



Iranian Sunni Scholars Urge Fatwas for Palestine

In a letter to religious leaders across West Asia, Iranian Sunni scholars say it's time for action

▶ Page 3

Syria key to Iran's foreign policy, DM says in Damascus visit

TEHRAN – During a two-day regional visit, Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh engaged with several senior Syrian officials, culminating in a meeting with President Bashar al-Assad on Sunday.

In their meeting, Iran's top general and the Syrian president concentrated on enhancing defense and security collaboration, emphasizing the importance of combating terrorism and fostering regional stability.

The Brigadier General highlighted Syria's "strategic role in Iran's foreign policy," underscoring the mutual support both nations provide during challenging times.

President al-Assad reaffirmed that combating terrorism is a collective responsibility for both international and regional actors, stressing that this threat impacts all global citizens.

The Syrian president called for robust regional partnerships to ensure lasting peace and security throughout West Asia.

Brigadier General Nasirzadeh also met with Major General Kifah Moulhem, the head of Syria's National Security Bureau.

Their talks underscored the necessity of deepening cooperation between the two nations across multiple sectors, especially in defense and security.

During his meeting with Moulhem, the defense minister reiterated Iran's unwavering support for Syria in its battle against terrorism, emphasizing the commitment to advancing peace and stability throughout the area.

Major General Moulhem expressed gratitude for the steadfast support of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, towards the Resistance. He highlighted the Leader's position as a powerful source of strength for the people in the region. ▶ Page 2

Will Hochstein's tour of Lebanon stop the aggression?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – Despite relentless concentrated bombardments on Lebanon, all attempts by Israeli invaders have failed to make ground advances.

This shows the only so-called achievement of the US-led Israeli aggression on Lebanon is the destruction of infrastructure in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Tyre, Nabatieh, and the Bekaa Valley.

This is a pressure card to blackmail Lebanon in the political negotiations moderated by the US envoy, Amos Hochstein, who visited Beirut this week, before heading to the occupied Palestinian territories on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Hebrew media has circulated statements by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, War Minister Yisrael Katz, and Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi regarding the escalation of military operations to force Lebanon to accept the US proposal to stop the war on Lebanon.

Hezbollah sends Haifa into the dark

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hezbollah has responded to the Israeli regime's heavy bombardment of the Lebanese capital Beirut's southern suburb.

The suburb, also known as Dahiyeh, as well as other regions south of Beirut, faced 145 Israeli attacks over 24 hours on Saturday, according to Lebanese authorities.

On Sunday, Israeli warplanes continued to bomb the Lebanese capital.

An airstrike targeted a residential building in Ras al-Nabaa, Beirut.

The area was believed to be out of the Israeli scope of aggression as it houses displaced people from Dahiyeh, south of Lebanon and the Bekaa region after the bombing campaign began in September.

Footage on Sunday showed damage sustained at the Our Lady of Salvation Church in Beirut as a result of Israeli airstrikes.

Flares and fallout: Israeli officials lock horns over military failures

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The recent firing of a pair of flares at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's private residence in Caesarea has highlighted growing divisions among Israeli officials.

Israeli police have made arrests in connection to the incident that occurred on Saturday evening.

Netanyahu and his family were not home when the flares were fired.

Both Netanyahu's domestic proponents and opponents have condemned the incident.

However, the weekend's event pit them against each other in the face of the Netanyahu regime's military and intelligence failures as well as his now-shelved controversial judicial reforms. ▶ Page 5

FIFA president highlights football field in northern Iranian village

TEHRAN – FIFA President Gianni Infantino has spotlighted a humble yet spirited village football field in Iran, capturing the hearts of football enthusiasts worldwide.

Infantino on Saturday shared a photograph of the field in Lialeman, a village near Lahijan in Iran's northern Gilan province, on his official Instagram page.

The image, taken by Iranian photographer Mehrdad Gerami, portrays a simple yet vibrant football pitch embraced by the local community.

Accompanying the photo, Infantino wrote: "IR Iran loves football, and this pitch in a village near Lahijan, Gilan, captured wonderfully by Mehrdad Gerami, is a fitting representation of their passion for our beautiful game. Football is for everyone, everywhere."

The post reflects the universal appeal of football and its power to transcend borders, uniting communities of all sizes. ▶ Page 6

The road ahead: Iran, Israel, and the Persian Gulf in Trump's foreign policy

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – According to various international policy experts, Donald Trump's first term was characterized by a nationalist approach aimed at strengthening the independence of the United States and reducing its reliance on traditional allies. Under the "America First" slogan, Trump employed tools such as threats and tariffs to reshape the balance of power in international relations.

Among the notable achievements of this strategy, as viewed by his administration, are the Abraham Accords, a series of agreements designed to "normalize" relations between Israel and Arab countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Morocco. ▶ Page 3



Iranian ambassador to Lebanon meets Leader

TEHRAN – Mojtaba Amani, the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, who was injured in the Sept. 17 pager blasts in Lebanon met with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday.

Ambassador Amani suffered injuries in the explosions committed by the Zionist regime of Israel. He presented a report about his health condition to the Leader of the Revolution. The ambassador was transferred to Iran to receive treatment for eye and hand injuries.

Israeli strike kills Hezbollah media chief

▶ Page 5



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Special diplomatic moves in 100 fateful days

In a note, the Iran newspaper discussed the 100 days of the arduous path of the Pezeshkian government and quoted former diplomat Abbas Mousavi as saying: The terrorist operation that took place at the beginning of the government of Mr. Pezeshkian by the Zionist regime created a situation that affected the foreign policy and led to immediate actions by the government. Following the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, Iran was directly involved in military tensions and this issue became the most important regional strategic issue of the 14th government. Iran's diplomacy is aimed at neutralizing Tel Aviv's goals of extending the war to Iran and leading it to make miscalculations. Therefore, the government was forced to change its direction and spend most of its potential on foreign policy to contain the tension the enemies had plotted against Iran. In such a situation, the 14th government has used all its diplomatic and political tools to overcome crises, and the current situation indicates this government's success in reducing tensions and directing it toward a diplomatic path.

Etemad: Riyadh meeting and Arab calculations!

In an analysis, Etemad addressed the condemnation of Israel's war crimes in Gaza and Lebanon by Saudi de facto leader Mohammed Bin Salman his demand that the occupation regime respect the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It wrote: The Arabs know that with the increasing possibility of a conflict between Iran and Israel, it is better to get closer to Iran and avoid the detriment of Iran's aggressive actions and responses against any military action. Such diplomatic movements by Saudi Arabia as the leader of the Arab countries, which started before the escalation of the confrontation between Iran and Israel, should not go unnoticed. Such a policy by the Sudi Kingdom is worthy of attention even though it is tailored for public opinion due to the complex and dangerous conditions in the region and the reelection of Trump as president. This is a message to Trump that Saudi Arabia and other U.S. allies in the region are not ready to enter into competition and hostility with Iran again due to his policies, especially his 100% support for Israel. The Arabs want to focus on economic development.

Shargh: Attempts by reformers to divert the path of diplomacy

In a commentary, Shargh dealt with the claim of Elon Musk's meeting with Amir Saeed Iravani,

Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations. The paper said: A look at Trump's cabinet picks shows that these persons are anti-Iranian and Zionist. The media outlets that claim support for reforms viewed the meeting as an opportunity. This shows the pro-West figures are trying to divert the path of diplomacy towards the era of "hope and trust" in America and prevent Iran from achieving its rights. After the unbalanced and unguaranteed (nuclear) agreement that also lacks any mechanism for complaint was signed, the self-proclaimed reformists have adopted an approach against national interests by promoting the idea of "agreement at any price". They have always blamed Iran instead of criticizing the U.S. and Europe for violating the JCPOA agreement. This is while the JCPOA was violated in the first days of its implementation during the Obama era and the agreement was turned into a useless paper. Iran powerfully shapes regional equations, and foreign circles believe that the Middle East is no longer in the hands of the White House. Yet, the pro-West aspirants are dreaming of repeating the begging diplomacy and this is detrimental to Iran.

Keyhan: Trump 2024 is the same as Trump 2016

Keyhan wrote what is of great importance in Trump's general strategy of Trump and all past American administrations is the "existential threat" of the Islamic Republic of Iran. All American officials, whether Republicans or Democrats, believe that to stop Iran's strategic programs such as nuclear and missile programs, and countering its regional clout, they must weaken the Islamic Republic's ruling system. Therefore, successive American governments believe that if we can mobilize the people against the government, we will be able to get concessions from the government. Some statements by reformers and the daily headlines of their media in the direction of negotiations with the new American government show that Trump 2024 is different from Trump 2016. From this point of view, Trump's return to the White House and these wrong statements should be considered in line with inducing bipolarity and division within the government and creating a psychological atmosphere in the country at a time when the enemy has suffered two successful and great operations of the True Promise I and II and has tasted their bitter taste.

Iranian parliament upholds ban on dual nationals in key government roles

TEHRAN – A bid to scrap a pending bill barring dual nationals from holding key government positions in Iran was decisively rejected by the parliament on Saturday.

207 lawmakers voted against a proposal to discard the legislation, which was passed by parliament in 2022 and currently awaits approval from the Guardian Council.

The "Draft Law on Prohibition of Election or Appointment of Officials and Managers with Dual Nationality" prohibits individuals with dual citizenship, or those with close family

members possessing significant foreign assets or ties, from holding various managerial positions within the government and public sector. The criteria are broad, including foreign residency permits, property ownership, substantial financial holdings (€100,000 or more), membership in foreign companies, and foreign currency exchange licenses.

Lawmakers who believe Iran should proceed with the adoption of the bill say it is an essential measure to enhance national security and prevent potential conflicts of interest.

Syria key to Iran's foreign policy, DM says in Damascus visit

From page 1 ▶ Brigadier General Nasirzadeh also engaged in discussions with his Syrian counterpart, Ali Mahmoud Abbas.

The Iranian defense minister arrived in Damascus on Saturday at the official invitation of Abbas as both nations seek to bolster their military cooperation.

Iran and Syria have long upheld strong military and security ties, which have notably intensified since the 2010s. The two nations have united in their fight against terrorism, proudly embracing their identities as brotherly countries and vital members of the Axis of Resistance.

Nasirzadeh's visit marks the second such trip by a high-ranking Iranian official in the past week.

On Thursday, Ali Larijani, a senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, met with President



Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad (R) received Iran's Minister of Defense Brigadier General Azizi Nasirzadeh in Damascus on Sunday.

al-Assad in Damascus, reaffirming Iran's unwavering support for the Resistance while conveying the Leader's message to the Syrian

president.

On the same day, the Israeli regime launched assaults on several residential buildings in the suburbs

of the Syrian capital, resulting in the tragic loss of at least 15 lives.

The regime's bombing on Thursday was part of a broader pattern of aggression.

Alongside its ongoing deadly military campaigns in Gaza and Lebanon, which have killed over 46,000 civilians, Israel has also carried out more than 220 attacks on Syria since last October, according to the NGO Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED).

