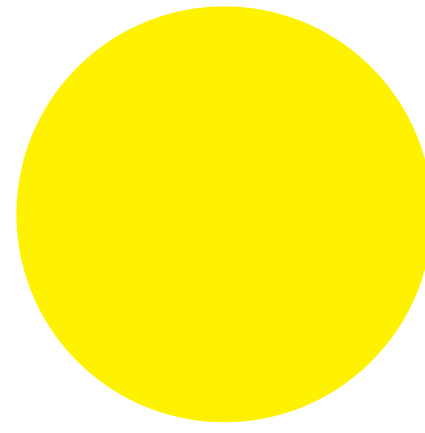


**Leader:** None can stop resistance if Israeli crimes continue

7 >



# Iran Daily



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# Hundreds Killed in Israeli Air Strike on Gaza Hospital

An Israeli air strike on Tuesday killed hundreds of Palestinians at a Gaza City hospital crammed with patients and displaced people, health authorities in the besieged Palestinian territory said.

The strike was the bloodiest single incident since Israel launched an unrelenting bombing campaign against Gaza on October 7.

A civil defense chief in Gaza said on Al-Jazeera television that more than 300 people were killed at Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital. A Gaza Health Ministry official said at least 500 people were killed and injured.



A body lies on the ground after an Israeli air strike hit Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital in Gaza City where thousands of civilians were seeking medical treatment and shelter from relentless Israeli attacks on October 17, 2023.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran H1  
pistachio  
exports  
at \$137m

**IRNA** – The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced that Iran has exported \$137 million worth of pistachios during the first half of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22). According to IRICA, Iran exported around 20,000 tons of high-quality pistachio nuts that represents a seven percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Tehran to host  
2nd Eurasia  
EXPO

**IRNA** – The 2nd Eurasia EXPO 2023 will be held in Tehran on December 4-7, announced the head of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization. This event is to be held with the presence of the officials of the Eurasian Union states and some members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Mehdi Zeighami said on Tuesday.

EU exports to  
Iran exceed  
€2.2b in seven  
months

**TASNIM** – The European Union's statistics office Eurostat said in its latest report that EU countries exported more than €2.2 billion worth of products to Iran from January to July 2023, showing a six percent decline compared to the same period last year. Eurostat put the total value of trade between Iran and the 27 European countries at €2.678 billion in the first seven months of the current year, registering a 10 percent slump compared to last year's corresponding period. The EU countries imported €475 million worth of products from Iran from January to July 2023, recording a 25 percent decline compared to the corresponding period last year.

## Belarus-Iran trade triples in 2022

Lukashenko to Iran: Let's counter the West's attacks together

## Economy Desk

Trade between Belarus and Iran increased three-fold in 2022 year-on-year, the Belarusian prime minister said, adding that Minsk highly values friendly ties with Tehran. Roman Golovchenko made the remarks during his meeting with the First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Mokhber in Minsk, Belarus, on October 17, BelTA reported. "This year, we have added another 25 percent to the high figures of the previous year," the prime minister said.

Golovchenko stated that the Belarus president's visit to Iran in March 2023 made an important mark in building the Belarus-Iran strategic partnership.

The prime minister stressed that the country is precisely fulfilling "the provisions of the roadmap of comprehensive cooperation between the two countries in 2023-2026," which was signed during the visit of the Belarusian president to Iran in March 2023. "This is a systematic document to let us work through a list of specific practical measures. Many



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko (l) holds talks with Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber in Minsk, Belarus on October 17. ● BelTA

measures of this roadmap are being successfully implemented," Golovchenko said.

The Belarusian prime minister said that Minsk expects Mokhber's visit "to add even greater dynamics to interaction on projects in trade and economy, manufacturing and investment cooperation, petrochemical industry, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and transport." Mohammad Mokhber,

for his part, highlighted, "Iran's strategy is aimed at advancing economic and political relations with Belarus."

On Tuesday, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko also met with the Iranian first vice president, stating the two countries should work "closely" together to counter attacks from the West.

The Belarusian president accused "unfriendly countries" — such as the US

and other Western nations — of using never-ending Middle East tensions to poke Iran.

"The situation in the world is heating up," Lukashenko underscored.

"The pressure exerted on our states is unprecedented," Lukashenko told Mokhber. "But you have already learned to resist it to some extent, and your experience is valuable for us."

"The most important

thing for us is time, not sanctions and pressure. We should not lose time because of red tape," the Belarusian leader said.

During Mokhber's visit to Minsk, the Iranian official is set to meet several Belarusians for "high-level bilateral talks," according to IRNA.

The one-day visit is expected to result in a new cooperation document to strengthen "ties between the two nations".

Astana-Tehran cooperation  
developing comprehensively: *Envoy*

"Kazakhstan's cooperation with Iran is developing comprehensively," said the Kazakh ambassador to Tehran on Monday, "examples of which are the official

visit of the president of Kazakhstan to Iran last year."

Speaking at a ceremony held in Tehran to celebrate the National Day of Kazakhstan on Monday evening, Askhat Orazbay added that the Kazakh prime minister visited Iran this spring, and the official visit of Iran's Pres-

ident Ebrahim Raisi to his country is expected in the near future.

The ceremony was attended by ambassadors of other countries and international organizations to Iran as well as guests from Iran.

These will certainly give a new impetus to the further development of bilateral cooperation, the ambassador noted.

"During a short period by historical standards, our country has passed a long and hard way of establishing its statehood. At the beginning of independence, Kazakhstan started implementing reforms aimed at transforming from a Soviet type planned economy to a modern free market economy," Orazbay said.

The envoy went on to say that modernization and economic growth were the main priorities.

"Facts convincingly speak about our success in state-building and conducting economic reforms.

As a result, Kazakhstan has become a leading country in the Central Asian region," said the ambassador.

Kazakhstan is a country with a rich historical and cultural heritage. It is located in the heart of Eurasia, at the crossroads of the world's oldest civilizations, connecting the East with the West, where traditional Islamic values harmoniously coexist with Western values.

Despite being the world's ninth largest country by territory and having the longest land borders, Kazakhstan at the outset of its independence has managed to fully complete the legal process of delimitation and demarcation of its borders with all neighboring countries including Russia and China, he stated.

"We do not have territorial disputes with any of our neighboring countries."

Thanks to its multi-directional foreign policy, Kazakhstan does not have a

single enemy country in the world, Orazbay said, adding that a significant achievement of Kazakhstan has been shutting down one of the largest nuclear test sites, known as Semipalatinsk. At that time, Kazakhstan possessed the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world.

Construction in a short time of a totally new and modern capital in the middle of the country, the city of Astana became a symbol of independence and sovereignty and a milestone in the country's modern history.

