



Nasrallah Martyred

Leader: Assassination brought no victory for 'wicked' Israel

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Hezbollah will not be wiped out



By Qassem
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**OPINION
EXCLUSIVE**

From the series of actions taken by Israel over the past year, particularly in the past couple of months, it could be predicted that the war-mongering prime minister of this regime Benjamin Netanyahu would also put the assassination of Hezbollah's leader on his agenda. Assassination is an old Israeli policy, as many resistance leaders, including those from Hezbollah and Palestinian groups, have been taken out by Israeli operatives, from Sayyed Abbas al-Musawi, the former secretary-general of Hezbollah, to Ismail Haniyeh, the ex-head of Hamas's political bureau, and the recent assassination of Hezbollah leaders, topped by Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. It is not known what assessments Netanyahu is based on to order the assassination of Hezbollah's leader, but what is clear is that he is trying to set the entire region ablaze. It seems as though he has tied his own fate to the outcome of this war, hence he has taken a huge risk, which has claimed the lives of over 41,000 people in the past year.

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Iran among world's top seven countries in gold, jewelry industry



Head of the Association of Producers and Exporters of Gold, Silver, Jewelry and Precious Stones of Tehran Province Esfandiar Seifi said that Iran is among the top seven world countries in the gold and jewelry industry.

Highlighting the launch of the Chamber of Precious Metals at Customs Office at the Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKIA), he expressed his hope that the country will witness considerable jump in the export of gold, Tasnim News Agency wrote.

The domestically-produced gold and jewelry can compete with those produced by other countries such as Turkey, Italy and South Korea, he said, adding that quality of some domestically-produced gold products is better than those made in neighboring Turkey.

Once the problems facing the domestic gold producers are resolved, 200 tons of gold could be exported from the country to the target markets annually, Seifi added.

Sanctions have no effect on Iranian gold and jewelry industry, he underlined.

Iran exports nearly 4,900 tons of tea in five months



The executive manager of Iran's Tea Syndicate said that 4,856 tons of tea were exported from the country in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024).

Mohammad-Sadeq Hassani said Iran's export of tea during March 20 to August 22, 2024, registered a 28.8 percent decline compared to the same period last year, Tasnim News Agency reported.

In this period, 20,170 tons of tea were imported into the country, showing a 51.45 percent growth compared to last year's corresponding period.

Hassani also noted that 22,272 tons of coffee were imported into the country between March 20 and August 22, 2024, showing a two percent rise compared to the same period last year.

Iran's eight-month steel output up despite power cap

According to a latest report by the World Steel Association (worldsteel), despite the decrease in Iran's steel production in June, July and August, Iran's eight-month crude steel production in 2024 increased by 1.9% compared to the same period last year.

Iranian steelmakers churned out 19.8 million tons of crude steel during the first eight months of the current year to keep the country among the top 10 in the world, IRNA reported on Saturday.

In May, Iran with the production of 3.3 million tons registered a monthly growth of 2.1%, along with recording a rise of 9.1% in the first five months of 2024 compared to corresponding figures of 2023, to rank seventh among the world's top steelmakers.

In June, due to the electricity restrictions, the steel industry of Iran produced only 2.6 million tons of steel ingots, indicative of a decrease of 700,000 tons compared to the figure for previous month.

By observing electricity restrictions this summer, Iran's steel industry produced 1.8 million tons of crude steel in July, and the restrictions in August led to a monthly production



of 1.4 million tons of steel, which were among lowest monthly steel productions of the country in recent years.

Global output in August fell by 6.5% compared to the same month in 2023, with total output reach-

ing 144.8 million tons, the worldsteel report said, which was issued based on data from 71 steel-producing countries.

India, Germany, Turkey, Brazil, and Iran respectively recorded the highest amount of production

growth during the first eight months of the year, as those countries' steel production increased by 6.5%, 4.0%, 14.8%, 3.8%, and 1.9%, respectively, compared to last year.

In contrast, other major producers such as China,

Japan, the US, Russia, and South Korea saw declines of 3.3%, 2.9%, 1.7%, 4.9%, and 5.5%, respectively.

The World Steel Association is one of the largest and most dynamic industry associations in the world, with members in

every major steel-producing country. The WSA represents steel producers, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes. Members represent around 85 percent of global steel production.

Spanish envoy calls for expansion of Tehran-Madrid ties



Antonio Sánchez-Benedito, Spain's ambassador to Iran, has stressed the need to expand the diplomatic relations between Madrid and Tehran.