These assaults, which included air raids and artillery strikes, have led to the martyrdom of hundreds of civilians in Syria.

Moreover, the occupying entity has allegedly issued multiple threats against President al-Assad's life, targeting him due to Syria's friendly relations with Iran and various regional Resistance groups.

Araghchi warns Israel against further aggression as Iran gears up for retaliation

TEHRAN – In a televised interview on Saturday, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi issued a stark warning to the Israeli regime regarding the consequences of any further aggression against Iran, particularly targeting its nuclear facilities.

"Whenever the Zionist regime takes action against the Islamic Republic, we will respond with comparable and proportionate measures," Araghchi stated firmly. "They are fully aware of the repercussions if they attack our nuclear installations."

He further highlighted that Tehran has reported multiple Israeli threats against its nuclear sites to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), underscoring the gravity of the situation.

Araghchi also addressed his recent regional diplomatic efforts, undertaken during a time of heightened Israeli aggression across West Asia. He emphasized that these trips demonstrated Iran's unwavering support for Resistance movements and reaffirmed the country's resilience and commitment to its objectives.

"The visits served to counter the regime's propaganda aimed at discrediting the Resistance and diminishing its capabilities," Araghchi said. He noted that his travels to nations like Iraq and Lebanon allowed him to assess the situation firsthand and confirm the Axis of Resistance's continued strength and societal support.

The trips also fostered a shared understanding among regional nations about the broader threats posed by Israel, whose ambitions, Araghchi warned, extend far beyond Gaza and Lebanon. "The regime seeks to drag the entire region into a devastating war," he cautioned, urging regional leaders to remain vigilant.

Turning to the IAEA, Araghchi criticized the "political approach" influenced by Western nations seeking to pressure the agency into taking a harder line against Iran.

"The IAEA is a technical organization and must refrain from politicizing its actions," he said. Araghchi warned that any resolution targeting Iran's nuclear program would prompt new measures by Tehran, which, he added, "they will not be pleased with."

Despite the criticism, Araghchi reaffirmed Iran's professional and cooperative stance towards the IAEA, provided the agency adheres to its technical mandate. "Our nuclear program is peaceful, and we have no issues proving this through cooperation," he asserted.

Addressing the 2015 nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Araghchi reiterated that Iran had ceased fulfilling its obligations following the United States' unilateral withdrawal in 2018 and the European signatories' failure to compensate for the breach.

He hinted at the possibility of resuming negotiations with European countries to revive the agreement, but warned that the JCPOA could not return to its original form. "It can only serve as a reference point for future agreements," he said, emphasizing that time was running out due to the impending expiration of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 next October.

"If no agreement is reached before that deadline, we will face critical conditions," Araghchi cautioned.

Iran is ready to engage in meaningful negotiations but remains prepared for all scenarios, Araghchi stated. "We are prepared for either

confrontation or interaction," he remarked, highlighting Iran's resilience in the face of Israeli aggression.

He reiterated Iran's right to self-defense following recent Israeli attacks, asserting, "We alone will decide the timing and manner of our response."

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

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

Commenting on the evolving U.S. administration, Araghchi observed no significant shifts in Washington's policies toward Iran thus far. However, he emphasized that Tehran would adjust its strategies based on the U.S.'s future actions.

"What matters is not their rhetoric but what they implement in practice," he said, affirming Iran's commitment to safeguarding its national interests.

In his closing remarks, Araghchi reinforced Iran's readiness to navigate the complex geopolitical landscape while defending its sovereignty and principles.

Details of IAEA chief's visit inquired by Iran's parliament as MPs call for 'reciprocal measures'

TEHRAN – The Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has convened to address critical issues surrounding the country's nuclear program, the visit by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi, and support for Iranians living abroad.

The Sunday session underscored Tehran's commitment to maintaining a balance between cooperation and deterrence, as well as its focus on expatriate policies.

Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson for the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, shed light on discussions held during the meeting, which featured Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

The session, Rezaei noted, aimed to provide a comprehensive update on Iran's nuclear advancements and recent developments, including Grossi's high-profile visit to Tehran.

"Mr. Eslami presented a detailed report on the state of Iran's nuclear program and reaffirmed that the program is strictly peaceful, progressing in line with the Strategic Action Plan to Lift Sanctions," Rezaei said.

Eslami emphasized that Grossi's inspection of certain nuclear facilities was conducted strictly according to Iran's internal protocols. The AEOI chief further highlighted Iran's steadfast commitment to its principles of engagement: "If others engage with us within defined frameworks, we reciprocate. However, if they choose confrontation, we will respond in kind. Should any new resolutions be issued against Iran, immediate countermeasures will be taken."

Eslami also underscored Iran's determination to press forward with its strategic plans. "We are advancing powerfully with no delays in implementing the Strategic Action Plan to Lift Sanctions. Today, the AEOI has evolved into a robust industrial organization," he stated.

Despite assurances from Eslami, many members of the commission voiced concerns over allowing Grossi access to Iran's nuclear facilities. They criticized what they saw as unnecessary concessions beyond the safeguards agreements, with some calling for a reassessment of the country's nuclear doctrine to enhance deterrence.

Members stressed that Iran's policy should prioritize sovereignty



and ensure that all activities comply with national interests, particularly in light of growing international pressures.

The commission also turned its attention to a bill aimed at improving support for Iranians residing overseas. Rezaei presented a detailed report revealing that over 4 million Iranians live abroad, distributed across various regions.

According to the report, a significant majority—96%—of Iranian expatriates are engaged in medium- and high-skill professions. This includes approximately 25,000 doctors, 56,000 engineers, and 8,000 researchers contributing to their host countries.

"The bill aims to facilitate stron-

ger connections between expatriates and their homeland, while also leveraging their expertise to benefit Iran's development," Rezaei said. The proposal has been referred to the Foreign Relations Committee for further review and will return to the commission for final deliberations.

The session reflected Iran's dual approach of pursuing strategic advancements while remaining open to dialogue. "Our nuclear program adheres to peaceful objectives, and we continue to cooperate with international frameworks as long as they remain technical and unbiased," Rezaei reiterated.



On Saturday, an interactive session was held between Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and senior executives of domestic media outlets, where a platform was provided for media leaders to share their perspectives on pressing foreign policy issues and explore strategies to strengthen cooperation between the Ministry and the media.

Iranian Sunni scholars urge fatwas for Palestine

In a letter to religious leaders across West Asia, Iranian Sunni scholars say it's time for action

TEHRAN – Following over a year of Israeli violence in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria, hundreds of Iranian Sunni scholars are urging fellow religious leaders across the Arab world and beyond to issue fatwas supporting Palestine.

In a letter published on Sunday, Iranian Sunni scholars said the religious leadership in the region should take matters into its own hands, as governments and politicians in the region are refusing to do anything in favor of Palestine.

The scholars specifically urged Jordanian and Egyptian religious leaders to mobilize youth for humanitarian aid to Gaza and advocated for encouraging armed resistance against Israel regardless of pressure by governments.

After over a year of relentless Israeli violence, much of the besieged Gaza Strip now lies in ruins with over 43,000 civilians killed by the regime's fire. Israel has also spread its war to the surrounding areas including Lebanon, Syria, and Iran.

Below is the full text of the letter:

Esteemed Scholars of the Islamic World,

Respected Scholars from the Islamic Lands: The Two Holy Sanctuaries (Saudi Arabia), Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Iraq, Syria, Qatar, the UAE, Turkey, and beyond.

Today, in the sacred land of the first Qibla for Muslims — Palestine, and particularly in the resilient region of Gaza — we are witnessing heinous crimes perpetrated by the oppressive Zionist regime, with the backing of the Great Satan, America.

The world now bears witness to ethnic genocide and forced displacement in Gaza, unfolding through a series of tragic and shocking events.



Over the past year, since the remarkable Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, your commendable positions as scholars of Islam regarding the events in Al-Quds and Gaza have resonated powerfully. Your protests and cries of indignation have reached far and wide, and for this, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

The purpose of this letter is to address the ongoing crimes of the Zionist enemy that is armed to the teeth and openly supported by America and a few European powers. These atrocities persist despite protests from Islamic scholars, freedom-seekers, both Muslim and non-Muslim, and even from ineffectual international organizations. This relentless killing machine knows no bounds. It has already extended beyond Gaza and the sacred land of Palestine, spreading violence into the Islamic nation of Lebanon. It is only a matter of time before other Islamic lands are targeted as well.

Furthermore, the Zionist regime, emboldened by anticipated support from the new U.S. administration, seeks to fully annex the West Bank following Gaza and to dismantle any plans for an independent Palestinian state.

As Sunni scholars of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we urge you, scholars of the Islamic world, to move beyond issuing statements and take decisive, practical actions. Even if these actions provoke confrontations with Western-aligned puppet governments, they are necessary. Allah has said:

“You believe in Allah and His Messenger and strive in the cause of Allah with your wealth and your lives. That is best for you if you should know.”

In this pivotal moment, as disbelief rallies against Islam — reminiscent of the Battle of the Trench — it is an undeniable obligation for Muslims to rise in defense and resist these enemies of Islam. Allah commands: “And fight against the disbelievers collectively as they fight against you collectively.”

It is incumbent upon all free Muslims to take up arms in defense of the lives, dignity, and property of the Muslim community. The steadfastness of the Resistance forces is a testament to this resolve, ensuring that further aggression will not go unanswered. This struggle, undertaken with sincerity, will earn immense reward from Allah, who has said: “Those believers who sit at home, un-

less they do so out of a disabling injury, are not the equals of those who strive in the way of Allah with their possessions and their lives. Allah has exalted in rank those who strive with their possessions and their lives over those who sit at home; and though to each Allah has promised some good reward, He has preferred those who strive (in the way of Allah) over those who sit at home for a mighty reward.”

In light of this, while expressing gratitude for your fatwas encouraging financial support for the Resistance, the use of *zakat* for this noble cause, the boycott of Zionist goods and the shunning of the Zionist regime in any way, we present the following requests:

1. Work alongside believers in Jordan to halt the export of goods to the occupied territories, at least until the war in Gaza ends. Additionally, open the borders of Jordan to allow Jordanian youth to join the defense of Al-Quds.

2. Stand in solidarity with believers in Egypt at the Rafah border crossing. If possible, open the crossing; if not, stage a sit-in to pressure the Zionist regime until the war ceases.

3. Issue a fatwa encouraging armed resistance against the Zionists, addressing it specifically to the Islamic Ummah, particularly its youth.

Finally, while praying for your continued well-being, we affirm that if the scholars of Islam unite, the divine promise of victory for truth and the defeat of disbelief will surely be fulfilled. We conclude with the following verses: “And Our word has already preceded for Our servants, the messengers, [that] indeed, they would be those given victory. And [that] indeed, our soldiers will be those who overcome.”

