

# TEHRAN TIMES

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### Pezeshkian asks the international community to curb Israeli violence



# Global Peace Hinges on End of Israeli Aggression

### Stop Israeli attacks on Lebanon or face the consequences, Araghchi warns the West

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says the West must accept responsibility for the consequences if it fails to intervene and stop Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

His remarks came during a meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Araghchi condemned the Israeli regime's recent aggression in Lebanon, emphasizing that the region is teetering on the brink of widespread conflict. He urged the United States and its allies to make Israel cease its brutal assaults, which have already resulted in the deaths of hundreds, including many innocent children.

Highlighting the urgency of the situation, Araghchi pointed out that Italy and several other nations have called for an immediate ceasefire. He stressed that the responsibility lies with those who support Israel to halt its violent actions, which he described as desperate attempts to divert attention from its failures in Gaza. ▶ Page 3

### U.S. media fabricates Iranian president's remarks, ignoring his call for honest coverage

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – An American media outlet fabricated claims about Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian seeking to "ease tensions with Israel", ignoring his request for accurate reporting during the same meeting.

Bloomberg reported on Monday that Pezeshkian said he is "prepared to ease tensions with Israel" during a mostly off-the-record meeting he held with senior managers of American media outlets in New York.

Bloomberg quoted Pezeshkian as saying that Iran is willing to "put all its weapons aside as long as Israel is willing to do the same" and that Iran is not seeking to "destabilize the region".

Pezeshkian has made similar remarks about regional disarmament in the past. During a televised meeting with Iranian reports earlier this month, the official made the same comments after criticizing the West for pressuring Iran to limit its military program while Israel continues to receive unfettered arms supplies from the U.S. and its European allies.

Sources have told the Tehran Times that the president's call for "putting the weapons aside" was made in the same context. ▶ Page 3

## Pezeshkian's 11 key statements from New York

- The Tabas coal mine explosion was a direct result of Washington's illegal and inhumane sanctions against Iran.
- Iran is not pursuing the development of nuclear weapons and is not looking to start any war.
- The Zionist regime tried to drag Iran into a war by assassinating Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh after the presidential inauguration ceremony.
- Iran has never supplied Russia with ballistic missiles as it favors dialogue in the Ukraine war.
- A better future for the Islamic Ummah rests on successful efforts for unity among Muslims.
- The world must not allow Lebanon to become another Gaza.
- If International organizations fail to rein in Israel, Iran will avenge the death of Martyr Haniyeh.
- My administration is looking to establish peace, security, and tranquility in the region.
- Iran will not bow down to pressure from the U.S. government.
- Iran seeks common ground and shared perspectives to foster expanded cooperation with other nations.
- Having demonstrated its willingness to find a solution with Europe, Tehran now awaits the right move from its European counterparts.

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# Deafening silence: West ignores Israel's bloodshed in Lebanon

- The Zionist war against human civilization
- Israel will fail to split anti-colonial resistance by attack on Lebanon



▶ Page 5

Officers utilize heavy construction machinery to clear debris from severely affected areas following the Israeli army's airstrike on the Dahieh district of southern Beirut, Lebanon on September 21, 2024.



# 'Global peace hinges on end of Israeli aggression'

Pezeshkian asks the international community to curb Israeli violence

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has intensified alarm over the repercussions of Israel's ongoing aggression in West Asia, warning that the decadence of peace in the region will eventually impact other parts of the world.

Addressing the session on "Strengthening the United Nations Goals" at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the president demanded a cessation of the Israeli occupation and apartheid in Palestine and immediate implementation of a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, where the regime has been waging a genocidal war for over 11 months.

"Cessation of the [Israeli] occupation and apartheid in Palestine and immediate ceasefire in Gaza are preconditions for international development and peace," he insisted.

"In a world where civilians are being killed ruthlessly in Gaza, blind state terrorism sheds the

blood of children and women, and genocide and assassination is being supported, [conclusion of] no document would serve to guarantee peace and development," Pezeshkian stated, noting that no UN session will help bring peace to the world until Israel has been held responsible for its crimes.

The establishment of the Israeli regime in 1948, following a Western-backed war against the Palestinian locals, resulted in the occupation of vast Palestinian territories. In 1967, another war led to the occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

Since then, Israel has implemented a system of apartheid in the Arab lands, building numerous settlements and imposing severe restrictions on the Palestinian nation. The regime withdrew from Gaza in 2005 but maintained a comprehensive land, air, and sea blockade of the territory since the following year.

Gaza has also been hobbled by multiple waves of Israeli violence in the past decades, the most

recent of which began in October of 2023 after a successful Hamas operation against Israeli positions in the occupied territories. The regime's latest war in the besieged and impoverished strip has so far resulted in the deaths of over 41,500 Palestinians, a number that's expected to rise to at least 180,000. The majority of victims have been women and children as the regime is unable to fight military forces that have entrenched positions under the ground.

In his other remarks regarding the establishment of global and regional peace, Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's stance regarding the need to eliminate weapons of mass destruction

"Iran demands a strong, united, safe, and stable region, where the resources of the regional countries are used for [bringing about] synergy towards [realization of] economic and social development and disposal of common problems," he said.

Highlighting Iran's role in promoting regional

stability, the president emphasized Tehran's consistent leadership in combating terrorism. He expressed Iran's willingness to collaborate with other nations genuinely committed to confronting this global threat.

Iran has been spearheading the fight against terrorists in West Asia for long years. Its most acknowledged military figure, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, who is credited with defeating Daesh terrorists during the 2010s was assassinated by the U.S. during a trip to Baghdad in 2020.

In his address, the president condemned the unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States and its allies on Iran and other nations. He asserted that such sanctions hinder the realization of sustainable development goals and the need to abolish them in any future international agreements.

Pezeshkian proposed that UN Secretary-General António Guterres present the General

Assembly with a comprehensive report on the impact of these sanctions, compiled in collaboration with affected countries.

He emphasized that achieving peace and development necessitates respecting nations' right to development, upholding fairness, and fulfilling commitments made by developed countries to developing nations. Pezeshkian called for immediate reform of the international financial institutions to ensure the inclusion of developing countries in decision-making and norm-setting, advocating for a just system that addresses their financial needs.

In his concluding remarks, Pezeshkian outlined his administration's practical priorities, putting on healthcare, education, welfare, creating equal opportunities, ensuring fair income distribution, reducing poverty and discrimination, and empowering women and youth. "Let us create a just and prosperous future for our children," he suggested.



## 'World must not allow Lebanon to become another Gaza'

President Masoud Pezeshkian issued a warning to the international community, urging them to act swiftly to prevent Lebanon from becoming "another Gaza" at the hands of Israel.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with CNN on Tuesday, following Israel's deadliest airstrikes on Lebanon since 2006, Pezeshkian emphasized the perilous potential for regional escalation. "We must not allow Lebanon to become another Gaza," he stated, adding, "The events unfolding in Lebanon may turn into a regional conflict that could be dangerous for the future of the world."

He called upon the UN Security Council to take immediate action against what he termed "insane" Israeli escalation. "We must prevent Israel's criminal actions," Pezeshkian asserted.

Acknowledging the challenge facing the Hezbollah Resistance movement, the president slammed the unequivocal help the West is supplying Israel with to enable its crimes. "Hezbollah cannot stand alone against an entity that is being defended, supported, and supplied by Western countries, European countries, and the United States."



## Iran 'seriously concerned' about expansion of regional tensions

Talking to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly, Iran's president voiced his country's deep concerns over the escalating tensions in West Asia, which are boiling due to Israeli actions.

"We are very seriously concerned about the expansion of the conflict across the entire region," Masoud Pezeshkian told Guterres, emphasizing the urgency of the situation.

In his remarks, the president acknowledged the devastating impact of unfair sanctions against Iran, citing the recent deadly coal mine explosion in Tabas as a direct consequence of the ban on importing essential mining equipment.

Despite the tense situation, President Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's commitment to seeking sustainable peace and security in West Asia. "Iran is in no way seeking [to obtain] nuclear weapons. We have not initiated any war or conflict in the past 200 years."

Guterres, for his part, expressed hope for further development in Iran under President Pezeshkian's leadership and the establishment of peace and security in the region.



## 'Israel tried to drag Iran into war by Haniyeh's assassination'

During a meeting with the President of the European Council Charles Michel on the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said his country seeks common ground and shared perspectives to foster expanded cooperation with other nations.

"The world today needs dialogue and interaction more than ever," he asserted, highlighting that distance and lack of communication can foster misunderstandings and conflicts. He emphasized that direct dialogue is essential for mutual understanding and progress. He also talked about Iran's willingness to rectify ties with European states but emphasized that the ball is in Europe's court. "Having demonstrated its willingness to find a solution with Europe, Tehran now awaits the right move from its European counterparts."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian President talked about Israeli efforts to drag Iran into a regional war by assassinating Hamas Leader Ismail Haniyeh on Iranian soil. He added Tehran will take the matters into its own hands, if international organizations fail to hold the regime responsible for the act of terror.



## 'Unity is key to Islamic world's future'

During a Monday meeting on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan emphasized the importance of unity between Tehran and Ankara as a cornerstone for a brighter future for Islamic countries. Both leaders expressed a shared vision for a strong Islamic world, advocating for the creation of a large common market within the region and fostering academic, scientific, and economic exchanges between Iran and Türkiye.

"A better future for Islamic countries depends on the successful effort to create unity between Tehran and Ankara," stated Pezeshkian. He further highlighted the potential of such collaboration to end the ongoing Israeli crimes in Gaza.

Pezeshkian proposed the establishment of a regional communication network, a suggestion that President Erdogan enthusiastically welcomed, calling it "very valuable."

Erdogan also voiced concern over the escalating Israeli attacks on Lebanon. "The Zionist regime has displayed a new definition of brutality and violence with the recent attacks," he stated.



## 'Tehran looking to establish peace, security, and tranquility'

In discussions with his Swiss counterpart on his first day of visit to New York, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian explored various topics on bilateral, regional, and international issues. Pezeshkian highlighted Switzerland's vital role in providing pharmaceutical assistance to Iran during Western sanctions, as well as its active efforts to safeguard Iranian interests on the global stage. He also noted the recent resumption of relations with Saudi Arabia as a testament to the deepening bilateral ties.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president underscored Iran's commitment to fostering stability, security, and peace in the region. He condemned the ongoing Israeli violence in Gaza, expressing profound sorrow for the plight of its people. "The crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza and the silence of international human rights bodies are intolerable," he stated, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

In closing, Pezeshkian told Viola Amherd that his administration is looking to establish peace, security, and tranquility in the region through mutual respect and cooperation.



## 'Intl. community's silence on Israeli crimes untenable'

During a meeting with Finnish President Alexander Stubb on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian condemned the West's silence on Israel's ongoing killings of innocent civilians in Gaza and Lebanon. "The international community must end their silence on Israeli crimes," Pezeshkian stated, urging the U.S. and Europe to cease their support for the regime responsible for the deaths of over 40,000 innocent people in Gaza and continued attacks in Lebanon.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to international regulations and avoiding double standards as solutions to global problems. "We emphasize the necessity of interaction and dialogue instead of war and conflict among world countries in order to reach a common vision and multilateralism in solving problems," he said, highlighting the importance of international agreements for peace and security.

