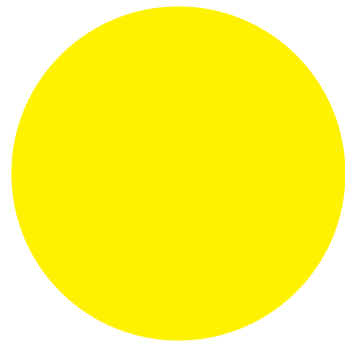


Israel seeks to 'expand war' amid de-escalation push: **Iran**



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# Iran Daily

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EXCLUSIVE



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Iran FINEX 2024 kicks off in Tehran

The 16th International Financial Industries (Exchange, Bank & Insurance) Exhibition entitled "IRAN FINEX 2024" was inaugurated in Tehran on Friday. The four-day exhibition is attended by Iran's minister of economic affairs and finance (MEAF), vice president for the science, technology and knowledge-based economy, chairman of the Parliament Economic Commission and foreign guests, as reported by Tasnim News Agency.

The Iran FINEX Exhibition has been one of the major and most visited economic events in the Middle East region in recent years, and plays an important role in improving the level of knowledge of participants by presenting tutorial workshops, seminars and specialized meetings. Showcasing the latest achievements and capabilities of the country in the field of the financial industry, familiarizing Iranian companies and organizations with the world's latest technologies, attracting domestic and foreign investment, developing an interactional culture through direct communication and winning public trust, training to create and develop financial communications channels between banks and investment organizations, improving the quality of banking, insurance and stock exchange activities and development of employment through the development of industries and services have been cited as the main objectives of holding the exhibition.

Iran FINEX Exhibition is the largest and most prestigious event in the fields of finance, investment and financial technologies in the country. The exhibition provides great chances for businesses, manufacturers, suppliers, commercial media, and other people in related sectors to display their products, services, technologies, and business ideas.

## New drilling to raise South Pars gas output

Gas production in Iran's giant South Pars gas field is planned to increase by 36 million cubic meters (mcm) by drilling 35 new wells in the field, an official with Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) which is in charge of developing the field said.

Director of South Pars gas field drilling projects Hamidreza Shafiei Makvand said the wells will be drilled to increase the recovery factor of the field, Iranian Oil Ministry's press service Shana reported. Emphasizing that the South Pars gas field is the largest joint gas field in the world, Makvand added, "All oil and gas fields in the world face pressure drop and output reduction after several years of production and operation."



# Iran's crude oil finds new destinations

Iran has sent small shipments of crude oil to new destinations such as Bangladesh and Oman, according to shipping sources and data, Reuters reported on Friday. Iran, which is exempt from output quotas set by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), is determined to maximize production and exports. Oil Minister Javad Owji said in July that Iran was selling crude oil to 17 countries, including those in Europe, according to the semi-official Mehr News Agency. In one new trade, the Golden Eagle tanker sailed near the port of Chittagong in Bangladesh earlier this year after

receiving oil from another vessel that loaded it from Iran's Kharg Island according to available evidence based on shipping data, Claire Jungman, from a US advocacy group said.

The Golden Eagle off-loaded parts of the cargo to smaller tankers in ship-to-ship transfer operations around Chittagong in April, said Jungman, whose organization tracks Iran-related tanker traffic via satellite data.

The shipment to Bangladesh was separately confirmed by another oil export tracking source.

Tehran's oil output has topped 3.2 million barrels per day this year, the high-

est since 2018, according to OPEC figures, after posting one of OPEC's biggest output increases in 2023 despite US sanctions still being in place. Iranian crude exports have reached new highs this year, with March-May being the strongest three-month period since mid-2018, according to Petro-Logistics, a Geneva-based firm which tracks tanker shipments.

"But volumes seem to be plateauing now," said Virginie Bahnik of Petro-Logistics.

At least eight cargoes of oil - mostly from Iran - were heading to Syria with some already discharged, shipping sources said. Shipments to Syria, however, were below their peak

some years ago as Iran seeks other export destinations.

Iranian oil deliveries into Syria have averaged 57,190 bpd in 2024 compared with a high of 147,000 bpd in 2022, according to export analysis from UANI's Jungman.

A separate tanker delivered a cargo believed to be Iranian crude oil into the Omani port of Sohar in June after loading the consignment via a ship-to-ship transfer with another vessel that picked up the shipment from Iran's Kharg Island earlier this year, UANI's Jungman said, citing shipping data. The ship tracking source also confirmed the arrival of this cargo into Sohar.

Iran has also begun bringing

cargoes into China's north-east Dalian port, adding another new destination for its crude.

Tehran's exports to China, which does not recognize US sanctions, have been flowing into the port, helping sustain the country's oil imports at near record levels.

Tanker trackers and dealers claim that traders re-brand Iranian oil destined for China as originating from elsewhere, such as Malaysia, Oman or the United Arab Emirates.

Iranian oil exports have now reached a peak and have stabilized around 1.5 million bpd, since February, said Homayoun Falakshahi, senior crude oil analyst with Kpler.

## Iran responsible for 25% of imports into Afghanistan



Goods supplied from Iran account for a fourth of all imports into Afghanistan, according to a trade attaché in the Iranian embassy in Kabul. Hossein Rustayi said in a gathering in Tehran that Iran had exported \$724 million worth of goods and commodities to Afghanistan in the four calendar months to late July, up 28% compared to the same period last year, Press TV reported.