It is my duty to facili-

tate the economic relations with Iran, said Sánchez-Benedito in the joint meeting of the board of representatives of the Yazd Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, IRNA reported.

The envoy went on to say that it is imperative to deepen the ties between the two countries. Some memoranda of understanding (MoUs) have been previously inked between Madrid and Tehran, he said, calling for implementing the cooperation documents.

Iran and Spain enjoy numerous commonalities, he said, adding that both sides are proud of their history. Peaceful coexistence of the followers of the divine religions in the central city of Yazd can be emulated across the world, he pointed out.

Iran demands more AIIB funding for infrastructure projects

Iran's finance minister Abdolnaser Hemmati has called for increased contribution of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to projects in the country.

Hemmati urged increased financing of Iranian projects by the lender during a meeting with AIIB's President and Chair of the Board of Directors Jin Liqun, IRNA reported.

The two officials, who met on the sidelines of AIIB's 2024 Annual Meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, reiterated the need for arrangements that could allow Iran to obtain financing from the bank.



Iran urges more AIIB funding for its infrastructure projects

Liqun described Iran as an influential member of the AIIB and said the bank is making efforts to

provide funding to the country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran became a member of the AIIB in 2015 after purchasing shares in the bank.



Non-oil trade with Muslim countries up 14% in six months: **IRICA**

Iran's non-oil trade with the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024) hit \$32.2 billion, showing a 14% growth compared to the same period last year. This is according to the Islamic Repub-

lic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), which added that \$15.6 billion of non-oil goods were exported from the country from March 20 to September 22, 2024, Tasnim News Agency reported.

More than 48 million tons of non-oil products were exchanged between Iran and the

OIC member states during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year, showing a 4% growth compared to last year's corresponding period. Out of that, 38.4 million tons, valued at \$15.6 billion, were the exports, registering a one and a 10 percent growth in weight and value, respectively

compared to the same period of last year. In this period, 10.4 million tons of non-oil goods, valued at \$16.6 billion, were imported into the country from the member states of the organization, indicating a 16 and an 18 percent growth in weight and value, respectively, IRICA added.

Nature’s bounty in Jahanam Darreh of Ardebil Province

Iranica Desk

Twenty kilometers south of Meshginshahr in Ardebil Province lies a deep valley surrounded by rugged cliffs, through

which the Khiav Chai River cheerfully carves its path. Imagine the incredible contrast between the rocky cliffs and the

beauty of the flowing river with its cold, refreshing waters during the summer. You might not believe it, but the locals re-

fer to this valley, which ignites a passion for life with its indescribable beauty, as Jahanam Darreh, or the Valley of Hell.

A paradise contrary to its name

However, contrary to what its name suggests, this valley is a small piece of paradise located on the northern slopes of the majestic Sabalan Mountain in north-west Iran. This heavenly valley is one of nature’s wonders, situated near the village of Movil. To reach this valley, part of the journey must be covered by car and part on foot. A narrow yet abundant and cool waterway flows through this valley, which is beautiful in all seasons. As the weather cools, the valley’s beauty is magnified a hundredfold by the formation of numerous stunning ice icicles along both sides of the waterway in various shapes.

Name and terrain

According to local residents, the valley is named for the steep slopes and challenging paths that must be traversed to reach it and its river. Due to these steep inclines and the loose soil that can give way at any moment, only experienced nature enthusiasts and climbers venture into this area, making it advisable not to enter the valley without a guide. The closer you get to the bottom of the valley, the more vibrant its beauty becomes.

Reasons to visit

The difficult terrain and the intimidating name Jahanam Darreh should not deter travelers. There are numerous reasons to visit this unique and picturesque valley near Meshginshahr. The stunning ice icicles and the natural hot springs that bubble up from the rocky slopes of Sabalan Mountain are just a few highlights that make the valley worth the journey. This valley boasts untouched nature, diverse wildlife, and significant environmental importance for the local nomads.

Historical significance

Years ago, the area where the village of Movil now stands was home to lush green lands and pleasant summer pastures that served as a migration route for nomadic tribes who chose the valleys of this region for their annual travels. Perhaps no one knows the hidden and unknown beauties of the valley better than the Shahsavans. These nomads continue to pass through the valleys to reach their high summer pastures.

