

# Last Chance for Diplomacy

**A China-Russia resolution could prevent a dramatic Iran-West escalation as Tehran attempts to address illogical demands**



Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, Amir-Saeid Iravani, addresses members of the UN Security Council after a vote on a resolution that would permanently lift U.N. sanctions on Iran, at UN headquarters in New York City, U.S., September 19, 2025.

## Iran, Iraq and Russia plan meeting on international transport corridors

TEHRAN – Iran's railways chief has held talks with Iraq's transport minister on advancing joint rail projects, including the long-delayed Shalamchah-Basra line, as part of broader efforts to expand regional connectivity.

Jabar Ali Zakari, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI), met Razzaq Muhai-bis Al-Saadawi in Baghdad for intensive discussions on infrastructure development. The Shalamchah-Basra railway, seen as vital for facilitating pilgrim travel and trade, was a central focus, with both sides stressing the need to resolve outstanding issues and secure stable financing. ▶ Page 4

## Iran and China deepen cooperation under Global Governance Initiative

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Since Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), the mechanism has been broadly welcomed by countries across the world, including Iran.

The GGI was highlighted during a ceremony hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Tehran on Monday, September 22, commemorating the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

### GGI takes the stage

The event went beyond marking 76 years since the founding of the PRC, serving as a platform to showcase the growing global significance of the Global Governance Initiative. ▶ Page 5

## Protests and walkouts eclipse Netanyahu's UN appearance

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to the United Nations General Assembly on Friday was an attempt at a carefully staged and combative defense of Israel's aggressive campaign in Gaza and its wider military actions across the region. Yet the performance could not mask the widening gulf between his narrative and the findings of international institutions, public-health agencies, and human-rights organizations.

Netanyahu employed one prominent map, alongside visual aids and rhetorical flourishes critics deemed theatrical props, and he repeated the phrase "Israel must finish the job."

The line landed amid visible diplomatic rebuke: dozens of delegations staged walkouts and large sections of the Assembly remained conspicuously empty, while thousands of demonstrators in New York took to the streets demanding a ceasefire and accountability.

## Hamas rebukes PA address to UN

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hamas says resistance is a natural right of the Palestinian people facing genocide and crimes against humanity.

The Gaza-based resistance movement made the statement in response to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's address to the UN General Assembly.

Abbas's speech to the UN General Assembly, which he was forced to deliver via video link from Ramallah after being refused a visa by the U.S. to travel to New York, denounced Hamas.

Abbas rejected the movement's actions on October 7, 2023, saying taking captives does "not represent the Palestinian people." He also insisted that "Hamas will not have a role to play in governance." The PA president went on to say that Hamas and other factions will have to hand over their weapons as part of a state-building process.

Hamas highlighted several key points:

## Lebanon PM vs. the Resistance: Who stands to gain?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT— The tables have turned. Instead of a few dozen young men gathering to participate in a national event, thousands of people filled the seafront and all the roads leading to the Raouche Rock monument.

The crowds of resistance loyalists lit up the rock with images of the two martyred Hezbollah chiefs, carrying pictures of the martyrs and the flags of Lebanon and Hezbollah, and chanting slogans of loyalty to the Resistance.

The people broke the malice rampant among the U.S. and Saudi embassies' stooges who failed to distort the identity of the capital, Beirut, the cradle of Lebanese national Resistance.

For hours, Beirut embraced the leaders of the Resistance and its people; the most remarkable was the exemplary discipline demonstrated by the attendees, despite the relentless provocation and incitement against them.

▶ Page 5

## Intelligence ministry releases Israeli nuclear, military secrets in IRIB documentary

TEHRAN – Iran's Ministry of Intelligence has released information from a massive cache of classified documents obtained from Israel's military and nuclear programs.

Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib said the files contain the full names, personal data, addresses, and professional affiliations of 189 Israeli nuclear and military specialists directly linked to weapons projects. He noted that the list continues to grow as Iranian experts analyze the material.

The revelations were presented in a documentary titled Spider's Lair, aired Wednesday night on IRIB. According to Khatib, the program outlines how Iranian intelligence managed to acquire the cache, which includes details on researchers, scientists, and senior project managers. Among them, he said, are American and European scientists involved in Israel's weapons-related programs. ▶ Page 3

## Iranian women's role in 12-day war with Israel

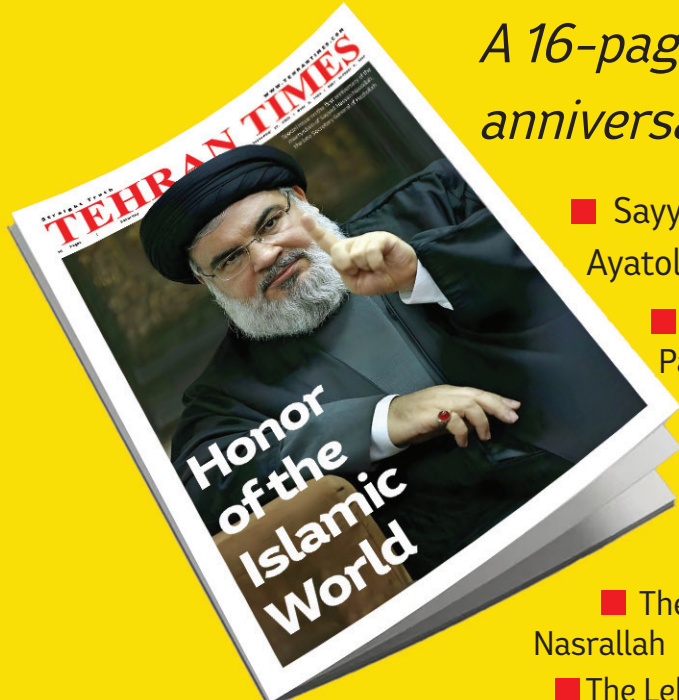
By Komeil Khojasteh

TEHRAN – The 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel outwardly appeared as a military confrontation, but at its heart it carried a social and feminine dimension. ▶ Page 2

## 'Well done, Iran' ceremony honors Armed Forces after war with Israel

By Staff Writer

TEHRAN – On Thursday evening, a crowd of Iranian citizens, predominantly women and children, gathered in Tehran's Haft-e-Tir Square for an event that saw hundreds of letters, artworks, and handicrafts, previously displayed in a gallery, presented to a representative of Iran's Armed Forces. ▶ Page 2



### A 16-page special on the martyrdom anniversary of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah

- Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah through the words of Ayatollah Khamenei: A legacy of resistance and honor
- Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah: Eternal defender of Palestine and the Resistance
- Legacy of resilience and resistance
- Exceptional leadership of Sayyed Nasrallah in the eyes of Lebanese and Yemeni scholars
- Historic icon, leader and warrior
- The spiritual personality of Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah
- The Lebanon I witnessed

## Iran, Indonesia see tourism as bridge for stronger ties

By Sedigheh Hosseini

JAKARTA – Iran and Indonesia can build closer relations by promoting cooperation in tourism, a senior Indonesian official tells the Tehran Times in an interview.

Dedi Ahmad Kurnia, assistant deputy for international tourism marketing at Indonesia's Ministry of Tourism, said historical and cultural similarities between the two countries provide a strong basis for joint initiatives.

He said facilitating access, strengthening media exchanges, and developing joint tourism packages could help expand cooperation and shape future relations. ▶ Page 6

Scan this QR code to watch the video.





## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

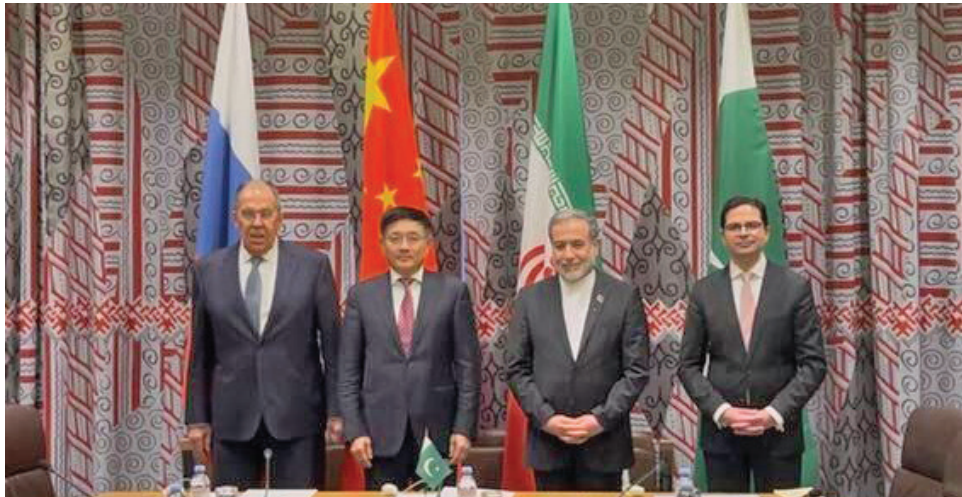
## Russia and China are trying to delay the snapback

In a note, Shargh addressed the Russian and Chinese proposal to postpone the reimposition of sanctions on Iran for six months. It wrote: Russia and China have called for a vote on a draft resolution in the Security Council that would postpone the reimposition of UN sanctions against Iran for six months; this request has been made on the eve of the implementation of the snapback mechanism on September 27 and the escalation of regional diplomatic tensions. As the countdown to the activation of the snapback mechanism has begun, intensive diplomacy at the UN has reached a peak. One of the key issues is that the snapback mechanism is designed to be “anti-veto”. At the regional level, neighboring countries and major players such as Russia, China, and Turkey may find opportunities to utilize the situation; Iran could also use the tools of energy diplomacy, regional cooperation, or pressure on transit routes. These developments also put new pressure on potential nuclear negotiations with the U.S. and Europe and reduce or complicate the possibility of returning to the negotiating table, especially if Tehran feels it has a winning card.

### Jam-e-Jam: Iran's prominent role in health diplomacy

In a commentary, Jam-e-Jam dealt with the 10th International Pharmaceutical and Related Industries Exhibition (IranPharma2025) in Tehran and said: With the participation of 743 companies from 28 countries, the exhibition is not only an industrial boom, but also a sign of Iran's return to health diplomacy. After months of tension and efforts to isolate Iran, foreign companies are again seeing Iran as a serious market and scientific partner and notice it is not a simple event. This also signals the beginning of a new chapter in cooperation. This event shows that Iran can once again play a role in health diplomacy. In a world where health has no borders, Iran's return to international interactions in pharmaceutical sector is a great achievement not only for this industry but also for the country's political and scientific standing. The presence of 28 countries in this year's exhibition, after years of restrictions, is a clear example of Iran's potential and actual capacities. If this path of cooperation continues, Iran can be not only a consumer, but also a key player in global chain in pharmaceutical and health industries. IranPharma2025 is a starting point that can redefine the future of Iran's pharmaceutical industry internationally.

## Renewed US military presence in Afghanistan endangers regional peace: Tehran



*Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (2nd R) poses for a photo during a meeting with senior Chinese, Pakistani, and Russian diplomats on Afghanistan that was held on the sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly in New York on September 25, 2025.*

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has blamed two decades of U.S. occupation for Afghanistan's current crises, warning that any renewed foreign military presence in the country would endanger regional peace and security.

Speaking at a quadrilateral meeting with the foreign ministers of China, Pakistan, and Russia on Afghanistan, Araghchi said Washington's intervention and 20-year war had brought “nothing but disaster and insecurity.” He stressed

### Siasat-e-Rooz: Strength is essential to confront the foes

In an article, Siasat-e-Rooz discussed the enemy's propaganda campaign against Iran's defense and military capabilities. The paper said: The enemy has always sought to show Iran's defense spending as unnecessary by highlighting economic issues and pitting people against the armed forces. Along with sanctions and threats, the enemy has sought to create obstacles in the way of arms purchases or strengthening defense capabilities to impose its extremist views on Tehran. The 12-day imposed war by the Zionist regime and the United States against Iran showed that promoting indigenous military and defense capabilities are essential. These days, the enemy has raised the flag of negotiation while its practical behavior is a sign of another deception because, amidst bullying and aggression, negotiating with the West is a pure loss and has no achievements. The solution to confronting these threats is to promote the status of the country militarily, economically, culturally, socially, scientifically, and technologically, which will record another victory in the Iranian nation's record.

### Arman-e-Emrooz: Radicals' attack on an imaginary meeting

In an analysis, Arman-e-Emrooz addressed the severe attacks of radical groups against Pezeshkian for an imaginary meeting with Trump and wrote: In his recent speech, the Leader of the Revolution clearly stated that with the current approach of the United States, there will be no negotiations. Therefore, experts believe that there is basically no possibility of a meeting between the Iranian President and the U.S. President (in New York). However, the political opponents of the government have targeted Pezeshkian with continuous attacks. Analysts believe that what is happening these days is more related to domestic political rivalries and conflicts than to the reality of foreign policy. These currents have tensed the country's political atmosphere by fueling speculation about the imaginary meeting of the president with Donald Trump. Radicals are distracting public opinion from real problems by exaggerating an imaginary meeting. Focusing on the economic and social demands of the people can pave the way for defusing these atmospheres. The government must provide accurate and timely information and not allow political opponents to impose their false narrative on public opinion.

that the conflict left “countless victims” and fueled terrorism, narcotics production, corruption, poverty, and displacement across the country.

He also pointed to the chaotic 2021 U.S. withdrawal, saying it abandoned Afghanistan and its neighbors to shoulder the consequences of the war alone. “The United States and NATO are responsible for many of the challenges that Afghanistan and the region are facing today,” he said.

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

# ‘Well done, Iran’ ceremony honors Armed Forces after war with Israel

By Staff Writer

TEHRAN – On Thursday evening, a crowd of Iranian citizens, predominantly women and children, gathered in Tehran's Haft-e-Tir Square for an event that saw hundreds of letters, artworks, and handicrafts, previously displayed in a gallery, presented to a representative of Iran's Armed Forces.

The pieces had been collected through a campaign called “Dastmarizad Iran,” meaning “Well Done, Iran.” Organized by the municipality's department of women and family affairs, it served as a way for people to express their gratitude to soldiers and to honor those who lost their lives fighting the U.S.-Israeli aggression in June.

The evening began with a beautiful, silent moment. Singer Mahmoud Karimi's voice filled the square with the patriotic song “Ey Iran.” The crowd stood completely still. Children waved Iranian flags, with their small hands holding the colors high.

Komeil Khojasteh, a political analyst and scholar who also attended the event on Thursday, stated that such ceremonies demonstrate Iranian unity, even amidst disagreements and differences. “The fact that our people were thinking of the Armed Forces during the war and how they could thank them for their efforts shows that there is unity in the country, and that Iran becomes the foremost issue in times of crisis,” he explained. “Our people can overcome any challenge, even those planted by the enemy.”

Across the square, reminders of the recent war were visible. A damaged ambulance, its windows cracked from the attacks, sat parked nearby. Beside it were a burnt swing and slide. But hope was also present. Behind a red curtain lay the handwritten letters, dolls, and handmade crafts that the women and children of Iran had prepared during the 12-day war, thinking of those who kept them safe, as well as the family members of the Armed Forces.

Five-year-old Raufa, was photographed giving roses to a soldier standing alert near the stage where speakers addressed the crowd. The soldier accepted the flowers and briefly patted Raufa's head before returning to his post. After exchanging a few words with him, Raufa rejoined her mother, who

## Iranian women's role in 12-day war with Israel

From page 1 ▶ In retrospect, and by reviewing the remarks of Netanyahu and Trump, it has become clear that the true objective of the war was not confined to missile exchanges and battles in the skies, but was instead designed for Iran's streets and social networks.

Looking at interviews, military documents, and the sequence of events, the enemy's plan seems to have been structured in five stages:

**Stage One:** The application of the “decapitation” strategy through the surprise assassination of commanders, ranging from senior staff officers to key operational figures. By severing the chain of command from the Armed Forces General Staff down to the IRGC Aerospace operational units, the enemy aimed to disorient field forces completely and paralyze the military's defense.

**Stage Two:** The use of electronic warfare and drone strikes to bombard air defense systems and shut down missile cities, leaving the armed forces exposed.

**Stage Three:** Telephone threats directed at commanders, politicians, and even their families, intended to spread fear and neutralize them from within their households.

**Stage Four:** Cyberattacks against Bank Sepah and the disruption of financial accounts, particularly those belonging to the families of military personnel, aimed at reinforcing the credibility of the telephone threats and further entrenching passivity.

**Stage Five:** A large-scale media campaign. Israel mobilized its influence through foreign-

based media outlets and social networks, spreading slogans such as “Stand up,” “Deliver the final blow,” and “Strike hard, Israel.” At the same time, Reza and Yasmin Pahlavi became active online, repeatedly urging people to take to the streets. Netanyahu himself openly addressed Iranians, declaring: “This is your chance to rise and make your voice heard.” He further emphasized: “These attacks can lead to regime change, because the Iranian regime is very weak.”

Yet despite the precision of this plan, the enemy's calculations fell apart. On the battlefield, the structure of the armed forces was reorganized under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief, air defenses were restored after withstanding electronic warfare pressure, and Iranian missiles were fired at Tel Aviv even under heavy enemy fire. Most importantly, inside Iran's cities—contrary to the expectations of the Zionist regime and the United States—no street unrest erupted.

Iranian society instead reacted in a very different way. On social media, citizens rallied in support of the country. Public reports to hotlines 110, 113, and 114 about drones and quadcopters multiplied, and national unity was reinforced against foreign pressure.

From a wide, macro perspective, the 12-day war showed that Iranian society responded in a way completely contrary to the calculations of Israel and the U.S. But to fully understand the elements of this outcome, a closer, micro-level look is needed. Beyond the role of the armed forces in reorganizing themselves,



was sitting in the audience. When I asked her what she had told the soldier, Raufa replied, “I wanted to thank him for protecting me and my sister.”

I also met a young artist whose painting was among those being presented to the Armed Forces representative. She had created a portrait of Martyr Amir Ali Hajizadeh, an IRGC general credited with a significant role in the impressive development of Iranian missiles. It was these missiles that ultimately compelled Israel and the U.S. to request a ceasefire, due to the precise and devastating destruction they inflicted in the occupied territories, as well as on the most important American military base in the region. At first glance, the portrait seemed to lack artistic detail. However, upon closer inspection, it became apparent that the artist had rendered the face using quotes and verses from the Quran. I asked her to explain the feelings behind her work. “If an artist could easily express what's in their heart, they wouldn't be an artist,” she

replied. “They wouldn't paint! There are some feelings you should gather by looking at art.”

Among the many Quranic verses she had used was a well-known passage about martyrs: “Never say that those martyred in the cause of God are dead—in fact, they are alive! But you do not perceive it.” Hajizadeh was assassinated by Israel in the initial days of the war. However, his missiles, and the capability to use them, remained.

The night ended with fireworks. As the sky lit up, the gifts were finally handed to the military representative, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Fooladi. “The support is not one-sided. The military is able to fight the enemy because the people back it. Without the daily and generous expressions of love from the citizens, no soldier would be able to endure hardships,” the general told the Tehran Times. “I want the Iranian nation to know that we are prepared. If the enemy dares strike again, there will be a far harsher response.”

and the government's efforts in managing fuel supplies, providing essential goods, and stabilizing currency, one must pay special attention to the role of women as the emotional managers of families.

This is crucial because the very core of the war was designed around provoking street unrest. Yet surveys, including one conducted by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), indicate otherwise: 77% of Iranians said they were proud of the armed forces' response to Israel's attacks during the 12-day war. Some 80.5% evaluated the military's performance as either “very strong” or “relatively strong,” while 79.8% said the war had a “very significant” or “significant” effect on national cohesion. These results reflect a broad social self-awareness: “Under external pressure, the nation stood united.”

Looking at these figures, the consensus within public opinion about national cohesion becomes clear. In spite of the enemy's media campaigns, society experienced both internal solidarity and renewed public trust. If the family is considered the smallest building block of society, then the resilience and endurance of families must be recognized as a key factor in this cohesion. In fact, the data and the collective interpretation of social behavior during the war strongly suggest that since women serve as the emotional managers of households, their ability to create calm and resilience within the family extended outward to strengthen society as a whole.

Research carried out during the COVID-19 crisis in Iran further confirms this role of women. A qualitative study carried

out in 2021 in Iran found that housewives, while managing daily chores during quarantine, also took on the responsibility of caring for children and the elderly, as well as overseeing their children's online education. They strengthened emotional bonds within the household in order to reduce psychological pressure. Another study, published in BMC Women's Health in 2020, reported that the quality of life of married Iranian women during the pandemic was directly tied to their mental health, marital satisfaction, and their ability to manage family anxiety. Similarly, a 2022 study of Iranian students showed that social support within families—much of it provided by mothers and women—was significantly associated with lower levels of hopelessness and anxiety.