Also speaking at the event, Houshang Mohammadi, a deputy agriculture minister of Iran said the two countries enjoy friendly relations.

Pointing to the current ascending trend of trade between Kazakhstan and Iran, Mohammadi said that considering the potentials of both sides, the level of bilateral trade could rise much further.

## Iran's six-month car production up 23%

## Economy Desk

Iran's production of all types of cars increased by 23% in the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22) compared to the same period last year.

According to a report released by Iran's Ministry of

Industry, Mine, and Trade on Tuesday, the country manufactured 642,930 automobiles during the six months to September 22, IRNA reported. Iranian automakers produced 524,256 cars during the first six months of the previous Iranian year, the report indicated. Private and state-run au-

tomakers of Iran manufactured a total of 89,054 cars during the months to September 22, three percent more than the related figure of last year which was 86,451 sets. A sum of 545,180 sedans were produced in the country during H1 of the current Iranian year, indicating a

19 percent growth compared to the corresponding figure of last year (456,617 cars).

The report also revealed that a 46 percent rise was registered in pickup production in Iran as 76,032 pickup cars were produced during the six months to September 22.





# Enduring legacy of soap craftsmanship



● IRAN DAILY



**Mahdieh Qazvinian**  
Staff writer

The Sahab Jame' Street is one of the oldest, renowned for its rich history. In the past, it was lined with bustling soap shops and traditional soap makers. In the passage of time, only one small soap store has stood the test of time, preserving its authentic charm. With its quaint ambiance and a wide array of homemade soaps, it continues to enchant visitors, carrying on the legacy of soap craftsmanship.

This shop, with its wooden facade and windows, still carries the scent of tallow and sulfur, just like it did 60 years ago. Baskets filled with various molds for traditional and herbal soaps are neatly arranged on the counter. Organic soaps made with olive oil, ostrich oil, and coconut oil are also available. An old-fashioned balance scale and a perpetually hot kettle and teapot have found their place in another corner of

this old shop.

The owner of this shop, Mohammad Salehi, has preserved his family business with love and passion, alongside his devoted son. His late father, Hajj Yousef Salehi, embarked on his journey in 1953 as a worker within one of these soap-making workshops. In 1962, he courageously established his very own shop, with his son Mohammad as his constant companion. Even after Hajj Yousef's departure from this world in 2001, Mohammad has gracefully shouldered the responsibility of managing the shop, ensuring its continued success.

Mohammad learned the art of soap-making from his father. From a very young age, he would light the fire under the cauldron, or mix the soap ingredients, creating a rich and profitable business.

From the very moment you step into the store, the carefully arranged soaps displaying behind the glass capture your attention. As

you enter, a delightful mix of fragrances, including those of oil, olive, coffee, and cleaning supplies, fills the air, evoking a sense of nostalgia. The atmosphere of the store has remained unchanged, just like stepping back in time, with every item preserved carefully from the 1960s.

Despite market fluctuations and the emergence of competitors with beautiful packaging, Mohammad never abandoned his father's job. Even at the age of 70, true to his father's legacy, he continues to produce soap in a workshop near Varamin. Not only that, but he generously shares his knowledge and skills with interested and aspiring individuals, providing free training.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Mohammad Salehi said, "Some people believe that if I rent out my shop, I'll make much more profit than running a soap store that seems outdated. However, I personally have confidence in offering peo-

ple natural and premium products. It's more than enough."

Salehi continued that the shopkeepers on this street are well aware of the soap store's popularity over the past fifty years. Customers, whether from nearby or distant places, would flock to this store, forming long queues to purchase the coveted soap. Moreover, even traveling merchants recognized the demand for these traditional soaps, often showcasing a wide range of soap molds, thereby amplifying their sales.

In this soap shop, an exquisite assortment of soaps is crafted, each serving a unique purpose. From specialized soaps for washing hair and face to the soaps made from olive oil, ostrich oil, coffee and turmeric, in fact there's a perfect soap for every need.

He added that the history of soap entering Iran dates back to the Safavid era, when materials for washing the body and hair were made with clay and ashes. The establishment of the

soap industry in Iran can also be attributed to the trips made by Nassereddin Shah Qajar to Europe and the soaps he brought back as souvenirs for the women of his palace. This led to the construction of the first soap factories and workshops in Tehran and Tabriz.

He noted that in Tehran, soap factories and workshops were established in a neighborhood located close to the Grand Bazaar, which later became known as the Saboonpaz Khaneh (Soap Making House).

The neighborhood emitted the smell of fat and sulfur that could be sensed from several kilometers away. Typically, in their premises such as courtyards and verandas, they would place the molds of the baked soaps next to each other to dry. Over time, this neighborhood became full of shops selling these soaps, one of which was Salehi Shop.

This old soap seller believes that the support of citizens and officials is cru-

cial for preserving a part of Tehran's identity and history.

"Perhaps old-fashioned soaps may not align with the taste of today's public, but paying attention to this business can preserve both history and enhance the

city's attractions," Salehi said.

One of the exquisite treasures of this store is a magnificent large soap mold passed down as part of his sister's dowry. It has gracefully endured the passage of time since 1969.

## Polish family's journey into Islamic art and Persian studies

The first encounter of the Polish Czartoryski family with Islamic art may have taken place in 1731 when Prince August Aleksander Czartoryski (1697-1782) married Maria Zofia Sieniawska (1699-1777), heiress of the Sieniawski family estates with its rich Persian collections.

Their son, Prince Adam Kazimierz Czartoryski (1734-1823), inherited their collection as well as their predilection for art. He and his wife, Princess Izabela Czartoryska, founded the oldest art collection in Poland which was later converted into the Czartoryski Museum and Library in Pulawy.

Adam Kazimierz was also interested in linguistic and etymological studies which prompted him to learn Turkish, Arabic and Persian. To further pursue his efforts in Persian stud-

ies, he established correspondence with the English linguist, encyclopaedist and translator of Hafez, Sir William Jones (1746-1794) — best known for his proposition of a relationship between what later became known as Indo-European languages.

In 1786, Jones sent, among others, an ornate letter in Persian, expressing compliments to Czartoryski and regrets for the distance and impossibility of a personal meeting. These Persian letters were translated for Czartoryski to French by an Albanian resident in Warsaw, Antoni Lukasz Crutta (1727-1814), who worked as translator at the Polish court from 1765.

Czartoryski's fascination with Hafez was augmented by his acquaintance with Karl Emmerich Revczky (1737-1793), an Austrian diplomat of Hungarian de-



The original venue of the Czartoryski Museum  
● [krakow.wik](http://krakow.wik)

scent and a noted expert on the Middle East.

