

Arghchi: Israeli Nukes Threaten Global Peace

Iran FM addresses the elephant in the room at UN Disarmament Conference



Leader praises "Tafsir Tasnim" as source of pride for seminaries

TEHRAN- The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei expressed concern over the lack of attention given to the topic of tafsir (Quranic exegesis) within religious seminaries, calling "Tafsir Tasnim" a source of pride for both Shia Muslims and the scholarly institutions.

He made the remarks on Monday, following a meeting with those involved in organizing the international conference for "Tafsir Tasnim," held on February 22, in Qom, Mehr reported.

He extended his gratitude to Ayatollah Javadi Amoli and the team of researchers behind this significant work, the report added.

During the meeting, the Leader lauded the esteemed figure of Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, a prominent Quran commentator and the author of "Tafsir Tasnim," acknowledging that the seminaries owe much to the scholar's dedication over more than four decades in researching, teaching, and writing this tafsir.

"While Ayatollah Javadi Amoli's endeavors in rational and transmitted sciences, as well as his profound works in jurisprudence, philosophy, and mysticism, are all significant and deserving of admiration, none can compare to his contributions in Quranic interpretation." ▶ Page 8

Senior Iranian commander vows retaliation against 'origins of aggression' amid renewed Israeli threats

TEHRAN - One of Iran's most senior military commanders issued a warning to the United States and the Israeli regime, vowing to strike the "origin of aggression" and their regional bases if Tehran's interests are threatened.

Major General Gholamali Rashid, Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, declared during a speech at the Zolfaghar military exercise in Konarak, Sistan and Baluchestan province, on Monday: "We warn the Zionist regime and the U.S. that any threat against Iran's national interests, enabled by America's full support for Israel, will be met with decisive action by our armed forces." ▶ Page 2

Iran, the US, and Tehran's options for deterrence and defense

By Najah Mohammad Ali

LONDON - The relationship between Iran and the United States is considered one of the most complex issues in international politics, and since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, it has been marked by continuous tensions and reciprocal escalation.

Despite scattered efforts to reduce tensions, Washington still perceives Tehran as a threat to its regional interests, while Iran views the policies of the U.S. and its allies as attempts to weaken its strategic position.

In this context, U.S. and Israeli regime pressures to prevent the peaceful development of Iran's nuclear program have increased, claiming that Iran's future capabilities represent a potential threat. On the other hand, the logic of deterrence is a key component in Iran's national security strategies, especially as major powers and regional competitors possess nuclear weapons. ▶ Page 2

Israeli assassinations of resistance leaders won't stop our fight against occupation, Hamas says

Hamas said that the crimes committed by Tel Aviv and the assassination of resistance leaders in Palestine and Lebanon "will not stop our fight to uproot the Israeli occupation."

In a statement issued by the movement following the funeral of Hezbollah Secretary-Generals, Hassan Nasrallah and Hashem Safieddine, who were assassinated by Israel, Hamas said: "The crimes of the occupation and the assassinations of resistance leaders will not halt our path", Middle East Monitor reported.

Such measures, it added, "will only strengthen our determination to continue on the path of the martyrs until we uproot this occupation that threatens the region, and reclaim our land and holy sites."

"On this day of farewell to the two martyrs, commanders Hassan Nasrallah and Hashem Safieddine, we pray for their pure souls and recall their firm stances in support of Palestine and their great martyrdom on the path to Jerusalem."

Nasrallah was a figure that the Arab world has not seen so far

By Parviz Rashidi

TEHRAN - The February 23 mass funeral for Sayyed Hassan demonstrated the strength and influence of Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The myth by Israeli hardliners that Hezbollah has been greatly weakened proved elusive.

The spiritual influence of Nasrallah has found its place in the hearts and minds of millions of Lebanese. Despite all the difficulties, people from different walks of life rushed to Beirut from different corners of the country to attend the funeral procession. They all came to show their love for the legendary resistance leader.

The Lebanese were not alone in showing their grief and love for the martyred Hezbollah chief. Masses from Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, Iran, Syria, and elsewhere held mourning ceremonies for him.

Nasrallah was among a few figures in the contemporary world whose influence and defiance against injustice were not limited to national borders.

Blatant Israeli air show reflects accumulating disappointment

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT - While hundreds of thousands of lovers from Lebanon and other countries were pledging allegiance to Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, an exceptional legendary leader, the Zionist regime's warplanes penetrated Beirut's airspace with the US-made warplanes to intimidate them. However, their immediate response was: "Death to America", "Death to Israel".

The scene was majestic!

Automatically, the words of our great martyr, Sayyed Nasrallah, came to mind: "We are the sons of the one who said, 'Do you threaten me with death, O son of the freedmen Death is a habit for us, and our dignity from God is martyrdom.'"

On Feb 23, the extent of the Israeli disappointment was obvious as the "boys" in the American embassy in Beirut failed to discourage people from participating in the funeral procession for Nasrallah despite their propaganda campaigns. A quick follow-up of the tweets of Avichay Adraee, the spokesman for the occupation army, speaks a lot.

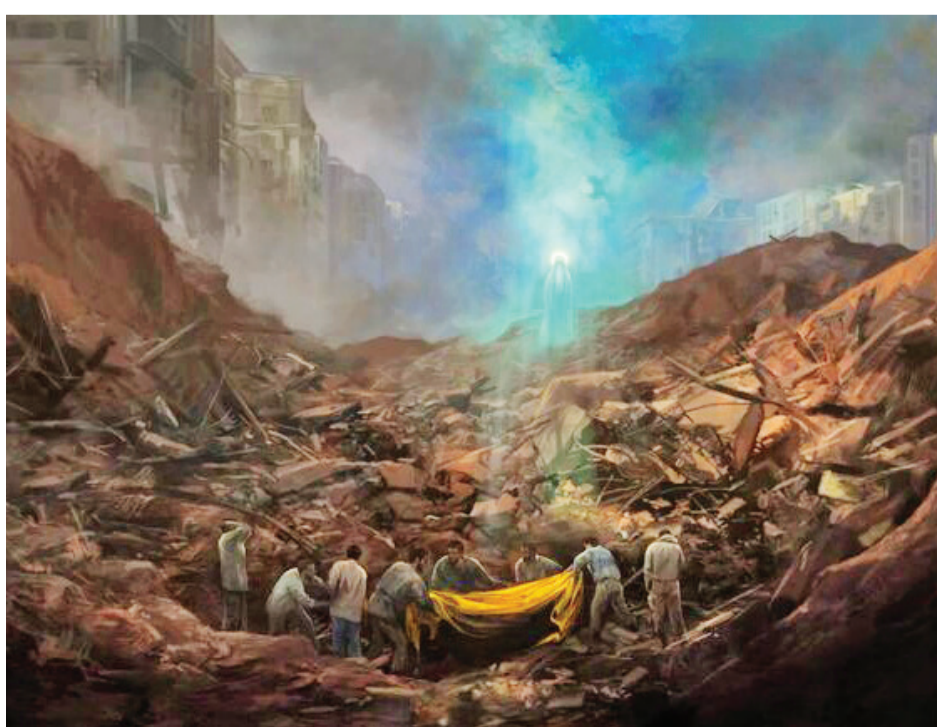
▶ Page 5

Nasrallah's funeral a 'historic epic' for region, says top Iranian general

TEHRAN - The funeral of Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was a monumental event etching itself into the history of Lebanon and the broader West Asian region, said Iran's top military official.

Major General Mohammad Baqeri, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, characterized the procession as a "historic epic," underscoring its significance.

Baqeri's remarks were delivered on Monday during the National Conference on Mobilizing People and National Resources in Sacred Defense, held at Malek Ashtar University. ▶ Page 3



Funeral of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah draws emotional tributes

TEHRAN- In a poignant display of solidarity and mourning, the funeral of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the late Secretary-General of Hezbollah, was held amidst a massive turnout of supporters and dignitaries from across the Islamic world.

The ceremony took place on February 23 in Lebanon, following his martyrdom in an Israeli airstrike on September 27, 2024. This Israeli devilish crime not only claimed Nasrallah's life but also resulted in the loss of other high-ranking Hezbollah leaders.

Highlighting the emotional weight of the occasion, prominent Iranian artist Hassan Ruholamin unveiled his latest painting titled "Shahidah," ▶ Page 8

Iran's top diplomat holds key meetings in Geneva on regional stability



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) shakes hand with UN Secretary-General António Guterres on the sidelines of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in the Swiss city of Geneva on February 24, 2025.

TEHRAN – Abbas Araghchi, Iran's Foreign Minister, has engaged in a series of high-level diplomatic meetings on the sidelines of the UN Disarmament Conference and the UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva.

His engagements included discussions with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, as well as meetings with his counterparts from Bahrain, Armenia, Kuwait, and Indonesia.

Araghchi discusses key global security issues with UN secretary-general

Before delivering a speech at the UN Disarmament Conference on Monday, Araghchi met with UN Secretary-General António Guterres to discuss key global security issues. Both officials underscored the importance of international cooperation in addressing threats to peace and ensuring global stability.

Later in the day, Araghchi attended the high-level session of the Disarmament Conference and also delivered a speech at the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council, where he outlined Iran's perspectives on pressing international security and human rights matters.

Regional security, cooperation takes center stage in talks with Bahraini FM

In a significant diplomatic engagement, Araghchi held a meeting with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani on the sidelines of the Geneva conference. The discussions focused on regional security, cooperation among Persian Gulf nations, and the broader challenges facing the Middle East.

Araghchi reiterated Iran's commitment to strengthening ties with neighboring countries based on principles of good neighborliness and mutual interests. He stressed the necessity of enhanced regional cooperation to safeguard security and stability while addressing shared challenges.

