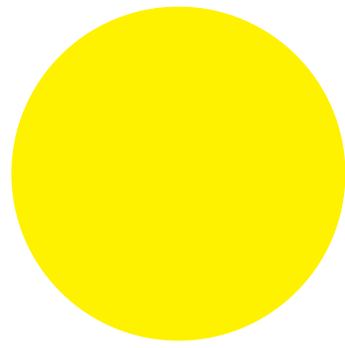


'In the Arms of the Tree' picked as Iran's Oscar representative



8 >



# Iran Daily

Vol. 7652 • Sunday, September 22, 2024 • Mehr 1, 1403 • Rabi' al-Awwal 18, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



> [irandaily.ir](http://irandaily.ir)

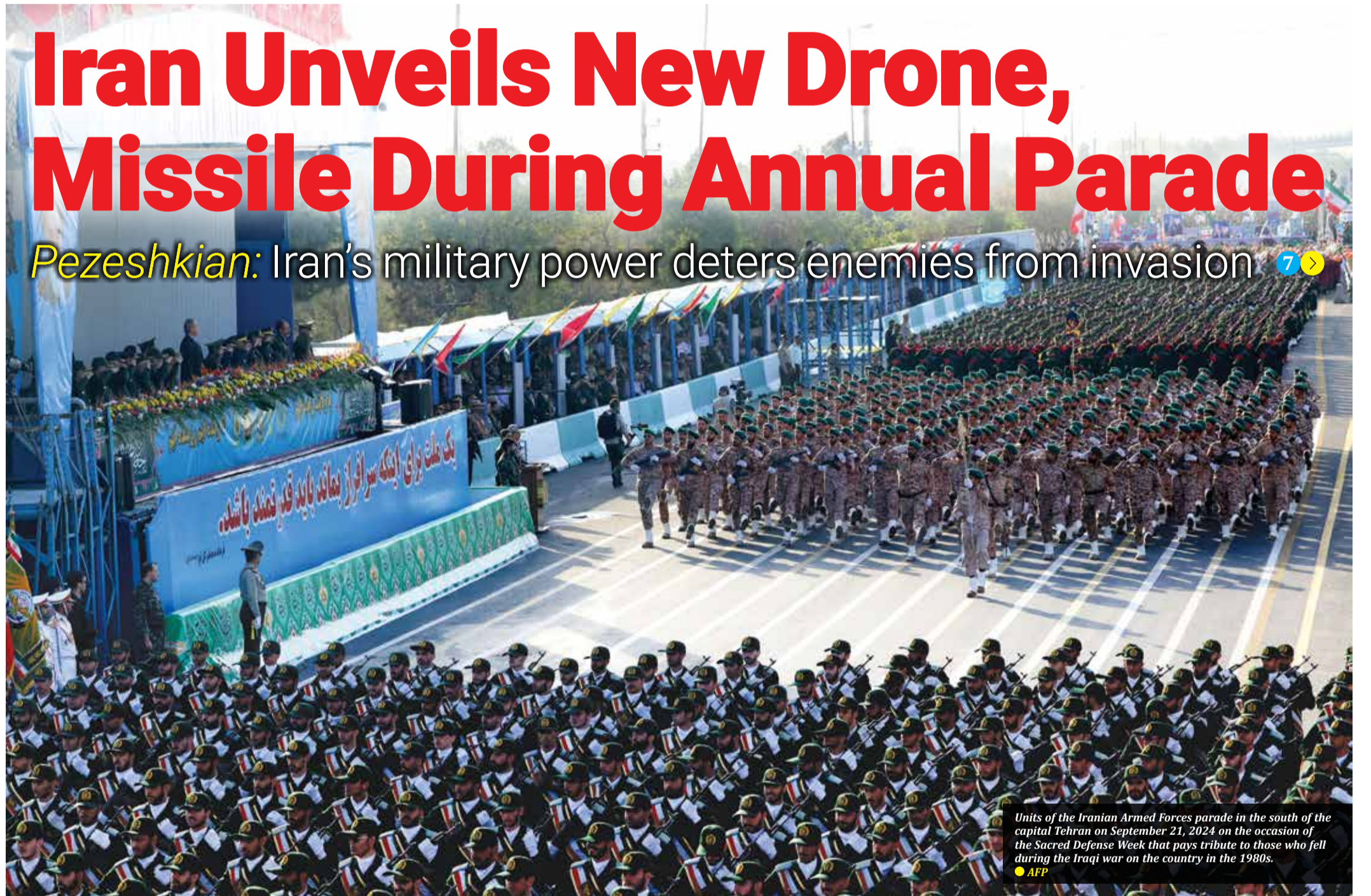
| [newspaper.irandaily.ir](http://newspaper.irandaily.ir)

| IranDailyWeb



## Leader: Muslims should tap inner power to eradicate Israeli cancer

7 >



## Iran Unveils New Drone, Missile During Annual Parade

Pezeshkian: Iran's military power deters enemies from invasion

7 >

Units of the Iranian Armed Forces parade in the south of the capital Tehran on September 21, 2024 on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week that pays tribute to those who fell during the Iraqi war on the country in the 1980s. ● AFP



Iran's international exchanges to be facilitated via FATF: MP

2 >



FIFA Futsal World Cup: Iran eyeing top spot in the group against France

6 >



Jalalabad Citadel, a pillar of Sistan's historical heritage

3 >

### UN veto initiative 'hits a nerve': Liechtenstein diplomat

SPECIAL ISSUE

4-5 >



Iran set to become world's third pharmaceutical power

2 >

### Agonizing contradictions in global approaches to Palestine, Ukraine crises

By Mohammad Mahdi Mohammadi  
Researcher

PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

International Day of Peace, observed annually on September 21, is an opportunity to reflect on the global community's commitment to maintaining peace and tranquility. However, in recent years, more fundamental contradictions have emerged in the behaviors of international peace organizations and European countries regarding various crises, particularly in Palestine and Ukraine. These contradictions are evident not only in political rhetoric but also in their practical actions. While the crisis in Ukraine has faced immediate and extensive reactions as a full-scale war in Europe, the Palestinian crisis has received notably less attention. European countries issued strong statements and sanctions against Russia, expressing solidarity with Ukraine, while their responses to the repeated attacks on Palestinians have been considerably muted. This duality in addressing crises raises questions and highlights a form of bias in global peace priorities. [Page 8 >](#)



## Iran's e-commerce market value at \$60b in Q1

The value of the electronic commerce market in Iran rose to an all-time high of nearly \$60 billion in the calendar year to late March.

Head of Iran Center for e-Commerce Development said that total e-commerce trade recorded in the country in the year to March had reached 32,000 trillion rials considering the price of the US dollar was just more than 530,000 rials at the time, Press TV wrote.

Amid Kolehdoouzan added that the figure was an increase of 74% compared to the year to March 2023, adding that Iran hopes its e-commerce market would expand by nearly the same rate this calendar year.

"The statistics reflect a rapid and forward-looking move in the country's e-commerce eco-system," Kolehdoouzan said, while addressing the second edition of Iran Mobile Congress, an event dedicated to internet technologies and mobile applications.