In 1771, Revczky published Specimen poeseos Persicae, presenting sam-

ples of the poetry of Hafez — sixteen *ghazals* — in Persian original and in Latin translations. While this pioneering work contribut-

ed to the diffusion of Hafez's poetry in Europe and its popularity in Poland, the friendship between people like Czartoryski, Revczky

and Jones created an intimate network of European intellectuals who shared a devotion to Islamic culture and art.

Among the Persian manuscripts bought by the Czartoryski family during this period is a copy of the *Khamseh* of Amir Khusraw Dihlavi, accompanied by seventeen early Safavid-style paintings.

After the Second Partition of Poland in 1793, Czartoryski became involved in political affairs which left little time for sciences, and it was not until the beginning of the 19th century that he could resume his scholarly pursuits, especially Hafez studies. Now he corresponded in this matter with the French diplomat, archaeologist and literate Marie-Charles-Joseph de Pougens (1755-1833), the British diplomat Robert

Gordon (1791-1847) — who was serving in Austria and Turkey, as well as in Persia from 1810-19 — and the Austrian Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall (1774-1856) who published his own translation of the *Divan* in 1812.

The collecting and scholarly activities on Persia continued to be closely linked with the Czartoryski family during the later parts of the 19th century. Wladyslaw Czartoryski (1828-1894) — the son of Prince Adam Jerzy — followed a step of his ancestors. He integrated the collection and transferred it in 1870 to Krakow. He even increased supplies to buy more manuscripts. His extensive connections enabled him to monitor the latest sales events for Oriental art in London, Paris, Istanbul and Tehran, and to acquire advices from leading specialists.





# All to come together for Palestine in Jeddah

Successful example of diplomacy  
by Raisi's government

7 Saeed Reza Delshakib  
International affairs expert

**EXCLUSIVE  
OPINION**

The forces and fighters in the Palestinian arena are not only the instruments but also the most important avenue of hope for the Palestinian people to escape the oppression of the occupying regime of Jerusalem and to secure their rights. Therefore, the Palestinian people always preserve and protect their fighters as the most precious gems, sacrificing their wealth and lives for their well-being. Over the past 75 years, the Palestinian people have experienced numerous events similar to the Al-Aqsa Storm, and every time they have faced pressure to leave their land, they have not only been unwilling to abandon their fighters but have also never allowed the tragedy of Youm al-Nakba, which led to the displacement of more than 800,000 Palestinians in 1948, to be repeated in the 21st century. The developments of 2008, during the 22-day war and the total siege of Gaza with the aim of forced displacement or incitement of public opinion in Gaza, are a clear example of this claim. However, neither at that time nor even after 16 years and the imposition of four more wars, the people are still not willing to withdraw their support for their fighters. While the Palestinian people hold their fighters in high regard, it is the duty of Islamic governments to simultaneously protect the field and the fighters and the people from the occupation regime of Jerusalem.

## Iran's regional diplomacy in support of Palestinian people, fighters

As a result of the earthquake caused by the Al-Aqsa Storm against the foundations of the Zionist regime and the massacre of the people of Gaza by this regime, regional and multi-faceted diplomacy by the Islamic Republic of Iran began with a periodic visit to Iraq last Friday by Hossein Amirabdollahian, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, following his presence in Lebanon, Syria, Lebanon again, and Qatar. In this four-day visit, more than 70 hours of meetings, bilateral talks, press conferences, and media interviews with more than 10 political, security, and military officials of the mentioned countries took place, along with prominent figures of the Arab world and resistance media. The most significant figures in terms of their

influence on this process were meetings with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah in Lebanon, Bashar al-Assad, the President of Syria, and Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of Hamas. Prior to the commencement of the trip, opposition media outlets, with the aim of preventing the potential effects of this diplomacy or reducing its impact on public opinion, spread false news about the return of the plane carrying the Iranian Foreign Minister from the Syrian sky. However, the first stop of Amirabdollahian's trip was not Syria but Baghdad, the capital of Iraq. While in the fabricated news, the plane carrying the Minister, it was stated that it was a Mahan Airlines plane, the Minister had just con-

ducted interviews with reporters minutes before boarding the Mahan Airlines plane. Accurate and timely reporting by domestic media of this event demonstrated that the time, place, and subject of the trip had been well chosen. Nevertheless, the trip began with the warm welcome of Qasim al-Araji, the National Security Advisor of Iraq, to the Iranian Foreign Minister and continued with intensive meetings with him in Iraq. It then continued with a meeting with Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani, the Prime Minister, and discussions with Fuad Hussein, the Foreign Minister. The trip concluded with paying respects to the shrines of the victorious martyrs (Qasem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis).



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## All options on the table for resistance leaders

he activation of Iranian regional diplomacy in favor of the Palestinian people and its fighters, which had begun with the negotiations of the President and the Foreign Minister's trip, influenced the regional environment. It particularly impacted the minds of the people in the region, especially the Iraqi people, due to the bloody events in Gaza and the crimes of the Zionist regime. The organization of a massive gathering of Iraqis in support of Palestinian resistance portrayed a unique scene of solidarity between the Iraqi people and the Palestinian people, as reported by the media. The positioning of Iraqi resistance elements and the warning to the Zionist regime were among the other consequences of mobilizing public support for Operation Al-Aqsa in this country, igniting hope in the hearts of Palestinian resistance and the people of Gaza.

The next stop of the Foreign Minister's trip was Lebanon. At Rafic Hariri Airport, several Palestinian leaders, along with high-ranking officials of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, welcomed him. Amirabdollahian's first meeting in Lebanon was with Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah in Lebanon. In a press conference after the meeting with Najib Mikati, the Prime Minister, and Abdallah Bou Habib, the Foreign Minister of Lebanon, Amirabdollahian mentioned a point that turned into a headline in both Lebanese and non-Lebanese media. He stated, 'In the meeting with Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah, I realized that the spirit of the fighters is very high, and all possibilities are on the table. He warned that we should use this political opportunity to stop the crimes

of the Zionist regime, or else it might be too late.'

A special meeting with the leaders of Palestinian groups, including Ziyad al-Nakhalah, the Secretary-General of Islamic Jihad, and Saleh Al-Arouri, the second-in-command of Hamas, was the most important meeting of Amirabdollahian after the meeting with Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah. In this meeting, he was informed about the latest developments related to Operation Al-Aqsa and declared Iran's strong support for Palestinian resistance.