Rustayi said that Afghanistan relies on import for 80% of its needs and Iran has been a main supplier of goods to the landlocked country.

He said that an improvement in security conditions in Afghanistan in the past two years had helped boost trade between the country and Iran.

The official said, however, that Iranian businesses needed to invest more in the manufacturing of certain products, including pharmaceuticals, construction materials, detergents and food in order to be able to maintain their share of the Afghan market in the coming years.

Rustayi said rivals like China, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Pakistan are planning to increase their exports to Afghanistan.

Official figures show Iran's exports to Afghanistan reached a total of \$1.871 billion in the calendar year to late March, up 13.6% compared to the previous same period.

The exports rose 28% in volume terms to reach 3,414 metric tons over the past calendar year, the figures show.

Like other countries in the world, Iran has yet to recognize the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan. However, the two neighboring countries have maintained trade and economic cooperation to help Afghanistan emerge from years of war and occupation.

Iran has held numerous trade fairs in Afghanistan while increasing the working hours of its border customs offices to expand its exports to the country.

## Iran, Malaysia stress bolstering trade ties

Officials from Iran and Malaysia stressed the need to enhance bilateral ties in the fields of trade and economy.

Head of the Iran Chamber of Guilds Union Mojtaba Safaei in a meeting with Malaysian Ambassador to Tehran Khairi Bin Omar called for boosting trade ties with the Southeast Asian country, reported Tasnim News Agency.

He also stressed the familiarization of Malaysian merchants with Iran's export opportunities as well as facilitation of the active presence of Iranian traders in the Malaysian market.

Safaei said that the guilds unions in Iran have good capacities in both production and export sectors in the fields of furniture, gold and jewelry, carpet, dried nuts, garments and leather.

Malaysia's geographical position in Southeast Asia and the religious-cultural commonalities, especially in the field of halal products, provide an opportunity for the Iranian guild union's activists to export their products to the Malaysian market, he emphasized.

Safaei announced the readiness of the Iranian Chamber of Guilds to invite Malaysian businessmen and traders to visit and identify Iran's export and import opportunities and called for providing a suitable platform for the presence of Iranian businesspersons in the Malaysian market.

The Malaysian envoy to Tehran, for his part, said that the two countries have high potential to expand their trade ties.

Malaysia can import goods from Iran in several areas, Khairi said, adding that some Iranian products are available in the Malaysian market already.

He also said he believes that importing Iranian products is not only cost effective for Malaysian merchants, but also the quality of the products is particularly attractive to consumers in Malaysia.

Steel, iron, saffron and dates are among the import needs in Malaysia, the envoy added.





# Unearthing the ancient civilization of Darestan

## Iranica Desk

Tal-e Atashin, located in Darestan village near Bam, is a historical mound situated 30km east of the Bam Citadel, the largest adobe structure in the world, in Kerman Province. This mound is associated with the Pre-Pottery Neolithic period (Late Stone Age or the dawn of agriculture) and is regarded as one of Bam's oldest tourist attractions.

The Pre-Pottery Neolithic era marks a significant phase in human civilization when sedentism began to take root, with early communities engaging in animal husbandry and agriculture, despite the absence of pottery at the time. Archaeologists trace the Neolithic period back to around 12,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent, which encompasses modern-day Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, northern Kuwait, southeastern Turkey, and parts of Iran. This era transitioned into the Copper Age, or Chalcolithic Age, approximately 6,500 years ago. Thus, studying these ancient sites offers insights into the lifestyles of our ancestors who inhabited the Earth thousands of years ago. Tal-e Atashin was officially registered in Iran's National Heritage List in 2001.

The mound was first studied by Professor Ahmad Mostofi, known as the father of Geomorphology in Iran, although Dr. Omran Garazhian conducted most of the archaeological research. During excavations, numerous artifacts were uncovered, including adobe houses, metal and stone tools, and clay figurines.

One notable discovery at the site is a half-burnt date fruit kernel, suggesting that date palms may have been cultivated in Bam around 3500 BCE. Analyzing the artifacts reveals that many of their raw materials were sourced from mineral reserves south of Kuh-e Kabud near Darestan village. This indicates that the residents migrated from west to east, establishing civilization at Tal-e Atashin.

Overall, archaeological findings suggest a settlement existed here long

ago, dating back to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic period (which began around 12,000 years ago and transitioned into the Copper Age about 6,500 years ago) and later the Bronze Age, as evidenced by the presence of adobe houses. However, it appears that Tal-e Atashin was eventually abandoned. The decline of this civilization may have stemmed from factors such as disease, warfare, natural disasters, and climate change, leading the population to seek other permanent homes.