The road ahead: Iran, Israel, and the Persian Gulf in Trump's foreign policy

From Page 1 ▶ Looking ahead to a potential second term, Donald Trump envisions a foreign policy that could heighten competition within NATO, adopting a more demanding stance toward traditional allies. It is also likely that he will directly or indirectly support Israeli attacks on Iran, solidifying a personalized approach to decision-making and reaffirming his leadership style on the global stage.

In this context, Trump recently announced the appointment of Senator Marco Rubio as Secretary of State and Mike Waltz as National Security Advisor, moves that underscore his strategic vision. However, beyond the individuals involved, the question arises: is it possible to outline a comprehensive vision of his foreign policy?

Although Trump's foreign policy was marked by episodes of confusion and instability, its overarching principles hold a certain logic. The former president views tariffs as a key tool to exert pressure on both allies and adversaries. He also maintains a critical stance toward allies, perceiving them more as burdens than as strategic partners against global threats. Furthermore, Trump regards immigration not only as an economic challenge but also as a cultural threat to the United States.

That said, Donald Trump's “unpredictable behavior” is expected to once again have a significant impact on the foreign policy of his administration. For instance, in his relationship with China, Trump might oscillate between an economically confrontational stance—similar to the trade war of his first term—and selective gestures of cooperation in strategic areas of mutual interest.

In West Asia, his administration will likely aim to expand the Abraham Accords, incorporating more countries to solidify a network of alliances with Israel as the central hub. However, unilateral measures that destabilize certain regional actors and exacerbate existing tensions cannot be ruled out.

This unpredictability creates concern among the leaders of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), who fear that Trump's policies could exacerbate instability in the region.

Unlike during Donald Trump's first term, when several GCC leaders supported the “maximum pressure” strategy against Iran, Persian Gulf states in recent years have shifted toward a more diplomatic approach, seeking dialogue and cooperation with Tehran.

The potential return of a pressure-oriented policy toward Iran under a new Trump administration is causing unease in countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Their concern lies in how such an approach could affect their strategic and economic interests, especially in a context where regional stability is a top priority for them.

At the same time, Israel's actions in Gaza are seriously complicating efforts to expand the Abraham Accords. In this context, Arab leaders face a delicate balance, worried about the potential domestic and regional repercussions of supporting normalization with Israel at such a critical moment.

If Donald Trump fails to provide the leadership Persian Gulf states expect from Washington, his return to the White House could push these countries to further diversify their strategic alliances. This could include strengthening ties with powers such as China and Russia, and even with Iran.

As noted in previous analyses, the United States is likely to support Israel's actions against Iran's nuclear program. However, Donald Trump does not appear personally inclined to initiate a direct attack on Tehran. While he values the use of military force as a tool of leverage, he prefers to avoid direct confrontations with Iran—a stance that may differ from key figures in his administration, such as Secretary of State-designate Marco Rubio.

Both Trump and his more moderate advisors seem to believe that the best approach toward Iran is through diplomacy. Nevertheless, Iran has made it clear that it is willing to engage in diplomatic contacts with any nation, provided its “red lines” are respected. However, the notion of entering negotiations under pressure remains entirely unacceptable to Tehran.

Trump's unpredictability creates concern among the leaders of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, who fear that the incoming president's policies could exacerbate instability in the region

IRGC opens cutting-edge military simulation center

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has inaugurated a state-of-the-art wargaming center at its University of Command and Staff located in Tehran.

The center was formally unveiled by IRGC Commander-in-Chief Major General Hossein Salami on Sunday.

Military simulations, commonly referred to as war games, employ cutting-edge technologies to generate realistic combat scenarios, allowing armed forces to assess tactics and boost operational readiness without the risks associated with real combat.

Iran's new military simulation center features high-tech software that enables the modeling of diverse military scenarios, encompassing both conventional and asymmetric warfare tactics, reports say.

These advanced simulation techniques are intended to strengthen the critical thinking and decision-making capabilities of IRGC commanders, enhancing their strategic planning and battlefield assessments.

The objective is to ensure that IRGC forces remain well-prepared for any potential challenges.

In a separate event on the same day, Salami addressed attendees at the Imam Hossein military academy in Tehran, emphasizing the motivating role of the IRGC in galvanizing Resistance movements in Gaza and Lebanon.

He emphasized that the ongoing resilience and steadfastness in these regions are reflections of the IRGC's impactful initiatives.

Commending the people of Gaza for their remarkable display of strength, resilience, and determination, the commander stated that the IRGC values individuals who embody these exceptional qualities.

Banitaba wins silver at 2024 Blind Sambo World Championships

TEHRAN – Meysam Banitaba of Iran claimed a silver medal at the 2024 Blind Sambo World Championships.

Andrei Demidov of Russia claimed a gold medal and bronze medals went to Elder Moreno from Venezuela and Isokjon Abdurakhmonov from Uzbekistan in the 64kg weight class.

The 2024 World Championships were held in Astana, Kazakhstan, with the final four weight categories in Sport SAMBO and six in Combat SAMBO, while Blind SAMBO made its World Championships debut with three weight categories.

Russia won 12 gold medals in 28 weight categories in Sport and Combat SAMBO, one less than last year in Yerevan in 21 weight categories. They won four gold medals on the final day of the championships with Anton Konovalov (Sport SAMBO, -98kg) and Mikhail Kashurnikov (Combat SAMBO, +98kg) retaining their titles and 2023 World bronze medallist Darya Rechkalova coming back with a gold medal.

The tournament featured 31 sets of medals in men's and women's Sport SAMBO, men's and women's Combat SAMBO, and men's SVI-1 (totally blind athletes) Blind SAMBO.

Inter Taremi struggling to find back of the net

TEHRAN – Inter Milan striker Mehdi Taremi has been struggling to find the back of the net since his arrival, registering his lowest stats in his European career.

The 32-year-old signed for the Nerazzurri last summer after seeing out his contract with Porto.

Before suffering a slight injury problem in pre-season, the Iranian was by far the club's best performer in the summer friendlies.

However, when the campaign kickstarted, Taremi has been less prolific.

The bomber has only scored a single goal for the Nerazzurri in 14 outings for the club between Serie A and the Champions League. This ensued in the shape of a spot-kick in the 4-0 routing against Red Star Belgrade.

Taremi also scored for his nation in the FIFA World Cup qualifier against Kyrgyzstan. Therefore, his overall seasonal tally for club and country is two goals.

According to La Gazzetta dello Sport via FcInterNews, these are Taremi's worst stats at this stage of the season since he arrived in Europe.

The newspaper thus talks about a void in Inter's attacking department behind Marcus Thuram and Lautaro Martinez.

Taremi is considered the first backup for the starting duo. However, the source argues his stats make him only a slight improvement on Joaquin Correa and Marko Arnautovic.

Nevertheless, one should mention that Taremi has only featured once as a starter in Serie A. Therefore, his numbers would have most likely improved had he started more consistently in the league.

In any case, these figures haven't had any effect on Simone Inzaghi's hierarchy, as Taremi remains the first option off the bench.

The Iran international had an eventful outing for his country on Thursday. He provided three assists for his teammates in the 3-2 victory over North Korea in the World Cup qualifiers. However, he also scored an own goal and failed to convert from the spot.

Iran football chief Taj invites FIFA President Infantino to Lahijan

TEHRAN – Head of Iran football federation Mehdi Taj has invited FIFA president Gianni

Infantino to Lahijan, in northwestern Iran's Gilan province.

Infantino published a story on Saturday, hailing a football pitch in the Iranian city.

“Iran loves football and this pitch in a village near Lahijan, Gilan, captured wonderfully by Mehrdad Gerami, is a fitting representation of their passion for our beautiful game. Football is for everyone, everywhere,” Infantino wrote.

“I would like to express our gratitude for the publishing of the picture of the football field in one of the cities of Iran (Lahijan) on your Instagram page. We will be happy you see the football-friendly region during your stay in Iran and get to know the attractions of Lahijan,” Taj wrote in a letter sent to Infantino.

Sarina Ghaffari wins gold at IFSC Youth Asian Championship

TEHRAN – Iranian athlete Sarina Ghaffari has won the gold medal at the 2024 International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) Youth Asian Championship in Jamshedpur, India.

Ghaffari secured gold in Boulder category at the 2024 edition of the Youth Asian Championship on Friday.

Sara Zarezadeh, another member of Iran's national team, reached fifth place in the final.

In this age group and category, climbers from Japan won second and third place.

Another Iranian climber, Mahdisa Hamidnezhad won a silver medal at the IFSC Youth Asian Championships. Japanese climber Saaya Ishikuro claimed the gold medal and Indonesia athlete seized the bronze.

Asia's biggest sport climbing championship, the IFSC Asian Youth Sport Climbing Championship 2024, is being held at the TSAF Sport Climbing Academy, JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur, from November 14 to 17.

Iran sent 11 athletes to the 2024 IFSC Youth Asian Championship.

Mes edge Al Duhail in Asian Club League Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Sanat Mes of Iran defeated Al Duhail of Qatar 27-26 at the 27th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship on Sunday.

Mes started the Group B losing to defending champions Khaleej Club of Saudi Arabia 31-22 but defeated Oman's Ahli Sidab 33-19 and Kuwait's Kazma 26-20 in their next matches.

The Iranian team will play the third-place team of Group A on Tuesday.

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

Iran to play Brazil at 2024 Cerebral Palsy World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran's football team defeated the U.S. 3-0 in the 2024 Cerebral Palsy World Cup underway in Salou, Spain on Sunday.

Iran had previously defeated Venezuela 4-0, Ireland 3-0 and Germany 4-0 in Group D.

Team Melli will face Brazil in the semifinals on Tuesday.

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 World Cup Final will be held on Friday, Nov. 22.

The competition is being held in Salou, Spain.

200,000m of mining exploratory excavation conducted since March



TEHRAN— The head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said 200,000 meters of exploratory excavation have been conducted in the country's promising mineral zones since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (late March), IRIB reported.

Mohammad Aghajanjou, who was recently appointed as the new head of IMIDRO, said his organization is taking the necessary measures to increase exploratory operations in the

current Iranian year compared to the previous year.

The director of IMIDRO's Exploration Office has said that investment in the country's mining projects increased by 173 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

According to Ahmad Fattahi Mojalej, IMIDRO, and its subsidiaries invested 33,466 trillion rials (about \$558 million) in the exploration sector last year, while the figure was about 12,250 trillion rials (about \$21 million) a year earlier, IRNA reported.

Back in July, Fattahi said that IMIDRO has prepared new investment packages for the country's private sector to participate in mining exploration projects.

"Considering IMIDRO's approach in line with the slogan of the year which is the realization of public participation in the leap of production, the private sector should be ready to invest in the exploration sector," the official said.

Over 10m tons of goods transported via roads in 7 months

TEHRAN – The acting head of Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (IRMTO) says 10.82 million tons of goods have been transported via roads in border regions into the country in the first seven months of the current Iranian year (March 20-October 21).

