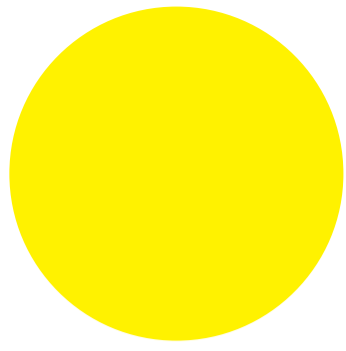


Armenia:
No force
can cut
border
with Iran



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Pezeschkian to visit Iraq on first foreign trip

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Iraq willing to mediate between Iran, US



By Mohammad Ali Sobhani
Former Iranian diplomat

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Iran's President Masoud Pezeschkian is set to make his first foreign trip to neighboring Iraq on Wednesday. This trip was initially in the cards for the late president Ebrahim Raisi, but his

unfortunate death put the plan on hold. Now, Iraqis are awaiting the new Iranian president's visit to Baghdad. While Pezeschkian has cited his personal interest in visiting the shrine of Imam Ali (the first Imam of Shia Muslims) as one of the reasons for the trip in an interview, it is quite natural that the visit will not be limited to such personal aspects, and bilateral discussions between Pezeschkian and Iraqi officials will undoubtedly take place. Iran and Iraq share profound economic, political, and cultural ties and extensive cooperation in various fields. Pezeschkian, during his trip to Iraq, is expected to discuss the progress of projects, deals and agreements between the two countries, as well as the expansion of bilateral cooperation. [Page 7 >](#)



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Iran's Paralympians Dazzle in Paris 2024, Bag 25 Medals

Sports Desk

Iranian para-athletes completed their participation on Sunday at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, which saw more than 4,000 sportspeople from around the world vying in 549 medal events.

A sum of eight gold medals were won by Iranians at the 17th Summer Paralympic Games in shooting, athletics, powerlifting and sitting volleyball events.

Also, a sum of 10 silver medals were bagged for Iran at the international multi-sport parasports event in athletics, taekwondo and judo.

Paralympians of the country grabbed seven bronzes in the Games for their shining performance in taekwondo, athletics and powerlifting events.

Iran competed at the 2024 Summer Paralympics in the French capital, from August 30 to September 8. This was their tenth consecutive appearance at the Summer Paralympics since 1988.

Next Summer Paralympic Games are scheduled to take place from August 15 to August 27, 2028, in Los Angeles, California, United States, which will be run by the International Paralympic Committee.

Iranian powerlifter Aliakbar Gharibshahi (L) celebrates with his coach and former Olympic champion Hossein Tavakkoli after winning the men's -107kg gold on the final day of the Paris Paralympics on September 8, 2024.

ISNA

Two-stage public tender announcement

Fars and Khuzestan Cement Packaging Industry Company intends to supply kraft paper according to the specifications mentioned in the documents. Therefore, in order to know the conditions and receive the tender documents, with the deadline for submitting the documents until the end on Monday 23 September 2024, you are invited to visit the company's location located at km 80 of Tehran-Qazvin road, next to the Abyek cement factory, or call +98-2645382997 - and +98-9941687152 or email momeni.commercial@fkhpci.co.ir

IRAN PLAST helps foreign firms to enter Iranian petchem industry



● SHANA

Iran's 18th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST 2024) paves the ground for foreign firms to enter Iranian petchem industry.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the event in Tehran on Sunday, Farid Dousti, the exhibition's organizer also added that Iranian petrochemical companies are after the expansion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation by holding talks with representatives of foreign companies present at the event, Shana reported.

A sum of 288 foreign companies and 525 domestic firms have participated in the four-day exhibition. China, Italy, Chinese Taipei, South Korea, Turkey, France, India, Germany, Spain, Russia, Serbia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Belarus, Syria, Iraq and Oman are among the participating countries.

The event covers petrochemical raw materials and products, technical engineering services, prefabricated and manufactured products, machinery and equipment, scientific, research, and academic centers, information technology, and digital transformation, as well as polymer compound services and products.

The expo seeks to provide a basis for the prosperity of the domestic plastic industry market and facilitate the global marketing process and the presence of this sector of the country's industry in global markets.

The exhibition is the largest event of the plastic industry in the West Asia region and among the prestigious expos of the world's plastic industry.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran's VP says subsidized gasoline price 'unreasonable'

Iranian Vice President Mohamadreza Aref said on Sunday that subsidized gasoline price in Iran is unreasonable.

Speaking in the induction ceremony of new oil minister, Aref criticized the daily gasoline imbalance across the country and said Iranian refineries produce 110 million liters of gasoline per day while the daily consumption stands at 140 million liters, Shana reported.

President Masoud Pezeshkian said in a video published in August that fuel subsidies made no sense in Iran.

"There is no rationality in the fact that we buy gasoline with free market dollar prices and we sell it with a subsidized price," Pezeshkian said in a video broadcast by state media. "Our economists and experts should stand up to these wrong policies."

Pointing to the importance of cyber security in the oil industry, Aref stated that negligence has been witnessed in the field of fuel system hacking in recent years.

In December last year, Iran's former oil minister Javad Owji confirmed that a nationwide disruption to petrol stations was caused by a cyber-attack.

A hacking group with links to Isra-



el claimed it carried out the attack which disrupted services at petrol stations across the country on De-

ember 18, 2023.

Also, Gholam-Reza Jalali, head of Iran's Passive Defense Organization

said he considers the United States and the Israeli regime to have been behind a cyberattack that caused a

temporary outage at gas stations in large cities across the Islamic Republic in October 2021.

Omani deputy minister hails Iran as safe place for investment



Oman's deputy minister of labor has emphasized that Iran is a safe place for Omani investors due to the country's appropriate infrastructure and security.

Ahmed bin Salem al-Hajri made the remarks in an interview with IRNA on the sidelines of a Sunday visit to the Arvand Free Zone.

He said there are good opportunities in Iran in various fields, including industry, health and tourism to attract foreign invest-

ors, and with free and special zones in the Islamic Republic, Omani investors can invest in the country and take advantage of tax exemptions.

The deputy minister also said that Iran is a friendly and brotherly country for Oman, and the close relations between Muscat and Tehran have led to two billion dollars in investment so far. Al-Hajari added that the Sultanate of Oman has provided special and cost-effective conditions

for Iranian investors, especially in 14 free and special economic zones, by providing economic exchanges and reducing taxes. According to the official, Oman provides good facilities for foreign businesspeople, not least Iranians.

He also noted that Iran's industry is facing sanctions and Oman is ready to cooperate with the friendly country.

The Sultanate of Oman is ready to cooperate with Iranian investors in the fields of the health industry, food security, and pharmaceuticals, he added.

Al-Hajouri also proposed that the Iranian labor and investment law should provide Omani investors with incentives for investing in the Arvand Free Zone.

In Iran and Oman, there are grounds for economic and industrial cooperation, he said, adding that the two nations should exchange experiences in terms of investment.