In response, Stubb expressed Finland's keen interest in strengthening relations with Iran, viewing the new Iranian President's election as a positive opportunity to "resolve issues between Iran and Europe."



## 'Iran-Tajikistan ties rooted in deep history'

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian underscored the strong historical and kinship ties that underpin Iran-Tajikistan relations, expressing Tehran's commitment to expanding scientific, cultural, economic, and security cooperation with Dushanbe. During a meeting with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon on the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly, Pezeshkian identified Afghanistan as a shared concern, emphasizing the need for greater cooperation between Tehran and Dushanbe to address the country's challenges.

Afghanistan, which shares borders with both Iran and Tajikistan, is currently grappling with various security, economic, financial, and social issues. The country remains plagued by the vestiges of two decades of U.S. occupation, which withdrew its forces from Afghanistan in 2021.

President Rahmon, for his part, praised Iran's role in fostering unity and solidarity among Islamic countries, acknowledging the significant progress achieved by the Islamic Republic despite facing oppressive pressures and sanctions.



## 'Iran will not bow down to pressure from U.S. government'

During a meeting with senior managers of American media outlets in New York, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian criticized the U.S. for its hawkish approach towards Iran, stating that the West Asian country will not bow down to pressure from American politicians.

Pezeshkian stressed that Washington is the party constantly escalating tensions with Iran, but it somehow always ends up blaming Tehran for the festering of the two countries' bad ties. "It was the U.S. that exited a deal with us and then proceeded to sanction us. What are we supposed to do? Be friendly to Washington while it tries to bully us?"

The Iranian president also slammed the U.S. for its destabilizing acts in other parts of West Asia, particularly its support for Israel's brutal war in Gaza.

He also denied claims that Iran is supporting American students protesting against ties with Israel in U.S. universities, urging Washington to heed the demands of its people instead of looking for culprits to blame.



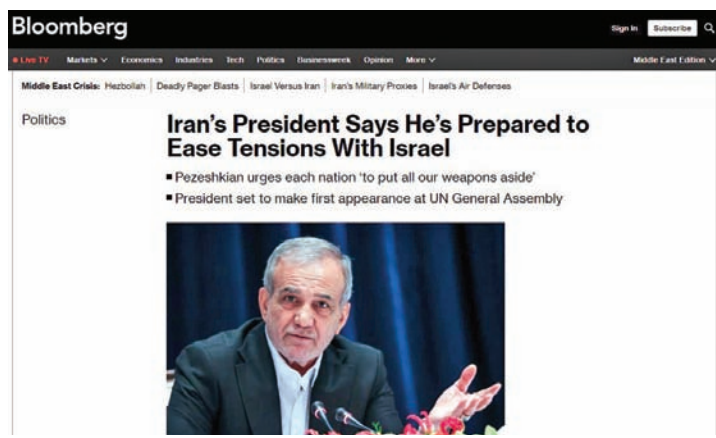
# U.S. media fabricates Iranian president's remarks, ignoring his call for honest coverage

From Page 1 ▶ in New York, something Bloomberg wittingly disregarded to distort his message.

Furthermore, the report claims Pezeshkian seeks to "ease tensions" with Israel despite the president's repeated expressions of solidarity with Palestinians and pledges to punish Israel for its crimes since taking office in July – including two statements in New York vowing Iranian retaliation for Israel's assassination of Hamas Leader Ismail Haniyeh.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has also reacted to the report, denying that the president plans to be lenient with Israel during an exclusive interview with Tasnim News agency.

During the same Monday meeting where Pezeshkian advocated for regional disarmament, He urged American media to refrain from



misrepresenting Iran. His plea to avoid a false narrative appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

==== Iran's stance against Israel unchanging

The Islamic Republic of Iran's stance and policies towards Israel are firmly enshrined in its constitution and consistently endorsed by officials at all levels of government, said senior West

Asia Expert Hossein Ajorlou.

"Iran sees Israel as the main destabilizing force in the region. Therefore, it takes any step possible to whittle away at this force and help Palestinians end the occupation of their lands. That is not something that is going to change as different administrations enter the picture," he explained.

As for President Pezeshkian, he has consistently and vocally opposed the Israeli regime and its actions since his campaign days. "Pezeshkian's comments regarding Israel have, in some cases, been even more forceful and harsh than those of his predecessors. That's likely influenced by the fact that his presidency began with an Israeli act of aggression on Iranian soil," the expert said, referring to Israel's assassination of Haniyeh on July 31, hours after he attended Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony in Tehran.

While previous Iranian presidents viewed Israel as a threat primarily through an ideological lens, Pezeshkian's perspective is notable for framing Israel as a threat from a national security standpoint, Ajorlou explained. "I don't recall any other president openly calling Israel a threat to Iran's national security."



From Page 1 ▶ "The Israeli regime has not achieved any of its objectives in Gaza, despite nearly a year of relentless violence," Araghchi stated. "It should not be allowed to extend the

## Stop Israeli attacks on Lebanon or face the consequences, Araghchi warns the West

flames of war throughout the region in a bid to save itself from desperation."

Tajani echoed concerns about the deteriorating situation in southern Lebanon and emphasized the need for diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation and establish a ceasefire.

Israel has been attacking Lebanese positions since Lebanon's Hezbollah movement began military operations against the regime

following the beginning of its genocidal war in Gaza on October 7.

The regime intensified its attacks on Monday and Tuesday, striking numerous civilian sites and killing over 550 people.

The regime has so far killed more than 41,000 civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip where, according to UN officials, an unprecedented humanitarian crisis is unfolding.

## 'Israel's actions pose serious threat to regional stability': Iranian diplomat

TEHRAN - The Iranian deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs has vehemently denounced the actions of the Zionist regime against the oppressed populations in Palestine and beyond, labeling it a significant threat to both regional and global peace and security.

Kazem Gharib Abadi, speaking at the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) foreign ministerial meeting in New York on Monday, emphasized, "The international community cannot remain passive in the face of these atrocities, highlighting Israel's ongoing acts of genocide in Gaza and its aggressive actions in the occupied West Bank."

Gharib Abadi described the regime's violent actions as systematic and intentional, categorizing them as war crimes, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide against the Palestinian people, all in violation of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The Iranian diplomat pointed out that the lack of accountability for the Israeli regime poses a risk that could escalate into a larger humanitarian crisis in the occupied territories.

"The inaction of the international community equates to the ongoing slaughter of innocent Palestinian civilians," he pointed out, stressing that silence is not an option.

He added it is both a moral and humanitarian duty to act now.

Gharib Abadi blamed the occupation and the establishment of an illegitimate regime in Palestinian lands as the fundamental source of the ongoing crises, asserting, "Any actions taken by the Palestinians in response to the occupation are their inherent and legitimate right to resist, a right that has been reaffirmed multiple times by the United Nations General Assembly.

This is a legal and undeniable right of the Palestinian people."

Gharib Abadi also addressed the recent terrorist actions perpetrated by the Zionist regime in Lebanon, stating, "The widespread slaughter of innocent civilians through the use of communication technologies as instruments of warfare once again highlights this regime's complete indifference to human life and international law."

In another part of his address, he underscored the importance of solidarity



and collaboration among NAM states in opposing unilateralism, noting coercive measures against various nations have not only undermined the pillars of international economic cooperation but have also obstructed the achievement of sustainable development in those nations.

The annual meeting of foreign ministers from the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) takes place in New York alongside the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.

This event serves as a forum for member states, which constitute a substantial segment of the international community, to engage in discussions and cooperation on critical matters concerning global peace, security, and development.

## Iran, Azerbaijan hold consular talks to strengthen think tank collaboration

TEHRAN- Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan held consular talks in Baku on Monday to enhance collaboration between think tanks.

The meeting was attended by the directors general of consular affairs from the foreign ministries of both countries.

According to IRNA, the consultations were led by Alireza Mahmoudi, the director general of consular affairs for Iran's foreign ministry, and Emil Safarov, his counterpart from Azerbaijan.

The meeting was attended by high-ranking officials from various Azeri institutions, such as the

foreign ministry, customs, border patrol, the Attorney General's Office, border police, Interpol, Baku Medical University, the Immigration Office, the Prison Organization, and the interior ministry.

The participants underscored their commitment to enhancing consular relations and improving

services for citizens of both countries.

Alireza Mahmoudi also engaged in discussions with Samir Sharifov, the deputy head of the international affairs department at Azerbaijan's foreign ministry, focusing on expansion of political and think tank collaboration.

## Appeasement of Israel's yearlong crimes fuels further aggression, Tehran warns

TEHRAN- The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson has stated that the appeasement of Zionist actions over the past year has strengthened the regime's resolve to pursue its genocidal agenda.

Nasser Kanaani criticized the extensive Zionist regime's airstrikes on civilian areas in southern Lebanon on Monday, asserting that these acts of aggression occur amidst the silence and even complicity of the United States and certain other Western countries.

The spokesperson cautioned against the "new adventurism" of the Zionist regime in Lebanon, warning it could spread the conflict

throughout the entire region.

The ongoing Israeli actions in Palestine and their extension into Lebanon pose a significant threat to both regional and international peace, Kanaani emphasized, demanding an immediate intervention from the UN Security Council to prevent a wider regional conflict.

The Gaza war has inflicted severe consequences on the Palestinian population, resulting in casualties that reach the tens of thousands.

According to Al Jazeera, the death toll among Palestinian Gazans stands at a minimum of 41,467, which includes approximately 16,500

children, while injuries exceed 95,497.

Furthermore, there are reports of more than 10,000 Palestinians who are currently missing.

The Israeli military also indicated on Tuesday that it has targeted over 1,600 Hezbollah positions in Lebanon in the last 48 hours, encompassing rocket launchers, command centers, and other facilities.

Military analysts believed that Israel's operations in Lebanon during the initial year of the Gaza conflict could escalate into a significant and perilous regional war, potentially triggering geopolitical tensions throughout West Asia.

## SPORTS

### Match officials confirmed for Tehran derby



TEHRAN - Bijan Heydari has been chosen to officiate Tehran derby between Esteghlal and Persepolis football teams in Matchweek 6 of 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL).

The match will be held on Wednesday in Arak's Imam Khomeini Stadium because of Azadi Stadium's Reconstruction.

Heydari is joined by assistant referees Alireza Ildorom and Alireza Moradi in the match.

Hassan Akrami is fourth official and Payam Heydari and Vahid Kazemi are VAR referees.

There have been 103 competitive first-class meetings between the two teams since the first league meeting in 1969. In all competitive meetings since 1968, Persepolis have won 27 and Esteghlal 26.

### Iran become world military volleyball champions

TEHRAN - Iran's national volleyball team defeated India 3-1 to win the 38th World Military Championships (WMC) held in Tehran.

Iran won the championship by defeating India 3-1 (22-25, 25-18, 25-22, and 25-21).

Earlier in the tournament, Iran secured victories against Sri Lanka and India to reach the semifinals.

In the semifinals, Iran beat the Azerbaijan Republic to advance to the final.

India and Uzbekistan finished in second and third places, respectively.