A key topic of discussion was the situation in Palestine. Araghchi condemned expansionism, occupation, and military aggression by the Israeli regime, calling for urgent action by regional and Islamic nations to prevent what he described as an unfolding genocide and systematic efforts to eliminate Palestine. He emphasized the importance of the upcoming Organization of Islamic

Cooperation (OIC) meeting as an opportunity for a united Islamic stance against the forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza.

For his part, Bahraini Foreign Minister Al Zayani reaffirmed Bahrain's opposition, along with that of other Arab and Islamic nations, to the forced displacement of Gaza's population. He also highlighted the need for coordinated efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in the region.

Araghchi reaffirms Tehran's readiness to expand ties with Armenia

Araghchi also held a bilateral meeting with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan to discuss regional stability and bilateral cooperation. The Iranian Foreign Minister emphasized the long-standing and stable relations between Iran and Armenia, reaffirming Tehran's readiness to expand ties in various economic, political, and security fields.

A major focus of their discussion was the security situation in the South Caucasus. Araghchi underscored the importance of regional cooperation in maintaining stability and respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity. He stressed that sustainable peace in the region requires close intra-regional coordination, free from external interference.

Mirzoyan described Armenia-Iran relations as highly significant and commended Iran's principled stance on respecting Armenia's territorial integrity. He expressed Armenia's commitment to deepening cooperation with Iran in trade, economic development, culture, and transportation.

Continuing his diplomatic engagements, Araghchi met with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya and Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi. Discussions with both officials focused on strengthening bilateral ties, promoting regional stability, and enhancing cooperation on international security matters.

Araghchi's series of high-profile diplomatic engagements in Geneva underscored Iran's active participation in international discussions on disarmament, human rights, and regional stability. His meetings with key global and regional stakeholders highlighted Tehran's commitment to fostering diplomatic dialogue and addressing critical geopolitical challenges.

Iran, the US, and Tehran's options for deterrence and defense

From page 1 ▶ while Iran, despite its adherence to international commitments, remains the target of continuous international pressures. Today, Iran stands at a crucial juncture that requires a comprehensive strategy—one that integrates military deterrence, effective diplomacy, and economic independence.

Nuclear deterrence and defense doctrine

Despite Iran's emphasis on the peaceful nature of its nuclear program, Western pressures and continuous threats have forced Tehran to reconsider its defense strategies. Iran's policies should be based on the following principles:

- Development of peaceful nuclear technology as an inalienable right, alongside strengthening conventional defense capabilities to create a deterrence balance.

- Development of precision ballistic and cruise missile capabilities to enhance strategic deterrence systems.

- Improvement of air defense and electronic warfare systems to counter air and

missile threats.

Diversifying strategic alliances

Iran should strengthen relations with major powers like China and Russia to ensure diplomatic support and access to advanced military technologies.

Furthermore, it should expand defense cooperation with allied countries within the Resistance Axis to establish a shared regional deterrence system.

Another important step would be to invest in economic relations with neutral countries to reduce dependency on the Western financial system.

Strengthening economic capabilities to counter sanctions

Iran should put more focus on the development of domestic military and economic industries to minimize the impact of sanctions.

It should meanwhile, create alternative trade mechanisms through the use of local currencies and barter trade with allies.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Senior Iranian commander vows retaliation against 'origins of aggression' amid renewed Israeli threats

From page 1 ▶ “The origin of aggression, along with facilities and bases aiding Israel, will be targeted,” he added.

His comments follow recent reports from The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post, which detailed alleged U.S.-Israeli “plans” to strike Iran's civilian nuclear sites by mid-2025.

U.S. National Security Advisor Mike Waltz has also said that “all options are on the table,” while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—a convicted war criminal—has pledged to “finish the job” against Iran.

Iran possesses vast and sophisticated military and drone arsenals and has demonstrated both their effectiveness and willingness to use them several times.

In 2020, Iran exhibited its resolve in the aftermath of General Qassem Soleimani's assassination, contradicting the assurances given to President Donald Trump by his advisors that Tehran would refrain from retaliation.

It carried out a retaliatory strike on the al-Asad Airbase, a move that represented the first such incident against a U.S. military base since World War II.



Major General Gholamali Rashid, Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters overseeing the Zolfaghar military exercise in Konarak, Sistan and Baluchestan province, on February 24, 2025.

American media said scores of soldiers were left “brain-dead” after the attack.

In April 2024, Operation True Promise I was launched in response to Tel Aviv's attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus. Over 300 drones, ballistic, and cruise missiles targeted Israeli military installations, emphasizing Iran's capability and readiness to defend its interests.

Following continued provocations, Tehran launched Operation True Promise II in October 2024, a significant military operation in which approximately 200 ballistic missiles, including some

hypersonic variants, were deployed. The operation successfully struck key Israeli military installations.

The 'Iceberg Strategy' and 'war before war'

Furthermore, General Rashid emphasized that Iran's annual military exercises, including at least 27 large-scale drills conducted this year, have been designed to project strength while concealing most capabilities.

He revealed that commanders follow an “iceberg model,” showcasing only “small portions” of Iran's military power through media coverage while keeping

the majority of operations classified.

“Exercises are treated as war before war,” he stated, underscoring their role in testing combat readiness and shaping “the enemy's perceptions and resolve.”

The Iranian military's joint drills, which include both the Iranian Army (Artesh) and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), are conducted as part of a comprehensive annual plan approved by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

Additionally, the commander noted that the Israeli regime has been peddling a “distorted narrative” about Iran's capabilities to manipulate Western and regional allies.

“Over seven decades of its shameful, expansionist existence, the Zionist regime's media-portrayed power has never matched its reality in occupied Palestine,” he said, pointing out that Israel's “existential fear” of Resistance has fueled miscalculations.

Rashid further stated that adversaries have underestimated Iran's national unity and military cohesion for decades, describing it as a “strategic delusion.”

Major Iran drills see operational debut of Yak-130 jets



Major General Gholamali Rashid, Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters overseeing the Zolfaghar military exercise in Konarak, Sistan and Baluchestan province, on February 24, 2025.

TEHRAN – In a milestone for its military modernization efforts, Iran unveiled the operational debut of the Yakovlev Yak-130 advanced jet trainer during its large-scale “Zulfiqar 1403” military exercises on Monday.

Conducted along the southern coastline and waters of the country, including parts of the Indian Ocean, the maneuvers showcased the aircraft's capabilities in a live combat scenario, marking a turning point for the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF).

During the exercise, the Yak-

130 participated in its first-ever operational mission, working alongside two MiG-29 fighter jets to intercept and destroy a target drone.

According to Brigadier General Alireza Sheikh, the spokesperson for the drills, the operation highlighted the high level of coordination and capability within the Air Force to execute complex aerial missions.

“The Yak-130, equipped with advanced missiles, successfully destroyed the drone after it was identified and intercepted by the

MiG-29 pilots,” Sheikh said.

He emphasized that this achievement demonstrated “the excellent coordination and cooperation among different aircraft in the Air Force.”

The Yak-130, originally designed as a dual-role trainer and light attack aircraft by Russia's Yakovlev, has been heralded as a game-changer for Iran's aviation capabilities.

Acquired in August 2023, the aircraft is reportedly stationed at the 8th Fighter Base in Isfahan and serves as a platform for training pilots on fourth-generation fighters while also providing limited combat support.

Equipped with state-of-the-art avionics, including an OSA radar capable of tracking up to eight targets simultaneously, the Yak-130 can carry a wide range of armaments, from precision-guided munitions to air-to-air missiles like the R-73.

Its inclusion in the Zulfiqar 1403 exercises reflects Iran's commitment to integrating advanced technologies into its defense strategy, enhancing both training and combat readiness.

Brigadier General Sheikh described the Yak-130 as “a modern design with high operational capabilities,” noting that its deployment “significantly boosts the Air Force's ability to counter threats.”

Observers have pointed out that the aircraft's versatility makes it an ideal stepping stone for Iranian pilots transitioning to more advanced platforms, such as Russia's Su-35.

Iran is reportedly poised to acquire Su-35 fighter jets.

Some military analysts note that the Yak-130's deployment aligns with Iran's broader strategy to modernize its aging fleet of Soviet-era and U.S.-origin aircraft inherited before the 1979 Revolution.

Strengthening national defense

The Zulfiqar 1403 exercises involved various branches of Iran's armed forces, including infantry, armored units, air defense systems, and naval components.

Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, the Coordinating Deputy of the Iranian Army, stated that the primary goal of the drills was to enhance defensive and deter-

Iran condemns Poland's anti-Tehran stance, summons diplomat

TEHRAN – In a diplomatic response to “baseless and biased” statements by Poland's top diplomat, Iran has summoned the chargé d'affaires of Poland to its Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran.

Mahmoud Heydari, Deputy Minister and Director General of Mediterranean and Eastern European Affairs, formally protested against the remarks made by Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski during a meeting with Marcin Wilczek, the head of the Polish mission in Iran.

According to Iran's foreign ministry's Monday announcement, Wilczek assured that the matter would be promptly communicated to Warsaw.

While Tehran did not detail the specific comments they found objectionable, observers believe the summons may be tied to Sikorski's claim of facilitating the transfer of an alleged “Iranian drone” wreckage from Ukraine to the United States.

This drone was subsequently displayed at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) earlier this year, an event attended by several Western conservative figures, including U.S. President Donald Trump.

Additionally, Sikorski told The Wall Street

Journal, “There is an axis of aggression between Iran and Russia. The Islamic Republic is sending death and destruction into all directions, and we need to jointly, directly, face the threat and remove it.”