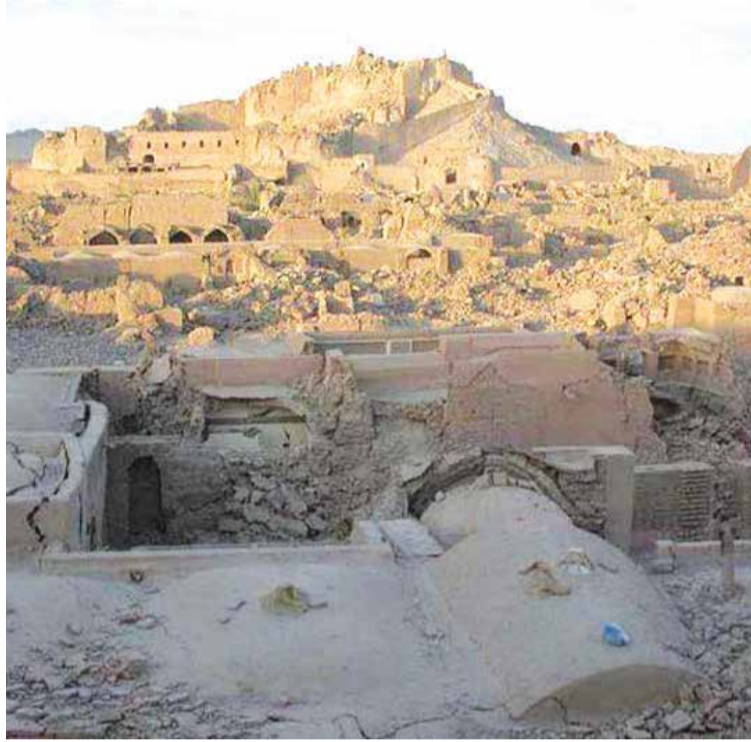
As with many early civilizations, Darestan developed along a water source, specifically the "Posht Rud" river, located near Bam. This river originates at the heights of Rayen (to the northwest of Bam) and flows through Bam, where it is referred to as "Tahrud," before becoming known as Posht Rud. The river passes through various villages, including Darestan, before reaching the Lut Desert.

Historically, Posht Rud was a perennial river with a stable flow year-round. However, due to the excavation of aqueducts and wells along its path, it now dries up during certain seasons, becoming an intermittent river. Despite this, the groundwater supply for Bam is still sustained by this river.

In Darestan village, most structures are either square or L-shaped. They are built from clay and stone, with reeds used for roofing. It appears that these buildings had two stories, with the ground floor serving as storage and the upper floor as living space.

Lacking external entrances, it is believed that inhabitants accessed their homes via the roof. Interior small ovens were integrated into the walls for cooking.

Exploring ancient history and the lives of those who came before us is always fascinating. Tal-e Atashin in Darestan village stands out as a significant site for studying and visiting the remnants of ancient civilizations. Each year, this historical mound attracts both domestic and international travelers eager to discover its ancient legacy.



eneshat.com



## Markazi Province to utilize caravanserais for tourism development and economic growth



feralan.com

## Iranica Desk

The caravanserais of Markazi Province will be handed over to investors to promote and enhance tourism in the country, said director general of Markazi Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization. Mahmoud Moradi, speaking to reporters, added that the caravanserais of the province are an overlooked opportunity for the development of road tourism, and in order to increase em-

ployment and boost the economy in the province, the untapped potential of tourism must be utilized effectively, ISNA wrote.

He noted that five caravanserais and historical buildings in the province have already been assigned to the private sector. In the near future, an additional ten will also be entrusted to private investors for further development.

Moradi highlighted the most significant building handed over in the prov-

ince as the Dodahek Caravanserai in Delijan, and added that to support investors in this handover, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage will provide loans and engage in long-term contracts of 20 to 25 years.

"These caravanserais are a paradise for investment and attracting tourists, and transforming them into model tourist areas will also boost employment."

He highlighted the availability of various baths and historical buildings

across the province for handover, noting, "these sites are ready to be ceded to private investors. Announcements have been made to facilitate this process through the Ministry's Revitalization Fund."

Moradi also referred to the province's historical tourism potential, mentioning that "more than 10 historical caravanserais from the Safavid and Qajar periods have been identified along the communication routes of Markazi Province, which could be renovated to

attract tourists and travelers."

He added, "caravanserais with private ownership will be restored by their owners using supportive policies, and the provincial cultural heritage department will provide comprehensive assistance to these owners."

Markazi Province boasts 2,171 identified historical sites, over 900 of which are listed as national heritage, positioning it as a potential focal point for both domestic and international tourists.





Thousands of people gather in Tehran, Iran, for the funeral procession of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on August 1, 2024. The sign reads, "Avenge the blood of the guest is our certain promise."  
SNN



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) shakes hands with Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pa.) after the latter delivered a controversial address to a joint session of Congress in Washington, D.C., on July 24, 2024.  
ALLISON BAILEY/AFP

# Adventurer is in Tel Aviv

By Ebrahim Namdar  
Middle East affairs expert

## OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Recent statements from officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran suggest a resolute intent to retaliate for the terrorist act perpetrated by the Israeli regime in Tehran, resulting in the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the Hamas Political Bureau. Global media outlets have been abuzz with analyses and speculations about this brazen act of terror and Iran's potential response.

In the past, Tehran has retaliated against Israeli terrorist operations in Damascus, which targeted Iranian military advisors at the Iranian consulate, with a major missile and drone strike against targets inside Israel. Now, many analysts are arguing that Tehran not only has the right to hit back but will also exercise that right. Allowing such terrorist actions to go unanswered would signal a weakness in Iran's defense and encourage the Israeli regime to continue its aggressive acts.