The 38th World Military Championships (WMC) was held in Tehran, Iran from September 18 to 25.

### Kheybar part ways with Mohajeri

TEHRAN - Iranian football club Kheybar parted company with head coach Reza Mohajeri by mutual consent on Tuesday.

Marco Aurelio Da Cunha has been named as Mohajeri's replacement.

Under Mohajeri's leadership, newly-promoted Kheybar earned a win, two draws and two losses in 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL).

Kheybar sit 11th in the IPL 16-team table.

### Oston Urunov to miss Tehran derby

TEHRAN - Persepolis iconic winger Oston Urunov will be absent for the match against Esteghlal.

The Uzbek star was substituted off in the match against Aluminum due to the injury.

Persepolis club had previously announced that Urunov has no serious problem and would be ready for the match against Esteghlal but the player is not fit for the match, slated for Wednesday in Arak.

The Tehran derby will be very crucial for two teams, especially for Esteghlal, who have earned just five points out of five matches.

Esteghlal captain Rouzbeh Cheshmi will be absent against Persepolis after he was shown a red card in the match against Nassaji in 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL) Matchday 4.

### Rivalry between Esteghlal and Persepolis resumes

TEHRAN - The rivalry between Esteghlal and Persepolis resumes on Wednesday, with two teams needing a win in Tehran derby.

Esteghlal have collected just five points out of four matches and team head coach Javad Nekounam is under pressure following poor performance so far.

The loss in the match will likely cost him his job. Persepolis Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido, who will experience his first season in Persepolis, wants to prove himself and winning the match will cement his position in the Team.

Bijan Heydari has been chosen to officiate the derby in Arak's Imam Khomeini Stadium.

Heydari is joined by assistant referees Alireza Ildorom and Alireza Moradi in the match.

Hassan Akrami is fourth official and Payam Heydari and Vahid Kazemi are VAR referees.

Both teams face challenges in the match. Esteghlal will be without captain Rouzbeh Cheshmi, while Persepolis iconic winger Oston Urunov will not fit for the match, casting uncertainty over his participation in the game.

There have been 103 meetings between the rivals with Persepolis coming out on top with 27 wins, while Esteghlal have 26. 50 matches have been drawn affairs.



## RAI head welcomes private sector participation in railway industry



TEHRAN – The newly appointed Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railway (known as RAI) Jabar-Ali Zakeri has said that representatives of the private sector should be recognized and present in the railway industry, the portal of the Iranian Transport Ministry reported.

Speaking in a joint meeting with rail transport companies and wagon and locomotive manufacturers Zakeri said: "This meeting was held to hear the concerns and challenges facing the private sector and the railway operators, and such meetings will be continuously held in a specialized and field-based manner."

"We are in a period of transition and the patterns of state-governed railways should move towards private sector governance," Zakeri said.

According to the official, the best way to develop the country's railway industry is for the representatives of the private sector to be recognized in the railway sector so that the opinions of organizations and companies can be used and the private sector can have a continuous presence in different sectors.

Mentioning the shortcomings in the locomotive sector, the RAI head said only 50 percent of the

country's locomotives are operation-ready and the use of the capacity of domestic companies can resolve such shortages.

### Recognizing need for creating motivation for investors

Also speaking at the meeting, Nasser Bakhtiari, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Passenger Rail Transport Companies Trade Union, emphasized the importance of productivity and the role of the private sector in improving the rail sector.

"Support for rail transportation companies should be increased and an incentive environment should be created for investors to be willing to invest in this sector," Bakhtiari said.

He also pointed out the necessity of creating clear and reliable mechanisms for pricing the products manufactured by the private sector and stated that the most important challenge in the railway sector is the locomotive sector.

### Govt. should support private companies financially

In this meeting, Rahmatollah Pourbabaee, the secretary of the Iranian Railway Industry Association, warned against the decrease in the activity of wagon and locomotive manufacturers in the country, noting that producers in this sector are not working on full capacity, and if necessary investment and support are not made in the form of funding, there is a possibility of closing the factories of this industry.

"Last year, about 130 million dollars of foreign currency was allocated to the railway industry, while the automobile industry received 13 billion dollars of funding," he said.

## Iran imports over 5.4m cellphones in H1

TEHRAN – Based on the latest data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), 5,416,446 cellphone handsets, valued at \$1.225 billion, were imported into the country in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20–September 21).

In this period, more than 5,249,960 mobile handsets were imported by commercial companies while 166,486 of the cellphone handsets were imported by passengers,

Tasnim News Agency reported.

According to IRICA, the cell phones imported in this period registered a 16 percent and an 8.0 percent reduction in volume and value, respectively.

Iran imported 2.857 million cell phones, valued at \$688 million, in the first four months of the current calendar year (March 20–July 20), registering a 27 percent decline in value, year on year.

## Iran-Saudi Arabia Joint Economic Committee meeting to be held soon

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad has expressed hope that the Joint Economic Committee meeting of Iran and Saudi Arabia will be held in the near future, IRNA reported.

Speaking at a celebration held on the occasion of the Saudi National Day on Monday, Paknejad said: "As the head of the joint economic committee of the two countries, I am very pleased to congratulate National Day to the government and the dear people of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

"The 14th government, headed by Masoud Pezeshkian, pays special attention to the development of relations with Saudi Arabia, and believes that the cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia as two important countries in the Persian Gulf region and West Asia, can bring stability and security to the countries in the region, and ensure the development and improvement of the welfare of the people of these countries," he stressed. In May 1, Iran's former Economy Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said he has held favorable talks with his Saudi Arabian counterpart during his visit to the Arab country. In a post on his social media, Khandouzi said he had constructive talks with the Minister of Economy and Planning of Saudi Arabia Faisal F. Alibrahim.

"Faisal F. Alibrahim agreed with Iran's all five proposals," the Iranian minister underlined.

He said that the Saudi minister also emphasized the need for developing a roadmap for economic cooperation in the public-private sector.

An Iranian delegation headed by Khandouzi visited Riyadh to participate in an annual Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) meeting.

Speaking at his weekly press conference, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Nasser Kan'ani said that consultations and dialogues are underway between Tehran and Riyadh at the political and economic levels.

"We have had economic issues on the agenda since the beginning of the resumption of negotiations between the two sides, and both sides are unanimous on this matter, and the talks

are ongoing," the senior Iranian diplomat said.

Iran and Saudi Arabia signed a China-brokered deal in March 2023 to resume their diplomatic relations after they cut them in 2016.

The two sides reopened their respective embassies a few months later.

Also, in late April, Iran's Consul General in Jeddah Hassan Zarnegar met with the president of the Chamber of Commerce of Mecca, Saleh Abdullah Kamel, with the two sides calling for increased trade and economic cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

During the meeting, Zarnegar emphasized the need to leverage the economic and trade capabilities of the two countries, as well as increased interactions between Iranian and Saudi businesspeople. The two officials also discussed the economic aspects of providing services to pilgrims in the holy city of Mecca. Kamel expressed hope for the comprehensive development of Iran-Saudi relations, as emphasized by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Iranian late President Ebrahim Raisi.

Last December, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) in collaboration with Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) held a conference on the Iran-Saudi Arabia trade opportunities in Tehran.

In this event which was attended by Iranian business operators and entrepreneurs interested in trade with the kingdom, the ways of expanding economic relations between the two countries were explored, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Speaking in this conference, Abdol-Amir Rabihavi, the director general of TPO's West Asia Office, pointed to the benefits of increasing economic and trade relations with Saudi Arabia

and stressed the important role of the private sector in developing trade relations with this country. Stating that the private sector is more agile in economic exchanges and has fewer bureaucratic restrictions Rabihavi said: "The participation of the private sector will be the basis for the expansion of business relations with Saudi

# Iran, Tajikistan to expand electricity cooperation

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi and his Tajik counterpart Daler Juma have reviewed ways of expanding cooperation between the two countries in various areas, especially in the electricity sector, IRNA reported.

In a meeting in Tehran on Monday, Aliabadi emphasized the development and strengthening of cooperation in the field of electricity and other areas between the two countries of Iran and Tajikistan and said: "Under the framework of the two countries' joint economic committee negotiations have been held in various fields with the Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan."

According to the minister, in his meeting with Juma, the two sides have agreed on a variety of issues including boosting trade between the two sides, facilitating the activity of Iranian companies in Tajikistan and cooperation in water projects.

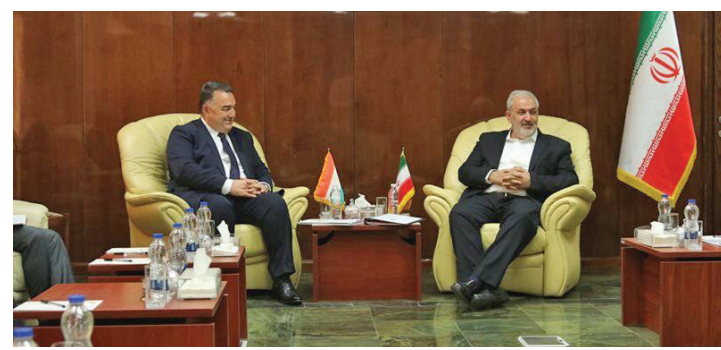
Also, during the talks, Juma expressed his satisfaction with the meeting with Aliabadi, who is also the Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee of Iran and Tajikistan, saying: "I am sure that under the leadership of the new minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the bilateral cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan in the field of energy will be strengthened."

He pointed to the advancement of joint projects between the two countries and added: "Sangtoudah 2 hydroelectric power plant is one of the joint projects between the two countries of Iran and Tajikistan that is being carried out on schedule."

## Tehran hosting MINEX 2024

TEHRAN – The 13th International Investment Opportunities in Iran's Mines and Mining Industries Exhibition and Conference (MINEX 2024) kicked off in Tehran on Monday, IRIB reported.

Some 325 domestic and foreign companies from various countries, including Russia, China, South Africa, Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy, and Turkey,



*Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi (R) holds talks with his Tajik counterpart Daler Juma in Tehran on Monday, September 23.*

"Tajikistan always welcomes Iranian technical knowledge and experts, who are among the best in the world," he said.

According to Juma, increasing the volume of economic exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan is another issue that is of particular importance, and in this regard, the two sides can increase cooperation in oil and related products, as well as technical knowledge in the field of energy. Iran and Tajikistan signed 44 cooperation documents in the previous three years, which shows that relations between the two countries are on a trajectory of growth, the Tajik envoy to Iran said in mid-June.

Nizamuddin Zahidov pointed to the expansion of relations between Tehran and Dushanbe and said the two sides signed 44 cooperation documents over the past three years.

Speaking in a meeting with the head of Iran Mapping Organization to follow up the agreements inked previously between the two countries, he underlined that Iran and Tajikistan have witnessed the expansion of political, economic and cultural

relations over the past years.

Zahidov put the value of trade exchanges between the two countries in the last Iranian year (ended March 19, 2024) at \$270 million, IRNA reported.

The presidents of the two countries agreed that the value of bilateral trade should reach \$500 million in near future and this shows that the bilateral cooperation is on an upward trajectory especially in the fields of trade and economy, the ambassador stressed.

Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe hosted the 16th meeting of Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee in late December 2023. Iranian former Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Tajikistan Energy and Water Resources Minister Daler Juma co-chaired the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting.