Iran's trade with 56 OIC states hits \$26.7b: IRICA



The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced that Iran's trade with member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) reached \$26.7 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (starting March 20).

Mohammad Rezvaniyar said on Sunday that Iran's exports to OIC

states totaled 33.6 million metric tons, amounting to \$13.5 billion, reflecting year-over-year growth of 8% and 16% in weight and value, respectively, IRNA reported. He also noted that Iran's imports from OIC member countries stood at 8.7 million metric tons, worth \$13.2 billion, registering an 18% and 15% rise in weight and value terms year-on-year.

Envoy: Russia investing in Iran's oil fields as part of energy coop.

Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said Russia's investment in Iranian oil fields is among the areas of energy cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

"We are cooperating with our Russian partners in the energy sector. First, there are investments by the Russian side in Iranian oil fields. We are interested in gas cooperation. The second option is the presence of Russian partners in Iranian fields. Another option is the supply of Russian gas to Iran, and together we could

implement joint projects. This is also a project we are working on," Jalali told TASS. Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian envoy blamed the West for escalating the situation in Ukraine.

"Unfortunately, the intervention of the collective West has aggravated the situation and complicates this process every day. The West has proved to us in practice that it has no will for a ceasefire," he said.

Since the war broke out in Ukraine in February 2022, the West has provided Kiev



with untrammelled support in the realms of finance, logistics and intelligence, turning a blind eye to alarming calls by the international

community, not least Russia, that the unhindered backing would only prolong the devastating conflict in the former Soviet republic.

Persian tea, a journey through flavor, tradition, and wellness



● hamshahronline.ir

Exploring the world of Persian tea unveils a rich tapestry of flavors and traditions that captivate tea enthusiasts worldwide. Originating from China and flourishing in Iran, Persian tea presents a diverse array of tastes, ranging from green to black and oolong. What distinguishes it is the meticulous process of leaf drying and oxidation, yielding distinct flavors while preserving its health benefits. Cherished for its cultural significance and exceptional quality, Persian tea has emerged as a preferred choice for many, esteemed for its unique taste and calming properties.

Delving into Persian tea exposes a realm of intertwined simplicity and complexity. From the verdant tea fields to the skilled hands that nurture and process the leaves, each stage in its production echoes centuries-old wisdom and dedication. With each sip, tea enthusiasts embark on a voyage of taste and tradition. Whether savored in solitude for a moment of tranquility or shared among loved ones, Persian tea leaves an enduring mark, inviting all to relish its timeless allure and embrace the hospitality of Iranian culture, toirantour.com wrote.

Tea made its way to Iran in the 15th century through bustling trade routes from China and India. Iranians embraced this novel beverage, naming it *chay*, akin to the Chinese *cha*. Tea houses became popular social hubs, particularly among the affluent and influential.

A pivotal figure in introducing tea to Iran was Kashef Al-Saltaneh, an Iranian ambassador in India. Recognizing the potential for tea cultivation in Iran, he endeavored to persuade farmers to experiment with it. Despite initial skepticism, tea gardens began to flourish, particularly in Gilan Province. The cool, mountainous climate there proved ideal for cultivating premium tea.

Presently, tea holds significant cultural importance in Iran. Numerous families are engaged in tea cultivation nationwide, and Iranian tea is renowned for its superior quality and natural essence. However, beyond its economic value, tea plays a central role in Iranian social life. It is served ubiquitously, from fam-

ily homes to social gatherings. Whether at breakfast or post-meal, tea fosters conviviality and lively conversations, embodying the warmth and conviviality of Iranian hospitality.

In Iran, tea transcends being merely a beverage—it is an essential companion throughout the day.

In the heart of Iran, where tea transcends being just a beverage to symbolize the rich history and culture of the country, Persian tea shines brightly as a beacon of health. With just a few sips, Iranian tea delivers a potent dose of antioxidants that rival even the most nutritious vegetable servings. Consider this: Two cups of this treasured elixir provide the same antioxidant benefits as consuming five servings of greens, effortlessly boosting your overall well-being.

But the wellness benefits of Persian tea do not end there. It acts as a safeguard for your heart and arteries, aiding in the prevention of potentially harmful blood clots that can jeopardize cardiovascular health. By simply enjoying three cups a day, you fortify your defenses against heart attacks and strokes. And let's not overlook the sheer enjoyment it brings — the rich and distinctive flavor of Persian tea offers a daily moment of indulgence in your routine, making each sip a gratifying experience amidst the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Lahijan, renowned as the Bride of Gilan Province, proudly serves as the epicenter of Iranian tea culture. Its lush tea plantations sprawl across the landscape, presenting a captivating vista that encapsulates the essence of this enchanting region. As you wander through Lahijan's tea fields, you are immersed in a profound communion with nature. Every sip of Lahijan tea narrates a tale of the fertile soil, the gentle rustle of the leaves, and the delicate symbiosis of insects and flora. Here, Iranian tea is not merely a beverage; it is a tribute to the harmonious coexistence between humanity and the natural world. In Lahijan, the art of brewing Iranian tea is revered, fostering a deep appreciation for the skill and mindfulness invested in every cup.

Black tea

Iranian black teas are an embodiment of robust, flavorful profiles that leave a lasting impression on your taste buds. It's akin to a culinary festival for your palate, from the timeless allure of Earl Grey to the zesty spice of Persian Masala Chai. Each sip is akin to embarking on a taste expedition, unveiling new and exciting flavors along the way.

Indulging in Persian Black Teas is akin to treating your taste buds to an exhilarating adventure. Whether relishing the classic Earl Grey or venturing into the realms of the spicy Persian Masala Chai, each flavor presents a distinct and delightful experience. It's not merely about drinking tea; it's about relishing a flavorful journey that tantalizes your senses and leaves you craving more.



● dorkam.com



● iranteaorganic.ir

Green tea

Persian green tea is akin to a refreshing burst of vitality in a cup. Renowned for its distinct grassy flavor and abundant antioxidants, each sip takes your senses on a revitalizing journey. It awakens your palate and invigorates your spirit, offering more than just a. With every indulgence in Persian green tea, it's like hitting the reset button for your well-being. From the initial aroma to the final drop on your tongue, it's a voyage of pure delight. Cherished for centuries, its appeal is undeniable. Not only is it delicious, but it also boasts a wealth of health benefits that support your overall wellness.

Saffron tea

Visualize Persian saffron tea as a harmonious fusion of flavors and aromas — a symphony of delight on your taste buds! Imagine the graceful floral undertones mingling with the comforting warmth of saffron, crafting a blissful combination that tantalizes your senses. Each cup is a masterpiece, crafted with care to uplift you inside and out.

The art of preparing Persian saffron tea transcends mere brewing; it's a holistic experience. From the enchanting aroma that fills the room to the sheer joy of that initial sip, saffron tea is more than just a beverage—it's a delectable homage to life's simple pleasures.