He said that the e-commerce market value in Iran had more than tripled in the two years to late March, adding that the country seeks to hit a target of 90,000 rials in the sector in the next five years. Iran has experienced a rapid rise in the use of domestic internet applications in recent years.

That has come amid tighter controls on access to foreign applications, including social media platforms based in the United States, which the Iranian government has blamed for spread of insecurity in the country in the past.

The fast spread of mobile internet has been key to the e-commerce success in Iran. Iranian government figures released in late August showed that mobile internet penetration rate in the country had risen by 6.31% in the two years to late March. The figures showed that high speed mobile internet had been available to more than 112 million customers in Iran in the quarter to late March, up 7.1% from figures reported in the same quarter in March 2022.

# Iran's international exchanges to be facilitated via FATF: **MP**

The head of the Parliament's Plan and Budget Committee said that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) facilitates the country's banking transactions in the international arena. Talking to IRNA, Gholamreza Tajgardoun expressed his hope that President Masoud Pezeshkian will follow up on the country's membership in the organization as soon as possible.

"Our joining FATF will make our banking transactions easier and as a result, our traders will experience better conditions," the lawmaker added.

Pezeshkian has said the country has no choice but to resolve disputes surrounding the FATF and the 2015 Iran nuclear deal to address Iranians' economic woes and achieve the country's long-term goals.

Pezeshkian made the remarks on Monday while fielding Iranian and foreign reporters' questions during his first press conference since taking office late August.

Iran has for long been on the FATF's blacklist for what the



financial watchdog claims to be Iran's not adhering to transparency and international con-

ventions against money laundering and terrorism financing. Pezeshkian said that he will

certainly ask the country's Expediency Council to reactivate the FATF case in a bid

to remove sanctions on Iran and improve the people's livelihood.

## Iran's trade center scheduled to open in Armenia October 1

A trade center is planned to be launched in the Armenian capital of Yerevan as a gateway to link Iran to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

As the first and largest permanent trade center of Iran abroad, Iran's Trade Center in Armenia will be inaugurated on October 1 in cooperation with the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI), Tasnim News Agency reported.

The center has been designed and developed in Yerevan on an area of over 18,000 square meters.

The center's 10,000-square-meter exhibition space includes 107 stalls of var-



ious sizes that can be used by different industries. It is also equipped with a conference room for business-to-business (B2B) meetings and an open space for holding events, conferences and festivals.

Iran's minister of industry, mine and trade, the economy minister of Armenia, and the businesspersons and CEOs of Iran's largest industrial centers will participate at the opening ceremony.

## Iran-Pakistan trade up 10% in five months: **IRICA**

The value of non-oil trade between Iran and Pakistan rose by 10 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian year (March 20-August 21), according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The two countries' bilateral trade stood at 1.906 million tons worth \$1.128 billion in the five months, indicating a two-percent growth in weight, year on year, Mahr News Agency reported.

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

The value of Iran's non-oil exports to Pakistan in the first four months of 2024 has reached \$360 million, showing an 18-percent



growth compared to last year's corresponding period.

The Pakistani Ministry of Commerce's statistics show that Pakistan has imported \$360 million in products from Iran in the first four months of 2024, 18 percent higher than in January-April 2023.

Pakistan's import of products from Iran in April 2024 has hit \$73.2 million, registering a 30-percent growth compared to the same month last year.

The value of Iran's exports to Pakistan totaled \$944 million in 2023, indicating a 13-percent rise compared to a year earlier.

## Iran set to become world's third pharmaceutical power

Iran's pharmaceutical industry has gone through a fundamental transformation since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, moving from complete reliance on imports into a sector that is now able to domestically meet more than 97% of the country's needs for medicine.

The most important factor in pharmaceutical self-sufficiency is the access to active ingredients used in the manufacture of drugs. Iranian drugmakers now produce 70% of the raw materials needed to make medicines, Press TV wrote.

To produce the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), however, we need key starting materials (KSMs). Most of the KSMs for the production of active ingredi-



ents are imported.

This is while the most added value occurs in the production of KSMs. By completing the value chain and production of active ingredients and precursors, Iran can save significant foreign exchange

and generate more added value in its pharmaceutical industry.

What Iran needs is to give depth to its drug-making by producing KSMs inside the country. Officials say the current strategy is to establish this capability in order to

render the production of active ingredients cost-effective, sustainable and profitable.

Earlier this week, officials of Balkh in Afghanistan announced that they had met an Iranian delegation in order to build a pharmaceutical factory in the province, which would meet 90% of the local needs to medicine.

China and India are leading players in the pharmaceutical sector. Both are major API suppliers and producers of generic drugs, including the source of up to 80% of the active pharmaceutical ingredients imported by the US.

Iranian drugmakers say the country has an advantage over both China and India for the production of KSMs. They say the basis of the most synthetic

medicines in their production is petroleum and petrochemical products which are found in abundance in Iran.

There is also suitable technical knowledge and expertise that can turn Iran into the third powerhouse for the production of KSMs, especially a neighboring market of some 400 million people.

Iran has already started the full-fledged production of KSMs for the most widely used antibiotics in the country. Apart from its commercial merits, the production is enormously vital at a time of the most draconian US sanctions which have created shortages of life-saving medical supplies and drugs in Iran.

A good case in point is propylene

glycol, a raw material for manufacturing consumer products in the medical and food sectors.

For years, Iran imported it from South Korea, the Netherlands and the United States to produce many syrups, food and tobacco. The countries stopped their sales as the sanctions kicked in, forcing the Islamic Republic to produce the substance domestically and prevent the critical shortage of more than 150 medical items in the country.

To put it in perspective, Turkey's annual healthcare spending is estimated at \$20 billion against a maximum of \$3 billion by Iran with a similar population size, which shows where the Islamic Republic stands in the pharmaceutical industry.



# Jalalabad Citadel, a pillar of Sistan's historical heritage

## Iranica Desk

Southeast Iran is home to many valuable historical sites, ranging from the Burnt City (an archaeological site of a sizable Bronze Age urban settlement) to Dahan-e Gholaman (a major Achaemenid center and archaeological site). Sistan and Baluchestan Province is the cradle of some of the oldest civilizations and cities. Throughout Sistan, one can observe traces of numerous cultural and historical artifacts. Before the onset of drought in this area, Sistan was lush and green, attracting many tourists seeking to enjoy its natural beauty. One of the important cities in Sistan in terms of culture is Hirmand, with Dost Muhammad as its center.

In Hirmand, there are 45 ancient sites and pristine historical attractions, including the Jalalabad Citadel, the Karkooy Fire Temple, the Niatak Forest, and ancient wells. The Jalalabad Citadel is considered one of the must-see places in Zabol, the capital city of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, and holds special significance due to its geographical and strategic

location in proximity to Afghanistan. This valuable site dates back to the Qajar era and has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List, IRNA wrote.

The Jalalabad Citadel was built by Mohammad Ali Khan Kiani, known as Khan Malek, during the late reign of Nasereddin Shah. This citadel featured many gardens constructed by Indian arti-

sans. The residents of the Hirmand share numerous stories about this citadel. Some say "In the past, before the drought in this region, the livelihood of the people was good, and at one time, due to the abundance of grains, this province became the granary of the country." However, even though there is little water now, many treasures remain hidden in

this region, and optimizing their use is important for the livelihood of the local people.