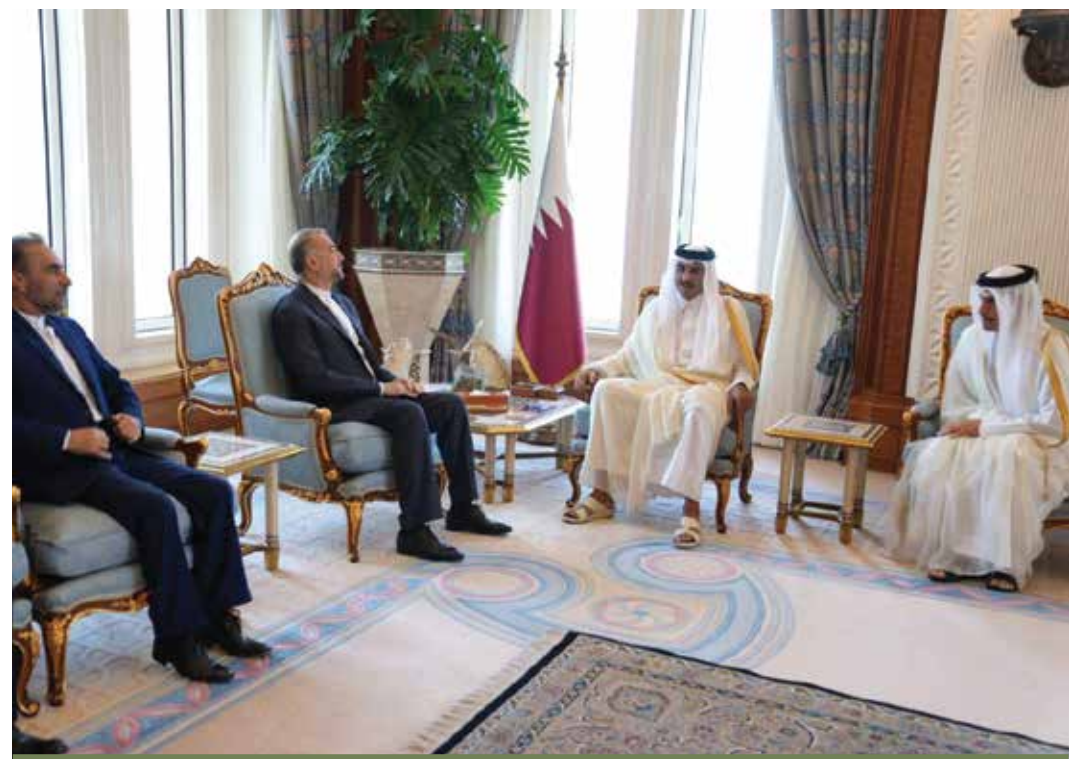
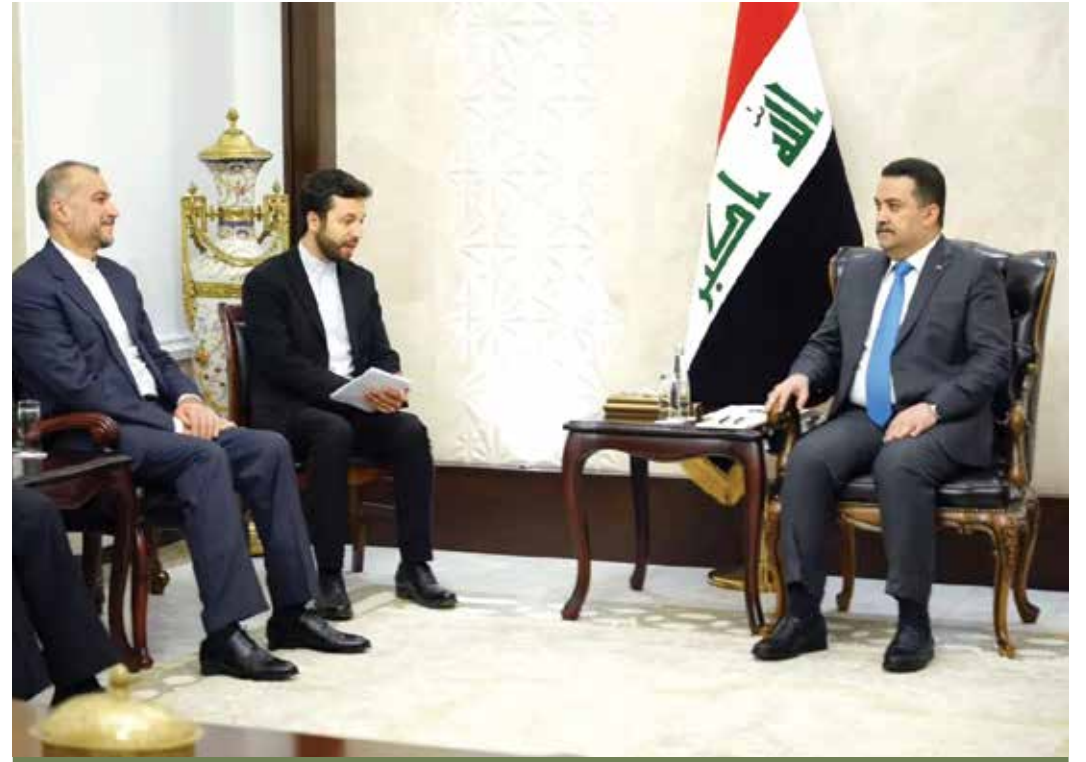
Simultaneous with the Foreign Minister's trip to Lebanon and his meetings and discussions with political, security, and military officials, as well as resistance groups, Tor Wennesland, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, also came to the Iranian Embassy and met with the Iranian Foreign Minister to discuss the developments in Gaza.

The presence of Iran's Foreign Minister and the activation of Iran's regional diplomacy to expose Israel's crimes, in addition to Lebanese officials, engaged the people of this country, especially Shiites and Christians. It led to a massive gathering at the Assembly of Imam Hasan Mojtaba (peace be upon him) in the southern suburbs of Beirut in support of the Palestinians. In that gathering, Sheikh Naim Qassem, the Deputy Secretary-General of Hezbollah, delivered a speech and declared that the Lebanese people would never remain silent in the face of Israel's crimes and were not afraid of American warships.

Syria, another link in the resistance chain, which had faced attacks by Israeli fighter jets on its two airports before the start of

Amirabdollahian's trip, was the next destination. Despite all the obstacles, the Foreign Minister was insistent on this trip. In this trip, conducted by land, two warm meetings were held with Bashar al-Assad, the President of Syria, and Faisal Mekdad, the Foreign Minister of Syria, in an intimate atmosphere, where both sides emphasized their readiness to support the people of Palestine. The trip concluded with a visit to the holy shrine of the three-year-old daughter of the Chief of Martyrs, Imam Hussain (peace be upon him), in Damascus.