Such rhetoric, according to Iranian officials, perpetuates unfounded accusations and undermines regional stability.

The exhibition of the purported Iranian drone wreckage at CPAC drew criticism from Tehran, which views the display as part of a coordinated effort by organizations like United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) to foster hostility toward Iran.

UANI, known for its ties to intelligence agencies and extremist Israeli billionaires, has long been vocal in promoting anti-Iran narratives.

Critics argue that such displays are designed to amplify anti-Iran sentiment and justify Western policies targeting the country.

Tehran has repeatedly denied selling arms to Russia for use in the conflict in Ukraine.

However, the nation recently clarified its position regarding the sale of its drones, em-



Ministry of Foreign Affairs building in Tehran

phasizing that there is no legal prohibition on exporting them internationally.

Iran's mission to the United Nations recently highlighted the advanced capabilities of the Shahed drone, describing it as one of the most sophisticated unmanned aerial vehicles globally.

“The Shahed drone is among the world's most advanced unmanned aerial vehicles, possessing exceptional reconnaissance, surveillance, and operational capabilities, while maintaining an extremely cost-effective price,” it noted in a post on X.

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has warned that the greatest threat to global stability comes from Israel's nuclear arsenal and its ongoing aggression in West Asia.

Araghchi made the remark in an address to the High-Level Segment of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in the Swiss city of Geneva on Monday.

Araghchi singled out Israel as the biggest obstacle to peace in West Asia, condemning its stockpiling weapons of mass destruction while refusing to adhere to international disarmament treaties. He noted that Israel continues to obstruct efforts to establish a West Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone—an initiative Iran first proposed in 1974.

He pointed to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's infamous statement at the UN General Assembly on September 22, 2023, where he openly suggested a nuclear threat against Iran. He also condemned the Israeli Minister of Heritage, who echoed the same rhetoric against Gaza.

Calling these statements "shocking proof" of Israel's disregard for international law, Araghchi demanded that the global community hold Israel accountable. He urged world powers to pressure Israel to dismantle its nuclear arsenal, join the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon state, and place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

Araghchi warned that Israel's refusal to sign key chemical and biological weapons conventions presents a serious security risk. He also raised concerns about the possible use of such weapons by terrorist groups, urging stricter international oversight. Additionally, he cautioned against the militarization of emerging technologies, including outer space and cyberspace, calling for legally binding treaties to ensure their peaceful use.

'Massive financial investments in weapons production threaten global peace'

Araghchi criticized the massive financial investments in weapons production, arguing that such spending—justified under the pretext of security—only fuels a vicious cycle of war, instability, and bloodshed. He noted that while the world is plunged into escalating

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Photo shows the Dimona nuclear facility in the Negev Desert

conflicts, defense contractors and military-industrial corporations continue to profit at the expense of global development and peace.

He condemned the growing reliance on force, military interventions, unilateral sanctions, and political coercion, all of which he said violate long-standing commitments to disarmament and arms control. This dangerous trend, he stressed, must be reversed before it leads to irreversible consequences.

Araghchi highlighted the alarming surge in military expenditures, which reached a record-breaking \$2.44 trillion in 2023. He warned that the world is witnessing an arms race fueled by increasing geopolitical tensions, with nuclear-armed states modernizing and expanding their arsenals. He emphasized that there are currently over 12,000 nuclear weapons in global stockpiles—an existential threat to humanity that demands urgent international action.

'Palestinian crisis a crime against humanity'

The Iranian Foreign Minister strongly condemned Israel's apartheid regime for being responsible for one of the worst humanitarian disasters of the 21st century. He called Israel's actions in Gaza a horrifying example of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, which no moral society should tolerate.

He stated that Israel's ongoing war against Palestine has turned

Gaza into rubble, killing more than 46,000 people—primarily children, women, and the elderly. The sheer number of journalists, medical workers, and UN personnel killed in the conflict, he argued, is unprecedented in modern warfare.

"Israel's deliberate war crimes, ethnic cleansing, mass starvation, and collective punishment will not go unpunished," he declared, calling on the international community to take decisive action.

'Unilateralism a direct threat to global stability'

Araghchi criticized nations that fail to recognize the dangers of unilateral actions, warning that they are eroding the foundations of international stability.

He urged world leaders to prevent unilateralism from becoming normalized, reminding them that the United Nations was established to save future generations from war.

'US, UK are expanding nuclear threats across globe'

The Iranian Foreign Minister called out nuclear-armed states, particularly the United States, for increasing their nuclear weapons budgets while pushing for global non-proliferation.

He also condemned the UK's expansion of its nuclear arsenal and its efforts to lower the threshold for potential nuclear use, calling these policies reckless and dangerous.

He warned that nuclear disarmament remains at a standstill

due to widespread non-compliance with legal commitments, especially under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). He reminded the global community that repeated failures of the NPT Review Conferences in 2015 and 2022 signal a growing disregard for nuclear disarmament obligations.

"Nuclear weapons remain an existential threat to humanity," Araghchi asserted. "Their use would have catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences."

'Iran committed to global disarmament'

Despite being the target of sanctions and military threats, Araghchi reaffirmed Iran's commitment to international disarmament efforts. He highlighted Iran's leadership in the Conference on Disarmament last year, where it worked with member states to break years of stagnation and push forward new initiatives.

"The world is at a turning point," Araghchi stated. "We must choose between disarmament and the unchecked spread of weapons of mass destruction." He concluded by calling on the international community to unite in the fight against nuclear proliferation, reiterating Iran's readiness to play a constructive role in securing a safer, more peaceful world.

"We owe this to future generations," he declared.

Iran committed to Lebanon's national consensus, Qalibaf affirms



Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf (L) and Iran's Ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani (R) addressing reporters in Beirut Saturday night

TEHRAN – Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf reiterated Iran's commitment to Lebanon's independence and self-determination, stating that Iran would support any decision made by the Lebanese people.

"Iran supports any decision made through Lebanon's national consensus," Qalibaf said in remarks to re-

porters in Beirut following a meeting with his counterpart Nabih Berri.

The Parliament speaker traveled to Lebanon Saturday night to attend the funeral ceremony of late Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Sayyed Hashem Safieddine, two of the most prominent Resistance figures assassinated during Israeli airstrikes in September and October.

The funeral, held on Sunday, attracted enormous crowds from all over Lebanon and the wider region. Observers say the procession was the largest ever seen in the country.

"The funeral ceremony for the martyrs of the Resistance demonstrated the strength of the Resistance front and the deep affection the Lebanese people have for Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah," Qalibaf said, adding, "This event showed how the Lebanese people honor their leaders, and their hearts beat for Lebanon, Palestine, and the Islamic world."

In addition to the meeting with Berri, the Iranian Parliament speaker also held separate ones with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam.

During his discussions with Salam, Qalibaf declared again that his country would back any solution supported by the Lebanese people, government, and Resistance. He said Iran is ready to help with the reconstruction of the regions Israel

pulverized in 2023 and 2024 before a ceasefire could come into effect in late November. Qalibaf also addressed Israel's repeated violations of the ceasefire since then, emphasizing that the regime should be forced to stop its aggressions before it can make the deal collapse.

"So far, the Zionist regime has violated the ceasefire at least 40 times. Its forces have not fully withdrawn from Lebanon and it continues to strike different parts of the country under different pretexts every week," the seasoned Iranian politician told the PM.

Israel's latest breach came on Sunday, as the regime's fighter jets flew over hundreds of thousands of mourners in an attempt to disrupt Nasrallah and Safieddine's funeral. Multiple Iranian officials slammed the move as an act of terrorism, including Qalibaf who said Israel had once again failed to defeat the Lebanese people.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Nasrallah's funeral a 'historic epic' for region, says top Iranian general

From Page 1 ▶ He highlighted the massive turnout at the funeral ceremony in Beirut on Sunday as a testament to the Lebanese population's deep respect for the "Sayyed of Resistance," a title often used to honor Nasrallah's leadership, who was the secretary-general of Hezbollah for 32 years before his assassination by Israel in September.

"The funeral and burial ceremony of the martyrs of the Resistance Axis yesterday became an ever-lasting epic in the history of the West Asian region and Lebanon," Baqeri stated. He elaborated on the event's significance, calling it an "unparalleled epic" that showcased the profound impact and virtue of Nasrallah and his succes-

sor, Sayyed Hashem Safieddine. He praised their contributions to establishing and expanding anti-Zionist Resistance and for shaping the identity of the heroic Hezbollah movement.

Baqeri further emphasized the symbolic value of the event: "The funeral in Beirut was a symbol of the Lebanese people's gratitude, and the ceremonies across Iran were an expression of the Iranian nation's appreciation for these great figures. This, in itself, marks the beginning of the spread of the Resistance and Basiji mindset in the Islamic world," suggesting that the event would inspire further dedication to the cause.

Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh echoed Baqeri's sentiments, also

speaking at the conference. He lauded the demonstration of strength observed at the Sunday funeral.

"Yesterday, we witnessed the grand funeral of the martyr Sayyed of the Resistance Axis," Nasirzadeh stated, emphasizing the visual impact and power conveyed by the procession. "This display of power was precisely the result of the Basiji mindset in the Resistance Axis, a mindset and ideology originally born from the creative thought and vision of Imam Khomeini (RA)," linking the event to the foundational ideology of the Islamic Revolution. He characterized the outpouring of support as a direct consequence of the principles instilled by Imam Khomeini.

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Straight Truth
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3

SPORTS

Iran beat Kazakhstan in 2025 FIBA Asia Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Kazakhstan 88-45 in Group of the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup qualification on Monday. Sina Vahedi led Iran with 20 points, while Kazakhstan's Oleg Balashov scored 12 points at the Saryarka Velodrome in Astana.