Meanwhile, the first specialized exhibition "Made in Iran" was also held on the sidelines of this meeting.

The exhibition, aimed at introducing the capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in basic industries, with the presence of 30 top Iranian companies,

is being held in Dushanbe, during December 26-29.

Iran and Tajikistan on November 8, 2023 signed a joint statement and 18 cooperation documents and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to deepen bilateral strategic relations. The joint statement was signed between late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe.

The documents and MOUs were inked by the Iranian and Tajik ministers in the presence of the two presidents. As reported, the documents and MOUs pertained to a roadmap for long-term bilateral trade and economic cooperation till 2030, mutual visa-free access, anti-drug trafficking operations, transportation, crisis management, and the establishment of joint free economic zones, as well as inter-city cooperation in various fields.

During a meeting earlier in the day, Raisi said Iran and Tajikistan could increase their annual trade transactions to \$500 million in the first step. Raisi stressed that historical, religious, and cultural commonalities shared by the two countries provide a favorable ground for enhancing bilateral relations in all aspects. The Tajik president, for his part, highlighted the necessity to develop bilateral ties, particularly in mining, health, science and technology, and agriculture sectors.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Raisi arrived in Dushanbe on November 8, 2023. During the day, he also attended a meeting of the two countries traders and businessmen.

## Intl. agriculture exhibition running in Tehran

TEHRAN – The 7th International Agriculture, Horticulture, Greenhouses, Inputs and Agriculture Machinery Exhibition of Iran (IFarm 2024) opened at Shahr-e-Aftab Exhibition Center on Tuesday, IRIB reported. As reported, the four-day exhibition is focusing on different areas including agriculture, horticulture, greenhouse, inputs,

modern irrigation system and related industries.

Over 170 companies are partaking in this exhibition, according to the event's organizer.

Delegations from Iraq, Pakistan, Kurdistan Region, Qatar, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Georgia are also scheduled to visit the exhibition.

Arabia." Meanwhile, in last October, the former head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) hosted a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Tehran to explore ways of expanding economic relations between the two sides, the TPO portal reported. In that meeting, which was organized by the Iran-Saudi Arabia Investment Fund for the development of job opportunities, Mehdi Zeyghami and Abdullah bin Saud al-Anzi discussed planning to start and develop business relations between the two countries.

As reported, the two sides welcomed the idea of exchanging business delegations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and emphasized the need to actively participate in each other's exhibitions.

Speaking at the meeting, Zeyghami expressed hope for the development of trade relations between the two countries and stressed the importance of boosting trade interactions between the two sides in the field of new and high-tech technologies.

"Considering Saudi Arabia's future plans and the investments of this country in new technologies, trade in the field of such technologies can benefit both countries," the official said.

The TPO head also expressed his interest in the presence of Iranian companies in the health, food industry, and petrochemical exhibitions of Saudi Arabia and requested the ambassador of this country to make preparations for the presence of Iran in the form of a pavilion in these exhibitions.

Al-Anzi for his part welcomed Zeyghami's suggestions and said: "Regarding the proposal to attend Saudi exhibitions, the preparations for this will be provided by exchanging the list of companies."

Earlier that month, Head of Iran Chamber of Guilds Mojtaba Safaei also hosted a meeting with Abdullah bin Saud al-Anzi, in which the officials discussed ways of expanding trade relations between the two countries.

In that meeting, which was held at the invitation of the head of the Iran Chamber of Guilds, some of the heads of Tehran unions were also present and



*Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad speaks at a celebration held on the occasion of Saudi National Day*

discussed Iran's export capabilities.

Speaking in this gathering, Safaei said, "We know well that strengthening relations with Saudi Arabia is of interest to Iran. As the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said in his recent meeting with the Sultan of Oman, establishing relations with Saudi Arabia was the result of the correct policy of the government of President Raisi, and we, in pursuit of the implementation of these policies, consider this meeting as an advantage and aim to have a positive impact in this regard."

He said, "According to investigations, the majority of Iran and Saudi Arabia's exports and imports in recent years have been carried out by professional companies, but with the diplomatic relations gap, they have reached the minimum possible level. Today, the private sector and professional enterprises are ready to cooperate with Saudi Arabia in trade."

The head of the Iran Chamber of Guilds went on to say: "We believe that Iran and Saudi Arabia are two major poles of the Islamic world, and this gap has damaged the economies of both countries more than anything else, which is what the global arrogance wanted. Nevertheless, we have very extensive collaborations, and in the field of trade, the chamber of guilds will open a new chapter of relations with Saudi Arabia today, with God's help."

"We know that Saudi Arabia is looking to build the largest and most intelligent city in the world,

and in this regard, Iran's industries are ready to help in various fields of trade, mining, building materials, and so on. Some industries such as Persian carpets, leather bags, shoes, and products have the potential to make an ascending move in the export phase to Saudi Arabia within a week because they are competitive with European countries with the highest quality in the market. Furthermore, medical equipment, food and handicrafts are also available", Safaei continued and said, "In addition to this, we are pushing for cooperation in building hotels, properties, and tourism infrastructure with Saudi Arabia."

"Since technical and engineering services and skilled labor are cheaper in our country, Saudi Arabia can invest in these areas, and our demands are not one-sided and must be bilateral", he noted, adding, "Therefore, we propose trade facilitation, and in this regard, it is necessary to form a specialized working group to achieve desirable results from this meeting. This working group can deal with different fields in a specialized way and demonstrate the commercial goals at an excellent level between the authorities of both countries."

The Saudi ambassador to Iran, for his part, said, "God willing, the relationship and interest between Iran and Saudi Arabia will be stable, and good capacity will be created for the trade of both countries."

The private sector plays an essential role in both countries. The Saudi economy is open and prone to development, and the crown prince has a vision for 2030 and many projects for the progress of Saudi Arabia will be done, which is not just for Saudi Arabia but will be a blessing for all regional countries, the Tenvoy added.

He added: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is a very important neighboring country and has many potentials and has a good strategic position. Therefore, its development with Saudi Arabia will create an opportunity for an equal economy."

At this meeting, it was decided that both sides would introduce representatives to examine the trade capacities of both countries.



# Deafening silence: West ignores Israel's bloodshed in Lebanon

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Western leaders have noticeably chosen to remain silent or turn a blind eye to the Israeli carnage in Lebanon that has shocked the world.

Israel initiated widespread strikes in Lebanon on Monday under the pretext of hitting Hezbollah targets.

The Israeli attacks have mostly concentrated in the south of Lebanon, but some reached up into the east and northeast of the Mediterranean country.

Lebanon's health minister said on Tuesday afternoon that the death toll from the Israeli strikes since Monday reached 558, including 50 children and 94 women, with 1,835 wounded.

According to Firas Abiad, the earlier strikes hit hospitals, medical centers and ambulances.

The Lebanese government has ordered schools and universities to close across most of the country and begun preparing shelters for the displaced.

As Lebanon is reeling from the Israeli massacre, the regime's army has vowed to "accelerate offensive actions".

"We will continue to operate at full strength. The current situation requires continued intensive operations across all fronts," Israeli army Chief of the General Staff Herzi Halevi told the Jerusalem Post.

Nonetheless, the United States which stands accused of feeding Israel's war machine is playing the blame game.

"My team has been in constant contact with their counterparts, and we're working to de-escalate in a way that allows people



A Lebanese girl, that fled with her family from their village in southern Lebanon, takes refuge at a public school in the Sidon on September 23, 2024.

to return to their home safely," President Joe Biden said Monday.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan also said in an interview with MSNBC on Tuesday that Biden is determined to bring about a Gaza ceasefire and captive deal with Hamas while also seeking to de-escalate tensions between Israel and Lebanon.

Unsurprisingly, the US, which provides Israel with unwavering political and military support, has not condemned the regime's massacre of Lebanese people.

Since Israel launched war on Gaza on October 7, concerns have grown over the spillover of the conflict into the region, including in Lebanon.

The US and its Western and regional allies have made critical remarks about the loss of civilian life in Gaza but they have failed to take any practical action to prevent Israel's war of genocide in the enclave which has resulted in the deaths of approximately 41,500 Palestinians over the course of nearly a year.

Neither the massacre of Gazans nor the killing of more than 500 Lebanese people in just a single day has elicited strong denunciation from Western states.

It seems as if the lives of Palestinians and Lebanese do matter to them.

Israel has indicated that its strikes on Lebanon aim to secure the return of displaced people to northern Israel.

Tens of thousands of people have become displaced in northern Israel and southern Lebanon amid the exchanges of fire between the Tel Aviv regime and Hezbollah since October 8. That is a day after Israel launched the war on Gaza.

The Lebanese resistance movement has said it would halt the attacks if there is a ceasefire in Gaza. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has derailed talks aimed at ending the Gaza war by setting new conditions.

Hence, the Netanyahu regime can lay the foundations for the

return of evacuated people to northern Israel by stopping the Gaza genocide.

Netanyahu is under the illusion that military pressure may bring Hezbollah to its knees.

Such delusions come as Israel has failed to deliver on its promise to achieve total victory over Hamas and eliminate the resistance group after more than 11 months of war in Gaza.

But Israel's brutal attacks on Lebanon have at least enabled the regime to divert global attention from the ongoing genocide in Gaza. For now, this is a gamble for Israel.

As an initial response to the latest Israeli crimes in Lebanon, Hezbollah has fired dozens of rockets toward Israel, including at military bases. It also once again targeted the facilities of the Rafael defense firm, headquartered in Haifa on Tuesday. Hezbollah also used a new rocket, Fadi 3, in an attack on an Israeli army base.

If Israel further escalates the situation by sending troops into Lebanon, it would have to encounter severe consequences.

Numerous Israeli reservists, who constitute the majority of the military, have expressed deep concerns regarding their fatigue.

But Hezbollah possesses a dedicated force of 100,000 fighters committed to the defense of Lebanon. The resistance movement also approximately has 150,000 rockets and missiles, including thousands of precision munitions which can reduce Israeli cities to rubble.

## UN chief: World cannot afford Lebanon to become another Gaza

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned member states Tuesday about Lebanon "becoming another Gaza" amid escalating tensions with Israel.

Highlighting the "epic transformation" that the world is facing, Guterres addressed member states during the opening of the 79th UN General Assembly at New York headquarters, Anadolu reported.

"Our world is in a whirlwind. We are in an era of epic transformation -- facing challenges unlike any we have ever seen -- challenges that demand global solutions," said Guterres, adding that "geo-political divisions keep deepening."

"We are edging towards the unimaginable, a powder keg that risks engulfing the world," he said.

Guterres grounded his speech in two key realities: that the current global state of affairs is "unsustainable" and the challenges facing the world are "solvable."

"The level of impunity in the world is politically indefensible and morally intolerable," he stressed, lamenting that many governments feel entitled to disregard international laws,



human rights conventions and UN resolutions.

"They can invade another country, lay waste to whole societies, or utterly disregard the welfare of their own people. And nothing will happen," he said, noting that the "impunity" can be seen in the Middle East, Europe, Africa and beyond.

On the Middle East, Guterres observed that "Gaza is a non-stop nightmare that threatens to take the entire region with it. Look no further than Lebanon."