● shomanews.com



● kashaninuts.com

Herbal tea

Herbal teas have garnered significant popularity in Iran, captivating a diverse range of palates and interests. The allure of these teas is multifaceted — some are drawn to their potential health benefits, while others appreciate the variety they add to daily beverage choices. Moreover, herbal teas have become a fashionable option for social gatherings and events. Crafted by drying fruits, flowers, herbs, and spices, they offer a plethora of flavors and delightful scents. Serving as a wholesome substitute for sugary beverages or plain water, herbal teas present a flavorful and aromatic alternative.

The realm of herbal teas unveils a tapestry of flavors and possibilities. A key advantage lies in their ability to replace sugary drinks without compromising on taste. Whether you seek a zesty citrus blend, a soothing chamomile infusion, or a vibrant hibiscus concoction, these herbal elixirs deliver a guilt-free indulgence that gratifies both your senses and your well-being. Beyond their refreshing attributes, herbal teas have long been treasured for their potential medicinal properties, aiding digestion, fostering relaxation, bolstering the immune system, and mitigating inflammation.

Gaza breakdown

20 times Israel used US arms in likely war crimes



By Stephen Semler
Co-founder of Security
Policy Reform Institute

ANALYSIS

The Biden administration recently approved five major arms sales to Israel for F-15 fighter aircraft, tank ammunition, tactical vehicles, air-to-air missiles, mortar rounds, and related equipment for each. Though technically sales, most if not all of this matériel is paid for by US taxpayers — Israel uses much of the military aid Congress approves for it effectively as a gift card to buy US-made weapons.

The total value of the five weapons sales exceeds \$20.3 billion.

More extraordinary than the price tag of these arms deals is that the White House made them public. Prior to that announcement, it had disclosed just two arms sales to Israel. By March, the Biden administration had already greenlit more than 100 separate weapons deals for Israel, or about one every 36 hours, on average. The administration presumably kept the value of each arms deal “under threshold” to avoid having to notify Congress.

Nearly all the publicly available information on US arms transfers to Israel comes from leaks reported by the media. The Biden administration says very little about the weapons it delivers to Israel or how the Israeli military uses them. The following analysis is intended to shed light on both. In doing so, it helps explain why the Biden administration prefers to arm Israel in secret.

A man sits on debris as Palestinians conduct a search and rescue operation in Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza City on November 1, 2023.
● ALI JADALLAH/ANADOLU

What follows is a non-exhaustive list of attacks by the Israeli military since October 7 that likely violated international law, grouped by the type of US-supplied weapon involved in the attack.

In order for an attack to be listed below, there must be sufficient evidence that it violated international law. In all of the following cases, it's at least more likely than not that the attack was a violation. Many of them almost certainly were in breach of international law. This is a very high threshold — as former State Department lawyer Brian Finucane wrote in Foreign Affairs, “The law of war permits vast death and destruction. This is true even under restrictive interpretations of the law.” Furthermore, in order for an at-

tack to be listed, there must be concrete forensic evidence that a US-supplied weapon was likely used to commit the probable violation of international law. Only the types of weapons the US has reportedly delivered to Israel since October 7 are considered. This report draws from forensic investigations that have been conducted by reputable international organizations, civil society groups, media outlets, and independent analysts. The following 20 incidents represent a small fraction of potential war crimes committed with US-provided weapons. First, information gathering and fact-finding is extremely difficult. Israel restricts UN and NGO access to Gaza and doesn't cooperate with investigations into misuse of US-supplied

arms. Members of the press are routinely denied access or attacked: Since October 2023, 116 journalists and media workers have been killed by Israeli air strikes or sniper fire in Gaza, representing 86 percent of all those killed worldwide, according to data from the Committee to Protect Journalists. Prolonged communication blackouts are commonplace in Gaza.

Second, Israel's military campaign relies on US weapons, and so US matériel is involved in nearly every facet of Israel's campaign. For example, Israel uses US-made aircraft like the F-35, F-16, and F-15 to drop US-made bombs, including the MK-84 (2,000 pounds), MK-83 (1,000 pounds), MK-82 (500 pounds), and 250-pound “small diameter”

bombs, which can be fitted with US-made Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) guidance kits. The vast majority of bombs Israel drops on Gaza are US-made. The US even provides Israel with jet fuel. The US has sent so many arms to Israel since October 7 that the Pentagon has struggled to find sufficient cargo aircraft to deliver the matériel.

Third, Israel's campaign is historically destructive. In the three weeks after October 7, Israel dropped an average of 6,000 bombs on Gaza per week. By comparison, US and coalition forces dropped on average 488 bombs per week on ISIS militants in Iraq and Syria during Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) between August 2014 and March 2019. OIR

caused immense civilian harm — particularly in densely-populated areas like Mosul and Raqqa — but the scale of death and destruction doesn't come close to what Israel has done in Gaza.

What's more, according to reporting, Israel has used an Artificial Intelligence program called “Lavender” to generate an unprecedented number of bombing targets with minimal human oversight. The AI program is coded with instructions that appear inconsistent with international law and is deployed with little to no human oversight.

The Biden administration acknowledges that Israel likely broke human rights law with US-supplied weapons but claims it doesn't have enough

evidence to link US-supplied weapons to specific violations that would warrant cutting off military aid to Israel. As national security adviser Jake Sullivan told CBS, “We do not have enough information to reach definitive conclusions about particular incidents or to make legal determinations, but we do have enough information to have concern...Our hearts break about the loss of innocent Palestinian life.”

None of that is believable. As this report demonstrates, there is more than enough available information. If the Biden administration is truly concerned about the loss of innocent Palestinian life in Gaza, it can stop Israel's atrocities by denying it the tools it needs to commit them.

MK-84, other 2,000-pound bombs

Amount delivered since October 7: At least 14,100 (as of June 28). The US sent Israel at least 14,000 MK-84 2,000-pound bombs from early October to late June. Another shipment 1,800 MK-84s is pending: The White House approved their transfer in March but then paused shipping them in May. The US also delivered 100 2,000-pound BLU-109 bunker-buster bombs between October 7 and December 1.

By mid-December, the Biden administration had already provided Israel with more than 5,000 MK-84 2,000-pound bombs, four times heavier than the largest bombs the US dropped in Syria and Iraq in its war against ISIS. In the first month of its military offensive in Gaza, Israeli forces dropped more than 500 2,000-pound bombs, more than 40 percent of which were dropped in Israeli-designated safe zones. Six weeks into the war, Israel had dropped 2,000-pound bombs more than 200 times in areas to which it had instructed civilians to flee.

● **October 9, 2023:** Israeli air

strikes hit a busy market in Jabalia refugee camp, killing at least 69 people. The market was more crowded than usual because people were in the process of fleeing their homes at the instruction of the Israeli military. The UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) analysis reported that “one or two GBU-31 air-dropped munitions were used” and found no military objective to justify the strike. The GBU-31 is made from a US-made 2,000-pound MK 84 or BLU-109 bomb and a JDAM guidance kit. Neither UN OHCHR nor Amnesty International found evidence of a military target at the time of the attack. Even if there was a legitimate military target, the scale of destruction indicates the Israeli military's attack was disproportionate. Disproportionate attacks are war crimes — international law prohibits attacks that are expected to cause excessive civilian harm compared to the direct and provable military advantage anticipated from the attack.