Reza Akbari said road transportation of goods in the mentioned seven months has increased by 50 percent compared to the figure for the same period in the previous year, Mehr News Agency reported.

Private sector, pioneer in economic development: TPO head

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has said the country's private sector is the pioneer in economic development, the TPO portal reported.

During a visit to Kordestan Province, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi pointed to the economic capacities of Kordestan Province and emphasized the strong presence of the private sector in the development and progress of this province.

Speaking at a meeting with the board members of the Kordestan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, the official said: "This belief should be strengthened among the people and operators of the private sector of Kordestan province that there is no discriminatory



view in the governing body because this mentality without a doubt creates a big obstacle for the development of the province."

"The government's economic team is ready to support economic operators in all parts of the country," the TPO head added.

'Realizing 8% economic growth requires growth in foreign investment'

TEHRAN - Samad Hassanzadeh, the head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), has said that realizing the eight-percent economic growth, targeted in the country's Seventh National Development Plan (2022-2027), requires a significant growth in attracting foreign investment.

Speaking at a meeting of the heads of ICCIMA committees on Saturday, Hassanzadeh said: "We are fully prepared for scientific and specialized

research cooperation with the country's officials [in order to realize the mentioned goal]"

Many European companies are interested in investing in Iran, but due to the restrictions in the investment regulations, investment attraction does not have the necessary momentum.

"The heads of the specialized committees of the ICCIMA work hard for the progress of the country's economic sector and stand by the government as advisors," he said.

TEDPIX rises 19,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 19,361 points to 2,211,820 on Sunday, which is the second day of the Iranian calendar week.

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

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

"We are taking special measures in relation to the budget bill and issues that directly or indirectly affect the capital market," Hojatollah Seyedi stated.

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

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

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

"Now, in addition to great capital and capabilities of the companies, we have powerful workforces, investors and competent managers in the market, so there is no reason why our capital market should not develop and reach at least 300 to 400 billion dollars of gross domestic product," he added.

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

Pezeshkian emphasizes prioritizing maritime-oriented economy in development plans

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian referred to the government's prioritization of the maritime-oriented economy and the importance of the prosperity of this sector on the country's growth, development and prosperity, and stated that the government is determined to implement maritime-oriented development plans.

He made the remarks in the third meeting of review and analysis of maritime-oriented development plans with emphasis on Makran coastal area, which was held on Sunday morning under his chairmanship.

During the meeting, reports of various organizations on the process of advancing the goals set in the previous meetings were presented, and the structure, position and activities of the organization in charge of the development of Makran beaches were discussed.

Pointing out that the maritime-oriented economy plays an essential role in the development of countries that have access to seas, the president said: "One of our main priorities in the 14th government is the need to pursue and develop the maritime-oriented economy, for prosperity and economic development in the country."

He further emphasized: "We should consider the concerns of the Leader in the national outlook document, general policies and



development plans", adding: "It is necessary to design our development plans with a broad but realistic view so that we can be at the top in the region in terms of economy and technology."

Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), in a recent report, has underlined the importance of the country's maritime capacities and the role that the sector can play in developing the country's economy.

According to the report, maritime sector in Iran has very high capacity in various fields including trade, ports and shipping due to the country's strategic location, long coastal strip in the north and south and access to open waters, and can bring economic prosperity to the country.

"About a third of the country's borders are water borders, so we cannot ignore port and shipping

activities because for a country that has long water borders and access to open waters, the prosperity of shipping and maritime trade is essential. Therefore, the government should pay full attention to the strengths and weaknesses of this sector and make the best use of the current capacities with proper planning," the report read.

Increasing the share of the maritime sector in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) under the framework of the newly proposed maritime-oriented policy should be one of the most important concerns of the government, which can be achieved with proper planning, the PMO said.

The share of the sea in the gross domestic product in advanced coastal countries such as the European Union is 50 percent, but the figure is not significant in Iran despite having more than

5,800 kilometers of coastal strip, and this is despite the fact that there are huge capacities for the transit of goods from Central Asian countries.

In late September, Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said the 14th government is determined to formulate and implement additional and more comprehensive plans and programs in the field of maritime-oriented development.

Aref said that the government has prepared the initial draft of the country's maritime-oriented development plan.

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

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

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$1.2b to Pakistan in 7 months

TEHRAN- Iran has exported non-oil commodities valued at \$1.2 billion to Pakistan 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 Pakistan was the sixth top export destination of the Iranian non-oil goods in the mentioned seven-month period.

On November 5, Iran's Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak said a free trade agreement with Pakistan has been finalized and the list of commodity items subject to the agreement will be prepared and released in two months.

In a meeting between the Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh and Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu in Tehran in late June, the officials stressed the need for Iran and Pakistan to exercise barter trade and free trade to materialize a \$10 billion trade target.

During a meeting between Atabak and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan in mid-October, the two sides discussed trade ties between the two countries, with both agreeing that economic exchanges should be promoted further.

The two ministers met in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on the sidelines of the 23rd meeting

of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Atabak told IRNA that he and the Pakistani minister discussed trade ties between the two countries and agreed to hold further talks in order to explore ways to remove obstacles to the promotion of bilateral trade.

"Considering the historical and cultural commonalities of the two countries, we should take advantage of the strong potentials to expand trade exchanges between Iran and Pakistan," the minister stated.

He also said that he invited Kamal Khan to visit the Islamic Republic.

According to the official, the necessary measures will be taken to prepare an agreement to be signed between the two countries during the visit of the Pakistani minister to Iran.

He stated that the current amount of trade exchanges between the two countries is not acceptable from the point of view of both Iran and Pakistan, and considering the strong relations and common links of the two countries, the two sides are confident that they will be able to increase the volume of trade exchanges several times.

The Pakistani minister spoke with IRNA as well. He described his talks with the Iranian minister as constructive, and said that visiting Iran is on agenda of his plans.



"We had good talks with my Iranian counterpart and reached constructive agreements, and we believe that there are many remaining tasks that the two countries are determined to pursue," he said.

In mid-July, the 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee of Iran and Pakistan opened in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan, where the two sides pursue the increase of bilateral trade to \$10 billion per annum.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, who attends the meeting online, announced that Iranian and Pakistani delegations are scheduled to discuss the mechanism to increase mutual trade.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's consul general in Quetta, Pakistan's consul general in Zahedan, and other senior officials of Sistan-Baluchestan province took part in the meeting.

Iran imports commodities worth \$1.755b from China in a month

TEHRAN – Iran imported commodities valued at \$1.755 billion from China in the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr (September 22-October 21), according to the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade.

Ruhollah Latifi said that China was the second source of import for Iran in the mentioned month.

The official also announced that China imported non-oil goods worth \$1.434 billion from Iran in the seventh month of the present year, adding that China was the second export destination of Iranian products in that month.

As previously announced by the former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of non-oil trade between Iran and China stood at \$18.8 billion in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21).

Mohammad Rezvanifar said that Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$8.6 billion to China in the seven-month period, adding that China was the top export destination of Iran in that time span.

The official also announced that Iran has imported goods worth \$10.2 billion from China in the first seven months of this year.

China was the second top source of import for Iran in the mentioned time span, he added.

In a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Cong Peiwu on October 15, Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati emphasized the importance of implementing the memorandums of understanding (MOUs) signed between Iran and China.

In the meeting, held at the place of the ministry, the Iranian minister followed up on the negotiations that took place during the BRICS Economic Ministers' Meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, stressing

the importance of implementing the MOUs between the two countries.

He also considered the two countries' Joint Economic Committee as a suitable platform for negotiations on economic, trade, and investment cooperation, and welcomed the holding of the 19th Joint Economic Committee in Tehran.

Cong Peiwu, for his part, stated that Beijing aims to expedite the implementation of the MOUs and enhance practical cooperation to deepen relations between the two countries.

Both sides also highlighted the commitment of their statesmen to comprehensive development, expressing hope that consultations between senior officials of Iran and China will continue to expand bilateral relations.

In late September, Hemmati had also met and held talks with Chinese Minister of Finance Lan Fo'an, during which the two sides emphasized the implementation of the two countries' long-term strategic

partnership plan.

Hemmati met with Fo'an on the sidelines of the 9th ministerial meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) members in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

In addition to the issues related to the cooperation of the two countries in AIIB, the two sides discussed the most important issues related to bilateral relations, especially the follow-up of the results of previous agreements.

Holding the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting in the new future was another topic discussed by the two officials.

In this meeting, the ministers of the two countries emphasized that Iran and China have put a more serious and deeper implementation of the comprehensive long-term strategic plan of the two countries on their agenda and will continue this path in the official interactions of the two countries until concrete practical achievements are reached.

TEHRAN- Germany is among certain Western countries that stands accused of aiding and abetting the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza.

The German government has launched heavy-handed crackdowns on pro-Palestine protests in the country since the start of the Gaza onslaught in October last year.

On Saturday, more than 1,000 protesters gathered in Berlin to express solidarity with Palestinians and denounce Israel's atrocities in Gaza and Lebanon.

The demonstrators called on the German government to stop sending weapons to Israel.

They carried banners with slogans such as "Stop the Genocide in Gaza" and "Stop Arming Israel".

But police attacked the protesters and made arrests.

Over the course of the Gaza war, German police have clashed with anti-war protesters under the pretext of combatting anti-Semitism.

However, protesters including Jews, have dismissed the allega-



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German police confront pro-Palestine supporters in Berlin on October 7, 2024.

tion as baseless.

Nearly a week ago, hundreds of German intellectuals accused their country of complicity in Israeli crimes in Gaza.

"For over one year, the German government has been actively participating in the killing and dehumanization of Palestinians by providing political, financial,

military, and legal support to Israel. Germany's complicity in Israel's atrocities must stop," the intellectuals said in a letter to their government, according to Anadolu.

"We, the undersigned, demand the German government to stand unwaveringly on the side of justice and international law; to exert pressure on Israel

to immediately end the killing, maiming, and destruction of Palestinian life," they stated.

The signatories said Germany as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide and to the Rome Statute, has "a historical, ethical, legal, and political obligation not to commit, aid, and abet the atrocity crimes that these treaties proscribe."

Last year, the German government approved more than \$350 million worth of military equipment and weapons to Israel.

The Health Ministry in Gaza reported on Sunday that the death toll from Israel's war on the enclave has reached 43,846.

Israeli strikes on Lebanon have also claimed the lives of about 3,500 people since October last year.

Nonetheless, the German government has disregarded appeals to cease its support for Israel, even as the civilian death toll from the regime's assaults continues to escalate.

Flares and fallout: Israeli officials lock horns over military failures

From page 1 ▶ Netanyahu, known as Bibi, remains under fire for failing to prevent the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, a surprise military attack that was carried out by Hamas on October 7, 2023. The operation humiliated Israel and shattered the image of the regime's invincibility. More than 1,100 people were killed in the attack that was conducted in southern Israel and about 250 others were taken captive. Hamas freed more than 100 captives following a swap deal in November last year.