Natural features

The valley stretches approximately 13 kilometers in length, and many mountaineers traverse this area to ascend the peaks of the Sabalan Mountains. Additionally, Jahanam Darreh is abundant in numerous hot springs, thanks to its proximity to the semi-active Sabalan Volcano, the third-highest peak in Iran. These springs are renowned for their various therapeutic properties.

A unique climate

The struggle between heat and cold continues throughout the year in Meshginshahr. Contrary to the images that the word *jahanam* (hell) might evoke, this valley is not a dry and burning place at all. Due to its mountainous location, it enjoys a cool and temperate climate in summer, and because of its significant elevation above sea level, it can confidently be considered one of the coldest places in Iran.

Abundant water sources

In addition to the cold water that flows vigorously through the waterway in the middle of the valley, originating from the

melting glaciers of Sabalan Mountain, warm water also seeps out from its walls. The region is rich in hot springs due to its position along a volcanic belt, and all these springs have therapeutic properties. The Malek Suyei Hot Spring, located nearby, is one of the many hot springs associated with the Sabalan Mountains and is considered one of the divine gifts of this area.

Breathtaking landscapes

Jahanam Darreh boasts numerous breathtaking landscapes. The surrounding scenery, which includes mountains, valleys, rivers, and diverse flora and fauna, represents one of the most untouched natural environments in Meshginshahr and throughout Ardebil Province.

Wildlife and precautions

The Khiav Chai River, flowing through the valley, is home to countless trout, and watching their leaps is one of the pleasures of visiting this area. This river is the most important habitat for red-spotted trout in Ardebil Province. Jahanam Darreh serves as a permanent habitat for various animals, including sheep, goats, deer, brown and gray bears, wild boars, and birds such as eagles and hawks. These species have chosen this place as their refuge and home. When traveling to this area, precautions should be taken, as the vast expanse of pristine nature, which appears serene, can harbor dangers. For instance, bears may become aggressive if they feel their cubs are threatened. If you pay attention to the ground beneath your feet while walking along the river, you may clearly spot bear tracks.

Best time to visit

Due to its geographical location, the valley experiences cold winters. Therefore, if you are not fond of the cold and wish to enjoy its lush and refreshing nature, it is best to visit between mid-spring and early summer when the weather is pleasant and nature is at its greenest. Until May, although the landscape is green, the valley can still be foggy, and the ground may be slippery with frozen grass. In other seasons, the weather in the valley is very cold, mountainous, and foggy, making visibility difficult. During such times, traveling in the valley is best done with the assistance of local guides.

Movil village

Movil village is one of the scenic spots in Meshginshahr and is among the lesser-known villages in the province. It is located 14 kilometers south of Meshginshahr in a valley of the same name. Movil, which took on its village form about 100 years ago, is situated on the steep slopes of the western foothills of Sabalan Mountain.

In addition to its summer resort areas and breathtaking views, the village, at an altitude of 2,180 meters above sea level, enjoys a cool and pleasant spring and summer, along with cold, frosty autumns and winters. Surrounded by mountains, the village boasts a delightful climate and beautiful gardens, results of its abundant springs. Notable tourist attractions in the village include Movil Valley, various summer grazing areas, natural and therapeutic hot springs, recreational areas, nomadic campsites, and permanent habitats for wildlife.



Nasrallah; Leading a life of resistance and piety

International Desk

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, whose death was confirmed by the Lebanese resistance movement on Saturday, led the group through decades of conflict with Israel.

Nasrallah, one of the most prominent Arab figures in generations, was assassinated by an Israeli airstrike on Friday, with the Israeli military saying the strike, which killed and wounded dozens of people, hit the headquarters of Hezbollah in Beirut.

The 64-year-old leader was one of the best-known and most influential figures in the Middle East. As the third secretary-general of the Hezbollah party and resistance group from 1992 until his death, he transformed the group into one of the most powerful fronts in the Middle East for standing up to Israel.

Under his leadership, Hezbollah became a major force in Lebanon's politics with eight seats in the parliament. Nasrallah was a vocal supporter of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and maintained close ties with Iranian leaders.

The Hezbollah chief will be remembered among his supporters for standing up to Israel and defying the United States.

Born in 1960, Nasrallah grew up in Beirut's eastern Bourj Hammoud neighborhood. He completed his education in the Lebanese city of Tyre. One of nine siblings, he was known to be pious from an early age, often taking long walks to the city center to find second-hand books on Islam.