● **October 17, 2023:** After the Israeli military told Gazans to flee to Khan Yunis for their safety, it bombed the al-Lam-



Palestinians look for survivors following the Israeli bombardment of Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip, on November 12, 2023.
● FATIMA SHBAIR/AP

dani family house in Khan Yunis. Between 15 and 40 people were killed in the attack. Remnants of a US-made MK-84 2,000-pound bomb were found at the site

● **October 25, 2023:** Israeli air strikes flattened at least 5,700 square meters in the Al Yarmouk neighborhood

of Gaza City, killing at least 91 people including 39 children. A UN assessment determined that “several” 2,000-pound GBU-31s air-dropped munitions were likely dropped by Israeli forces in the attack. According to a report from UN OHCHR, “The use of a GBU-31 or a GBU-32, in such densely

populated areas in the middle of residential neighborhoods when extensive civilian harm would be foreseeable, raises very serious concerns that those attacks were disproportionate and/or indiscriminate, and that no or insufficient precautions were taken.”

● **October 31, 2023:** After

Israeli air strikes on Jabalia, Gaza's largest refugee camp, a nearby hospital said it received 400 casualties, including 120 dead, most of whom were women and children. An analysis of the site showed at least five craters, the largest one likely from a GBU-31. According to reports, Israeli forces gave no warning before the attack, and no effort was made to evacuate the residential buildings. UN OHCHR said the attack on the Jabalia refugee camp could amount to a war crime.

● **January 13, 2024:** Israeli forces dropped a US-made MK-84 2,000-pound bomb from a US-made F-16 aircraft on a house in Deir al-Balah but it didn't explode. A second air strike did destroy the home, leaving an approximately 40-foot size crater, characteristic of a 2,000-pound bomb with a delayed fuse. The Israeli military had designated Deir al-Balah as a safe zone in October. Israeli forces instructed Palestinians in northern Gaza to flee there on December 11 and told Palestinians in central Gaza the same thing on December 22. By mid-January, Israeli bombing had leveled entire city blocks and dozens of family homes in Deir al-Balah.

GBU-39, other 'small diameter' bombs

Amount delivered since October 7: At least 2,600 (as of June). More than 2,000 of these "small-diameter" bombs are 250-pound GBU-39 munitions. After Israel received an expedited shipment of 1,000 Boeing-made GBU-39s in early October, the Biden administration approved the transfer of more than 1,000 GBU-39 bombs for Israel on April 1, the same day that Israeli forces bombed a World Central Kitchen convoy, killing seven aid workers. It's likely that far more GBU-39s have been delivered to Israel than the amount listed here. Purportedly out of concern for Palestinian civilians, the Biden administration is urging the Israeli military to use more 250-pound GBU-39s and few-

er less-precise 2,000-pound bombs. The result appears to have been a surge in possible war crimes committed with GBU-39s. The relative size of bombs doesn't matter much if Israeli forces disregard fundamental rules governing targeting in international law, including distinction, precautions, and proportionality. As retired US Air Force master sergeant Wes Bryant told the New York Times, "While they're using smaller bombs, they're still deliberately targeting where they know there are civilians."

Boeing markets its GBU-39 as a "low collateral damage" precision weapon. Echoing Boeing, White House spokesperson John Kirby said Israel's use of these 250-pound bombs is "certainly indicative of an effort to be discreet and

targeted and precise." The blast from a GBU-39 bomb can kill or injure people over 1,000 feet away, and shrapnel from the bomb's steel casing can kill or injure anyone within 570 feet.

● **January 9, 2024:** Israeli forces bombed a residential building in a neighborhood the Israeli military had repeatedly ordered displaced Gazans to flee to. The attack killed 18 people, including 10 children, and wounded at least eight others. Israeli forces gave no warning to evacuate. An investigation found no evidence that the building or anyone in it could be considered a legitimate military target. The Israeli cabinet has yet to give a reason for the strike. Fragments from a US-made Boeing GBU-39 were recovered from the rubble.

● **May 13, 2024:** Israeli forces bombed a school housing displaced civilians in Nuseirat, killing up to 30 people. A tail fin of a US-made GBU-39 was recovered at the location of the strike.

● **May 26, 2024:** An Israeli air strike on a displacement camp in Rafah filled with makeshift tents killed at least 46 people — including 23 women, children, and older adults — and injured more than 240 others. The tail of a US-made GBU-39 bomb was recovered at the site of the attack. The "81873" on the munition fragment is the identifier code the US government assigned to Woodward, a Colorado-based manufacturer that supplies bomb parts, including the GBU-39. The State Department refused to acknowledge that this was a US-made weapon. Israeli forces

claimed munitions stored at the camp caused most of the devastation, but there is no evidence of a weapons cache present.

● **June 6, 2024:** At least two GBU-39 munitions were used in an Israeli air strike on the UN-run al-Sardi school in Nuseirat, central Gaza. At least 40 people were killed in the strike, including nine women and 14 children. About 6,000 displaced Palestinians were sheltering at the school when it was bombed. The Israeli military denied that there were any civilian casualties. Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said the attack is a possible war crime. A US-made navigation device manufactured by Honeywell was also documented at the site.

● **August 10, 2024:** More than 100 Palestinians were killed

in an Israeli air strike on the al-Tabin school in Gaza City, which was being used to shelter displaced people. The Israeli military said it used "precise munitions". Paramedics who arrived at the scene said they found bodies "ripped to pieces" and that many bodies were unidentifiable. Parents reported difficulty identifying their deceased children. Remnants of at least two Boeing-made GBU-39 small-diameter bombs were identified at the scene. Two investigations found no evidence that the school was being used for military operations, as the Israeli military claimed. The list of fighters the Israeli army alleged it killed in the strike included several people who had previously been listed as deceased and civilians with no known military ties.

Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM)

Amount delivered since October 7: At least 3,000 (as of December 1).

● **October 10, 2023:** An Israeli air strike on the al-Najjar family home in Deir al-Balah killed 24 civilians. The code stamped on a recovered munition fragment, 70P862352, indicates that a US-supplied JDAM was used in the attack. The Boeing-made guidance kit was likely fitted to a 2,000-pound bomb. Survivors said Israel gave civilians no warning of an imminent strike. Amnesty International said the attack must be investigated as a war crime.

● **October 22, 2023:** An Israeli air strike on the Abu Mu'eileq family home in Deir al-Balah killed 19 people, including 12 children. The home was located in the area to which the Israeli military had ordered residents of northern Gaza to flee on October 13. The code stamped on the recovered scrap, 70P862352, is associated with JDAMs and Boeing-

The Boeing-made JDAM kit was fitted to a bomb that weighed at least 1,000 pounds. Survivors said Israel gave no warning of an imminent strike. Amnesty International said the attack must be investigated as a war crime.