Netanyahu has faced growing pressure for failing to secure the release of the remaining captives, although a significant number of them is believed to have died in Israeli strikes on Gaza.

Israel launched a war of genocide on Gaza following the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation. The Israeli army has so far killed nearly 44,000 Palestinians in Gaza but it has failed to eliminate Hamas, which is the regime's main goal.

Netanyahu has turned a blind eye to huge domestic protests calling for an end to the war in a bid to pave the way for the release of the captives.

Prior to the Hamas attack, Netanyahu also faced significant pressure from demonstrators demanding his resignation due to the corruption charges against him and proposed judicial reforms.

Justice Minister Yariv Levin, the main supporter of Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plan, said the firing of the flares was the lat-



An Israeli cabinet minister says Benjamin Netanyahu's opponents are attempting to assassinate or plot a coup against him.

est "link in a chain of violent and anarchic actions, the purpose of which is to bring about the assassination of the prime minister and the overthrow of the elected government by means of a violent coup."

The minister called for resuming the contentious judicial overhaul program.

Benny Gantz, a former general and leader of Israel's National Unity party who resigned from Israel's war cabinet in June amid deep rifts with Netanyahu, lashed out at Levin.

He warned on X, formerly known as Twitter, that the last time the judicial reform process was attempted it "brought disaster to the State of Israel."

"The coup d'état led by Yariv Levin brought disaster to the State of Israel, tore us apart from the inside and was a large part of how we reached October 7."

Gantz has indeed recognized that the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation inflicted significant damage on Israel.

Opposition Leader Yair Lapid also acknowledged that Hamas' October attack has shaken the foundations of the Israeli apartheid regime.

Lapid said Levin "should go home because of his huge part in the failure of October 7 and not talk about legal reform."

The opposition leader added, "He needs to go home along with this whole irresponsible government that brought upon us the greatest disaster in the history of the State of Israel. We will not allow him to turn the State of Israel into a non-democratic state."

Lapid is among Israelis who has already called on Netanyahu to resign over his failed military strategies in the war on Gaza.

For now, the war of words between Israeli officials shows that huge domestic political cracks are developing in the wake of the regime's setbacks on the Gaza battlefield.

The Netanyahu cabinet accuses the premier's opponents of trying to assassinate or overthrow him. This is while Bibi's opponents continue to blame him for the October 7 fiasco.

Hezbollah sends Haifa into the dark

From page 1 ▶ Hezbollah has retaliated to the latest Israeli aggression by bombarding Haifa with missiles and rockets overnight on Saturday and Sunday.

The Lebanese resistance announced that it attacked a group of military bases in Haifa and the Carmel region.

These included:

1- Haifa Technical Base (affiliated with the Israeli Air Force, housing a training college for preparing Air Force technicians), located 35 kilometers east of Haifa.

2- Haifa Naval Base (affiliated with the Israeli Navy, housing a fleet of missile boats and submarines), located 35 kilometers north of Haifa.

3- Stella Maris Base (a strategic base for maritime surveillance and control along the northern coast-line), located 35 kilometers north-west of Haifa.

4- Tirat Carmel Base (housing the regiment and battalion of the northern region's transport and a logistical naval base), located 40 kilometers south of Haifa.

5- For the first time, Neshur Base (a gas station affiliated with the "Israeli" military), located 40 kilometers southeast of Haifa.

Footage shows widespread dev-

astation in the industrial Israeli hub. The Israeli military reported a number of casualties.

The Hezbollah attacks also led to a power outage in the city. Verified videos circulating on social media show several areas of Haifa in the dark without electricity.

Israeli media reported a massive missile strike launched from southern Lebanon towards Haifa and its surroundings making direct impact with air raid sirens blaring non-stop.

On Sunday, Hezbollah waged more operations "in support of the steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, backing their valiant and honorable resistance, and in defense of Lebanon and its people."

These included: "Operations targeting Israeli attempts to advance along the Lebanese-Palestinian borders, intercepting enemy drones and warplanes, and striking Israeli military sites, bases, deployments, and settlements in northern and deep occupied Palestine."

Hezbollah struck the Israeli enemy gatherings with rockets on the outskirts of Khiam as the occupation forces (IOF) failed once again in their attempts to advance.

Footage purportedly showed smoke rising from vehicles belonging to the Israeli occupation forces igniting on fire during clashes in Wati al-Khiam, east of the town of Khiam in southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah announced an Israeli army gathering was attacked on the southern outskirts of Khiam town with a rocket barrage.

There Israeli Merkava tanks were spotted, being forced to withdraw from the outskirts of Khiam at high speed.

The IOF reportedly reached its deepest point in Lebanon since the attempted ground invasion in late September before pulling back after fierce battles with Hezbollah fighters.

Troops temporarily took control of a strategic hill in the southern Lebanese village of Chamaa, five kilometers from the border, the state-run National News Agency said.

The agency noted the IOF was later pushed back from the position.

Israeli forces blew up the Shrine of Shimon the Prophet in Chamaa, as well as several homes before they withdrew, the news report said.

Hezbollah announced its fight-

ers targeted an Israeli Merkava tank on the eastern outskirts of Chamaa with a guided missile, causing it to burn and resulting in casualties among its crew.

Hebrew media reported casualties on Sunday among Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.

According to military expert Elijah Magnier, "Israel's invading forces will break through the first line of attack and are expected to reach the first line of defense. This is normal for a powerful army, as it is normal for the resistance to harass, exhaust, and engage the enemy's advance and to meet these forces in their static positions."

The Israeli army said one of its troops fighting as part of the 13th battalion was killed in southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the resistance targeted the "Krayot area north of the occupied city of Haifa with a rocket barrage" on Sunday.

Hezbollah also attacked the Ma'aleh Golan Barracks (the headquarters of the Hermon Brigade 810) with a rocket barrage.

Despite the heavy Israeli bombardment of the Lebanese border region in the south, Hezbollah is launching more long-range missiles from above and underground.

Israeli strike kills Hezbollah media chief



TEHRAN- Israel's killing machine operates relentlessly in Lebanon as more civilians and officials fall victim to the regime's airstrikes.

An Israeli strike targeting a building in central Beirut on Sunday killed Hezbollah media chief Mohammad Afif, that's according to officials from the resistance movement and several media outlets.

The officials said three other people were injured in the strike in the densely populated Ras al-Nabaa district. They noted that the building was targeted without warning.

Afif managed Hezbollah's Al-Manar television station for several years before taking over as the top media relations officer for the resistance movement.

He hosted several press conferences amid the rubble in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital devastated by Israel's massive bombing campaign that began in September this year.

Israel has killed about 3,500 people in Lebanon since October last year.

Will Hochstein's tour of Lebanon stop the aggression?

From page 1 ▶ Israel's Channel 12 has in parallel revealed that the army decided not to enter into a war of attrition that would last for months, saying: "While negotiations are taking place – with a US mediation – the Israeli army is launching waves of attacks every two hours on Lebanon."

Prior to Hochstein's arrival, consultations were continuing between Nabih Berri, Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, Najib Mikati, the caretaker Prime Minister, and the leadership of Hezbollah regarding the proposal delivered by Lisa Johnson, the US Ambassador to Beirut. The draft proposal compromises Lebanon's sovereignty.

Berri has described the atmosphere of the negotiations as "positive" and "serious", though there are still some points on which they have not yet agreed upon. He has stated: "We have been informed that Israel wants to stop the war."

While the Israeli Broadcasting Corporation has also predicted significant progress regarding the ceasefire talks in Lebanon next week, Mikati refrained from conveying any positive messages before Hochstein's visit for fear of repeating what happened after his last visit.

Lebanon's chief concerns

The Lebanese side is wary of the proposed tripartite committee framework that includes Lebanon and "Israel" under the chairmanship of UNIFIL to supervise the implementation of UN Resolution 1701, as it does not welcome the inclusion of additional representatives except the United States and

France.

It rejects the inclusion of Germany and Britain, knowing that the latter had previously proposed the establishment of watchtowers along the border with Lebanon, provided that the surveillance cameras are directed at Lebanese territory only.

Channel 12 has also revealed that one of the basic provisions of the US proposal is that the Lebanese army will be the "only legitimate entity" that can operate in South Lebanon, and will receive assistance to control the border crossings. It added that it was proposed to increase the number of UNIFIL forces before the Israeli invaders left the Lebanese areas in which they would operate.

For its part, the Lebanese side also insists that the Lebanese army alone be granted the authority to monitor the ground with the assistance of UNIFIL, not the other way around. It further rejects granting UNIFIL free rein to raid and search within Lebanese territory based on Israeli allegations.

The Lebanese side also rejects

facilitating the enemy's acquisition of data on Lebanese citizens.

Besides, the Lebanese side wonders whether the US proposal will grant the committee the authority to monitor violations by "Israel" and Hezbollah, and to select its executive tools to curb them. It is worth noting that the American side had acknowledged the failure of this mechanism to prevent the violations of resolution 1701.

'Blame yourself': Trump's election hasn't dampened pro-Palestine activists' anger at Democrats

For Democratic pro-Palestinian activists, Donald Trump's reelection delivered a bitter vindication.

Led by the Uncommitted National Movement, they spent months pushing and pleading with the Biden administration to scale back its support for Israel's war in Gaza. Their warning had been consistent and direct: Not only did Democrats risk collapsing support among Arab American and Muslim voters in Michigan, but the conflict – and the continuous flow of military aid to the Israeli government – could depress enthusiasm among the coalition of young, mostly progressive-mind-

ed voters who proved key to Joe Biden's victory in 2020.

"We told them that the impact of Gaza was going to be bigger than just the Arab community. It's why the turnout was lower in college areas and among young Black voters," said James Zogby, co-founder of the Arab American Institute and a Democratic National Committee member for more than 30 years. "From the polling we've been doing over the last year, we saw it had an impact. And it certainly had an impact on my community."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Government spokesperson underlines handicrafts' role in national development



TEHRAN - Fateme Mohajerani, the spokesperson for the Iranian government, has emphasized the importance of handicrafts as a cornerstone of national development during her visit to the 37th National Handicraft Exhibition in Tehran on Saturday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Mohajerani expressed admiration for the creativity and dedication displayed by artisans. "Seeing the beauty of this exhibition truly fills one with awe," she said, adding that handicrafts are a vital link between the nation's identity and the traditional arts of each region.

Mohajerani praised the innovation evident in this year's exhibition and highlighted the inclusion of value-chain approaches in the

showcased handicrafts. "It is encouraging to see such initiatives being prioritized," she remarked.

She also underlined the economic and cultural significance of Persian handicrafts, calling them a key focus for the government's export strategy. "Handicrafts not only generate revenue and foreign exchange but also serve as ambassadors of our cultural and historical identity," Mohajerani stated.

"The government is seriously committed to this sector, and we hope the livelihoods of artisans will flourish."

