of the Science Promotion Award were announced and honored on Thursday, the last day of Science Promotion Week.

The Science Promotion Award is dedicated to individuals and institutions that have made outstanding efforts to promote science in society, ISNA reported.

The award aims to recognize and encourage individuals, groups, and organizations that have used creativity and innovation to promote science and present it in a simple and understandable language to all members of society.

This year, the award is given in eight fields including media, creative and innovative methods, environment, teachers in underprivileged areas, science and society, children’s literature, scientific associations and institutions, and sustainable effort.

Science Promotion Week

Science Promotion Week was held from November 8 to 14 in the country.

The week was celebrated by holding different programs including a two-day science exhibition on November 9 and 10.

During the week-long celebration, the World Science Day for Peace and Development was also commemorated on November 10.

Promoting science refers to the attempt to reflect scientific ideas in a way that everyone can understand its basic concepts.



In other words, science promotion involves any activity that aims to popularize science, expand scientific thinking and mindset, and make individuals interested in science and scientific activities.

The World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. The Day also underlines the importance and relevance of science in daily living.

By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of our planet and in making our societies more sustainable.

This year’s theme at UNESCO Headquarters was ‘Why Science Matters – Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures’.

Since its proclamation by UNESCO in 2001, World Science Day for Peace and Development has generated many concrete projects, programs, and funding for science around the world.

The Day has also helped foster cooperation between scientists living in regions marred by conflict – one example being the UNESCO-supported creation of the Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization (IPSO).

The rationale for celebrating World Science Day for Peace and Development has its roots in the importance of the role of science and scientists for sustainable societies and in the need to inform and involve citizens in science. In this sense, World Science Day for Peace and Development offers an opportunity to show the general public the relevance of science in their lives and to engage them in discussions. Such a venture also brings a unique perspective to the global search for peace and development.

The first World Science Day for Peace and Development was celebrated worldwide on 10 November 2002 under UNESCO auspices.

The celebration involved many partners, such as governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations, UNESCO National Commissions, scientific and research institutions, professional associations, the media, science teachers, and schools.

IRCS volunteers shine at Solferino Academy competition 2024

TEHRAN –The four projects proposed by volunteers of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) have been selected among top 100 projects presented in Solferino Academy competition.

The Solferino Academy is an initiative of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its member national societies that aims to help the Red Cross and Red Crescent network anticipate, understand and adapt to trends and emerging issues.

The IFRC Solferino Academy serves as an exceptional opportunity that brings together youth volunteers and staff aged 18 to 30 to showcase their talents, knowledge, skills, and innovative projects.

The projects were proposed by Hadi Ahmadi, Nariman Samadzadeh, Setayesh Halimi, and Parisa Zomorodi.

The preliminary part of the competition was held with the participation of 21,000 people (team or individual) from all over the world which lasted for 6 months.

The proposed projects were judged by the international referees, and finally 100 innovative designs were chosen.

The projects proposed by the IRCS focused on utilizing artificial intelligence in line with the environmental objectives, preserving the environment, and dealing with climate change impacts.

These projects use modern technologies to predict climate change impacts with high precision. They aim at raising awareness, and boosting resilience towards enormous and destructive effects of climate change, and the scarcity of water resources in the world.

Solferino Academy

The Solferino Academy supports the IFRC Network in transformation for the future so that it may thrive through complex and dynamic changes.

By so doing, IFRC will more effectively be able to meet the humanitarian and development challenges ahead. It aims to promote cutting edge thinking in humanitarian and development work that can catalyse change and innovation in the sector, support Red Cross and Red Crescent leaders and their National Societies in developing approaches for and implementing changes throughout their National Societies that will enable more innovative, agile and future fit organisations.

It also explores and supports their experimentation with new and innovative approaches to humanitarian and development work.

IRCS

In September, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

project manager, Faisal Mahboob, lauded the capabilities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) as outstanding.

The official said he was really impressed by the capacity and the wide range of activities carried out by the IRCS.

“The International Federation will support the activities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society to commence a new phase of collaboration with the society,” Mahboob added, the IRCS website reported.

