

TEHRAN -- The primary mission of the Chamran-1 satellite is to demonstrate technology in the areas of orbital adjustment, transfer, and maneuvering, says the head of its construction team.

Moharram Ghiasvand, the head of the Chamran-1 satellite construction team, elaborated on the mission's objectives, stating, "The primary mission of the Chamran-1 satellite is to display technology in the areas of orbital adjustment, transfer, and maneuvering."

# Kayhan International



ISTANBUL (AFP) -- A senior Hamas official told AFP on Sunday that the Palestinian movement had ample resources to continue fighting Israel despite losses sustained over more than 11 months of war in Gaza.

"The resistance has a high ability to continue," Osama Hamdan told AFP during an interview in Istanbul. "There were martyrs and there were sacrifices... but in return there was an accumulation of experiences and the recruitment of new generations into the resistance."

"The number of casualties... is much less than what is expected in a battle of this size, level and breadth," Hamdan said.

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**Viewpoint**

**The Crying Need for Islamic Unity**

**Exhibition of Iranian Artworks Opens in Moscow**



**Iran Finish Runners-Up in Asian Wushu Championships**



**Tens of Thousands of Israeli Protesters Keep Up Pressure for Gaza Deal**



## The Perfect Formula for Islamic Solidarity

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

**"Say (O' Muhammad): "O mankind! I am the Prophet of Allah to you all [of Him] to whom belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth; there is no god except Him. He gives life and brings death; so have faith in Allah and His Prophet, the uninstructed prophet, who has faith in Allah and His words, and follow him so that you may be guided." (Holy Qur'an 7:158)**

The Almighty Creator raised Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) as the Salvager of all people and the Messenger of Mercy with the universal message of Islam prophesied by all prophets of the past, including Moses and Jesus.

The Seal of Messengers thus left no stone unturned to bring hearts together under the shade of monotheism by inviting the adherents of all religions – Judaism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, and even paganism, at a time when the people of the Arabian Peninsula were hopelessly killing each other for very trivial matters.

He moulded them into Muslims, that is, those who live in peace, lead a morally sound life, and submit to none but the Almighty Creator.

Unfortunately, today the Ummah's presents a fractured appearance due to sectarianism, cronyism, terrorism, and undue submission to the seemingly powerful non-Muslim powers.

This appalling situation needs to be resolved through fostering of amity, peace, solidarity, and the spirit of fraternity amongst Muslims.

Today the 12<sup>th</sup> of Rabi al-Awwal marks the start of the Islamic Unity Week initiated four-and-a-half decades ago, following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, by that Sage of the Age, Imam Khomeini (RA), in order to bring Muslims of all denominations on a common platform.

Prophet Muhammad is the perfect role model for us. It is worth recalling that on his migration to Medina and the founding of the first-ever Islamic state, he united the 'Ansaar' (Helpers of Medina) and 'Muhajir' (Migrants of Mecca) into a monolithic society.

He removed all ethnic, lingual, colour and class barriers, saying there is no difference between a Qurayshite nobleman and a black African slave. He appointed Bilal the Abyssinian as the Muezzin or official caller to the daily ritual prayers, even though this non-Arab Muslim could not correctly pronounce certain Arabic alphabets.

If the Roman refugee Suhayb had the honour of becoming his companion, he hailed the Iranian Salman as "Minna Ahl al-Bayt" (from us the people of the house) – an honour no Arab companion ever achieved.

He next initiated bonds of fraternity amongst 740 of his close companions, pairing together every two of them as per their characteristics, sharing of habits (whether good or bad), and above all their natural inclinations and friendship towards each other.

For instance, Salman Farsi and Abu Zar Gheffari were paired as brothers, while another pair was Meqdad ibn Aswad and Ammar ibn Yasser – because of their lofty degrees of faith and firm adherence to the path of truth which would become manifest both during the Prophet's lifetime and after him when these four would stand firmly beside his Divinely-designated Vicegerent.

Some of the others paired together were Zubair and Talha; Abu Bakr and Omar ibn Khattab; and Osman ibn Affan and Abdur-Rahman ibn Auf, etc. The Brotherhood Accord was so firm and binding that if a pair of such brothers were to achieve martyrdom in battle the infidels had imposed upon Muslims, the Prophet instructed their burial in a single grave.

This pairing was on the commandment of God, and after it was over, the Prophet grasped the hand of his dear ward and cousin, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), in his own hands and declared him his "brother in this world and in the hereafter".

Then years later, before his departure from the mortal world, after completion of his 23-year mission on Earth, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) spelt the supreme formula for a monolithic Muslim ummah by saying:

**"I am leaving among you the two weighty things; the Book of God (Qur'an) and my progeny the Ahl al-Bayt. Hold fast to them and you will never go astray for the two will never part with each other even when they return to me at the Pool (of Kowsar on Judgement Day)."**

What a wonderful legacy did the Prophet leave behind! It is now for us to do some real soul-searching and find out whether we have remained loyal to the instructions of our Prophet. If not, what has made us drift away, whether from the Holy Qur'an or from the Infallible Ahl al-Bayt?

The birth anniversary of the Messenger of Mercy affords us the opportunity to bridge the gaps that have emerged in the body politic of the Ummah over the past 14 centuries. All it needs is courage to evaluate our beliefs to determine their authenticity – whether these are in accordance with what the Prophet had decreed, or we are stumbling in the dark by blindly following the path of those that had deviated from the explicit instructions of the Messenger of God. Thus, those who oppose the celebration of the Prophet's birthday and desecrate the shrines of the Saints disobey the commandments of God.

May God glorify the soul of Imam Khomeini (RA) for his dynamic step to bring Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims on the common platform of Islamic Unity by declaring the 5-day period of the two different days of the month of Rabi al-Awwal (12 and 17) celebrated as the blessed birth anniversary of the "Mercy unto the whole creation".

Both the Sunnis and Shi'ites know that love and respect for the Ahl al-Bayt (as commanded by God in the Holy Qur'an) is the undeniable Sunnah of the Seal of Prophets and the supreme symbol of Islamic solidarity in the face of the plots of the divisive forces and their backers in the West and in the illegal Zionist entity.

## Missile Travels 2,000 km in 11 Minutes Yemen's Hypersonic Strike Shakes Tel Aviv Israel's Multilayered Defense Systems Fail



This combo shows the aftermath of a missile attack from Yemen on central Israeli occupied territories on Sunday.

SANAA (Dispatches) -- Yemen's armed forces on Sunday launched a hypersonic ballistic missile that flew around 2,000km from Yemen to central occupied territories, evading Israel's air defense systems and sparking a fire not far from Tel Aviv.

The attack triggered air raid sirens at Israel's Ben Gurion airport, in the latest reverberation from the nearly yearlong Israel war on Gaza. Israeli media aired footage showing people racing to

shelters at the airport. A fire could be seen in a rural area, and local media showed images of what appeared to be parts of a missile that damaged a train station in the central town of Modiin.

Yemen's military spokesman Yahya Saree said the missile struck an Israeli military target in Jaffa in central occupied territories. The missile, he said, travelled a distance of 2,040 kilometers (1,260 miles) in just 11

1/2 minutes and successfully hit its target, with Israeli air defenses failing to intercept it.

"Geographical obstacles, U.S.-UK aggression, and espionage and interception systems will not prevent Yemen from supporting Palestine," he added.

The Israeli air force said it would investigate how the missile managed to travel so far without being intercepted.

Israel should expect more strikes in the future "as we approach the

first anniversary of the Oct. 7 operation, including responding to its aggression on the city of Hudaydah," Saree said.

The deputy head of Ansarullah media office, Nasruddin Amer, said in a post on X on Sunday that the missile had reached Israel after "20 missiles failed to intercept" it, describing it as the "beginning".

The Israeli military said it made several attempts to intercept the missile using its multitiered air defenses, but had not yet determined what had happened. It said the incident is still under review.

Hamas praised the attack, vowing that Israel "will not enjoy security unless it ceases its brutal aggression against our people in the Gaza Strip". He added that "the enemy's defenses failed to intercept it".

Yemen's armed forces have been targeting ships that are Israeli-owned, flagged, operated, or heading to Israeli occupied ports in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden with missiles and drones in solidarity with Gaza, which has been under a devastating Israeli onslaught since last Oct. 7.

In July, a drone launched by the Yemenis struck Tel Aviv, killing one person and wounding 10 others. Israel carried out a wave of airstrikes on Yemen, including the port city of Hudaydah.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Hezbollah Strikes Israeli Sites With Drones, Rockets

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Hezbollah on Sunday targeted several Israeli military sites with drones and missiles in retaliation for the occupying regime's months-long aggression on Lebanese soil and in solidarity with the Palestinians.

The resistance group said it struck Israel's 188th Brigade in the Rawia barracks with dozens of Katyusha rockets in the north of the occupied territories.

"In support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in support of their valiant and honorable resistance, and in response to the Israeli enemy's attacks on the steadfast southern villages and safe homes... the fighters of the Islamic Resistance targeted the headquarters of the armored battalions of the 188th Brigade in the Rawia barracks with dozens of Katyusha rockets," it said.

Hezbollah said in another statement that the popular resistance group struck a technical system in the Malikiyah site in a drone attack, achieving a direct hit that led to its destruction.

Hezbollah fighters also targeted a position of Israeli soldiers in the Metulla site with drones, leaving an unspecified number of casualties.

Hezbollah and Israel have been trading fire since early October last year, shortly after the regime launched a genocidal war against the Gaza Strip following a surprise operation by Palestinian resistance groups.

The Lebanese movement has vowed to keep up its reprisal operations as long as the occupying regime continues its brutal Gaza onslaught, which has so far martyred 41,207 Palestinians.

Thousands of victims are feared trapped under rubble, inaccessible to emergency and civil defense teams due to Israeli attacks.

The Israeli military said on Sunday it was investigating after a unit dropped unauthorized leaflets on a border area in southern Lebanon ordering residents to leave.

Lebanon's state-run national news agency reported that Israel had dropped leaflets ordering

(Continued on Page 7)

## Venezuela Foils CIA Plot, Arrests Five Operatives

CARACAS (Dispatches) -- Three American citizens and two Spaniards have been detained pending court trial in Venezuela on suspicion of plotting to "destabilize" the country through "violent actions", Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello said.

They were detained on suspicion of planning an attack on President Nicolas Maduro and his government, the minister told a news conference here.

Cabello said the CIA is leading the operation aimed at assassinating Maduro, adding that hundreds of rifles have been found.

One of the detained Americans had been identified as U.S. Navy SEAL William Joseph Castaneda Gomez.

Cabello said Gomez was in charge of the outfit for the CIA plot. Cabello also identified the two other detained Americans as David Estrella and Aaron Barrett Logan.

The minister said in addition to the three Americans, two Spaniards named Jose Maria Basoa Valdivinos and Andres Martinez

Adasme, in addition to one Czech national, Jan Darmovzal, have been arrested over the plot.

He said authorities have seized 400 American-made rifles from the squad.

The U.S. and its present ally and former colonial power Spain are currently at loggerheads with Venezuela's government over the re-election of President Maduro in the July 28 presidential race.

After losing in the presidential race, the opposition candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, fled the country last week.