The preservation and restoration of the Jalalabad Citadel began in 2004. This project is expected to encompass 15 restoration phases. The ultimate goal of the restoration is to create a tourist hotel, which, according to officials, will be operational

before 2025.

The Jalalabad Citadel has a square plan and features a central courtyard with four watchtowers at the corners of the structure. The materials used in the construction of the citadel mainly consist of raw clay and brick. Like other prominent buildings in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, the Jalalabad Citadel was built on a natural hill

to protect it from moisture. Due to the hot weather in the southern part of the country, it is recommended not to visit the Jalalabad Citadel in the summer, as the access route may be challenging for some vehicles. It is worth mentioning that historical artifacts are part of our cultural heritage, and we must appreciate and preserve them.



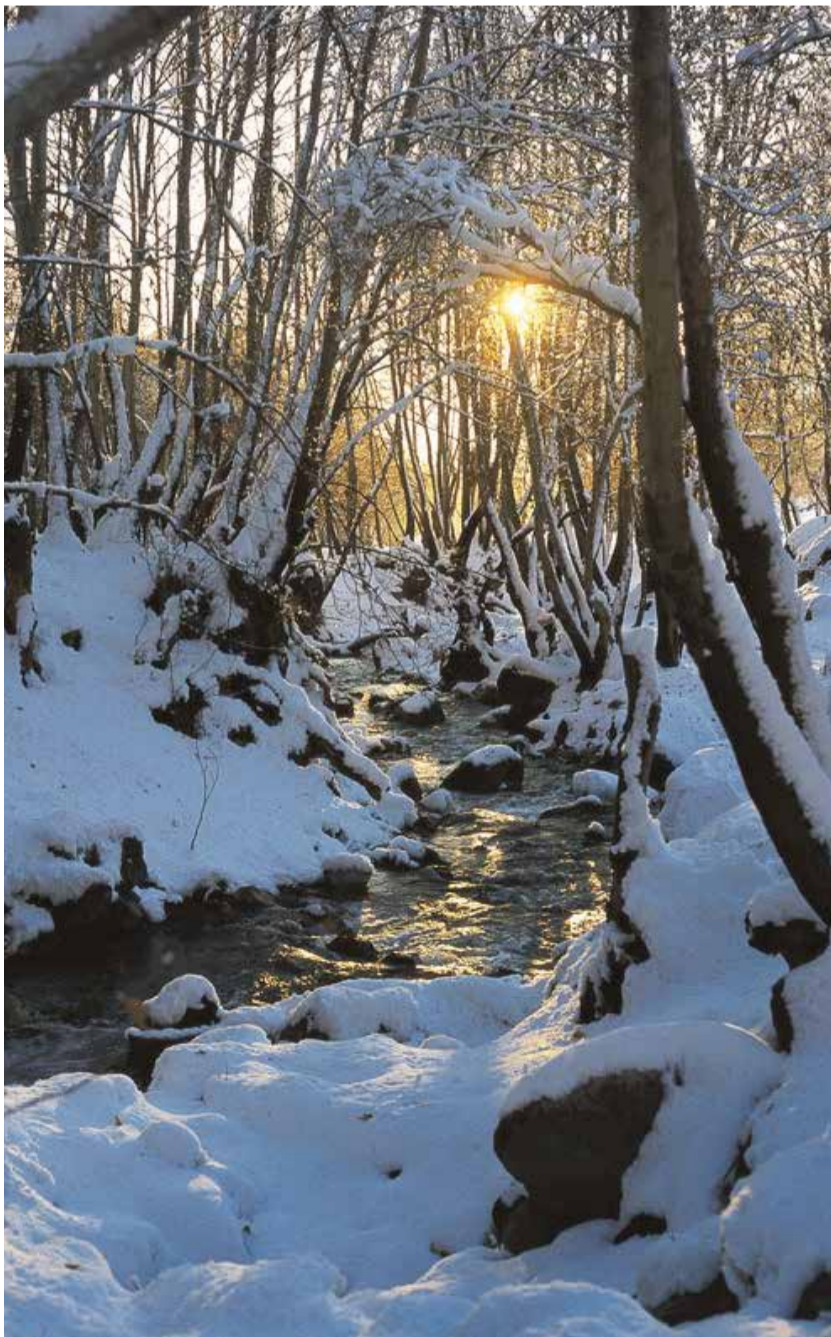
kojaro.com



hameghlim.com

kojaro.com

## Ganjehei Gorge is a slice of paradise in Iran's nature capital



### Iranica Desk

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, renowned for its springs, recreational areas, stunning waterfalls, and roaring rivers, offers visitors a unique array of tourist landscapes. This province boasts 280 natural recreational sites, approximately 2,600 historical sites, and 750 registered historical monuments on the national heritage list. With its abundant natural resources, it stands out as an ideal destination for tourists, particularly nature lovers.

Yasuj, located in the cooler regions of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, is often dubbed the "Nature Capital of Iran" due to its diverse natural, tourist, and recreational attractions. The city is gracefully nestled on the slopes of Dena Mountain, resembling a piece of green silk. Its captivating beauty and pleasant climate draw tourists and nature enthusiasts each year during the lush seasons.

Ganjehei village, situated in a cold temperate climate, enjoys mild and cool weather year-round. This area receives substantial snowfall and rainfall, ensuring a vibrant ecosystem.

The main water source for Ganjehei village is a river that originates from the majestic Dena Mountain. This river flows continuously throughout the year and has remained resilient even during droughts, with its water level only decreasing in 2008 during a national drought; however, it did not dry up completely.

A prominent attraction in the village is Ganjehei Gorge (Tang-e Ganjei), known for its lush landscape featuring diverse groves of trees such as mulberries, terebinth, and oak, enticing countless tourists each year. Among the region's other natural wonders are the mountains, with Dena being the most notable. Dena is blanketed in snow for much of the year, offering select areas suitable for skiing enthusiasts.

The local vegetation consists of tall, robust trees that provide ample shade for the cool springs, creating inviting spaces for visitors. Stunning trees such as oak, terebinth, and hawthorn contribute to the area's natural splendor. Due to the high density of forest cover, autumn lovers can experience a remarkably colorful season, accompanied by the soothing rustling of plane tree leaves within the gorge. Winters in Gan-

jehei Gorge are equally mesmerizing, where visitors can revel in the enchanting sight of snowflakes dancing on the bare branches of trees during snowy days.

The best times to visit this natural attraction are spring and summer. The lush greenery, pristine beauty, and cool, pleasant climate make this area incredibly inviting. As the river meanders through the valley and among towering plane trees, it creates a captivating landscape that appeals to tourists seeking tranquility in nature.

In this region, the expansive sky offers magnificent views framed by the extensive branches and towering trunks of plane trees. Moreover, the availability of sanitary and recreational facilities, including piped water in the gorge, has drawn numerous travelers seeking enjoyment and relaxation during the spring and summer months, far removed from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Its strategic location along the Yasuj-Sefid Dasht road, one of the busiest routes in the province, ensures easy access for visitors eager to explore and appreciate the area's breathtaking natural beauty.