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

Referring to health, treatment, and rehabilitation as one of the parts of the IRCS activities, Kolivand said the IRCS hospitals, pharmacies, and clinics meet the medical and therapeutic needs of thousands of citizens every day.

The IRCS medical centers abroad are reputable worldwide. As a humanitarian organization, the IRCS is trying to alleviate the suffering of the people involved in accidents, emergencies, and conflicts.

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

According to a report released by the IFRC on the most important achievements of the Iranian Red Crescent Society during January-December 2023, the IRCS continues to tackle the impacts of climate change, program adaptability, and preparedness efforts that have been triggered by the climate crisis.

In 2023, the Iranian Red Crescent worked on tackling climate change by developing community-level adaptation plans through volunteer initiatives and Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent Houses), mobilizing health caravans, and implementing early warning systems for heat waves, droughts, and flash floods.

It raised awareness among local communities and staff about climate change, created culturally appropriate educational materials, and enhanced staff capacity for climate-smart programming, the report said.

Additionally, they significantly improved drought-affected communities’ access to clean water and healthcare, as well as their food security and livelihoods.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Afghanistan thanks Iran for free services to refugees during COVID-19

Afghanistan has appreciated Iran for offering health and treatment services to Afghan refugees infected with coronavirus free of charge. All measures, especially the recent decree by the Iranian president to provide free medical treatment to Afghan refugees in Iranian public hospitals, have assured the Afghan government, IRNA reported on Sunday.

According to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, providing transportation services to transit trucks and providing the necessary health assistance to vulnerable Afghan nationals are among the measures that are highly appreciated.

افغانستان از همکاری ایران برای مداوای مهاجران مبتلا به کرونا قدردانی کرد

وزارت امور خارجه افغانستان از کمک و همکاری جمهوری اسلامی ایران به مهاجران افغانی مبتلا به ویروس کرونا و مداوای رایگان آنها قدردانی کرد.

در این اطلاعیه آمده است: تمام اقدامات به ویژه صدور حکم اخیر رئیس جمهوری ایران برای درمان رایگان مهاجران افغان در بیمارستان های دولتی ایران موجب خاطر جمعی رهبری دولت افغانستان شد.

براساس اطلاعیه وزارت خارجه افغانستان، ایجاد تسهیلات در رفت و آمد کامیون های ترانزیتی و فراهم آوری مساعدت های لازم بهداشتی برای مهاجران در مناطق آسیب پذیر آن کشور اقداماتی هستند که از جانب دولت افغانستان به چشم قدردانی نگریسته می شوند.



NOVEMBER 16, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Loving humanity is second only to having faith in Allah as one of the best deeds in Islam.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

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

What's in Tehran art galleries



Multimedia

* Saless Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of artworks in various media by Azarakhsh Farahani.

The exhibit will be running until November 26 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

* Artworks in various media by a group of artists, including Armin Ebrahimi, Shahla Hosseini, Baktash Sarang, Farzad Majidi, Ali Nasir, and Elham Yazdani, are on view in an exhibition at O Gallery 2.

The exhibition named "From Khosrow to Khedri" will run until November 27 at the gallery located at 18 Shahin St., Sanai St.



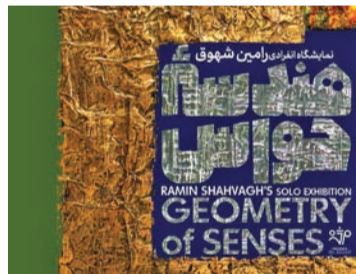
Painting

* Javid Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Zahra Hosseini.

The exhibition runs until November 25 at the gallery that can be found at 17 Zartosht St., Vali-e Asr Ave.

* Paintings by Shirin Azadi are currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled "Impermanence", the exhibition runs until November 29 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Mojdeh Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Ramin Shahvagh.

Entitled "Geometry of Senses", the exhibit will run until November 29 at the gallery located at No. 27, 18th Alley off North Allameh Blvd. in the Saadatabad neighborhood.

* Paintings by Zahra Farahani are currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

The exhibition named "Climb" will continue until November 26 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.



* A collection of paintings by Nafiseh Emaran is on view in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

The exhibit named "In Between" will run until November 25 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.

* A collection of paintings by Reza Nosrati is on view in an exhibition at Soo Gallery.