Gonzalez was flown to Madrid in a Spanish Air Force plane after days of hiding in Spain's embassy in Caracas.

Venezuela's Attorney General Tarek Saab said the government had agreed with Madrid to give Gonzalez safe passage.

Maduro's deputy had earlier said Caracas agreed to his exit to restore "political peace" to the country.

Caracas summoned Spain's envoy to Venezuela last week for

(Continued on Page 7)



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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

## The Crying Need for Islamic Unity

By: Kayhan International

*Hold fast to the Rope of Allah, altogether, and do not be divided.” (Holy Qur’an 3:103)*

*God Almighty’s command to the believers is clear. Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), as the Last and Greatest Messenger of God, spared no efforts during his 23-year long mission to preach the universal message of Islam. He united not just the fratricidal Arab tribes, but all those who came into contact with him, like the enslaved black Africans, the Romans such as Suhayb, and the Persians represented by Salman Farsi, into the monolithic Muslim Ummah.*

*While departing from the mortal world for his heavenly abode the Messenger of Mercy bequeathed to the Muslims the excellent formula of unity, saying they will never go astray if they hold fast to the Two Weighty Things (Thaqalayn), that is, the Book of God (Holy Qur’an) and his progeny the Ahl al-Bayt that he was leaving behind for guidance.*

*The Revealed Word of the Almighty Creator and the Hadith or statements of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) transcend the barriers of time and geography, which means they are beacons of light for all eras and all places, especially for members of the Ummah who today inhabit all parts of the globe.*

*Today, though Muslims account for a fourth of the world’s estimated 7 billion population and 56 Muslim majority countries have got together to form the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) – India and its huge Muslim population of almost 300 million Muslims have unfortunately no representation – the Ummah presents the spectacle of a house divided against itself.*

*The reason is that the rulers, not the people they rule, have drifted away from the Holy Qur’an and the Sunnah and Seerah (practice and behaviour) of the Prophet of Peace.*

*Instead of efforts to bridge the gaps grown over time in jurisprudential matters in order to build ideological unity, or to cooperate and coordinate with each other to promote political proximity for proper use of the vast natural resources, these rulers dance to the tune of the avowed enemies of Islam.*

*While the US, West European regimes, and the illegal Zionist entity are systematically siphoning off the wealth of the Muslim lands, rulers who do not represent the people they rule, are doing nothing to end the genocide in Gaza.*

*Gone are the days when the enemies of Islam and Muslims used to laugh behind backs at the ideological ignorance and political immaturity of their client regimes in the Muslim world. They now arrogantly give orders to these regimes to officially recognize usurper Israel and stop flow of any armaments to the long persecuted Palestinians.*

*In such a horrific situation what is the responsibility of the Muslim masses, especially of the ulema, who are supposed to be religious, spiritual, and social guides of the people?*

*The answer is obvious. They should endeavour to narrow the ideological, especially the jurisprudential gaps among the believers.*

*This is the avowed goal of the Islamic Republic of Iran in hosting every year the International Islamic Unity Conference by inviting scholars of various persuasions to focus on benefits of solidarity of the Muslim world ever since the dynamic move of the Father of the Islamic Revolution 45 years ago.*

*Imam Khomeini (RA), in order to bridge the two dates of Rabi al-Awwal believed to be the birth anniversary of the Seal of Messengers, declared Islamic Unity Week – 12 for the Sunnis in accordance with narrations of the Prophet’s companions, and 17 for the Shi’as who deem family accounts to be more reliable.*

*Undaunted by the plots of the US and the Zionists, or the conspiracies of the so-called Muslim regimes, the message of Iran to the ulema of Islam all over the world, irrespective of the minor jurisprudential differences, is loud and clear:*

*Adhere to the Holy Qur’an and the Prophet’s Sunnah. Its manifest message is love for the Ahl al-Bayt, and the Ummah will surely triumph over terrorism, sectarianism, and thralldom to the US and the Zionists.*

## Parliament Speaker Rules Out Talks With West



Parliament speaker Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf addresses the chamber on Sunday.

TEHRAN – Effective negotiations between Iran and the West are out of question as long as the U.S. and Europeans make false allegations against Tehran, Parliament speaker Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Sunday.

Addressing a parliamentary session, Ghalibaf dismissed the Western countries’ allegations against Iran.

He said the U.S. and Europeans’ repetition of false claims against Iran made by the Zionist regime as a notorious liar is incompatible with their call for diplomacy.

“As long as the Western countries continue these claims, no effective dialogue will take place,” the Iranian speaker added.

He pointed to relentless Israeli crimes in Gaza and the Zionist re-

gime’s genocidal crimes against Palestinians over the past 80 years, calling for Muslim unity in support of the Palestinians.

Describing Gaza as the capital of the hearts of Muslims, Ghalibaf suggested that this year’s Islamic Unity Week which begins on Thursday declare Muslim solidarity in support of liberating Al-Quds.

## President Pezeshkian to Attend BRICS Summit in Kazan

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Iran’s ambassador to Russia said Sunday President Masoud Pezeshkian will attend the upcoming meeting of the BRICS group of emerging countries, which is scheduled to be held in the Russian city of Kazan next month.

Kazem Jalali said Pezeshkian will also meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin during his trip to Kazan for the 16th BRICS Summit from October 22 to 24.

Putin has already said he plans to meet and hold talks with Pezeshkian on the fringes of the event, adding Russia also expects a separate trip by the Iranian president for a joint comprehensive cooperation

agreement between the two countries to be signed.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Secretary General of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Akbar Ahmadian on the sidelines of a meeting of BRICS security officials in Russia’s port city of St. Petersburg on Thursday.

The latest development comes amid tensions with the West over allegations that Iran has sent short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to be used in the ongoing war in Ukraine.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Treasury and the State Department imposed

sanctions on several individuals and entities based in Iran and Russia over Tehran’s alleged drone and missile sales to Moscow.

Germany, France and the UK also announced they would cancel bilateral air services agreements with Iran and work towards imposing sanctions on the country’s national airliner, Iran Air.

Iran has rejected allegations of supplying ballistic missiles to Russia as baseless and misleading. Moscow has also rejected U.S. media reports claiming that Iran has sent short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to be used in the war in Ukraine.

## Envoy: U.S. to Lose Psychological War

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Washington is trying to defame anyone who goes against its interests, Iran’s Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali has stated, adding that the U.S. will be the loser of such psychological warfare.

He spoke to RT after the U.S. slapped new sanctions on the news channel. The U.S. State Department says RT funds “proxies” engaged in “covert influence activity” in Africa, Germany, France, and Argentina, among other places.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken also claimed that RT is functioning as a de facto arm of Russia’s intelligence services.

Jalali said the U.S. is not new to waging “psychological wars”. “The Americans have two methods. One of them is the psychological method, which is accusation. They try to accuse the media, countries, organizations, and groups, that don’t work in Washington’s interests. They try to break their dignity,” he said.

The second is imposing

sanctions. “We, the Iranians have been familiar with these methods for 45 years, and know that the Americans accuse untruthfully,” he added.

The U.S. has had sanctions on Iran in place since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, with its blacklist now including around 5,000 Iranian individuals and entities. The measures are surpassed only by those imposed on Russia.

Jalali also rebuked Washington for trying to blame Russian media for meddling in the 2024 U.S. presidential election cycle.

“The point of the media presence is to clarify events, so it’s laughable to say that a media has interfered in an issue. It’s obvious that you should report the facts about the elections, any country’s situations and any society,” he said.

“The Americans are trying to defame everyone – the media, countries and groups that don’t stand for their interests. But today everyone knows this trick by the Americans. They will not

be successful.”

Earlier this month, U.S. authorities announced sanctions targeting Russian media figures, including RT executives, saying that it was acting to counter “malign influence operations” conducted on American soil ahead of the November presidential vote.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has described the new sanctions against RT as “xenophobia, racism, and Nazism in its purest form”.

The new round of U.S. sanctions against Russian media outlets amounts to a declaration of an “information war”, Zakharova told RT.

“The degree of aggression with which all of this was expressed is off the scale. I think this is definitely a declaration of information war. It went on behind the scenes through the sanctions policy, but there was no declaration that the Russian media would now be openly attacked,” Zakharova stated.

The Holy Qur’an

Allah pardon you! Why did you give them leave until those who spoke the truth had become manifest to you and you had known the liars?

The Holy Qur’an (9:43)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:59
Evening (Maghreb)	18:28
Dawn (Fajr) “Tomorrow”	05:48
Sunrise “Tomorrow”	04:23

## Top Military Official Holds Talks With Russian, Chinese Counterparts

TEHRAN – Iranian and Russian military commanders have considered plans for closer naval cooperation between the two countries with joint maritime patrols in the Caspian Sea and in Iran’s southern waters.

In a meeting with Russian Deputy Minister of Defense Alexander Fomin on the sidelines of the 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum in China, deputy chief of the Iranian Army for coordination Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari described the Caspian Sea as the sea of peace and friendship.

He also stressed the need for the Caspian littoral states to join hands to ensure collective security without the presence of outsiders.

The two officials further discussed plans to expand naval cooperation between Iran and Russia in the Caspian and southern waters through holding joint patrols and naval exercises.

They also talked about ways to protect the strategic interests of the

(Continued on Page 7)

## Iraqi, Kurdish Leaders Assure Iran of Border Security

TEHRAN – Iran has been given assurances that the soil of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq will never be used to pose any threat to the Islamic Republic, Iranian ambassador to Baghdad Muhammad Kazem Al-Sadeq said.

The envoy hailed the results of President Masoud Pezeshkian’s recent state visit to Iraq. He touched on the importance of the president’s visits to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, saying the autonomous region’s officials and Iranian authorities discussed the full implementation of a security agreement between Iran and Iraq.

Al-e Sadeq said officials in Baghdad and Erbil gave assurances that they won’t allow the soil of the Kurdistan region to be used for posing threats to Iran.

Iran and the KRG authorities also discussed the removal of obstacles to the implementation of economic projects between the two sides and the export of Iranian engineering and technical services to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Al-e Sadeq said.

KRG officials have also promised to cooperate with Tehran on the

(Continued on Page 7)



## About 1,500 Iranian Book Titles on Display at Baghdad Fair



TEHRAN -- Representing the Iranian publishing industry, Iran's Book and Literature House Institute has participated at the 25th Baghdad International Book Fair held under the theme "From Iraq, the first letter to the world was written".

Over 23 Iranian publishers and cultural organizations are partaking in the book fair, displaying about 1,500 book titles on various subjects including Islamic studies, literature, children's books, Persian education, academic books, resistance, and the Sacred Defense. There is also a special section dedicated to the Holy Qur'an.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Iraqi Deputy Minister of Trade Sattar al-Jabiri emphasized the importance of book fairs as spaces for connection between authors, readers, and the broader cultural community.