Saying all states should be "alarmed by the escalation" between Lebanon and Israel, he said. "Lebanon is at the brink."

"The people of Lebanon, the people of Israel, and the people of the world cannot afford Lebanon to become another Gaza," he said.

He denounced the collective punishment of Palestinians, reiterating his demand for an immediate cease-fire and the start of a two-state solution.

"The speed and scale of the killing and destruction in Gaza are unlike anything in my years as secretary-general. More than 200 of our own staff have been killed, many with their families," he said.

Guterres contrasted the current global disorder with the more structured tensions of the Cold War era.

"For all its perils, the Cold War had rules. There were hotlines, red lines, and guardrails," he said, but now, the world is in a "purgatory of polarity" with many countries acting unaccountably in the absence of a stable world order.

## Russia: Israeli strikes on Lebanon risk destabilizing Middle East

Russia has warned that Israeli strikes on Lebanon have the potential to completely destabilize the Middle East (West Asia) and widen the conflict there.

When asked about the strikes, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a conference call that "this is an event that is potentially extremely dangerous when it

comes to the expansion of the conflict, to the complete destabilization of the region. Of course, this is of extreme concern to us."

## UK PM calls for restraint amid Israeli carnage in Lebanon

The British prime minister has called for parties in the Middle East to "pull back from the brink" and for a ceasefire in Gaza amid rising tensions between Hezbollah and Israel.

Sir Keir Starmer told the Labour Party conference: "This is a time when great forces demand a decisive government prepared to face the future. We can see that again in the Middle East today."

He added, "So I call again for restraint and de-escalation at the border between Lebanon and Israel. Again, all parties to pull back from the brink".

Israel has killed hundreds of people in Lebanon in strikes that began on Monday.

## UNICEF: Many children still "missing under rubble" in Lebanon

Many children remain "missing under rubble" and caught "on dangerous roads" after Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon, the UN children's agency warned.

More children were killed in Lebanon in one day on Monday than in the entire past year, Ettie Higgins, UNICEF Deputy Representative for Lebanon Ettie Hig-

gins told a UN briefing Tuesday.

UNICEF has received reports that many Lebanese children "slept in cars and on the sides of roads" on Monday night after thousands of families were displaced from their homes in southern Lebanon, Higgins said.

## The Zionist war against human civilization

By Afifeh Abedi

TEHRAN - Wars and crises have always been among the most significant and impactful menacing phenomena in human history and are considered the starting point for many important historical changes.

The war in Gaza, followed by the chain of regional bombardments and the potential war in Lebanon - which cannot be ignored - can be viewed as one of the wars and crises that are not changing history for Palestine and West Asia, but also the world and even the history of human civilization.

The Israeli regime's attack on Lebanon, in the context of the historical conflict in occupied Palestine and almost one year of genocidal war in Gaza, is much more significant and has a broader scope than all regional wars over the past two decades.

After the Westphalia Treaty in the 17th century, territorial expansion became a disreputable act. With the exception of a few wars, the borders of recognized political units turned into a global protocol.

As a result of the United States' global policies, both in Eastern Europe and Western Asia, territorial expansion has once again become a means to gain power.

The war in Gaza, despite the massacre of at least 42,000 people, is still ongoing. The Zionist regime has aggressively attacked Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, violating the territorial integrity of an independent country and openly creating a disaster by killing innocent civilians without any concern for global reaction.

One of its implicit goals is to shock and prevent any society or government to criticize the status quo. This has left countries in the region and world disillusioned about the borders of a country, national and territorial security, treaties, and international norms and institutions.

Meanwhile, as international rules and treaties become ineffective, unrestrained moves of the Zionist regime have fueled human terror via advancements in cyber technology.

This is while public belief held the view that advancements in communication technologies increased global prosperity and security. Now, Israel's technological and terrorist attacks have shown that smart technologies pose serious and vital threats, and what was once seen in Hollywood science-fiction scenarios is rooted in the self-interested mo-

## Israel will fail to split anti-colonial resistance by attack on Lebanon

By Xavier Villar

MADRID- The massive bombardment by the Israeli army in eastern and southern Lebanon on Monday resulted in over 560 deaths and at least 1,185 injuries, overwhelming the already strained hospitals in the country. This escalation raises the risk of a total war and intensifies calls for an arms embargo against Israel.

Local media described the attack as "the deadliest since the war between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006." This assault came just days after the Israeli army detonated thousands of electronic devices across Lebanon, leading to dozens of fatalities and leaving thousands more injured, an act that experts—including former CIA Director Leon Panetta—have labeled terrorism.

Hezbollah, through its deputy leader Naim Qassim, announced that "the war has entered a new phase," likely leading to further displacement of Israeli settlers. Recent rocket attacks by the Lebanese resistance have forced tens of thousands of residents from various cities and towns to seek refuge. Schools have been closed, and reports indicate that hospitals have been instructed to relocate injured individuals to underground shelters.

Hezbollah initiated a campaign of attacks against Israel just as the latter unleashed its full genocidal potential on Gaza. The Lebanese group's strategy, like that of the other members of the so-called Axis of Resistance, aims to divert attention from Gaza to alleviate Palestinian suffering. In this context, the Axis of Resistance has developed the strategy of uniting all fronts, recognizing Palestine's centrality in formulating military strategies against colonial occupation. For instance, the Yemeni

tives of autocratic capitalism to dehumanize developing societies.

For this reason, the unprecedented terrorist attack by the Zionist regime on Lebanon through the detonation of communication and electronic devices has taken on a trans-regional dimension, shocking global public opinion regarding the new dangerous aspects of war.

Even before the White House expressed satisfaction over the assassination of Ibrahim Aqil, a Lebanese Hezbollah commander, everyone in the world pretty much knew one thing.

The usurping Zionist regime was behind the terrorist explosions in Lebanon and it is no longer surprising to see the U.S., despite its media tricks to absolve itself from this crime, was not only aware of these acts of terror but oversaw them.

In fact, with the political and legal support of Washington, the world's largest terrorist and, according to UN special rapporteurs, the most savage army on the planet, operates without any concern for legal prosecution. The Zionists pressed a button to dismember thousands of innocent people.

The architects of this crime in Washington and Tel Aviv watch on, as people, whose only sin was to trust Western technology that was supposed to bring comfort, are buried alive.

Communication devices explode, dismembering people and destroying homes, in order to create fear and terror in societies, forcing lawful resistance fighters to retreat from their positions, legally enshrined under international law, to alleviate the suffering of civilian victims.

Amid the recent events in Lebanon, organized state terrorism of the American-Zionist regime through technology is not merely the war of the Zionist regime against Lebanon and Palestine.

This is a war that poses a major threat to West Asia for American-Zionist hegemony and the war for American global domination has taken on the foundations of a clash of civilizations. A war that aims to undermine moral values, trust in new and foreign technologies, disillusion societies with treaties and the legitimacy and effectiveness of international institutions in establishing law and punishing criminals, and strip humanity of the motivation for self-sacrifice.

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

attacks in the Red Sea exemplify this strategy.

The term "Unity of Fronts" gained traction after the "Sword of Jerusalem" battle launched by Hamas in May 2021, which defended the Al-Aqsa Mosque and responded to repeated violations by Israeli forces, as well as attempts to displace residents from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem.

In practice, "Unity of Fronts" involves mobilizing multiple fields and fronts simultaneously against the Israeli enemy, even when a specific resistance movement initiates a battle for particular reasons. It is crucial to view this "unity of fronts" as a movement with a clear goal: the defeat of Israel, although it does not conform to a singular, centralized vision regarding strategies and timelines. Thus, while there are shared objectives, this does not imply a vertical subordination to a specific mode of action. Both Hezbollah and other members follow their own logics and strategies, consistently keeping the liberation of Palestine at the core of their concerns.

Israel's response, backed by its Western sponsors and allies, has consisted of a campaign that addresses each front in isolation, aiming to collectively dissociate them from Gaza and from one another. However, it is evident that this objective has not been achieved and all indications suggest that it will not be realized in the future. Hezbollah's support for Gaza exemplifies this unity across all fronts, with a strategy focused on intensifying the erosion of the occupying army to prevent it from deploying its full force against Gaza and to weaken its internal front.

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



## Tourism minister highlights progress in restoration of historical buildings



TEHRAN – Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister has praised the "progress" made in the restoration and revitalization of historical buildings.

Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri made the remarks on Monday during his visit to the Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places where he said: "Current efforts are incomparable to the past and there have been some significant advancements."

"The restoration and revitalization activities I observed in several provinces are on the right track," Salehi-Amiri told Shahab Talai-Shokri who presides over the Utilization Fund.

"By addressing the existing deficiencies, many more historical structures can be restored and brought back to life."

The minister underlines that the achievements of the fund are far more impressive than in previous years.

Furthermore, he outlined the importance of formulating a comprehensive five-year plan focusing on the restoration, relative economic development, and legal matters related to historical structures.

"The future of cultural heritage and tourism lies in practical and achievable plans. Formulating a five-year plan that is both realistic and implementable is needed for the fund," he urged.

Salehi-Amiri also highlighted the necessity of a further public investment to accelerate progress, calling for an end to day-to-day management as he underlined the adoption of a more strategic, program-based approach.

He pointed out that attracting foreign tourists and keeping pace with neighboring countries requires clear goals and the estab-

lishment of proper infrastructure.

Talai-Shokri, for his part, provided an overview of the fund's recent activities, revealing that over the past year, the fund had managed to restore 47 historical structures, overcoming various challenges along the way. "Last year, we attracted 3.5 trillion rials (some \$5.8 million) in public investment," he added.

Talai-Shokri also shared details of ongoing projects, noting that the fund is currently involved in 154 projects, with 42 buildings under design, 50 in the process of restoration, and 62 already operational, managed by private sector investors.

He underscored the importance of addressing legal and restoration challenges faced by approximately 3,000 government-owned historical buildings and 10,000 privately owned ones.

"Many of these are listed on the National Register of Cultural Heritage and should be prioritized for restoration... There is a need for operational plans to address the registration and preservation of these sites," Talai-Shokri explained.

The director also mentioned plans to introduce incentive packages to encourage public participation in the preservation and revitalization of historical sites.

"The groundwork has been laid for greater investment and the transfer of more historical buildings to private hands under the current administration," he said.

In addition to physical restoration, he highlighted efforts to preserve and share the oral history of some of these sites, with the aim of ensuring their cultural and historical narratives are also safeguarded.

The Fund (known by its Persian acronym SAABTA) provides the opportunity for privately owned businesses to run certain old structures to be maintained and repurposed into boutique hotels, traditional restaurants, or lodging places, among other businesses.

Iran hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments, including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, and gardens, as well as rich natural and rural landscapes, 28 of which have gained UNESCO World Heritage labels.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites

### Ancient City of Damascus



Founded in the 3rd millennium BC, Damascus is one of the oldest cities in the Middle East. In the Middle Ages, it was the center of a flourishing craft industry, specializing in swords and lace. The city has some 125 monuments from different periods of its history – one of the most spectacular is the 8th-century Great Mosque of the Umayyads, built on the site of an Assyrian sanctuary.