Addressing the challenges faced by artisans, Mohajerani reassured them of the government's support. "Handicrafts are incredibly valuable and inherently beautiful. The government is fully prepared to assist and support artisans, and we are dedicated to meeting their rightful expectations," she noted.

The four-day 37th National Handicraft Exhibition came to an end on Saturday evening. It showcased a diverse range of traditional crafts from across Iran, celebrating the nation's rich cultural heritage and the skill of its artisans.

Tourist tax considered for those staying in London

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan has said he is "happy to look into" the possibility of a tourist tax in London's hotels.

It follows cross-party calls earlier this week for a small charge on visitors to the capital.

The mayor said his team would be examining the evidence from Manchester, where similar charges have been introduced, as well as other European cities.

UKHospitality, a trade body representing the sector, said additional taxes would be "extremely damaging".

Existing levies vary depending on the city and quality of accommodation. Visitors to Barcelona, staying in a four-star hotel for example, pay a charge of €4.95 per night as part of their bill, and in Paris would pay a levy of €8.13 per night.

Venice will go a step further next year by introducing a €5 charge for day-trippers to the city - part of their effort to combat cruise tourism.

Asked whether he would support a tourist tax in London, Mr Khan said: "I'm happy to look into where it's worked, what the issues are in relation to that particular policy... we'll be looking at what cities are doing not just across Europe, but in the UK as well."

In England, no local authority has the power to directly impose a straightforward tourist tax, though Manchester City Council, among others, has introduced a form of tourism levy via a legal workaround.

In Manchester, it is known as the City Visitor Charge and participating hotels - which are those with a rateable value of £75,000 or more - are encouraged to itemise it on guests' bills. A report from the BBC in April 2024 stated that the levy had raised £2.8m for the city in its first year.

Pressed on whether he liked the idea of a London tourist tax in principle, Mr Khan said: "Let's wait and see what the evidence is. I'm somebody who believes in following the evidence."

'No brainer'

The idea was warmly discussed on Monday by local politicians at the Centre for London think tank's annual conference.

Chris Hayward, the City of London's policy chairman, told the conference it was something he and his colleagues were already "looking at" for the Square Mile.

"I like the principle. I think it's a good idea, but I think how you operate it is really important."

He stressed the need to ensure "it doesn't have the opposite effect and drive those tourists and those people you want to stay in your hotels away".

Claire Holland, chair of London Councils - the capital's local government association - said boroughs were "all for exploring with the government, and with the mayor, how there can be more fiscal devolution across London, including looking at how a tourism levy would work".

Kim Taylor-Smith, the Conservative deputy leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council, said a tourist tax was a "no brainer" and he was "absolutely in favour".

Caroline Russell, a Green member of the London Assembly, said the charge could be used to help fund more public toilets across the city.

Her Liberal Democrat colleague, assembly member Hina Bokhari, said she was also "very supportive" of the levy, and that she wanted to see the revenue raised to go towards London's struggling nightlife sector.

Kate Nicholls, chief executive of UKHospitality, said: "London remains one of the biggest visitor destinations in the world, but the number of inbound visitors to the capital hasn't yet returned to pre-pandemic levels."

She said the UK "ranks poorly" in the global competition for tourists a high VAT rate, adding: "The introduction of a tourist tax would only damage that further."

(Source: BBC)

Did ancient Greeks reach America long before Columbus?

The suggestion that ancient Greeks reached America before Columbus may seem far-fetched but certain researchers think otherwise.

The idea is based entirely on a new examination of a dialogue written by the Greek historian Plutarch, who lived from 46 to 119 CE.

Dr. Ioannis Liritzis, a professor of archaeonomy (the physics of archaeology) at the University of the Aegean studied Plutarch's text and came up with a theory that ancient Greeks did indeed reach America.

Plutarch's text, "On the Face Which Appears in the Orb of the Moon," is commonly known as "De Facie." In the dialogue, Lambrias asks Sylla

the Carthaginian to retell a story he had heard from the servants of the temple of Cronus in Carthage.

Sylla tells Lambrias about a traveler who visited the temple after returning from a long journey to a distant, vast continent.

Dr. Liritzis bases his theory on scientific data in a paper co-written with astronomer Panagiotis Preka-Papadema, philosopher Konstantinos Kalachanis, meteorologist Chris Tzanis, and information technology consultant Panagiotis Antonopoulos.

According to the traveler in De Facie, new travelers would make the journey to the great

Kamal-ol-Molk mausoleum: a masterpiece of Persian art and architecture

TEHRAN - Nestled in the serene garden in the ancient city of Neyshabur, the Kamal-ol-Molk mausoleum stands as a tribute to one of Iran's most celebrated contemporary artists, Mohammad Ghaffari, known as Kamal-ol-Molk (1224-1319).

The revered painter, often considered the father of modern Iranian painting, rests beside the tomb of Abu Hamid bin Abu Bakr Ibrahim (c.1145 - c. 1221), better known by his pen-names Farid ud-Din and Attar of Nishapur, the famed poet and mystic, creating a site rich in cultural and historical significance.

Designed by renowned the late Iranian architect Houshang Seyhoun, the mausoleum blends traditional and modern architectural elements. Geometry plays a central role in the design, reflecting its deep connection to Iran's architectural heritage. The structure is based on two squares, one half the size of the other, with semi-circular arches adorning all sides.

The interplay of intersecting arcs and arches creates intricate geometric patterns. These culminate in cone-shaped decorations, adorned with exquisite mosaic tiles in cobalt blue, white, and other vibrant hues.

The decorations, carefully applied to the curved surfaces, grow smaller as they converge toward the symmetry line, adding to the mausoleum's visual harmony.

The materials used—concrete, stone, and tile—were carefully selected to complement the adjacent Attar Mausoleum. The gravestone of Kamal-ol-Molk is a single piece of polished granite, featuring a relief of the artist sculpted by his pupils, a testament to his enduring influence on Iranian art.

The mausoleum is not only an architectural marvel but also a destination for art and history



enthusiasts. Its harmonious design, vibrant decorative elements, and cultural significance make it a must-visit site for anyone exploring the rich heritage of Neyshabur in northeast Iran.

Kamal-ol-Molk created some of his most significant works during the years he stayed at Nasereddin Shah Qajar's court. The paintings he created in this period, which lasted up until the assassination of Nasereddin Shah, were dominantly portraits of important people, landscapes, paintings of royal camps and hunting grounds, and various parts of royal palaces.

The city and its surroundings were excavated in 1935 by experts from the Middle Eastern art department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. At its height between the 9th and 13th centuries, Neyshabur had a population of around 100,000 to 200,000 people and a development covering an area of around six square miles.

FIFA president highlights football field in northern Iranian village

From Page 1 ▶ Infantino's acknowledgment shines a light on popular football in Iran, where passion for the sport runs deep, even in remote areas. His post has drawn widespread attention to the attractiveness of football as a game, reaching beyond stadiums and leagues to celebrate its essence in the lives of everyday people.

Nestled in the lush green landscapes of Gilan province, Lahijan, often called the "Bride of Iran's Cities," is a captivating travel destination in northern Iran. Known for its breathtaking natural beauty, historical charm, and rich culture, Lahijan draws visitors year-round.

One of Lahijan's iconic attractions is Sheytan Kuh (Devil's Mountain), a verdant hill offering panoramic views of the city. At its foot lies a tranquil artificial lake and a cascading wa-

terfall, perfect for a leisurely stroll or a picnic. Nearby, the Lahijan Tea Museum showcases the region's vital role as the cradle of Iran's tea industry, where visitors can learn about the history and enjoy a cup of freshly brewed tea.

The city's old bazaar is a vibrant hub filled with local crafts, traditional snacks, and the famous Lahijan cookies, a must-try treat. For nature enthusiasts, the surrounding tea plantations and the Deylaman Plateau offer serene escapes into Gilan's lush countryside.

Located just 45 kilometers from Rasht, the provincial capital, Lahijan combines easy access with a distinct cultural identity, making it a top destination for travelers seeking a mix of history, natural beauty, and authentic Iranian hospitality.

Flights between Sanandaj, Kurdistan Region of Iraq proposed to strengthen tourism



TEHRAN - Moslem Shojaei, the director of marketing and foreign tourism development at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, has announced promising outcomes from Iran's recent tourism roadshow held in Sulaymaniyah, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Among the highlights was a proposal to launch direct flights between the Iraqi semi-autonomous region and Sanandaj, the capital of Iran's Kordestan province.

Shojaei on Sunday emphasized the willingness of Iraqi Kurdish officials to establish the air service,

which could eventually connect passengers to Iran's southern tourist hub of Kish Island. The aim is to enhance access to Iran's recreational and medical tourism offerings, Shajaei said.

"The roadshow facilitated significant collaboration between the public and private sectors, focusing on health tourism and leisure travel.

This included discussions about easing travel for visitors from the Kurdistan Region to key destinations in Iran," Shojaei explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official highlighted the Kurdistan Region of Iraq as a vital yet

underutilized market for Iranian tourism. Cultural and verbal ties, coupled with the shared border, make the region a natural partner for fostering stronger tourism exchanges.

"Unlike other markets, this region is less affected by anti-Iran sentiments and offers a six-million-strong population eager for diverse travel opportunities," he added.

Shojaei also pointed out logistical issues, such as streamlining border crossings and reducing wait times for administrative procedures, as critical areas for improvement to boost tourist flow.

The event showcased attractions from Iran's western provinces of Kermanshah, Kordestan, and Hamedan, as well as other regions, including Isfahan and Tehran.

Shojaei noted that these efforts underscore Iran's commitment to fostering mutual tourism growth and cultural exchange with its

western neighbor.

The roadshow, which came to an end on Friday, drew participation from 50 Iranian travel agencies, hospitals, and tourism facilitators, alongside over 50 agencies and representatives from the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

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

According to available data compiled by the tourism ministry, more than six million foreign tourists arrived by air, road, and sea in the country during the past Iranian calendar year, which came to an end on March 19.

The figure marks a substantial year-on-year increase compared to a year earlier (1401) in which approximately 4.23 million tourists visited the Islamic Republic.



Aerial view of a football field in a northern Iranian village, surrounded by lush greenery and mountains in the background.

The researchers postulated that preparations for the journey described by Sylla would have started that year.

The travelers would have arrived in North America in 57 CE.

The ancient Greeks stayed in America for a year, and sailed home in the fall of 58 CE, when Saturn moved out of Taurus.

This was the most recent voyage to the time of Plutarch's writing.

According to the text, such journeys must have taken place every thirty years over a span of several centuries, the Greek team assumes.

(Source: Greek Reporter)

'Antimicrobial resistance, a silent pandemic'

TEHRAN –Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the biggest challenges in the health sector, known as a silent pandemic, that is capable of affecting the whole world in the not-too-distant future, the head of the health ministry's division of communicable disease control has said.

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death.

Eastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean regions are the highest consumers of antibiotics.

However, AMR makes antibiotics ineffective, IRNA quoted Qobad Moradi, as saying.