Team Melli advanced to the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup with 11 points, followed by Qatar.

The 31st edition of the FIBA Asia Cup will take place from Aug. 5 to 17 in Saudi Arabia. Australia will enter the tournament as defending champions after beating Lebanon in the 2022 final.

Arshia Ghafouri joins Medvescak ice hockey team

TEHRAN – Arshia Ghafouri of Iran joined Croatian ice hockey team Medvescak.

Ghafouri is the first Iranian player to play in a Croatian ice hockey team.

KHL Medvescak Admiral, also known as KHL Medvescak Zagreb, are a Croatian professional ice hockey team based in Zagreb, established in 1961.

The team's name derives from the location of its original arena in the Medvescak area in central Zagreb, with KHL the abbreviation of the Croatian words for ice hockey club.

It is by far the most successful and popular ice hockey team in the country.

Teams discover fate at Hazfi Cup quarterfinals

TEHRAN – Eight football clubs learned their fate at the quarterfinals round of 2024/25 Iran's Hazfi Cup.

In the draw ceremony held at the Football League Organization headquarters on Sunday, defending champions Sepahan will face Malavan and Esteghlal meet first tier side Paykan.

The teams advancing to the quarter-finals are Esteghlal, Paykan Tehran, Sepahan, Nassaji, Shahrdari Noshahr, Sanat Naft Abadan, Gol Gohar, and Malavan.

The draw is as follows:

Sanat Naft Abadan vs. Shahrdari Noshahr (Takhti Stadium, Abadan)

Malavan Bandar Anzali vs. Sepahan Isfahan (Takhti Stadium, Anzali)

Nassaji Mazandaran vs. Gol Gohar Sirjan (Vatani Stadium)

Esteghlal vs. Paykan Tehran (Azadi Stadium)

In the semi-finals, the winners of Esteghlal vs. Paykan will face the winners of Sanat Naft Abadan vs. Shahrdari Noshahr. Also, the winners of the Sepahan vs. Malavan match will face the winners of the Nassaji vs. Gol Gohar match.

Maghsoodloo wins bronze at Tunisia tournament

TEHRAN – Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran claimed a bronze medal at the Djerba International Chess Festival 2025 on Sunday.

French MarcAndria Maurizzi won the event with 7.5 points and silver medal went to Belgian Daniel Dardha with 6 points. Maghsoodloo came third with 5 points.

Parham Maghsoodloo, the highest-ranked Iranian grandmaster, is a three-time national champion and was the World Junior Champion in 2018.

The tournament is being held in Djerba, Tunisia from February 15 to 24.

Hashempour named Iraq beach soccer head coach

TEHRAN – Former Iran coach Abbas Hashempour has been named as new head coach of

Iraq beach soccer team.

Former Iran goalkeeper Peyman Hosseini has been also named as Iraq goalkeeping coach.

Hashempour replaced Brazilian coach Marco Octavio in 2019 and helped Team Melli wins 2019 Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup.

Heshempour served as Octavio assistant for seven years.

Japan live up to Funakoshi's expectations

TEHRAN – Head coach Yuzo Funakoshi was proud of his players' perseverance after Japan secured a 4-3 penalty victory over Iran in the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025 quarter-final on Sunday.

Having come from behind and then dominating the tie, the match needed a shootout after the match ended 1-1 with Rion Ichihara's spot-kick taking Japan into the semi-finals and booking the ticket to the FIFA U-20 World Cup Chile 2025.

"It was a tough game, as we knew Iran would be difficult opponent but we stayed focused and didn't panic after conceding early," said Funakoshi.

Japan found themselves trailing to Reza Ghandipour's fifth minute strike but Kose Ogura's long range effort restored terms, with the East Asian side dominating the second half but unable to find the winning goal.

"That's football. We didn't try to change anything in terms of our approach. But I trusted my players and even waited for the final whistle because I knew they would get the job done in the shootout. So many fans came to cheer for our team. We made our fans smile and we are very happy about that," he added.

Iran U20 coach Abdi rues bad luck against Japan

TEHRAN – Iran head coach Hossein Abdi felt his side was unlucky not to win against Japan at the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025 quarter-final.

Iran lost to Japanese team 4-3 on penalties and failed to book their ticket to the FIFA U20 World Cup Chile 2025.

"The players tried their best, but I believe we could have won this game too. Congratulations to Japan for advancing, but I'm also proud of my team," said Abdi.

"These players have a bright future ahead of them. I've worked with them for three years, and I have no doubt they can compete with anyone. This mentality will take them far, and they will continue to improve," he added.

Heydari to officiate Tehran derby

TEHRAN – Payam Heydari has been selected to referee the upcoming match between Persepolis and Esteghlal.

The 105th Tehran derby is scheduled for Thursday.

Heydari will be assisted by Farhad Farhadpour and Ali Ahmadi, with Morteza Mansourian serving as the fourth official.

Bijan Heydari will act as the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

Iran discover fate at 2025 Asian Beach Handball

TEHRAN – Iran discovered their opponents for the 2025 Asian Beach Handball Championship.

Team Melli have been drawn into Pool B alongside the Philippines, Jordan, Pakistan, and India.

Meanwhile, Pool A consists of Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Maldives, and Hong Kong.

The 10th edition of this prestigious tournament, organized under the Asian Handball Federation (AHF), is scheduled to take place from May 1 to 10 in Muscat, Oman.

Matches will be hosted at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex.

China and Russia: True friends through thick and thin

By Shahrokh Saei

Beijing- China and Russia have emphasized their commitment to stand united in both challenging and favorable circumstances amid US attempts to drive a wedge between the two countries.

"Both history and reality tell us that China and Russia are destined to be good neighbors, and our two countries are true friends that share weal and woe, support each other and pursue common development," President Xi Jinping said on Monday as he took a phone call from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Chinese leader emphasized that the strategic partnership between Beijing and Moscow will remain unaffected by external influences.

"Our bilateral relationship has a strong internal driving force and unique strategic value. It is neither targeted at any third party nor affected by any third party. Both countries have long-term development strategies and foreign policies. No matter how the international landscape changes, our relationship shall move forward at its own pace, contribute to our countries' respective development and revitalization, and inject stability and positivity into international relations,"



Touching upon strategic ties between Russia and China, President Xi said "true friends who share weal and woe, support each other and achieve common development"

President Xi said, according to a statement published on the website of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Xi also threw his weight behind talks between Russia and the United States to end the war on Ukraine; stressing that his country is prepared to assist to peacefully resolve the conflict.

"China welcomes positive efforts made by Russia and relevant parties to resolve the crisis," he said.

For his part, Putin reaffirmed Russia's willingness to strength-

en "strategic cooperation" with China as he updated Xi on the latest contacts with the United States.

"Russia is committed to removing the root causes of the conflict and reaching a sustainable and long-term peace plan," Putin added.

The phone conversation between Xi and Putin comes as US President Donald Trump has advocated for a swift resolution to the conflict in Ukraine. The Trump administration has caused concern among Washington's European allies by ex-

cluding them and Ukraine from talks with Russia that took place in Saudi Arabia a week ago.

Trump has also blamed President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for Russia's invasion of Ukraine amid the third anniversary of the conflict.

This comes as the US has committed tens of billions of dollars of military aid to Ukraine since its war with Russia erupted in February 2022.

Trump's stance indicates that Washington might aim to create a rift between Beijing and Moscow in order to concentrate its resources on competing with China.

China is the world's second largest economy. It is expected to overtake the US by 2035 to become the world's largest economy.

In line with its policy to "counter China", the White House has escalated its economic and trade measures targeting China, implementing a range of policies designed to limit Chinese investment, trade activities, and key industries.

These actions encompass stricter regulations on Chinese expenditures in critical US sectors and the imposition of additional tariffs.

Blatant Israeli air show reflects accumulating disappointment

From page 1 ▶ Martyr Sayyed Nasrallah – like his two teachers, Martyr Sayyed Mohammad Baqir al-Sadr and Imam Khomeini – was a philosopher without a peer.

Before the sad September 27, we dreamed of meeting Martyr Sayyed Nasrallah. Today, he is more present among us.

Personally, we set off early for Beirut to attend his funeral. The Jezzine-Sidon-Beirut road was closed due to a snowstorm, so we had to cross via Rashaya-Khiyam-Nabatiah-Sidon-Beirut. I am certain that God willed that we cross through Khiyam, where the heroes of the resistance movement humiliated the elite soldiers. God willed I get blessed with the sight of Palestine.

God willed to remind us of the great responsibility that will be placed on our shoulders in the upcoming days toward an exemplary father.

Sacrifices

I grew up in a very poor family. Our only wealth was a picture of Imam Khomeini and a collection of his books. A family member was martyred by the Lebanese Forces in 1986 while he was on his way to carry out an operation against the Zionists.

My grandfather was arrested because he was smuggling TNT to the resistance fight-



ers. In 1993, my aunt was assassinated because she was washing the military uniforms of the mujahideen, cooking for them, and smuggling weapons in her car. Their home was used as a headquarters to serve the resistance. They knew the extent of the sacrifices, but they were not deterred.

The Israeli enemy destroyed their homes many times. However, they never retreated; they continued to sacrifice for the sake of the rightful resistance project. The artificial Israeli entity put the eyes of my kins out and cut off their fingers during the Pager Massacre. My wounded cousin set off to Khiyam

despite all the threats. He was certain that he would not return except as a martyr.

Let the entire arrogant world hear: We are the guardians of blood! We are the people of sacrifice! We will never betray the covenant as we have always been and will remain so. We will not retreat from resisting the US and its proxies. Also, we will not give up the greatest revenge.