Head of the Publishers Union and the Supreme Preparatory Committee for the Book Fair Ab-

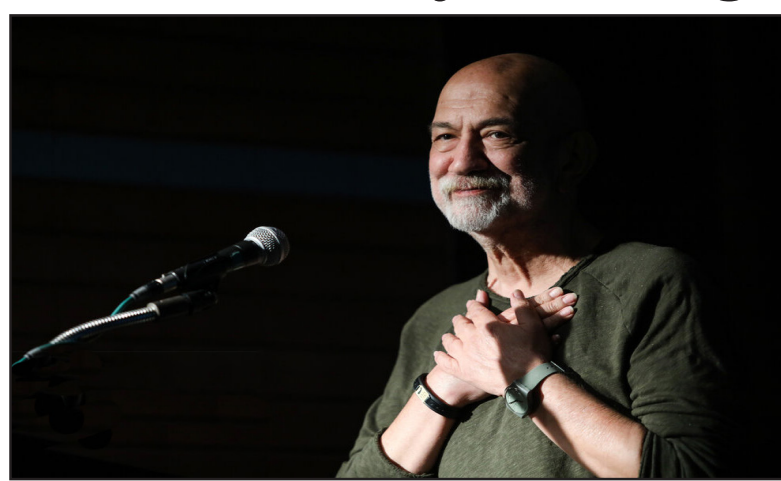
dul Wahab al-Radhi said that 600 publishers from 21 countries have participated in the 25th Baghdad International Book Fair.

A memorandum of cooperation between the Tehran International Book Fair and the Baghdad International Book Fair is planned to be inked on the sidelines of the fair.

This year's lineup is a celebration of Arab literary and cultural talent. Among the many distinguished guests are Jordanian novelist Dr. Ayman al-Otoom, Egyptian actor Hany Ramzy, a beloved figure in the Arab film industry, Lebanese media icon Tony Khalife, and renowned Palestinian poet Dr. Tamim Al-Barghouthi, whose poignant verse has resonated with audiences across the Arab world.

These figures will participate in panel discussions, book signings, and public forums, giving visitors the chance to dive deeper into the latest developments in Arab literature and culture.

## Pesyani to Bring Father's Unfinished Project to Stage



TEHRAN -- Iranian actress Setareh Pesyani is set to stage an unfinished theatrical project as a tribute to her late father, the renowned Iranian actor Atila Pesyani.

Setareh Pesyani has decided to complete her father's dream by bringing 'Pearl Island' to life.

Atila Pesyani, even during his illness, remained deeply committed to the world of theater.

He had begun rehearsals for 'Pearl Island', a play based on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic "Treasure Island," to stage it with his theatrical troupe named "Play."

His deteriorating health forced the rehearsals to be suspended. The actor passed away in October 2023.

'Pearl Island' premieres next month, coinciding with the first anniversary of Atila Pesyani's passing.

The performance takes place at the Iranshahr Theater Complex in the Iranian capital city of Tehran.

Pesyani's performance in the movie 'In Cold Blood' earned him a Simorgh Award nomination for the Best Leading Actor at the prestigious Fajr International Film Festival in Iran.

## 'The Edge' to Premiere in Turkey's Short Film Festival

TEHRAN -- Iran's short film "The Edge" written and directed by Iranian filmmaker Muhammad Reza Golpour will be screened at the International Amity Short Film Festival in Turkey.

Kiana Montajebi, Mohsen Zarabadipour, Ehsan Amani, Sanam Sarmad, Shaghayegh

Fattahi, and Mahdi Malek are among the cast of Golpour's short film.

This is the second presence of "The Edge" in international film festivals. Previously, Golpour's short film was screened at Taiwan International Children's Film Festival (TICFF).

# Exhibition of Iranian Artworks Opens in Moscow

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- An exhibition showcasing a collection of Iranian artworks, including historical miniatures, opened here Sunday at the State Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow and will run for two and a half months.

Iran's cultural attaché Masoud Ahmadvand attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition of historical Iranian miniature based on the works of the Oriental collection of Peter Shchukin, the researcher and creator of the Shchukin Art Museum.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Ahmadvand said that the exhibition shows how art and culture can bring people of different nationalities and countries together, transcending borders and history.

The exhibition features over 200 works from the collections of two museums, including



manuscripts, Persian miniatures, oriental furniture, porcelain, fabrics, carpets, jewelry, and metal and stone items from Iran, Turkey, India, China, and Japan.

In 1905, Russian researcher Peter Shchukin donated his extensive collection of over 300,000 items to the State Historical Museum in Moscow.

The Shchukin Collection, renowned beyond the borders of the Russian Empire, will be on display at the exhibition for two and a half months.

## Tehran to Host Nanotechnology Festival in Early November

TEHRAN -- The 15th International Nanotechnology Festival and Exhibition, due to be held in Tehran on November 3 to 6, will host business and investment delegations from different countries.

"Foreign companies and business owners from different countries are planned to attend the exhibition," said Ali Tahari, the secretary of the 15th IranNano exhibition.

"The aim of the nano and micro technology development headquarters is to help the Iranian knowledge-based nanotechnology companies to promote international interactions," he added.

Tahari underlined the role of the exhibition in creating a platform for interaction between businesspersons and foreign companies.

"We started activities almost three months ago to communicate with groups and people who have the possibility to invite companies and international trade delegations. This interaction has been developed with the aim of inviting people from countries that are Iran's export target."

The 15th Nanotechnolo-



gy Exhibition will be held in Tehran from November 3 to 6 to expand the market, increase the number of innovative companies, and boost the export of products in various industrial fields.

The first nanotechnology exhibition was held in 2004 under the auspices of the nanotechnology development headquarters to

recognize the research and industrial potentials and raise public knowledge in the nanotechnology field. The event is held annually attracting both domestic and foreign technologists.

Iran's achievements in nanotechnology are noteworthy. The increase in scientific publications and sales of nano products

proves Iran's rise as a global leader in this field.

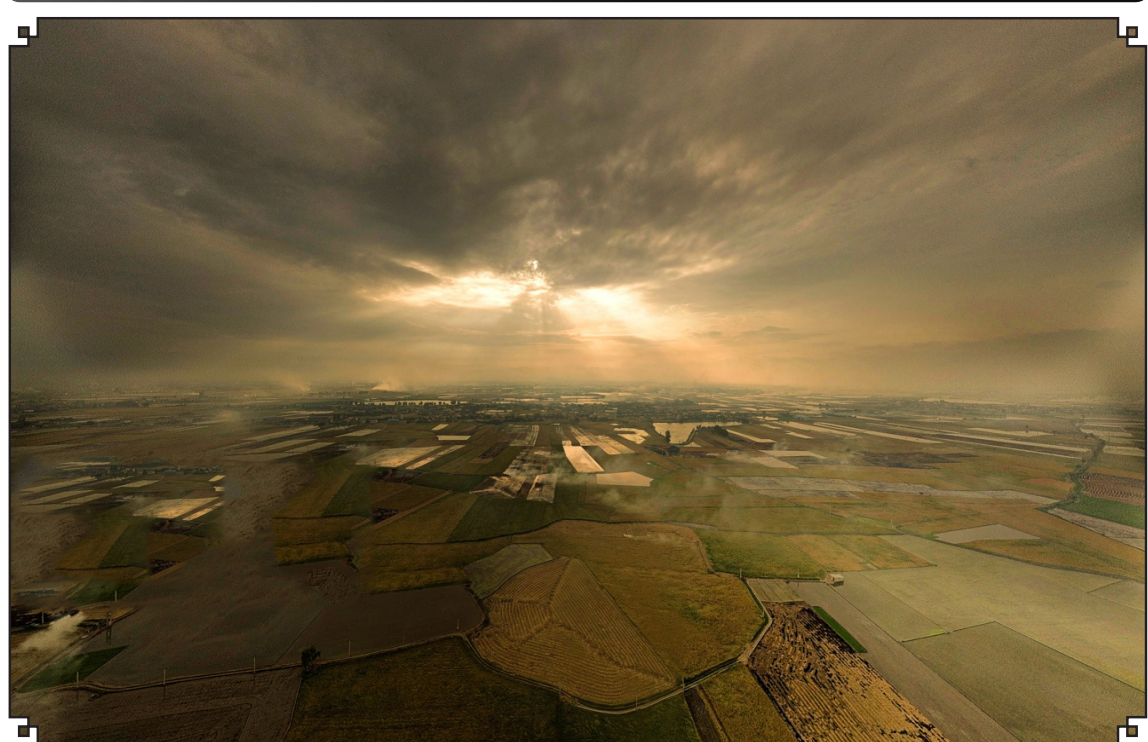
One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the impressive fourth place worldwide.

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

The ranking proves the country's remarkable scientific development.

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

## Picture of the Day



Rice, wheat and barley farms after harvest in Mazandaran.

Photo by IRNA



## Iran Launches Largest Agricultural Drainage Project in West Asia

TEHRAN - Iran has launched a large agricultural drainage project in its northeastern province of Golestan as part of efforts to control floods and to help expand farming activities in the region.

The semi-official ISNA news agency said in a Saturday report that the drainage megaproject in Golestan is the largest of its kind ever carried out in the West Asia region.

It said the construction arm of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) will carry out the project in some 90,000 hectares of agricultural lands in Golestan, a province located along the Caspian Sea coast which is known for its fertile soil



and its large-scale agricultural activities.

It said the project will be a major

step in efforts to control floods some five years after flash floods inflicted huge losses on agriculture in the

province and led to deaths and injuries among the local population.

"This strategic project is carried out to prevent human and financial losses caused by floods and to improve the soil quality in the region," said Muhammad Rostami, the CEO of the IRGC-linked company responsible for the project.

Rostami said drainage had already been carried out on 80,000 hectares of agricultural lands in Golestan in the past five years.

Heavy flooding caused by massive rainfall affected lands in 70 villages in Golestan and more than 200 villages in neighboring Mazandaran province in March 2019.

## The Path Ahead for Iran's Tourism Industry

TEHRAN -- Iran, with 21 historical and ancient monuments registered in the UNESCO list, is a prime tourist destination.

The country is generally more desirable as a historical destination for Western tourists, but its image in the mainstream media as backward and associated with doom and gloom is a problem which is often reflected in the surprise of most tourists visiting Iran where their perception crumbles right away.

With a civilization and history of several thousand years, Iran has no dearth of modern attractions not only in capital Tehran, but also in metropolitan cities such as Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad and Tabriz or in tourist areas on its Caspian shores in the north or southern Persian Gulf coasts, such as Kish Island.

Iranian culture with its unique subtleties is extremely rich in the production of art and recreation. From Persian poetry to humor and music, Iran's literary legacy is marked by a host of celebrated luminaries, each with their distinctive style and lasting influence.

Visual arts also have a special place in Iranian culture. The Persian carpet is a brilliant and glorious manifestation of the Iranian people's superior artistic sense while intricate enameling, marquetry, wood carving plus dozens of other arts show their interest in beauty and elegance.

Meanwhile, the elements of Iranian culture transcend its geographical boundaries and its sometimes bold traces can be found in neighboring countries as well.

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, with historical and urban settlements dating back to 4000 BC.

A recent study by a team of archaeologists from Germany, Denmark and Iran published in peer-viewed mega journal Scientific Reports has identified the Persian Plateau as the potential region for interbreeding between Neanderthals and Homo sapiens during the Late Pleistocene.