Nasrallah himself has described how he would spend his free time as a child staring reverently at a portrait of the Shia scholar Imam Musa al-Sadr. Nasrallah was deeply influenced by Sadr and developed an interest in religious studies.

In 1974, Sadr founded an organization – the Movement of the Deprived – that became the ideological kernel for the well-known Lebanese party, Amal. Nasrallah briefly joined the Amal Movement and then attended a seminary in Baalbek. Later, he studied and taught at the Amal school. He joined Hezbollah after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. After a short period of religious studies in Iran, Nasrallah returned to Lebanon.

Nasrallah was part of a generation of young Lebanese Shias whose political outlook was shaped by Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Nasrallah worked his way up through Hezbollah's ranks as the organization grew. He said that after serving as a fighter, he became its director in Baalbek, then the whole Bekaa region, followed by Beirut.

After the assassination of the co-founder and secretary-general of Hezbollah, Abbas al-Musawi, in 1992, Nasrallah became the leader of the movement at the age of 32. Under his leadership, Hezbollah acquired missiles with a longer range, enabling them to attack northern Israel. One of his first actions was to retaliate against the killing of Musawi. He ordered rocket attacks into northern Is-



rael.

Nasrallah also managed a low-intensity war with Israeli forces that ended with their withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, though he suffered a personal loss when his eldest son, Hadi, was killed in a firefight with Israeli troops. Israel suffered heavy casualties during its 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon and eventually withdrew its forces in that year.

Following the withdrawal, Nasrallah said that Hezbollah had achieved the first victory against Israel. He also vowed that Hezbollah would not disarm, saying that it considered that "all Lebanese territory must be restored," including the occupied Shebaa Farms area.

This achievement increased Hezbollah's popularity in the region and strengthened its position in Lebanon.

However, there was relative calm until 2006, when Hezbollah launched a cross-border attack in reprisal for the regime's onslaughts. Eight Israeli soldiers were killed and two others kidnapped during the attack, triggering a massive Israeli response.

Israeli warplanes bombed Hezbollah strongholds in the south and in Beirut's southern suburbs, while Hezbollah fired about 4,000 rockets at Israel. More than 1,125 Lebanese, most of them civilians, were killed during the 34-day conflict, as well as 119 Israeli soldiers and 45 civilians.

In 2009, Nasrallah issued a new political manifesto that sought to highlight Hezbollah's "political vision." It maintained a tough line against Israel and the US and reiterated that Hezbollah needed to keep its weapons despite a UN resolution banning them in southern Lebanon.

"People evolve, and the world changed over the past 24 years. Lebanon changed. The world order changed," Nasrallah said.

Four years later, Nasrallah declared that Hezbollah was entering "a completely new phase" of its existence by sending members

into Syria to help the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in its war with foreign-backed terrorists. "It is our battle, and we are up to it," Nasrallah said.

In 2019, a deep economic crisis in Lebanon triggered mass protests against a political elite long accused of corruption, waste, mismanagement, and negligence. Nasrallah initially expressed sympathy with the calls for reforms, but his attitude changed as the protesters began demanding a complete overhaul of the political system.

On October 8, 2023, the day after the unprecedented attack on Israel by Hamas that triggered the war in Gaza, previously sporadic fighting between Hezbollah and Israel escalated. Facing one of its biggest challenges, Hezbollah fired at Israeli positions, in solidarity with the Palestinians.

In a speech in November, Nasrallah said that the Hamas attack had been "100% Palestinian in terms of both decision and execution" but that the firing between his group and Israel was "very important and significant." Hezbollah launched more than 8,000 rockets at northern Israel and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. It also fired anti-tank

missiles at armored vehicles and attacked military targets with explosive drones.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) retaliated with air strikes and tank and artillery fire against Hezbollah positions in Lebanon.

In his most recent speech, Nasrallah blamed Israel for detonating thousands of pagers and radio handsets used by Hezbollah members, which killed 39 people and wounded thousands more, and said it had "crossed all red lines." Shortly afterwards, Israel dramatically escalated attacks on Hezbollah, launching waves of bombing that killed nearly 800 people.

The movement Nasrallah built over three decades is highly organized and remains resolute in its opposition to Israel. However, his assassination is unlikely to be a fatal blow to Hezbollah, but it has undoubtedly left a void in the group's leadership. Nasrallah's charisma and influence extended far beyond Lebanon's borders, and his death will be deeply felt. As Hezbollah begins the process of selecting a new leader, it will face a critical decision: what path to take next. Whatever they choose, the consequences will reverberate across Lebanon and the wider region.