Taken together, these findings show indirectly that women are the pillars of family resilience during crises. Their unseen role in managing emotions and reducing anxiety within households, when scaled up to the societal level, leads to broader social cohesion. This pattern was made visible during the coronavirus pandemic, and it was repeated during the 12-day war.

Thus, Iran's success in the 12-day conflict against a powerful, well-armed adversary was not the result of military power alone. An essential element was the social foundation created within families, with women at the center. The enemy expected the streets to be engulfed in flames and for Iran to be driven toward fragmentation. What actually emerged was national cohesion and unity.



# Last chance for diplomacy

A China-Russia resolution could prevent a dramatic Iran-West escalation as Tehran attempts to address illogical demands

By Soheila Zarfam

THERAN – The United Nations Security Council on Friday, was preparing to vote on a resolution put forth by China and Russia, calling for the extension of UN sanctions relief for Iran, sanctions that E3 (Germany, Britain, and France) began a process to reinstate in late August.

The embargoes were lifted in 2015 under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCOPA), a deal between Iran, E3, China, Russia and the United States that limited Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief. The agreement which came after years of diplomatic endeavors, however, did not remain in effect for long as Washington withdrew in 2018 and began to straddle Iran economically. European signatories to the deal did not pull out, but began to scrap their commitments like the United States. Iranians too, started to scale back on some of their JCPOA promises one-and-a-half years after it was basically dismantled by the West.

The 2015 pact included a clause, unofficially known as the 'snapback' mechanism, which allowed any party to reinstate UN sanctions against Iran if they deemed the country non-compliant. Europe's decision to trigger the process to reinstate these anti-Iran UN sanctions drew the ire of Iranians, who argue that



the Europeans lack the right to do so, citing their own failure to uphold their commitments and their support for the U.S.-Israeli strikes in June that targeted Iran's nuclear facilities. The snapback provision was set to expire in October.

This week, Iran and representatives from Germany, France, and the UK held multiple meetings on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly to explore the possibility of sanctions relief. Throughout these talks, Europe consistently pushed a narrative of intransigence on Tehran's part. However, a review of past months' snapback-related negotiations reveals a history of good faith and diplomatic efforts demonstrated by Iran. A recent admission by French President Emanuel Macron, who told Israeli media that Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had present-

ed Europeans with a "reasonable" offer that they ultimately rejected, further illustrates the E3's apparent preference for escalation over a genuine diplomatic solution. The excuses Macron provided for the rejection did not make much sense.

It appears that Europe's primary concern is ensuring that Iran complies with their demands, demands that are considered illogical, unacceptable, and U.S.-provided not only by Iranians but also by observers and analysts. Europe is particularly keen on Iran entering "direct" talks with Washington regarding its nuclear program, despite the United States and Israel having attacked Iran amidst ongoing negotiations, just days before the planned sixth round.

Iran has, however, addressed two other demands. Europe sought the return of IAEA in-

spectors to the country after Iran suspended cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog following attacks on its nuclear sites. Iran facilitated this through an agreement signed with the IAEA in Cairo earlier this month. Regarding the country's stockpile of over 400 kilograms of enriched uranium, Iran agreed to a creative solution proposed by a friendly nation, The Tehran Times understands. This involved temporarily moving a portion of the material out of the country as a trust-building measure, a pragmatic approach that would resolve a key sticking point. Europe, however, will dump both these breakthroughs if it fails to secure the passing of the China-Russia resolution. Some Iranian officials have called for more dramatic steps, like leaving the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), or building nuclear weapons.

Before the voting, Araghchi said in a post on X that Iran "has put forward multiple proposals to keep the window for diplomacy open." He added, however, that the E3 "has failed to reciprocate" while the U.S. "has doubled down on its dictates."

"In the face of this apparent E3-U.S. policy of escalation, Iran urges Council members to act responsibly and stand on the right side of history by supporting diplomacy, justice and international law," the top diplomat added.



The minister stressed that what has been disclosed so far represents only a fraction of the trove. Even so, he claimed, the release has ended Israel's long-standing "nuclear ambiguity" and exposed the scale of its concealments and those of its Western backers.

Khatib added that many individuals inside Israel—ranging

from employees of nuclear and military institutions to ordinary citizens—cooperated with Iran's intelligence services to obtain and transfer the documents. He said their motives fell into two categories: financial rewards, and a profound hatred of the regime's "corrupt and criminal" prime minister, which drove them to take revenge.

## Intelligence ministry releases Israeli nuclear, military secrets in IRIB documentary

From Page 1 ► The minister described the operation as one of the most sophisticated and multilayered intelligence missions ever carried out, claiming Iranian operatives penetrated Israel's most secretive nuclear, military, intelligence, and scientific archives. The documents reportedly also contain highly detailed data on sensitive dual-use facilities.

Khatib further asserted that some files expose direct influence by Israeli officials and U.S. senators over the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as the transfer of confidential information about Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

He said that during the 12-day conflict in June, coordinates retrieved from the cache were used to strike several Israeli sites with

Iranian missiles.

On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked act of aggression against Iran, sparking a 12-day war that left at least 1,064 Iranians dead, including senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians.

The conflict escalated further when the United States intervened by bombing three Iranian nuclear facilities—a move condemned by Tehran as a grave violation of international law.

Iran responded forcefully. Its Armed Forces launched strikes on strategic Israeli sites across the occupied territories and also targeted the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest U.S. military installation in West Asia. By June 24, Iranian counter-operations succeeded in halting the joint Israeli-American assault.

## Eastward bound: How US is driving West Asian states into China and Russia's embrace

By Mohammad Khatibi

TEHRAN – As tensions across West Asia escalate once again, the prospect of regional stability hangs by a thread. Repeated failures of Western peace initiatives have driven states to seek new partners.

With Washington's support overwhelmingly focused on Israel, many in the region now feel compelled to look elsewhere. Increasingly, they ask whether their investments in U.S. cooperation will hold firm in a crisis, or if Washington will continue to favor one ally at the expense of others.

June's U.S.-Israeli strikes on key Iranian nuclear sites, now combined with the European Troika's move to reactivate UN "snapback" sanctions, have underscored how swiftly Western powers can wield diplomatic and military pressure with little room for recourse. Confronted with this reality, Iran is likely to deepen its security, economic, and diplomatic ties with Russia and China.

Washington's alignment with Israeli priorities—particularly on nuclear enrichment—will only accelerate Tehran's eastward shift. After more than two decades of insisting on its right to enrich uranium under sanctions, the issue only saw progress once the U.S. acknowledged that right as a basis for negotiation. Iran has been signaling its readiness to negotiate a fair deal—albeit with more strin-

gent terms than the 2015 JCPOA—a position the Iranian foreign minister recently articulated in an op-ed for The Guardian:

"Iran remains open to diplomacy. It is ready to forge a realistic and lasting bargain that entails ironclad oversight and curbs on enrichment in exchange for the termination of sanctions. Failing to seize on this fleeting

Regional states have begun to engage with multiple external powers after two years of untrammelled U.S. support for Israel

window of opportunity may have consequences destructive for the region and beyond on a whole new level," Abbas Araghchi wrote.

Iran's latest agreement with the IAEA—establishing new terms of cooperation—appeared to be designed to delay or extend the activation of UN Security Council sanctions and offered one of the few remaining paths toward reviving a nuclear accord. If those sanctions take effect in the coming months, the consequences could unfold on both short- and long-term horizons. In the near term, Iran might suspend cooperation with IAEA fully and withdraw from the Nuclear

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and may use its enriched uranium toward a weapons capability.

Even if the U.S. and Israel were to renew strikes on nuclear or military sites, halting the program could require multiple operations—none of which guarantee success—and Tehran's response would be difficult to predict. It also remains unclear how far Washington would go in supporting further Israeli action. At the same time, the U.S. appears wary of triggering a full-scale war on Iran that could disrupt trade and economic stability.

Iran has in recent years already started to shift more towards the East and the global south. By late 2023, Iran had graduated from observer to full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization—gaining shared security drills, intelligence-sharing and regional trade initiatives—and it also joined BRICS, which can open the door to alternative financial networks.

In March 2021, Iran and China locked in a long-term strategic partnership that ties Chinese investment in Iran's energy, infrastructure and technology sectors to a steady, discounted flow of Iranian oil and includes joint ventures and national-currency trade arrangements designed to sidestep sanctions.

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



# IRAN IN FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

3

## SPORTS

### Five Iranians nominated for AFC Awards 2025

TEHRAN – The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced the highly anticipated list of nominees for the AFC Awards Riyadh 2025 presented by NEOM, which will take place on Oct. 16.

Hosted in Saudi Arabia for the first time, the 29th edition of the gala ceremony will be staged at the magnificent King Fahd Cultural Center and recognize the Continent's finest across a total of 20 award categories.

A glittering cast will contend for the prestigious Player of the Year accolades: Arif Aiman Hanapi, Akram Afif and Salem Al Dawsari are in the running for the AFC Player of the Year, while Holly McNamara, Wang Shuang and Hana Takahashi will vie for the AFC Women's Player of the Year.

Iran's Mehdi Taremi (Internazionale/Olympicos and IRN) is a candidate for the AFC Asian International Player of the Year. Takefusa Kubo (Real Sociedad and JPN) and Lee Kang-in (Paris Saint-Germain and KOR) are also candidate for the accolade.

Moslem Oladghobad (Gohar Zamin and IRN) and Salar Aghapour (Gohar Zamin and IRN) will vie for the AFC Futsal Player of the Year. Muhammad Osamanmusa (Jimbee Cartagena and THA) has been also shortlisted for the division.

Marziyeh Jafari (Bam Khatoon Women's FC and IRN) is shortlisted for AFC Coach of the Year (Women) as well as Lu Kuei-Hua (Taichung Blue Whale Women's FC and TPE) and Neungrutai Srathongvian (BG Asian Scholars College and THA).

Iran Football Federation, Japan Football Association, and Saudi Arabian Football Federation have been nominated for the AFC Member Association of the Year (Platinum).

### Iranian team denied visa for World Polo Championship

TEHRAN – Iran's men's polo team have been denied visas for the 2025 FIP Arena Polo World Championship, to be held in the United States.

The competition is scheduled to take place in Crozet, Virginia, from Oct. 5 to 12. Organized by the Federation of International Polo (FIP) and modeled after its traditional outdoor World Championship, this second edition will bring together elite national teams in a fast-paced, high-level arena format, featuring players with handicaps ranging from 10 to 12 goals.

Iran, known as Team Melli, earned their place in May in the qualification held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Polo is one of the world's oldest team sports. It has roots in the Western world traced back to Chovgan, with origins linked to ancient Persia dating from the 6th century BC to the 1st century AD.

### Iran held by England at 2025 IBSA Blind Football Nations Cup

TEHRAN – Iran and England shared the spoils in a 0-0 draw at the 2025 IBSA Blind Football Nations Cup on Friday.

Iran, who had defeated Poland 4-0 in their opening match on Thursday, are scheduled to play India, South Korea and Italy in the following days.

This tournament is an official event for the top six countries in the IBSA rankings announced in January 2025.

It is the first official event in the new cycle leading up to the next Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

### Shekari wins bronze at 2025 ISSF Junior World Cup

TEHRAN – Fatemeh Shekari of Iran claimed a bronze medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup.

The competition is taking place in New Delhi from 24 September to 2 October 2025.

Evelina Shenja (AIN) won the gold with 240.9 points. The silver medal went to Indian shooter Rashmika Sahgal (236.1) and Iran Shekari seized the bronze with 213.8 points.

New Delhi was part of the 2024 calendar, hosting the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final event in October.

### Iran U17 handball crowned Asian champions

TEHRAN – Iran defeated South Korea 28-25 in the final match of the 1st Asian Men's U17 Handball Championship on Thursday at the Princess Sumaya Hall in Amman, Jordan.

Iran had previously defeated South Korea 31-25 in the preliminary stage.

Earlier in the day, Qatar finished in third place with a 33-26 win over Bahrain.

Iran defeated the Maldives, Syria, South Korea (twice), Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, and Bahrian in the competition.

The competition served as a qualification tournament for the 1st IHF Men's U17 Handball World Championship, scheduled to take place in Morocco from Oct. 24 to Nov. 1.

Iran and South Korea, as the top two teams will represent Asia at the World Championship.

### Iran fail to reach 2025 FIVB World Championship semis

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Czech Republic 3-1 (25-22, 25-27, 20-25, 21-25) in the 2025 FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship on Thursday.

Patrik Indra led Czech Republic with 22 points, while Poriya Hossein Khanzadeh and Ali Hajipour scored 18 points apiece.

Czech will face winners of the U.S. and Bulgaria match in the semifinals.

In another semifinals, Poland will meet Italy.

The tournament continues in Pasay, Manila through 28 Sept., when the final will determine whether Italy defend their crown or new champions will emerge.

### Iran U17 win 2025 World Beach Wrestling Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's U17 team claimed the title of the 2025 World Beach Wrestling Championships in Greece.

The Iranian team won two gold medals, one silver and two bronze medals.

Yusef Hosseinpouran in 70kg and Mohammad Mehdi Fotouhi in 90kg won two golds.

Ilia Vaghari seized a silver in 70kg and Ali Asghar Kopej (60kg) and Abolfazl Sa'adati (80kg) took two bronzes.

Iran team won the title with 80 pints, followed by Georgia (75) and Azerbaijan (62).

The event took place at the foot of legendary Mount Olympus at the Aloha Beach Bar in Katerini, Greece, on September 25-26.



## Iran, Iraq and Russia plan meeting on international transport corridors

TEHRAN – Iran's railways chief has held talks with Iraq's transport minister on advancing joint rail projects, including the long-delayed Shalamcheh-Basra line, as part of broader efforts to expand regional connectivity.

Jabar Ali Zakari, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI), met Razzaq Muhaibis Al-Saadawi in Baghdad for intensive discussions on infrastructure development. The Shalamcheh-Basra railway, seen as vital for facilitating pilgrim travel and trade, was a central focus, with both sides stressing the need to resolve outstanding issues and secure stable financing.

They also discussed linking the Kerman-shah-Eslamabad-Khosravi railway to Iraq's Khanaqin, a project that could significantly boost freight and passenger flows between the two neighbors.

The two officials coordinated on preparations for a planned trilateral summit between Iran, Iraq and Russia in December aimed at developing international transport corridors and strengthening regional cooperation. The talks highlighted a shared determination to accelerate railway projects, ease bottlenecks and use transport networks to deepen economic and cultural ties.

Iran's efforts align with wider regional initiatives to expand the International North-South Transport Corridor, where Tehran and Moscow have committed tens of billions of dollars in investment.



Projects such as the Ulyanovsk-Astara rail line, the Volga-Caspian sea route, and expanded port facilities on the Caspian and Persian Gulf coasts are intended to cut freight delivery times and diversify transit options.

Officials and analysts say disruptions to global supply chains have created an opportunity for Iran to position itself as a key Eurasian transit hub. The government aims to raise the country's annual transit capacity to 40 million tons under its Seventh Development Plan, making transport infrastructure a national priority. Ports such as Anzali on the Caspian Sea and Shahid Bahonar on the Persian Gulf are being developed as multimodal gateways to connect rail, sea and road networks with neighboring markets and beyond.

## India signals interest in resuming oil imports from Iran

TEHRAN – India has imported a large shipment of Iranian crude for the first time in years, raising speculation that New Delhi may be preparing to resume broader purchases despite U.S. sanctions.

Data from India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed the country imported Iranian crude worth \$111 million in June.

India had halted purchases of Iranian oil in 2018 after Washington's withdrawal from the nuclear deal and the reimposition of sanctions.

In addition to crude, India imported \$94 million worth of Iranian petroleum products between January and July this year.

Total Iranian oil and petroleum exports to India reached \$205 million in the first seven

months of 2025, accounting for 54 percent of Iran's total exports to the country.

While it remains unclear whether India will formally restore long-term crude imports, officials in New Delhi have recently signaled a willingness to act more independently from U.S. policy.

Western media have reported that Indian authorities have asked Washington to allow them to import oil from Iran and Venezuela if they agree to scale back or halt imports from Russia.

Analysts say India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, is eager to diversify its energy sources amid global market volatility, and Iranian supplies could play an important role if restrictions ease.

## CBI allocates over \$6.9b for essential goods imports

TEHRAN – The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said it has provided more than \$27.7 billion in foreign currency for imports of basic goods, medicine, industry and services since the start of the current Iranian year in March.

Of this total, \$6.92 billion was earmarked as preferential foreign exchange to secure imports of essential goods, which the bank described as critical to meeting public needs.

Importers in the commercial and industrial sectors received \$20 billion to purchase machinery and raw materials, while around \$797 million was allocated to cover service-related requirements.

Officials say the measures are part of efforts to stabilize domestic markets, ensure adequate supply of essential commodities, and support industrial activity despite financial restrictions.

## BRICS tax chiefs meet to boost cooperation and transparency

TEHRAN – Heads of tax authorities from Iran, Russia, China, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates held a joint meeting to exchange experiences and review the latest achievements in tax administration systems.

The discussions focused on electronic invoicing, pre-filled tax returns, new taxpayer services, and credit rating systems as key areas of reform. Participants underlined the need to expand cooperation, enhance transparency, improve processes and strengthen

tax justice, noting that international knowledge-sharing can raise efficiency across their systems.

On the sidelines, Iran's tax chief held bilateral talks with his Chinese counterpart. The meeting highlighted Iran's recent advances in implementing pre-completed tax returns and system-based collection processes, which have eased taxpayer obligations and improved compliance.

# Iran, Eurasia sign 3-year roadmap for economic cooperation

TEHRAN – The Eurasian Economic Commission said it has signed a three-year roadmap with Iran to expand economic cooperation across multiple sectors.

Andrey Slepnev, trade minister of the Eurasian Economic Commission, told reporters the agreement covers areas such as transport, logistics, and notably the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).

He said the two sides also agreed to establish a "green customs" framework, pursue digitalization, and move toward electronic transit systems to create new opportunities for businesses.

Slepnev added that serious efforts are underway to remove



barriers on imports into Iran.

A full free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union came into effect on May 15 this year.

Iran and the EAEU, which comprises Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, first signed an interim trade deal in 2018, reducing tariffs on hun-

dreds of goods. That agreement helped push bilateral trade to nearly \$6.0 billion in 2023, according to official figures.

Iranian officials have repeatedly described the EAEU as a gateway to Eurasian and Central Asian markets, while the bloc views Iran as a vital link to the Persian Gulf and the INSTC route that connects India, Iran, Russia and northern Europe.

The permanent free trade pact signed in December 2023 replaced the interim deal and granted preferential access to more than 7,500 categories of goods. Both sides say the accord will pave the way for deeper industrial, agricultural and energy cooperation in the coming years.

## Gold production in Iran to reach 25 tons annually by 2027

TEHRAN – Iran expects to raise its annual gold production to 25 tons by the end of its Seventh five-year National Development Plan (early 2027), while attracting \$30 billion in mining investments, according to the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Omid Emami, deputy head of IMIDRO for development projects, said Iran currently produces about 12 tons of gold annually from its mines. He noted that overall mineral output exceeds 500 million tons a year, but gold

is measured based on refined bullion content.

He said the Zarshouran mine expansion is a priority and will add at least three tons to output, while Goloujeh and other projects in Sistan-Baluchestan province are expected to contribute about one ton. In total, IMIDRO forecasts a minimum of four additional tons from new projects.

On investment, Emami said \$30 billion has been earmarked for mining and metals development under the plan. Funding will come from a mix of bank loans, foreign investment,

private sector participation and, to a lesser extent, state resources.

He acknowledged sanctions and potential snapback measures pose challenges, but said better coordination between customs authorities, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and other stakeholders is vital to mitigate risks.

Diversifying export methods, ensuring currency repatriation, and using tools such as barter could also help reduce the impact of restrictions, Emami added.

## Iran says snapback mechanism will not impose new hurdles on oil sales

TEHRAN – Iran's oil minister said the possible activation of the so-called snapback mechanism would not create fresh restrictions on crude exports, stressing that contingency measures are in place if needed.

Mohsen Paknejad told reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting that Iran has already weathered years of severe U.S. sanctions, and the snapback mechanism would not add significantly to existing curbs.

"If we face conditions that require counter-measures, the necessary planning will be carried out," he said.

He noted that crude exports to China will continue without disruption.

Paknejad underlined that Iran's oil marketing team consists of "the most professional people," particularly in neutralizing sanctions, and said extensive consultations have been held with experts to devise strategies.

He added that Iran remains committed to sustaining oil production. "We are not very worried, and our people should not be worried either," he said.

The minister emphasized that the snapback mechanism does not directly target oil sales, but could affect commercial, financial and maritime transport conditions. "If such restrictions emerge, we will apply our measures at the right time," he said.