Iran is also home to followers of monotheistic religions, including Jews, Zoroastrians and Muslims. It hosts nearly 9,000 religious places across the country, more than 3,000 of which are sacred sites such as mosques, religious schools, churches, synagogues, crematoriums, and shrines.

Religion has played a prominent role in the formation of cities such as Mashhad, Qom, Ray, Shiraz, Qazvin, Natanz, Shahrood, Shush, Bastam, Lahijan, Amol, Ardabil and Gonbad-e Kavus. These cities have enormous potential allow the development of religious-cultural tourism and attract religious tourists and those interested in religion.

Iran is also a regional paradise for medical tourists due to high service standards and reasonable costs. It is among the top five countries in biotechnology.

Currently, a quarter of Iran's hospitals offer health tourism services in various specialized fields. Meanwhile, there is an abundance of natural hot waters with therapeutic qualities across the country, which attract millions of tourists.

Iran is a vast country with four seasons and a diverse natural landscape. Some of Iran's unique natural attractions are known, while many others are not. The natural wonders of the country range from magnificent beaches stretching for hundreds of miles to mysterious arid deserts, rolling mountains, meadows and forests.

Tourism, more than an industry, is a dynamic social and global phenomenon, the development of which involves a political process as well. While Iran has a very important place in the global tourism map, the share of the country in global tourism receipts is paltry.

With Western tourists being subject to coercive measures by the U.S. government if they visit Iran, the Islamic Republic is making a push to attract visitors from Persian Gulf Arab states and other nearby countries.

Earlier this year, Iran lifted visa rule for tourists from 28 countries. It is also drawing more visitors from Russia and China to its ancient sites that date back to the Persian empire and the fabled Silk Road.

## IRICA: Turkey-Iran Bilateral Trade Grows



TEHRAN - Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has reported that the value of Iran-Turkey trade has exceeded \$6b in 5 months.

The value of non-oil trade between Iran and Turkey stood at \$6.01 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, IRICA reported.

The IRICA report put the weight of the non-oil trade between the two countries at 6.698 million tonnes.

As reported Iran-Turkey five-month non-oil trade indicates six percent rise in value and 23 percent growth in weight year on year.

Turkey was the second top trade partner of Iran among the Islamic Republic's neighbors in the first five months of the present year.

During a meeting between a delegation of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) and the senior directors of the Turkish Exporters Union (TiM), the two sides explored the ways to improve and develop trade relations between the private sec-

tors of the two countries.

In the meeting, held at the place of TiM in Istanbul, last week, the areas of development of commercial cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries were discussed and the use of advantages and capacities in the fields of tourism, food, textile and pharmaceutical industries was emphasized, the TCCIMA portal reported.

In this meeting, TCCIMA head Mahmoud Najafi-Arab referring to the trade balance of 1.6 billion dollars between the two countries, which is also positive for Turkey, mentioned the re-export of some Iranian products through this country as one of the opportunities to optimize the trade relations between the two countries.

Recalling that Turkey has great power and experience in the field of tourism, he mentioned the use of the capacity of Turkish tourism companies to cooperate with the Iranian tourism industry and to increase the attraction of foreign tourists to Iran as another area of development of relations between these two neighboring

countries.

Najafi-Arab also pointed to Iran's high power and knowledge in the textile industry and said that by setting up a joint cooperation program, the global expertise of Turkish companies can be used to strengthen the branding of Iranian products in international markets.

The TCCIMA head then pointed to the technical knowledge and expertise of Iranian companies in the pharmaceutical industry, especially in biotech drugs and probiotic industries, and emphasized on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in these sectors.

Addressing the same meeting, TiM Deputy Chairman Ahmet Gulec explained about this large Turkish private sector union and reminded that currently 150,000 Turkish exporters are members of this union and 61 export associations of this country also form the body of this large entity.

According to him, this union covers 27 product groups in the agricultural, industrial, mining and service sectors, and supporting Turkish exporters for their greater presence in the world markets is one of the main goals of the union.

He further put the export value of Turkey in 2023 at \$357 billion and the import value at \$410 billion, and reminded that the country plans to rise the value of products export to \$375 billion and the value of services export to \$200 billion by 2028.

He called the joint investment and the construction of Turkish factories in Iran and vice versa, among the capacities of joint cooperation and reminded that the TiM is ready to cooperate and interact with the TCCIMA to strengthen and develop the exports of the companies of the two countries.

## Boeing Strike Could Drag on as Workers Push for Higher Wages, Union Leader Says

SEATTLE (Reuters) - A strike at Boeing "could go on for a while" as workers are confident they can get bigger wage increases and an improved pension, union leader Jon Holden said in an interview with National Public Radio (NPR) on Saturday.

More than 30,000 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), who produce Boeing's top-selling 737 MAX and other jets in the Seattle and Portland, began a strike on Friday after overwhelmingly voting down a new contract.

Boeing and union negotiators are due to return to the bargaining table next week, in talks overseen by U.S. federal mediators, after more than 94% of workers voted to reject an initial contract offer that Holden had endorsed.

Holden said the priorities for his members were a bigger wage increase and the restoration of a defined-benefit pension scheme that the IAM lost during a previous round of negotiations with Boeing a decade ago.

"We have the most leverage and the most power at the most oppor-



tunity time that we've ever had in our history, and our members are expecting us to use it," Holden told NPR.

"I know that our members are confident. They're standing shoulder to shoulder and they're ready. So it (the strike) could go on for a while."

The initial deal included a 25% pay rise spread over four years and a commitment by Boeing to build its next commercial jet in the Seattle region, if the plane program was launched within the four-year period of the contract.

Union members, venting frustra-

tion at years of stagnant wages and rising living costs, said removal of a performance bonus in the Boeing offer would erode half of the headline salary increase.

Boeing's stock fell 3.7% on Friday. It has tumbled almost 40% so far this year, slashing the company's market value by roughly \$58 billion.

A long strike could further damage Boeing's finances, already groaning due to a \$60 billion debt pile. A lengthy pause on plane production would also weigh on airlines that fly Boeing jets and suppliers that manufacture parts.

## Official: Trade With Tajikistan Tops \$270mn

MASHHAD — Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran Nizamuddin Zahedi says the trade exchanges between Tehran and Dushanbe have reached \$270 million.

The envoy of Tajikistan made the remarks in a meeting with Yaghub Ali Nazari, the Governor General of the northeastern province of Razavi Khorasan.

The value of trade between Iran and Tajikistan has increased from \$57 million five years ago to \$270 million last year (until late-March 2024), he said.

In the past few years, the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan has increased significantly, he said.

For his part, Nazari said that cultural commonalities between the two countries should be considered to expand trade exchanges.

He went on to say that trade exchanges between the two countries are on an upward trajectory.

Khorasan Razavi province enjoys requirements to host exhibitions, he stated.

## Latest U.S. Job Report Exacerbates Concerns Over Recession

WASHINGTON (Xinhua) -- As a recent U.S. job report shows expanded layoffs and shrinking job creation, observers have expressed broader concerns over the U.S. economic outlook as negative effects of an aggressive monetary policy continue to emerge.

Layoffs rose to 1.76 million in July, the most since March 2023, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

Leading accounting firm PwC announced plans to shed approximately 1,800 jobs in the United States this October, marking its first U.S. layoffs since 2009. Similarly, Intel Corporation, grappling with declining demand, unveiled its largest-ever layoff plan, reducing nearly 15,000, or 15 percent of its staff.

The strained job market is partly attributed to the Federal Reserve's aggressive interest rate policies, with high borrowing costs stifling corporate investments and job creation, said a USA Today report. Coupled with growing fears of an impending recession, many companies are awaiting greater policy clarity, par-

ticularly as the U.S. presidential election is around the corner.

The retail sector has been particularly hard hit. The sector has seen a wave of bankruptcies since the beginning of last year. UBS said in April 2023 that this trend may result in the permanent closure of over 50,000 U.S. retail stores in the following five years.

S&P Global Market Intelligence reported that 63 public and private companies filed for bankruptcy in August, three of which had liabilities exceeding 1 billion U.S. dollars. This brings the total number of U.S. bankruptcies in the first eight months of 2024 to 452, the highest level since the peak of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020.

Michael Hunter, vice president of bankruptcy information services platform Epiq AACER, said that with high interest rates, growing debt levels and increasing delinquency rates in various domains, they expect a "continued increase in new (bankruptcy) filing volumes this fall and into the winter of 2024."

Besides retailers, a number of tech

firms have also announced layoffs since last year. Among them were corporate heavyweights such as Google, Amazon, Microsoft, IBM, Spotify and Tesla.

A tally from the Crunchbase News shows that more than 191,000 workers at U.S.-based tech firms were laid off in 2023, and job cuts have continued into this year.

Consumers are becoming more cautious about spending, as the job market has been slowing and U.S. households' pandemic excess savings are running out. The weakening of consumer spending has been fueling worries about a potential U.S. economic recession.

Media reports noted that reduced consumer spending power, experiencing the hit from rising unemployment, will create a vicious cycle of job cuts. Scott Paul, president of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, said the "draconian interest rates" have harmed business investments for capital equipment and dampened purchases of vehicles and houses.



# Zelensky: Ukraine Suffering High Losses Due To Slow Arms Supplies



Zelensky says Ukrainian troops are suffering high losses because Western arms are arriving too slowly to equip the armed forces properly.

KYIV (Dispatches) – Ukrainian troops are suffering high losses because Western arms are arriving too slowly to equip the armed forces properly, President Volodymyr Zelensky told CNN in an interview aired on Sunday.

Russia has been gaining ground in parts of eastern Ukraine including around Pokrovsk. Capture of the transport hub could enable Moscow to open new lines of attack.

Zelensky said the situation in the east was “very tough”, adding that half of Ukraine’s brigades there were not equipped.

“So you lose a lot of people. You lose people because they are not in armed vehicles ... they don’t have artillery, they don’t have artillery rounds,” said Zelensky, speaking in

English. CNN said the interview had been conducted on Friday.

Zelensky said weapons aid packages promised by the United States and European nations were arriving very slowly.

“We need 14 brigades to be ready. Until now ... from these packages we didn’t equip even four,” he said.

The remarks came as the administration of United States President Joe Biden says it is preparing a large aid package for Ukraine in the coming weeks as a debate continues over whether Ukrainian forces should be allowed to use Western-supplied weapons to strike farther inside Russia.

White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said that Washington is working on a “substantial”

round of further assistance for Kyiv and Biden will meet his Ukrainian counterpart, Zelensky, this month.

“I do think we need a comprehensive strategy for success in this war, and that is what President Zelensky says he is bringing,” Sullivan said in remarks delivered via videolink at the Yalta European Strategy conference in Ukraine’s capital.

“So we are very much looking forward to sitting down and talking that through, and President Biden is eager for that conversation,” he said.

Sullivan made the remarks as Ukraine has been pushing for more long-range weaponry to hit targets deeper inside Russian territory, a development that analysts worried could escalate tensions between Moscow and Kyiv’s Western backers.

More than two and a half years since Russia launched a full-scale war of its neighbor in February 2022, Ukrainian forces have struggled in recent weeks as Russia has made progress around Pokrovsk, a key transit hub in eastern Ukraine.

Pokrovsk’s capture could enable Moscow to open new lines of attack and complicate Ukrainian logistics.