Hezbollah will not...

Netanyahu thinks that ultimately, he will either emerge as a victorious war hero or, if he fails to achieve his goals, he will meet the same fate as Golda Meir, the former Israeli prime minister, who was forced to step down from power and politics.

However, the Hezbollah movement has evolved into a well-defined and complex organization with both a political and military wing over the past three decades under Nasrallah's leadership. The

organization's military might may even surpass that of some regional armies. This cohesive and organized entity did not come into being overnight through the efforts of one individual, and it will not be wiped out overnight with the assassination of its leader. While it may suffer some damage in the wake of recent assassinations, particularly the assassination of its top leader, as it has had its natural ups and downs throughout its existence, what is vivid is that Hezbollah

will not be eradicated, especially given the tribal ties within the organization that contribute to its continuity.

Netanyahu has been using the pretext of ensuring Israel's and the region's security to launch extensive attacks on the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon over the past year. Now, it may seem that by eliminating Hezbollah's leader, he will achieve his goal. However, regional security depends on various factors, including the roles different actors play,

from small players like guerrilla groups to state actors and regional players like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, and Israel, as well as international players like Europe, the US, China, and Russia.

A major part of the region's future trajectory depends on the Arab world's reaction, which has so far stayed on the sidelines and is now expected to respond. With all this, one thing is clear: regional security cannot be guaranteed through war, just as Israel's security can-

not be guaranteed through these deadly attacks on the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon.

As long as the Palestinian issue remains unresolved, the current conflicts will continue in various forms. Palestine is a key international issue. A set of actors must reach a consensus on the Palestinian issue for the region to see security. Logically, Israel will not have any guarantee of security even after all these killings and assassinations.



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

The first deputy chairman of the Health Committee of the Iranian Parliament warned of a humanitarian disaster in the Zionist regime's attacks on Gaza and Lebanon, stating that thousands of Iranian doctors are ready to be dispatched to the region to help those affected by the devastating attacks.

Parliament's Health Committee:

Over 8,000 doctors ready for deployment to Gaza, Lebanon



Fatemeh Mohammad-Beigi

"Over the past year, more than 8,000 Iranian doctors have announced their readiness to be dispatched to Gaza and Lebanon to help the wounded and affected people in the aftermath of these devastating attacks," the first deputy head of the parliament Committee explained.

However, in an interview with Iran Daily, Fatemeh Mohammad-Beigi said "Despite the medical team's full readiness to be dispatched to these areas, unfortunately, the Israeli regime is blocking the entry of any health and medical convoys into the occupied territories and is not allowing the entry of water, food, and medicine into these areas."

"The Israelis have imposed all sorts of sanctions and restrictions on the resistance axis countries and regions, which is a clear indication of Israel's brutal nature and its disregard for international laws and regulations," she added.

As the head of the Women's and Family Fraction of the Iranian Parliament, Mohammad-Beigi declared that "there are over 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza who are being neglected, and they are living in a dire situation. These mothers have been going through their pregnancies under immense pressure, hunger, and severe shortages of food and medicine for many days."

"Many pregnant women, fetuses, newborns, and young children have lost their lives due to hunger and the lack of food and medicine. The occurrence of these incidents has reached a point where the international community can no longer tolerate this situation, and it is imperative that the dispatch of medical teams and family counselors to treat the physical and psychological trauma of the affected people be prioritized," she added.

Warning human rights organizations, Mohammad-Beigi stressed, "It is time to take action and put an end to these atrocities. How long should we continue to just talk and issue empty and ineffective statements? International organizations and assemblies should not fall into the trap of the Zionist regime's deceit and its supporting governments."

"According to divine promises and laws, oppression and supporting the oppressor will not endure. On this basis, I caution strongly against the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and other countries that support Israel's atrocities in any way, that they will soon face severe consequences, including the downfall of their governments."

The parliament member referred to the explosion of thousands of pagers



in Lebanon, saying, "The occurrence of these explosions by Israel is a completely terrorist and unconventional act in international conflicts. The use of electronic devices to injure and kill thousands of people is nothing but a horrific human tragedy that shows the brutality of the perpetrators, as many civilians and non-military areas were severely damaged."