The shameless "boys" in the US embassy in Beirut will never understand our unshakable belief. These foolish people think, as they claim, that "Iran has brainwashed us." They have reached a level of ignorance that do not bother to study the essence of our beliefs.

Sayyed Nasrallah is our dear leader; nevertheless, there is a leader greater than him whom we have not even seen. He is the twelfth Imam of the Shiites, Imam Mahdi (AS). Just as Sayyed Nasrallah was a soldier preparing the way for Imam Mahdi's reappearance to support the oppressed and eliminate oppression, we are also his soldiers. We are religiously obliged to be!

We will continue our march while wounded, hungry, poor, and besieged but our trust in God will not be shaken. As the Leader of the Revolution Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei said: "The spirit and approach of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah are the light of the path of the freedom seekers."

Netanyahu says Israel to stay in Syria buffer zone 'indefinitely'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday evening that his army will stay in Syria's buffer zone "indefinitely."

Addressing a press conference in Tel Aviv, Netanyahu said the Israeli army will remain on the Syrian Her-

mon Mount (Jabal al-Sheikh) for "an unlimited period of time", Anadolu Agency reported.

"We demand full demilitarization of southern Syria from troops of the new Syrian regime in the provinces of Quneitra, Daraa, and Suweyda,"

Netanyahu said.

"We will not allow the new Syrian army to move into territory south of Damascus," he said, claiming that Israel will not tolerate any threats to Druze in southern Syria.

After the fall of the Bashar al-Assad government in December, Israel expanded its occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights by seizing the demilitarized buffer zone, a move that violated the 1974 disengagement agreement with Syria.

Merz faces hard road to government after German election win

German conservatives under Friedrich Merz vowed on Monday to quickly form a government after winning a national election but face tricky coalition talks and the prospect of an obstructive parliament after far-right and far-left parties surged.

Time is pressing for Europe's ailing largest economy, with Germans divided over migration, its security caught between a confrontational US and an assertive Russia and China, and businesses demanding help to remain globally competitive, Reuters reported.

The most likely outcome of the election is a coalition of Merz's conservative bloc and Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD), who came in third, after the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) surged to a historic second place.

The AfD and the radical Left party jointly



secured one third of seats in the new parliament, enough to block constitutional changes needed to loosen state borrowing limits – changes that some economists say are essential to revive economic growth.

Likely chancellor Merz is expected to seek

an alliance with the SPD after a bruising campaign that highlighted deep policy divisions, in particular over migration. The SPD, smarting from its worst post-war result, may set a high price for any deal.

Merz has signaled some willingness to reform the debt brake, a constitutionally enshrined limit on state borrowing.

"From our point of view, (talks) can start very, very quickly," said Jens Spahn, a senior member of Merz's center-right Christian Democrats (CDU).

"The first talks should certainly be held this week, in the next few days. We see the situation in the world, Ukraine, Russia, the United States," he said. "German leadership is needed."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Hamas: No negotiations with Israel until Palestinian prisoners are released

Hamas suspends negotiations with Israel, demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners as Israel delays the seventh batch of a prisoner exchange deal.

Mahmoud Mardawi, a senior official in the Palestinian Resistance Movement Hamas, stated on Sunday that the movement will not engage in any talks with Israel through mediators regarding any steps until the Palestinian prisoners agreed to be released on Saturday are freed, Palestine Chronicle reported.

In a statement published on Telegram, Mardawi added that there will be no discussions with the enemy through mediators on any steps before the release of the agreed-upon Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the Israeli prisoners and bodies released on Saturday.

He emphasized, "The mediators must oblige the enemy to implement the agreement."

During Thursday and Saturday, Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, handed over 10 Israeli prisoners, including six alive, to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to deliver them to Tel Aviv as part of an agreement stipulating Israel's release of 620 Palestinian prisoners from its jails.



Despite Hamas fulfilling its commitment under the agreement, Israel has not yet released the Palestinian prisoners.

Early Sunday, the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated in a release that the decision to postpone the release of Palestinian prisoners would continue until the next batch is secured, without what it described as "humiliating ceremonies."

Netanyahu's office claimed that "Hamas deliberately insults the dignity of prisoners and exploits them to promote political goals."

Meanwhile, US President's Middle East Envoy Steve Witkoff stated that he will visit the Middle East this week to negotiate a ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement between Hamas and Israel.

UN chief voices 'grave' concern over rising violence in occupied West Bank

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Sunday he is "gravely concerned" over the rising violence in the occupied West Bank and the human rights violations in Gaza.

Guterres, addressing the 58th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, said: "I am gravely concerned by the rising violence in the occupied West Bank by Israeli settlers and other violations, as well as calls for annexation," Middle East Monitor reported.

"In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, violations of human rights have skyrocketed," he said.

Describing the ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas as "precarious", he urged: "We must avoid at all costs a resumption of hostilities. The people in Gaza have already suffered too much."

"It's time for a permanent ceasefire, the



dignified release of all remaining hostages, irreversible progress towards a two-state solution, an end to the occupation, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, with Gaza as an integral part," he added.

Global consensus on human rights is crumbling, UN rights chief says

The UN human rights chief on Monday warned that a system of global protections built in the decades after World War Two has never before been under so much strain, calling for an effort to reinforce it or risk suffering the atrocities of the past.

"The global consensus on human rights is crumbling under the weight of authoritarians, strongmen and oligarchs," United Nations High

Commissioner Volker Turk told a high-level meeting of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Reuters reported.

"We need an all-out effort by everyone, to make sure that human rights and the rule of law remain foundational to communities, societies and international relations. Otherwise, the picture is very dangerous," he said.

Nasrallah was a figure that the Arab world has not seen so far



From page 1 ▶ He was a charismatic, brave, tolerant, and rational figure.

He was, is, and will be the paragon of resistance against the occupiers. Under his leadership, the resistance fighters forced Israel to leave Lebanon in 2000 after 18 years of occupation. His resistance forces also humiliated Israel in the summer of 2006 when they shattered the myth of the invincibility of the Israeli army.

This time, when the war broke out between Palestinian resistance forces in Gaza and the

Israeli army in October 2023, Nasrallah didn't hesitate to rush to the help of the Gazans.

For him, humanity was important and not race or religion. Though he was a Shia, he came to the help of the Sunni Palestinians.

While the Sunni Arab Muslim countries even refused to censure the United States for its complicity in the genocide against the Gazans, he defied all the dangers and kept the Israeli army busy in northern occupied Palestine. He just wanted to force Israel to end its genocidal war in Gaza. Even though Israel was killing people in Gaza indiscriminately, his forces were careful not to kill civilians.

Nasrallah was a nightmare for cruel Israeli leaders who finally lost his life for Palestine. This man trained thousands of brave people who are ready to sacrifice their lives against those who commit injustice against others.

So far, the Arab world has not seen such a figure with this exemplary charisma, influence, and bravery. He will be remembered as a paragon of empathy for the oppressed, particularly the Palestinians.

Iran, Turkey reconnect by rail: a new era for tourism accessibility



TEHRAN - After a four-year hiatus, the long-anticipated Van-Tehran train service has resumed, marking a significant milestone in regional connectivity between Turkey and Iran.

The revival of this railway link not only strengthens economic ties but also opens new doors for tourism accessibility between the two nations. With a growing interest in cross-border travel and an increasing demand for sustainable transport options, the resumption of the Van-Tehran train service presents an opportunity for both countries to attract international visitors and enhance their tourism sectors.

The rail service offers travelers a scenic 22-hour journey through some of the most picturesque landscapes in the region. With comfortable couchette wagons accommodating up to 40 passengers per carriage, the service is set to become a popular choice for those seeking a more attractive travel experience. Operated twice a week in both directions, the train provides a relaxed alternative to flights and long-distance bus journeys, making it a convenient and enjoyable option for tourists.

For Iran, this railway route serves as a key gateway for Turkish and European visitors looking to explore the country's rich cultural heritage, historical sites, and diverse landscapes. From the ancient city of Isfahan to the bustling bazaars of Tehran, the rail service allows seamless access to some of Iran's most famous attractions. Similarly, Turkey stands to benefit from an influx of Iranian tourists eager to explore Van's scenic beauty and Istanbul's vibrant cultural scene.

Strengthening bilateral tourism

Prior to its suspension in 2019 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Van-Tehran train

transported nearly 10,000 passengers annually. With its return, tourism officials expect these numbers to increase significantly. The Turkish Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and the Iranian Railways Authority have both expressed confidence in the renewed service, emphasizing its potential to boost tourism and facilitate cultural exchange between the two nations.

The affordability of rail travel compared to flights also makes the train an attractive option for budget-conscious travelers. Additionally, with growing international interest in slow travel—where the journey itself is as valuable as the destination—the train's scenic route provides an opportunity for visitors to appreciate the landscapes and cultures of both countries in a unique and leisurely manner.

Economic and cultural impact

As cited by FTN News, the relaunch of the Van-Tehran railway aligns with Turkey's broader strategy to enhance international railway cooperation. Turkey's Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloglu highlighted the economic and cultural benefits of the resumed service, stating that improved railway connectivity will drive increased tourism mobility between Turkey and Iran. The renewed rail link is expected to stimulate local economies, particularly in smaller towns along the route, as passengers seek accommodations, restaurants, and local experiences during their journey.

Moreover, the service fosters cultural understanding and strengthens historical ties between the neighboring countries. With Iran and Turkey sharing deep-rooted connections in art, cuisine, and history, the railway provides an avenue for travelers to explore these shared heritages firsthand.