According to UNESCO, Damascus is considered to be among the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. Excavations at Tell Ramad on the outskirts of the city have demonstrated that Damascus was inhabited as early as 8,000 to 10,000 BC.

However, it was not documented as an important city until the arrival of the Aramaeans. In the Medieval period, it was the center of a flourishing craft industry, with different areas of the city specializing in particular trades or crafts.

The city exhibits outstanding evidence of the civilizations that created it – Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic.

In particular, the Umayyad caliphate created Damascus as its capital, setting the scene for the city's ongoing development as a living Muslim, Arab city, upon which each succeeding dynasty has left and continues to leave its mark.

In spite of Islam's prevailing influence, traces of earlier cultures particularly the Roman and Byzantine continue to be seen in the city. Thus the city today is based on a Roman plan and maintains the aspect and the orientation of the Greek city, in that all its streets are oriented north-south or east-west and is a key example of urban planning.

The earliest visible physical evidence dates to the Roman period – the extensive remains of the Temple of Jupiter, the remains of various gates, and an impressive section of the Roman city walls.

The city was the capital of the Umayyad Caliphate.

However, apart from the incomparable Great Mosque, built on the site of a Roman temple and overlaying a Christian basilica, there is little visible dating from this important era of the city's history.

The present city walls, the Citadel, some mosques, and tombs survive from the Middle Ages, but the greatest part of the built heritage of the city dates from after the Ottoman conquest of the early 16th century.

The line of the walls of the old city forms the boundary of the property. Although areas outside the walls that represent the expansion of the city from the 13th century, are considered related to the old city in terms of historical significance, and provide its setting and context, the key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value lie within the boundary. These include the plan of the city and its dense urban fabric, city walls, and gates, as well as its 125 protected monuments including the Umayyad Mosque, madrasas, khans, the Citadel, and private houses.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Glimpses of Iranian architecture under Seljuk's patronage

TEHRAN – The Seljuk Empire, one of the most significant Turco-Persian dynasties, played a crucial role in the revitalization of the Muslim world, and particularly in many Iranian cities, from 1037 to 1194.

The Seljuks brought with them distinct cultural and architectural influence that left a lasting legacy across the Islamic world. As their empire expanded, encompassing Persia (the former name of Iran), Mesopotamia, Anatolia, and beyond, the Seljuks fostered a rich environment for intellectual, artistic, and architectural growth. Persia, a central part of their empire, became a major hub of architectural innovation and creativity during this period. The architectural achievements under Seljuk's patronage, especially in Iran, continue to captivate and inspire those interested in Islamic art and history.

It was a period that revived and expanded upon the architectural traditions established by the Umayyads and Abbasids. However, their influence brought innovations in architectural techniques, forms, and decorative styles. In particular, the Seljuks are celebrated for introducing new types of buildings and transforming existing structures to suit their religious, cultural, and commercial needs.

It is notable that all of the Seljuk Empire's capitals are now located within the borders of modern Iran. These capitals were Neyshapur (1037–1043), Ray (1043–1051), Isfahan (1051–1118), Merv (1118–1153), and Hamadan (1118–1194).

Seljuk architecture is widely characterized by its variety and quality, featuring intricate ornamentation, towering structures, and inventive use of space. This period saw the rise of caravanserais and madrasas that reflected the Seljuk rulers' dedication to both trade and education.

On the other hand, the Seljuk era also marked the increased prominence of Sufism, which significantly influenced the construction of mausoleums and religious complexes.

Here is a selection of architectural elements that Seljuks developed or innovated under their patronage, the top specimens of which still stand tall across Iran.

### Iwans: a revolution in mosque design

One of the most significant architectural innovations of the Seljuk era was the development of the Iwan, a vaulted hall or space that opens on one side to a courtyard.



Iwans at the Jameh Mosque of Ardestan (c. 1158–1160), central Iran.

This feature was not entirely new, as the Sassanian Empire had used iwans in their ceremonial architecture, but under the Seljuks, it became a defining element of mosque design.

The traditional hypostyle mosque, with its rows of columns and open prayer halls, was transformed with the introduction of the iwan, which created a more focused, monumental space for worship.

The iwan design quickly spread beyond mosques, becoming a key feature in madrasas, caravanserais, and even hospitals.

In Persia, the city of Isfahan, one of the most important Seljuk capitals, showcases some of the finest examples of iwan-based architecture, such as the Jameh Mosque of Isfahan.

### Minarets: towering achievement

Minarets, tall towers from which the call to a prayer is made, also saw significant evolution under the Seljuks. While earlier minarets were often square in shape, the Seljuks popularized the use of cylindrical minarets.

These new forms of minarets often featured intricate muqarnas (stalactite-like ornamentation) supporting balconies. The Seljuk minaret was not just a functional structure but also a symbol of power and religious devotion.

One of the earliest surviving examples of a Seljuk minaret is found in Saveh (1010) and Damghan (1026–29), both in Iran. The cylindrical form of the minaret soon spread to other parts of the Islamic world. Moreover, the UNESCO-registered Minaret of Jam in Afghanistan, built between 1163 and 1203, stands as one of the most remarkable examples of Seljuk architectural prowess, rising 200 feet with a beautifully ornamented shaft.

### Madrasas: centers for learning and scholarship

Most of the Seljuk rulers were

great patrons of education, and they played a significant role in the expansion and institutionalization of the Madrasa, or an Islamic school. While madrasas had existed in the Khorasan region since the 10th century, it was under the Seljuk Emir Nizam al-Mulk (1018–1092) that the madrasa became a widespread and state-supported institution. These centers of learning were often designed with a four-iwan plan, symbolizing the importance of both religious and secular education.

## It is notable that all of the Seljuk Empire's capitals are now located within the borders of modern Iran.

The best surviving examples of Seljuk madrasas are found in Iran and Anatolia. In addition to grand iwans, these structures typically featured vast courtyards, and elaborate facades adorned with geometric and floral motifs.

### Caravanserais: way stations of trade and travel

Trade was vital to the Seljuk Empire, and their promotion of commerce is best exemplified by the construction of caravanserais.

These structures, also known as khans, were built along major trade routes to provide shelter, food, and safety for travelers and merchants.

The typical Seljuk caravanserai featured a large central courtyard, flanked by iwans and rooms for lodging, storage, and stables. These way stations played an

essential role in facilitating the flow of goods and ideas across the empire.

Those caravanserais were built at regular intervals, usually 30 kilometers apart, reflecting the Seljuk's attention to the practical needs of traders.

### Mausoleums: honoring the dead

The Seljuk period also saw the development of monumental mausoleums, which were built to honor both rulers and religious scholars.

These structures took on a variety of forms, including octagonal, cylindrical, and square shapes, often topped with domes or conical roofs.

The UNESCO-listed mausoleum of Gonbad-e Qabus, constructed in 1007 in northern Iran, and the Tughril tomb tower in Rey, near Tehran, are among the most famous examples of Seljuk funerary architecture.

These mausoleums reflect the Seljuk's deep reverence for religious figures and their association with Sufism, which spread widely during this period. Many of these structures are adorned with intricate brickwork and decorative patterns, showcasing their mastery of architectural ornamentation.

### Kiosk mosques: a unique innovation

Another notable architectural feature introduced during the Seljuk period was the Kiosk Mosque. This small, domed structure, typically supported by arches on three sides, often served as an annex to larger building complexes such as madrasas or caravanserais.

The openness of the design allowed for a more fluid interaction between the mosque's interior and its surroundings. Some of these Kiosk Mosques later formed the basis for larger mosque complexes in cities like Golpaygan, Qazvin, and Ardestan, all in Iran.

The Kiosk Mosque's distinct form, with its compact yet monumental presence, exemplifies the Seljuk's ability to blend functionality with aesthetic innovation. This type of mosque was particularly suited to the needs of travelers and merchants, reflecting the Seljuk's emphasis on facilitating trade and travel across their empire.

## Iran sees tourism surge amid 26% growth in Western Asia's intl. arrivals

TEHRAN – Western Asian countries including Iran have experienced a remarkable 26% increase in international tourist arrivals during the first seven months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2019.

This surge has positioned the region as the fastest-growing in the world for tourism, signaling a robust recovery (from COVID-19 travel restrictions) and increasing confidence among global travelers.

The resurgence of tourism across the region comes despite lingering economic uncertainties and geopolitical challenges. According to the latest data from the UN Tourism, approximately 790 million tourists traveled internationally between January and July 2024. This represents an 11% increase compared to last year and brings global tourism to 96% of its pre-pandemic levels, the Travel and Tour World reported.

Amid this regional revival, Iran is capitalizing on its vast cultural and historical assets to draw more international visitors. Despite some geopolitical challenges, the Islamic Republic continues to attract tourists eager to explore its ancient sites, such as Persepolis, and its vibrant cultural heritage in cities like Isfahan, Yazd, and Shiraz.



The Iranian government has initiated efforts to improve tourist facilities and promote lesser-known destinations, such as eco-tourism in its diverse landscapes and traditional villages. These measures are helping to shift global perceptions of Iran as a travel destination and bring the country more prominently onto the global tourism map.

### Regional tourism growth

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar have also seen significant boosts in tourist numbers. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 initiative, which aims to diversify the country's economy, has prioritized tourism development, while the UAE continues to be a hotspot, particularly in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Meanwhile, Qatar has built on the momen-

tum from hosting the FIFA World Cup 2022 by enhancing its cultural and sports tourism offerings.

Other Persian Gulf littoral states, including Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain, are attracting tourists through investments in infrastructure, cultural festivals, and historical preservation. Oman, for instance, has seen growth in eco-tourism, while Bahrain's promotion of events like the Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix has enhanced its tourism profile.

### Key factors driving growth

Several factors are driving this resurgence in Middle Eastern tourism. Enhanced air connectivity through expanded flight routes, significant investments in tourism infrastructure, and digital initiatives such as streamlined visa processing have made the region more accessible and appealing. Additionally, a rich calendar of cultural festivals and international events continues to attract visitors from around the world.

As the region continues to redefine the global tourism landscape, Iran's role in welcoming travelers to explore its rich heritage will remain essential.



# Over 2,500 Iranians among world's top 2% most-cited researchers

TEHRAN –Stanford University, using Scopus data provided by Elsevier, has listed 2,503 Iranian researchers among the top 2 percent of the most-cited scientists in the world, a significant growth compared to 1,870 researchers in 2023.

The selection is based on the top 100,000 scientists by c-score (with and without self-citations) or a percentile rank of 2 percent or above in the sub-field. This version (7) is based on the August 1, 2024, snapshot from Scopus, updated to the end of the citation year 2023.

The inclusion in the 'Top 2%' list is determined by several key metrics. C-score which is the composite score based on various bibliometric factors, including the total number of citations, h-index, and the number of citations with and without self-citations.

Field and Sub-field Percentiles: scientists are classified into 22 broad fields and 176 sub-fields. Only those who rank in the top 2% of their sub-field are included.

Career-Long vs. Single-Year Impact: the ranking is available for both career-long impact and single-year performance, offering insights into both long-term contributions and recent achievements.

**Iran ranks 32nd in 2024 Research Leaders worldwide**

The 2024 edition of the Nature Index Research Leaders report placed Iran 32nd among Research Leaders globally. The report is based on Nature Index data from January 1 to December 31, 2023.