However, Iran's potential response, regardless of its magnitude, timing, and scope, has sparked international concerns about a possible new war in the West Asia region or an escalation of the ongoing Gaza conflict. The assassination of the Hamas leader indicates that Benjamin Netanyahu has no intention of pursuing peace or ending the war. As some experts have suggested, the targeted killing of Haniyeh in Tehran was likely intended to provoke Iran into a war with Israel.

It is obvious that Israel lacks the capacity to engage in a new war on multiple fronts with the axis of resistance and is heavily dependent on unwavering support from the United States. Conversely, the Americans have publicly expressed their reluctance to engage in a new war in the region. They maintained a similar stance during the previous confrontation between Iran and Israel and made extensive diplomatic efforts and held talks with Iran, regional countries, and even Iran's friends to prevent a new war or a spillover of the existing one and to persuade Tehran to exercise restraint. It appears they are now adopting a similar approach, urging Tehran to stand down.

If the Americans and Europeans are genuine in their statements opposing a wider war, they must acknowledge the potential consequences for Europe and America as well. However, mere statements of opposition are insufficient to prevent a new war. It requires proactive initiatives and

actions from the powers that have influence over regional dynamics. Netanyahu's belligerent adventures may soon become a fait accompli, leaving little room to mitigate the fallout.

As Israel's strategic ally, the United States, along with supportive European countries, should have long ago implemented measures to prevent such incidents. Their eleventh-hour calls for restraint from Tehran, without exerting any meaningful pressure on Israel, contradict their professed positions against war. The US president's hopes for Tehran's restraint ring hollow alongside his explicit support for Israel.

Tehran, drawing on its extensive experience dealing with Israel, will undoubtedly respond to this terrorist act based on meticulous security, political, regional, and international assessments. It will choose the appropriate time and place for its response, safeguarding its interests and strengthening its deterrence. As demonstrated in the past, this could include missile and drone strikes on positions in occupied territories without fanning the flames of war.

If influential powers in regional affairs genuinely seek to avert the consequences of heightened tensions between the Resistance Front and Israel, they should refrain from jumping to conclusions and exerting all their diplomatic and field pressure on one side. It is Tel Aviv, not Tehran, that needs to be reined in and held accountable for its adventurism and warmongering.

## Iran's response to assassination of Ismail Haniyeh

# From diplomacy to battlefield



By Navid Kamali  
Foreign affairs expert

## OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The cowardly assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran marks a significant point in the hybrid warfare of Israel against Iran and the Axis of Resistance. This incident, occurring on the night of Masoud Pezeshkian's inauguration as the new president of Iran, is by no means coincidental. It aligns with the strategic objectives of Israel against the Axis of Resistance, which is led by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As the positions taken by Western and Israeli think tanks and research institutes indicate, one of the main objectives of this terrorist act was to pose political and security challenges for the new Iranian government, disrupting the government's ability to focus on priority political and economic issues and hindering it from fulfilling its promises. Therefore, this assassination has several dimensions that must be addressed with an intelligent response, leveraging various capacities of the Resistance Front.

Analyzing this terrorist incident requires first examining its timing. Executing this operation on the night of the new president's inauguration allowed Israel to exploit potential security and political vulnerabilities. However, the prudent reaction of Tehran, including the measured messages from the Leader and Pezeshkian, demonstrated that this expectation was naive. The government wisely refrained from making hasty reactions to this

crime, stabilizing the country. Nevertheless, the primary aim of this terrorist act was to preoccupy Pezeshkian and his government with the repercussions of this assassination, thereby preventing them from focusing on other crucial issues. This would have perpetuated the economic and social challenges, creating public dissatisfaction and labeling the government as ineffective. It is evident that the Zionists and their overt and covert allies are determined to foil the new

Iranian government's plans, viewing any potential setbacks and failures in fulfilling Pezeshkian's promises as valuable achievements. Moreover, Israel's new gamble is rooted in the heavy blows it received in the Gaza war. The Zionist regime's cabinet, engaged in a prolonged and attritional war, attempts to directly involve Iran in this war and use global platforms to garner European and American support to end its own political isolation. The Is-

raelis are aware that the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot ignore a terrorist attack on a foreign official on its soil, as it constitutes an assault on the country's sovereignty and security. According to international rules, a proportionate response to this crime is legitimate. Therefore, it seems the Zionist regime aims to force Iran into a predictable stance, enabling it to shape subsequent conditions and reactions to its advantage. Hence, in response to the Zionists' crime, including the

assassination of Martyr Ismail Haniyeh, Iran must employ a calculated strategy, utilizing the country's capacities. The international dimensions of this terrorist incident and its connection to the US elections should also be noted, as this assassination is not unrelated to the fate of the White House. Kamala Harris, the vice president of the United States and the Democratic presidential candidate, has so far taken positions against the current Israeli cabi-

net led by Benjamin Netanyahu, especially regarding the Gaza war. However, in the American election atmosphere and under the influence of Zionist lobbies, any escalation in West Asia may compel her and her party to support Netanyahu's warlike policies. That is because not decisively supporting the Zionists in a war against a power like Iran could weaken her political position against her Republican rival, Donald Trump. Consequently, Israel can create political