# UN veto initiative 'hits a nerve': Liechtenstein diplomat



By Maria Luisa  
Gambale  
Journalist

## INTERVIEW

**Two years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Veto Initiative through an effort led by Ambassador Christian Wenaweser of Liechtenstein. The initiative establishes that if any of the permanent members of the Security Council — Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States — casts a veto in a vote, the president of the General Assembly must convene a formal meeting of the body within 10 business days, incurring a debate on the disputed issue. For now, the relevant countries have stepped up to the Assembly rostrum to do as required.**

**However, the public may not perceive any changes in Security Council actions, as vetoes continue to be wielded, especially on resolutions related to the war in Gaza. But Wenaweser is optimistic about the initiative's effect on Council proceedings and aims to take it further.**

**Liechtenstein tried to push through the initiative, officially the "standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council," in 2020, but the pandemic created delays. The initiative was finally adopted on April 26, 2022. Since then, there have been 13 votes resulting in a veto, with Russia responsible for six and another three with China. The US has blocked the remaining four, three of them related to the war in Gaza and the other to the question of Palestinian full membership in the UN.**



US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield (front) casts a veto vote against a Brazil-sponsored draft demanding an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in the Israeli war on Gaza, during a UN Security Council meeting on February 20, 2024.

ANGELA WEISS/AFP



Christian Wenaweser, Liechtenstein's ambassador to the United Nations, addresses the 93-member General Assembly before it adopts a Security Council reform resolution on April 26, 2022.

AP/STARS

**PASSBLUE:** How did Liechtenstein become the leader on the veto initiative?

**WENAWESER:** It certainly has a lot to do with my trajectory here at the UN. I started taking a very active interest in Security Council reform a long time ago, 2005, when I was the adviser to the then-president on the issue. I concluded that while everybody was talking about enlargement, it was much more important to talk about working methods, issues, and the veto. And Liechtenstein has a bit of a history of doing things that other people think are great, but they wouldn't do themselves. We did the Council resolution on Myanmar, in 2022, which expressed "deep concern" over the state of emergency imposed by the military in the country, and the plenary that nobody else wanted to touch. That was bold by UN standards. We established the Syria Accountability Mechanism [which provides for the investigation and prosecution of people responsible for atrocity crimes committed in Syria since March 2011], which now everybody thinks is a great idea, but nobody except us would have done it.

We don't mind doing them ourselves. And of course, it's an advantage that nobody thinks we're pursuing grand policy national interests. We are a credible player, and people believe that we do it in the interests of the institution.

**Having had the veto initiative idea for so long and now seeing it in action, how do you think it's working out in practice?**

Overall, it's been more successful than I had hoped and thought. It's now firmly established. For example, at a meeting this morning [September 6], the new president of the General Assembly talked about it. So, it's a speaking point for everybody. It resonates very, very strongly and positively. I didn't necessarily expect that. So, it just confirms that the veto just hits a nerve. And when people talk about Security Council en-

largement, the problem is the veto. The problem is not "Does Brazil get a seat" or "Does India get a seat." The problem is the veto. That's why we have not been able to enlarge the Security Council. I think there's huge, further potential in it because what is happening now is extremely positive, but it's also not where it ends. So, we want to get more out of it. What we want for the General Assembly is to not only respond but to adopt its own decisions.

**Many observers may say there are still atrocities happening unchecked, with no accountability. Where exactly do you see the positive?**

There is accountability now because you go to the General Assembly, and people can say what they want to say. And people are also able to propose something in response to a veto if they so wish. I think that is a game-changer. Of course, it hasn't stopped the vetoes so far. If you look at the states that have vetoed since the adoption of the veto initiative, the Russians don't particularly care. They're fine vetoing and going to the General Assembly and playing the game, and they're happy to give their speech.

The Chinese, not so much. They feel very uncomfortable. And I think the initiative has increased their level of discomfort with the veto. So, I think the bar for China to veto something is higher now.

The US is a special case because they co-sponsored the veto initiative. And you would have to ask them how they feel about it because they have vetoed several times now. But our selling point to the US at the time was saying, "Look, your vetoes are all Middle East vetoes. They go to the General Assembly anyway on the emergency special session [ESS]. So, the veto initiative takes all the Russian vetoes to the General Assembly. So, it levels the playing field for you." Which is still true.

**Why does it stymie China to have to defend its Council vetoes in the Gen-**

**eral Assembly? Why does it make them uncomfortable?**

Because they know that the veto is unpopular and want to have strong partnerships with the membership. Russia certainly cares less at this time.

**What are some highlights on how the process is working or the actual value coming out from the General Assembly (GA) debates? What are some specific cases?**

The first veto since the mandate was established was on nuclear issues with DPRK [North Korea]. And the first question is always, "Is the state going to show up in the General Assembly?" Because you can, as a P5 country, say, "I have no obligation to go to the GA and to explain my veto. I said what I had to say at the time of adoption or no adoption at the time of action in the Security Council. The GA is not the body to discuss the veto because the veto is cast in the Council." So, that is an accountability exercise because our argument has always been institutionally that the Security Council does its work on behalf of all of us. That's what the UN Charter says. If I ask you to do something for me and you're not doing it, then I can say, "We had an agreement that you do this for me. By showing up, you're accepting that premise." That's very big. Because the P5, to varying degrees, have all in the past said, "We are not accountable. We have the veto in the UN Charter. If we cast it, we cast it. If we don't, we don't. The rest is none of your business." So, that is extremely positive. What's also extremely positive is just the strong interest. We have 70 to 80 states showing up, participating in the GA debates. That shows how much people care.

The third thing is that people are thinking differently about the role of the General Assembly now. And we want to take this further because what we want is a collective mindset, where people say, "If the Council doesn't do it, then we will do it." That's the philosophy of the veto initiative.

**So, this is one step in a long process. As to other efforts, let's talk first about the Pact for the Future and its work on creating momentum at least for Security Council reform and general governance reform. How much faith are you putting in that process for advancing work on the veto problem?**

Not much. Not to say I don't care what the Pact of the Future says about this, but it's also not that important. The veto initiative is there, and for me, that's enough. For us, it was also important to include the reference to Article 27(3) [in the UN Charter], which is the provision that says if you are a party to dispute, you have to abstain in a vote because for us, that is a complementary initiative. That's much more important because that gives us a foothold to base our work on Article 27(3). The veto initiative is established. It has its own life. It will continue unless the Summit of the Future says the veto initiative is no longer valid.

**What's an ideal future for you with the veto overall?**

You have three schools of thought: The P5 that say, "The veto is a fact of life, get lost." Not all of them say that. The French and the Brits don't say that. But that's what the Russians think. And it's what the Chinese think. The second is that the veto is bad, it should be abolished. And that is formally the view of a majority of the member states, a vast majority. But nobody believes it's feasible, so nobody's proposing it. But they all go in the room and say that the veto is bad, and there should be no more vetoes. And then some people add, "The veto should be gone. But while it's not, I want it too. So, if you abolish it, that's fine. But if you don't, give it to me."