● **March 27, 2024:** An Israeli strike on the Emergency and Relief Corps of the Lebanese Succour Association, a humanitarian organization, killed seven emergency and relief volunteers in southern Lebanon. The strike used a US-made JDAM guidance kit affixed to an Israeli-made 500-pound bomb. Human Rights Watch said that the incident should be investigated as a war crime.

● **July 13, 2024:** An Israeli strike on the Al-Mawasi — an Israeli military-designated "safe zone" — killed over 90 people and injured hundreds more. Remnants of a US-made JDAM were found at the scene. Based on the size of the fin fragment, the JDAM was likely fitted to either a 1,000- or 2,000-pound bomb.

Hellfire missiles

Amount delivered: At least 3,000 (as of June 28).

● **June 8, 2024:** Israel's operation to rescue four captives in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza killed nearly 300 Palestinians. A witness reported Israeli attack helicopters launching many strikes in Nuseirat and surrounding areas. Another witness said 150 rockets fell in less than 10 minutes. Remnants of at least two US-made Hellfire missiles were found in a damaged residential building. Video shows US-made Apache helicopters firing several Hellfire missiles into the Nuseirat refugee camp. The Israeli military also bombed a busy market several blocks south of where the Israeli captives were kept and in the opposite direction of the evacuation route. UN OHCHR said the raid "seriously calls into question whether the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution — as set out under the laws of war — were respected by the Israeli forces".

● **June 23, 2024:** An Israeli air strike



White phosphorus fired by the Israeli army to create a smoke screen is seen on the Israel-Lebanon border in northern Israel on November 12, 2023. ● EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/REUTERS

on a health clinic in Gaza City killed five people, including Hani al-Jaafari, Gaza's director of ambulances and emergency. He was reportedly the 500th medical worker killed during Israel's military campaign in Gaza. The rocket motor of a US-supplied Hellfire missile was recovered at the health care center.

● **July 14, 2024:** Hundreds of Palestinians were taking refuge at the United

Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Abu Orain school when it was hit by an Israeli air strike, killing at least 22 people. The Israeli military issued no warning to the displaced people sheltering there before the attack. US-made Hellfire missile fragments were found at the school, including part of its guidance system and motor. (Remnants of a Boeing-made GBU-39's tail section were also recovered at the site.)

120mm tank shells

Amount delivered since October 7: At least 13,981.

A day after the US vetoed a UN Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and the unconditional release of captives, the White House notified Congress on December 8 that it had approved the sale of 13,981 120mm M830A1 high-explosive tank cartridges to Israel.

The Biden administration invoked an emergency authority to bypass the congressional review period. Because the shells were sourced from US Army inventory, they could be transferred immediately

to Israel.

The day before, Reuters, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International all published investigations providing evidence that an Israeli tank likely deliberately fired two Israeli-made 120mm shells at a group of journalists in southern Lebanon in October, killing one Reuters journalist and injuring six others. Both Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International said the incident was an apparent war crime. Israeli tanks have also struck hospitals and humanitarian shelters using 120mm tank rounds. On August 13, the

Biden administration notified Congress that it approved a \$774 million arms sale to Israel for 32,739 120mm tank cartridges.

● **January 29, 2024:** Six-year-old Hind Rajab was the only survivor in her family's car after Israeli tanks opened fire. Over the phone, Hind begged rescue workers to come save her. The Palestine Red Crescent Society dispatched an ambulance with two emergency workers. At least one Israeli tank opened fire, killing both paramedics. A fragment of a US-made M830A1 120mm tank round was documented at the scene.

155mm artillery shells

Amount delivered: At least 57,000 (as of December 1).

This total includes thousands of 155mm rounds originally for Ukraine that the Biden administration diverted to Israel in October. Netanyahu specifically requested 155mm artillery shells from US lawmakers in mid-November.

Around the same time, more than 30 organizations urged the Biden administration to not supply Israel with these munitions because their inaccuracy and 100-300-meter casualty radius make them "inherently indiscriminate" in the Gaza context. "It

is difficult to imagine a scenario in which high explosive 155mm artillery shells could be used in compliance with [international humanitarian law]," the organizations wrote.

On December 29, the White House notified Congress that it approved the sale of an additional 57,021 155mm shells to Israel. The Biden administration invoked an emergency authority to bypass the congressional review period. Israeli forces will likely fire these rounds from US-made howitzers. The Israeli military announced earlier that month it fired over 100,000

artillery rounds during the first 40 days of its ground invasion of Gaza, adding that artillery plays a "central role" by providing "intense fire cover" for its ground forces.

● **October 16, 2023:** Israeli forces fired 155mm artillery shells containing white phosphorus into Dhayra, southern Lebanon. At least nine civilians were killed and civilian property was damaged. Lot production codes found on the shells indicate they were made in the US. Amnesty International said the attack was indiscriminate and must be investigated as a war crime.

**Armored vehicles**

Amount delivered since October 7: Unknown. The Israeli Ministry of Defense reported on October 19 that US Air Force cargo airplanes delivered the first tranche of US-made David light armored vehicles, part of a \$22 million arms deal from April 2023.

● **November 14, 2023:** The first photo here from the Israeli Ministry of Defense shows David light armor vehicles after being unloaded from a US Air Force C-17 at Ben Gurion Airport on October 19. The second photo shows Israeli forces using David light armor vehicles to obstruct an ambulance en route to a hospital on November 14, arresting the wounded person inside. International humanitarian law prohibits attacks on and obstruction of medical transport.

The full article first appeared on Responsible Statecraft.



Paris Paralympics:

Iran's Gharibshahi wins powerlifting gold;
Beit Sayyah stripped of javelin prize

Sports Desk

The final day of the Paris Paralympics in Paris saw Iranian powerlifter Aliakbar Gharibshahi set a new record for the Games to grab the ultimate prize in the men's -107kg contest.

A gold medalist in last year's World Championships and Asian Para Games, the Iranian began his quest for a third major medal in 12 months with a successful 247kg lift in La Chapelle Arena – a new high in the sporting extravaganza.

He then went on to shatter the Paralympic record for a second time when he overcame the 252kg weight, but failed to lift 261kg in his final attempt – which would have seen him better the world record, set by himself in 2022, by one kilogram.

The tally was still enough for Gharibshahi to finish four kilograms clear of Mongolian silver medalist Enkhbayaryn Sodnompiljee, who had won the Paralympic gold in Tokyo three years ago but settled for a runner-up spot behind the Iranian in the two major events last year.

Mexican Jose de Jesus Castillo took the bronze with 222kg.

"The world and Asian Games records belong to me and I'm thrilled to have also smashed the Paralympic record. I was a bit nervous to compete in the morning session, but my coaches helped me pick the right weights and win the gold," said the Iranian.