The official made the remarks on Saturday in a webinar held on the occasion of the national antimicrobial resistance week.

Quoting the World Health Organization (WHO) Moradi said that AMR is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity.

It is projected that by 2050, the number of deaths caused by AMR rise to 10 million unless substantial measures are taken.

The official went on to elaborate on some of challenges caused by AMR.

Comparing the total annual deaths caused by HIV, malaria, and AMR, the official said, "in 2019, the number of deaths caused by AMR was far more than those by HIV and Malaria, or other diseases.



AMR forced 28 million people into poverty in 2020.

Out of about 65 effective antibiotics that were distributed from 1980 and 2009, 26 (about 43 percent) of them became ineffective, while this figure for other medicines was about 13 percent.

Since it takes 10 to 15 years and over one billion dollars to develop new antibiotics, producing novel antibiotics is slow and costly.

The official further noted that giving antibiotics to animals can spread resistance in the environment and pollute it, as well.

The return of these resistant bacteria to humans (through the food cycle) would result in illnesses that are hard or even impossible to treat.

One health approach is part of general efforts to address AMR challenges. It highlights that the health of humans, animals, and the environment are closely connected. To succeed in combating AMR,

programs.

Other recommended strategies included preventing infection transmission in society and in healthcare settings, strengthening surveillance systems in monitoring the level of microbial resistance and the amount of antimicrobial drug consumption, optimizing the use of antimicrobial drugs and supporting research.

AMR, global health threat

A global action plan to tackle the growing problem of resistance to antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines was endorsed at the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2015.

It aims to galvanize global efforts to address the growing threat of AMR.

AMR poses a threat to global health, food security, and achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

AMR puts a strain on health systems by diminishing the effectiveness of treatments, leading to prolonged illnesses and increased healthcare costs.

According to WHO, World leaders agreed on the first global targets to control the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) crisis at the second High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance of the United Nations General Assembly.

Countries committed to reducing the number of deaths globally associated with bacterial AMR by 10% by 2030 against the 2019 baseline of 4.95 million deaths.

the health of people, animals and the environment must be simultaneously optimized.

In 215, Iran was the 17th country that developed an action plan to combat AMR.

The plan focuses on five basic strategies including raising public awareness, monitoring AMR consciously, reducing infections, promoting rational use of antibiotics, and providing sustainable financial resources.

National AMR week

The national antimicrobial resistance week was observed in the country from November 18 to 24 to highlight avoiding the irrational prescription of antibiotics.

The week-long campaign aimed to raise awareness among public and health workers about AMR and encourage behavior change towards the cautious use of antimicrobials and observe proper hygiene practices.

To do so, the health ministry used effective communication, education, and training

Solduz wetland hosting white-fronted geese

TEHRAN –The first flock of lesser white-front geese has been spotted in Solduz wetland in Naqadeh county, northwestern West Azarbaijan province.

A total of 19 birds have been seen in the wetland, Borna reported.

The birds are resting and refueling over their long journey from the northern to the southern regions.

They use swamps, freshwater lakes, and wetland habitats with no trees or agricultural, and grasslands to spend the winter. The birds feed on roots, stems, and seeds of the plants and also eat insects, and they fly in a V-formation.

White-fronted geese are known to be endangered; however, an international conservation plan has been developed to recognize and remove the threats to help increase their population.

Currently, in addition to this bird, some native species such as sandpipers, stilt, gull, teal birds, fulica, herons, and all species of ducks can be seen in the wetland.

The wetland is also home to mammals such as boars, wolves, and jackals.

Iran important stopover for migratory birds

Iran is the most important country in West Asia in terms of housing migratory birds in winter as around two million birds fly each year to spend winter in the country's wetlands, according to an official with the Department of Environment (DOE).

Encompassing numerous wetlands, reservoirs, and diverse water bodies, Iran welcomes millions of migratory birds every year.

The country has also emerged as the most important stopover for migratory birds in their flight route from Siberia to the Nile as sixteen percent of them select to spend the winter in the country, ISNA quoted Hassan Akbari as saying.

He made the remarks on the occasion of World Migratory Bird Day which is celebrated on May 11 to raise awareness about the importance of migratory birds and the need to protect them.

A diverse array of migratory birds fly to the country, with more than 160 species of aqua and waterside birds identified in Iran which is a significant number.



Despite limited water resources in the domestic habitats of the country, the study of the migratory bird population trend shows that the abundance and diversity of the birds that enter the country have not decreased. The majority of them have flown to the coastal areas of the Caspian and the Persian Gulf, though.

Iran hosts more than five percent of the world's migratory birds in 450 sites in winter, Akbari said.

"Every year some 30 to 40 million birds are counted all over the world and the related statistics are recorded in the International Waterfowl Census (IWC) database," he added.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Wildfire extinguished in northern forests

Wildfire, erupted in northern forests of Gilan province over the past 2 days, has been fully extinguished, commander of the protection unit of natural resources and watershed management organization of Gilan has stated.

According to the latest statistics, approximately 130 hectares of forests in Gilan province have been burnt in recent days, IRNA quoted Mohammad Qorbani as saying on Sunday.

He went on to say that 99 percent of fires in 13 cities of Gilan province have caused no serious damage to the trees.

In spite of the complete containment of fire, the protection unit is on full alert, he further noted.

آتش سوزی جنگل های گیلان مهار شد

فرمانده یگان حفاظت اداره کل منابع طبیعی و آبخیزداری گیلان گفت: آتش سوزی جنگل های استان گیلان پس از ۷۲ ساعت تلاش ، کاملاً مهار شد.

سرهنگ محمد قربانی لرد عصر روز شنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا اظهار داشت: بر اساس آخرین آمارها به صورت تقریبی حدود "۱۳۰ هکتار" از اراضی جنگلی استان گیلان در چند روز اخیر دچار آتش سوزی شدند.

وی افزود: ۹۹ درصد از آتش سوزی جنگل های ۱۳ شهرستان استان گیلان سطحی بوده و خسارت جدی به درختان وارد نشده است. او خاطر نشان کرد: به رغم مهار کامل آتش در جنگل های استان ، نیروهای یگان حفاظت اداره کل منابع طبیعی و آبخیزداری در آماده باش کامل هستند.

Iran taking part in 2nd Intl. Nanotechnology Olympiad

TEHRAN –The second International Nanotechnology Olympiad (INO) is being held from October 17-18 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with participants from Iran.

Selected teams from Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Malaysia are also participating in the competition.

Presented projects focus on global challenges facing nanotechnology applications in the development and production of new (alternative) energies including hydrogen fuel, wind energy, solar energy, nuclear energy, tidal energy, geothermal energy, and biomass energy.

The INO aims to provide a platform for young innovators and researchers to showcase their talents, collaborate with global experts, and address some of the world's most pressing environmental and technological challenges.

The competition does not involve written exams, but presentation of research projects by teams, IRNA quoted Afshin Ramzi, head of the Iranian team, as saying.

The Iranian team comprises Nima Dehqan and Hamid-Reza Qorbani, students of Isfahan University of Technology, along with two supervisors, will present their projects in new energy.

The promotion of scientific and technological interactions with related organizations in Malaysia is the most important peripheral goal of the event, Ramzi added.

Taiwan has announced readiness to host the third INO.

In 2018, the first INO was held from April 10 to 15 at Tehran's Pardis Technology Park and nine teams from four foreign countries competed at the event.

The participants presented their solutions for the global challenges related to water and wastewater treatment, agriculture, food and packaging, alternative energies, drugs and medication, information and communication through nanotechnology.

Nine teams competed at the event, which promote commercializing ideas in the field of nanotechnology, Head of Research Center for Science and Technology in Medicine (RCSTIM) Saeed Sarkar announced during the ceremony.

Spain, South Korea, Germany, Russia and some African and Latin American countries

were the new target markets for RCSTIM.

Iran a global leader in nano-tech

Iran's achievements in nanotechnology are noteworthy. The increase in scientific publications and sales of nano products proves Iran's rise as a global leader in this field.

One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the impressive fourth place worldwide.

According to StatNano, a leading nanotechnology website, Iran has made great strides in the field of nanotechnology being ranked fourth in terms of nanotechnology publication.

This ranking proves the country's remarkable scientific development.

The site considers the number of scientific articles to compare scientific progress in nanoscience, technology, and industry.

Nanotechnology is the manipulation of matter on a near-atomic scale to produce new structures, materials, and devices.

The technology promises scientific advancement in many sectors such as medicine, consumer products, energy, materials, and manufacturing. Nanotechnology refers to engineered structures, devices, and systems.

In the past two decades, the world has observed a steady increase in the number of industries producing nano-based products and the number of countries promoting nanotechnology.

More importantly, the ratio of nanotechnology to nominal GDP has increased significantly, suggesting that the contribution of nanotechnology to World GDP has increased.

Nanotechnology has also played a key role in the creation of new jobs, Press TV reported.

The nanotechnology sector is a prime example of success in Iran, an arena consisting of expert and program-oriented human resources with significant goals that shine like a jewel in the country's innovation and technology ecosystem.

With the support of talented academicians and knowledge-based companies, the nanotechnology sector has indigenized many technologies to solve the country's main challenges in various areas, including industry.

Iranian students top Eurasia FIRA Open competition 2024

TEHRAN –Students of Iran University of Science and Technology have managed to win first place in Eurasia Federation of International RoboSports Association (FIRA) Open competition 2024.

The competition was held from November 6 to 9 in Van, Turkey, bringing together 130 teams from eight countries.

The Iranian team comprised Alireza Abbasi, Mobina Lashgari, Alireza Mikaeli, and Shayan Ansarian. They ranked first in innovation and entrepreneurship, for designing 'infravision drones'.

FIRA focuses on three goals: to provide challenging and motivating benchmark problems for state-of-the-art research in intelligent robotics and to give senior students valuable skills and experiences that allow them to be productive and develop their careers in the new economy.

It also aims to introduce junior students to the fundamentals of STEAM topics (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math).

The FIRA RoboWorld Cup includes competitions in four leagues including FIRA Sports, FIRA AIR, FIRA Challenges, and FIRA Youth.

Recent achievements

Iran grabbed five gold medals and two special awards in the International Science and Invention Fair (ISIF) 2024, which was held in Indonesia from November 5 to 10.

The competition brought together 1,980 teams from 24 countries competing in eight fields including technical- engineering, chemistry and nanotechnology, biotechnology and environment, energy engineering, physics and

astronomy, artificial intelligence and technology, social sciences, education, and educational technologies, IRNA reported.

A total of 18 students from Iran attended the 47th WorldSkills Competition, winning 9 medals including a silver medal and medallions for excellence.

The competition was held from September 10 to 15 in Lyon, France. Some 1,500 competitors from more than 65 countries and regions around the world gathered in Lyon to compete in different skills.

Hasan Mohammadi and Hamid-Reza Hamidi won the silver medal, IRIB reported.

Iran grabbed a gold medal, two silver medals, and a bronze medal at the 36th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI), ranking 9th among 96 countries.