The late Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh (C-L) lifts up the hand of Iran's new President Masoud Pezeshkian during the latter's inauguration in the Iranian Parliament in Tehran on July 30, 2024. The other figures in the picture were binarized later.  
● AMIRHOSSEIN JAMEBOZORG/ANA

unity in Washington in support of Netanyahu's warlike policies. This scenario creates a win-win situation for Netanyahu, linking US domestic politics with regional dynamics and ensuring continued domestic and international support for himself and his cabinet. Given the above, the assassination of Haniyeh was a strategic maneuver by Netanyahu to drum up internal and international support and navigate his current dire political predicament. It pressures American politicians like Harris to align with his interests, strengthening his warlike stance. This clearly demonstrates the connection between a regional security incident and US domestic politics as an example of hybrid warfare, where actions are designed to impact multiple fronts simultaneously. Therefore, the new Iranian government, led by Pezeshkian, faces the challenging task of formulating an appropriate and effective response to the Zionists in the early days of his presidency. In this context, the new government must leverage field capacities and its hybrid powers. It is also essential for Pezeshkian to expedite the introduction of ministers to Parliament and quickly form a new cabinet. With the formation of the new government, the Islamic Republic of Iran, backed by the hard power of the armed forces, will be able to fully confront the forth-

coming threats. As the Leader stated in his message regarding the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, Iran's response to this crime is certain. However, it is clear that this response will not be purely diplomatic; it will smartly utilize hybrid capacities because a purely diplomatic response to a crime might weaken the country's deterrence. Therefore, Iran's strategy in responding to this crime must be precise and use a combination of military, intelligence, and diplomatic assets. This approach could include targeted operations against valuable enemy interests and resources, along with strong media and diplomatic campaigns to highlight the regime's crime and isolate it internationally. Additionally, strengthening internal security to prevent similar breaches and demonstrating resilience against external threats is crucial. In the long term, our country must review its security infrastructure and regional alliances. Reinforcing relations with regional partners and utilizing international platforms to condemn the aggressive and inhumane policies of Israel can help contain this regime on the international stage. Furthermore, strengthening the link between diplomacy and the field and increasing investment in asymmetric warfare capabilities will allow our country to effectively respond to enemy threats with-

out resorting to costly and ineffective confrontations. We must remember that in all countries, intelligence and security agencies are responsible for predicting and neutralizing enemy threats. In Iran, too, improving coordination between intelligence and security agencies and using advanced surveillance technologies can fortify the country's defense line against hybrid warfare tactics. Simultaneously, the various dimensions of Martyr Haniyeh's assassination must be especially examined, as this assassination highlights the complexities of modern hybrid war where psychological, political, and security operations are interconnected and intertwined. Finally, it must be emphasized that the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh is a calculated effort by an enemy whose aim is to weaken Iran and alter regional dynamics in favor of its expansionist ambitions. The type and quality of Iran's response to this incident will be a critical test for the system and the new government. Therefore, the government must mobilize the country's capacities and, under the wise guidance of the Leader, adopt a multifaceted approach that combines military preparedness with intelligent diplomacy to confront the enemy and demonstrate Iran's ability to respond to threats while maintaining internal stability.



People burn a representation of the Israeli flag during the funeral ceremony of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, Iran, on August 1, 2024.  
● VAHID SALEMI/AP

# Washington lies, Palestinians die, Tel Aviv pushes own agenda

By Ron Jacobs  
Author  
**OPINION**

Although there is certainly nothing funny about the situation in question, I couldn't help but laugh when I read the remarks of Robert Wood to the UN Security Council regarding Israel's recent assassination of two Hamas leaders. After claiming that Washington neither knew in advance nor had anything to do with the murders, Wood went on to insist "without a doubt" that Hezbollah was responsible for the deaths of 12 youngsters playing soccer in the occupied Golan Heights a few days earlier. Besides the obvious and more general fact that Israel would not be massacring Palestinians, attacking other countries, and calling antiwar protesters Hamas members if it wasn't receiving over \$36,000 a minute from Washington since October 7, 2023, (in addition to the billions already received), it seems extremely unlikely that the Pentagon did not provide intelligence for the assassination operations. Indeed, there was a story in the Washington Post on May 12, 2024, reporting a leak from the White House that said Israel was being provided intelligence on the resistance leaders' whereabouts in an attempt to prevent a full-scale invasion of Rafah. As the reader knows, that invasion took place, anyhow. To put it more bluntly, Ambassador Woods is just the latest US official willing to lie for Israel in the name of Israel's defense.

It's pretty clear now — as if it wasn't before — that Israel is not genuinely interested in a cease-fire. It's also pretty clear that Washington is more interested in eliminating the Palestinian Resistance than it is in not killing children. In short, Washington's actions indicate it doesn't really care what happens to the Palestinians. At this juncture, it seems more than willing to let Israel's mad dogs of Zionism set the path toward greater death and destruction. Words mean absolutely nothing when uttered by men and women who uncritically repeat the lies of proven liars like Netanyahu. These lies, when combined with a media unwilling to challenge Israel and its goal of a greater Israel, have become truths. Not because they are, but because their repetition has made them so.