"I worked hard for years to win the Paralympic gold, I was omitted from the national squad on several occasions but never backed off to fulfil this achievement," added Gharibshahi, who missed out on



Iranian powerlifter Aliakbar Gharibshahi (L) celebrates with his coach and former Olympic champion Hossein Tavakkoli after winning the men's -107kg gold at the Paris Paralympics on September 8, 2024.

● IRNA

of Para athletics. All participants in the sport, including athletes, coaches, officials, and administrators, have a responsibility to uphold these standards and ensure that the sport is conducted in a fair, honest, and transparent manner," read the regulations of the international governing body of the sport.

"I displayed the same flag [after winning the silver medal] in the Tokyo Games but there was no problem there," Beit Sayyah said. The Iranian officials issued a complaint to the decision twice as they believed the athlete used the flag out of "his religious belief", but the protest was rejected on both occasions by the organizers.

Indian Navdeep Singh, who had finished second to Beit Sayyah with 47.32m, had his silver medal upgraded to gold, with Chinese Sun Pengxiang and Iraqi Nukhailawi Wildan taking the silver and bronze medals respectively.

There was still a bit of consolation for Iran in Stade de France on Saturday, as Elham Salehi won a bronze medal to take the country's medal haul in the athletics event to 12.

The Iranian registered a best effort of 16.24m in her final attempt to finish third to Uzbekistan's Nurkhon (21.12m) and Flora Ugwunwa (19.26m) of Nigeria in the women's javelin throw F54 competition.

a place in the Iranian squad in Tokyo.

This was a third powerlifting medal for Iran in Paris.

Rouhollah Rostami had won the men's -80kg gold in emphatic fashion, thanks to world record-breaking lift of 242kg on Friday, while Mohsen Bakhtiar had to settle for the bronze in a closely-contested -59kg event, where the top three were separated by just four kilograms.

Celebration caught short

On Saturday, Iranian Sadegh Beit Sayyah smashed the Paralympic record to win a javelin throw gold, only to be stripped of the medal over what was deemed a violation of the Games' code of conduct. Representing the country in the event's F41 class, the Iranian thought he had improved on his Paralympic silver in Tokyo with a best effort of 47.64m in his penultimate attempt, but received

a yellow card for his controversial celebration following his record-breaking throw.

He then went on the wave a religious flag after clinching the gold, but his jubilation was short-lived after he was handed a second caution and, hence, disqualified as his action was against Rule 8.1 of the World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations (Code of Conduct and Ethics). The flag bore the name of Umm

ul-Baneen (PBUH) – the wife of Imam Ali (PBUH), the first Shia Imam, and the mother of Abolfazl (PBUH).

The decision came "due to a breach of rules pertaining to unsporting or improper conduct," the official website of the International Olympic Committee wrote. "World Para Athletics (WPA) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, ethics, and conduct in the sport

Wrestling U20 World Championships:

Khorramdel grabs gold as Iran collects three FS medals



Sports Desk

Ali Khorramdel won the 65kg gold at the Wrestling U20 World Championships on Saturday as Iran bagged three freestyle medals across five weight classes in Pontevedra, Spain.

A bronze medalist in last year's 61kg contests of the U20 Worlds, Khorramdel cruised to the ultimate prize this time around thanks to a 10-2 victory over Makoto Hosokawa of Japan.

Despite the emphatic triumph over the Japanese, the Iranian – also the reigning Asian under-20 champion – had a difficult path toward the final showdown as he had to come from behind to edge out Turkey's Abdullah Toprak 12-11 in a thrilling opener.

Khorramdel then fought hard to defeat Aykhan Abdullazada of

Azerbaijan 9-6 before hanging on to beat Russian Adam Arkhiev, participating as a neutral athlete, 6-4 in the semifinals.

Elsewhere, Ali Karampour and Mahdi Yousefi finished their campaigns with two bronze medals in their respective classes.

Representing the country in the 70kg class, Karampour bounced back from a 13-2 defeat against Japan's Ryoya Yamashita to outmuscle Georgian Goga Otinashvili via fall and share the third podium with American Peter Duke.

Yousefi, meanwhile, fell to a technical fall defeat to eventual gold medalist Alp Begenjov in the first round but still managed to make it to the third-place bout, where he came out on top against Indian Amit Amit 13-2 for a consolation bronze.

Saturday's results came after the

Iranian 10-man squad had dominated the Greco-Roman competitions last week in Pontevedra.

Ali Ahmadi Vafa (55kg), Mohammad-Mahdi Gholampour (60kg), Ahmadreza Mohsennejad (67kg), and Alireza Abdevali (77kg) pocketed four golds, while Abolfazl Fat'hi took the 130kg silver and Erfan Jarkani won a 63kg bronze, as Iran tallied 147 points for a fifth world under-20 title in a row, with Kazakhstan (100pts) and Turkey (98pts) in the following spots.

Iran's Ali Khorramdel (blue) completes a takedown in the freestyle 65kg final against Makoto Hosokawa of Japan in the U20 World Championships in Pontevedra, Spain, on September 7, 2024.

● JAKE KIRKMAN/UWW

Sabalenka survives Pegula storm to win U.S. Open women's title

REUTERS – Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka hoisted the trophy in New York at last after years of close calls, as she outplayed American sixth seed Jessica Pegula 7-5 7-5 in the U.S. Open women's final on Saturday.

Sabalenka won her first title at Flushing Meadows a year after coming up short in the final. Twice before, she reached the semi-finals. On Saturday, she blocked out the wild cheers for the hometown favorite at Arthur

Ashe Stadium to break Pegula in the final game.

"So many times I thought I was so close to get U.S. Open title. Finally, I get this beautiful trophy," said the second seed, who fought back from a breakdown in both sets to

claim victory and fell to the court in her moment of triumph.

"I remember all those tough losses in the past here and you know, it's going to sound cheesy but never give up on your dream and just keep trying," Sabalenka said.

The Belarusian dropped only one set in New York on her way to the final as key contenders including defending champion Coco Gauff and top seed Iga Swiatek crashed out.

Pegula, 30, had waited a long

time to reach her first major final and came to New York in fine form after winning in Toronto. But she could not match her opponent's raw power despite the noisy backing of the New York crowd.

Pezeshkian to visit Iraq on first foreign trip

International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian will visit neighboring Iraq on Wednesday in what will be his first trip abroad since he took office in July. Pezeshkian will head a high-ranking Iranian delegation to meet senior Iraqi officials. The visit comes at the invitation of Iraq's Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, the official IRNA news agency quoted Iran's ambassador to Baghdad Mohammad Kazem Ale-Sadegh as saying. The two countries will sign memoranda of understanding on cooperation and security, Ale-Sadegh said, without elaborating. He said the agreements

were to have been signed during a planned visit to Iraq by Iran's late president, Ebrahim Raisi. Raisi died in May along with the then foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, when their helicopter crashed on a fog-shrouded mountainside in northern Iran.