We are none of those. What we are saying is: Look, the veto is part of the Charter. We have all accepted it when we joined the UN, without enthusiasm in many cases. But it's part of the treaty. We are not able to abolish the veto unless the P5 say they

“

Between Russia, the US, and China, you're just not going to have a broad basis for agreement on most issues. That means we will have for the foreseeable future a Security Council that can't do its work because someone is going to veto anything meaningful. So, our choice is to either say, "We have a UN that does not do work on peace and security," or we do the work differently. For us, it's the latter.



don't want it anymore. That's the reality legally and politically because you cannot change the Charter unless the P5 agrees.

What we want is to diminish the veto in all its aspects and take it to a place where it stops doing the harm that it is doing now. And the veto also has a pervasive effect inside the UN system. So, the P5 think they have a God-given right to decide on senior appointments, not only on who is the secretary-general but also who is the head of the Office of Legal Affairs.

They think they have a right to have a permanent seat on the Economic and Social Council. And they think they all should have a judge on the International Court of Justice. But there's no legal basis for it.

**In your heart of hearts, if it weren't for the fact that the Charter says that these five particular countries have the veto, would you want that, or no?**

Would I write the Charter the way it was written? No. But we're not rewrit-

ing the Charter. We live where we live and we have the treaty that we have, and it's a good treaty. And the veto provision is a huge problem. The French and the Brits have not cast a veto since 1989. And they're doing that because they do not believe they can afford it politically. That is where we want to get to. If the remaining three who have the veto think about it in those terms and say: "This is politically a disaster for us. We really should think about this very hard and only do it in the most extreme circumstances," then

we're in a good place again.

**What's next on the horizon for Security Council reform?**

What's going on in the Council now and the paralysis that you see across most of the files is not because of Ukraine and Gaza. That is just the geopolitical constellation that we have right now. So, between Russia, the US, and China, you're just not going to have a broad basis for agreement on most issues. That means we will have for the foreseeable future a Security Council that

can't do its work because someone is going to veto anything meaningful. So, our choice is to either say, "We have a UN that does not do work on peace and security," or we do the work differently. For us, it's the latter because the UN is an organization about peace and security. It's not a service delivery organization that is humanitarian assistance and education and vaccinations and all these things that are also important.

*The full article first appeared on Passblue.*

# Radical way to change UN Security Council including its name

By Stephen Crilly  
Lawyer, independent researcher

**OPINION**

*What conditions might compel the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to relinquish their veto power? In exchange, what conditions might the other member states agree on to make it happen? These are important questions to pose to the public as the 193 member states negotiate a Pact for the Future for the upcoming Summit of the Future (22-23 September) to ensure the organization's usefulness for generations to come. Let us hope that the P5 — Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States — as well as other member states have the wisdom to institute reforms as soon as possible.*

Some Council reform proposals consider adding individual countries as permanent members, such as India or Brazil. A new proposal by the US suggests creating two new permanent seats for African nations without veto power. Making a member state permanent is risky because national leadership can change quickly. International norms of conduct maintain reasonableness in geopolitics, but if autocratic, plutocratic, or sociopathic leadership takes over a member state, the consequences can be disastrous.

For the foreseeable future, the primary duty of a reformed Council must be to foster planetary sustainability. Heightened attention to sustainability will require maintaining peace as a top priority. War and preparing for war are a gross waste of planetary resources.

A reformed Council should therefore have the following elements: leadership focused on planetary sustainability, with peace as a vital element of that goal; compliance with the rule of law as a basic principle; fixed regional groupings; and a voice for future generations. Such a proposal could be referred to as the "sustainability framework". It also means changing the name of the body to the Sustainability Council.

Although this proposal may seem far-fetched, its elements could be considered in part or fully. Transformative change begins with radical ideas.

The framework proposes nine geographically based groupings, a leadership seat, and an Office for the Pro-

tection of Future Generations, or OFG. The intent of establishing one fixed seat for each regional group is to foster cooperation for sustainability within that geographical area and help members in each group raise their "UN score". That is used to determine weighted voting in the Council. The score for each group would be the average of all member states' UN scores in that group.

Such a rating is based on the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index. The project is an independent group promoting the rule of law worldwide. The index calculates scores based on eight factors and 44 subfactors. Other pro-sustainability factors could be combined with it over time. Using GDP and population size to determine weighted voting would be counterproductive to sustainability.

Annually, the UN representatives in each regional group would elect one of its members to represent it in the Council. If the group cannot agree in a specified time, the "leadership seat" shall select the person by using the UN scores as the primary measure.

The 10 countries with the highest scores hold the leadership seat, represented by a president elected by the UN representatives of those 10 countries. These countries may nominate someone from outside their group to be the Council president while retaining the right to remove that person. While controlling the seat, the 10 nations shall be part of their respective regional groups.

The Office for the Protection of Future Generations will have powers equal

to those of the other Council member groups and a UN score equal to the leadership seat. The office would rely on systems thinkers with expertise in all fields relating to maintaining global sustainability, including human behavior, a critical factor for achieving planetary sustainability.

To signal a turning point in global affairs, it would be appropriate to rename the Security Council the Sustainability Council. That would help it to leave past failures behind and attract the worldwide attention necessary to achieve the desired goals.

The nations with veto power must ask whether structuring the system around the rule of law is a desired outcome that outweighs the need to jealously guard a veto power recognized as grossly misused, is distasteful in principle, and leads to loss of global status. To be a leader in the world, a nation must live up to the rule of law and be willing to treat other countries as equals and encourage them toward the rule of law as the global guiding principle.

The member states that form the regional groups must ask themselves if they are willing to work on their UN scores in exchange for eliminating the P5's veto power. Keep in mind that the quality of life and even the existence of many future generations are at stake.

What is the likelihood that UN member states would agree to the proposal? The strong desire to eliminate the veto will spur significant pressure from the non-P5 member states. Britain and France may show mild acceptance but will probably be dissuaded against reform by the US. China, with a current mid-to-low rule of law index, might negotiate for a modified index or perhaps agree to a top-tier weighted vote on a conditional basis. That would force the US to seriously weigh the benefits and costs of rejecting reform. Russia would be the last to accept, requiring major diplomatic pressure from many member states.

It is human nature to resist change. Bold structural transformation requires a shift in habits that can take time. The role of leadership will be to encourage and accelerate finding the appropriate balance between moderation that does not reduce the joy in life and a responsibility to future generations. Influential global leaders can help shift the norms so that future sustainability and current happiness are balanced.



Delegates get ready to attend a session of the United Nations Security Council on August 12, 2024. **MANUEL ELIAS/JUN**

The article first appeared on PassBlue.

The illustration shows US President Joe Biden (R) protecting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from UNSC resolutions demanding a cease-fire in its brutal war on Gaza by wielding the veto power of the US. **TBS**





Iran's Hossein Tayebi celebrates with teammates after scoring during a 9-4 victory over Guatemala in the FIFA Futsal World Cup in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, on September 19, 2024.  
● MOHSEN DAVOUDI/FFIRI

## FIFA Futsal World Cup: Iran eyeing top spot in the group against France

Sports Desk

The top spot in Group F will be on the line when Iran and France square off in the FIFA

Futsal World Cup in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, today.

Both sides will step onto the court on the back of successive wins in the group – also featuring Venezuela and Guatemala – with Iran sitting atop the table thanks to a superior goal difference and a draw will be enough to send Vahid Shamsaei's men through as the group winners.