Meanwhile, US Senator Lindsey Graham has introduced S.J. Res. 107. This is "A joint resolution to authorize the use of military force against the Islamic Republic of Iran if the president determines that the Islamic Republic of Iran is planning or conducts an attack against any former, current, or incoming United States Government official or senior military personnel." In other words, much like it seems Israel used the unclaimed missile that fell on a soccer field in the Occupied Golan Heights and killed 12 young people as an excuse to attack Beirut and Tehran, Senator Graham wants to use militia attacks on US forces occupying Iraq as an opening for a US attack on Iran. Graham also went on record demanding that the Israeli and/or US military bomb Iran's oil refineries. I can't really think of any reason why someone would call for these actions unless they were insane, looking to make some money on soaring oil prices sure to follow such an attack, seeking the end of the world, or all three. There is no easy way out of the current situation in the region we call the Middle East unless and until Israel is brought under control. That will not happen while Washington and other arms suppliers continue to send weapons to Israel. These governments will not do so of their own volition. If



The water in the Washington Square Park fountain is dyed red as part of a pro-Palestinian demonstration on October 18, 2023.  
● MACKENZIE JAMIESON/X



Houthi supporters hold placards with pictures of late Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and Hezbollah senior commander Fuad Shukur during a protest in Sanaa, Yemen, on August 2, 2024.  
● EPA

we genuinely want them to stop arming genocide, they must be pressured like never before. The forces in favor of continuing the genocide may be fewer in number, but because the nature of their strength comes from the profits they make from supporting the occupation and (perhaps more importantly) their locations in the hierarchy of power, they continue to succeed in their decades-long battle against the Palestinian struggle for liberation.

The New York Times recently reported that, in response to the threats of retaliation against Israel from Iran, US officials are "seeking to calibrate the American response to send enough of the right types of aircraft as quickly as possible to help defend Israel without appearing to escalate the conflict". Listen to that statement. In essence, it says the US is escalating the conflict by sending more weaponry, but doesn't want to appear that it is escalating the conflict. In other words, believe what we tell you, not what you see. The media's role is to create the illusion that the escalation we can see

is not really an escalation; more weapons and killing do not mean a greater war. Of course, that is exactly what the US establishment media has been doing all along — helping Washington and Tel Aviv escalate the conflict by reporting that they aren't escalating the conflict. Redline after redline is crossed by the Israeli military, and the bombs keep on coming. So do the jets, the missiles, the bullets, the intelligence, and the money.

And so does the slaughter. If Washington and Tel Aviv have their way, the slaughter could well expand in ways we can only imagine. Lindsey Graham's resolution to attack Iran and its oil refineries must be stifled. Those who support Israel without reservation should be challenged wherever they go. Israel must be boycotted, divested from, and sanctioned. The war profiteers and their bankers cannot be let off the hook. Business as usual should not include accepting the genocide of the Palestinians. The occupation must end.

The article first appeared on CounterPunch.



# Wrestlers excel, taekwondo girls make history as Iran relishes Olympic success



Iranian wrestlers Mohammad-Hadi Saravi (l) and Saeid Esmaili celebrate after their final victories in the Greco-Roman contests of the Paris Olympics.



Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammad-Hadi Saravi rounded off a remarkable three years in his career with an Olympic gold in the 97kg class, while young prodigy Saeid Esmaili celebrated his major seniors' debut with the ultimate prize of the 67kg contests. In taekwondo, history was made in the French capital's Grand Palais on Thursday, as Nahid Kiani became the first Iranian girl to reach the final showpiece in any sport since the first edition of the Games in 1896, only to settle for the -57kg silver.

## Sports Desk

Iran's wait for a first medal at the Paris Olympics came to an end on the 11th day of the event, when Greco-Roman wrestler Amin Mirzazadeh won a superheavyweight bronze, before his compatriots bagged double golds and silvers apiece, as well as a precious taekwondo bronze, as the country enjoyed a massive hike in the medals table.

There was further glory in the Greco-Roman competitions for Iran, with Mohammad-Hadi Saravi rounding off a remarkable three years in his career with an Olympic gold in the 97kg class, thanks to a victory over veteran Armenian Artur Aleksanyan, while young prodigy Saeid Esmaili celebrated his major seniors' debut with the ultimate prize of the 67kg contests.

Alireza Mohmadi also had an impressive run in Paris, defeating high-profile Ukrainian Zhan Beleniuk in the 87kg semifinals, though his campaign finished with a 7-0 heartbreak against Bulgarian Semen Novikov as the 21-year-old Iranian – the 82kg runner-up in last September's World Championships – claimed a second major silver medal in less than 12 months.

In taekwondo, history was made in the French capital's Grand Palais on Thursday, as Nahid Kiani became the first Iranian girl to reach the final showpiece in any sport since the first edition of the Games in 1896, only to settle for the -57kg silver.

Her silver medal came after her fellow-Iranian Mobina Ne'matzadeh had won only a second-ever Olympic medal for the country in the women's events, winning a precious bronze in the -49kg weight class on the preceding night.

Victorious over Lesotho's Michelle Tau and Olympic silver medalist Adriana Cerezo of Spain, Ne'matzadeh, 19, came short against China's Guo Qing in the semifinals, but defeated Saudi Arabia's Dunya Abutaleb 3-0 and 4-3 to share the third podium with Lena Stojković – eight years after Kimia Alizadeh had also won a

taekwondo bronze in Rio 2016 to become the maiden Iranian female athlete with an Olympic medal.