Sullivan said recent developments in the area are of “unique concern”.

The White House adviser added that Biden, who is not seeking reelection and whose term ends in January, is working to put Ukraine in the “best possible position to prevail” during his final months in office.

## ‘Inhumane’ Treatment of Migrants Rounded Up in UK’s Failed Rwanda Plan Revealed

LONDON (The Guardian) – The “inhuman” treatment of migrants rounded up in a “futile” operation for the now scrapped Rwanda scheme, has been laid bare in testimonies from Home Office staff that reveal force was used against distressed detainees.

Internal documents disclosed to the Observer and Liberty Investigates under the Freedom of Information Act also reveal four recorded instances of migrants attempting to harm themselves after being apprehended.

Dozens of migrants facing removal to Rwanda under the previous Conservative government were detained as part of a surprise initiative, Operation Vector, launched days before the May 2 local elections in England and Wales in what critics say was an “act of political theater”.

The arrests continued until at least a week before prime minister Rishi Sunak announced the snap general election on May 22. He said the next day that no flights would take off until after the election on 4 July. The Labour government subsequently scrapped the scheme.

The Operation Vector reports record how Home Office immigration enforcement officers used force 60 times between April 30 and May 15, giving a rare glimpse into the dawn raids or detention of migrants as they showed up for routine reporting centre appointments.

The documents also include



Home Office immigration officers carry out a detention operation of migrants in May 2024.

testimonies from security staff at the Harmondsworth immigration removal center in West London that detail two cases of force being used on detainees who remained locked up weeks after the Rwanda scheme was postponed by Sunak.

The new government could be hit by costly compensation claims, with the charity Bail for Immigration Detainees preparing to mount legal action, arguing the detention of about 150 migrants the government wanted to send to Rwanda was unlawful, against Home Office policy, as it could not imminently remove them, and “political theater”.

Home Office accounts show the department paid out £56.8mn in compensation for more than 2,700 wrongful detentions in the five years before the Rwanda raids.

Fran Heathcote, general secretary for the Public and Commercial Services union, whose members include immigration enforcement officers, said the union “opposed the Rwanda scheme from the start because we knew it was inhumane as well as impractical”.

She added, “What also concerns us is the likelihood Rishi Sunak knew full well the Rwanda scheme was futile and causing distress to individuals but continued to push it ahead of the general election to make a political point.”

Campaigners say further physical and mental harm could be inflicted under Labour Home Secretary Yvette Cooper’s plan to increase deportations to 2018 levels – with a goal to remove thousands of migrants and refused asylum seekers by the end of the year.

## Le Monde: French Officials Fear WWII

PARIS (RT) – Members of the French government are concerned about the Ukraine conflict spiraling out of control and are now exercising “great discretion,” Le Monde has reported, citing diplomatic sources.

Fears of the confrontation escalating into a direct collision between Moscow and the NATO bloc have skyrocketed over the past few days, as the U.S. and its allies reportedly consider authorizing Kiev to strike targets deep inside Russian territory using Western weaponry.

While France has announced “no official position” on the matter, unnamed diplomats in private conver-

sations admitted to the French daily that Paris has been concerned about potential escalation and has been trying to avoid it.

“We must do everything possible to avoid World War Three,” an unnamed official told the newspaper.

“One cannot simply dismiss the hypothesis that the Russians could expand the scale of their military operations,” the official added, referring to the warnings voiced by top Russian officials, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

On Thursday, Putin warned that removing restrictions on Ukraine’s use of Western weapons would directly

involve the U.S. and its allies in the conflict and would be met with an appropriate response.

Explaining his stance, the president said that such weaponry relies solely on Western intelligence and targeting solutions, with Kyiv effectively unable to use it on its own.

That position has been reiterated by Russia’s envoy to the UN, Vassily Nebenzia, who warned the move would constitute an “open war” between NATO and Russia. “Our Western colleagues will not be able to dodge responsibility and blame Kiev for everything,” Nebenzia stated.

## Torrential Rain Batters Europe, Triggers Mass Evacuation



Since Friday, over 10,000 people have been evacuated across the Czech Republic.

LIPOVA-LAZNE/WARSAW (Reuters) – One person drowned in southwest Poland, a rescue worker was killed in Austria and thousands were evacuated in the Czech Republic after heavy rain continued to batter central Europe on Sunday, causing flooding in several parts of the region.

A firefighter tackling flooding in Lower Austria was also killed, Austrian Vice Chancellor Werner Kogler said on Sunday on social media platform X, as authorities declared the province which surrounds Vienna a disaster area.

A bridge collapsed in the historic Polish town of Glucholazy near the Czech border. Local media reported a house was swept away and a bridge collapsed in the mountain town of Stronie Slaskie, where a local dam burst, according to the Polish weather institute.

Rivers overflowed from Poland to Romania, where four people were found dead on Saturday, after days of torrential rain in a low-pressure system named Boris.

Some parts of the Czech Republic and Poland faced the worst flooding in almost three decades, as towns evacuated thousands. A quarter of a million Czech homes were without power.

Czech police said they were looking for three people who were in a car that fell into the river Staric on Saturday near Lipova-lazne, a village about 235 km (146 miles) east of Prague that has been one of the worst hit along with the neighboring town of Jesenik.

Reuters footage showed flood waters gushing through both towns, damaging some houses and carrying debris. “We don’t know what will be next,”

Jesenik resident Mirek Burianek said. “The internet network isn’t working, telephones don’t work... We are waiting for who will show up (to help).”

Police and fire services used a helicopter to evacuate people stranded in the district. Overall, more than 10,000 people had been evacuated in the country, the head of the fire service told Czech television.

In Poland, one person died in Klodzko town, which Prime Minister Donald Tusk said was the worst hit area of the country.

“The situation is very dramatic,” Tusk told reporters on Sunday morning after a meeting in Klodzko town, which was partly under water as the local river rose over 6 meters.

That surpassed a record seen in heavy flooding in 1997, which partly damaged the town and claimed 56 lives in Poland.

Officials in Glucholazy ordered evacuations on Sunday morning although efforts to protect the town’s infrastructure failed to prevent the bridge collapse.

Police were deploying helicopters for people trapped in flooded houses. More rain is forecast across central Europe.

In the Hungarian capital Budapest, officials raised forecasts for the Danube to rise in the second half of this week to above 8.5 meters, nearing a record 8.91 metres seen in 2013.

According to forecasts, one of the biggest floods of the past years is approaching Budapest,” Budapest’s mayor Gergely Karacsony said.

In Romania, authorities said the rain was less intense than on Saturday, when flooding killed four and damaged 5,000 homes.

## AI is ‘Accelerating Climate Crisis,’ Expert Warns

MONTREAL (AFP) – If you care about the environment, think twice about using AI.

Generative artificial intelligence uses 30 times more energy than a traditional search engine, warns researcher Sasha Luccioni, on a mission to raise awareness about the environmental impact of the hot new technology.

Recognized as one of the 100 most influential people in the world of AI by the American magazine Time in 2024, the Canadian computer scientist of Russian origin has sought for several years to quantify the emissions of programs like ChatGPT or Midjourney.

“I find it particularly disappointing that generative AI is used to search the Internet,” laments the researcher, who spoke with AFP on the sidelines of the ALL IN artificial intelligence conference, in Montreal.

The language models on which the programs are based require enormous computing capacities to train on billions of data points, necessitating powerful servers.

Then there’s the energy used to respond to each individual user’s requests.

Instead of simply extracting information, “like a search engine would do to find the capital of a country, for example,” AI programs “generate new information,” making the whole thing “much more energy-intensive,” she explains.

According to the International Energy Agency, the combined AI and the cryptocurrency sectors consumed nearly 460 terawatt hours of electricity in 2022 -- two percent of total global production.

A leading researcher on the impact of AI on climate, Luccioni participated in 2020 in the creation of a tool for developers to quantify the carbon footprint of running a piece of code. “CodeCarbon” has since been downloaded more than a million times.

Head of the climate strategy of start-up Hugging Face, a platform for sharing open-access AI models, she is now working on creating a certification system for algorithms.

Similar to the program from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that awards scores based on the energy consumption of electronic devices and appliances, it would make it possible to know an AI product’s energy consumption in order to encourage users and developers to “make better decisions.”

“We don’t take into account water or rare materials,” she acknowledges, “but at least we know that for a specific task, we can measure energy efficiency and say that this model has an A+, and that model has a D,” she says.

In order to develop her tool, Luccioni is experimenting with it on generative AI models that are accessible to everyone, or open source, but she would also like to do it on commercial models from Google or ChatGPT-creator OpenAI, which have been reluctant to agree.

Although Microsoft and Google have committed to achieving carbon neutrality by the end of the decade, the U.S. tech giants saw their greenhouse gas emissions soar in 2023 because of AI: up 48 percent for Google compared to 2019 and 29 percent for Microsoft compared to 2020.



YANGON (Xinhua) – Widespread flooding in Myanmar has left 113 people dead and 64 missing, according to the Information Team of Myanmar’s State Administration Council on Sunday. The flood has impacted Nay Pyi Taw, Kayah state, Kayin state, Bago region, Magway region, Mandalay region, Mon state, Shan state, and Ayeyarwady region, it said. As of the evening of Sept. 14, more than 72,900 homes and over 78,000 households have been affected, displacing over 320,000 people to temporary shelters across the country, it added. The government is working to carry out rehabilitation efforts and conduct rescue operations in the affected areas, striving to provide the best possible support to those impacted by the flooding, the information team said.

PARIS (AFP) – Eight migrants died early Sunday when their overcrowded vessel capsized while trying to cross the Channel from France to England, French authorities said, less than two weeks after the deadliest such disaster this year. The French and British governments have sought for years to stop the flow of migrants, who pay smugglers thousands of euros per head for the passage to England from France aboard small boats. A police source told AFP the accident occurred shortly after the boat embarked. Regional prefect Jacques Billant is set to hold a news conference at 10:00 am (0800 GMT), his office said. Maritime authorities said Saturday that numerous attempts by migrants to make the perilous crossing in small boats have been attempted in recent days, with 200 people rescued in 24 hours over Friday and Saturday alone. At least 12 migrants, mostly from Eritrea, died off the northern French coast when their boat carrying dozens of people capsized this month.

RABAT (Reuters) – Moroccan authorities on Sunday prevented dozens of migrants from storming a border fence to reach the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, after calls on social media for a mass migration attempt. Spain’s two enclaves on Morocco’s Mediterranean coast, Ceuta and Melilla, share the only land borders of the European Union with Africa. The enclaves sporadically experience waves of attempted crossings by migrants trying to reach Europe. In the most recent attempt, dozens of migrants gathered on top of a hill in Fnideq on the border on Sunday and began throwing stones at Moroccan security forces, a video shared by local news websites Ceuta. Police prevented them from approaching the Ceuta fence. Moroccan authorities said they arrested at least 60 people last week for using social media to incite migrants to attempt a mass crossing. Since Friday, Moroccan security forces have been deployed heavily in Fnideq. “This is the heaviest security deployment ever in Fnideq with authorities acting preemptively by setting up multiple checkpoints on roads to northern Morocco,” Mohammed Ben Aissa, a local human rights activist said. Hundreds of would-be migrants had been bussed away from Fnideq, he said.