Having beaten Venezuela 7-1 in their group opener, the Asian powerhouse came from behind to defeat Guatemala 9-4 on Thursday.

Prolific Saeid Ahmad-Abbasi bagged a hat-trick, with Hossein Tayebi and Player of the Match Salar Aghapour contributing with two goals apiece, while Behrouz Azimi and Mahdi also found the net as Iran recorded its best scoring tally in a single World Cup game since

the 10-6 beating of Paraguay in 1992. Iranian head coach Shamsaei, however, was not impressed by the scoreline, saying: "We won the game, but my face shows what I thought about our performance. I don't like to think about what has happened here."

"I felt my players are thinking they are above the game, and there is no place in my team for that. This is my fault. But at least we won and we are qualified," added Iran's all-time international top scorer, whose team conceded the first goal of the game

against the Central Americans and was held to a 3-3 draw at halftime. France, meanwhile, continued its impressive debut in the global showpiece with a 7-3 victory over the Venezuelans, following the 6-3 triumph against Guatemala on the opening day.

The winner of Group F will play defending champion Portugal or African heavyweight Morocco, which will go head-to-head earlier today in Tashkent, in the round 16 on Thursday, while the runner-up will face Thailand – runner-up to Brazil in Group B – in the knockouts.

### Asian Karate Championships:

## Double kata bronzes for Iran as Khodabakhshi, Abazari head into finals

Sports Desk

The second day of the Asian Karate Championships in Hangzhou, China, saw Iranian men and women bag a couple of team kata bronze medals, while Mahdi Khodabakhshi and Saleh Abazari headed into the final showpiece of their respective weight classes.

Sepideh Amini, Melika Ezzati, and Zeinab Hosseini bounced back from a last-four loss (40.4-39) to Japan to come out on top against the Philippines (38.5-37.1) and share the third podium of the women's team kata contests with China.

In the men's draw, Ali Zand, Abolfazl Shahrjerdi, and Milad Farazmehr defeated Cambodia and Iraq but were beaten by just a 0.3-point margin against Kuwait – silver medalist in the previous edition – in the semifinals, before a 37.9-34.7 victory over Saudi Arabia clinched a third successive Asian bronze for the Irania trio, which now has five AKF Senior Championships medals

– including a 2021 silver – under its belt.

Meanwhile, Khodabakhshi – a back-to-back Asian team kumite champion with Iran – remained on course for a first individual glory in the competitions thanks to a 6-4 victory over two-time defending champion Mohammad al-Jafari of Jordan in a thrilling men's -84kg semifinal.

Awaiting Khodabakhshi in today's showdown will be Japan's Rikito Shimada, who was beaten by the Jordanian in last year's final.

Today's second Iranian-Japanese kumite final will feature Abazari and Kyo Hirata – Asian champion in 2022 – in the men's +84kg event.

Chasing a second individual gold in Hangzhou, Abazari came out victorious against Muhammad Awais of Pakistan and Uzbekistan's Islombek Ismatullayev and then beat Thailand's Teerawat Kangtong 10-7 for a place in the final.

Iranians will be seeking further kumite medals today as six karatekas will be in action in the third-place bouts of

their respective events.

Taravat Khaksar (-55kg), Atousa Golshadnejad (-61kg) – a gold medalist last year – Mobina Heidari (-68kg), and Shima Al-e Sa'di (+68kg) will be looking for a consolation bronze in the women's competitions, with Behnam Dehghanzadeh – also a 2023 Asian champion – and former world champion Bahman Askari heading into the third-spot deciders in the men's -55kg and -75kg events respectively.

**Para karate glory**

A total of five medals, including three golds, saw Iran claim the title in the 3rd Asian Para Karate Championships in Hangzhou.

Negar Vasheghani defeated an opponent from Hong Kong for the gold medal in the women's K22 class, with Hafez Hafezikia (K21) and Farzad Safari winning the ultimate prize in the men's competitions.

A second women's medal for Iran came courtesy of Ma'soumeh Iji's silver in the K21 contests, with Rahim Golmohammadi grabbing the bronze in the blind participants' K10 class.

Iran's Zeinab Hosseini (C), Melika Ezzati (R), and Sepideh Amini teamed up for a women's team kata bronze medal at the Asian Karate Championships in Hangzhou, China.  
● ikfir



### Persian Gulf Pro League:

## Alipour off the mark on Reds return; Esteghlal held at Nassaji



Persepolis striker Ali Alipour (red) dribbles past goalkeeper Mohammad Khalifeh to score in a 2-0 win against Iralco in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Tehran, Iran, on September 20, 2024.  
● FARSNEWS

Sports Desk

Ali Alipour bagged his first goal on his return to Persepolis as the Tehran Reds defeated Iralco 2-0 in the Persian Gulf Pro League on Friday.

Persepolis archrival Esteghlal, meanwhile, had to come from behind twice to salvage a point in a 2-2 draw at Nassaji Mazandaran. Looking for a perfect response after a 1-0 loss to Al Ahli Saudi in their AFC Champions League Elite opener on Monday, Persepolis got off to flying start at home, finding the net five minutes into game,

thanks to a coolly-taken penalty after Alipour was brought down in the box by Iralco defender Milad Badragheh.

The reigning champion had to wait until the 70th minute to double its lead, when Alipour intercepted a back pass by Iralco's Bahram Goudarzi and then dribbled past young keeper Mohammad Khalifeh before putting it away – a 57th league goal in the Reds shirt for the club's leading marksman in the top-flight history.

The bad news for Persepolis and Spanish head coach Juan Carlos Garrido is that Uzbek winger Oston

Urunov will be a doubt for Wednesday's Tehran derby against Esteghlal after being forced out injured right before the break.

In Qaemshahr's Vatan Stadium, Javad Nekounam's Blues, flying high after a 3-0 beating of Al Gharafa in the ACL Elite, enjoyed more of the ball possession in the first half but trialed by one goal at the break, after French fullback Kevin Yamga sent former teammate Hossein Hosseini the wrong way from the spot.

Ramin Rezaeian continued the impressive start to his Esteghlal career, drawing the visitors level with

a second VAR-awarded penalty of the match in the 63rd minute.

Ex-Persepolis striker Hamed Pakdel restored the lead for Nassaji with a flick-on effort 17 minutes from normal time, but the home side's jubilation was short-lived as substitute Abolfazl Jalali headed home the equalizer for Nekounam's side two minutes later.

A VAR review convinced referee Ali Safaei to show Esteghlal defender Rouzbeh Cheshmi a straight red for denying Nassaji a clear goal opportunity in the stoppage time, a massive blow for the Blues ahead of Wednesday's derby.



# Iran unveils new drone, missile during annual parade

**Pezeshkian:** Iran's military power deters enemies from invasion



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) oversees a military parade commemorating Iraq's imposed war in the 1980s in Tehran, Iran, on September 21, 2024.  
● AFP

## National Desk

Iran's armed forces held military parades across the country to com-

memorate Iraq's imposed war in the 1980s, with a new ballistic missile and kamikaze drone being unveiled on the 44th anniversary of the Sacred Defense

against the regime of then-Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

According to Tasnim News Agency, 23 ballistic missiles were displayed Saturday, which included 2 Kheibar Shekan missiles, 2 Fatah missiles, 4 Haj Qasem missiles, 2 Qadr H missiles, 2 Emad missiles, 3 Khorramshahr missiles, 4 Sejil missiles and 4 Jihad missiles.