### Sensational Saravi

On Wednesday, Saravi notched his first win in four career meetings with Armenian superstar Aleksanyan, and it couldn't have come at a better occasion.

Saravi scored a late takedown for a 4-1 victory to improve on the Olympic bronze he had won three years ago.

"Thank God I won a first gold for Iran in Paris, and my first gold at the Olympics after I took bronze in Tokyo," Saravi said.

A winner of a world gold and bronze over the past two years, Saravi looked confident against his decorated opponent, who had previously beaten him in the semifinals at the Tokyo Olympics as well as both the 2019 and 2022 World Championships.

"It's so sweet to win the gold medal after three attempts," Saravi said. "I have a lot of respect for my opponent in the final. He's so professional, but I was able to beat him."

Both wrestlers were unable to score from the top in par terre, and Saravi held a 1-1 lead on criteria in the second period. In a quick flurry, Aleksanyan was knocked backward toward the ground, and Saravi spun behind for a takedown to seal the triumph, sending his fellow-citizens into raptures on the streets of his home city of Amol in northern Iran.

"My city and province are the home of wrestling in Iran," he said. "Everybody is really happy there and celebrates my medal, so I am really proud to have made this happen."

A day later, Esmaili, who only turned 21 last month, rallied from behind twice to beat Tokyo silver medalist Parviz Nasibov of Ukraine 6-5 in a thrilling showdown at the Grand Palais Éphémère.

Nasibov fought off an arm throw to score a takedown in the first period before adding a passivity point to lead 3-0 at the break. Esmaili, who had stunned reigning world and Olympic champion Luis Orta by superiority in the

last eight, struck back quickly in the second period, getting behind for a takedown within seconds, then went ahead on criteria with a passivity point.

Nasibov regained the advantage with a takedown, but Esmaili stuffed a throw attempt for a two-point exposure to lead on criteria 5-5 before an unsuccessful challenge by the Ukrainian secured a second gold across six weight classes for Iran, as Hassan Ranzraz's team topped the Greco-Roman table with four medals.

"It is the best day of my life in two years after I lost close relatives in an accident. I quit wrestling for a while but I was able to put everything behind and achieve this gold medal," said Esmaili, who had defeated Tokyo Olympic champion Mohammadreza Geraei in the domestic trials for a place in Paris.

Asked about his new status as the rising star of Greco-Roman, Esmaili said: "It's a big honor to be called 'a new talent,' and I'm humbled. I have to make more effort to win more medals."

### Glorious girl

Having promised last week that "August 8 would be the sweetest day of my life", Kiani began her quest for a coveted Olympic medal with a much-anticipated battle against her fellow-Iranian-born Alizadeh in Tokyo in thrilling fashion, bouncing back from a first-round defeat to edge out Alizadeh in the final five seconds of the third round.

Kiani made amends for her loss to Alizadeh in Tokyo in thrilling fashion, bouncing back from a first-round defeat to edge out Alizadeh in the final five seconds of the third round. Tunisian Chaima Toumi came Kiani's way in the quarterfinals, with the Iranian coming out victorious again in three rounds before cruising to a last-four triumph against Lebanese Laetitia Aoun for a place in the final.

Kim Yu-jin, however, proved to be too strong for Kiani as the South Korean won both rounds for the gold, though Kiani's silver still meant an Olympic milestone for Iran's female athletes, who left the sporting extravaganza with more than one medal.



Iranian girls Nahid Kiani (top) and Mobina Ne'matzadeh pose with their taekwondo medals at the Paris Olympics.









# Iranian students shine at Int'l Nuclear Science Olympiad

## Social Desk

Iranian students brought home a silver and three bronze medals from the first International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO), held in New Clark City, the Philippines. The competition, which took place from August 1 to 6, brought together 55 junior and senior high school students from 14 countries, all aged 20 and under. The participants competed as individuals but were ranked according to the points their teams obtained in the exams, IRNA wrote. Seyed Abolfazl Mahdaeï won the silver medal, while Seyed Mohammad Sajadiyan, Shayan Rezazadeh, and Ayda Bina each received bronze medals. "We are incredibly proud of our students' achievements at the first International Nuclear Science Olympiad," said a spokesperson for the Iranian team. "Their performance

showcases the talent and dedication of Iranian youth in the field of nuclear science, and we believe this competition has helped foster international collaboration and a deeper appreciation for the importance of nuclear technology in addressing global challenges." The INSO provided a platform for international nuclear education networks to showcase their programs and create potential long-term connections among scientific and trade organizations. It also aimed to enhance interest in nuclear science and technology (NST) among secondary school students and improve the teaching of NST at the secondary school level. The competition included a grueling two-day examination that tested the students' skills and knowledge in nuclear science. Participants had to demonstrate their understanding of nuclear principles, applications, and



their potential impact on various industries and global issues. "Events like the INSO are crucial for inspiring the next generation of nuclear scientists and engineers," said one of the event organizers. "By bringing together young talent from around the world, we can foster col-

laboration, innovation, and a deeper understanding of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology." The INSO also aimed to promote international cordial relations and motivate participants to pursue professions in nuclear science and technology.