Amirabdollahian, in a press conference with his Syrian counterpart, announced intensive negotiations to finalize decisions for holding an emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). After Syria, the next destination was Doha, Qatar, where the main headquarters of the leaders of the Hamas movement is located. The trip to Doha on Saturday evening was done by passing through the skies of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Iran. An immediate meeting between the Iranian Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar was held at the residence of the Qatari Prime Minister, where intensive negotiations on how to support the people of Gaza against Israel's crimes and the possibility of prosecuting Israeli criminals in international courts took place. The reception of the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar of Iran's initiative in organizing an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was one of the prominent positions of the Qatari Prime Minister.



## OIC foreign ministers meeting

Possibly the most significant part of Amirabdollahian's trip to Qatar before meeting with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, was the meeting and conversation with Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of Hamas, at his residence in Doha. This part of the trip is considered crucial in the flawless execution of Operation Al-Aqsa and the work of its affiliated movement, an operation that the Supreme Leader described as an earthquake that shook the foundations of the Zionist regime. While the details of this meeting were not reported by the media, Khalil al-Hayya, a se-

nior member of Hamas' political office who attended the meeting, described it as very important and stated, 'We informed the Iranian Foreign Minister of more details about Operation Al-Aqsa and the scenarios ahead for the resistance against Israel. We expressed our heartfelt gratitude for Iran's support for the Palestinian people.'

The periodic trip of Iran's Foreign Minister to four countries, aimed at mobilizing all political capacities to stop Israel's crimes in Gaza, ultimately concluded on Sunday afternoon with a meeting between him and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al

Thani, the Emir of Qatar. Both sides emphasized the importance of activating diplomacy to halt Israel's crimes.

In conclusion of this trip, the Foreign Minister of the Thirteenth Government, before departing for Tehran, addressed the reporters and summed up his journey. He stated: 'For the pursuit of the violation of Palestinian rights and the cessation of the aggressions by the occupying regime in Jerusalem, a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states is scheduled to be held this Wednesday in

Jeddah. If the Zionist regime does not halt its crimes, there is a will among Islamic governments to convene a summit.'

Amirabdollahian's periodic trip took place as the President of Iran engaged in multiple discussions with leaders of Islamic countries and resistance leaders. He had a 45-minute conversation with Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, and Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, among others. President Ebrahim Raisi also became the first Iranian President to contact Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of Hamas, and expressed

his condolences and solidarity regarding the martyrs of Gaza.

In this way, with the holding of the OIC foreign ministers' meeting scheduled for this Wednesday in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which has been confirmed thanks to the diplomatic efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the process of Iran's active and revolutionary diplomacy has paved the way for action. Inshallah, it will continue until the end of the crimes of the Zionist regime against the people of Gaza. This initiative demonstrated that by timely connecting diplomacy with the field, one can make the most of the capacities of both.

Amirabdollahian, in a press conference with his Syrian counterpart, announced intensive negotiations to finalize decisions for holding an emergency meeting of the FM of the countries of the (OIC).



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## Algeria agree to host Palestine games



● GETTY IMAGES

BBC – Algeria says it has agreed to host the Palestine national team's forthcoming football matches following a request from the Palestinian FA.

Palestine are scheduled to start their 2026 World Cup campaign in the Asian section next month.

Their first qualifier, away to Lebanon on 16 November, will be played in the United Arab Emirates.

A 'home' match against Australia five days later looks set to be played in the North African country. Following the attack on Israel by Hamas on 7 October, the Gaza Strip has been the subject of retaliatory air strikes, which have resulted in nearly 3,000 deaths, with the Israelis looking set to launch an imminent ground offensive.

"The president of the Algerian Football Federation, Mr Walid Sadi, announces that our country will host the official Palestine-Australia match, scheduled for November," the Algerian federation wrote on its website.

The statement added that the decision to host "all official and unofficial matches as part of the Palestinian football team's preparation for the 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers" was taken "in accordance with Algeria's leading authorities".

The Algerian federation added that it will pay all costs, such as transport and accommodation, related to Palestine's stay.

# Iranian volleyball in quest of high-profile coach for national team: *Report*



● legavolley.it



● volleyball.ir



● worldofvolley.com

⬆ L-R: Italian Gianlorenzo Blengini, Russian Vladimir Alekno, and Brazilian Renan Dal Zotto are the three candidates for the Iranian national team job.

### Sports Desk

The Iranian Volleyball Federation is considering a shortlist of world-class coaches for the national team, according to sports news website Varzesh 3.

The job has been vacant for the past two weeks after Behrouz Ataei stepped down from his role in the aftermath of a 3-1 defeat against the Czech Republic midway through the FIVB Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Rio de Janeiro.

A disappointing run in the competition saw the Asian powerhouse hit rock bottom as a seventh-place finish in the eight-team table in Pool A left Iran on the brink of missing out on a

berth for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The qualification campaign was the latest episode in a woeful five months for the team under Ataei, during which Iran finished third from bottom in the preliminary round of the Volleyball Nations League in July before losing out to Japan in straight sets in the Asian Championship final on home soil.

Iran still managed to grab the gold at the Hangzhou Asian Games in early October but the 53-hour trip from China to Brazil surely hindered Iran's quest for direct Olympic qualification. Ataei's resignation came only two years after he had become the first domestic

head coach on Iran bench in more than a decade, when he took over from Russian Vladimir Alekno following a group stage exit at the Tokyo Olympics.

And now, in a last-ditch effort to secure a place in next year's Games, the Iranian volleyball governing body has decided to go back to the foreign coach solution, coming up with a three-man shortlist for the position, Varzesh 3 wrote this week. Alekno, who steered his country to a famous five-set victory over Brazil for the Olympic gold in London 2012, is back in contention for the job, though he has been away from coaching since the Tokyo Games and told Varzesh 3 that he

would only consider working with the Iranian federation in a "consultancy capacity".

However, Alekno's former Italian assistant Tomaso Totolo has reportedly been in talks with the Russian in recent days, trying to lure him back to the coaching role of Iran.

Meanwhile, Gianlorenzo Blengini is the favorite candidate for the chairman of the Iranian federation, Mohammadreza Davarzani, and the Italian has already sent a positive signal in early negotiations, but Iran still faces a tough task in securing the services of the 51-year-old coach as he is under contract with Volley Lube club in his home country.

The pinnacle of Blengini's coaching career came in the Rio 2016 Olympics, where he led Italy to the silver medal. He was also in charge of the European heavyweight when it came out on top in four sets against Alekno's Iran at the Olympics two years ago.

Brazilian Renan Dal Zotto is also regarded as serious contender for the position by the Iranian federation. Dal Zotto is currently the head coach of Brazil – a job he took in 2016 – but could make way for a new face ahead of the Olympics after a run of below-par results in recent months – including a last-eight exit in the VNL Finals in the summer. Whoever is appointed to

the Iranian role will have a daunting task on his hands to keep the faint hope of the Olympic qualification alive. With Germany, Brazil, Poland, Canada, USA, and Japan having already joined host France, and Egypt likely to take the African slot, only four quotas remain up for grabs, which will be decided through the FIVB Men's World Ranking by the end of the preliminary phase of 2024 Volleyball Nations League.