Resolving differences

Mohammad Mehdi Shahriari, a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of Iran's Parliament, said Pezeshkian's trip to Iraq is aimed at improving relations with Iran's neighbors and economic growth as well as resolving some differences with the Arab country. He called the demarcation of the common border as

the main issue that has remained unresolved between the two neighbors since the end of Iraq's imposed war on Iran in the 1980s.

Shahriari also pointed to Iraq's outstanding debts to Iran over import of electricity and other things, saying that the debts should be cleared by the Iraqi government. He also said problems facing some Iranian manufacturers who export their products to Iraq can be resolved during the presidential visit.

Since taking office, Pezeshkian has vowed to "prioritize" the fortification of ties with Iran's neighbors.

Relations between Iran and Iraq have grown closer over the past two decades. Tehran is one of



Masoud Pezeshkian

president.ir

Iraq's leading trade partners. In March 2023, the two countries signed a security agreement cov-

ering their common border, months after Tehran struck Kurdish opposition groups in Iraq's north.

They have since agreed to disarm anti-Iran Kurdish groups and remove them from border areas.

Iran has never been part of Russia-Ukraine war: **FM spox**



Iran reiterated that it has played no role in the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, following allegations of Tehran's delivery of ballistic missiles to Moscow.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the remarks on Sunday, a day after US media alleged that Iran had transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia, citing unidentified sources.

Kanaani said the Islamic Republic's principled approach to the Ukraine crisis remains "unchanged," and that the "completely baseless" claims about the transfer of Iranian ballistic missiles to Russia are in line with the political objectives of some Western countries.

"As it has been emphasized time and again, the Islamic Republic opposes the war and supports a political solution to resolve differences between Russia and Ukraine and end military conflicts," he added.

"Since the start of the Ukraine crisis, Iran has never been a part of the military conflict and its continuation, and it has always supported a political solution and bilateral talks to end the battle."

Iran's UN mission had earlier rejected the accusations.

However, the US and its Western allies have repeatedly claimed that Iran is supplying weapons to Russia for direct use in the Ukraine war.

Iran says the Western countries are escalating the war through the supply of advanced weaponry to Kiev.

Armenia: No force can cut border with Iran

International Desk

Secretary of the National Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan said the borderline between Armenia and Iran is "a border of peace and friendship and no force can cut it."

He made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Yerevan Mehdi Sobhani, ISNA reported.

Grigoryan appreciated Iran's positions on international borders as well as supporting the territorial integrity of Armenia. He emphasized that the border of Armenia and Iran is the border of peace and friendship, stressing that Armenia attaches great importance to the relationship with Iran and no force can cut the territorial connection between Iran and Armenia.

Sobhani underscored the position of Iran in supporting the territorial integrity of its neighbors and Tehran's opposition



to any geopolitical change in the international borders.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's recent remarks expressing support for Azerbaijan's demand to get unimpeded access to its Nakhchivan exclave by opening the Zangezur transport corridor through Armenia have drawn criticism in Iran. Moscow and Baku want Russia to monitor and control the corridor, but Yerevan and Tehran are opposed to such a scheme.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has also reacted to the Lavrov's

remarks, saying that any threats to the territorial integrity of neighboring countries or redrawing of boundaries is a red line for Iran.

In a post published on the X social media platform on Thursday, the top Iranian diplomat emphasized that regional stability plays a very significant role in his country's national security.

"Any threat from North, South, East, or West to the territorial integrity of our neighbors or redrawing of boundaries is totally unacceptable and a red line for Iran," Araghchi added.

Tens of thousands of Brits stage new anti-Israel protest in London

Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets of London on Saturday, marching through the city to mark the 11th month of Israel's genocidal war on Gaza. The protesters called for a lifting of the occupation and for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza.

Organizers held a series of speeches at the start of the march on Regent Street before walking through the heart of west London towards the Israeli Embassy in South Kensington, Middle East Eye reported.

Flanked by an army of volunteers in green vests, protesters held Palestine flags and placards that called on Britain to impose a full arms embargo on Israel and for the Israeli military to end its war in Gaza.

Iqbal Mohamed, one of the independent MPs elected in July who stood on a pro-Palestine platform, joined the march.

Mohamed said that Britain's decision to cut 30 out of 350 arms contracts with



AFP

Israel and the decision to restore partial funding to UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, was a "drop in the ocean."

"Britain could be indicted for possible war crimes and my job as a British citizen and parliamentarian is to ensure we comply with international law."

Saturday's march was the 18th national demonstration for Palestine since the start of the war last October and the first time a pro-Palestine march has been held in the vicinity of the Israeli Embassy in South Kensington.

It was organized by a coalition of organizations, in-

cluding the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Friends of Al-Aqsa, the Muslim Association of Britain, the Stop the War Coalition and the Palestine Forum in Britain.

The protest, which ended on the edge of Hyde Park, near the Israeli Embassy, was met with metal barriers and dozens of police officers.

The health ministry in Gaza said Sunday that at least 40,972 people have been killed in the Israeli war now in its 12th month. The toll includes 33 deaths from Saturday to Sunday, according to the ministry.

Three Israelis killed in shooting attack at West Bank-Jordan crossing

A truck driver shot dead three Israeli guards at a border crossing between the occupied West Bank and Jordan Sunday before being killed, Israel's military said. The rare attack at the Allen-

by Bridge crossing comes amid soaring violence in the West Bank with major Israeli raids and attacks by Palestinians, and against the backdrop of the Israel's war on Gaza, now in its

12th month, AFP reported. The Israeli military said the assailant reached crossing area, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, in a truck "from Jordan".

The driver "exited the truck and opened fire at Israeli security forces operating at the bridge", a military statement said. The attacker was shot dead, the military added, without providing his name or nationality.

Hamas resistance group, which has been fighting the Israeli army in Gaza since last October, praised the attack but did not claim re-

sponsibility for it.

The Palestinian group said in a statement that the shooting "affirms the Arab peoples' rejection of the (Israeli) occupation, its crimes, and its ambitions in Palestine and Jordan".

Jordan's Interior Ministry said authorities were "investigating the incident".

The crossing, in the Jordan Valley, is the only international gateway for Palestinians from the West Bank that does not require entering Israel, which has occupied the territory since 1967.



AFP

Iraq willing to ...

Given the depth of relations between the two countries, **Page 1** > the president's trip to Iraq is not unexpected or out of the ordinary.

It appears that the top priority for both countries is their bilateral relationship. Nonetheless, talks about regional issues and topics beyond bilateral matters are always on the agenda. As an Arab country with deep cultural and political ties to Iran, Iraq has consistently sought to improve Tehran's relations with other Arab states in the region. It has also been keen on improving Iran-US relations and have made efforts and held negotiations

in this regard in the past.

I am not privy to the specifics of the Iranian president's agenda in Iraq, but I surmise that, in addition to bilateral issues, the Iraqis remain interested in mediating to resolve or reduce tensions between Iran and the US. There may be discussions or exchanges of messages on this matter during this trip.