The Jihad is the latest liquid fuel ballistic missile of the IRGC Aerospace Force, which was displayed for the first time in the parade. With a high-explosive detachable warhead, it has a range of 1000 km, the report added.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) also paraded the Shahed-136B, the latest version of the Shahed-136 kamikaze drone, for the first time.

The new military products were showcased at the mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, in southern Tehran. The parades were staged to mark the beginning of Iraq's imposed war on Iran between 1980 and 1988.

Addressing the parade, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian praised the country's armed forces, saying that Iran's deterrent power has made it impossible for the enemies to invade

our land.

"Today, our defensive and deterrent capabilities have grown so much that no demon even thinks about any aggression towards our dear Iran," he said.

"With unity and cohesion among Islamic countries... we can put in its place the bloodthirsty, genocidal usurper Israel, which shows no mercy to anyone, women or children, old or young," he added.

Other indigenous products put on display in the parade included Kheibar Shekan and solid-fuel medium-range Sejil ballistic missiles, Emad liquid-fuel and medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM), Khorramshahr medium-range ballistic missile as well as Fattah hypersonic medium-range ballistic missile.

Iranian military experts and engineers have in recent years made remarkable breakthroughs in manufacturing a broad range of home-made equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient. Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will never be subject to negotiation.

## Leader: Muslims should tap inner power to eradicate Israeli cancer



● khamenei.ir

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called on Muslims to summon their "inner power" and remove the "malignant cancerous tumor of the Israeli regime from the heart of Islamic society, which is Palestine."

Ayatollah Khamenei told Muslim ambassadors and participants of an Islamic unity conference in Tehran Saturday that what is urgently needed is to form an Islamic ummah in order to unleash this inner power, Press TV reported.

"What the Zionist regime is doing today and the crimes they commit without shame and concealment in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Syria, they literally are not fighting men, but people from all walks of the society in Palestine," he said.

"They were unable to deal a blow to men in Palestine, so they unleashed their ignorant and malicious anger on small children, on patients in hospitals, and on schools of young children," the Leader added.

"This is because we do not use our own inner power which we should. This internal power can remove and eliminate the Zionist regime, this evil cancerous tumor from the heart of the Islamic society, which is Palestine, and destroy the influence and dominance and bullying intervention of America in the region."

Ayatollah Khamenei said the first step in the unity of the Islamic world is for the Islamic countries to completely cut off their economic relations with "this criminal and terrorist gang that rule Palestine and have usurped the land of Palestine."

"This is the least they can do, and it must be done. They must destroy economic ties, weaken political ties, strengthen press and media attacks, and openly express and show that they are on the side of the oppressed Palestinian nation."

Ayatollah Khamenei said the current situation and the domination of the enemies of Islam and the need felt by some Islamic countries for the support of the US is the result of divisions among Muslims.

"There are now many Islamic countries and about two billion Muslims living in the world, but you cannot call them ummah, because the ummah is a collection that moves towards a goal in harmony and with motivation, but we Muslims today are divided.

"If the Muslims were not divided, they could form a single group with the support and use of each other's facilities, which was more powerful than all the great powers, and they would no longer need to rely on America," he said.

With Islamic governments lacking strong motivation, the Leader said, it is the duty of the Islamic world's elite, namely politicians, scholars, scientists, academics, influential and intellectual classes, poets, writers, and political and social analysts to create this motivation in statesmen. More than 144 Shia and Sunni scholars from 36 countries participated in the 38th International Islamic Unity Conference held in Tehran on Thursday and Friday.

# Israeli raid on Beirut's suburb claims at least 37 lives

## International Desk

An Israeli strike on a Beirut's suburb on Friday claimed the lives of at least 37 people, including three children, as the conflict between the regime and Hezbollah resistance movement has escalated into an all-out war.

Hezbollah, which has been exchanging fire with Israel in support of Palestinians in Gaza for months, on Saturday announced that two commanders of its elite operations unit had been killed by the Israeli strike on Beirut.

Lebanon's Health Minister Firass Abiad said three children were also killed in Friday's strike on an underground meeting room, which left a huge crater in a densely populated neighborhood of Dahieh, a Hezbollah stronghold.

Hezbollah announced that 15 of its operatives — including two top commanders Ahmed Mahmoud Wahbi and Ibrahim Aqil — were killed in the Israeli attack.

Abiad, Lebanon's health minister, said emergency services worked "through the night" to recover victims from the Beirut strike, adding that, "A residential building collapsed on top of occupants" after the Israeli attack.

## Attacks on communication devices

Friday's strike also followed sabotage attacks on pagers and two-way radios used by Hezbollah on Tuesday and Wednesday, which killed 39 people and wounded thousands of others including Iran's Ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani. Hezbollah blamed Israel, which has so far declined to comment.

Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah vowed Thursday that Israel would face retribution for those blasts. Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said the world body was "very concerned about the heightened escalation," and called for "maximum restraint" from all sides.

On Friday, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, told the Security Council the attack on Hezbollah communications devices violated international law and could constitute a war crime.

The pagers and walkie-talkies exploded as their users were in supermarkets, walking on streets and attending funerals, plunging Lebanon into panic.

## War crimes

"I am appalled by the breadth and impact



People gather near a firetruck and damaged vehicles at the site of Friday's Israeli strike in Beirut's southern suburbs, Lebanon, on September 20, 2024.  
● REUTERS

of the attacks," said Turk, adding that it "is a war crime to commit violence intended to spread terror among civilians."

Months of near-daily cross-border exchanges have killed hundreds in Lebanon, mostly fighters, and dozens in Israel and the occupied Golan Heights, forcing tens of thousands on both sides to flee their homes.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Israel will not achieve its objective of inflaming the region to extricate itself from the Gaza quagmire, stressing, however, that the regime will get a response to its atrocities.

He made the remarks on Friday night upon arrival in New York, where he is

expected to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Speaking to reporters, Araghchi said that Israel's recent terrorist crimes in Lebanon shows that the regime is desperately scrambling to drag the entire region into the dangerous deadlock that it has got itself caught in.

Iran's UN Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani also told the Security Council meeting in New York that Iran will rigorously pursue accountability for the attack on Iran's ambassador.

Iran reserves its right under international law to take all necessary measures to respond to "this egregious violation," Iravani said.

## Pezeshkian to depart for New York today

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian is scheduled to leave Tehran for New York today to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Deputy Director of Communication and Information of the President's Office, Mohammad Mehdi Tabatabai, told IRNA on Saturday that the Iranian president will depart for the United Nations' headquarters in New York at the head of a high-ranking delegation. Pezeshkian is scheduled to deliver a speech at the UNGA session on September 24, where he will express the views and stances of the Islamic Re-

public on various issues.

During his visit, Pezeshkian is also set to hold several meetings, including one with Iranian expatriates in the United States. His agenda includes talks with leaders of divine religions, media directors, think tank representatives, and heads of European and Asian countries.