Echoes of Iran



Earthenware bowl with a depiction of a horseman, Eastern Iran (probably Neyshabur), 900-1000 CE, underglaze painted in slip and pigment, being kept at Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Yazd eyes global recognition for traditional jewelry

TEHRAN - The ancient city of Yazd, already a UNESCO World Heritage site, is now being considered for designation as a World City of Traditional and Handcrafted Jewelry by the World Crafts Council (WCC).

On Saturday, A team of WCC experts arrived in Yazd to assess its potential for this prestigious title and engage with local artisans and officials.

A high-profile meeting was held at the Kowsar Hall of the Yazd Governor-General's Headquarters, attended by Iran's Deputy Minister of Handicrafts and Traditional Arts, Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi, Yazd province's Governor-General Mohammadreza Babaei, and other officials and artisans.

Addressing the meeting, Jalali-Dehkordi emphasized the importance of linking traditional identity-based economies with digital markets, stating that integrating traditional crafts with modern technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence could significantly enhance their global reach.

She praised Yazd's deep-rooted artistic heritage, highlighting the role of its skilled artisans in preserving and passing down their craft through generations.

Jalali-Dehkordi also pointed out that the city's unique combination of cultural preservation and modernization has made it a prime candidate for international recognition.



Yazdi Zargari

The history of Zargari, or the art of jewelry making, in the historic city of Yazd dates back approximately 2,000 years, as supported by reliable evidence. This ancient craft has been passed down through generations, maintaining its distinctive and intricate techniques that make Yazdi jewelry nearly impossible to replicate. Some exquisite pieces, dating back 500 years, are found exclusively in Yazd.

Jewelry making is one of the most renowned traditional arts of Yazd, recognized both in Iran and internationally as Yazdi Zargari.

Unlike the standard 18-karat gold commonly produced in Iran, Yazd's traditional goldsmiths craft their pieces with a fineness of 20 karats.

Yazdi," and "Hel va Gol-e Yazd," are distinctive techniques belonging to Yazdi Zargari.

Those time-honored craftsmanship techniques have been officially recognized and registered as part of Iran's intangible cultural heritage, ensuring their preservation for future generations.

A must-see destination

In July 2017, the historical core of Yazd, the provincial capital, was named a UNESCO World Heritage site. Yazd is regularly referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

Cultural heritage experts believe that Yazd is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center. Furthermore, the use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

The historical core of Yazd is chockfull of mudbrick houses, bazaars, public bathhouses, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and centuries-old gardens. From the divine point of view, the city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

Yazd is home to numerous qanats which have supplied water to agricultural and permanent settlements for thousands of years. The man-carved underground qanat system relies on snow-fed streams flowing down the foothills of surrounding mountains. The earliest water supply to Yazd is estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224 to 651 CE). However, many others have been continually repaired and used over time, and most surviving Ab-Anbars (traditional mudbrick cisterns) can today be traced to the late Safavid and Qajar periods.



She stressed the necessity of collaboration between the public and private sectors, as well as the unity among Yazd's craftspeople, to successfully expand into global markets.

Babaei, for his part, underscored the significance of the evaluation process, calling it a turning point for Yazd's traditional jewelry industry. He noted that the city's multicultural history, including its religious diversity, has contributed to its rich artistic traditions.

He expressed optimism that obtaining the WCC label would not only elevate Yazd's cultural status but also drive economic growth and innovation in the handicrafts sector.

If approved, the designation as a world city of traditional and handcrafted jewelry will mark another milestone in Yazd's long and distinguished history as a center of craftsmanship and cultural heritage.

This higher purity level is one of the key factors behind the esteemed reputation of Yazd's traditional jewelry.

Available evidence shows the discovery of jewelry from the Parthian era, dating back around 2,000 years, in the historic region of Mehriz. These findings further attest to the city's deep-rooted legacy in gold ornamentation.

One of the most iconic jewelry pieces from Yazd is the "Chin-Abi" chain, named after its unique manufacturing technique. The hallmark of this chain is its extraordinary softness, designed to mimic the fluidity of water. It is crafted from delicate golden filaments, rods, and 20-karat gold rings unique to Yazd, often combined with copper and silver alloys.

Other traditional chain-making methods, such as "Hel Malileh Yazdi," "Toop Malileh

Intl. Fajr Festival of Handicrafts extended due to popularity

TEHRAN - The exhibition showcasing works from the 9th International Fajr Handicrafts Festival, also known as Sarv-e Simin, has been extended until Friday, March 1, due to significant public interest. The festival's secretariat announced the extension following widespread enthusiasm from artists, researchers, and traditional art enthusiasts.

The exhibition, held at the Museum of Fine Arts within the Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex, is open daily from 9 am to 4 pm, providing visitors with an opportunity to admire outstanding handicrafts from both national and international artists.

According to organizers, Sarv-e

Simin aims to showcase and honor the finest traditional artworks. "This year's event has drawn extensive participation from local and international artists, judges, and experts in the field," IRNA reported on Monday.

Notable figures including Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs, and Reza Salehi-Amiri, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts attended the opening ceremony of the festival on February 20.

Out of 8,173 submissions, 7,974 artworks were from 4,378 Iranian artists, while 198 pieces were contributed by artists from 20 countries, including Tajikistan, Af-

ghanistan, France, Thailand, the UK, India, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. Among international participants, Tajik artists submitted the highest number of works, while within Iran, most submissions came from Isfahan and Shiraz.

The closing ceremony of the 9th International Fajr Handicrafts Festival was held yesterday evening at Milad Tower, where the winners were announced and honored.

Available data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Iran's annual handicraft exports currently stand at about \$250 million, with an additional \$250 million in informal "suitcase" ex-



ports. However, the global market for handicrafts is valued at \$770 billion, underscoring a significant opportunity for growth.

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

Archaeologists may have found second tomb of mysterious Egyptian pharaoh

A British archaeologist and his team who uncovered the long-lost tomb of an Egyptian pharaoh believe they are close to finding a second buried 23 meters beneath a man-made mountain.

Last week Piers Litherland revealed he had found the tomb of Thutmose II, the last undiscovered king of the 18th dynasty, in the Western Valleys of the The-

ban Necropolis.

It was the first time in over a century that archaeologists have discovered the final resting place of another Egyptian pharaoh, since the unearthing of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922.

However, Mr Litherland has now revealed they are trying to unearth a second site which they believe holds the pharaoh's

mummified body and grave goods.

Archaeologists believe the first tomb was emptied six years after burial, due to a flood, and relocated to a second.

The experts believe this second tomb has been hiding in plain sight for 3,500 years, secretly buried beneath 23 meters of limestone flakes, rubble, ash

and mud plaster and made to look like part of the mountain.

"There are 23 meters of a pile of man-made layers sitting above a point in the landscape where we believe - and we have other confirmatory evidence - there is a monument concealed beneath," he told The Observer.

(Source: Independent)

Students in Birjand leading the way in water conservation

TEHRAN – Launching an educational campaign called “Water for all, all for Water”, the United Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, as well as Water and Waste Water Company (WWC) has announced an initiative called “the Water Guardians” in Birjand, South Khorasan province.

This UNICEF-supported initiative builds on long-standing educational programs about water conservation, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on February 19.

The “Water Guardians” initiative aims to empower students to take an active role in water conservation. Through training sessions with WWC experts and educational materials, children learn how to advocate for responsible water use, both in school and at home.

UNICEF, through its WASH and Social and Behavior Change (SBC) programmes, supports—not just improving infrastructure such as upgrading water taps, drinking fountains, and restroom facilities in schools, but fostering a sense of responsibility among students about responsible water use.

The campaign reached 700 students across three primary schools, engaging them as active participants in water conservation through the ‘Water-Guardians’ initiative in December.

Water awareness celebration

More than 340 Iranian and Afghan students, all wearing colorful caps adorned with water drop symbols, held educational pamphlets about responsible water use. Around the hall, students’ artwork lined the walls, showcasing creative expressions of the importance of water. A lively water-themed song played in the background, setting



the tone for an engaging event.

The celebration featured a variety of activities, students shared traditional stories about water conservation, animated characters highlighted the consequences of water waste, and winners of a water-themed painting competition were announced.

The event ended with a powerful call to action from school authorities, encouraging students to become agents of change in their families and communities.

Recognizing the potential of this initiative, school authorities and government officials expressed their commitment to expanding it.

“Students are the best ambassadors for water conservation. Their engagement will not only shape their behavior but also influence their families and communities,” said Mr. Asemani, the school principal.

UNICEF with the cooperation of the Ministry of Energy and WWC plans to support strengthening and expanding the ‘Water-Guardians’ initiative across more schools in 2025, empowering more student

volunteers to promote water conservation.

The “Water for All, All for Water” campaign, reached 5,000 students, culminating in a closing ceremony in February 2025, with high-level participation from government officials, UNICEF representatives, and 400 students.

The event highlighted the role of children in water conservation, featuring an exhibition of student artwork, interactive activities, role-playing, and a call to scale up the initiative nationwide.

Improving water supply to South Khorasan

The Ministry of Energy, in cooperation with UNICEF, has enhanced water quality and ensured consistent access to water with adequate flow pressure for households by supporting the construction and rehabilitation of the water network in eastern Birjand’s villages.

Completed in December 2024, this initiative included the establishment of a new water distribution network in Dastgerd and Isfahabad, connecting these villages to the main network in Darmian

County, UNICEF website announced in a press release on January 20.

The project focused on rehabilitating and replacing outdated and non-functional infrastructure with high-quality materials, ensuring a sustainable water supply for the community.

These improvements have led to significant reductions in water loss from leaks, enhanced water quality, and ensured consistent access to water with adequate flow pressure for households.