Institute for Fundamental Sciences (IPM), University of Tehran, and Sharif University of Technology were ranked first to third in the country.

The country was ranked second in Physical Sciences, third in Chemistry, as well as Health Sciences, fourth in Earth and Environmental Sciences, and fifth in Biological Sciences in the region.

Iran's best global ranking was in Physical Sciences with the rank of 27.

The Nature Index is an open database of author affiliations and institutional relationships. The Index tracks contributions to research articles published in high-quality natural science and health science journals, chosen based on reputation by an independent group of researchers.

The Nature Index provides absolute Count and fractional share counts of article publications at

the institutional and national levels and, as such, is an indicator of global high-quality research output and collaboration.

Data in the Nature Index are updated regularly, with the most recent 12 months. The database is compiled by Nature Research Intelligence, part of Springer Nature.

**Iran ranks 14th for most-cited institutes**

The number of top Iranian universities and research institutes in the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database has increased from 115 last year to 134 this year, ranking the country 14th worldwide, and second among Islamic countries, the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has reported.

Essential Science Indicators, or ESI, is a fundamental analysis and evaluation tool that reveals emerging science trends, as well as the performance of influential individuals, academic institutions, papers, journals, countries, and regions in

various fields of scientific research.

A total of 9,019 universities and research institutes in all subject areas are ranked by the ESI database in a ten-year period, from 2014 to 2024.

Iran's top universities and research institutes are present in 19 subject areas, and the largest number is in the clinical medicine subject area with 74 universities and research institutes.

The number of institutions in the subject areas of engineering was 67, chemistry 57, agricultural sciences 29, materials sciences 28, pharmacology and toxicology 27, social sciences, general sciences 21.

Also, the number of institutions in the fields of plant and animal sciences, and environment/ecology 20 each, neuroscience and behavior 18, biology and biochemistry 17, computer science 15, immunology 10, geology 8, molecular biology and genetics and physics 5 each, microbiology and psychiatry and psychology 3 each and mathematics one.

The ranking includes 35 Islamic countries. Turkey ranks first among Islamic nations, followed by Iran in second place.

Also, Turkey with 149 universities and research institutes ranks 12th in the world.

Egypt (with 48 universities and research institutes) ranks 25th, Pakistan (with 46 universities) ranks 27th, and Saudi Arabia (with 45 universities) ranks 38th, respectively.

## Iran, Cuba to expand ties in AI, digital economy

TEHRAN –Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister, Sattar Hashemi, and his Cuban counterpart, Mayra Arevich Marin, have explored ways to bolster cooperation in different fields of ICT.

Conducting a video call on Tuesday afternoon, the officials further reviewed possibilities to enhance ties in artificial intelligence, digital economy, and e-government, as well as post companies, Mehr news agency reported.

During the meeting, Arevich Marin proposed and highlighted expanding collaborations based on formerly signed agreements.

The official also welcomed the presence of Iranian private companies active in providing ICT-related equipment and services in Cuba.

Hashemi, for his part, announced Iranian private companies' readiness to provide ICT services in Cuba and expressed optimism to promptly implement needed measures.

Arevich Marin also passed an invitation to his Iranian counterpart to attend the 19th Joint Economic Commission of Iran and Cuba, as well as the 40th edition of the Havana International Fair (FIHAV) which is scheduled to take place from November 4 to 9.

**Iran ready to assist Cuba for ICT growth**

In July, Issa Zarepour, the then ICT minister,

in a meeting with Cuba's First Deputy Minister of Communications, Wilfredo González Vidal, in Tehran said Iranian companies are ready to enter the Cuban market and transfer their experiences in the field of information and communications technology.

"It is important for Havana to develop strategic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields," IRIB quoted the Cuban official as saying.

Underscoring Tehran's experiences and capabilities in areas related to ICT, González Vidal went on to say that boosting cooperation between the two countries is of more importance. "Cuba is eagerly waiting for the presence of Iranian companies in the country to expand the information and communications technology."

He further noted that since the ICT industry has a special place in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development of the country, the expansion of communication networks and electronic governance are the top priorities for cooperation.

Referring to Iranian companies' capabilities in the ICT sector, Zarepour, for his part, said that the companies are ready to cooperate with Cuba in different fields such as developing the communications infrastructure, launching various platforms, and implementing optical fiber projects.

They can also help Cuba with the generational transition of the communication network from the second and third to the fourth and even provide the ground for entering the fifth generation. "Moreover, Iran's experiences in e-governance can be shared with Cuba," he further noted.

Iran and Cuba have also announced readiness to exchange knowledge and experience in electronic governance and related fields.

The agreement was reached following a memorandum of understanding signed in June 2023 and the subsequent signing of the joint action plan between the two countries.

In this line, Iran's Deputy Minister of Information and Communications Technology, Mohammad Khansari, met González Vidal virtually on December 13, 2023, Mehr news agency reported.

Khansari, referring to the history of cooperation between the two countries and the visit of Cuban President, Miguel Díaz-Canel, to Iran, emphasized, "Iran is ready to exchange experiences in communication fields, especially smart electronic governance."

González Vidal, welcoming the issues raised in the meeting, stated that Cuba is interested in using Iran's experiences in the field of smart e-governance, especially in the field of education, and also using the capacities of Iranian companies in order to meet Cuba's technological needs.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## System to be set up for monitoring, forecasting agricultural drought

A system will be launched to monitor, forecast and report the agricultural lands being hit by drought, Amir Qaderi, an official with Disaster Management Organization has announced.

Over a meeting of a special working group for addressing drought and risks threatening agricultural sector, a plan for establishing a system for monitoring and forecasting agricultural drought in the country was approved and submitted to the Disaster Management Organization for review, he explained. "Following the study of other countries' experiences and existing global methods, the necessity of establishing a domestic system to recognize the lands prone to agricultural drought was emphasized," he noted.

## سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران ایجاد می‌شود

معاون امور بازرسی و بازرسی سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور از ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران خبر داد. به گزارش پایگاه اطلاع رسانی سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور، امیر قادری روز یکشنبه با اعلام این خبر گفت: طرح ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران طی جلسه‌ای با حضور مدیران و کارشناسان سازمان مدیریت بحران و وزارت جهاد کشاورزی بررسی شد.

وی ادامه داد: پس از بررسی تجارب داخلی و روش‌های موجود جهانی، ضرورت استقرار نمونه بومی پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی مورد تأکید قرار گرفت و با مشارکت مراکز پژوهشی سازمان هواشناسی کشور و پژوهشکده حفاظت خاک و آبخیزداری طرح ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران پیش‌نهاد شد.

## Iranian Universities advance in NTU Rankings 2024

TEHRAN –The Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities, also known as the National Taiwan University (NTU) Rankings, has placed 21 Iranian institutions among top 1,200 universities worldwide, compared to 18 universities in 2023.

University of Tehran won the best ranking among Iranian institutions, ranking 291 globally.

University of Tehran ranked 30 in chemical engineering as well as energy science and engineering, 34 in mechanical engineering, and 73 in agriculture.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (with a global ranking of 359), Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences (491), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (540), and Tarbiat Modares University (577) are placed second to fifth, respectively.

Tehran University of Medical Science's best ranking globally was 22 in pharmacology and toxicology.

The performance measurements are composed of eight indicators. These indicators together represent three different criteria of research performance, which include research productivity, research impact, and research excellence.

The eight indicators include the number of articles in the last 11 years (2013-2023); the number of articles in 2023; the number of citations in the last 11 years (2013-2023); the number of citations in the last 2 years (2022-2023); average number of citations in the last 11 years (2013-2023); h-index of the last 2 years (2022-2023); number of Highly Cited Papers (2013-2023); number of articles in high-impact journals in 2022-2023.

NTU World University Rankings divided subjects into 6 fields, with them being Agriculture, Engineering, Life Science, Medicine, Nature Sciences, and Social Sciences respectively, and categorized them in regards to the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) research fields.

Moreover, Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology and Yasouj University are among the top 1200 institutions in the world based on full-time academic staff.

### Recent rankings

The 2024-2025 edition of Best Global Universities rankings included 69 Iranian universities, up from 52 in 2023, among the world's 2,250 top universities.

These institutions from 104 countries were ranked based on 13 indicators that measure their academic research performance and their global and regional reputations which helps students to explore the higher education options that exist beyond their own countries' borders and to compare key aspects of schools' research missions.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 275), Islamic Azad University (374), Sharif University of Technology and Tehran University of Medical Sciences (516), University of Tabriz (521), and Amirkabir University of Technology (649) ranked first to fifth in the country, respectively.

Shanghai ranking 2024 placed nine Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide.

The 2024 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) was released by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy.

Since 2003, ARWU has been presenting the world's top universities annually based on transparent methodology and objective third-party data. It has been recognized as the precursor of global university rankings and the most trustworthy one.

This year, more than 2,500 institutions were scrutinized, and the best 1,000 universities in the world were published.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran, which were among the top 500 universities in the world with a rank of 401-500, were placed top in the country.

Tarbiat Modares University (601-700) was placed second.

Iran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology with a ranking of 701-800, shared the third rank in the country.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, and University of Tabriz (901-1000) were ranked joint fourth.



According to data released by Web of Science (WoS), Iran's ranking in Quantum Science and Technology publications improved from 23 in 2014 to 16 in 2023, placing the country top among Islamic nations in all quantum technology fields.

Iran's best global ranking was in quantum remote sensing technology. The country was ranked eighth worldwide.

The country's other global ranking included photonic network technologies, 17; superconducting circuits, 18; spin qubit, 16; neutral (cold) atoms, 21; Trapped ions, 19; quantum key distribution, 24; quantum repeater, 26; quantum clock, 12; quantum imaging, 14; and quantum radar, 15.

The Times Higher Education (THE) included 33 universities from Iran among the top 1,500 universities pursuing sustainable development goals (SDG) compared to 27 universities in 2023.

THE evaluated 2,152 universities from 125 countries to produce the overall Impact Ranking for 2024.

A total of 29 Iranian universities were mentioned in the overall table including Alzahra University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Kerman University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401-600); Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, and University of Tehran (ranking 601-800); Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University, Sharif University of Technology, University of Kurdistan, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences (ranking 801-1000), Mehr news agency reported.

Amirkabir University of Technology and Sharif University of Technology achieved the highest ranking in industry innovation and infrastructure, placing 27th.

The 21st edition of the QS World University Rankings (2025) placed nine Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, compared with seven universities in 2024.

This year's ranking featured over 1,500 institutions across 105 higher education systems.

Sharif University of Technology (with a rank of 342), University of Tehran (368), Amirkabir University of Technology (403), Iran University of Science and Technology (436), and Isfahan University of Technology (489) were ranked first to fifth, respectively.

Tabriz University (552), Shiraz University (691-700), Shahid Beheshti University (851-900), and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (951-1000) were other top Iranian universities included in the ranking.

A total of 29 Islamic countries with 270 universities were included in this ranking.

Malaysia, Indonesia, and Turkey ranked first to third respectively in terms of the number of universities. Iran ranked 11th among Islamic nations in this year's QS ranking.