Hosted in Alexandria, Egypt, the event started on September 1 and concluded on September 8, IRNA reported.

Each participating country selected a team of up to four contestants to represent their nation.

The team competed in a two-day competition. Each contestant competed individually to maximize their score by solving three algorithmic problems within five hours.

Iranian students attended the event online and ranked ninth globally.

In a remarkable achievement, Iranian students won five gold medals, ranking first in the 17th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) which was held from August 17 to 27 in Vassouras, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Wealth converts a strange land into homeland and poverty turns a native place into a strange land.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:15 Dawn: 5:16 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:43 (tomorrow)

Andisheh cultural center to review “Thelma”



TEHRAN- “Thelma”, a 2024 comedy movie directed by American director Josh Margolin, will go on screen at the Andisheh Cultural Center in Tehran on Monday.

A review session will be held with the presence of the film critics Mojtaba Ardashiri and Mohsen Soleimani Fakher after the screening.

“Thelma” is an exploration of aging, independence, and the intricate bonds of family. At the age of 93, Thelma Post manages to live independently in Los Angeles, but she grapples with an uneasy sense of being patronized by her loving yet somewhat aimless grandson, Daniel ‘Danny’ Markowitz. Despite Danny’s good intentions, his protectiveness often makes Thelma feel as though she is losing her autonomy. The turning point comes when a scammer impersonates Danny, prompting Thelma to send \$10,000 in a panic, believing she is helping her grandson. When the scam is eventually uncovered, she finds herself confronting not only the immediate loss of money but also the disappointment and helplessness of her family, who are unable to assist in recovering the stolen funds.

Refusing to remain a victim of the scammer, Thelma takes matters into her own hands, determined to reclaim her hard-earned money. Her journey, however, is complicated by the reality that most of her old friends have either passed away or moved far from the area. In her search for support, she turns to Ben, a widower and a friend from her past who now lives in an assisted living facility. Their relationship has been strained due to the unspoken grief they both carry. Together, they embark on an adventure to navigate the complexities that arise

while trying to locate the scammer’s address. As they face the challenges of their quest, deep-seated insecurities surface, leading to a heated argument. Ben reveals his regrets surrounding his late wife’s injury, while Thelma struggles with her deep-rooted refusal to accept help and support.

Their journey reaches a critical juncture when they confront the scam operation hidden in the backroom of a dilapidated antique store. In a moment of unexpected bravery, Thelma threatens the scammer with a gun, obtained from an acquaintance, but quickly realizes she is out of her depth with the technology required to reclaim her funds. In a moment of vulnerability, she reaches out to Danny, who patiently guides her through the process over the phone. This experience becomes a transformative moment for Thelma, as she learns to appreciate the love and support of those around her. Ultimately, she manages to leave the scammer with only a fraction of what was stolen, but gains a powerful message about the value of family and connection.

The culmination of Thelma’s journey fosters renewed relationships—not only with Ben but also with her family. As they gather to watch Ben’s performance, Thelma and Danny share reflective moments that hint at her acceptance of her mortality and her hope for Danny’s future.

“Thelma” features an impressive cast, including June Squibb, Fred Hechinger, Richard Roundtree, Clark Gregg, Parker Posey, and Malcolm McDowell.

The film premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival and garnered generally positive reviews and achieved a worldwide gross of \$11 million.

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 98 percent of the 191 critic reviews are positive, with an average rating of 7.7 out of 10. The site’s consensus states: “A stellar showcase for the talented June Squibb, “Thelma” skillfully navigates serious issues without resorting to cheap laughs.” Meanwhile, Metacritic assigned the film a weighted average score of 77 out of 100, based on 42 reviews, indicating “generally favorable” feedback.

Cartoon of Day



Double Standards
Cartoonist: Simon Regis from Tanzania

Kiarostami’s “Traveler” on screen at Festival des 3 Continents

TEHRAN- The world-renowned Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami’s 1974 film “The Traveler” is on screen at the 46th edition of Festival des 3 Continents (Three Continents Film Festival), which is currently underway in Nantes, France.

The film is featured in the Young Audience Selection of the event, aimed at introducing children and young adults to the cinema of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

In “Traveler” we follow the journey of Qassem Julayi, a 12-year-old boy obsessed with football, living in the impoverished city of Malayer. Rather than focusing on his studies, Qassem spends his after-school hours playing in the alleys with friends. His illiterate mother constantly berates him for neglecting his schoolwork, but he has become adept at crafting excuses for his poor grades. The film opens with a comical scene where Qassem arrives late to school, claiming a toothache while hiding a football magazine he has purchased instead.

Determined to witness a crucial football match in Tehran, located 150 miles away, Qassem decides to make the journey on his own. However, he needs 10 toman for the bus fare. Resorting to theft, he pilfers five toman from his mother’s hidden stash, which she discovers and reports to the school principal. Instead of sympathy, the principal punishes Qassem for his misdeeds. Undeterred, Qassem enlists the help of his friend Akbar to raise money by selling small items. Their attempts prove



fruitless until Qassem concocts a scheme to take “portraits” of younger children with an empty camera, charging five rials for each session. Paying no heed to the futility of these portraits, they enthusiastically pose while Qassem clicks away, collecting meager funds.

After much effort, Qassem sells his team’s soccer ball, which is a significant group possession, to gather enough money for his bus fare. That evening, he counts down the minutes in his squalid bedroom before climbing down a drainpipe and racing through the dark streets to catch the bus.

Upon arriving in Tehran the next day, Qassem stands in line to purchase a ticket only to find that they have sold out just as it is his turn. In desperation, he buys a ticket from a scalper at a high

price. After entering the stadium with anticipation, he learns from a bystander that the game will not start for three hours. Eager to explore, he wanders the athletic complex, conversing with a laborer and even taking a nap in the shade. He is plagued by dreams of guilt and punishment; when he finally awakens, he discovers the stadium is empty and littered, revealing that he has missed the game altogether.

Abbas Kiarostami (1940–2016) was an Iranian film director, screenwriter, poet, photographer, and film producer. An active filmmaker from 1970, Kiarostami had been involved in the production of over 40 films, including shorts and documentaries. Kiarostami attained critical acclaim for directing “Close-Up” (1990), “The Wind Will Carry Us” (1999), and

“Taste of Cherry” (1997). In later works, “Certified Copy” (2010) and “Like Someone in Love” (2012), he filmed for the first time outside Iran, in Italy and Japan, respectively.

Kiarostami was part of a generation of filmmakers in the Iranian New Wave, a Persian cinema movement that started in the late 1960s and emphasized the use of poetic dialogue and allegorical storytelling dealing with political and philosophical issues.

Kiarostami is known for his use of Persian poetry in the dialogue, titles, and themes of his films. His films also contain a notable degree of ambiguity, an unusual mixture of simplicity and complexity, and often a mix of fictional and documentary elements. The concepts of change and continuity, in addition to the themes of life and death, play a major role in Kiarostami’s works.

Roudaki Hall to host “Johann Sebastian Bach Night”

will be performed.

Titled “Johann Sebastian Bach Night,” the concert will be conducted by Sahar Anzali and performed by a string ensemble and choir, Honaronline reported.

Farmehr Beyglou will serve as the concertmaster and Faraz Aghili will accompany the performance as the piano soloist.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a German composer and musician of the late

Baroque period. He is known for his prolific output across a variety of instruments and forms, including orchestral music, solo instrumental works, keyboard works, organ works, and choral works.

Since the 19th century Bach Revival, he has been generally regarded as one of the greatest composers in the history of Western music. He is celebrated as the creator of many masterpieces of church and instrumental music.

University of Illinois screens Iranian documentary “Foreboding”

TEHRAN-The Iranian documentary “Foreboding,” also known as “Molf-e Gand,” directed by Mahmoud Rahmani was screened at the University of Illinois in the U.S. on Saturday.

The event was sponsored by the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, ISNA reported.

“Molf-e Gand” is a 2008 documentary about a character

from southern Iran named Mohammad Ghadirzadeh, who, in his mid-forties, takes the director and the audience to the world of his seven-year childhood and the beginning of the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran.

With his beautiful power of expression, he turns his bitter sweet memories into eye-catching images which form and move before the eyes of the viewers.

The audience can sense

his struggle to overcome the insurmountable obstacle between authentic experience and its aesthetic reproduction.

In his office at his desk, Mohammad, a gifted storyteller, recounts his traumatic childhood memories of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War and reveals the eerie power of his foreboding.

Gestures and vocalisations conjure up the atmosphere of a childhood spent in the midst of a hail of bombs; a pencil takes the

place of an approaching missile.

The documentary is a 53-minute uninterrupted view and is considered the longest shot sequence in the history of Iranian documentary cinema.

This movie won the special prize of the jury of the Belgian Millennium Festival in Brussels and succeeded in participating in the main part of the 7th Nuremberg International Human Rights Festival.

55th International Film Festival of India picks Iranian film for main competition

TEHRAN-The Iranian drama film “Fear and Trembling” written and directed by Manijeh Hekmat and Faezeh Azizkhani will have its world premiere at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) running from November 20 to 28, in Goa, India.

The feature is among the 15 films competing for the prestigious Golden Peacock award at this year’s edition of the festival, ISNA reported.

The official selection of the main competition section features 12 international films and three Indian films, each chosen for their distinct perspectives, artistry, and powerful storytelling.

The line-up showcases the best of both global and Indian cinema, with each film offering a unique exploration of human values. A notable point about the selection is that nine films are directed by women.

“Fear & Trembling,” explores an older woman’s struggles with isolation. Manzar, a woman set in her rigid ways and beliefs, has been ostracized by her family and now ekes

out a lonely existence. One day, she suddenly receives bad news from her sister. Finding herself all alone in a changing world, and increasingly racked by fear and guilt, Manzar begins to pray for heavenly deliverance.

The cast includes Amaneh Agharezakashi, Ahmad Azizkhani, and Ghazal Ajdadi among others.

Manijeh Hekmat, 62, started her film career as a producer, and is now a prominent figure in Iranian cinema. Her films—including “Women’s Prison” (2002), “Three Women” (2007), and “Bandar Band” (2020) – have premiered at major international festivals such as Venice, Berlinale, and Toronto.

A cinema student, Faezeh Azizkhani participated in Abbas Kiarostami’s film workshops, and also benefited from his presence as the advisor for her debut feature film “For a Rainy Day” (2015).

Her second feature film, “The Locust” (2022), was an official selection in festivals such as Karlovy Vary, SXSW, and Edinburgh Film Festival.



The films in the upcoming International Film Festival of India will be judged by an esteemed jury who will award honors in multiple categories, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor (Male), Best Actor (Female), and the Special Jury Prize. The winning film will receive a cash prize of nearly \$50,000 and one of the festival’s highest accolades.

This year’s selections span a wide range of themes and genres, taking audiences on a journey into new realms, challenging perceptions, and elevating fresh voices in world cinema.