## Iran's wheat output falls by 2.5m tons, USDA says

TEHRAN – Iran's wheat production is expected to decline to 13.5 million tons in the 2024/25 crop year, down 2.5 million tons from last season, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

USDA figures show Iran produced about 16 million tons of wheat in 2023/24. Domestic consumption for the new crop year is estimated at 16.95 million tons, leaving a shortfall of 3.45 million tons to be covered by imports.

Iran, the world's 17th most populous country, ranks as the eighth-largest wheat consumer globally. China tops the list with 148 million tons, followed by India, the European Union, Russia, Pakistan, Egypt and Turkey.

Despite having a smaller population, Turkey consumes about 2.5 million tons more wheat than Iran. The United Kingdom consumes slightly less, at around 15.5 million tons.

The USDA report also noted a 100,000-

ton drop in Iran's barley production, which is projected at 3 million tons for 2024/25 compared to 3.1 million tons a year earlier.

The country's barley deficit is estimated at 2.1 million tons, to be met through imports, compared with 2.3 million tons last year.

Iran's total barley stocks are forecast at 682,000 tons, up from 482,000 tons in 2023/24.

## Iran steps up drive to tap Africa's markets via new transport gateways



By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – Iran has stepped up engagement with Africa in recent months, sealing agreements with Tunisia and holding high-level meetings aimed at tapping into the continent's growing markets. But experts warn that lasting success depends on removing structural barriers, especially in transport and financial channels.

During a visit to Tunis on September 9, Foreign Minister Abbas

Araghchi signed a package of accords that included visa-free travel for up to 15 days, the launch of direct Tehran-Tunis flights, the creation of a joint economic commission and initiatives to boost tourism. Tunis, with its position in North Africa, is viewed in Tehran as a gateway for wider trade with the region.

Despite the political goodwill, analysts say many previous memoranda of understanding with African partners have re-

mained on paper. Persistent obstacles such as high transport costs, limited shipping options, financial transfer difficulties, poor market knowledge and regional competition continue to constrain trade.

Masoud Barhaman, head of the Iran-Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce, said Africa represents one of Iran's most important future markets, with opportunities in agriculture, engineering services and basic commodities. He stressed the chamber's role in mobilizing the private sector and using international networks to expand Iran's footprint.

Rouhollah Latifi, spokesman of the Trade Development Commission of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, noted that Iranian exports to Tunisia rose significantly in the first five months of this year, though Tehran's overall share of Tunisian imports remains negligible. He argued that sustainable growth will only come if transport routes are

regular and affordable, financial mechanisms such as barter or settlement channels are developed, and products are actively promoted through exhibitions and trade events.

Available data show that Iran's iron and steel exports to Tunisia brought in about \$7.5 million in recent years, underlining the potential of Africa's markets. But some Iranian agricultural goods such as raisins and pistachios still reach African buyers indirectly through hubs like Dubai, rebranded under third-country origins due to the lack of direct logistical and financial pathways.

Officials and experts say overcoming these structural hurdles could unlock opportunities in a continent of more than one billion people. The recent accords with Tunisia and stronger emphasis on economic diplomacy signal Tehran's intent, but translating political ties into trade flows will require sustained investment and practical reforms.



# Iran and China deepen cooperation under Global Governance Initiative

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Since Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), the mechanism has been broadly welcomed by countries across the world, including Iran.

The GGI was highlighted during a ceremony hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Tehran on Monday, September 22, commemorating the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

## GGI takes center stage

The event went beyond marking 76 years since the founding of the PRC, serving as a platform to showcase the growing global significance of the Global Governance Initiative.

In his keynote speech, the Chinese Ambassador to Iran, Cong Peiwu, placed particular weight on the initiative, framing it as a timely answer to pressing international challenges. He described the GGI as a Chinese solution that responds to the universal aspirations of all peoples and meets the urgent needs of the world today.

The ceremony, attended by a large number of diplomats, ambassadors, and Iranian officials, reflected not only the depth of bilateral relations but also the willingness of both Tehran and Beijing to position the GGI as a shared vision for shaping a more cooperative and just world order.

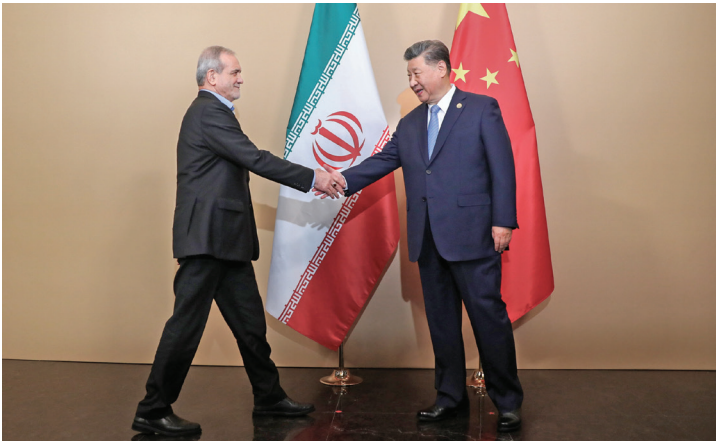
Iran's enthusiastic reception of the initiative has underscored this point. In an exclusive interview with China Media Group, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian praised the GGI as a significant step toward building a more peaceful, secure, just and equitable world. He described it as a model of today's international vision.

Pezeshkian's remarks, delivered on the sidelines of this year's Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, further demonstrated Iran's alignment with China's governance approach. His comments suggested that Tehran views the GGI not only as a Chinese initiative but as a framework with global potential—particularly relevant to developing countries navigating complex international dynamics.

## Iran-China synergy

Speaking to the Tehran Times at the PRC anniversary reception, Ambassador Cong elaborated on how the GGI could strengthen ties between Tehran and Beijing.

The Chinese ambassador emphasized the two countries' com-



President Xi Jinping met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 2, 2025

mitment to global cooperation. "For Iran and China, as important members of the Global South, there is much we can do together to ensure that the Global Governance Initiative is implemented sooner rather than later. For example, by practicing multilateralism.



Chinese Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu delivered a speech on Monday, September 22, on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China

We are both members of the SCO and BRICS, and we are working very closely within these important mechanisms to make sure the Global South has a greater say in international affairs," he said.

He also highlighted China and Iran's focus on people-centered development. "Additionally, in terms of a people-centered approach, both of us attach great importance to improving the lives of our peoples... We can exchange views in this regard, creating more favorable conditions for extensive cooperation, not only between China and Iran but also among the Global South," the ambassador explained.

## Guiding principles of the GGI

President Xi formally unveiled the Global Governance Initiative at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus Meeting in Tianjin on September 1. The initiative was presented as China's response to

the growing complexity of global challenges, offering a roadmap for countries to work together in pursuit of a more balanced and inclusive international order.

At its core, the GGI advances a vision of peaceful coexistence, shared prosperity, and win-win

cooperation. Xi outlined five guiding principles to anchor this vision. The first emphasizes respect for sovereign equality, ensuring that all nations—regardless of size or power—are treated as equals. The second stresses the importance of upholding the international rule of law as the basis for fair and transparent global governance. The third calls for a renewed commitment to multilateralism, encouraging countries to resolve disputes and shape the future through dialogue and collective mechanisms.

Equally central to the initiative is a people-centered approach, placing human well-being and social development at the forefront of policy-making. Finally, Xi highlighted the necessity of taking concrete, practical actions so that commitments translate into tangible benefits for nations and their citizens.

Together, these principles present a framework for a more just,

equitable, and sustainable global system, one capable of addressing today's uncertainties while building a shared future for humanity.

## Strategic partnership

During his Tehran Times interview, Ambassador Cong also addressed a question regarding the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement, the landmark 25-year plan between Iran and China.

"Since the plan was initiated four years ago, it has made a lot of progress, benefiting the people of both countries. Currently, after the important meeting in Beijing between President Xi Jinping and President Pezeshkian, I think the most important task for us is to implement the important consensus reached by them. We should take more steps in this direction, including greater efforts in trade, investment, clean energy, and connectivity."

He added that cooperation extends beyond trade and investment. "Surely, there are many more areas, such as people-to-people exchanges, subnational cooperation, and exchanges between scholars and think tanks. I believe that all these strong efforts will help push forward the implementation process of the Comprehensive Cooperation Plan, bringing us more tangible outcomes in the coming months and years."

President Pezeshkian's meeting with President Xi, held on the sidelines of the SCO Summit, further underscored the shared commitment to advancing the partnership—a commitment that has also been emphasized by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The historic 25-year agreement signed in Tehran in March 2021 aims to strengthen Iran-China ties amid US sanctions, covering political, economic, security, and cultural cooperation. Its roots go back to President Xi's 2016 visit to Iran, reflecting the steady growth of their relationship.

## Expanding ties

Reflecting Iran's growing efforts to strengthen engagement with China, the official media outlet of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution recently launched his official Chinese-language account on the social media platform X, publishing messages directly in Chinese.

Ambassador Cong welcomed this development during his interview, calling it "another fine example of how the Iranian side is stepping up efforts to push forward the relationship."

The channel, supported by the Saudi embassy, ??asked: "Who will ever be convinced that an army that dares not prevent two pictures from being lightened on a rock is capable of restricting the use of weapons to the state?" Analysts say this event could have passed without fanfare were it not for the presence of sick, servile individuals who flocked to congratulate Saudi National Day and ignored the daily attacks the people of the south are subjected to.

The incitement coincides with the approaching parliamentary election campaigns in May 2026, as political tensions over the electoral law and its amendments escalate.

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

## Protests and walkouts eclipse Netanyahu's UN appearance



From page 1 ▶ Independent UN mechanisms and leading rights groups have drawn a far grimmer picture than the one Netanyahu offered. In a September report, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry concluded that the Israeli conduct in Gaza meets the legal threshold of genocide.

Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have documented patterns of indiscriminate bombardment, forced displacement, and the deliberate deprivation of essential services that they say amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Public-health agencies and UN partners, drawing on figures from Gaza's Ministry of Health, estimate that more than 65,500 people have been killed since October 2023.

The war has forced the displacement of up to 90 percent of the population, while famine conditions have taken hold in several areas. The World Health Organization has confirmed hundreds of deaths from malnutrition, many of them children.

Beyond Gaza, Israel's military actions have extended across the region, with deadly strikes in Lebanon, Syria, and Iran, where more than 1,065 people were killed in the 12-Day War. Attacks have also targeted sites in Qatar and other parts of West Asia, widening the conflict's footprint and drawing condemnation for what critics describe as a campaign of destabilization.

Netanyahu sought to rebut such charges by pointing to evacuation orders and intelligence claims, and by portraying Iran as the backbone of a regional "terror axis."

Those assertions did not persuade critics who point out that warnings alone cannot absolve a belligerent of responsibility for operations that hit hospitals, shelters, and schools or that substantially hinder lifesaving aid.

The repeated refrain to "finish the job" in an enclave of nearly two million civilians risks being read not as a constrained military objective but as justification for actions with catastrophic humanitarian and legal consequences.

A particularly contentious decision during the UN appearance was the transmission of the speech into Gaza via loudspeakers on the border and, according to multiple reports, through mobile devices.

Framed by Tel Aviv as communication aimed at captives, the broadcasts were described by many humanitarian advocates and Palestinian journalists as coercive psychological pressure imposed on a population already under bombardment and facing starvation.

The scene in New York — empty UN rows, diplomatic walkouts and sustained street protests, including large marches from Times Square to the UN and demonstrations outside Netanyahu's Manhattan hotel — crystallized the political cost of the address.

## Lebanon PM vs. the Resistance: Who stands to gain?

From page 1 ▶ Obviously, the outcome of the event was a slap in the face to Prime Minister Nawaf Salam as the popular scene disturbed him, exposing his reckless behavior demonstrated through his post on X.

Salam considered the memorial ceremony in the Raouche area "a clear violation," saying he had asked the Ministers of Interior, Justice, and Defense to "take appropriate measures, including arresting the perpetrators and referring them to court so they can receive punishment, in accordance with applicable laws."

Not content with that, Salam's narcissism prompted him to cancel his appointments until

those responsible for what happened are held accountable, i.e. the Army Commander and the heads of the security services.

Salam, who called for the arrest of thousands of citizens who participated in the event, does not seem concerned about the repercussions of his decisions. It is as if obstructing the internal strife project approved in the sessions of August 5 and 7 requires him to seek other means whose sole purpose is to serve Israel! In this context, anti-Resistance channel MTV severely attacked the army, describing the failure to implement Salam's decision as a "black image" presented to the Lebanese, Arab, and international communities.

## Hamas rebukes PA statement to UN

From page 1 ▶ Resistance against occupation is a national and moral responsibility, whose legitimacy stems from the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their natural right to resist occupation, a right recognized by international laws and conventions.

Hamas said the Palestinian Authority president repeats "the false narrative of the Zionist regime" by accusing the resistance of targeting civilians.

Furthermore, the movement said Abbas's claim that Hamas will have no role in governance is a blatant violation of the Palestinian people's fundamental right to self-determination and to choose their own leaders. Hamas said it views such

statements as an unacceptable submission to foreign dictates and external agendas.

The statement reaffirmed that as long as the Israeli occupation continues there can be no compromise on the weapons of resistance.

Hamas pointed out that this is especially true when the people of Gaza are enduring a brutal genocide while armed settlers and occupying forces are committing ruthless acts of violence against civilians in the occupied West Bank.

Hamas concluded that national unity and a comprehensive resistance strategy are essential to counter the occupation regime's goals of genocide, displacement,

annexation, and the Judaization of al-Quds (Jerusalem) and al-Aqsa Mosque. It asserted that this approach is key to realizing the Palestinian aspirations for freedom, return to their homeland, and an independent state with al-Quds as its capital.

In a separate statement marking the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian Journalists (26 September), Hamas said the Israeli killing of 251 journalists in Gaza "won't silence the truth."

In full view of the world, the statement underlined, the regime's offensive against Palestinian media is a "heinous crime" and a blatant violation of international laws, con-

ventions, and norms.

Meanwhile, Israeli occupation forces (IOF) have waged more indiscriminate attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip, in particular northern Gaza City's urban neighborhoods, leading to further civilian casualties. Among the dead include children seeking aid.

Residential buildings are being continuously flattened to the ground as IOF warplanes, drones, and tank fire try to pave the way for the regime's infantry to reoccupy the city center.

Palestinian resistance groups are waging operations against the IOF ground forces, leading to more casualties among the occupation regime's soldiers.



Historic UN moment: Brazilian President Lula da Silva kisses Colombian President Gustavo Petro after Petro's fiery speech condemning Israel's actions in Gaza and calling for an international force to support Palestine.



## Mashhad eyes sisterhood agreement with Mecca, Medina

TEHRAN – Ahmad Masoumifar, head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' office in northeast Iran, has proposed establishing a sisterhood agreement between Mashhad and the Saudi cities of Mecca or Medina.

He said such an agreement would strengthen urban diplomacy and promote pilgrim exchange between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark 95th anniversary of National Saudi Day, which was held at Misaq Hotel in Mashhad, the Saudi's consulate, he stated: "With the presence of the Saudi Consul General in Mashhad, we can hope more than ever for the development of economic and trade relations with the corresponding places in Saudi Arabia, such as Mecca, Medina, and Jeddah," Miras-e Arya (CHTN) reported.

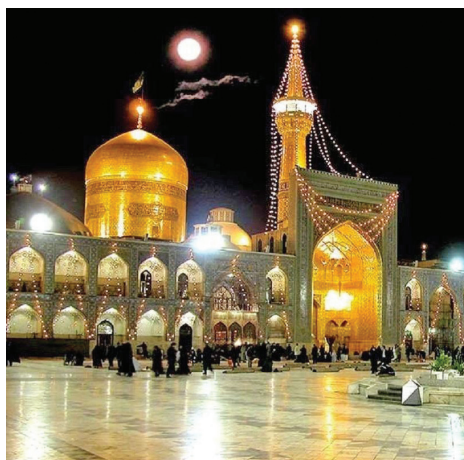
Masoumifar added that Khorasan Razavi province, with 6,000 economic enterprises and over 43 industrial townships and tourism, pilgrimage, health, historical and ancient capacities, can create a high potential for promoting ties with Saudi Arabia.

He said that the commitment to building bridges of communication between the parties always strengthens the view of developing bilateral relations; at the same time as the changes in the formation of the new world order, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can take joint steps to create and strengthen the unity of the Islamic Ummah, while preventing the efforts and interference of the hegemonic powers that aim to divide Muslim nations.

Masoumifar stated that also, the joint action of Islamic countries against the Zionist regime's genocide can lead to strengthening the unity of the Islamic Ummah against this criminal and infanticidal regime.

The axis of the upcoming world order is the transition from global hegemony to the Islamic region, he said, adding that in this framework, the normalization and development of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the King of Saudi Arabia is evaluated as a great achievement.

He said: "Today, we celebrate the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and respect the deep Islamic history and cultural heritage of this country, because Mecca is the center of unity and solidarity of the world's Muslims, and Medina is respected



by Muslims all over the world. Similarly, the holy city of Mashhad and the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), as the spiritual capital of Iran, has a unique position among the Muslims of the world and attracts pilgrims and enthusiasts from all over the world."

Masoumifar said that promoting the pilgrimage is one of the important ways for ties between two nations.

"By working together and facilitating the pilgrimage for traveling to the holy cities of the two countries, we can strengthen deeper cultural relations and the bonds of faith that bring our people closer together.

By concluding a sisterhood agreement between the holy cities of Mecca or Medina with the holy city of Mashhad, we can develop city diplomacy and cultural development of pilgrimage between these two Muslim nations."

He reminded that it is necessary to appreciate the very positive cooperation of the Saudi Arabian country during the Hajj and the establishment of flights from the northeast of Iran to the land of revelation and the pursuit of Umrah visas.

"Our view of the future is to expand cooperation in cultural and economic fields. In this regard, we believe that a business visa is necessary to promote and prosper trade between the parties, especially for the private sector of the two countries, in order to honor trade and economic delegations and hold joint economic and exhibitions between the parties

According to a definition by international organizations of the benefits inherent in sisterhood and brotherhood of cities, it accelerates cultural exchange in the form of street naming, exchange of symbols, cultural tours and other cultural programs.

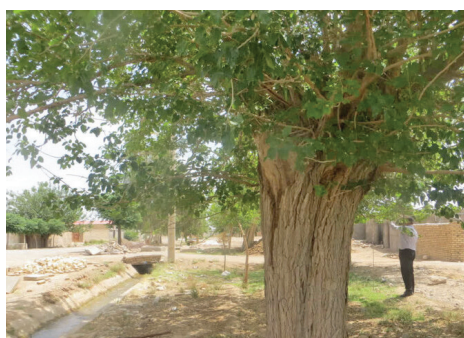
## Long-lasting mulberry tree registered on Natural Heritage List

TEHRAN – Isfahan Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Amir Karamzadeh gave news of the registration of the ancient mulberry tree of Sarasiab village in Badrud, Natanz county, Isfahan province, on Iran's Natural Heritage List.

According to Mehr news agency, he said on Thursday that the ancient mulberry tree known as 'Sardar', as one of the country's valuable natural heritages, was officially registered on the list of national natural monuments of Iran.

He continued that this important event, which demonstrates the importance of protecting the country's natural and historical reserves, was communicated to the governor of Isfahan in an official letter from Deputy Cultural Heritage Minister Ali Darabi.

Karamzadeh explained that this mulberry tree, which is known due to its antiquity and unique features, is a symbol of ancient nature and the regional identity of the village of Sarasiab.



He said that the registration of this natural relic on National Heritage List can be an important step toward sustainable protection of this natural treasure and preparing the necessary facilities for further introduction and research on it.

Apart from environmental values, the measure can help boost tourism in Sarasiab village and introduce natural potentials of Isfahan province, he pointed out.

It is expected that with this registration, more attention will be paid to preserving and introducing this valuable natural relic, he added.

# University of Tokyo releases digital archive of rare Taq-e Bostan photographs

TEHRAN – The University Museum of the University of Tokyo has unveiled a significant digital database featuring photographs from its 1965 archaeological expedition to Taq-e Bostan, a renowned Sasanian-era site in western Iran.

The collection offers an unprecedented glimpse into the monument's intricate rock reliefs, which depict royal coronations, divine imagery, and vibrant hunting scenes celebrated for their artistic and narrative richness.

The newly released database comprises nearly 1,500 high-resolution images, forming a complete visual record of the 1965 survey. These photographs are part of a broader archaeological initiative conducted during the 1965 and 1976 expeditions under the research project "Ancient Iranian Civilization as the Source of Ancient Civilization in East Asia and Japan." The new digital archive



builds upon the legacy of the University of Tokyo's four-volume series "Taq-i-Bustan" (1969–1984), which marked a major contribution to global art history and archaeology.