SCImago Institutions Rankings (SIR) 2024 placed 197 Iranian universities among the top institutions in the world compared to 194 universities in 2023.

The SIR is a classification of academic and research-related institutions ranked by a composite indicator that combines three different sets of indicators based on research performance, innovation outputs, and societal impact measured by their web visibility.

In the latest ranking, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (5) and the University of Tehran (10) were among the top 10 institutions in West Asia. They ranked 6th and 11th, respectively, in the 2023 ranking.

The Research rankings of Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran were 175 and 290, respectively, in the world.

**HIGHLIGHT:** The ranking placed 21 Iranian institutions among top 1,200 universities worldwide, compared to 18 universities in 2023.





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SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Be generous but not extravagant, be frugal but not miserly.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times » Noon:11:57 Evening: 17:59 Dawn: 4:30 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:54 (tomorrow)

## Robert Hamblin's biography of William Faulkner published in Persian

TEHRAN- "Myself and the World", Robert W. Hamblin's biography of American prominent writer William Faulkner, has recently been published in Persian.

Elham Gerami is the translator of the book, which has been published by Maneketab Publications in Tehran.

William Faulkner (1897-1962) once remarked, "I am telling the same story over and over, which is myself and the world." This sentiment encapsulates the essence of "Myself and the World", a comprehensive biography of the influential American author. Written by Robert W. Hamblin, the book intricately explores the interplay between Faulkner's life in Oxford, Mississippi, and the rich tapestry of characters and events that populate his literary works.

The biography begins with a compelling chapter focused on Faulkner's most notable ancestor, W. C. Falkner, often referred to as "the Old Colonel." This ancestor's influence is pivotal, shaping both the content and the stylistic elements of Faulkner's fiction. From this foundation, Hamblin meticulously traces the milestones of Faulkner's life, from his formative years and early poetic endeavors to his time in New Orleans, where he constructed the fictional landscape of Yoknapatawpha County. The narrative further delves into the struggles he faced, his extraordinary burst of creativity, his experiences in Hollywood, and his eventual accolade of the Nobel Prize in Literature. The biography culminates with an exploration of Faulkner's final years, during which he became a revered figure in literature, a cultural ambassador, and a university writer-in-residence.

Faulkner's journey was fraught with personal challenges, as he himself acknowledged in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, discussing the "agony and sweat of the human spirit" inherent in the artistic process. His life was marked by poverty, neglect, chronic depression, and alcoholism, which he navigated while grappling with unhappiness in his personal relationships.



Despite these adversities, Faulkner's narrative remains one of resilience and perseverance, echoing the central theme of endurance woven throughout his works. His life story is a testament to overcoming hardship and ultimately achieving literary acclaim.

"Myself and the World" serves as a vital resource for those seeking to understand the enigmatic nature of Faulkner. The author, Robert

Hamblin, addresses the complexities of Faulkner's character with clarity, presenting a well-rounded account that reflects both the struggles he faced and the triumphs he achieved. Unlike previous biographers, who may have overwhelmed readers with excessive detail, Hamblin provides a straightforward and engaging narrative that highlights Faulkner's foundational years, his stylistic evolution, and his significant contributions to modern literature.

This biography is crafted to appeal to both new readers and seasoned Faulkner enthusiasts alike. Hamblin's clear and vivid prose invites readers into Faulkner's world, making it accessible even to those who may find his literary works challenging. The author merges scholarly insight with a structured narrative.

Hamblin's portrayal of Faulkner is both respectful and honest, and it does not shy away from less admirable aspects of his personality and behavior. Readers will find that while Faulkner's genius is duly celebrated, Hamblin provides a critical yet fair examination of the author's whole life. In doing so, "Myself and the World" stands as a necessary contribution to Faulkner scholarship, offering a nuanced understanding of a complex figure whose work continues to resonate with audiences around the world. Through this biography, we gain not just an understanding of Faulkner's literature, but also a glimpse into the life of a remarkable man who captured the intricacies of the human experience in his writing.

## Cartoon of Day



Israel attacks Lebanon  
Cartoonist: Mahmoud Rifai from Jordan

# 11 Iranian films, series to compete in Romanian festival Simfest

TEHRAN-The 21st International Film and Television Festival "Simfest" that will be held from September 30 to October 6 in Tirgu Mures, Romania, will host 11 films and series from Iran.

The Iranian films and series will be screened in five different sections of the Romanian festival, Honaronline reported.

In the Feature Films section, "Little White Fish" directed by Mohammad Ali Vahaj will be shown. "Ali vs. Ali" by Alireza Rofougaran will take part in the Documentaries section.

The Short Movies section will screen five films from Iran including "A Pleasant Conversation" by Amir Hasanbeik, "The Wall" by Arezoo Monfared and Yaser Falahati, "Electron" by Mehran Ranjbar, "Nietzschean Suicide" by Payam Kordestani, and "We" by Sara Bahramjahan.

Two movies will participate in the Student Project Fictions section, namely "Anarchy" by Majid Kazemi and "Hearse" by Solmaz Etemad. Moreover, two series "The Asphalt Jungle" by Pejman Theymourtash and "Accomplice" by Maziar Miri two series will take part in the Entertainment section.

Simfest is a film and TV festival - competition, the only one of its



A poster for Iranian series "Accomplice" by Maziar Miri

kind in Romania and one of the few in Europe. It is organized every year by Simfest Cultural Association, which supports and promotes the creators in visual arts.

SIMFEST stands for professionalism and for the freedom of expression of the journalists and the media producers.

The festival promotes, at the same time, local journalism and community mass-media.

It is a complex manifestation for electronic media. It is the annual meeting point of the films and TV's world specialists from Romania and, in the last years, from all of the world, of students, independent producers, and of

media enthusiasts.

It is a competition that is designed to find and form values and talents, to give them the needed validation and for connecting them with the medium in which they can develop. It is a competition and, at the same time, a media school and a cultural event.

## TMoCA to commemorate late painter Sirak Melkonian

TEHRAN-The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA) will hold a commemoration ceremony on Wednesday for the late artist Sirak Melkonian who passed away last month.

The ceremony will be part of the "One Work, One Session" program, in which a painting by Melkonian will be displayed and examined by veteran painters Gholamhossein Nami and Hassan Mourizinejad as well as art researcher and critic Abdolbassir Hosseinbor, ILNA reported.

Melkonian, an Iranian-Armenian painter and one of the founders of the modern art movement in the country passed away on August 17 in Toronto, Canada, at 93.

Born in Tehran, Melkonian met Marcos Grigorian, a prominent Iranian-Armenian modernist painter, after graduating from high school and learned modern European art and the art of the world from him. Melkonian's early works had a figurative and realistic approach.

In 1957, he won the Contemporary Iranian Artists Award at the Iran-America Society, and in 1958 he won the Imperial Court Prize,



Commemoration of SIRAK MELKONIAN One of the Pioneers of Iranian Modern Art Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 17:00 Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art

Tehran Biennial. Grigorian encouraged him to move to Italy to study art at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma.

He quit studying there and continued learning art experimentally. He participated in the Venice Biennale and soon afterward won the Paris Biennale prize.

In the early 1960s Melkonian began focusing more specifically on abstraction in his work, and became a leading figure in the Iranian art scene, due to his successes at home and internationally.

Melkonian founded the Azad Art Group in the early 1970s, with some other important

artists living and working in Iran at the time.

They were introduced formally at the Tehran International Art Fair in 1974, pushing the boundaries and understanding of conceptual art and installation works in Iran.

Limited color palettes and the emphasis on line and form in Melkonian's works have always been more important than the subject. The figurative language of his works has found an expressionist and then abstract side over time.

Melkonian's mastery of visual qualities of line and color has created a perfect cohesion and balance that may be considered the closest common feature of his works with pristine nature.

Melkonian exhibited his work in over 140 exhibitions worldwide, from Tehran to Paris, New York to Yerevan. His works can be found in major public and private international collections; such as the Niavaran Palace, TMoCA, and LACMA.

The commemoration ceremony will start at 5 p.m. at the conference hall of the TMoCA, located next to Laleh Park, on North Kargar St. Admission is free for the public.

## Iranian film honored at France's Youality International Short Film Festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian short film "Smile at Me" written, directed, and produced by Keyvan Azad received an honorable mention from the 4th Youality International Short Film Festival that was held in France on September 20.

More than 400 films took part at the 4th edition of the festival, which focuses on poetic filmmaking, ILNA reported.

"Smile at Me," a six-minute social drama, is about a young boy

who decides to commit suicide by jumping off a bridge as a result of having difficult problems in life including loneliness, financial strains, and so on. However, on his way to the bridge, he faces a reality that completely changes his decision.

The cast of the 2024 production includes Amirhossein Fahadan, Arian Farshizadeh, Parham Gholamli, Arian Tavasoli, Ayhan Ghorbani, and Samiyar Bagheri among others.

Youality International Short Film Festival is an annual short film festival based in France aiming to discover international filmmaking talents and make a network of filmmakers all over the world. The festival supports short films of general categories.

The festival tries to extend a new approach of introducing beautiful minds of filmmaking talents all over the world. It also seeks to support women filmmakers in a special regard.

Iranian director and playwright Kamran Rasoolzadeh, 46, in the president of the festival. "Gavchah" is one of his documentary films which was best travel film of the 41st "Autumn in Voronet" International Film Festival in Romania 2021.

Also a poet, singer, songwriter, and musician, he has published seven poetry books and three music albums, and has held concerts across Iran.

## Musical play "The Emperor's New Clothes" to go on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN- A musical adaptation of the folktale "The Emperor's New Clothes," will go on stage for children in Niavaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Wednesday.

Sepideh Zeinali is the director of the play, which will remain on stage until Friday.

Alireza Zokai, Hossein Moqaddassin, Amir Ali Sohbaty and Maryam Sadeqian Amin are the main members of the cast for the play.

"The Emperor's New Clothes" is a classic folktale written by Hans Christian Andersen, first published in 1837. The story is a satirical take on vanity, pride, and the nature of truth, showcasing how people can be swayed by social expectations and appearances.

The tale follows an emperor who is obsessed

with fashion and prides himself on wearing the most exquisite clothes. When two swindlers arrive in town, they claim to be able to weave the most magnificent fabric that is invisible to anyone who is incompetent or unfit for their position. Intrigued by their claims and eager to prove his own wisdom, the emperor hires the swindlers to create garments made from this magical fabric.

As the swindlers pretend to weave, they do not actually produce any fabric at all. However, fearing that they will be revealed as foolish or unfit for their roles, the emperor and his ministers pretend to see and admire the nonexistent clothes. The entire court goes along with the ruse, each person too proud to admit they cannot see the garments.

When the emperor finally parades through the streets in his new "clothes," the crowd also pretends to admire his attire, worried about what others might think of them if they disagree. It is only when a small child in the crowd innocently exclaims that the emperor is wearing nothing at all that the facade shatters. The truth is revealed, and while the emperor realizes he has been deceived, he continues the procession, too proud to acknowledge his embarrassment.

The story serves as a powerful reminder about the dangers of vanity, the power of collective deception, and the importance of honesty. It illustrates how the desire to conform can lead individuals to abandon their common sense and speak untruths, often out of fear of judgment.