## 57th ASEAN Day marked in Tehran

# Iran-ASEAN relations: A growing partnership, a bright future

By Sadeq Dehqan & Hamideh Hosseini  
Staff writers

The 57th-anniversary celebration of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) was held in Tehran with the participation of member countries and various ambassadors on the evening of August 8, 2024, at the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Tehran. ASEAN is an international political, economic, and cultural organization in Southeast Asia, comprising ten countries working together for economic development and political stability within the member countries and the region. ASEAN was established on August 8, 1967, by Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Later, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Brunei joined the association. ASEAN focuses not only on political and economic growth but also on social progress, the evolution of socio-cultural relations among member countries, and strategies to address regional challenges.

### High potential for economic cooperation growth between Iran, ASEAN

The Republic of the Philippines currently holds the presidency of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily reporter, Roberto G. Manalo, the ambassador of the Republic of the Phil-

ippines to Tehran, referred to the relations between Iran and ASEAN member countries. He emphasized that there are excellent opportunities for bilateral cooperation between Iran and ASEAN members, and there is room for significant progress in enhancing economic relations. He pointed out that in recent years, Iran's policies on development relations have been focused on Eastern countries. In line with this, the late president Ebrahim Raisi visited Indonesia last year and met with ASEAN leaders. The ambassador added that during this period, a number of Iranian officials, including those from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have met and held discussions with their counterparts from ASEAN member countries. This highlights the importance Iran attaches to its cooperation with ASEAN and its member states. Ambassador Manalo, referring to ASEAN's capabilities, stated that as a grouping of ten countries, ASEAN encompasses a population of over 670 million people, presenting a vast market opportunity for Iran. Similarly, ASEAN members can tap into Iran's market potential. ASEAN countries have strong purchasing power and can benefit from Iranian products. He described the annual growth of GDP in ASEAN member countries as very high, with nations like the Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore, and all ASEAN members experiencing rapid economic growth each year.



Ambassador Manalo mentioned that both sides could collaborate in numerous fields. He added that ASEAN members could also leverage Iran's capabilities in oil, gas, and energy resources. According to him, areas such as medical and health services, pharmaceutical production, renewable energy, and new technologies are among the issues where both sides can cooperate.

### Iran, Southeast Asia: Shared interests, growing relations

Ali-Asghar Mohammadi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director-General for Asia and Oceania at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spoke to Iran Daily about the significance of Iran's relations with ASEAN member countries. He emphasized that the Southeast Asian and Asia-Pacific countries hold a special place for Iran and are important for its national interests.

According to Mohammadi, the demographic, racial, ethnic, and religious diversity of Southeast Asian countries, their economic advancements in recent years, and the historical ties between Iran and Southeast Asian countries over the centuries have collectively motivated the Islamic Republic of Iran to invest in developing relations with Southeast Asian countries. Referring to the mutual interest of Southeast Asian countries in cooperating with Iran, he said that Iran could assist them in developing international communications, energy security, and maritime security. Mohammadi added that the development of relations between Iran and Southeast Asian countries is also geopolitically significant. Just as the Strait of Malacca and the security of other regional waterways in East and Southeast Asia are important to Iran from a geopolitical perspective, the security of the Persian Gulf and access to energy sources

and economic markets in this region are crucial for Southeast Asian countries. Highlighting the importance of people-to-people relations between Iran and the Southeast Asian region, Mohammadi said that the people themselves play a role in shaping and valuing these connections. Currently, there is an Iranian community living in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and especially Malaysia. Similarly, a population from Southeast Asian countries resides in the Persian Gulf region and Iran. The presence of these bilateral communities has elevated the importance of the relationship in the foreign policy priorities of both Iran and ASEAN member countries. Therefore, it is essential to establish the necessary infrastructure to foster better connections. Mohammadi highlighted another important aspect of relations with Southeast Asian countries, noting their high level of independence in foreign policy. He added that despite witnessing regional disputes and competitions between China and the US, the Southeast Asian countries have endeavored to make ASEAN a pivotal structural axis of diplomacy in the region. With finesse, they have transformed this association into a successful economic organization over the past five to six decades, shielding themselves from such conflicts and playing a central role in establishing peace and stability in the region. In his opinion, ASEAN is one of the world's most successful re-

gional structures with valuable experiences that can be leveraged in developing the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and other agreements in our region, Eurasia, and other areas where we have participation. Mohammadi described ASEAN member countries' advantages and capacities as extraordinary, highlighting their three-and-a-half-trillion-dollar GDP and status as the world's fifth-largest economy. He emphasized mutual economic needs between Iran and ASEAN, including food supply, essential goods, energy security, and access to regional markets. "Given the numerous reasons mentioned, and many more, the relationship between Iran and ASEAN member countries should be close, and we should invest the necessary time and energy into it. Fortunately, the current state of relations between the two sides is very good," he added. Mohammadi continued to say that excellent infrastructure is now in place to strengthen bilateral relations, and he hopes that with the new government in place, these ties can be further enhanced and solidified. Plus, referring to the fruits of the policy of neighborhood development and strengthening relations with friendly countries during Mr. Raisi's government, Mohammadi expressed his confidence that the administration of Pezeshkian would continue to pursue a more diverse, expansive, and robust policy in this regard.