Taq-e Bostan monument, located near Kermanshah, stands as one of the most spectacular and best-preserved sites from the Sasanian era (224–651 CE). Its primary features include two majestic iwans (arch-shaped

rock shelters) carved directly into a limestone cliff. The larger iwan contains magnificent reliefs depicting investiture ceremonies of Sasanian kings, while the site is particularly famed for its breathtakingly detailed panels of royal boar and deer hunts—vibrant masterpieces that showcase the sophistication and narrative power of late Sasanian art.

The newly released imag-

es serve as an invaluable historical record, capturing the site's condition from a period before more pronounced modern environmental changes. As the institution that has most systematically documented Taq-e Bostan, the University of Tokyo's archive meets a long-standing need among researchers worldwide.

Complementing these historical efforts, the Taq-e Bostan Cultural Heritage Center has recently documented the entire complex through photogrammetry, producing a high-precision 3D model of the site. It is hoped that the images from this contemporary documentation will be published in a separate volume, offering another dimension of preservation and study.

The initiative is expected to greatly benefit academic fields ranging from Iranian and Sasanian studies to Silk Road archaeology.

## Iran, Malaysia see tourism as bridge for stronger ties



From Page 1 ▶

### Historical and cultural background

At the beginning of the interview, this official of Indonesia's Ministry of Tourism referred to the historical roots between the two nations and said:

"I have heard that even during the reign of the Minangkabau Kingdom, there were close relations between the land of Persia and Indonesia. This cultural and historical closeness is a valuable asset for us that can be revived in a new form in the modern era."

He continued: "History is full of common points between the two countries. These similarities themselves are a golden opportunity for initiating broader cooperation. From this shared past, we can build frameworks for future cooperation in the fields of culture, economy, and tourism."

### Tourism, a tool for understanding and peace

According to this Indonesian official, the tourism industry is more than just an economic activity. He said: "We believe tourism can be an effective tool for global peace. When nations get to know each other closely and understand one another's cultural values, the ground is prepared for reducing misunderstandings and increasing global solidarity. With their rich history and culture, Iran and Indonesia have the capacity to present, through tourism, a model of peace and friendship at the international level."

### Obstacles ahead and hope for the future

The official emphasized that the development of tourism between countries—particularly between Iran and Indone-

sia—faces challenges. He explained:

"Certain issues such as security, regulatory reforms, or updates to immigration laws remain challenges that require dialogue and joint cooperation. However, fortunately in the current period, the Ministry of Immigration in Indonesia is operating as an independent body, and this is promising for further facilitation in the process of foreign tourists' entry."

According to him, Indonesia is making efforts to simplify and accelerate the entry process for tourists by utilizing digital technologies and launching online immigration systems:

"Today, some countries, including ASEAN members and about 60 to 70 other countries, benefit from special entry facilities. We hope that in the near future, Iranian tourists will also be able to travel to Indonesia with greater ease."

### Joint tourism packages: from idea to implementation

The Indonesian tourism official pointed to one practical measure for expanding relations with Iran: "One of the quick ways to begin cooperation is designing joint tourism packages. We can invite Iranian journalists to help introduce Indonesia's attractions in Iranian media. Similarly, inviting Iranian tour operators for field visits to Indonesia's tourism destinations can create a direct ground for cooperation between tourism industry stakeholders of the two countries."

He expressed hope that this process would eventually lead to the formation of joint tours between Iran and Indonesia: "Following these exchanges, Iranian and Indonesian companies can collaborate to design joint travel packages. These packages may include Iranians traveling to Indonesia or Indonesians traveling to Iran, thus contributing to the sustainable development of bilateral tourism."

### Media, a bridge between nations

In his view, media play a crucial role in introducing tourism attractions and strengthening mutual understanding between nations:

"Whether digital media or traditional ones such as print and websites, they can serve as important tools of cooperation.

Through content exchange, publication of reports, and showcasing attractions, we can enhance the familiarity of people from both countries. Such media collaboration can boost tourist interest and strengthen cultural ties."

### Indonesia's experience during the pandemic

In the continuation of the interview, he referred to Indonesia's experience during the COVID-19 pandemic and said:

"The pandemic brought severe stagnation to the tourism industry across the world. But Indonesia managed to begin recovery earlier than many other countries. One reason for this success was the strategy pursued by the then Minister of Tourism, Mr. Sandiaga Uno. He emphasized three principles: adaptation, innovation, and collaboration."

He continued: "In conditions of widespread restrictions, we were forced to adapt to the new environment. Businesses had to innovate—use digital methods, and even hold their meetings online. At the same time, cooperation among the government, universities, the private sector, and civil society became highly significant. This multi-sector collaboration enabled us to overcome the crisis more swiftly."

### Focus on domestic tourism and digital innovation

The official added: "Two key factors played an important role in our success: first, special attention to health standards, and second, a focus on domestic tourism. Given Indonesia's large population, we were able to revive the tourism economy sooner by attracting domestic tourists. Alongside this, digital innovation also helped us discover new pathways for developing tourism."

### The link between culture and nature in Indonesia

In another part of the interview, he referred to the influence of geography and nature on Indonesian culture:

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

## Cultural heritage ministry hails wider ties with Iranian police

TEHRAN-- The Cultural Heritage Protection Unit needs support and strengthened cooperation with the Iranian police's counterterrorism unit, known as FARAJA, said Cultural Heritage Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri in a meeting with the Commander-in-Chief of Iran's Police Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Radan on Friday.

According to IRNA, the minister called preserving the cultural monuments and heritages as a national and strategic mission. He said that preserving the

country's cultural heritage is safeguarding the identity and civilizational assets of Islamic Iran.

The Cultural Heritage Protection Unit needs support and strengthening of cooperation with FARAJA and this can be a successful model of synergy between the responsible agencies against cultural threats, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the 12-day imposed war of the Zionist regime against Iran and expressed

sympathy with the families of the martyrs and the injured.

He appreciated the efforts and struggles of FARAJA Commander-in-Chief and the forces under his command, adding: "What is more important today than ever is maintaining the national unity, resisting the threats, and strengthening the spirit of hope in society."

Also, Brigadier General Radan emphasized the civilizational and identical status of the country's cultural heritage and said preserving the ancient

heritage is not just the mission of an institution, but a national duty and a shared responsibility.

The security forces are ready to support the missions of the Cultural Heritage Protection Unit with all their capacity, he pointed out.

The meeting ended with both sides emphasizing the development of joint cooperation and the utilization of law enforcement and management capacities for the effective protection of the country's historical and cultural heritages.



# Tehran, Brasilia explore avenues to expand sci-tech ties

TEHRAN – The head of the Center for Progress and Development of Iran (CPDI), Sajjad Ahadzadeh, and the Brazilian ambassador to Tehran, André Veras Guimarães, have discussed ways to foster cooperation between the two countries in the science and technology sectors.

During a meeting held in Tehran on Wednesday, Guimarães highlighted the two nations' membership in BRICS, the bloc which is a critical platform for expanding regional cooperation and reinforcing multilateralism. "BRICS, representing over half of the world's population and 40 percent of global GDP, holds a significant potential to improve economic, political, as well as scientific and technological structures at the global level," Mehr news agency quoted Guimarães as saying.

The official also called for the expansion of trade ties and a deeper mutual understanding of each country's culture and geopolitical positions to help promote collaborative efforts between Iran and Brazil.

For his part, Ahadzadeh underlined the significance of boosting bilateral and multilateral cooperation and benefiting from the potential capacities, referring to the 120-year relationship between the two countries and the



two countries' partnerships in the science, technology, and innovation fields since 2009.

The officials agreed to enhance cooperation in a wide range of sectors, including agriculture and food security, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technology and digital economy, innovative technologies in tile and ceramic manufacture with minimal water consumption, AI in cognitive neuroscience, oil and gas, and renewable energies.

Producing ethanol as Brazil's primary biofuel, manufacturing joint electric vehicles, exploring minerals and developing exploration tools, extracting crude oil in the deep waters of the Caspian Sea, and fostering cooperation in the aerospace industry were among the other agreements reached. Brazil chairs the BRICS

group in 2025.

## Developing Scientific ties with BRICS

In April 2024, representatives from Iranian universities and higher education institutes and the BRICS Expert Council held a meeting in Tehran to discuss ways to expand scientific cooperation.

It was the first meeting held on the topic of scientific research and technological initiatives.

During the meeting, Victoria Panova, head of the council who is also Vice-Rector of HSE University in Russia, and Omid Rezaei-Far, an official with the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, explored avenues to boost the scientific and technological ties, IRIB reported.

"Despite cruel sanctions, Iran

has achieved many accomplishments in agriculture, biotechnology, technology, and engineering sciences fields," IRIB quoted Panova as saying.

She also noted that, unlike what is imagined, the BRICS group is not merely an economic group. It is here to introduce the high capacity of the BRICS in terms of science and technology as well.

Panova went on to emphasize Iran's capabilities and readiness to expand scientific cooperation with member states of this international organization.

Rezaei-Far, for his part, said the working groups will be established soon and aligned with BRICS educational activities; academic members of each working group will collaborate with BRICS to fulfill its goals.

Highlighting the high scientific capabilities of Iranian universities and science and technology parks, Rezaei-Far announced Iran's readiness to participate in BRICS scientific endeavors, particularly skill training courses with an emphasis on innovation and technology.

The BRICS group, comprised of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, was established in 2009. It has emerged as a significant force shaping global economic discussions.

## 'Environmental health is cornerstone of community health'

TEHRAN – Environmental health is the cornerstone of community health, a valuable opportunity to reflect on the importance of a healthy environment and its vital role in ensuring human health and well-being, an official with the health ministry has said.

In a situation where air pollution has become a serious health hazard in metropolises and industrial areas, contributing to a large share of premature deaths worldwide, it is critical to adopt scientific, cross-sectoral approaches to reduce air pollutants' emissions and enhance air quality through clean energies, IRNA quoted Alireza Raeisi as saying.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of the World Environmental Health Day, which is celebrated on September 26 every year.

Lauding the efforts of environmental health experts and managers, Raeisi expressed hope to improve environmental health by utilizing modern technologies and the expertise of the universities of medical sciences.

This year, the World Environmental Health Day's theme, 'Clean Air, Healthy People', underlines the role of air quality in promoting public health. The focus of the day is to promote awareness and action on the impact of clean air on public health, addressing air pollution, climate change, and respiratory diseases.

Air pollution contributes to respiratory diseases, heart conditions, and climate change. Everyone has a role to play in reducing air pollution and advocating for clean air policies. Sustainable practices and policies can mitigate the effects of air pollution and im-

prove people's health and wellbeing.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a healthy environment could prevent nearly a quarter of the global disease burden.

The ongoing environmental crisis is profoundly affecting health as climate change intensifies, biodiversity declines, and pollution becomes ubiquitous. The health impacts of poor environmental conditions occur not only directly but also indirectly, through effects on food production, migration, economic instability, and social inequalities.

Urgent action is needed to transform how we live, work, produce, consume, and govern. Strengthening primary prevention is essential, given the substantial reduction in disease burden it can offer, as well as the potential savings in healthcare costs and resources. Cross-sectoral collaboration is crucial in addressing the environmental determinants of health, including the health, energy, industry, agriculture, and transport sectors. Integrating actions across these sectors often leads to significant co-benefits and cost reductions.

### Air pollution

Emission sources of fine particles include a variety of combustion activities (motor vehicles, power plants, wood burning, etc.) as well as specific industrial processes. These particles are emitted directly or as secondary pollutants in the atmosphere.

In general, the main sources of particulate matter emissions are fuel combustion, such as burning coal and wood, diesel engines, industrial and agricultural processes, and vehicle emissions. Suspended particles generally affect the air quality during the cold months.

Numerous scientific studies on particles show that exposure to the particles causes many health problems, including premature death in patients with heart and lung diseases, non-fatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeats, lung cancer, exacerbation of asthma, decreased lung function, increased respiratory symptoms, reduction in fertility rates, and ultimately leads to a decrease in life expectancy.

According to a report released by the Health Ministry, air pollution in Iran leads to 50,000 deaths each year, of which 7,000 occur in Tehran.

Air pollution also accounts for 2,029 and 661 deaths in Isfahan and Arak, respectively. The costs of air pollution on the health system in Isfahan amount to 796 million dollars, and in Arak, it is equal to 2.564 million dollars.

Environmental regulations, the enforcement of strict laws, and the development of renewable energy are essential to curb air pollution.

Raising public awareness of the harmful effects of pollution and training the ways to deal with it, improving waste management systems, sewage, and water treatment, and improving public health via the development of health services in deprived areas are some other effective measures to address air pollution.

Policies to reduce air pollution, therefore, offer a win-win strategy for both climate and health, lowering the burden of disease attributable to air pollution, as well as contributing to the near- and long-term mitigation of climate change.

## Iran bids to host SACAM meeting

TEHRAN – Iran has announced its readiness to host the South and Asian Biosphere Reserve Network Meeting (SACAM) next year.

During a meeting held on the sidelines of the fifth World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (WCBR), in Hangzhou, China, Iran and three other countries, namely Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, and Cambodia, have been nominated to hold the annual meeting in 2026, IRNA reported.

Created in 2002, as part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, SACAM has 56 biosphere reserves and 14 member states, including India, Iran, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

An Iranian delegation led by Shina Ansari, the head of the DOE, participated in the fifth World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (WCBR), held from September 22 to 26 in Hangzhou.

Held every 10 years, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves comes together to identify priorities, strengthen collaboration, and define a Global Action Plan for the future.

More than 2000 stakeholders—including scientists, policymakers, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and conservationists—gathered to shape the future of UNESCO's 750+ biosphere reserves across 136 countries.

Discussions focused on the World Network of Biosphere Reserves' contributions to the global biodiversity and sustainable development agenda, aligning efforts with key international frameworks such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the International Decade of Science for Sustainable Development.

Addressing the event, Ansari voiced the country's readiness to foster cooperation with other countries, in line with the Hangzhou Action Plan, to promote twinning between biosphere reserve sites.

"We are ready to develop a twining mechanism between biosphere reserves in Iran and other countries worldwide to further promote collaboration on research projects, sharing expertise and knowledge, as well as boosting scientific visits," IRNA quoted Ansari as saying.

## Iran to launch iHiT in Jakarta

TEHRAN – An Iranian House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) will be inaugurated in Jakarta, Indonesia, concurrent with the 37th Indonesia Hospital Expo, being held from September 25 to 28.

The center aims to facilitate the entry of Iranian firms into Indonesia's markets and lay the ground for extensive cooperation in the fields of health and technology, ISNA reported.

Hospital Expo features medical, pharmaceutical, clinical, and laboratory equipment alongside medicine, offering industry participants an opportunity to display innovations and network for potential profitable investments.

Supported by the Organization for Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, Iranian knowledge-based companies have set up their pavilions in the exhibition. They plan to participate in business-to-business meetings and hold negotiations with representatives of hospitals as well as health officials in Indonesia.

The event serves as a great opportunity for Iranian knowledge-based firms and manufacturers to showcase their capabilities and products in the strategic South East Asian market and pave the way for the expansion of international cooperation with industry leaders and healthcare professionals from around the world.

### Self-sufficiency in medicine, medical equipment is a priority

The issue of medicine and medical equipment production and self-sufficiency in these areas is one of the government's priorities, Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi has said.

Medicine and medical equipment are two important areas related to people's health, he said, adding: "We are trying to reach self-sufficiency for the supply of medicine and medical equipment," IRNA reported.



"We highlight ecosystem-based and community-centered approaches in managing biosphere reserves so that these areas can expand their impacts beyond their borders and inspire surrounding areas," she added.

Unfortunately, "biosphere reserves in Iran are adversely affected by heat waves, water scarcity, and climate change. We need solidarity, experience exchange, and support from the World Networks of Biosphere Reserves to strengthen their resilience.

We believe that the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) member states have the needed capacity to counter unilateralism and expand multilateralism to strengthen World Networks of Biosphere Reserves," Ansari underlined.

Preserving the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, our common home, is a shared responsibility. These areas are not only sanctuaries for nature, but also symbols of the peaceful coexistence of humans and nature, and a bridge between modern science and traditional knowledge. They should become a center of hope and a sustainable future for our children, she said.

The official also elaborated on biosphere reserves in the country, saying, "Iran, with 13 biosphere reserves, including three wetland sites, two marine and coastal sites, two deserts and arid sites, and six mountainous areas, has always been among pioneering member states in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Biosphere reserves cover less than four percent of our national territory, which is not enough, so we are committed to expanding the network by the establishment of four more biosphere reserves."

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment, such as anesthesia machines and other equipment, are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

Highly welcomed by Indonesian surgeons for their high quality and precision, four Iranian-made remote robotic surgery systems were installed in Indonesian hospitals in 2024.

The first two Iranian-made telesurgery systems had been installed in the hospitals in Bandung and Yogyakarta. The third and the fourth in Wahidin Sudiro Husodo General Hospital in Makassar, and Haji Adam Malik General Hospital in Medan, IRNA reported.

Among the key advantages of the systems are affordability (one-fifth the price of foreign models), low maintenance, and cost-effective consumables.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Special clinic to relieve families during coronavirus pandemic

A special clinic will be opened for the first time in the country to provide free psychological services to families who have lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The clinic is called "Soog" (literally meaning mourn) will be inaugurated at Shahid Beheshti Educational and Medical Center in Zanjan province on Wednesday.

The outbreak of coronavirus has changed the lifestyle of many families.

Sudden changes in life cause stress, while the coronavirus itself has doubled the stress due to its contagion and the number of lives it has claimed in the world to date.

## ‘کلینیک سوگ’ برای افرادی که اعضای خانواده را بر اثر کرونا از دست داده‌اند

نخستین کلینیک سوگ در کشور برای ارائه خدمات رایگان روان‌شناختی به خانواده‌هایی که اعضای خانواده خود را به دلیل ابتلا به کرونا از دست داده‌اند افتتاح خواهد شد.

این کلینیک ۲۳ مهرماه امسال در مرکز آموزشی درمانی شهید بهشتی زنجان کار خود را آغاز خواهد کرد.

شیوع ویروس کرونا باعث شده است تا سبک زندگی بسیاری از خانواده‌ها دچار تغییر شود. ایجاد تغییرات ناگهانی در زندگی باعث ایجاد استرس می‌شود، این در حالی است که خود ویروس کرونا به دلیل واگیردار بودن و نیز آمار فوتی‌هایی که تا به امروز در دنیا به جا گذاشته، این استرس را دوچندان کرده است.



TEHRAN TIMES

Tehrantimes79

www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran

P.o. Box: 14155-4843

Zip Code: 1599814713

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whoever warns you against sins and vices is like the one who gives you good tidings.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:55 Evening: 18:12 Dawn: 4:33 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:57 (tomorrow)

## What's in Tehran art galleries

### Painting

\* Hoor Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Mehdi Hosseini.

The exhibition will be running until October 17 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.

\* Sahar Yamini is showcasing a collection of her latest paintings in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibition named "Mysteria" will run until October 7 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

\* Bashgah Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Shiva Sarlak.

Entitled "Amidst Darkness, Seeking Light", the exhibition will be running until October 10 at the gallery located at No.13, Hosseini St., Karim Khan Ave.

\* Amir Abbasi Asr is showcasing his latest paintings in an exhibition at Bostan Gallery.

The exhibit named "Rising from Blood" will run until October 7 at No. 71, 22th Alley, Larestan St. off Motahhari Ave.

\* An exhibition of paintings by Siavash Hatam is underway at E1 Gallery.

The exhibit named "Under the Layers of The Burnt City" will run until October 10 at the gallery located at 1 Hamid Dead End, off Lestani Alley, Jebheh St., off Mahdiah St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.

\* An exhibition of paintings by Jeiran Eyvazi and Sara Kazemi is underway at Ebtada Gallery.

Entitled "Territories of Dream", the exhibition will run until October 3 at the gallery located at 35 Farrokhi Alley, near Vali-e Asr Square.

\* Paintings by Pouria Ebrahimi are currently on display in an exhibition at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled "The Light Dances", the exhibition runs until October 8 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.

\* Asr Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists.

The exhibit entitled "Portrait in the Abyss" will run until October 10 at the gallery located at 18 Delaviz St. off North Mirzaye Shirazi St.

\* Paintings by Ahmadreza Ahmadi is currently on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

The exhibit named "From My Dreams Violets Have Bloom" will run until October 6 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.

### Drawing

\* An exhibition of drawings by Hadi Heidari is currently on view in an exhibition at Dena Gallery.

The exhibition will run until October 8 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.

# Shahram Mokri's "Black Rabbit, White Rabbit" wins at Busan International Film Festival

TEHRAN – Renowned Iranian filmmaker Shahram Mokri's latest film "Black Rabbit, White Rabbit" won an award at the 30th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), which was held from September 17 to 26 in South Korea.

The film that had its world premiere at the festival, took home the International Film Festival of India's Vision Asia Award, ISNA reported.

International Film Festival of India – Vision Asia Award is sponsored by the National Film Development Corporation Limited India (NFDC). The award honors one Asian film in the Vision section with a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 (\$7,000).