LONDON (The Guardian) – A child’s charity in the UK found that those struggling with poverty in the country are left sleeping on the floor because they can’t afford beds, are struggling to heat and power their homes, and that some family structures are feeling strained by the cost of living crisis. Butle UK, a charity organization that has been assisting children and young people in need since 1953, surveyed 1,567 of the families it supports. They found that most of their respondents had skipped a meal, while half said they did not have beds for everyone in their household to sleep in. “My kids are sleeping on the floor; I have 2 teenagers, one who is just in remission from leukemia and still unwell. My other boy has bad feet and back pain, so it’s hard to walk,” said one survey respondent. Parents told the charity organization that they would often go hungry to ensure their children could still eat. “They themselves often went completely without, reporting the dire effects on their health and wellbeing,” the report said. Many families also told the survey that black mold has become endemic in their home and that it has been difficult to shift due to cold and damp conditions.

BERLIN (DPA) – Former European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker has voiced opposition to Germany’s imminent increase in border controls, warning of the inconvenience posed to commuters and the potential threat to European integration. On Monday, German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser ordered the introduction of temporary controls at all German land borders to curb the number of unauthorized entries, in an effort to clamp down on migration. The checks - which expand an existing scheme to all German entry points - are to begin on Monday and will initially last for six months. Speaking to dpa in his native Luxembourg, Juncker said he was not a fan of border controls because they inconvenience commuters. Germany is a member of the Schengen area, which allows some 420 million people in 29 European countries to travel freely without facing border controls. But checks are already in place at some of Germany’s nine borders, including with Austria and Poland, and will on Monday be extended to Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark.

ABUJA (Xinhua) – At least 41 bodies were recovered, and 12 others rescued after a wooden boat capsized in Nigeria’s northwestern state of Zamfara, local authorities said on Sunday. The boat carrying more than 50 passengers and crew capsized on a river near Gummi, a town in the Gummi local government area of Zamfara, shortly after leaving the shore on Saturday. Suleiman Gummi, a national legislator representing the Gummi-Bukkayum constituency in Nigeria’s Federal House of Representatives, told reporters on Sunday. The passengers were farmers who travel daily by boat to their farmlands in neighboring communities, Gummi said. Local authorities swiftly deployed personnel to the incident scene, including local divers, who pulled out at least a dozen survivors. In an interview with local media, Hassan Daura, head of the Zamfara State Emergency Management Agency, said mostly women and children were killed in the accident. Boat accidents are frequently reported in the West African country and are often attributed to factors such as overloading, adverse weather conditions, and operational errors.



# Iran Finish Runners-Up in Asian Wushu Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian wushu fighters have come second in the Asian Championships in Macao.

The Iranian team bagged seven gold, three silver and five bronze medals in both men's and women's divisions of the tournament to rank second.

Iran followed China that snatched 18 gold medals, one silver and three bronze ones to become champion.

Malaysia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Macao, Kazakhstan, India, Japan, and Singapore were ranked third to tenth respectively.

Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	CHN	18	1	3	22
2	IRI	7	3	5	15
3	MAS	3	4	3	10
4	VIE	3	2	9	14
5	HKG	2	6	4	12
6	MAC	2	3	6	11
7	KAZ	2	1	4	7
8	IND	1	5	3	9
9	JPN	1	5	2	8
10	SGP	1	2	3	6

## Amir-Muhammad Savari Wins Gold in World Skate Games



TEHRAN – Iranian skater Amir-Muhammad Savari has claimed a gold medal at Italy's 2024 World Skate Games.

Savari defeated his rival from China in the final of the Freestyle slalom skating event on Saturday, claiming the second gold medal for Iran in the sporting event.

Earlier in the event, Iran's female

skater Taraneh Ahmadi won the first gold medal for the country, while Romina Salek received a bronze medal.

The 2024 World Skate Games is currently taking place in Italy from September 6th to 22nd, with an estimated participation of over 12,000 people, including athletes, coaches, and delegations from 100 countries worldwide.

## Esteghlal, Persepolis to Face Off Rivals in AFC Champions League

TEHRAN – Iran's Esteghlal and Persepolis will take on Al Gharafa and Saudi Al Ahli in their AFC Champions League opener on Monday.

Esteghlal and Al Gharafa football teams will both be desperate to shake off their inconsistent form when they face off in their AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 opener.

Both have struggled to get going domestically and will have to find their best form if they are to hit the ground running at the Shah-re Qods Stadium near Tehran.

Esteghlal will hope to make home ground advantage count, with the two meeting for the first time since they clashed in the group stage of the AFC Champions League 2010.

Esteghal won the home tie then 3-0 but the Iran side has only triumphed once in its last seven opening matches on the conti-



mental stage.

Al Gharafa was held 1-1 by Al Shamal in the Qatar Stars League tie on Friday, the result taking the team to five points from four matches.

They will, however, draw on the high of having defeated UAE side Shabab Al Ahli in the preliminary stage to get a result against the Ira-

nian opponent.

Al Ahli Saudi football club also will aim to make home ground advantage count when it welcomes Persepolis FC for its AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 tie at the Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Stadium on Monday.

Both teams have endured indifferent starts domestically and will

target a win to launch their continental campaigns on the front foot.

Al Ahli was denied three points by a late Al Nassr equalizer in the Saudi Pro League tie on Friday, with the stalemate taking the team to four points from three matches.

While Al Ahli has lost once in its last eight opening matches on the continental stage, it has failed to beat Iranian sides in the last three meetings.

Persepolis has found itself having to play catch up after just three matches into the Iran Pro League season, with the defending champion on five points - seven adrift of pacesetters Sepahan who has played a match more.

The head-to-head record, however, favors Persepolis who has won two of their four meetings with Al Ahli although the sides traded victories in the group stage of the AFC Champions League 2019.

## PSG Reclaim Top Spot After 3-1 Comeback Win Over Brest



Paris St Germain's Ousmane Dembele (right) and Joao Neves celebrate after Fabian Ruiz scores their second goal.

PARIS (Reuters) - Paris St Germain moved back to the top of Ligue 1 with a 3-1 home win over Brest thanks to an Ousmane Dembele double and Fabian Ruiz's brilliant strike on Saturday.

Fabian and Dembele scored in an 80-second spell late in the second half to help reigning champions PSG reach a perfect 12 points from four games, two clear of Olympique de Marseille and AS Monaco, who both won earlier on

Saturday. "Brest are a good team, with some very good players. It's always difficult against them. It's a good feeling to win in front of our fans," PSG coach Luis Enrique told DAZN.

"We try this every day and it's a pleasure to watch my team. At halftime I told them they were playing well, that they shouldn't look at the score. I told them to keep going."

## Vinicius, Mbappe Penalties Give Real Madrid 2-0 Win at Sociedad



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain - Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr and Kylian Mbappe converted second-half penalties to give the champions a hard-fought 2-0 win at Real Sociedad in La Liga on Saturday.

Carlo Ancelotti's side took the lead in the 58th minute with Vinicius netting a penalty after an Arda Guler shot from the edge of the box hit the hand of midfielder Sergio Gomez, who raised both arms in a reflex move to protect his face.

Mbappe secured the three points by putting away his spot kick in the 75th after Vinicius was stomped on

by a defender in a late challenge that was not spotted by the referee but was penalized after a VAR review.

Real remain second but now have 11 points, one behind Barcelona who visit fifth-placed Girona on Sunday. They must now rally their players with only three days before their Champions League opener at home to Stuttgart on Tuesday.

It was a high-paced, entertaining affair in the Basque Country with both sides missing a string of chances, including three strikes off the woodwork by the hosts.

## Kuwait FA Board Resign After 'Chaotic Incidents'



Kuwait fans fly their flag inside at World Cup qualifier against Iraq.

KUWAIT (Sky Sports) - The Kuwait Football Association's board have resigned "en masse" after "regrettable chaotic incidents" at a home World Cup qualifier against Iraq.

An inquiry was launched by the FA after fans were reportedly left pleading for water and fainting in 40C temperatures as they queued to watch Tuesday's match at the 60,000-capacity Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

Some supporters without tickets were allowed in while others who had purchased tickets were refused entry, according to AFP news agency.

The Kuwait FA apologized to fans on Wednesday in a statement, say-

ing it regretted what had taken place, without giving details.

Following the inquiry, all board members have "tendered resignations en masse" Kuwait's official Kuna news agency said, citing an FA statement.

Kuna says the association has also accepted the resignation of its secretary-general Salah al-Qanai and public relations boss Mohamed Bou Abbas, who had initially been suspended after the events at Kuwait's Asian group game.

The match with Iraq ended goalless, leaving Kuwait fourth in Group B in the third round of qualifying for the 2026 World Cup in North America.

## McLaren's Piastri Wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix Thriller

BAKU (AFP) – Oscar Piastri claimed an impressive second victory of his burgeoning career on Sunday when he drove his McLaren to a well-judged triumph ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in a tense Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

The 23-year-old Australian's victory enabled McLaren to replace Red Bull as leaders of the constructors' championship, ending the champions' two-year dominance, in a race of attrition that ended under a Virtual Safety Car following a spectacular late collision between Carlos Sainz of Ferrari and Red Bull's Sergio Perez as they battled for third.

George Russell finished third for Mercedes ahead of title-chasing Lando Norris in the second McLaren, who fought from 15th on the grid to beat three-time champion and series leader Max Verstappen of Red Bull, who was fifth.

"Well, that was the most stressful afternoon of my life," said Piastri on team radio.

"A big move! Thanks for the car! What a day that was! Thanks ev-



eryone."

Norris, who picked up an extra point for the fastest lap, reduced championship leader Verstappen's lead to 59 points with seven races and three sprints to go.

The race began in warm sunshine under a cloudless sky with temperatures of 27 (air) and 46 (track) bathing the 6km street track.

Hamilton in the other Mercedes and Esteban Ocon (Alpine) both started from the pit-lane following overnight power-unit overhauls and Pierre Gasly (Alpine) from the

back of the grid after being excluded from qualifying for a fuel flow infringement.

Leclerc made an excellent start from his fourth Baku pole without a win to pull clear of Piastri while both Red Bulls gained a place and Norris rose to 13th on lap one.

Flurry of pit stops Hamilton also made early progress. By lap five, he was 15th as Leclerc led Piastri by 0.936 seconds ahead of Perez, Sainz, Verstappen and Russell. Alonso was seventh, four seconds adrift and

Norris 11th.

Leclerc increased his pace and established a gap of 3.6 seconds to Piastri. Norris, on hards, was up to ninth and Hamilton 14th, the Britons managing the hot conditions with care.

The pit stops began on lap 12, most switching from mediums for hards. Hamilton dropped to 18th and Norris, without stopping, rose to fifth.

After the flurry of stops, during which Leclerc briefly gifted the lead to Sainz, Piastri stormed into the lead on lap 20, squeezing by on the inside at Turn One.

"They are pushing like crazy – or they have more grip than us," reported Leclerc.

Behind him, a battle royal developed for fifth as Norris resisted Verstappen and Russell behind Albon until he pitted on lap 32. "I have rear grip," grumbled the frustrated Dutchman before Russell swept by on lap 34.