As it stands, Italy – third in the ranking – as well as Argentina (sixth), Slovenia (seventh), and Serbia (ninth) are the favorites to book a ticket for the French capital, with Iran lagging behind in the 15th place.

## 'We were very clear': Lindelöf on stopping Belgium v Sweden game

Victor Lindelöf has said it was the players who made the decision to abandon the Euro 2024 qualifier against Belgium after they were told that two Swedish fans had been shot dead in Brussels before the game. The attack on the supporters happened before the game at the King Baudouin Stadium, which kicked off at 8.45pm local time, but the players were not informed of the incident until half-time, at which point Lindelöf, Sweden's captain, felt it was impossible to carry on.

"I tried to talk to all the players about how they felt," the Manchester United defender said. "And then I felt that I wanted to speak to the Belgian players. I explained the situation and we were very clear that we did not want to carry on and they completely understood that."

The game was abandoned after a short delay but fans were told that they would be safer inside the stadium for the time being. They were then let out after sev-



⬆ Belgium (red) and Sweden players observe a minutes of silence for the victims of the war in Palestine and Israel at the King Baudouin Stadium, Brussels, Belgium, on October 16, 2023.  
● YVES HERMAN/REUTERS

eral hours. Lindelöf added: "There are players who had family and friends

here and we wanted to look after our fans. Those who had family and friends

here wanted to make contact with them to see if they were OK. People were

worried but our security team handled it very well." The Sweden coach, Janne

Andersson, who will leave his post after the team failed to qualify for the European Championship in Germany next year, said: "We came down to our dressing room at half-time and were given this information and I felt straight away that this is completely unreal. What kind of a world are we living in today? I feel incredibly sad. "When the group started to talk about this we agreed 100% that we did not want to play the game, out of respect for the victims and their families."

Lindelöf and Andersson said there would not be much point in playing the second half at a later date. "It doesn't matter," Andersson said. "If something had rested on this game ... but as far as we are concerned we're out and it feels like we shouldn't be playing football when these kind of things are happening in the world." Lindelöf added: "I agree with Janne. I don't think there is any point to finish this game."

**Shooter gunned down**  
Police in Brussels shot dead the man who killed two Swedish nationals on Monday evening.

The 45-year-old man named as Abdesalem was shot in a café in the Schaarbeek neighbourhood. Two Swedes were killed and a third injured in the automatic rifle attack on Monday.

The gunman is believed to be a man of Tunisian origin who was in Belgium illegally, after his asylum application was rejected in 2020.

He posted a video online saying he had killed people in the name of God and the prosecutor's office believes he was inspired by the Islamic State group. Belgian Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden told Flemish public broadcaster VRT that the automatic weapon found on him was the same as the one used in Monday's attack.

*The Guardian and the BBC contributed to this article.*



# Leader: None can stop Resistance if Israeli crimes continue

UN decries 'appalling reports' of strikes on refuge site

## International Desk

Iran's Leader warned Tuesday that "no one can stop" resistance forces if Israel's crimes continue, while a senior UN official denounced the "appalling reports" of the Zionist regime's attacks on civilians fleeing in the south of Gaza.

In a meeting with a group of Iranian elites on Tuesday, the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that Muslim nations are angry at the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, adding that if Israeli crimes against Palestinians in Gaza continue, no one can stop Muslims and resistance forces.

The Leader emphasized that no matter what the Zionist regime does, it cannot compensate for the blatant defeat it suffered. He called for the trial of the Zionist regime and stated that what is before the whole world is the occupying regime's genocidal crimes, which have been seen by everyone.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said that what is in front of the eyes of the whole world in Palestine is the Israeli regime's crime of genocide.



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei meets with a group of Iranian elites on October 17, 2023. [khamenei.ir](#)

## Bombardments on refuge site

Israel on Tuesday bombed areas of southern Gaza where it had told Palestinians to flee to ahead of an expected ground invasion, killing dozens of people in the bombardments it says are targeted at Hamas resistance fighters that administrate the besieged territory, AP reported. The UN human rights office decried "appalling reports" that civilians who were trying to flee to southern Gaza were killed by a military strike. Spokeswoman Ravina Shmadasani urged Israeli forces to avoid "aerial bombardments, indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks" and to "take precautions to avoid — and in any case, to minimize — loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, and damage to civilian objects."

## EU calls for Iran intervention

Meanwhile, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell called on Iran to use its influence to prevent the spillover of Israel's war on the Gaza Strip into the entire West Asia region. In a post on his X account, Borrell wrote, "It is in everyone's interest to prevent a regional spillover. Urged Iran to use its influence to avoid regional escalation".

## 2K US troops on deployment alert

This is while the US military on Tuesday ordered 2,000 personnel to prepare for deployment to the Middle East as a show of force amid the escalating conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, AFP reported.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the deployment would allow the US "to re-

spond more quickly" to the crisis, while the White House stressed it did not intend to put US combat forces on the ground.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said preparing the troops for deployment "is really about sending a signal of deterrence".

The move comes as President Joe Biden heads to Israel today to underscore Washington's support for its close ally. Biden will "hear from Israel what it needs to defend its people," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, and also hear how Israel "will conduct its operations in a way that minimizes civilian casualties and enables humanitarian assistance to flow to civilians in Gaza in a way that does not benefit Hamas".

Israel has vowed to annihilate Hamas after the large-scale attack by the resis-

tance movement that killed 1,400 people during a rampage through southern Israeli towns on October 7, the deadliest single day in Israel's 75-year history.

## 3,000 Palestinians killed

In retaliation for the attack, Israel has bombarded the Gaza Strip with airstrikes that have killed around 3,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian health ministry, and driven around half of the 2.3 million Gazans from their homes. Israel has imposed a total blockade on the enclave, halting food, fuel, and medical supplies, which are rapidly running out. Scores of trucks carrying vital supplies for Gaza headed towards the Rafah crossing in Egypt on Tuesday, the only access point to the enclave outside Israel's control, but there was no clear indication that they would be able to enter.