On selecting the film for the award, the jury commented: "The film is an indie drama that delves into themes of duality, fate, and moral choice. Through fragmented storytelling and shifting perspectives, it portrays two characters tied to symbolic rabbits, embodying light and darkness. Surreal imagery blends with emotional realism, creating a dreamlike tone that questions identity and balance. The film meditates on love, loss, hope, and despair, offering a layered reflection on the fragile nature of human decisions and their lasting consequences".

Mokri's fifth feature film is a joint production of Tajikistan and the United Arab Emirates and deals with three people's destinies that intertwine through apparently unrelated events.

A director is remaking a classic Iranian film in Tajikistan. The studio armorer is worried that the gun they intend to use is not

A scene from "Black Rabbit, White Rabbit" by Shahram Mokri

a prop gun and fears the consequences. A young woman arrives at the location, insisting that she be given an audition. At the same time, in another part of town, Sara, recently recovered from a car crash, suddenly realizes that her accident was all part of a conspiracy. These people's destinies inevitably intertwine.

The cast of the 139-minute movie includes Babak Karimi, Hasti Mohammadi, Kibriyo Dilyobova, and Bezhan Davlyatov, among others.

According to Negar Eskanderfar, the producer of the film, "Black Rabbit, White Rabbit" is a continuation of Mokri's filmmaking process. "I believe that this is the best film Shahram Mokri has made in his cinematic career, and Mokri also believes so".

Shahram Mokri, 47, won the Venice Film Festival's Horizons

Award in 2013 for Creative Content for his second feature film "Fish & Cat".

In 2018, his third film "Invasion" was screened at the 68th Berlin Film Festival and was nominated for the Teddy Award.

He also won a silver Hugo medal at the Chicago Film Festival in the main section and the Venice Critics' Best Screenplay Award for his fourth film "Careless Crime".

Mokri is a founding member of the ISFA Cinema House Short Film Association. He has also served on the association's board of directors for three terms. In 2003, he was selected as the best young man in the country in the field of art by the National Youth Organization. He was nominated for the 2013 Asia Pacific Screen Award for Achievement in Directing for "Fish & Cat".

All his films have met with great success, with both film critics and the public. Mokri has also sat on several International Film Festival juries, including the 2021 Orizzonti jury at the 78th Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica, Venice, the 57th Chicago International Film Festival, and the 75th Locarno International Film Festival, 2022.

Dedicated to discovering and showcasing exceptional Korean and Asian films, Busan International Film Festival brings exceptional films to global audiences while solidifying Busan's identity as a mecca for film and visual culture in Asia.

Widely regarded as Asia's acclaimed film festival, the BIFF plays a pivotal role in shaping the region's cinematic landscape and has risen to stand proudly alongside renowned film festivals worldwide.

## Asghar Farhadi starts shooting 10th feature film "Parallel Tales" in Paris

Festival debut next year.

A French-Italian-Belgian co-production, the film is produced by long-time collaborator Alexandre Mallet-Guy alongside Farhadi and David Levine, the prestige project will be launched by Charades and UTA Independent Film Group at the upcoming Cannes Film Market. Charades will handle international sales, while UTA Independent Film Group will rep U.S. rights. Memento will handle distribution in France, releasing in Spring 2026.

It is the fifth collaboration between Farhadi and Memento Production after "The Past," Oscar-winner "The Salesman," "Everybody Knows," and "A Hero".

One of Iran's most prominent cinematic voices, Farhadi, 53, is known for his thought-provoking films that explore social issues. He earned a bachelor's degree in dramatic arts from the University of Tehran in 1988 and later a master's degree in theater direction.

Farhadi won the Best Foreign

TEHRAN – The globally-acclaimed Iranian director Asghar Farhadi has started shooting his 10th feature film "Parallel Tales" in Paris, France.

"Parallel Tales" marks Farhadi's second French-language film after "The Past" with Tahar Rahim and Berenice Bejo, who won Best Actress award for her performance at Cannes in 2013.

Now the two-time Oscar-winning filmmaker has returned to Paris for his latest film since "A Hero," which won the Grand Prix at Cannes in 2021, Mehr reported.

The stellar cast includes Isabelle Huppert, Vincent Cassel, Virginie Efira, Pierre Niney, Adam Bessa, and Catherine Deneuve.

The story was written by Farhadi, but is being kept under wraps for the time being. While no plot details have been unveiled yet, one can expect another dramatically knotty, searing drama from the director.

A spring 2026 France release for the film is in the works, making it primed for a Cannes Film

## IAF cinematheque reviews "The Best Years of a Life"

TEHRAN- "The Best Years of a Life," a 2019 drama film by French filmmaker Claude Lelouch, was reviewed during a session at the Cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) on Friday.

The screening of the film was followed by a review session.

"The Best Years of a Life" (Les Plus Belles Années d'une vie) is notable as the 49th work by Lelouch and serves as the third installment in his "Un homme et une femme" series, following the acclaimed classics from 1966 and its 1986 sequel. The movie was showcased at the Cannes Film Festival in 2019, selected for the official hors competition section, highlighting its significance in contemporary cinema.

The story centers around Jean-Louis Ducroc, played by Jean-Louis Trintignant, a former charming racing driver now living in a retirement home in Varengeville-sur-Mer, Normandy. As an octogenarian facing the

twilight of his life, Jean-Louis is nostalgic for his past and dreams of rekindling the love of his youth, Anne Gauthier, portrayed by Anouk Aimée.

Their love story dates back over 52 years, beginning when they met at a boarding school in Deauville, where their children, Antoine and Françoise, also studied. The film beautifully captures their emotional reunion organized by their son Antoine, filled with poignant moments set against the scenic Normandy landscapes, beaches of Deauville, and nostalgic references such as vintage telegrams, old phone numbers, and classic cars.

The film's technical aspects include a screenplay by Lelouch himself, with music by Francis Lai and Calogero, contributing to its nostalgic and romantic atmosphere. The cast also features Marianne Denicourt, Souad Amidou, Monica Bellucci, and Tess Lauvergne.

Critics received the film positively, with a score of 3.4 out of 5 on AlloCiné, and favorable

reviews from Première and Télérama, praising Lelouch's direction as his best in nearly two decades. The film was shot in late 2018 across Normandy and Paris, with Lelouch personally constructing the retirement home setting for authenticity.

As a touching homage to love and aging, "The Best Years of a Life" continues Lelouch's legacy of exploring human connections, making it a significant addition to the "Un homme et une femme" saga and a moving reflection on life's enduring passions.

Claude Lelouch is a renowned French filmmaker, actor, and producer. Lelouch rose to fame in the 1960s with his acclaimed film "A Man and a Woman" (1966), which won two Oscars and the Palme d'Or at Cannes. Known for his innovative style, Lelouch has directed over 50 films, including "Les Uns et les Autres" (1981). His work often sparks both admiration and criticism.

Asghar Farhadi on set of "Parallel Tales"

Film Oscar in 2012 for "A Separation" (which was also nominated for Best Screenplay) and once again in 2017 for "The Salesman".

He has been selected four times in competition in Cannes with "The Past," "The Salesman," "Everybody Knows," and "A Hero".

"The Salesman" won Best Screenplay and Best Actor awards at Cannes in 2016 and "A Hero" scooped the Grand Prize in

2021 festival.

"Everybody Knows," Farhadi's Spanish-language debut starring Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem, opened and competed at Cannes in 2018.

Farhadi was also selected twice in Berlin. He was awarded the Silver Bear for Best Director in 2009 for "About Elly" and the 2011 Golden Bear for "A Separation".



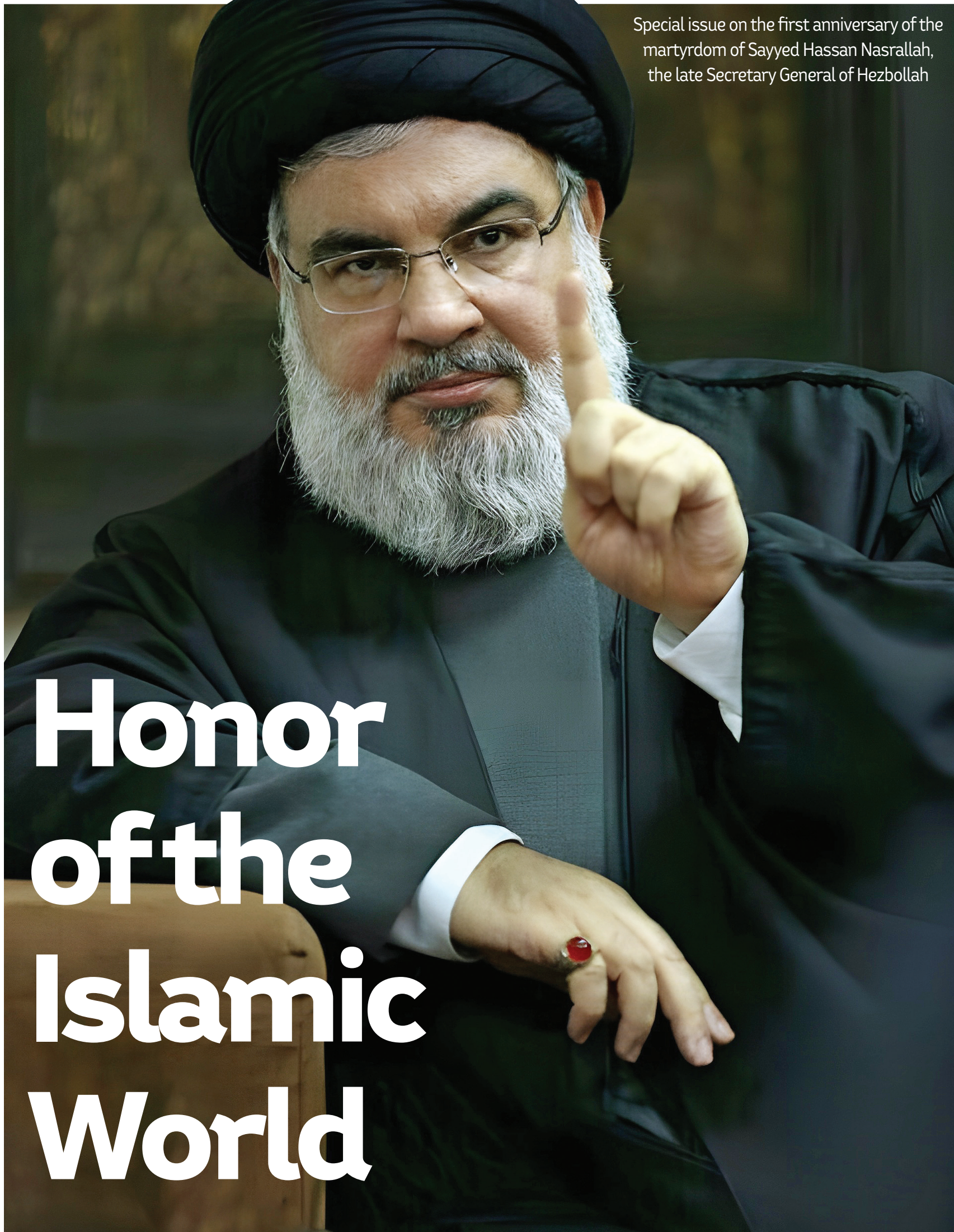
# TEHRAN TIMES

16 Pages

Saturday

September 27, 2025 | Mehr 5, 1404 | Rabi' al-Thani 4, 1447

Special issue on the first anniversary of the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the late Secretary General of Hezbollah



# Honor of the Islamic World





# Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah through the words of Ayatollah Khamenei: A legacy of resistance and honor

By Shahab Sarmadi

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has repeatedly praised martyr Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah for his role in promoting resistance against the Israeli occupation. Following Nasrallah's assassination in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut in late September 2024, Iran's Leader issued several messages honoring his life and legacy.

## Mourning the martyrdom

In a message published after Nasrallah's martyrdom on September 27, 2024, Ayatollah Khamenei announced five days of mourning and affirmed that "Resistance forces will be dealing heavier blows to the Zionist regime in the future." He mourned Nasrallah's loss, declaring him a "great fighter," "bearer of the Resistance in the region," "religious scholar," and "wise political leader." He emphasized Nasrallah's dedication to defending the people of Lebanon against Israeli crimes and to the oppressed Palestinian people, describing his martyrdom as a "blessing" earned through a lifetime of tireless effort.

Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the foundations Nasrallah laid in Lebanon, and his guidance for other Resistance movements, will endure and strengthen through the blood of martyrs. Addressing the Zionist regime, he declared that their act of violence "had not achieved victory," emphasizing that Nasrallah was a symbol of a path and a school of thought that would continue. He further asserted that the Resistance Front will continue to deliver crushing blows to the dilapidated and decaying body of the Zionist regime.

Regarding the broader impact, Ayatollah Khamenei said:

"The loss of Nasrallah is a profound loss for the Muslim world, the Resistance Front, and Hezbollah in Lebanon. However, the blessings of Nasrallah's prudence and jihad over decades will not be erased by his martyrdom."

In a subsequent message, he stated: "The Resistance will determine the fate of West Asia with Hezbollah leading the way. The Zionist criminals need to know that they are far too weak to be able to inflict



any significant damage on the solid structure of Lebanon's Hezbollah. All the Resistance forces in the region stand with and support Hezbollah. It is an obligation for all Muslims to stand with the people of Lebanon and the honorable Hezbollah, offering their resources and assistance as Hezbollah confronts the usurping, cruel, malicious [Zionist] regime."

## Commemorating Nasrallah's influence

"Nasrallah's true personality, his soul, his path, and his expressive voice are still among us and will be with us forever."

During Friday prayers in central Tehran in early October 2024, Iran's Leader said: "Nasrallah's true personality, his soul, his path, and his expressive voice are still among us and will be with us forever."

He praised Nasrallah's "eloquent voice and brave defense of the oppressed" and noted that his influence extended beyond Lebanon, Iran, and Arab countries. Later in October, he stated that the struggles of regional resistance leaders, including Nasrallah, "served to change the fate of the West Asia region."

On November 7, 2024, during a meeting with the Assembly of Experts, Ayatollah Khamenei remarked:

"The late Nasrallah and the other dear martyrs ... have truly and genuinely brought honor to Islam. They have also brought honor to the Resistance Front and increased its power and ability. Our dear Sayyed has now ascended to join the exalted ranks of the martyrs, achieving the very thing he desired. However, he has also left behind a lasting legacy, which is Hezbollah. Hezbollah grew thanks to Sayyed's courage, wisdom, patience, and extraordinary trust in God. It grew remarkably and truly turned into an organization that the enemy — the well-equipped enemy with all kinds of material, verbal, propaganda, and media weaponry — couldn't and won't be able to overcome, God willing. The late Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah transformed Hezbollah into such an entity and phenomenon."

## Funeral and burial ceremonies

On February 21, 2025, during the funeral and burial ceremonies for Nasrallah and Sayyid Hashem Safieddine, Ayatollah Khamenei issued a message:

"The great mujahid and leading commander of the Resistance in the region, Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah (may God elevate his status), is now at a position that is the height

"Our dear Sayyed has now ascended to join the exalted ranks of the martyrs, achieving the very thing he desired. However, he has also left behind a lasting legacy, which is Hezbollah. Hezbollah grew thanks to Sayyed's courage, wisdom, patience, and extraordinary trust in God."

of honor. His pure body will be laid to rest in the land of jihad for the sake of God, but his spirit and his path will shine more gloriously each day, God willing, illuminating the way for those who follow him. Let the enemy be aware that resistance against usurpation, oppression, and arrogance will never end and will continue until the ultimate goal is reached, by the will of God.

The good name and radiant countenance of Sayyed Hashem Safieddine (may God be pleased with him) is also a shining star in this region's

history. He was a close companion and inseparable part of the Resistance's leadership in Lebanon. May the greetings of God and His righteous servants be upon these two honorable mujahids; as well as on the other courageous, self-sacrificing fighters who have recently attained martyrdom; and upon all the martyrs of Islam. I send a special greeting to you, my dear children, the valiant youth of Lebanon."

## Championing the cause

Even before Nasrallah's martyrdom, Iran's Leader repeatedly praised his leadership:

August 16, 2006: Following Hezbollah's victory in the 33-day war, Ayatollah Khamenei sent a message stating:

"The victory of the Lebanese Islamic Resistance is the victory of Islam, a victory which brought honor to Arab nations and broke the feigned formidableness of the Zionist regime's army."

After Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000, Nasrallah visited Tehran to meet with Ayatollah Khamenei. Iran's Leader praised the Hezbollah chief and congratulated him on success of the resistance movement. This visit was a sign of gratitude and solidarity, acknowledging Hezbollah's role in compelling the Israeli forces to leave the region after nearly 20 years of occupation.

Nasrallah made several visits to Tehran in 1990s, meeting Ayatollah Khamenei and Iranian officials, during which Iran's Leader praised his leadership and political achievements, emphasizing the importance of supporting Hezbollah's resistance efforts.

Ayatollah Khamenei has consistently highlighted Nasrallah's courage, wisdom, and dedication to the oppressed. He recognized Nasrallah not only as a military and political leader but also as a symbol of the Resistance, a guardian of Islam, and a guiding light for the Muslim world. Through Nasrallah, Ayatollah Khamenei affirmed the enduring strength of Hezbollah and the Resistance Front in the face of adversaries.



# Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah: Eternal defender of Palestine and the Resistance

By Shahab Sarmadi

TEHRAN - Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was one of the most defining figures in West Asian politics and a steadfast champion of the Palestinian cause. For decades, he embodied the spirit of resistance, articulating a vision of dignity, justice, and steadfastness in the face of occupation.

His leadership transformed Hezbollah into a central force not only in Lebanon but also across the region, inspiring generations of Arabs and Muslims who saw in him a voice of defiance and hope. Until his martyrdom in an Israeli airstrike on September 27, 2024, in Beirut, Nasrallah never wavered in his commitment to the liberation of Palestine, which he considered a sacred duty and a moral obligation.

## Early commitment to the Palestinian struggle

From his earliest years as a leader, Nasrallah emphasized that the land of Palestine, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River, rightfully belonged to the Palestinian people. He consistently rejected any settlement that would diminish their rights or undermine their sovereignty. For him, the question of Palestine was not merely political but deeply ethical and spiritual — a struggle between justice and occupation, dignity and oppression.

In his speeches, Nasrallah framed the Palestinian issue as central to the destiny of the Arab and Islamic world. He reminded audiences that the occupation of Jerusalem (al-Quds) was not a Palestinian burden alone but a wound in the heart of the entire region. He repeatedly condemned Israeli aggression as an affront to humanity, describing the Zionist project as illegitimate and destabilizing to West Asia.

This unwavering stance distinguished him from other leaders who, at times, shifted their positions under political pressure. For Nasrallah, supporting Palestine was non-negotiable — it was the compass of resistance and the essence of Hezbollah's identity.

## Support during the Gaza war

The Israeli war on Gaza in



October 2023 brought Nasrallah's commitment to Palestine into sharp relief. As Israel launched one of its deadliest campaigns against the besieged strip, Hezbollah initiated strikes on Israeli military positions in the north, opening a supportive front to relieve pressure on Gaza. These operations were not random but carefully calculated acts of solidarity, designed to show that Palestinians were not alone.

On October 8, 2023, Nasrallah declared Hezbollah's readiness to intervene, making clear that the resistance in Lebanon stood shoulder to shoulder with Gaza. His words carried weight not only among Palestinians but also across the Arab world, where many felt abandoned by governments unwilling to act.

In November of the same year, he publicly praised Hamas' Al-Aqsa Storm operation, describing it as a historic turning point in the struggle against Israel. He stressed that the operation was "100 percent Palestinian," highlighting its authenticity and

the ingenuity of the resistance. For Nasrallah, this event symbolized a new era: Palestinians had broken through Israeli security myths, and their actions had electrified supporters of resistance throughout the region.

## Military and strategic support

Under Nasrallah's leadership, Hezbollah's support for Palestine was not limited to words. Its practical efforts strengthened the capacity of Palestinian fighters to resist Israeli offensives and demonstrated the Lebanese movement's role as an active partner in the broader resistance axis.

Hezbollah's military engagements served both practical and symbolic purposes. Practically, they disrupted Israeli operations and forced the occupation to fight on multiple fronts. Symbolically, they reassured Palestinians that their struggle was part of a larger movement uniting Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and beyond against Israeli aggression.

Nasrallah often explained

that this support was not conditional or transactional but rooted in ideological solidarity. He described the resistance as a shared mission — a defense of justice and human dignity against oppression.

## Diplomatic and political relations

Nasrallah's role extended beyond the battlefield. He cultivated close ties with Palestinian leaders, providing them with political backing and moral encouragement. In September 2024, shortly before his martyrdom, Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar wrote to Nasrallah to express deep gratitude for Hezbollah's steadfast support during Israel's war on Gaza. The letter highlighted how Hezbollah's actions, sacrifices, and solidarity had fortified the morale of Palestinians under siege.