Norris pitted on lap 38 to set up a late charge, passing the champion on lap 48 for sixth.



# Opposition Leader: Netanyahu Dragging Israel to 'Endless War'



Zionist troops on patrol at an unspecified location in the Gaza Strip

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's opposition leader Yair Golan on Sunday called the governing coalition of prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu a "zero government" that is dragging the occupying regime to an "endless war."

In a statement on X, Golan, who heads the Labor Party, called on the Israelis to stage daily protests against the regime.

"Only continuous popular pressure will bring

down this government," he added.

The opposition leader said Sunday's missile attack was a "reminder of the right-wing government's ongoing failure."

"Instead of closing battlefronts, this zero government is pulling us into endless war, eternal internal conflict, and an abyss," he added.

The Yesh Atid Party led by opposition leader Yair Lapid also called in a statement for the resig-

nation of the Netanyahu cabinet, calling it a "government of disasters."

A day earlier, a retired Israeli general urged Tel Aviv to withdraw its forces from the Gaza Strip, where the occupying regime is stuck in what he described as a "dire quagmire."

Former head of operations for the Israeli military, Israel Ziv, said the regime's genocidal war in Gaza has become the longest and most exhausting war in Israel's history.

The situation, he said, is not improving and lacks a clear path toward resolution.

More than 11 months into the regime's deadliest-ever war in the besieged Palestinian territory, Israel is "stuck in Gaza and bleeding," said the retired general.

According to Ziv, the head of the regime, Netanyahu has been prolonging the war to maintain his political position and delay his corruption trial, which could lead to his imprisonment. Netanyahu faces charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust.

"The war itself has become the goal that provides stability for Netanyahu and his government."

Ziv also warned Netanyahu against starting a war in Lebanon, saying that "any ground entry into Lebanon without an exit strategy or a clear objective, even if it's a limited invasion, would further complicate the situation."

## Palestine to Lodge Complaint With ICC for Killing of Activist by Israel

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has announced preparations to file a complaint with the International Criminal Court (ICC) on the killing of Turkish American activist Aysenur Ezgi Eygi.

Eygi was shot in her head and killed last week by the Zionist regime in the occupied West Bank.

The announcement came during a telephone call Abbas made to Eygi's father, Mehmet Suat Eygi, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Abbas extended condolences to the Turkish people for the killing of Eygi, whom he described as the "brave daughter of Palestine and Turkey who was assassinated at the hands of the Israeli occupation" and an "honest symbol of the solidarity between the brotherly Turkish and Palestinian peoples."

"The Palestinian leadership was engaged with the U.S. and Turkish authorities to ensure conducting a fair investigation into her killing and that work was underway to file a complaint with the International Criminal Court (ICC) over the crime of her assassination," he said.

Abbas announced his decision "to bestow upon her the Medal of the Star of A-Quds in recognition of her dearly sacrifice for the Palestinian people's right to freedom and independence and invited her par-

ents and family to visit Palestine." Eygi, 26, had traveled to the region to support Palestinian resistance against Zionist occupation, according to reports from the International Solidarity Movement – a Palestinian-led group that is helping the Palestinian cause in the conflict with Israel.

Eygi, born in Antalya, Turkey in 1998, moved to the U.S. with her family when she was an infant and graduated in June from the University of Washington, where she studied psychology and Middle Eastern languages and cultures.

She arrived in the West Bank last Tuesday to volunteer with ISM as part of an effort to support and safeguard Palestinian farmers.

As coordinated by Turkey's Embassy in Tel Aviv and Consulate General in Al-Quds, Eygi's body was transported from Tel Aviv to Baku, Azerbaijan, and then to Istanbul and Izmir, where it was received with ceremonies.

After forensic procedures in Izmir but with some autopsy procedures ongoing, Eygi's body was taken to the coastal city of Didim in the Aegean province of Aydin.

Eygi was a human rights activist and a volunteer with ISM, which supports Palestinians with peaceful and civilian methods against the Zionist occupation of Palestinian territories.

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Witnesses noted that Zionist troops confiscated several items from residents, including a vehicle and a motorcycle.

## Zionist Settlers, Troops Raid Occupied West Bank Villages

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Illegal Zionist settlers and troops have stormed several villages and towns in the occupied West Bank, leading to confrontations with Palestinian residents.

Palestinian Television reported that one person was injured during a raid by settlers who were protected by the army in the village of Umm Safa in northern Ramallah.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa indicated that dozens of illegal settlers entered

Umm Safa, firing live bullets at homes.

The head of the local village council, Marwan Sabah, said settlers positioned at Jabal al-Ras attacked the village and fired live ammunition at homes, with the backing of the Israeli army.

He added that two young men suffered bruises and fractures as they tried to flee the targeted area and were subsequently taken to the hospital.

In northwestern Ramallah, the

army raided the village of Deir Abu Mash'al.

Wafa said there were no reports of arrests or confrontations.

Further north in the West Bank, Wafa reported that the town of Zeita in northern Tulkarem, witnessed clashes between residents and Zionist troops.

Soldiers fired live bullets and tear gas but no injuries were reported.

Additionally, the army raided three villages in southern Nablus

-- Madama, Urif and Yatma -- searching homes and facing confrontations, though no injuries or arrests were mentioned.

In the southern West Bank, witnesses told Anadolu that the army entered the town of Dura in western Al-Khalil, setting up roadblocks and checking the identification of vehicle owners.

Witnesses noted that Zionist troops confiscated several items from residents, including a vehicle and a motorcycle.

## Yemen's...

(Continued From Page One)

With the U.S. and UK launching airstrikes against Yemen, the country declared that it considers all American and British ships military targets.

International carriers have canceled flights into and out of occupied territories on a number of occasions since the start of the war, adding to the conflict's economic toll on Israel.

According to the Israeli Institute for Security Studies, Yemen has successfully enhanced its missile capabilities, now able to strike central occupied territories.

Yemeni drones demonstrated their lethal effectiveness in the recent attack on Tel Aviv, which occurred just before the bombing of Hudaydah port by Israel, said the security think tank.

"This is serious and demonstrates that despite all efforts to counter them, the Houthis not only have the capacity to strike Israel but have also upgraded their launch abilities to reach the centre of the country," said the report's author, referring to Yemen's Ansarullah fighters.

## Hezbollah...

(Continued From Page One)

residents out of the Wazzani area.

The Israeli military said dropping the leaflets was an unauthorized action by a unit that had not sought appropriate approval, and that there was no evacuation underway.

On Saturday, Hezbollah's second-in-command Naim Qassem warned that an all-out war by Israel aimed at returning 100,000 displaced settlers in areas near the Lebanon border would displace "hundreds of thousands" more Zionists.

The cross-border Israeli violence since early October has martyred 623 people in Lebanon.

An Israeli opposition leader said Sunday prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is dragging the occupying entity into endless war, urging people to stage daily protests until they can topple him.

Yair Golan said in a message on X that the governing coalition of Netanyahu is a "zero government."

Golan, the head of the center-left Labour party said, "Instead of closing battlefronts, this zero government is pulling us into endless war, eternal internal conflict, and an abyss."

"Only continuous popular pressure will bring down [Netanyahu]." Yair Lapid, another opposition leader who heads Yesh Atid Party, also called for the resignation of Netanyahu, describing his coalition as a regime of disasters.

Netanyahu has been under growing public and political pressure within Israel to resign and call early elections, over his handling of the genocidal war he launched in Gaza almost one year ago.

Now he is dragging the war to Lebanon, according to a senior Hezbollah official who said Saturday that Netanyahu was "on the verge" of launching a "broad and strong operation" against Lebanon.

A former Israeli army general admitted Saturday that the regime's military forces are "stuck in a dire quagmire" in the Gaza Strip, urging Tel Aviv to withdraw its forces from the besieged Palestinian territory immediately.

## Venezuela...

(Continued From Page One)

talks while recalling its envoy to Spain for consultations. Venezuela also warned Spain against any "interference" in its affairs.

Washington and its allies recognize Gonzalez Urrutia as the winner of the election.

On Thursday, Washington slapped sanctions on 16 Venezuelan officials, including some from the electoral authority, for impeding "a transparent electoral process" claiming violations in the election.

Caracas denounced the U.S. measures against Venezuelans as a "crime of aggression."

Maduro, who has escaped previous U.S. assassination attempts, says he is up against the "imperialist." He says plots by the U.S.-led West are aimed at destroying socialism and taking over Venezuela's oil.

## Top...

(Continued From Page 2)

two nations in the implementation of the North-South Corridor. The 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum was held at the Beijing International Convention Center from September 12 to 14. The theme of this year's forum was "Promoting Peace for a Shared Future".

Participants in the forum discussed the role of the Global South countries in international security, improving international security mechanisms, maintaining peace and development in the Asia-Pacific region, and achieving a balanced and orderly multipolar world.

Sayyari paid a visit to the National Defense University of People's Liberation Army of China on Saturday and discussed various aspects of security, including domestic and foreign security, and the latest developments in the West Asia region.

He also took part in a meeting of the Chinese military think tank where the described defense and security as the main concerns of every political system.

They also discussed different types of threats and the issues that jeopardize international security.

## Iraqi...

(Continued From Page 2)

release or extradition of the Iranian prisoners in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, the ambassador noted.

The Iranian president traveled to Iraq on Wednesday in his first official foreign trip after taking office. He held talks with the Iraqi president and prime minister in Baghdad before signing 14 cooperation documents with the neighboring state.

He also visited the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The president has described cooperation for regional development as the guiding principle of his administration's foreign policy.

## Greek Military: Stricken Red Sea Tanker Salvage Makes 'Slow' Progress

ATHENS (Dispatches) – The towing of an abandoned tanker struck by Yemen's Ansarullah in August in retaliation for the Zionist regime's war on Gaza, is proceeding slowly for a second day, a Greek military source told AFP Sunday.

The operation to tow the Greek-flagged Sounion which began Saturday "is proceeding at a very slow pace," the source said, adding that it was "initially headed north" without revealing a destination.

The tanker was hit on August 21 with missiles off the coast of Hudaydah while carrying 150,000 tons of crude oil.

Damage to the vessel had threatened a Red Sea oil spill four times the size of the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster off Alaska.

Yemen's Ansarullah has agreed to a temporary ceasefire to allow tugboats and rescuers in the Red Sea to extinguish fires that broke out on the oil tanker after being attacked in the strategic waterway.

The operation is being overseen by the European Union's Red Sea naval mission, Aspides, which Sunday said the tanker was being towed to a "safe location."

"The salvage of the MV SOUNION is a complex operation and consists of various phases," the mission said on X, formerly Twitter.

It added aerial shots of the tanker escorted by two warships, one dated Sunday, in which it is still emitting smoke.

Greek state news agency ANA said the

tugboat was escorted by three frigates, helicopters and a special forces team, without disclosing the states of origin.

Fires were still visible on board in Aspides pictures on X dated Saturday.

"When it reaches safe mooring there will be an attempt to put out the fire and preliminary steps will be taken to secure the cargo from leaking," the Greek source said Sunday.

The ships' radars have been turned off for security reasons.