Additionally, the intervention has drastically decreased the number of water-related incidents, leading to significantly lower maintenance costs. As a result of these significant enhancements, the consumers’ satisfaction has greatly improved.

This effort directly benefits 1,729 individuals including children, enhancing community resilience and preventing environmental migration. It also promotes financial development, reduces water loss, and mitigates the risk of waterborne diseases.

Given the success of this project in improving the water supply through decreasing water loss in the network, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, plans to launch a pilot programme in the province to compare the efficiency of this method versus other usual water supply methods. This pilot programme will compare the efficiency of reducing water loss versus the financial and environmental costs of water transfer from new and distant water resources, as a usual practice.

By tackling the critical issue of water scarcity, this project not only enhances the quality of life for residents but also fosters long-term sustainability in the region.

Tehran to host national seminar on knowledge-based ecosystem

TEHRAN – The first national seminar on discussing the country’s progress in the knowledge-based ecosystem and honoring key players in this area is scheduled to be held on March 1 in Tehran.

Supported by the vice presidency for science, research, and technology, and titled “The knowledge-based Iran”, the event will serve as a platform for a detailed analysis of the achievements, challenges, and opportunities of the ecosystem of innovation and technology in the country.

It will also lay the ground for enhancing interactions among policymakers, executive managers, researchers, and experts in the field. In addition, an account of the state of the knowledge-based ecosystem will be presented, and top companies will be honored.

Notable growth in knowledge-based companies

The significant and fast-paced growth in the number of knowledge-based companies with over 200 percent increase in their number just over the past year (March 2023 – March 2024), shows the solid foundation, dynamism, and growth of the country in innovation and tech-

nology and the productive atmosphere which have been made available in line with the goal of boosting domestic production with public participation.

The current administration underscores the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge-based companies. The number of companies, which was around 5,000 before the current administration took office in August 2021, has now reached 10,000 with a total value of two billion dollars.

It seems that knowledge-based companies have progressed well. However, with continuously increasing support knowledge-based companies will have a brighter future.

The high number of knowledge-based companies active in the capital market proves they have fully grown. Currently, there are 108 companies in the capital market, which is anticipated to grow by 100 percent by the end of the current year, March 2025.

Iran’s knowledge-based companies exported over 3.6 million tons of products, valued at \$2.506 billion, in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 19, 2024), according to the

Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Based on the IRICA data, some 1.158 million tons of goods, valued at \$5.141 billion were also imported by knowledge-based companies into the country from March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024.

About 85 percent of the goods imported by the knowledge-based companies came from China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Germany, and India, IRICA reported.

The domestic knowledge-based companies exported their products to China, Iraq, the UAE, Turkey, and Russia in this period, IRICA said.

In this period, the knowledge-based companies accounted for 2.6 and 5 percent of the country’s total exports in weight and value respectively.

Advanced materials and products based on chemical technologies accounted for about 80 percent of the export value of these companies.

China was Iran’s first buyer of knowledge-based products in this period.

‘Empowering rural communities essential for economic, cultural development’



TEHRAN – The Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, Zahra Behrouz-Azar, has said empowering rural communities is a prerequisite for the economic and cultural development of the country.

Referring to the difference between the concept of village and local community, the official said, “The rural areas’ economic activities involve agriculture, animal husbandry, crafts, and natural resources.

However, the local community has a broader concept and includes different groups of people, not only in rural areas, but also in urban neighborhoods, nomadic areas, and even digital communities. Local communities rely on social interactions, traditions, beliefs, and shared human relationships.”

The official made the remarks via a video conference while addressing an event called “university, social responsibility, and empowering local areas”, Mehr news agency reported.

In villages, the development of agricultural infrastructure, animal husbandry, health, and education are basic needs, while in local communities, issues such as preserving culture, fostering social interactions, and strengthening support networks are significant.

Referring to the fact that only 30 percent of the country’s population resides in villages, Behrouz-Azar said depopulation of rural areas will result in losing a significant proportion of cultural heritage, art, language, and lifestyle.

The official went on to urge universities and educational centers to utilize their knowledge and modern technologies to address current challenges in rural communities, help boost their productivity, and improve the quality of life of farmers, particularly women farmers since they play a key role in empowering rural communities.

Rural development

Villagers and nomads play a vital role in the political, economic, and social developments

of Iran. So, October 7 was declared in 2013 as the National Day of Village and Nomads.

Despite their low population, they have a great contribution to all-out national development.

Although oil, industry, and service sectors hold a significant share of the national economy, the rural and nomadic economy is considered an inexhaustible source for the nation, compared to exhaustible natural resources.

Living far from pollution and current problems of cities and being less dependent on oil resources, they play a critical role in sustainable development.

Villagers and nomads take the lead in providing food, food security, and healthy food production.

They have a major role in the tourism and handicraft industry and they are sources of many cultures and traditions in the country playing an important role in ensuring the country’s security, especially in borders and remote areas.

Some 25 percent of the country’s population lives in villages, producing around 70 percent of food for the domestic market.

Currently, more than 90 percent of agricultural and food products are produced in villages. Some 25 percent of the country’s meat products and 35 percent of handicrafts, as well as a major part of organic dairy products, including vegetable oil, milk, curd, and other materials, are produced by nomads.

In fact, the economy of the rural areas is not limited to agriculture; it includes various industries such as handicrafts, creative industries, clothing, processing industries, food, medicinal plants, carpentry, furniture, tourism, ecotourism, fisheries, carpets and rugs, and dried fruits.

The Majlis (the Iranian Parliament) approved a total of 31 trillion rials (nearly \$35 million) for rural development in the budget bill for the Iranian calendar year 1401 (March 2022–March 2023), IRIB reported.

By allocating this amount of budget, the whole credit of comprehensive development plans will reach 42 trillion rials, Akbar Nikzad, head of the Housing Foundation, said in June 2022.

The comprehensive development plans aim to develop rural areas in line with cultural, economic, and social conditions, as well as housing provision for the rural residents and improving environmental service.

UNODC fully prepared to continue close cooperation with Iran: official



TEHRAN –Alexander Fedulov, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) representative in Iran, has said the UNODC remains fully prepared to continue close cooperation with the country.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is a key and constructive partner in its engagement with the UNODC,” the UN website quoted Fedulov as saying.

The official made the remarks on February 17 in a meeting in Tehran with Hossein Zolfaqari, the Secretary General of the Drug Control Headquarters.

Fedulov described the ongoing cooperation and joint initiatives between the UNODC and Drug Control Headquarters as highly positive and commendable. He affirmed his and the UNODC’s commitment to expanding

collaboration and securing additional financial resources to support Iran’s programs. He further emphasized Iran’s significant role in regional and international efforts to combat drug trafficking.

For his part, Zolfaqari highlighted the severe and irreparable human losses and the immense financial damages that the Islamic Republic of Iran has endured in its humanitarian fight against the global drug problem.

UNODC boosts Iran’s capacity

The UNODC has been actively present in the Islamic Republic of Iran since 1991 and considers Iran as one of the strategic partners for drug control and crime prevention in the region. It has been supporting the country by providing technical assistance and training since its establishment in Iran.

To enhance the operational capacity of the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police, the UNODC provided four drug trace detector devices to the Customs Organization and Anti-Narcotics Police of Iran under the Japanese government’s funding on February 5.

Through the generous donation of the Government of Japan, the UNODC Iran in 2023 and 2024, procured key devices including drug identification devices, drug-detecting dogs, Canine Trailers and other accessories for drug-detecting dog centers.

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20,000 residential units to be constructed for the deprived

The Welfare Organization and the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to construct 20,000 housing units for the financially struggling families, Mehr reported.

Alireza Tabesh, the Foundation’s head, and Vahid Qobadi Dana, the Organization’s head, inked the MOU during a meeting held in Tehran on Monday.

As per the agreement, 20,000 housing units will be provided to breadwinners with disabilities, breadwinner women, and the ex-addicts under the Organization’s coverage residing in villages with a population of less than 25,000, Qobadi Dana explained.

احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای محرومان

به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر تفاهم نامه مشترک برای احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای محرومان بین بنیاد مسکن انقلاب اسلامی و سازمان بهزیستی کشور منعقد شد.

تفاهم نامه احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی روستایی با حضور علیرضا تابش رئیس بنیاد مسکن انقلاب اسلامی و وحید قبادی دانا رئیس سازمان بهزیستی کشور روز دوشنبه به امضا رسید.

قبادی دانا گفت: این تفاهم نامه به منظور ساخت ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای معلولین سرپرست خانوار، زنان سرپرست خانوار، و بهبودیافتگان از بلای اعتیاد که در روستاها و شهرهایی با جمعیت کمتر از ۲۵ هزار نفر ساکن و تحت پوشش بهزیستی هستند؛ منعقد می‌شود.



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FEBRUARY 25, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The best form of devotion to the service of Allah is not to make a show of it.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:17 Evening: 18:14 Dawn: 5:15 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:38 (tomorrow)

Albert Camus's "The Misunderstanding" on Sahne Abi stage

TEHRAN-Albert Camus's "The Misunderstanding" is being performed at the theater hall of Sahne Abi Cultural and Artistic Center in Tehran.

Faezeh Seyfi has directed the 70-minute play and also performs in it along with Pegah Moshtaghi, Houman Niknezhad, Masoud Soltani, Fatemeh Bidi, and Armin Hasani among others, Mehr reported.

Written in 1943 in occupied France, "The Misunderstanding" focuses on Camus' idea of "The Absurd". It is not just a simple play, but the story of the lives of all human beings because the lives of all people are full of misunderstandings.