In 2024, following the assassination of former Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran — an attack widely attributed to Israel — Nasrallah expressed heartfelt condolences and reaffirmed his solidarity with the Palestinian people. These gestures were

not symbolic formalities; they reflected a deep brotherhood and a shared destiny that bound Hezbollah and Palestinian resistance movements together.

## Rejection of compromise

A defining aspect of Nasrallah's approach was his categorical rejection of political compromises that undermined Palestinian rights. He consistently opposed proposals that ignored the right of return for Palestinian refugees or legitimized Israeli control over occupied territories. For him, any "solution" that did not restore full Palestinian sovereignty and dignity was unacceptable.

This principled stance distinguished Hezbollah from regional actors who sometimes pursued negotiations with Israel under Western pressure. Nasrallah argued that concessions only emboldened the occupier and weakened the resolve of the oppressed. Instead, he insisted that steadfast resistance — both military and cultural — was the only path to liberation.

## Martyrdom and legacy

Nasrallah's martyrdom in September 2024 marked the end of an era but not the end of his influence. His speeches, strategies, and vision continue to inspire Hezbollah and the wider Axis of Resistance. For Palestinians, his legacy is one of unwavering loyalty: a leader who never abandoned their cause, who supported them in moments of despair, and who treated their struggle as his own.

In Lebanon and across the Arab world, Nasrallah is remembered as a symbol of dignity and defiance, a man who challenged the most powerful armies and governments with courage and faith. His life exemplified the idea that resistance is not merely a tactic but a moral principle — one that demands sacrifice but also promises honor and eventual victory.

For the people of Palestine and all who stand against occupation, Nasrallah remains a guiding light, a reminder that dignity is non-negotiable and that liberation is possible through steadfastness and faith.



# Legacy of resilience and resistance

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – History will remember Hezbollah Secretary-General martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah with pages illuminated in light and letters engraved in gold. For more than three decades, he carried the banner of resistance with unmatched brilliance, dedicating his life, energy, and ultimately his blood to defending the oppressed Palestinians in Gaza and confronting Israeli tyranny.

He was not an ordinary leader. He was the embodiment of an entire movement, a symbol of resilience, and a man whose very presence gave courage to nations.

From the early days of his leadership, assuming the role of Secretary-General for the Lebanese resistance at the age of 33, Nasrallah understood that resistance could not be sustained by weapons alone.

He built not only the military front against the Zionist enemy but also a vast social infrastructure that gave his people strength and dignity in daily life. He oversaw the creation of institutions that lent the resistance its stability. The al-Qard al-Hassan financial network, hospitals and clinics such as al-Rasoul al-Azam, schools and universities, cultural centers, youth programs, and vocational training initiatives are among his legacies.

These were not peripheral efforts but central to his vision of resistance as a complete way of life. Under his guidance, religious seminaries flourished across Lebanon, from Beirut to the Bekaa Valley, from the north to the south. These seminaries educated a new generation of scholars, preachers, and fighters, many of whom laid down their lives against Israeli occupation and in the military support front that Hezbollah opened in solidarity with Gaza on October 8, 2023.

What made Nasrallah unique was not merely his strategic mind but his sincerity, patience, and humility. He did not rule from a distance but lived among his people,



spoke their language, and reflected their aspirations. His speeches were not abstract lectures but direct conversations filled with passion, reason, and a rare ability to articulate the unspoken hopes of millions.

With endurance and perseverance, he carried the torch of resistance for 32 years resolutely. It was this authenticity that opened hearts across the region and beyond, not only among Muslims but also Christians, secularists, and people far outside West Asia. His influence reached Europe, America, and even Latin America, where ordinary people who had never met him found themselves moved by his clarity and conviction.

For 32 years he lived as though permanently in the battlefield. While others sought the comforts of life, he wore the armor of resistance and bore the burdens of leadership with remarkable courage. His presence was never detached. He was not a remote figure hidden in ivory towers. His voice, his speeches, his physical and virtual appearances, all resonated with the pulse of the people.

In the latter years, security concerns often confined him to screens, yet through those screens he managed to be closer to his people than many leaders

who walked freely among them. His life embodied resistance, but even more deeply, it embodied the Hussein spirit of sacrifice: to live for justice, and when necessary, to die for it.

Nasrallah was a Hussein leader in every sense. Like Imam Hussein (AS) in Karbala, he believed that silence in the face of tyranny was death, and that true life is to stand against oppression even when the odds seem overwhelming. His martyrdom became the seal of that conviction, transforming him from a leader into a symbol, from a man into an eternal school. "We are not defeated, when we win, we triumph; and when we face the death of a martyr, we rise victorious," he famously said.

What set him apart from many who spoke of Palestine was his refusal to treat it as someone else's problem. Others said their duty was first to their own country. Others worried about the consequences of standing against powerful enemies. Nasrallah shattered such excuses. He declared boldly that Palestine is us, and we are Palestine. If the Palestinians are crushed, then Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and many other Arab nations will follow. "If we do not rise for them today, no one will rise for us tomorrow." This vision did more

than inspiring speeches; it grew the Axis of Resistance.

From Lebanon, the spirit spread to Yemen, Iraq, and inspired many in West Asia and around the world. It became a living reality, a force that challenged the hegemony of global powers.

Through this, Nasrallah demonstrated a truth that has echoed through history: nations that stop fearing consequences, nations that no longer calculate their survival by compromise, are nations that can never be defeated. His leadership planted this seed of courage across the region. It is visible in the defiance of Yemeni forces today, in the steadfastness of Palestinians in Gaza, in the unity of Iraqis resisting U.S. occupation. His words and his example created a chain reaction of strength.

The Hezbollah Secretary-General expanded the resistance both horizontally and vertically. Horizontally, the resistance spread from Lebanon to Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, forming a regional network of defiance. Vertically, it grew in sophistication, advancing from guerrilla warfare to mastery of ballistic missiles, drones, and cyber capabilities.

Israeli occupation forces entered southern Lebanon vertically, but they left in coffins horizontally.





He was not only a military leader but also an innovator, ensuring that the resistance remained adaptive and future-oriented. For three decades he nurtured resistance fighters and leaders. He raised not just an army but generations. This is why he cannot be said to have died because his school of thought continues, producing martyrs and commanders, and will do so until the promise of praying in occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem) is fulfilled.

His leadership transcended Lebanon. He became a universal leader, a beacon for the oppressed everywhere. To the people of Palestine, he was a source of material and moral support. To Syria, he was a steadfast ally in the darkest years of terrorism. To Iraq, he was a partner in the fight against occupation and Daesh terrorism. To Yemen, he was an inspiration and a brother. He was not confined by borders. He was a leader for the region, for the Islamic world, and for humanity. His legacy is not measured only in military victories but also in intellectual and spiritual leadership. He embodied the unity of the free, reaching across sects and borders.

Nasrallah's strength came from deep roots in religious learning. He studied in the seminaries of Iran, Lebanon, and Iraq. He absorbed not only jurisprudence but also the ethic of sacrifice and the vision of justice that runs through Islamic history.

He built an Islamic resistance, not one defined by nationality or ethnicity, but by the universality of Islam's call to defend the oppressed. His wisdom and foresight

ensured preparedness on every level: spiritual, political, social, and military.

Over three decades, he resisted normalization and imperial domination. He united in himself qualities rarely found together: charisma, courage, vision, patience, and intellectual depth. Leaders with one or two of these qualities appear from time to time. Leaders who embody them all are once-in-a-while century figures. His charisma drew millions, his patience steadied them, his vision guided them, and his courage inspired them to stand firm. Even in martyrdom, his presence has not diminished; it has intensified. His blood has become a fire that ignites movements across the region and beyond.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah is a school of thought, a major link in the chain of resistance. He left behind disciples who continue his mission with conviction. His example trained them not only to fight but to lead, not only to resist but to build. He embodied every aspect of leadership: organizational, military, political, and spiritual. His martyrdom has not weakened the Lebanese resistance; it has strengthened it, turning grief into defiance rather than despair.

Without doubt, his loss is heavily felt in every heart that loved justice and humanity. But it is not the grief of surrender, it is the grief of Karbala, the grief that strengthens resolve, the grief that fuels uprisings. The enemy hoped his death would silence the resistance. Instead, it has made his voice louder. His blood has become ink on the pages of history, a beacon for

nations, a light guiding the oppressed and inspiring the free.

In every generation, there are leaders who rise and fall. Some are remembered for their power, others for their wealth, still others for their eloquence. But the rarest of leaders are those remembered for their truth, their courage, and their willingness to give everything for their people and the oppressed Palestinians. Sayyed Nasrallah belongs to this rarest of categories.

He was not a man who sought safety. He was not a man who lived for himself. He was a man who lived for others, and when the time came, he was martyred for supporting the genocide against Palestinians in Gaza as well.

This is why his legacy endures. It is not on street posters or written in books. It is alive in the institutions he built, in the fighters he guided, in the youth he inspired, in the poor he uplifted, and in the millions who still carry his memory in their hearts. It is alive in the resistance that stands stronger today than before amid U.S. plots to disarm it. And it will remain alive until justice prevails.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was more than a man. He was the architect of an era that changed the equation with the occupying Israeli regime. He was the leader of the axis of resistance, a leader whose blood turned into hope, whose life became a bridge for generations, and whose martyrdom sealed his place among the immortals.

His story is written not in ink but in sacrifice, not in words but in deeds. And as long as there are oppressed people longing for freedom, his name will be remembered, honored, and followed.





# Exceptional leadership of Sayyed Nasrallah in the eyes of Lebanese and Yemeni scholars



By Sondoss Al Assad

BEIRUT - The personality of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah (R) represents an exceptional model of political, religious, and military leadership. His honorable life blends deep faith with strategic acumen, and his humanitarian dimension with a unified spirit.

Since assuming the position of Secretary-General of Hezbollah in 1992, he demonstrated a remarkable ability to manage major challenges as the resistance imposed a new deterrent equation that altered the balance of power in West Asia, transforming it into a cross-border civilizational project, becoming an international icon of freedom and dignity.

Tehran Times interviewed Sheikh Moamen Marwan al-Rifai, Advisor for Diplomatic Relations, and Professor Ahmed Saleh al-Arami, Vice Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Palestine Conference, in an attempt to analyze the leadership dimensions that have made Sayyed Nasrallah's personality a case in point, unique in Arab and Islamic consciousness.

Sheikh Marwan Al-Rifai pointed out that Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah led his blessed journey in the spirit and meaning of the Almighty's words that say: "... hold fast to the rope of Allah all together and do not be divided."

Al-Rifai emphasized that His Eminence "made Islamic unity the foundation of his national and resistance project and dedicated his life to uniting the nation on a unified word in the face of global arrogance. His role in unifying the scholarly arena subsequently became prominent."

About his commitment to Islamic unity, Sheikh Al-Rifai noted that one of martyr Sayyed Nasrallah's most prominent achievements was

his commitment to unifying the scholarly ranks between Sunnis and Shiites, exemplifying the hadith of the Prophet (PBUH) that says: "The believer is to the believer like a solid structure, each part strengthening the other."

**"Sayyed Nasrallah confronted sedition with awareness and patience, and wisely preserved civil peace."**

Al-Rifai continued explaining that the scholarly meetings, seminars, and conferences held locally and internationally under his patronage served as a safety valve in times of turmoil.

"His Eminence provided a safe haven for scientific, cultural, and national dialogue between Muslims and Christians, between the Lebanese and Arabs, and between them and other nationalities," he pointed out.

Al-Rifai highlighted that Sayyed Nasrallah did not limit the resistance to its military dimension. Rather, he sponsored, established, and contributed to the establishment of institutions such as the Jihad al-Bina Foundation, the Islamic Health Authority, and institutions caring for the wounded, the families of martyrs, and the poor, in fulfillment of the Almighty's words that says: "And they give food, in spite of their love for it, to the poor, the orphan, and the captive."

Al-Rifai added that his hand extended to include deprived areas by building schools and hospitals or supporting them with what they needed.

He then continued by saying

that "during the darkest economic hardships that Lebanon experienced, which some exploited to incite internal strife, Sayyed Nasrallah worked hard and struggled to lead his people to safety, sending food, medicine, fuel, and direct financial aid to all Lebanese regions, sects, and orientations.

He confronted sedition with awareness and patience, and wisely preserved civil peace." He also explained that "with every success and victory, His Eminence grew humbler. He was always keen to acknowledge others, acknowledging the achievements of other national and Islamic factions, considering the liberation of 2000 and the victory in the July 2006 war, the fruit of the combined efforts of all. He dedicated this victory to the nation, thus rightfully earning the title of Master of the Nation's Martyrs."

Sheikh Al-Rifai said that Sayyed Nasrallah always presented a vision of unity based on the principle of a nation of resistance that transcends borders, inspired by the Prophet's noble hadith that explains: "The believers, in their mutual love, compassion, and sympathy, are like one body."

Regarding his leadership, he noted that "Sayyed Nasrallah was able to become an icon of the Islamic, national and Arab spirit, thanks to his calm leadership, his vision for the future, and his insightful speeches that guided the Lebanese and Arab public toward goodness and progress."

He added, "Sayyed Nasrallah's bold and courageous confrontation with the Zionist enemy and global arrogance was the most prominent characteristic that left an indelible mark on people's minds. This was evident in the July 2006 war, when the army, once considered invincible, was defeat-

ed, making the resistance a global model of steadfastness."

Sheikh Al-Rifai stressed that Sayyed Nasrallah was a righteous servant who drew his life's constitution from the Holy Quran, the lives of the Prophet, the Imams, and the school of the Ahl al-Bayt. He was keen to unify ranks in compliance with the Almighty's words that state: "Indeed, Allah loves those who fight in His cause in ranks as if they were a solid structure."

Al-Rifai concluded by saying that he was a leader who dedicated his life to the nation, linking jihad with unity, resistance with social justice, remaining an immortal symbol in the path of dignity and liberation, a leader to be emulated and emulated by future generations.

Yemeni Professor Saleh Al-Arami also said that the passing of great leaders is not a fleeting event, because they not only depart our lives as individuals, but also leave a profound impact on the collective consciousness of the nation.

Al-Arami emphasized that "Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the martyr of Islam and humanity, was not merely the leader of a resistance movement, but rather a symbol of a comprehensive liberation project that bore Islamic, humanitarian, and civilizational dimensions."

**"Sayyed Nasrallah was always keen to acknowledge others, acknowledging the achievements of other national and Islamic factions."**

The Yemeni academic noted that from his early days Sayyed Nasrallah presented a distinct image of a leader who combined deep faith with serious work. He did not speak of Islam as isolated rituals, but rather as a living force that mobilizes people to confront injustice and tyranny.

The chancellor of Al-Bayda University added that his speech always reminded people that true Islam is a commitment to truth, a refusal to surrender, and a call for jihad and resistance to occupation.

"What distinguished Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was his human-

itarian presence, as he did not confine the issue to the borders of a sect or country, but rather made it the cause of all oppressed people," Al-Arami explained.

He emphasized that Sayyed Nasrallah spoke of Palestine as a global humanitarian cause and defended the peoples of Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Iraq, considering their battle to be the one against arrogance and subservience. He thus became a symbol for all those seeking freedom and dignity in this world.

Al-Arami pointed out that Sayyed Nasrallah's personality did not stop at political or military leadership, but rather transformed into a comprehensive school that teaches that a leader can be close to the people, honest in his words, steadfast in his positions, and able to combine thought and action.

The Vice Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Palestine Conference also said Sayyed Nasrallah shattered the stereotype of a traditional leader and opened up a new model for the people that combines faith and realism, sacrifice and hope.

Al-Arami confirmed that Sayyed Nasrallah's martyrdom was not the end of a journey, but rather the beginning of a new phase, because the pure blood that was shed will continue to energize the resistance project, and his voice will remain present in the conscience of generations.

"Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah proved that an idea never dies, and that great leaders live on in people's hearts longer after their passing than they did during their lifetime."

Al-Arami concluded that Sayyed Nasrallah will remain an immortal symbol in the memory of the nation, as he was not just one man, but a nation walking on earth, and a complete project for freedom and dignity. With his passing, his presence grows stronger and more influential, the professor remarked.

Al-Arami said Sayyed Nasrallah left behind the most precious thing that can be left behind, that is to say, a belief that the resistance is capable of creating a future worthy of humanity. His Eminence Sayyed Nasrallah's name has been ingrained in the hearts of the oppressed in Palestine and Yemen, and the rest of the Axis of Resistance. He has thus become a unique example rarely found in history, and one that will continue to inspire future generations on the path to dignity and liberation.



# Historic icon, leader and warrior



world. His speeches blended geopolitical insight, religious conviction, and historical knowledge, articulating the struggles and aspirations of millions.

Confronting those who branded the resistance as terrorism, Nasrallah once declared: "They tell us to leave this battle and you will have safety, to abandon the fight and be removed from their terrorist lists. But to them, terrorism means resistance, the defense of the nation, support for the Palestinian people, and protection of our dignity and holy sites. We say to you, and you are all witnesses: you offer us safety, yet Palestine is not safe. The fighters of Palestine are not safe. Al-Quds is not safe. Al-Aqsa Mosque is not safe. May the curse of God be upon your so-called safety."

His charisma was undeniable. Sayyed Nasrallah's presence on camera, his laughter, his warm smile, and his ability to explain complex laws and decisions in straightforward terms, made him both relatable and inspiring to Hezbollah's supporters.

Despite the profound personal grief over loss of his son in the struggle against occupation, he never bowed to any tyrant or Zionist threat. His integrity and steadfastness have influenced resistance movements in the region and beyond.

No words can fully capture the impact of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's legacy. His ability to mobilize the masses, to inspire unwavering action, and to embody the spirit of resistance remains unmatched today and for future generations. He was truly unique, more than a leader; he was a symbol of a nation's resilience.

For many, Nasrallah was a mountain towering in the face of adversity. Yet, despite his monumental stature, he insisted on multiple occasions that he was simply a man of his time and place, nothing more, nothing less. This humility, paired with his spirit of sacrifice and profound love for his people, continues to live on in everyone fighting for a free Palestine.

His legacy is not confined to history or speeches but lives on in the hearts and actions of those committed to justice and freedom. Sayyed Nasrallah's spirit of courage, sacrifice, and devotion remains a guiding light for all who resist oppression and fight for dignity across the region.

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was both an icon and a warrior, a symbol of unwavering resistance and a man of remarkable courage.

He transformed Hezbollah into one of the most formidable resistance forces in the region, driven by a steadfast commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty and a fierce determination to repel foreign aggression, especially from the Israeli occupation.

This vision was not merely political rhetoric but a reflection of the warrior spirit deeply embedded in his character. Nasrallah's life was marked by immense personal sacrifice, a reality that deeply resonated with his followers and admirers for decades.

As many around the world

mark and honor the first year of his martyrdom, it is vital to reflect on the qualities that defined Sayyed Nasrallah's resolve and vision.

His legacy is cemented as one of the most influential Arab leaders in history, defined by his exceptional political and military leadership. Nasrallah played a pivotal role in Hezbollah's historic victories over Israel in 2000 and 2006, victories that secured nearly two decades of relative peace in South Lebanon.

These successes were the result of strategic brilliance, relentless determination, and unwavering dedication to the cause of resistance. He was a leader who led by example, embodying the principles he espoused.

Tragedy struck when Nasrallah's son, Hadi, was mar-

tyred in fighting against Israeli occupation forces in 1997 inside southern Lebanon. Rather than breaking his spirit, this personal loss only strengthened Nasrallah's commitment to the broader cause.

He continued to exemplify selflessness, prioritizing Lebanon's sovereignty and the principles of resistance above all else. At times when enemy forces sought to weaken Lebanon, Nasrallah's deep understanding of Israeli military tactics, once considered invincible, bolstered the morale of Hezbollah fighters and reinforced the organization's leadership.

Nasrallah's influence extended far beyond Lebanon. His leadership inspired generations of resistance fighters throughout the Arab world, particularly after Hezbollah's

significant role in the 2006 war.

This war marked a turning point, humiliating the Israeli occupation regime and shifting the narrative toward the defense of people's rights and freedoms.

Hezbollah's success shattered the myth of the Israeli regime's invincibility, proving the occupation was neither untouchable nor unbeatable.

His speeches were a unifying force, widely followed across the Arab and Islamic worlds. Even within the 1948 Israeli occupied territories, settlers understood that when Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah made a promise, it was more than a threat, it was a vow that would be fulfilled.

He tirelessly championed the causes of Lebanon, Palestine, and the broader Islamic





# The spiritual personality of Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT - The personality of Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah (R) was characterized by a blend of high spirituality, religious commitment, Husseinian passion, and love for the Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them), along with a spirit of brotherhood, sacrifice, and loyalty to pledges.

Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was not merely a political jihadist leader, but a spiritual leader with a system of emotional and religious values embodied in his sermons and behavior.

This spirituality was evident in his tender affection and piety for his mother, Hajjah Umm Hassan, who passed away on May 29, 2024. He embodied a sublimely humane stance when he described her as “a kind, calm, and taciturn believer who did not interfere in the affairs of others,” and that she “harbored no hatred for anyone.”

When he received the captured corpse of his martyred son, Sayyed Hadi, it was not surprising to those who closely knew Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah (R) and knew his profound spirituality.

A very special spiritual relationship bound Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Martyr Hajj Qassem Soleimani. It was not merely a working relationship or a military coordination, but rather a deep, brotherly relationship of faith with spiritual and emotional dimensions.

Both of them shared a deep concern for Palestine; this shared goal always brought them together in a sublime spiritual harmony, based on the belief that jihad is worship and that victory is a divine gift.

On each night of Ashura, His Eminence used to renew his pledge: “We renew our pledge and allegiance to Imam Hussein in times of siege, hunger, killing, psychological warfare, threats, assassinations, and all difficulties.” This demonstrates a sincere spiritual impact of Ashura and Imam Hussein on him.

Both Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Martyr Hajj Qassem Soleimani saw themselves as soldiers in the same boat, working under the banner of the Guardianship of the



Supreme Leader, Sayyed Ali Khamenei.

Sayyed Nasrallah described General Hajj Qassem as “a beloved brother, a support, a mujahid who loves God,” reflecting that their relationship was built on faith, not self-interest.

As those close to them recounted, they often met for spiritual and devotional gatherings. It is reported that whenever Hajj Qassem met Sayyed, he would ask him to sit together for an hour to recite Ziyarat Ashura before engaging in any military or political discussion. This shared spirituality made their joint work a practical worship.

In more than one speech following General Hajj Qassem's martyrdom, Sayyed Nasrallah wept bitterly and remembered him in moving words. “Qassem Soleimani was an exceptional figure. He was loving, compassionate, tender-hearted, and loyal even to the smallest mujahid. Our loss is great, but our consolation is that he ended his life with the martyrdom he had longed for.”

These words reveal that the relationship was not formal, but rather spiritual—a profound brotherhood. For his part, Hajj Qassem viewed Sayyed Nasrallah as a spiritual leader and consulted him on

the most minute details, even personal and familial matters. Sayyed, in turn, considered Hajj Qassem a partner in shouldering the nation's burden, not just a military commander; he lived among the mujahidin in Lebanon as one of them.

In short, the relationship between Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Hajj Qassem Soleimani was a spiritual, faith-based brotherhood, intertwined with tears in gatherings, sacrifices on the battlefields, and supplication in private. It became a model for the spiritual bond between divine leaders united by their love for God and the Prophet's family.

When we contemplate the words of His Eminence Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, we learn that trust in God is the foundation of steadfastness, as he would repeat, “Whoever has God with him will never be let down.”

Speaking of martyrdom, he linked it to divine love, saying, “Our greatest wish is to conclude our lives with martyrdom in the path of God, following the path of Hussein (peace be upon him).” For him, martyrdom was not death, but rather birth in the presence of God.

He viewed trials as a path to purity, emphasizing that

the path of the prophets and saints is fraught with trials, and that every trial opens a door to spiritual transcendence. His Eminence Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah also embodied his love for the Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them) in his actions before his words. He said, “All the strength and steadfastness we possess comes from the light of Prophet Muhammad and his family,” linking worldly victory to heavenly bounty.

For him, supplication was not a formal ritual, but rather a living certainty, as he believed that God hears, sees, and responds: “When we raise our hands to the heavens and supplicate, we are certain that there is a Lord who responds.” This certainty instilled in the consciousness of his followers a culture of continuous hope, until victory for him was not merely about defeating the enemy, but also about hearts remaining filled with faith and eyes brimming with tears of love for Hussein.

On one of the nights of Muharram revival, during the war on Syria in 2015, he says: “Hezbollah, its supporters, its environment, its mujahideen, its officials, its family, the families of its martyrs and wounded, and all of them, young and old, as they were in confronting Israel with one heart, they are

in this battle with one heart, and none of them will be left behind. The discouragers and the disappointers, the hypocrites and liars, and those who are skilled at lying must die in their anger, disappointment, and despair. And the days, weeks, months, and years will bear witness to this truth. At your service, O Hussein, they will say it for all the battles of this honorable resistance.”

He adds, “This battle, even if those who were martyred were martyred in it – so listen to me carefully – even if those who were martyred were martyred in it, and those who were wounded were wounded, and those who sacrificed, we will not abandon it and we will not leave its arenas until victory or martyrdom. We will continue on our path of Husseinian jihad until the end, like our Imam Hussein and our Sayyedah Zainab (peace be upon them). We will not falter and we will not retreat, and we have insight into our matter.”

The spiritual dimension of Sayyed Nasrallah's personality is what made his words pierce hearts before ears. It is what transformed his presence into a light that combines leadership, jihad, and gratitude. His Eminence was a spiritual icon, a teacher of hope, and a preacher of God before being a leader in the arenas of resistance.



# The charisma and humility of martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – His Eminence, Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah (R), was distinguished by his unique ability to address the emotions of people of all backgrounds. His simple, honest, and deeply rooted discourse touched on daily concerns, making them feel like he was one of them: embracing their concerns, sharing their joys and sorrows, and embodying their endeavor to freedom and dignity.

The honesty and transparency in his political and religious discourse made his words unquestionably trustworthy. His humility and ascetic life brought him close to the poor and the working class. His courage in confronting occupation and injustice gave people a sense of pride and dignity, and he became a symbol from which hope could be derived.

His Eminence transcended sectarian and regional affiliations. His presence was not limited to his Shiite community, but he was able to address diverse sects and regions.

## 'Sayyed Nasrallah was a nation in one man'

Sunni cleric Sheikh Khader Kabash (the father of a martyr) says: "Sayyed Nasrallah was a nation in one man; he devoted everything he had to the existential battle with the occupying entity. Part of this man's great value was that he was a compassionate father to the martyrs, the wounded, and the mujahideen. He was a source of patience for me when I longed for my son Muhammad (an anonymous martyr)."

For his part, prominent researcher Dr. Naseeb Hoteit asserts that His Eminence represents: "a symbol of the Hussein Islamic resistance in the Islamic world and a pioneer in the project of resisting the American-Israeli project at the regional and global levels, as he was able to 'globalize' the Lebanese resistance movement, to be a partner in resisting injustice according to his ability and capabilities. He is among a series of Shiite Muslim leaders who have embraced and supported the Palestinian resistance since the occupation of Palestine, especially the Lebanese Shiites since Izz ad-Din al-Qassam's revolution in 1936, Imam Khomeini, Sayyed Baqir al-Sadr, and Imam Musa al-Sadr."



## 'He vaccinated society with doses of victory'

Hoteit adds: "The martyr Sayyed was a pioneer in establishing a system of unifying 'word and action' and twinning the word of resistance with the bullet of resistance. He was a pioneer in psychological warfare against the enemy and a doctor who vaccinated society with doses of victory and increased ideological and communal immunity to confront the culture of defeat and lack of self-confidence."

He sailed, with his family and his resistance fighters, to the shore of dignity and the inevitable half, God willing, and the courage of the resistance fighters in the field. The martyr Sayyed was an example of those who responded to the Hussein call in Karbala, 'Is there a supporter to support us?', and instead of repeating, 'If only we were with you,' he joined Imam Hussein."

## 'I carried loyalty to the path of resistance in my womb'

"I was a newlywed when the shocking news of the martyrdom of Sayyed Abbas al-Mousawi, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, rang out. We wept for him and participated in the blessed funeral, but we were too anticipating his successor, who was a handsome young man."

Then, I travelled abroad, but I carried with myself my belonging and loyalty to the path of resistance and in my womb. At

the time, I was pregnant with my eldest son. Something always driving me to yearn for my homeland," recounts Hawra Hijazi, the mother of martyr Sayyed Muhammad Baqir Hijazi.

## 'Sayyed is the past, the present, and the future'

She adds, "After a ten-year nostalgia, I set foot in my homeland, and this is where the journey began. My eldest son adored His Eminence until he was martyred under his banner. Sayyed is the father, the brother, the leader, and the supporter. Sayyed is the past, the present, and the future. He is our pride, our victories, and our true promise."

In turn, Hajja Walaa Hammoud, the veteran resistance media pioneer and women's media activist and mother of martyr Hussein Hammoud, says: "I met him more than once, but the most prominent meeting was when he honored media professionals after the 2000 victory. I met him and my name was the last name among those honored, so I took my time and had a lengthy conversation with him."

She goes on to say, "I recited a poem to him expressing my love, respect, and appreciation for his great character. When I made the mistake of giving him a picture of my little Hussein instead of his older brother, Sayyed prayed for him and told me that martyrdom does not recognize age. Sayyed was true as the martyr in my house was

Hussein."

## 'A prominent and enduring presence within us'

For her part, Hajja Zainab Al-Dirani, mother-in-law of martyr Dr. Muhammad Hassan Faris Shams, says: "Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah is not a person who has disappeared from us, but rather has a prominent and enduring presence within us."

He left us a prolific heritage everywhere we are: schools, universities, institutes, circles, homes, and seminaries. Sayyed is the leader we should be proud of and preserve his approach, because it is the approach of belonging, emulation, and freedom for the sake of God, because belonging in word requires belonging in action."

Author Iman Shams El-Din explains the first four verses of Surat al-Saff: (O you who have believed, why do you say that which you do not do? Great is hatred in the sight of Allah that you say that which you do not do. Indeed, Allah loves those who fight in His cause in ranks as if they were a solid structure. "These verses constitute a practical basis in all areas for the faithful person to whom Allah addressed them, whether in political, social, security, or military work. His Eminence, martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, embodied this verse in his jihadi and reformist path."





#### **‘Both friend and foe were perplexed by him’**

She continues: “Because he was strict in his principles and values, he was able, with this strictness, to form a bulwark that deterred enemies at home and abroad. He had no personal interests, but rather a self-interest defined by the Quran and Islam, and he followed this guidance. Both friend and foe were perplexed by him, and he was a balancing act through his principled positions, which aligned his beliefs and faith with his behavioral path.”

“Some may say this is normal, but I don’t see it that way. If it were normal, God Almighty would not have singled out believers in the Quran for special address. This special address demonstrates the importance of the matter in the path of the believer and the strong emphasis on honesty as the standard for both faith and action.

It is rare in our time in general, and in the world of politics in particular, where hypocrisy is widespread, to find a figure who embodies these verses in word and deed, representing a standard of honesty and providing a safety net for those around him,” Shams El-Din emphasizes.

#### **‘Strong in his honesty and integrity’**

In her opinion, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah “was strong in

his honesty and integrity, and in matching his words with his actions. His enemy, before his friend, knew that what he said was true. The enemy awaited his words and speeches before his friend, because he often did what he said, and anticipated the future according to data based on an accurate reading of reality and history, and the laws of history and the Quran.

Gaza was the perfect detection device for which he gave his life in support of the oppressed, paying no attention to superpowers and their threats, nor to the slaves of these superpowers, because, in short, his concern was to please God even if it angered people.”

Shams al-Din notes that His Eminence “advocated Gaza while most Arabs failed to. It will be recorded in history that the Arab Shiite Sayyed supported the Sunni people of Gaza, proving to future generations that sectarian strife is what weakened this nation, and that the enemy crafted it with his satanic fingers so that he could shatter this nation’s resolve, will, and unity, enabling the enemy to control the arenas as he pleased, in accordance with his colonialist plan.

However, Sayyed Nasrallah inscribed with his blood the words of unity and established the foundations of unity like a solid

structure. He proved his truthfulness that if Muslims unite and their blood mingles, their spirit will not fade. He instilled terror in the hearts of their enemies and thwarted the projects of fragmentation and hegemony based on the principle of divide and conquer.”

---

**“His blood was a testament to the truth of his positions and words regarding Palestine and its people. He did not launch his support with mere slogans, like most regimes and leaders.”**

---

She concludes: “His blood was a testament to the truth of his positions and words regarding Palestine and its people. He did not launch his support with mere slogans, like most regimes and leaders, but rather, they were words and slogans backed by sincere action and the sacrifice of blood and soul.”

#### **‘A leader who lived through**

#### **the pain of the Yemeni people’**

Regarding the international symbolism of His Eminence, Yemeni activist Zainab Al-Dailami says: “When we talk about His Eminence as a supporter of the Yemeni cause at first glance, we are talking about a leader who lived through our pain and our injustice, which were absent from the index of the unconscious world, due to the Zionist and American injustices, as if he were Yemeni before he was Lebanese. Rather, he was able to blend the two identities in the vein of his humanity, in addition to the Palestinian cause, whose banner he carried in the early days of his jihad and until his ascension to the status of martyrdom.”

Al-Dailami concludes, “We miss the sparkle of his eyes, the reassurance of his voice, the intensity of his courage, and the tenderness of his heart. We miss seeing the Yemeni heroes who are crushing the beds of the temporary, worn-out entity. We miss his presence to soothe our wounds. We can only say thanks to God for his judgment, despite the bitterness of separation. We will remain faithful to the covenant, my master, O Nasrallah, as long as we live.”



# The Lebanon I witnessed

By Mohammad Sadegh Alizadeh

TEHRAN - Younes, a young Hezbollah fighter in his early 30s, accompanied our Iranian team during our visit to Lebanon for the funeral of Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah. On our way back from the war-torn southern regions to Beirut, he constantly briefed us on the situation along the front-lines. His age might not suggest it, but his political and military analysis was remarkably sharp. For him, Israel's tactical—though not strategic—advantage stems primarily from its technological superiority. Yet he did not forget to emphasize the bigger picture: “The real enemy is the United States. It is Washington that arms and enables the regime.”

This perspective was not unique to Younes. I heard the same view repeatedly in several villages near the occupied borders, villages that had recently endured clashes with Israeli forces. As families slowly returned to the ruins of their homes, colorful banners appeared across the rubble, declaring that the devastation was made in America. One slogan stood out: “America is the mother of terrorism.” For many Lebanese Shiites, the conflict with Israel cannot be separated from the United States.

When they frame the struggle in this way, even the assassination of Nasrallah is seen as part of a broader U.S.-imposed war. Israel, in their eyes, is merely the hand emerging from an American sleeve. During one of our visits to the south, I came across a booklet containing translated excerpts from a speech by Ayatollah Khamenei distributed by Hezbollah's cultural wing. Intrigued, I later searched for the original. In it, Khamenei explained that Western colonial powers have long viewed West Asia as a vital energy hub and a geostrategic crossroads, a region whose resources fuel Western industry and commerce. It is precisely this perspective, he argued, that led to the creation of Israel as a colonial outpost in the heart of the region. This broader vision continues to shape the resistance's understanding of the conflict today.

Seen from this horizon, the anti-American sentiment of Lebanese Shiites and resistance supporters is not a blind emotional reaction but a logical conclusion



drawn from lived experience. For them, fighting Israel is not only about defending homes and survival—it is about recognizing and resisting the larger forces imposing war on their lives. That is why the repeated visits of U.S. envoys pressuring Lebanon to disarm the resistance only intensify their anger. The people know such demands are designed to pave the way for further Israeli aggression.

**For many Lebanese Shiites, the conflict with Israel cannot be separated from the United States.**

The reality for the Lebanese is stark and simple: they have no choice but to stand against what is being forced upon them. To understand this, one only needs to transpose the situation. Would the French people during World War II have accepted American

mediation that favored the Nazis and demanded French resistance fighters lay down their arms? If the French would never have accepted it, why should the Lebanese? Reducing this complex struggle to shallow labels like “Iranian proxies” betrays the human reality of a people confronting invasion and imposition.

What I witnessed in March 2025, during the funeral of Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, was not merely emotional mourning—it was the will of a people saying “no” to foreign impositions. Hundreds of thousands gathered along Beirut's highways to honor their fallen leader. Suddenly, Israeli warplanes swooped low in a crude attempt to intimidate the masses. The contrast was stark: a peaceful sea of men, women, the elderly, and children below—and armed F-15s and F-35s, made in America, snarling above.

In that moment, as I tried to analyze Israel's motives as a journalist, I was shaken from my thoughts by the cry of a young Lebanese mother. With one hand pushing her baby's stroller and

the other raised in a clenched fist, she shouted “Labayk ya Nasrallah” at the warplanes overhead. Her defiance echoed the words of Younes and the villagers of the south. For them, this conflict is not simply about one border or one leader—it is about resisting an imposed order on Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and even Iran.

**The anti-American sentiment of Lebanese Shiites and resistance supporters is not a blind emotional reaction but a logical conclusion drawn from lived experience.**

What they demand is simple: that their own will—not the will of Washington or Tel Aviv—shape their destiny.





# International symbolism of the shrine of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – Since February, the shrine of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the late Secretary-General of Hezbollah, has drawn approximately 100,000 visitors per month, including popular delegations and prominent religious and political figures.

Since the day of his historic and unprecedented funeral, it became clear that the shrine would assume an international identity transcending narrow religious and national affiliations and embodying Sayyed Nasrallah's philosophy of leading just causes, foremost among them Palestine.

On the 43rd anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre, the shrine received a delegation from the "Lest We Forget the Sabra and Shatila Massacre" campaign, which included a European delegation that laid a wreath as a token of loyalty to Sayyed Nasrallah.

On behalf of the delegation, Heather Stroud, the delegation leader, stated, "It's a great honor to be here with the Lebanese people, and it is an honor to have been alive during the years that Hassan Nasrallah was alive. He is an inspirational person. Clearly, his enemies were afraid of him. I believe that his spirit is still with us. I think his enemies should be afraid of that spirit because it's not going to die with his life."

The shrine is directed by a media directorate that was launched immediately after the funeral. It includes a team of volunteers, including Sayyed Nasrallah's offspring, who serve no fewer than 5000 visitors daily.

To discuss these details, Tehran Times interviewed Dr. Daa Abu Taam, Director of the Media and Public Relations Department at the Shrine of Martyr Sayyed Nasrallah (R).

The following is the text of the interview:

## 1. How does the visit of popular and foreign delegations reflect their appreciation for Nasrallah's approach?

Visits to the holy shrine, whether popular or political, have not ceased since last February. The figures varied between representatives of countries and representatives of religious authorities, as well as representatives of the holy shrines (Razavi, Alawiya, Husseinia, Abbasiya, and Kadhimiya). They all visited the shrine



and presented gifts of marble stones and banners blessed by the holy shrines of the Imams of Ahl al-Bayt.

Representatives of the Iraqi government and presidency attended, as well as political parties of various affiliations. Dr. Ali Larijani, head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, visited the holy shrine, as did Foreign Minister Araghchi and foreign ministers from several other countries. These visits, whether by dignitaries, officials, or even popular delegations, all conveyed a single message: His Eminence should not be confined to a leadership role limited to the Lebanese political or resistance context.

Foreign popular delegations that come from outside the Islamic countries always stress that His Eminence represented a human meaning and a human message in every sense of the word, especially since his martyrdom came in this particular battle, the Battle of the Flood of Al-Aqsa and this war of extermination in which the entire humanity today groans from the horror of the massacres and extermination taking place in Gaza; and entire humanity today is exhausted; entire humanity today is suffering from the horror of this scene.

The martyrdom of Sayyed Nasrallah comes at this moment when the entire humanity sees what is happening in Gaza and that this martyrdom is a sacrifice within this battle to support the people of Gaza and support the Palestinian cause and confront the American and Israeli

arrogance and intimidation. People see that they have lost a symbol of this humanity and that it is the duty of the world, not just the nation, to carry this torch from His Eminence and to spread it not at the level of West Asia, but at the level of the world as a whole, and that this is the duty of all people. All people come and express that this personality, His Eminence, is a global personality that cannot be limited to borders, religion, or sect.

## 2. What are the most prominent religious and political events at the holy shrine?

The events, from the date of his burial to the present, have taken on two forms: a cultural aspect linked to the movement of intellectuals, writers, and activists. They are also accompanied by media activities and commemorations. For example, the large festival, titled "A Message to the Sayyed," in which activists and writers from various countries in the region participated. The turnout was enormous. The event was held inside the shrine to announce the names of the winners. Participants ranged in age from 10 to 60, making this an event with a cultural and media aspect.

We often revisit lectures and interviews of His Eminence that address the political circumstances of that time. People resonate with his words as if they were spoken directly to them—urging patience, loyalty to the guardianship of Sayyed Ali Khamenei, resistance against arrogance, and drawing lessons from the Twelve Shia

Imams (peace be upon them) in standing against injustice despite limited resources. We also commemorated the Nights of Destiny during the holy month of Ramadan, as well as the nights of Ashura.