The exhibit named "Na Papoulaey" will continue until December 13 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St.



Sculpture

* Ech Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of sculptures by Maryam Sharifi.

Entitled "Story", the exhibit runs until November 29 at the gallery that can be found at 10 Mirza Taraj opposite Dowlat St., Shariati Ave.

* Sculptures by Kamran Sharif are currently on display in an exhibition at Etamad Gallery 1.

Entitled "Transition", the exhibition will be running until December 10 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.

President Pezeshkian visits acclaimed scholar Mohammad-Ali Movahhed

TEHRAN- In a significant acknowledgment of literary and scholarly contributions, President Masoud Pezeshkian visited the home of Mohammad-Ali Movahhed, a distinguished poet, writer, and authority on mysticism, who is also a member of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature.

The visit took place on the morning of Friday, coinciding with the second day of the Iran's Book Week, and was attended by Seyyed Abbas Salehi, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Movahhed, who is most famous for his expertise on Persian mystic and poet Molana Jalal ad-Din Balkhi, was born in Tabriz in 1923.

Throughout his life, Movahhed has dedicated himself to research, authorship, and translation, leaving behind significant works, particularly renowned for his critical studies of mystical texts.

In December 2017, the Academy of Persian Language and Literature hosted a book launch celebration



President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) and culture minister Seyyed Abbas Salehi (L) visit Iranian scholar Mohammad-Ali Movahhed at his home on November 15, 2024.

for a copy of Molana's masterpiece Masnavi-ye Manavi corrected by Movahhed, who has carried out comprehensive studies on mysticism in Persian literature and Molana's mentor, Shams-i Tabrizi.

Movahhed spent years making the numerous significant

corrections to the book based on his in-depth studies on 11 copies of the Masnavi-ye Manavi, most of which were written 30 years after Molana's death.

He has also authored books on various subjects, one of which is "Tant De Doute Pour Une Evidence"

on the Persian Gulf was published in France by the London-based publisher Candle and Fog in 2018. He also made substantial contributions to the script of "Drunk on Love", Iranian director Hassan Fat'hi's controversial project on Molana.

Four awards for Iran at 7th Hanoi International Film Festival

TEHRAN-Iranian cinema was the big winner of the 7th Hanoi International Film Festival, as it won four awards from among the total 10 awards.

At the festival, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from November 7 to 11, the top awards for Best Feature Film, Best Director (feature and short films), and Best Actor went to two Iranian films, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

The festival's highest honor of Best Feature Film went to Iran's "Hard Shell". Majid-Reza Mostafavi won Best Director and Payman Maadi received the Best Actor award for his role in the same film.

Moreover, Iranian filmmaker Nasim Forough won the Best Short Film Director for "Typesetter."

"Hard Shell" tells the story of Samir, a teenager, who falls in love with Leila who used to be a tightrope walker in the circus but she's banned from performing due to the authorities' order.

Siamak, Samir's father, is a foreman of a donkey farm, who finds out the donkeys are missing and then he uncovers terrible secrets of corruption.

The cast includes Payman Maadi, Mehran Ghafoorian, Hanieh Tavasoli, Fereshteh Hosseini, Massoud Karamati, Mehdi Hosseinnia, Mohammad Shakeri, and Shirin Zabetian.

Majid-Reza Mostafavi, 40, started his film career by editing and making short films. His



A scene from "Hard Shell" by Majid-Reza Mostafavi

first feature film "Unripe Pomegranates" (2014) was screened in the main competition sections of more than 12 international film festivals including Moscow 2014, Sao Paulo 2014, Fukuoka 2015, Zürich 2015, and received critical acclaim.

"Astigmatism" (2018) is his second feature film, which was screened in the main competition sections of more than 10 international film festivals and received the award for Best Screenplay (2019) from the Iranian Academy of Cinema. "Hard Shell" (2024) is his third feature film.

"Typesetter" is a production of 2023. The 17-minute film depicts an old typewriter who loses his traditional job due to the expansion of Technology.

Now he is unemployed, he has no choice but to change in order to continue living in this modern

world. And it makes his problems worse.