## Israel's massacre of civilians rage on in Gaza



By Arafat Abu Zaid  
Lecturer in international relations

## PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

The Battle of Al-Aqsa is in its second week, and the scene continues to escalate in Palestinian territories, especially in the Gaza Strip. Hardly a minute goes by without hearing the sounds of shells targeting the homes of the innocent, leading to their destruction over the heads of women and children. This is in the context of Israel's scorched earth policy, given its utter security failure in reaching the leadership and pillars of the resistance, leading to the complete destruction of entire neighborhoods like Al-Karama, Al-Shuja'iya, Jabaliya, and Sheikh Radwan. In addition, they have been using a policy of displacement, demanding that the residents of Gaza City and its northern areas head south towards the Rafah and Khan Younis governorates to be closer to Egypt, to carry out a citizen displacement plan.

The new dangerous development is the occupiers' threat to central hospitals with bombardment and their demand for evacuation. These hospitals serve hundreds of thousands of citizens. They have been targeted with internationally banned incendiary phosphorus bombs, within the framework of the collective punishment policy used by the regime against the citizens of Gaza.

Since the first day of their aggression on the Gaza Strip, the occupiers have threatened a ground invasion. It is worth noting that the occupiers' death toll has exceeded 1,400, while the number of Gaza Strip martyrs has reached over 2,700, with a significant number of martyrs and wounded still trapped under the rubble. Civil defense forces are unable to extract them due to the lack of equipment capable of doing so, especially since the Gaza Strip has suffered from a suffocating blockade that has prevented the entry of many devices and equipment of this kind for 16 years.

One of the scenes that deeply affected me occurred three days ago when the regime's aircraft carried out continuous, brutal, and savage bombardments in the area where I reside. One of the strikes hit a residential apartment adjacent to mine, resulting in the tragic death of a ten-day-old infant along with her mother and two others. The force of the explosion and the shelling caused shrapnel and glass to scatter inside my home, leading to the injury of my three-year-old daughter as she fled from the sounds of the intense bombardment and explosions. She fell down the stairs during her escape, suffering injuries and a broken arm. Therefore, these are the targets that the leaders of the Israeli regime boast of targeting in Gaza. The Israeli military stated in a press release that on that night, 750 targets belonging to the resistance were hit. Does targeting children, killing them, and attempting to spread terror in their hearts represent the goals of the regime's military? The Zionist Defense Minister explicitly stated that those in Gaza are subhuman and will be treated as such. That's why the occupation does not hesitate to kill children and women in Gaza, cut off water and electricity, and prevent the delivery of food and medical aid to Gaza.

It can be said that we are still in the early stages of an aggression that appears to be intensifying over time to target both human lives and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, in an attempt to eliminate any hope of living in Gaza and render it uninhabitable.

## EU maintains arms embargo on Iran

EU member states decided on Tuesday to maintain restrictive measures against Iran under the non-proliferation sanctions regime after the JCPOA Transition Day, according to a statement.

The JCPOA, or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, is a 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and major powers under which Tehran agreed to restrain its nuclear program in return for relief from US, EU, and UN sanctions.

"The [European] Council adopted legal acts to maintain the designations that had initially been imposed by the United Nations for individuals and entities involved in nuclear or ballistic missiles activities or affiliated to the Islamic Rev-

olutionary Guards Corps (IRGC)," the statement said.

"The council also agreed to maintain sectoral and individual measures, existing under the EU's sanctions regime, notably those related to Iran nuclear proliferation, as well as arms and missile embargoes."

The council claimed that there are valid reasons to refrain from lifting the restrictions on October 18, 2023, as originally foreseen under the JCPOA. It also claimed that its decision is in line with the provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA, in view of Iran not fulfilling its commitments under the JCPOA.

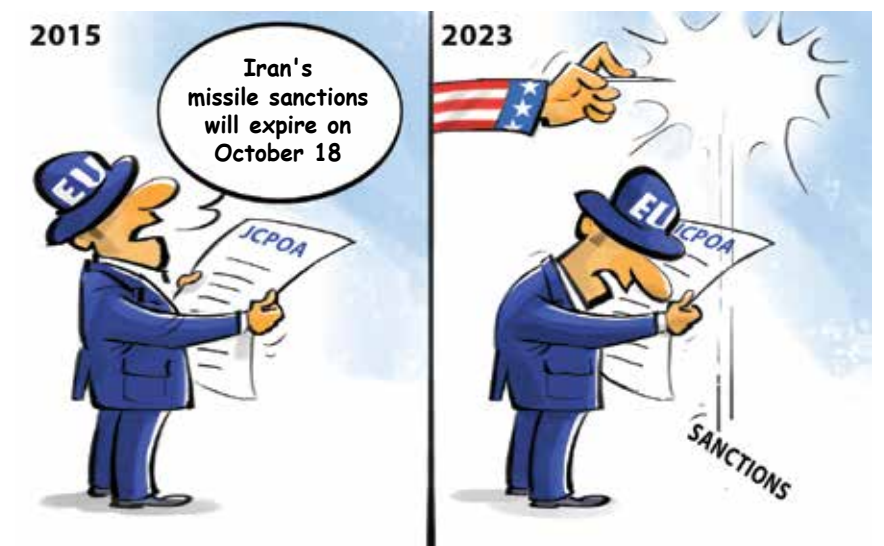
Back on September 14, Britain, France, and Germany also announced in a statement that they would retain their sanctions on Iran related to the country's atomic program and its development of ballistic missiles in what they called a direct response to Iran's consistent and severe noncompliance with the JCPOA. The measures ban Iran from developing ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons and bar anyone from buying, selling, or transferring drones and missiles to and from Iran. They also include an asset freeze for several Iranian individuals and entities involved in the nuclear and ballistic missile program.

Throughout the years following the JCPOA, there has always been a clear difference in interpretation between Iran and Western parties regarding Iranian missile tests, satellite launches, and their connection to Resolution 2231. Western parties claim that this resolution prohibits any ballistic missile activity by Iran including the use of satellite launch vehicles for placing satellites into orbit. They claim that satellite launches help Tehran's ballistic missile program. However, the reality is quite different from the Western interpretation as per the texts of the JCPOA and Resolution 2231. Banning Iran's ballistic missile activities was not mentioned in the 2015 JCPOA text at all. Even in Resolution

2231, the issue was not raised.

What the Western parties refer to is a non-mandatory and non-binding request in the third article of the second appendix of the resolution. This article calls on Iran not to have any activities related to the design and use of ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist





## Iranian 'Squad of Girls' honored at Indian festival



Iranian film 'Squad of Girls', produced by the Farabi Cinema Foundation, was awarded at the 6th Innovative International Film Festival held in Bengaluru from October 12 to 15.

According to reports from ILNA, this international festival, marking its sixth successful year, showcased the film, directed by Monir Qeidi, as well as 'No Prior Appointment' directed by Behrouz Shoeibi.

Last year, the festival celebrated Iranian cinema by naming 'Romanticism of Emad and Touba,' directed by Mehdi Sabbaghzadeh, as the Best Cultural Impact Movie Award.