The number of participants in these religious events, especially, was very large—sometimes exceeding 15,000 in a single night. This, of course, is among the blessings of the school that His Eminence established, where he consistently emphasized the importance of connecting the Holy Quran and God Almighty with our daily lives and political struggles. These are two tracks of the same train, and any deviation in either track leads to our decline.

## 3. What role do these events play in strengthening people's relationship with His Eminence?

Of course, all events, whether religious or cultural, are related to the resistance and play a role in attracting those people. Besides, a large number of artists, poets, painters, singers, and reciters come voluntarily asking to serve in the shrine and as an expression of loyalty. Currently, the number of those volunteers is approximately 200, and the number is expected to increase.

Also, the shrine's media office is open to volunteers; the servants' office in the holy shrine is also open; the religious activities office is also open to volunteers. Of course, each department has its own conditions for voluntary activities, as they need specialized fields, especially since the shrine has a

certain moral level that the volunteers must have.

We can say that this holy shrine has the ability, God willing, to produce a community that carries the values of Sayyed Nasrallah.

## 4. How has the shrine transformed into a cultural symbol that consolidates the presence of the resistance in the collective memory of the people?

If we come to all the people who visit the shrine, whether religious or non-religious, Lebanese or non-Lebanese, Muslims or non-Muslims, on every occasion we ask them: "What does the Sayyed mean to you? Why do you visit him?" We hear one word: "We are visiting our father."

We see people talking to His Eminence, especially young children who address him, "Oh Sayyed, why have you left us?" This is true love and passion that would be reflected in their behavior. This love makes people return to their conscience and feel that there are matters that Sayyed Nasrallah used to talk about and that he offered his very precious life even for our lives.

## 5. In your opinion, what is the purpose of a report broadcast by one of the channels to undermine the shrine?

Many of Sayyed's visitors say, "I wish God Almighty had taken us and kept you." In this light, we grasp what His Eminence spoke of and for which he was martyred—the consecration of these principles. The devotees feel they would be betraying him if they failed to uphold the commandments and values he sanctified. From this, we can also understand the depth of the enemies' animosity toward this shrine.

The enemies of the resistance are closely monitoring these visitors. For this reason, we see media reports attempting to cast doubt on whether this land is truly the resting place of His Eminence.

These are just trivial lies that serve the enemy. We always accustom ourselves to the fact that we are in the eye of the confrontation, in the heart of the confrontation. Praise to God, Lord of the Worlds, this feeling is deepening people's attachment, passion, and connection. As His Eminence had recommended, we must carry his voice, his thought, and his blood to the whole world, to the nation, to the future generations.



# Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah: A pioneering journey



By Khaled Hussein

Professor of nuclear physics

BEIRUT - Sayyed Hassan was born in Beirut in 1960, and his lineage goes back to Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them). He was raised in a religiously committed environment and traveled to Najaf al-Ashraf, where he pursued his religious studies and studied under Sayyed Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr and Sayyed Abbas al-Moussawi, then continued his studies at the Hawza of Imam al-Muntadhar (peace be upon him).

In 1982, with the beginning of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, he founded Hezbollah with his brothers, and after ten years of the founding and with the martyrdom of Sayyed Abbas al-Moussawi as a result of an Israeli raid on his convoy, Sayyed Nasrallah was unanimously elected as Secretary General of the party in 1992.

Resistance operations escalated in quality and quantity, and Iranian support for the party increased significantly during his tenure as Secretary General and the Islamic Resistance liberated South Lebanon in 2000. In July 2006, the Zionist entity launched its fierce war against resistance and official Lebanon, and the resistance defeated it in a crushing way, striking it and causing it a clear loss.

Sayyed Hassan had the honor of establishing a weighty parliamentary bloc in the Lebanese parliament that was highly regarded, and it formed an organic alliance with the Amal Movement led by Nabih Berri, and together they won all the seats in the South, the Bekaa, and Beirut's southern suburb without contest.

**The prestige of the meeting**

Sayyed Hassan, with his wisdom and prudence, was able to capture the hearts of millions and influence them. When you listen to his speeches, you find your heart attached to him as an inspiring leader, honest and devoted to his cause and his nation. When meeting him before he withdrew from public appearances for security reasons, he would captivate your heart with his distinctive charisma, exemplary character, and strong memory as a powerful and capable leader who knew what he wanted, how to reach what he wanted, and how to twist the arm of his Zionist enemy, terrify it, and control it to inscribe victory after victory.

You would feel his closeness, his love for you and for the people, his concern for their interests, and that they not suffer, and you would sense that he was passionately devoted to Imam Ali Khamenei and considered himself a soldier under the Wali. He was Hussein Sayyed, faithful to the blood, the covenant, and the guardianship, and close to all the mujahideen. Sayyed Hassan gained the respect of opponents and the love of friends and was imbued with the qualities and guidance of Ahl al-Bayt in all his movements and stillness.

**Eloquence was his distinctive feature**

The party's popular support increased remarkably, and Sayyed Hassan enjoyed great popular backing and achieved tremendous victories over the Zionist enemy, liberated South Lebanon, repelled the brutal aggression in 2006, defeated the Takfiris in the barrens, and secured supply routes from Syria. Thus, he was an Islamic hero, a national leader, and a strong Arab statesman.

He spoke to people's hearts, his words matched his deeds, and he became a beacon for resistance and a great symbol of national and Islamic dignity and pride. He offered his son Hadi to the ranks of the resistance, who was martyred in 1997, so that the resistance would remain proud and dignified.

His constant motto was: We shall pray in Jerusalem, Muslims in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and Christians in the Church of the Nativity or the Holy Sepulchre. The foes thought they killed him, but a nation whose master is Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah will never die.

**His martyrdom and funeral**

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was martyred on September 27, 2024, in an Israeli air raid on his headquarters in the southern suburb of Beirut, the Suburb of Dignity.

Five months after his martyrdom, a grand funeral was held for him at the Sports City in Beirut on Friday, February 23, 2025. It was a legendary funeral, unprecedented in Lebanon, with his deputy Sayyed Hashem Safieddine, and attended by representatives of 80 countries: Iran, Iraq, Yemen... The funeral gathered around one and a half million mourners, Arabs and foreigners, in an atmosphere of grief, pain, and overwhelming emotions, bidding him farewell.

This will remain the greatest and largest funeral engraved in the memory of future generations and a clear indication of the party's ability to organize, to achieve remarkable success, and to continue the collective path of resistance—the path of dignity, honor, and pride.





# Hezbollah's invisible commander: The man who mastered the machinery of Resistance

While others focused on military operations, Safieddine built the infrastructure that sustained the struggle



By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – In the intricate tapestry of Lebanese resistance, few figures have wielded influence as quietly yet decisively as Sayyed Hashem Safieddine.

While the world's gaze often fixated on the overt military confrontations of Hezbollah, Safieddine labored in the shadows, crafting the institutional, social, and ideological architecture that allowed the movement to endure through decades of conflict, political upheaval, and occupation.

He was a man for whom leadership was defined not by visibility or spectacle but by meticulous governance, strategic foresight, and an unwavering commitment to the principles of resistance that would sustain Lebanon's Shi'ite community and the broader Axis of Resistance.

Born in 1964 in Deir Qanoun En Nahr, a village nestled in southern Lebanon's Tyre district, Safieddine entered a world already shaped by the burdens of occupation and the rhythms of community resilience. The region, known historically as Jabal Amil, had long served as a crucible for Shi'ite learning and defiance.

His family, steeped in religious scholarship, imbued him with a sense of duty toward the oppressed and an understanding that moral authority demanded responsibility as much as reverence.

These early lessons were reinforced by his status as a maternal cousin of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, whose trajectory from clerical studies to charismatic leadership would later intersect with Safieddine's own path of quiet mastery. From a young age, he absorbed the complex dynamics of southern Lebanon: the weight of occu-

pation, the imperatives of communal solidarity, and the intertwining of faith with political resistance.

Safieddine's formative years were a careful balance of intellectual pursuit and immersion in the lived realities of his community. In the 1970s and early 1980s, as Israel's military incursions and Lebanon's civil conflicts intensified, he witnessed the vulnerabilities of his people firsthand. This environment sharpened his sense of purpose and nurtured a belief that true resistance required infrastructure, education, and social cohesion, not merely armed confrontation.

In 1983, at the age of nineteen, he married the daughter of Sayyed Muhammad Ali al-Amin, a respected Shi'ite cleric, embedding himself further into the networks of religious and communal leadership that would prove vital throughout his life. These familial and societal ties were not incidental; they became the scaffolding upon which Safieddine would build Hezbollah's resilient structures.

His intellectual journey extended beyond Lebanon's borders, taking him to the venerable seminaries of Najaf in Iraq, where he immersed himself in Islamic jurisprudence and theology under the guidance of religious scholars. In Najaf, he absorbed lessons not only in religious law but also in ethical leadership, understanding that a scholar's authority was inseparable from the responsibility to guide and protect the community.

He later traveled to Qom in Iran, the epicenter of Shi'ite revolutionary thought, where he engaged directly with the ideological and practical legacies of Imam Khomeini.

In Qom, Safieddine described his alignment with the "blessed path of the Wilayat-e Faqih and the path of Imam Khomeini" as both an honor and a strategic necessity, reflecting a worldview in which religious authority and political strategy were inseparable. There, he cultivated relationships with Iranian scholars and revolutionaries, absorbing lessons in governance, social organization, and the ethics of resistance that would inform his future leadership.

Upon his return to Lebanon in the early 1990s, Safieddine assumed his role as a Sayyed, donning the black turban that marked both his lineage from the Prophet Muhammad (S) and his readiness to bridge religious authority with practical resistance. He joined Hezbollah, which had been founded a decade earlier in 1982 during Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, and quickly distinguished himself through a combination of intellect, discipline, and organizational acumen.

By the late 1990s, he had become president of Hezbollah's Jihadi Council and entered the Shura Council, the movement's highest decision-making body. His ascent was both rapid and deliberate, a reflection of his capacity to combine the demands of governance with the imperatives of ideology.

In 2001, Safieddine assumed the leadership of Hezbollah's Executive Council, a role he would occupy for over two decades. In this capacity, he functioned as the organization's "civilian prime minister," managing day-to-day operations across a network of political, social, cultural, and educational institutions.





Hospitals, schools, financial support programs, and postwar reconstruction initiatives all fell under his purview. His vision was clear: military victories alone could not sustain resistance; they required an infrastructure that nurtured society, fostered resilience, and cemented loyalty.

During the 33-Day War in July 2006, Safieddine's operational foresight became critical. He coordinated logistics, ensured aid reached both fighters and civilians, and maintained morale under intense pressure, contributing directly to Hezbollah's perception of a strategic victory over Israel. Beyond the battlefield, his initiatives restored housing, healthcare, and educational facilities, reinforcing the movement's legitimacy and embedding it within the fabric of Lebanese society.

Safieddine's leadership style was marked by humility, discipline, and a deep commitment to ethical governance. Unlike leaders drawn to public acclaim, he worked quietly, emphasizing substance over spectacle.

Colleagues recall his attentiveness to the needs of families of martyrs, his personal engagement with local communities, and his ability to maintain organizational cohesion during crises.

This approachability, combined with unwavering principle, earned him respect across the movement and positioned him as a natural steward of continuity, capable of sustaining Hezbollah's institutional and spiritual legacy in times of upheaval. Observers frequently likened him to Abu al-Fadl al-Abbas, a Shi'ite symbol of loyalty, for his steadfast support of Nasrallah and the movement as a whole.

Ideologically, Safieddine's worldview was deeply rooted in the principles of anti-imperialism, resistance, and Islamic governance. He consistently described Hezbollah as Lebanon's shield against Zionist aggression, emphasizing that political activity must serve the broader purpose of resistance.

He understood the limitations and vulnerabilities of American and Israeli power, advocating for strategic patience, institutional resilience, and ideological clarity as the tools to counter interventionist pressures.

He regarded the guidance of Iran's Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei, as a source of both farsightedness and legitimacy, often citing specific instances

where this alignment proved decisive, such as during the 2006 war, when Ayatollah Khamenei's counsel allowed Hezbollah to anticipate and mitigate a potential Israeli surprise attack.

Safieddine's commitment to Palestine and regional solidarity was equally unwavering; he recognized the interconnectedness of victories in Lebanon and the broader struggle of Palestinian resistance, asserting that local successes reverberated throughout the region.

Family and alliances were central to his strategy of sustained influence. His brother, Abdallah, served as Hezbollah's representative in Tehran, maintaining the movement's crucial diplomatic and operational ties to Iran.

Yet despite these regional linkages, he remained grounded in local affairs, personally overseeing social, educational, and healthcare programs that directly benefited Lebanon's Shi'ite population.

This dual focus—local stewardship and regional strategy—exemplified his understanding that sustainable resistance required both roots and reach, integrating community resilience with strategic foresight.

On October 3, 2024, Safieddine attained martyrdom in an Israeli airstrike targeting the southern suburbs of Beirut. His death followed closely after the assassination of Nasrallah, plunging Hezbollah into a period of heightened uncertainty. Yet even in the aftermath, the structures Safieddine had meticulously built continued to function, a testament to his insight and dedication.

Hezbollah's social, educational, and healthcare networks persisted, and the movement's operational continuity remained intact. His life, in essence, demonstrated that leadership is measured not only by acts of courage on the battlefield but by the enduring strength of the institutions, communities, and ideas that survive beyond any single individual.

Safieddine's enduring legacy is manifold. He exemplified a model of leadership that fused religious scholarship with practical governance, creating a resistance capable of surviving leadership decapitation and external pressures.

He nurtured a Hezbollah that could sustain popular support through tangible ben-

efits to the community, integrating social welfare with strategic and military objectives. Through this approach, he ensured that resistance was holistic—rooted in faith, reinforced by institutions, and directed toward long-term resilience.

In reflecting on Safieddine's life, it becomes clear that his impact cannot be measured merely in military terms. He was the invisible architect of a movement that thrived because of his quiet diligence, his strategic vision, and his unwavering adherence to principles.

His efforts transformed Hezbollah from a reactive militant organization into a sustainable social and political force, deeply embedded in the communities it claimed to protect. For future generations within Lebanon and across the Axis of Resistance, his life remains a paradigm of how scholarship, strategic patience, and moral courage can coalesce to produce a resilient, enduring movement capable of confronting both immediate threats and long-term challenges.

Safieddine's story is also a reminder of the interplay between family, ideology, and leadership. His bonds with Nasrallah, his educational formation in Najaf and Qom, and his familial connections to the broader regional resistance network illustrate a life where personal and collective destinies were inseparably intertwined.

In every initiative he led, every institution he built, and every decision he made, Safieddine reflected a profound understanding that resistance was not a singular act of heroism but a sustained enterprise, demanding vision, organization, and ethical clarity.

Ultimately, Sayyed Hashem Safieddine's life exemplifies the quiet power of institutional mastery in the service of a cause. Where headlines often capture the drama of conflict, his work reminds us that the foundations of resilience—social, educational, cultural, and political—are the true bedrock upon which movements endure. His legacy endures not only in the physical institutions he established but in the strategic depth, ideological coherence, and ethical framework he instilled within Hezbollah.

In a world where leadership is often equated with visibility, Safieddine's life offers a profound counterexample: influence, impact, and endurance are most potent when cultivated quietly, deliberately, and with unwavering fidelity to principles.





# A foreign blueprint for Lebanon's disarmament

## How Washington and Tel Aviv are pressing Beirut to surrender a guarantor of deterrence — and why that project risks national collapse

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — On the eve of a year since the assassination of the Lebanese resistance leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah — a shock that reoriented Lebanon's politics and public mood — a new campaign to “restore a state monopoly on weapons” has moved from the drawing board into government corridors.

That move is being portrayed in Washington and Tel Aviv as a dispassionate, technical solution: an effort to impose a so-called professional army, a facade of a modern state, and a supposed attempt to eradicate so-called militias.

In Beirut, however, it looks and feels like pressure — a sequence of conditionalities, ultimatums, and material incentives designed to force a strategic outcome: Hezbollah's disarmament. The consequences of that outcome have been too little examined and too casually dismissed.

The mechanism is as familiar as it is coercive. External actors attach political and economic incentives — or threats — to an otherwise legitimate objective.

There has been an intensifying U.S. push for an explicit cabinet decision committing Lebanon to disarm as a precondition for resumed international support and negotiations. That push has involved envoys, public statements, and the steady linking of reconstruction assistance to security benchmarks. To many Lebanese observers, this reads less like partnership than leverage.

Beirut's new government has begun to respond. Cabinet papers and recent army briefings show the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) tasked with drafting a plan to centralize arms under state control — a politically explosive brief that would, if implemented, supposedly place the LAF at the center of an operation that could pit it against large, embedded, and popular actors.

The government's public steps have been accompanied by private exhortations from donor capitals: do this, and the money and diplomatic oxygen follow. That mix of carrot and stick is what transforms a policy choice into a coerced surrender.

Practical questions multiply fast. The Lebanese Army is chronically underfunded, institutionally fractured along sectarian lines, and operationally limited — a force sustained by international assistance that does not include the full spectrum of capabilities needed to deter or defeat a well-armed adversary.

Rebuilding an army to the point where it can credibly replace Hezbollah's deterrence would require not only money but time, political coherence, and a shift in neighborhood realities.

In the meantime, the structural gap between rhetorical demands and field realities invites dangerous outcomes: coercive disarmament attempts, defections inside the army, and localized clashes that could escalate into national rupture. Many analysts have warned that the LAF lacks the capacity to assume immediately the roles external actors expect of it.

Concrete signs of how this plays out are already visible. Washington has approved “security assistance packages” explicitly aimed at building LAF capacity to “dismantle weapons caches and military infrastructure of non-state groups,” with a U.S. Pentagon package worth about \$14.2 million as a recent example.

The optics—explosives, specialist equipment, targeted training—are framed as technical. In reality, they're tools Washington uses to tighten its grip on Lebanon's instruments of force, turning the issue of Lebanese sovereignty into a direct question of who answers to Washington's agenda in Lebanon.

Public sentiment in Lebanon challenges the technocratic story further. A new poll published in August, carried out by Lebanon's Consultative Center for Studies and Documentation, found that a majority of Lebanese oppose disarmament absent a credible national defensive strategy, and 71.7 percent of citizens distrust the army's ability, on its own, to confront Israeli aggression.

That is not a sectarian reflex; it reflects lived memory of occupation, displacement, repeated cross-border strikes, and the martyrdom of loved ones in Is-



raeli airstrikes and assassinations. Ignoring those attitudes and imposing disarmament without guarantees will not produce calm. It will lead to confrontation — political, civic, and potentially violent.

**Study finds  
71.7 percent of  
Lebanese citizens  
distrust the army's  
ability to confront  
Israeli aggression.**

Two broad strategic logics underpin the critics' warnings. The first is deterrence: Hezbollah's armaments did not appear in a vacuum; they emerged as a response to a history of occupation and repeated Israeli operations.

For many in Lebanon, the paradox is obvious: disarming the one actor that has materially deterred further annexation is counterintuitive if the occupying or violating party remains in place.

The second logic is political: disarmament pursued as a foreign objective is not neutral; it is a reordering of power that will realign Lebanon's institutions and patronage structures for decades. Neither logic requires an endorsement of violence to be an-

alytically persuasive; both simply underscore the depth of the security dilemma facing Beirut.

External actors will object that a monopoly of force is a principle of the modern state. That may seem right in theory, but ends and means matter. If the state lacks the capacity to provide security, or if the command to disarm comes as the price of relief and reconstruction, the prescription becomes an instrument of pacification rather than a path to sovereignty.

When conditional aid, diplomatic pressure, and military kits are combined to produce a single political result, the facade of “state-building” slides, revealing a strategic design: weaken deterrence, make occupation cheaper, and normalize a new regional order.

**Lebanon's  
future should  
not be written  
in Washington,  
Tel Aviv, or in the  
minutes of donor  
meetings.**

Riyadh's overtures to Beirut, including high-level visits, have

been presented as reconstruction diplomacy; in practice, they are acts designed to nudge Lebanon away from the Axis of Resistance. That is realpolitik, but it is not benevolence; it is leverage with a different stamp.

The sober alternative — and the only one that preserves Lebanese agency — is a negotiated, Lebanese-led national defense strategy that anchors the question of weapons in a package of reciprocal security guarantees: verifiable Israeli withdrawal from occupied posts, a phased strengthening of the LAF with clear timelines, and transparent reconstruction assistance delinked from immediate disarmament. Anything short of these risks turns the aim of restoring state authority into the instrument of foreign strategic gain.

Lebanon's future should not be written in Washington, Tel Aviv, or in the minutes of donor meetings. Even if we assume that respecting the state monopoly of force is a legitimate goal, achieving it through pressure, deadlines, and unilateral technical fixes is not.

If the international community truly wants a stable, sovereign Lebanon, it should underwrite an inclusive, Lebanese-owned pathway that reconciles the security concerns of citizens with the practical limits of the state — not demand surrender and then wonder at the backlash.