Pezeshkian is on the cusp of traveling to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly, and his visit to Iraq ahead of this trip may be noteworthy in this regard as well. It seems that everyone is awaiting to see where the new government's foreign

policy stands regarding crucial decisions and measures to improve relations with the West, including Europe and the US. In my view, the primary focus of the government's foreign policy should be on getting FATF approval (Financial Action Task Force) and initiating new talks with Europe and the US, regardless of the framework.

The president's trip to New York will only be fruitful if Pezeshkian has a clear agenda regarding sanctions relief and improved relations with the West. Therefore, attending the United Nations General Assembly needs the requisite measures and preparations to achieve tangible outcomes that meet the expectations of the Iranian people.

Iranian animation wins top prize at Greek festival



Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian animation 'In the Shadow of the Cypress' picked up the top prize for best animation at the 47th Drama International Short Film Festival (DISFF) in Greece. The 19-minute and 33-second animation, co-directed by Shirin Sohani and Hossein Molayemi, was awarded the prize at the festival's closing ceremony, which was held online, IRNA wrote. 'In the Shadow of the Cypress' has been racking up international awards at film

festivals around the world, and this latest win is just the latest in a string of successes for the film. The animation, produced by the International Affairs of the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), tells the story of a former captain who is struggling to connect with his daughter after a traumatic accident. The film's synopsis reads: "A former captain, suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after an accident, lives with his daughter in a secluded house by the sea.

They must face the challenges of a difficult life. Despite the captain's deep desire to be a sacrificing and caring father, he struggles to connect with his daughter in the way he wishes. One morning, an unforeseen event occurs, changing their lives forever. Whether this event is a source of new hope or a new problem remains to be seen." The festival's jury praised the film for its "structurally innovative narrative, extraordinary sound and image, and attention to aesthetics in animation, and the subtlety

with which it approaches the human psyche." The Greek festival, which was founded in 1978 by the Drama Film Center in Greece, aims to promote and disseminate the art of cinema, particularly short films, in Greece and abroad, and to foster collaboration with artists from around the world. It is the only Oscar-qualifying film festival in Greece. This year's festival, which ran from September 2-8, 2024, in the city of Drama, Greece, featured a diverse lineup of short films from around the world.

Tehran stands tall in region, ranked 34th globally in science, tech clusters

Social Desk

The Iranian capital has vaulted to the 34th spot in the latest science and technology cluster rankings released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), outpacing its regional rivals and solidifying its position as a hub for innovation. According to the 2023 WIPO report, Tehran has consistently ranked among the top 100 science and technology clusters globally in recent years, but this latest ranking marks a significant jump. The city has edged out other regional contenders to take the top spot in South and Central Asia, ISNA reported.

A breakdown of the data shows that the University of Tehran has come out on top, accounting for 12% of the city's published research papers, followed closely by the Islamic Azad University with 9% and Amirkabir University of Technology with 8%. The WIPO evaluation found that between 2017 and 2022, a total of 63,113 papers were published in Tehran, with 25% of those focused on technical and engineering fields, according to Intellectual Property Center. The University of Tehran's public relations office noted that the WIPO report also highlighted the dominance of East Asian cities in the global rankings, with Yokohama, Japan; Guangzhou, China; and

Seoul, South Korea taking the top three spots. The first non-Asian city to make the list was San Francisco, which came in sixth. Tehran filed 37 PCT applications and published 9,320 scientific articles, both per 1 million inhabitants over the last five years. Six percent of Tehran's PCT patent applications are filed in collaboration with other inventors, with Los Angeles, Boston-Cambridge and Paris emerging as the top collaborative locations. Twenty-two percent of Tehran's scientific articles are published in collaboration with other organizations, with the top three collaborating locations being Boston-Cambridge, London and Seoul.



Sunni Baluch academic appointed as deputy science minister for first time

A prominent Sunni Baluch academic has been tapped to become the deputy science minister for innovation and technology, marking a first for the minority group. Mohammad Nabi Shahiki, a renowned economist and professor at the University of Sistan and Baluchestan, has been appointed to the post by Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei Sarraf, according to a statement released by the ministry, Rokna News Agency reported. Shahiki, who holds a Ph.D. in economics from Allameh Tabataba'i University, has a long track record of achievement, including serving as the head of the Sistan and Baluchestan Science and Technology Park since 2014. Under his auspices, the park has grown to become one of the largest in the region, with over 300 knowledge-based, tech and startup units. Shahiki has also held various other positions, including secretary of the secretariat for international maritime economy capacity building and member of the technology policy think tank of the Min-



istry of Science, Research and Technology. Shahiki has also received several awards and honors for his work, including the "Sarv" award for outstanding management of science and technology parks, and the "Most Successful Science and Technology Park" award.

Death creeping up on Persepolis as petrochemical pollution takes toll

Arts & Culture Desk

The ancient city of Persepolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is facing a silent death due to pollution from a nearby petrochemical complex, Iranian officials and archaeologists warned. The site, which was once the capital of the Achaemenid Empire, has been plagued by the growth of lichens and algae on its stone carvings for years. The pollutants, including ammonia and nitrogen compounds, emitted by the petrochemical complex are

accelerating the growth of these biological agents, threatening to destroy the site, IRNA wrote. A recent conference in Marvdasht, titled "The Role of Local Community in Sustainable Development of Persepolis," brought together local officials, experts, and community members to discuss the issue and potential solutions. The conference highlighted the devastating impact of chemical pollutants on the 2,500-year-old site. "The pollution is a serious threat to the site, and if it continues,

it will cause irreparable damage," said an official from the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Fars Province. The issue is not new, and experts have been warning about the dangers of pollution from the petrochemical complex for years. However, the problem has been exacerbated by the complex's continued operation and the lack of effective measures to address the issue. In recent years, the Iranian government has

been promoting industrialization in the Fars Province, and the petrochemical complex is seen as a key part of this effort. However, experts say that the importance of preserving the country's cultural heritage must not be forgotten. "The industrialization of the province is important, but it should not come at the cost of our cultural heritage," said an archaeologist attending the conference.

"The petrochemical complex's activities are causing irreparable damage to Persepolis, and something must be done to stop it." The conference organizers called on the government to take immediate action to address the issue and protect the site from further damage. They also emphasized the need for a comprehensive study to assess the impact of the pollution and develop effective measures to mitigate it. Meanwhile, the petrochemical complex continues to operate without taking any measures to address

the pollution. The company has shown no intention of relocating or reducing its activities, despite the warnings from experts. The situation has raised concerns among locals and cultural heritage enthusiasts, who fear that the site may be lost forever if nothing is done to stop the pollution. A recent concert held at the site, which was criticized by some for potentially causing damage, has also highlighted the need for greater protection of the site. "If a concert can cause damage to the site, what about the years of pollution from the petrochemical complex?" asked a local resident. "Something must be done to stop this destruction before it's too late." The fate of Persepolis hangs in the balance, and experts warn that if nothing is done, the site may be lost forever.