The Innovative International Film Festival provides a unique platform where independent and popular commercial films share the spotlight, and audiences at regional, national, and international levels, aiming to garner recognition and audience appreciation.

## Glasgow museum says its £3m Rodin sculpture is missing

A statue by the French sculptor Auguste Rodin, part of his famous Les Bourgeois de Calais group, is currently "unlocated" in Glasgow's art collections, museum officials said.

The plaster sculpture, bought by Glasgow Museums from the artist in 1901, was exhibited in Kelvingrove Park from 25 June to 30 September 1949, according to Glasgow Life, the organisation in charge of many of the Scottish city's cultural venues. But since then, it seems to have been lost, the Guardian wrote.

According to the Comité Rodin, which maintains a catalogue of the artist's works around the world, the two-metre sculpture represents Jean d'Aire, one of the figures in the Calais group.

Its director, Jérôme le Blay, told AFP that the disappearance was "regrettable, but must be put into the context of the times", as plaster works did not arouse much interest in the 1940s. The value of the work today would be around €3.5m (£3m), he estimated.

The bronze statues of the six Bourgeois de Calais, celebrating the sacrifice of local dignitaries during a siege of the northern French town by English armies during the hundred years war, were commissioned by the municipality and unveiled in 1895. Numerous bronze and plaster versions of the statue exist around the world.

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# 'Shut down' of Palestinian voices goes on



Adania Shibli, Palestinian author whose novel 'Minor Detail' has won the LiBeraturpreis  
● HARTWIG KLAPPERT

### Social Desk

In 1984, Edward Said, a distinguished Palestinian-American scholar provided a thought-provoking reflection on Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. In his essay, Said posited that the Israeli war had a deliberate aim: "To reduce the Palestinian existence as much as possible." He further argued that Palestinians were being denied the "permission to narrate," implying that their voices and stories were systematically suppressed. Said cautioned against the existence of "a disciplinary communications apparatus" in the West, which tended to both overlook "most of the basic things that might present Israel in a bad light," and punish "those who try to tell the truth." Alarmingly, Said's words continue to resonate nearly four decades later.

On Friday, October 13, 2023, Litprom, the organization responsible for the LiBeraturpreis book award, made the decision to cancel the celebration honoring the Palestinian author Adania Shibli at the Frankfurt Book Fair. The LiBeraturpreis annually recognizes the exceptional literary contributions of women authors from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The cancellation followed the October 7 Hamas operation against Israel. In addition, a public discussion with Shibli and her book's German translator scheduled at the fair was also canceled. Juergen Boos, Frankfurt Book Fair's director, who is also the president of Litprom, sided with Israel and announced his decision "to make Jewish and Israeli voices especially visible at the book fair" via the fair's Instagram account. Adania Shibli who di-

vides her time between Berlin and Al-Quds had been due to receive the prize for her novel, 'Minor Detail' at the fair. The novel is an account of the 1949 war, in which clashes between Arabs and Jews saw hundreds of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes. Shibli's book makes reference to well-documented events related to the rape of a Bedouin girl in 1949 by an Israeli army unit. However, the Frankfurt Book Fair's alignment with Israel has not been without consequences, as it has faced significant backlash. The Malaysian government, for instance, expressed its dissatisfaction with the fair and announced a complete boycott, as reported by Reuters. "The ministry will not compromise with Israel's violence in Palestine, which clearly violates international laws and

human rights," Malaysia's education ministry said in a statement late on Monday. Additionally, the fair received criticism in the form of an open letter published on Monday morning, signed by over 1,000 writers and publishers. The letter denounced Litprom's decision to cancel the award celebration, as detailed by the Los Angeles Times. Wallace Shawn, Colm Tóibín, Eileen Myles, Hari Kunzru, Hisham Matar and hundreds of other writers and publishers signed the letter. Resonating Said's analysis of the communications apparatus in the West, the letter criticizes the fair's attempts to suppress a Palestinian voice. "At a time when the fair has issued a statement saying it wants to make Israeli voices 'especially visible at the fair,' they are closing out the space

for a Palestinian voice," the letter reads. The signatories believe that the Frankfurt Book Fair has "a responsibility to be creating spaces for Palestinian writers to share their thoughts, feelings, reflections on literature through these terrible, cruel times, not shutting them down." Yet, it seems that the apparatus has remained intact, and while the Western media talk a lot about Palestinians, they do it without them. "Editorial boards and columnists seem to have been quite consumed with talking about the Palestinians, often in condescending and even racist ways - yet they somehow did not feel the need to hear much from Palestinians themselves," wrote Maha Nassar, an associate professor in the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Arizona, in 2020.

## Iran, Tajikistan ink cinematic MoU

Iran and Tajikistan signed a cinematic memorandum of understanding (MoU), paving the way for further collaboration in the field of cinema. The agreement was inked during a signing ceremony held alongside the first Dushanbe International Film Festival, "Taj Somon," attended by prominent figures from both countries, IRNA wrote. The cooperative document includes collaborative initiatives, such as the screening of cinematographic works, joint film productions, the exchange of experiences

and technical expertise, and participation in cinematic events, said Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance and head of the Cinema Organization of Iran Mohammad Khazaie. The agreement underscores the commitment of both nations to reinforce their cultural ties through the medium of cinema, including the production of feature films, documentaries, short films, and animations inspired by shared historical, cultural, and traditional themes. Furthermore, the agreement fosters mutual participation in film festivals

and guarantees the safeguarding of copyright for important cinematic works, emphasizing the creation of strong bonds of friendship and mutual benefit based on equality, respect, and shared interests. Khazaie stated, "Since my appointment to the Cinema Organization of Iran, I have made it a top priority to expand regional cooperation with neighboring countries, especially those with whom we share historical, cultural, linguistic, and traditional ties. I firmly believe that the development of cultural and cinematic relations



with these countries, particularly our neighbors, can yield fruitful results." Khazaie also emphasized the potential of both Iran and Tajikistan in various cinematic fields, highlighting their shared cultural framework. He stressed the import-

ant role of cinema in enhancing human and cultural connections, underscoring its significance as a valuable instrument for public diplomacy. Tajikistan's head of cinematic affairs, Mohammad Saeid Shahian, celebrated the historic

significance of cinematic collaboration with Iran during the event. He remarked, "Today is a momentous day for us. Iran's cinema enjoys global prestige, and this collaboration will contribute to the growth of the film industries in both countries." Shahian further emphasized the shared cultural roots between the two nations, adding that the cities of Isfahan, Mashhad, Neishabur, and Hamedan, signify the deep ties between the two countries. He concluded by expressing his optimism about the cinematic memoranda's potential to yield substantial benefits for both nations.