Mahmoud Nazaralian, Fatemeh Shokri, and Parasto Almas are in the cast.

Nasim Forough, 43, has a master's degree in dramatic literature. She started with photography and continued to write books, and now works as a director in cinema.

"Typesetter" is her third experience in filmmaking. Her previous two short films have won numerous awards at various international festivals.

This year's Hanoi International Film Festival created an inspiring environment for both Vietnamese and international filmmakers, fostering creativity under the theme "Cinema: Creativity and Growth".

It showcased 117 films from 51 countries, featured seminars and exhibitions, and provided a platform for filmmakers worldwide to network and explore collaboration opportunities, all while promoting Vietnamese cinema and tourism on the international stage.

The festival is a cultural event, aiming to honor excellent cinematic works with high artistic value, humanity, and creativity as well as encourage new talents and new outstanding works of world cinema.

It was also designed as an opportunity to help Vietnamese cinema integrate into the international cinema market while promoting the land and people of Vietnam to international friends.

Persian language courses launched at University of Belgrade

TEHRAN- The Persian language courses, organized by the cultural attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Saadi Foundation, have been launched at the Center for Persian Studies at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, attracting numerous enthusiasts eager to learn Persian.

These courses are offered at two levels, beginner and intermediate, taught by Saeed Safari, a distinguished professor of Persian language, Mehr reported on Friday.

The Persian language courses for interested individuals will be conducted twice a week, emphasizing not only the instruction of the Persian language but also

offering participants a deeper understanding of Iran's culture, history, and literature, the report added.

Moreover, the program will include activities such as film screenings and participation in cultural and literary discussions.

Persian, also known as Farsi, is an ancient language spoken primarily in Iran, Afghanistan (as Dari), and Tajikistan (as Tajik), boasting a rich literary heritage that dates back over a millennium. Its script, derived from Arabic, can initially pose challenges for learners unfamiliar with the right-to-left writing system.

Persian vocabulary is influenced by both Arabic and various

Turkic languages, adding layers of complexity.

While the phonetic structure of Persian is relatively straightforward and lacks gendered nouns, the nuances of its grammar, such as verb conjugations and the use of subordinate clauses, require dedicated study and practice, often making it a rewarding yet challenging pursuit for foreign learners.

The difficulty level of learning Persian can vary significantly based on a learner's background and native language.

For speakers of languages that share similarities with Persian, such as Turkish or certain Indo-European languages, the

transition may be smoother due to overlapping linguistic features.

However, learners from languages with markedly different structures, like Mandarin or Vietnamese, may find the concepts of Persian syntax and grammar more daunting.

Additionally, the rich cultural context embedded in Persian literature and expressions can require learners to engage deeply with cultural references to achieve proficiency.

Nonetheless, many learners find studying Persian to be an enriching experience, allowing them to gain insight into a diverse and historically significant culture.

"A Doll's House, Part 2" on City Theater's stage

TEHRAN-The play "A Doll's House, Part 2" written by the American playwright Lucas Hnath is on stage Tehran's City Theater.

Asha Mehrabi is the translator and director of the play that has Mahlagha Bagheri, Ayoub Aghakhani, Saghzi Zinati, and Sarina Kian in the cast, Honaronline reported.

Originally written in 2017, the play picks up after Henrik Ibsen's 1879 play "A Doll's House" concludes.

Hnath's play, set in 1894, concerns Nora, who had left her family and then returns after

15 years. The play examines the rules of society and gender.

In the final scene of Ibsen's 1879 groundbreaking masterwork, Nora Helmer makes the shocking decision to leave her husband and children, and begin a life on her own.

This climactic event—when Nora slams the door on everything in her life—instantly propelled world drama into the modern age.

"A Doll's House, Part 2" begins with a knock on the door — the same door that was slammed shut 15 years earlier when Nora ex-

ited at the end of Ibsen's play.

Nora has returned, and it is she who is knocking. After leaving her husband, children, and the nursemaid, Nora became a successful feminist novelist.

The reason for her return is to finalize a divorce from Torvald; she needs him to sign the legal papers. Nora is questioned about what she has been doing, and the family and the nursemaid express their recriminations of her.

The 75-minute play will remain on stage at the City Theater through November 20.