It is the life story of a man named Jean who returns home after 20 years away from his mother and sister, while he is married and has earned money to leave his mother and sister with. Upon entering the guesthouse run by his mother and sister, he realizes that after all these years, his family did not recognize him at the time of arrival.

Misunderstandings can be more or less reminiscent of aliens. A tragedy that once again reminds us of the loss of opportunity by depicting the death of the family's son Jean. When he throws himself into an accident and believes in the power of events, it can be said that he kills himself out of jokes and play. So, one can never be a stranger forever and need to find meaning for oneself.

Camus's play is a return to Greek theater in terms of structure: the dry state of the murder of two women, the deadly chain of crime that leads to another crime, the murder within the family, the unstoppable and unadjustable progress of the first intention, and the theme of recognition.

The three-act play is a tragedy of contemporary man, and the plot of the text, like that

of Camus's other works, is a look at issues related to the philosophy of existentialism, including human freedom, emptiness, and the futility of life. The apprehension of existence and the apprehension of contemporary man, and inevitable situations.

The play is a highly subjective presentation by Camus of the human condition as he saw it in the desperate circumstances of 1942-43. It reflects several aspects of Camus's life: he had left Algeria, to which he was deeply attached, leaving his second wife and friends behind; he was depressed with tuberculosis; as well as living under threat of execution as a propaganda agent of the French Resistance. Camus once described "The Misunderstanding" the play that resembles him the most.

Albert Camus (1913-1960) was a French philosopher, author, dramatist, journalist, world federalist, and political activist. He was the recipient of the 1957 Nobel Prize in Literature at the age of 44, the second-youngest recipient in history after Rudyard Kipling, who was 41. His works include "The Stranger," "The Plague," "The Myth of Sisyphus," "The Fall" and "The Rebel".

Philosophically, Camus's views contributed to the rise of the philosophy known as absurdism. Some consider Camus's work to show him to be an existentialist, even though he himself firmly rejected the term throughout his lifetime.

Camus's novels and philosophical essays are still influential. He is remembered for his skeptical humanism and his support for political tolerance, dialogue, and civil rights.

"The Misunderstanding" will remain on stage through March 4 at the Sahne Abi Center located at No. 1595, Valiasr St., after Taleqani junction.



Leader praises "Tafsir Tasnim" as source of pride for seminaries

TEHRAN- The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei expressed concern over the lack of attention given to the topic of tafsir (Quranic exegesis) within religious seminaries, calling "Tafsir Tasnim" a source of pride for both Shia Muslims and the scholarly institutions.

He made the remarks on Monday, following a meeting with those involved in organizing the international conference for "Tafsir Tasnim," held on February 22, in Qom, Mehr reported.

He extended his gratitude to Ayatollah Javadi Amoli and the team of researchers behind this significant work, the report added.

During the meeting, the Leader lauded the esteemed figure of Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, a prominent Quran commentator and the author of "Tafsir Tasnim," acknowledging that the seminaries owe much to the scholar's dedication over more than four decades in researching, teaching, and writing this tafsir.

"While Ayatollah Javadi Amoli's endeavors in rational and transmitted sciences, as well as his profound works in jurisprudence, philosophy, and mysticism, are all significant and deserving of admiration, none can compare to his contributions in Quranic interpretation."



Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that "Tafsir Tasnim" represents a point of pride for Shia Muslims and the seminaries, highlighting some of its distinctive features.

"The strength of the esteemed commentator's rational thought greatly aids in understanding the subtle and intricate points embedded within the verses of the Quran," he remarked.

He further noted that this tafsir is similar to "Tafsir al-Mizan," yet more contemporary and ex-

pansive, brimming with valuable and applicable knowledge, effectively serving as a comprehensive encyclopedia.

The Leader deemed it essential to compile a technical and thematic index to optimize the use of this pivotal tafsir.

Expressing regret over the neglect of tafsir studies in religious seminaries, he commemorated Allameh Tabatabai, the author of "Tafsir al-Mizan," as the pioneer of Quranic interpretation and concepts within the seminaries.

"The holding of approximately 200 Quranic tafsir classes at Qom's seminaries is encouraging news that must be reinforced and sustained," he stated.

Furthermore, the Leader highlighted the necessity of completing the Arabic translation of "Tafsir Tasnim" for broader accessibility across the Islamic world, once again extending his appreciation to Ayatollah Javadi Amoli and the team of researchers responsible for this esteemed tafsir.

Funeral of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah draws emotional tributes

TEHRAN- In a poignant display of solidarity and mourning, the funeral of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the late Secretary-General of Hezbollah, was held amidst a massive turnout of supporters and dignitaries from across the Islamic world.

The ceremony took place on February 23 in Lebanon, following his martyrdom in an Israeli airstrike on September 27, 2024. This Israeli devilish crime not only claimed Nasrallah's life but also resulted in the loss of other high-ranking Hezbollah leaders.

Highlighting the emotional weight of the occasion, prominent Iranian artist Hassan Ruholamin unveiled his latest painting titled "Shahidah," dedicated to the memory of Nasrallah.

Describing the artwork, Ruholamin expressed, "This painting is a tribute to the hearts grieving at the loss of the martyr of resistance," clearly reflecting the depth of loss felt across the community.

Concurrent with artistic tributes, the cultural foundation of Revayat-e Fat'h issued a statement reaffirming the legacy of Nasrallah and his commitment to the resistance.

The message acknowledged his role in countering oppression, underscoring that he stood as a beacon of hope against tyranny, stating, "Today, the heart of the Islamic world grieves for a superman whose cries of resistance have nullified the shameful plots against our people."

"Today, artists, intellectuals, scholars, and distinguished figures from all walks of life have a profound duty to emulate the resilient martyr, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. It is imperative for these individuals to articulate the theory of resistance and steadfastness against tyranny and oppression with their spirit, intellect, pen, taste, and art, fulfilling their historical responsibility during this critical period for future generations," it continues.



Iranian artist Hassan Ruholamin's latest painting titled "Shahidah"

"On the memorable day of the grand funeral for the martyr Nasrallah, the Revayat-e Fat'h cultural foundation, representing numerous artists and veterans of resistance art, renewed its allegiance to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and all the steadfast defenders of dignity and freedom, especially paying homage to the late General Qassem Soleimani and all martyrs defending the holy shrines," it concludes.

Young poet Hadi Malekpour also shared his tribute through verse, composing a poem dedicated to the "Lord of Martyrs" in the resistance front, reinforcing the impact Nasrallah had on both art and literature in the region.

The funeral, broadcast live by various Iranian media and streamed on nine channels, allowed many to honor Nasrallah from afar, emphasizing the unity and commitment of his followers. A significant presence was noted among Shiites and supporters, who came from various parts of the Islamic nations, highlighting the widespread respect and admiration for the Hezbollah leader.

Moreover, an inspiring music video titled

"Alamdar," commemorating Nasrallah's dedication against global oppression, was released by the cultural assistance institution "Saad." Featuring an emotional score and lyrics, this piece further invigorated the sentiment of resilience among supporters, encapsulating the spirit of Nasrallah's fight.

Additionally, a new mural was unveiled at Enqelab Square, downtown Tehran, featuring the powerful slogan "Ana Ala Al-Ahd" ("I am on the covenant").

The mural depicts the images of people from Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria participating in the procession for the martyr, symbolizing their collective journey towards Al-Aqsa Mosque. This artistic expression highlights the unity and shared commitment of these nations in the face of adversity.

As the Islamic world mourns the martyrdom of a monumental figure, the messages of solidarity, artistic expressions, and cultural affirmations accentuate a collective commitment to the values that Nasrallah championed throughout his life.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, a formidable Arab leader in West Asia, has made an indelible impact on contemporary Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the broader region. He was tragically killed at the age of 64 during a series of intense Israeli airstrikes in southern Beirut on September 27.

Under Nasrallah's leadership, whose name means "victory through God," Hezbollah evolved from a grassroots armed movement into the largest political party in Lebanon's recent history. Renowned for his captivating speeches, Nasrallah garnered attention throughout the West Asia and beyond, establishing himself as a significant figure within the Axis of Resistance, which includes Hezbollah, the Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the Houthi movement in Yemen, and various Iraqi paramilitary factions.

Iran, Turkey discuss joint library projects, cultural exchange

TEHRAN-In a meeting held at the Majlis Library, Museum and Documentation Center on Sunday, Hicabi Kirlangic, the Turkish ambassador to Iran engaged in discussions aimed at expanding cultural and library collaborations between the two nations.

The meeting, attended by Masoud Moienipour, the Head of the Iran's Parliament Library, was part of ongoing efforts to explore avenues for cooperative initiatives.

They also exchanged views on potential areas of mutual co-

operation. Proposals discussed included the exchange of books, restoration of manuscripts, digitization of works, and the organization of joint training courses. Moreover, Moienipour presented the ambassador with a collection of books and materials related to Turkey, further emphasizing the goodwill between the two countries.

Moienipour highlighted the significance of cultural cooperation between Iran and Turkey, showcasing the rich resources of the library and stressing the

need for enhanced academic exchanges and library cooperation.

He suggested that, within the framework of a joint cultural year between Iran and Turkey, special programs such as joint exhibitions, exchange of historical documents, and collaboration on manuscript restoration be organized. Additionally, he noted the importance of joint research in the fields of Iranian studies and Ottoman studies, welcoming the prospect of increased scientific and cultural interactions.

At the conclusion of the meet-



ing, the Turkish ambassador toured various sections of the center, further solidifying the commitment to enhance cultural ties and collaborative efforts between the two nations.

Cartoon of Day



Trump's Promised Peace!
Cartoonist: Emad Hajjaj from Jordan