The tanker had been anchored west of the port city of Hodeida, midway between Yemen and Eritrea.

The Sounion's crew — made up of 23 Filipinos and two Russians — was rescued by a French frigate serving with the EU mission.



4 Killed in U.S. Strike in Northern Syria

DAMASCUS (Xinhua) – Four people were killed, and a woman was injured on Sunday in a U.S. airstrike in the village of Shanina in northern Syria's Raqqa province, according to local Sham FM radio.

The operation, conducted by U.S. troops stationed in Syria, targeted the rural village early Sunday morning. The identities of the victims have not yet been confirmed, and the reason for the strike remained unclear.

The U.S. military has maintained a presence in northeastern Syria, allegedly to combat remnants of the Daesh and to support the Kurdish-led so-called Syrian Democratic Forces. However, their activities in the region have often drawn criticism from the Syrian government and people.

Tens of Thousands of Israeli Protesters Keep Up Pressure for Gaza Deal

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Tens of thousands of people again took to the streets of the Israeli-occupied territories' main cities on Saturday in a bid to increase pressure on the regime to secure the release of captives in Gaza.

Of 251 captives seized during Hamas's October 7 operation on southern parts of the occupied territories that triggered the ongoing war, 97 are still held in the Gaza Strip, including 33 the Israeli military says are dead.

Weekly rallies have sought to keep up pressure on the Israeli regime, accused by critics of stalling on a deal to free the remaining captives.

Protest organizers say crowd sizes have swelled this month after an announcement by Zionist regime authorities that six captives whose bodies were recovered by troops in a southern Gaza tunnel.

One of the six was Alexander Lobanov, whose wife Michal on Saturday addressed the crowd in the commercial hub of Tel Aviv, asking why the regime did not "do everything" to bring him back alive.



Protest in Tel Aviv against the regime to demand the return of captives held in Gaza

"It was possible to save them, to rescue them through a deal," she said, according to excerpts of her remarks provided by the Captives and Missing Families Forum campaign group.

Thousands of people joined the rally in Tel Aviv and another in Al-Quds, seat of the Israeli regime's parliament, AFP correspondents said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's regime is facing rising an-

ger from critics who accuse him of not doing enough to secure a truce deal that would see captives exchanged for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

The vast majority of the captives freed so far were released during a one-week truce in November. Zionist troops have rescued alive just eight.

Talks mediated by the United States, Egypt and Qatar to reach a deal between the Zionist regime

and Hamas have stalled for months.

Demonstration organizer Noa Ben Baruch, 48, told AFP in Tel Aviv that "the urgency is unparalleled. It's not only the captives, it's everything."

As the war rages on for more than 11 months with no end in sight, "there is no point to it anymore," she said.

"This war has to end yesterday. It's futile."

Around her members of the crowd waved signs that read "Bring them home," "Seal the deal," and "End the bloodshed."

A group of women wore black t-shirts and jeans stained with fake blood, recreating a widely circulated picture of soldier Naama Levy taken when she was held captive on October 7.

In both Tel Aviv and Al-Quds, the names of captives were read out on loudspeakers.

Tel Aviv resident Ran Eisenberg, 77, said rescuing them should be the regime's top priority.

"The fact that it doesn't happen really makes me very frustrated," he said.

'Food Sovereignty Destroyed' Palestinians Warn of Imminent Famine in Gaza



5 out of 6 bakeries close in northern Gaza due to lack of fuel, raw materials.

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) – Palestinians have warned of an imminent famine in the northern Gaza Strip as an ongoing Israeli blockade has forced five out of six functioning bakeries to shut down in the region.

"Five out of six bakeries in northern Gaza have shut down due to the regime's blockade on the entry of fuel and raw materials needed to produce bread," Kamel Ajjour, a baker owner, told Anadolu on Sunday.

"Our bakery is the only one still functioning in the area and is likely to close within a week if the regime continues to block the entry of fuel and essential supplies," he warned.

Ajjour emphasized that fuel has not been delivered to bakeries in northern Gaza for over 10 days.

"The supply of critical ingredients such as flour, sugar, and yeast has been significantly reduced for nearly a month," he said, warning of a severe bread crisis if his bakery also halted operations in northern Gaza.

Ajjour appealed to international organizations, including the UN, to immediately intervene to prevent the outbreak of famine in northern Gaza and for the swift delivery of fuel and essential materials to sustain bread production in the enclave.

Meanwhile, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory Francesca Albanese accused the Zionist regime of deliberately starving Palestinians in Gaza.

"The way Israel is destroying Palestinian food sovereignty will be studied not only as a shocking ex-

ample of genocidal conduct but also as a textbook case of sadistic disregard for human life and dignity," she wrote on social media on Sunday, The Middle East Eye reported.

She referred to a report by UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food by Michael Fakhri, who described Israel's actions as "a starvation campaign".

"Life in Gaza revolves around the sea. Small-scale fishers are central to that life. Since October 7, Israel has denied all fishers access to the sea, destroying more than 75 percent of the fishing sector," Fakhri noted in his report.

On Thursday, the UN Trade and Development agency (UNCTAD) reported that Israel's war on Gaza has devastated the Palestinian enclave's economy, reducing it to less than one-sixth of its 2022 size, while there has also been a "significant downturn" in the occupied West Bank.

The Zionist regime has continued its brutal aggression on Gaza since last October despite a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire.

More than 41,200 people, mostly women and children, have since been killed and over 95,300 injured, according to local health authorities.

The onslaught has displaced almost the entire population of the territory amid an ongoing blockade that has led to severe shortages of food, clean water, and medicine.

The occupying regime faces accusations of genocide for its actions in Gaza at the International Court of Justice.

Sources: Israel Recruits African Refugees for Gaza Aggression

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime is recruiting African refugees for "life-threatening" aggression in Gaza in exchange for settled status in the occupied territories, sources have revealed.

Military officials told Haaretz that the project was being conducted under the guidance of legal advisers from the military establishment in an organized manner.

There are approximately 30,000 African asylum seekers in the Israeli-occupied territories. They have faced growing pressure from anti-immigrant politicians, including prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who regularly refers to them as "infiltrators".

One man interviewed by Haaretz, who ultimately chose not to enlist, recounted being approached by a security official to join the war effort. The official explained that after a two-week training period, he would be deployed alongside other asylum seekers.

"I asked, 'What do I get?' even though I'm not really looking for anything," said the man, identified as A.

"But then he told me: 'If you go this way, you can receive documents from Israel.' He asked me to send him a photocopy of my ID and said he would take care of these things."

According to Haaretz, none of the asylum seekers who partici-

pated in the war effort have been granted official status so far, and military sources said that the ethical concerns surrounding the recruitment of asylum seekers had not been addressed.

The outlet reported that asylum seekers had been used in various onslaughts, citing military sources.

"This is a very problematic matter," one source said.

Haaretz noted that the "manner in which the Israeli army deploys the asylum seekers is barred from publication" due to restrictions imposed by the Zionist regime's military censor.

Unnamed sources who spoke with Haaretz also revealed that while there were some inquiries

about granting status to asylum seekers who assisted in the genocidal war in Gaza, none were actually given status.

Haaretz also learned that the interior ministry explored the possibility of drafting the children of asylum seekers, who were educated in schools in the occupied territories, into the Israeli military.

In the past, the regime allowed the children of foreign workers to serve in the military in exchange for granting status to their immediate family members.

African refugees, who came to the occupied territories seeking asylum, were previously kept in internment camps and deported without their own consent.

U.S. Universities Impose Strict Regulations to Crack Down on Gaza Protests

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Universities across the United States have reportedly implemented stricter regulations and new policies to crack down on campus protests and free speech, in the wake of on-campus activism to protest the Zionist regime's U.S.-backed war in Gaza during the last academic year.

A recent report by The New York Times underscores a growing trend among U.S. higher education institutions to impose stricter policies aimed at maintaining order while grappling with the complexities of free expression.

Many universities have implemented measures including mandatory permits for demonstrations, restrictions on the time and place for protests, and sanctions for actions claimed disruptive or harmful to the campus environment.

Lauren Lassabe Shepherd, a professor at the University of New Orleans,

said that more detailed rules would make it easier for university administrators to say that student protesters have broken them.

As NYT reports, several universities have explicitly banned encampments, a form of protest that has gained prominence and effectiveness.

While many institutions previously restricted camping on their campuses, schools like Emory University, Rutgers, and the University of California system have now reinforced or implemented stricter prohibitions.

The University of California system has set new guidelines that require protest leaders to register their events in advance and conduct them in designated areas.

Other institutions are considering similar pathways, claiming that they are necessary steps to prevent violence and maintain public safety.

Many schools, like Indiana, have enacted regulations that confine protests to designated times and locations.

At Ohio State University, for instance, all campus events must conclude by 10 pm, while Northwestern University has prohibited protests before 3 pm in areas surrounded by classrooms.

Carnegie Mellon University has introduced a new policy allowing officials to disperse unregistered gatherings of over 25 individuals at their discretion.

New York University, in a further crackdown, revised its conduct guidelines to explicitly state that targeting individuals or ideologies associated with "Zionism" may breach its non-discrimination policy, invoking "anti-Semitism."

Opponents of the new policies, however, warn of the risks they pose to the very fabric of academic discourse.

Jordan's King Accepts PM Khasawneh's Resignation, Appoints Technocrat

AMMAN (Dispatches) – Jordan's King Abdullah II has accepted the resignation of the government led by Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh after last week's parliamentary elections were dominated by frustration over the Zionist regime's war on Gaza.

Khasawneh, a 55-year-old veteran diplomat, had led the government since October 2020.

The king designated Jafar Hassan, a technocrat and former planning minister currently serving as the king's head of office, in his place.

A royal palace statement said King Abdullah had ordered the government to remain in a caretaker capacity until the formation of a new cabinet.

Under the kingdom's constitution, the government usually resigns after legislative elections. It is the king who appoints the prime minister – not the parliament, which has lim-

ited powers.

The parliament of Jordan is bicameral. People directly elect representatives to its House of Representatives every four years, but the king appoints all 65 members of the upper chamber, the Senate.

The country's Islamic Action Front (IAF), the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, came out top in Tuesday's poll, winning 31 out of the 138 seats in parliament, the party's largest representation since 1989.

Despite a low turnout of 32 percent, the party's success came with voters frustrated about economic woes and the Zionist regime's war on Gaza.

Jordan in 1994 signed a so-called peace treaty with the Zionist regime, becoming only the second Arab state to do so after Egypt.

Since the regime's war on Gaza began in October 2023, Jordan has at-

tempted to walk a political tightrope by maintaining diplomatic relations with the regime and even intervening in Iran's retaliatory attack on the occupying regime in April when Jordan shot down missiles as they flew over its territory.

This stance has angered a significant portion of Jordan's citizens, many of whom are descendants of the Palestinians forced out of their lands in both the Nakba and the 1967 war.

The war in Gaza has also hit tourism in Jordan, which relies on the sector for about 14 percent of its gross domestic product.

The kingdom also heavily depends on foreign aid, especially from the United States and the International Monetary Fund.

In the first quarter of 2024, the unemployment rate in Jordan was 21 percent.