Additionally, the Iranian president is expected to participate in the Summit of the Future, a high-level event aimed at bringing world leaders together to forge a new international consensus on delivering a better present and safeguarding the future.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist







## Leader pardons, commutes sentences of about 3,000 convicts



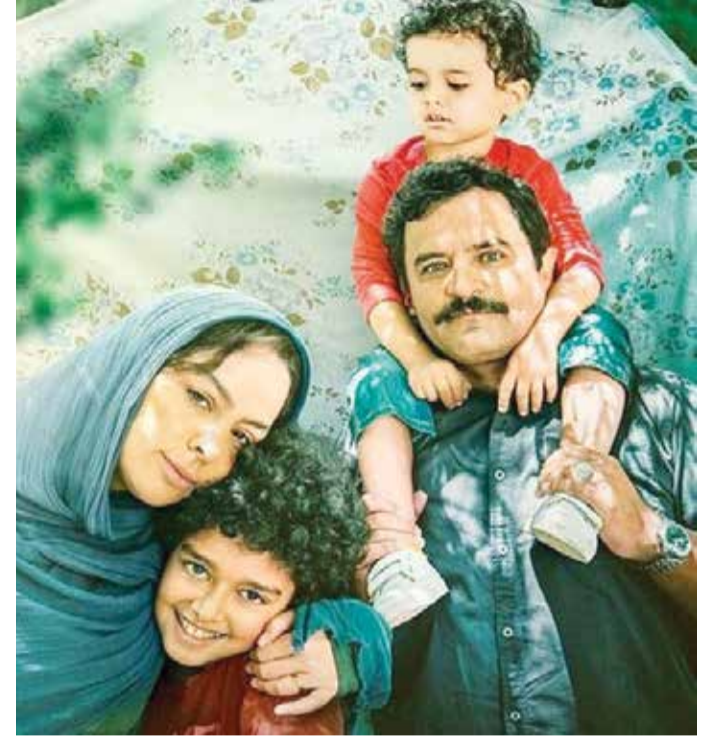
Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei agreed to pardon or commute the sentences of nearly 3,000 convicts on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Sadeq (PBUH), the sixth Shia imam, which falls on September 21 this year. The Leader was sent a request by Iran's Judiciary Chief Mohsen Ejei to pardon or reduce the sentences handed down to 2,887 individuals, Press TV reported. Those granted clemency had their verdicts issued at the country's courts of common pleas, revolutionary courts, the Governmental Discretionary Punishment Organization, or the Judiciary Organization of the Armed Forces. The deputy Judiciary Chief, Sadeq Rahimi, noted that the 2,887 convicts, who were found eligible for receiving the clemency, include 1,291 who will be released from jail. The pardoned people include 140 women, 40 foreigners, 39 people sentenced on security-related charges, and six minors under the age of 18, according to the official. Ayatollah Khamenei regularly issues such approvals on various celebratory occasions.

## 'In the Arms of the Tree' picked as Iran's Oscar representative

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian film 'In the Arms of the Tree' was selected as the country's representative to the 2025 Academy Awards, beating out two other finalists. According to a statement by the Farabi Cinema Foundation, the selection committee chose the film, directed by Babak Khajeh Pasha and starring Maral Baniadam, after a 10-day review process, IRNA reported. The committee, comprising nine members, including film directors and industry professionals, picked 'In the Arms of the

Tree' from among three finalists, which also included the documentary 'Isatis' by Alireza Dehghan and the film 'Waste Town' by Ahmad Bahrami. The selection was made after a final meeting of the committee, during which Shabnam Moqaddami was unanimously chosen as the spokesperson. The film's selection comes as a surprise to some, as Parviz Shahbazi's new film 'Roxana' was rumored to be a strong contender for the Oscar nod. However, 'In the Arms of the Tree' ultimately won out, and will now represent Iran in the 97th Academy Awards.



## Iranian 'Unparallel World' awarded at UK festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'Unparallel World', written and directed by Mohammad Yaraqi, won the best international short film at the 29th Portobello Film Festival in the UK. The festival took place from August 29 to September 15, Mehr News Agency reported. Last month, it was screened at the 20th Budapest Short Film Festival (BuSho) in Hungary, one of the country's most prestigious short film festivals.

The exclusive broadcasting rights for 'Unparallel World' have been acquired by Italian company Alpha Film. The film stands as the short film with the highest number of actors ever featured in the history of Iranian cinema. The social drama tells the story of a six-year-old girl's life in a class-based society and highlights the harsh realities of child labor. The film's synopsis reads: "The events that are happening today are not happening in a parallel or unreal world, and we are all responsible or influential in their occurrence."

## Iran, Iraq sign book fair cooperation deal



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Iraq signed a cooperation agreement to boost collaboration between their international book fairs. The deal was inked on the sidelines of the 25th Baghdad International Book Fair, where Iran is participating, IRNA reported. Under the five-year agreement, both countries will provide each other with a free 24-square-meter pavilion at their respective book fairs. The agreement also includes provisions for facilitating publishers' participation in each other's book fairs, expanding exhibition

cooperation, and organizing specialized seminars to promote publishing capacities in both countries. The Baghdad book fair, themed "Iraq Reads," runs from September 12 to 22 and has attracted book lovers from across the region. Iran's pavilion, in its fourth appearance at the fair, showcases 1,500 titles across various genres, including Islamic studies, literature, Iranology, children's books, and Persian education. Plus, 23 Iranian publishers and cultural institutions are also taking part in the book fair, presenting their publications.

## Agonizing contradictions in ...

The United Nations and other international bodies, including the European Union, have consistently emphasized the necessity of maintaining peace and human rights in their statements. However, in practice, these organizations sometimes appear to be influenced by the political and economic interests of their member states. For instance, while the UN Security Council quickly acted regarding

Ukraine, its responses to Israeli attacks on Gaza have been slower. Such behavior not only undermines public trust in these organizations but also contributes to creating a duality in the global perception of different issues. Media outlets associated with international peace organizations also play a significant role in this context. The media coverage of the Ukrainian crisis, given the geographical

proximity and historical ties between European countries and Ukraine, has been much broader and more sensitive compared to the Palestinian crisis. Reports and images related to the war in Ukraine frequently dominate the news, while humanitarian crises in Palestine receive far less attention. This imbalance in media coverage can exacerbate feelings of discrimination and inequality within the global community.

In the Ukrainian crisis, images of victims and Ukrainian refugees are repeatedly showcased, evoking significant empathy, while in the Palestinian crisis, many victims are overlooked. Numerous European countries have supported humanitarian aid to Ukraine, whereas support for Palestine has been severely limited and even criticized. This contradiction contributes to creating an unequal image of humanity and human rights.

These dualities not only lead to distrust on an international level but also fuel dissatisfaction and a sense of injustice among nations. Palestinians feel that the global community is indifferent to their plight, while Ukrainians are at the center of attention. This perception of discrimination can escalate tensions and lead to new crises. On the International Day of Peace, there is a need for in-

ternational organizations and European countries to adopt a new perspective on global crises and adhere to the fundamental principles of human rights and justice. Achieving sustainable peace requires equal and fair treatment of all nations—not just in words but in actions as well. If the global community wishes to attain true peace, it must view all victims with equal regard and avoid any form of discrimination.