She also referred to the recent Zionist regime's attacks on the Dahiyeh region and other areas of Lebanon, saying, "The Zionist regime has no justifi-

Wounded Lebanese child rests at hospital in Sidon on September 27, 2024, after he was injured following an Israeli airstrike that targeted his home village of al-Sharkiyah in southern Lebanon.
● MAHMOUD ZAYYAT/AFP

cation for these attacks, and Lebanon has the right to defend itself against Israel. The Islamic Republic of Iran will support this legitimate defense."

Mohammad-Beigi stated, "We urge the international community and human rights organizations to immediately stop supporting this regime,

whether openly or secretly."

She added, "Unfortunately, many international conventions have been violated over the past year, since the start of the Gaza war, and many UN resolutions have been ineffective. One example is the recent resolution that gave the Zionist regime a 12-month deadline to leave Gaza."

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in September (2024) calling on Israel to end its "illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territories" within 12 months. The resolution was adopted with 124 votes in favor, 43 abstentions, and 12 negative votes, including Israel and the United States.

Mohammad-Beigi emphasized, "This is while not even a single day should be given to a regime that is responsible for the murder of many innocent people every day."

She pointed out that cutting off the Zionist regime's vital economic arteries could prevent further killings, saying, "I urge all countries, especially the Islamic community and countries, to cut off all economic ties with this regime."

She added, "Any economic and trade transactions with this regime would be equivalent to providing funds and budget for the procurement of weapons and the continuation of Zionist genocide, and would make other countries complicit in these crimes."



By Ahmed Abu Abdu
Head of Health and Environment management at Gaza City Municipality

REPORT

As head of Health and Environment management at the Gaza City municipality, I am responsible for processing and disposing of all types of waste, including household, medical, industrial, agricultural, and marine waste. With a population exceeding 800,000 people, our city generates over 700 tons of waste daily. Before the Israeli genocide began on October 7 almost a year ago, managing this volume of waste in a city under siege was already challenging. The Israeli occupation systematically prevented us from importing or building the necessary equipment to carry out our work, including garbage trucks or waste treatment facilities, over nearly two decades. After the genocide began, the Israeli occupation launched a war on all our sanitation facilities and waste management systems, with the objective of creating an environmental and health crisis in Gaza.

Waste piling up in Gaza

Public health implications are disastrous

Over the years, I have lived through several Israeli assaults on Gaza — in 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2021. Each time, we adapted and continued our essential services. But this war is unlike anything we have ever seen. It is not just another assault, but a genocide aiming to take away our city's ability to function. Every day feels like a Sisyphean race against time to maintain essential services for a city being systematically obliterated.

The occupation targeted our teams in East Gaza where our landfill is located, making it impossible to transport waste there and forcing us to pile it in the middle of the city, creating hazardous conditions for Gaza residents.

From the very beginning of the war, I constantly worried about my family's safety. When the Israeli army ordered evacuations, I took my family to Khan Younis in the south as instructed. The image of my mother's tearful plea for me to stay with them when I decided to go back north will forever haunt me. Yet, I felt compelled to return to Gaza City to continue my work for those still there.

Driving back alone, I passed a vehicle hit by an airstrike. I saw bodies scattered across the road, and rubble was everywhere. I pressed on despite my fear.

Upon my return to Gaza, I was alone. We struggled to salvage what remained of the waste management system and to keep basic services operational for those who remained. Amid the dire conditions, I lost over 8 kilograms within a month. My mother almost didn't recognize me when we spoke together on a video call.

Managing solid waste during a genocide

Before the genocide, the blockade had already prevented us from importing proper equipment like compactors or incinerators. Our entire system was already fragile as a result of the 17-year-long siege.

Waste management is supposed to take place in three stages — collection, transportation, and disposal. The blockade forced us to resort to makeshift solutions, such as using 300 carts pulled by animals, which for years kept the city functional until the genocide started.

On the first day of the genocide, Israeli forces targeted our workers at the landfill, injuring many and destroying \$1.5 million worth of equipment. We had no choice but to dump waste in the city center at makeshift locations like Yarmouk market and the open spaces in al-Feras market.



These areas, once lively, are now overwhelmed with rotting garbage, posing severe health risks to the few residents who remain.

Managing over 500 workers became nearly impossible. Half of my team lives in northern Gaza, where they continued to use carts in the early days of the war. As the fighting intensified, even this method was no longer safe. The northern part of Gaza faced heavy bombardment, and many of the workers were displaced, taking refuge in school shelters. Their carts were parked in nearby yards, but those were destroyed by airstrikes. Many workers lost their livelihoods and means of survival. In one strike, we lost over 40 staff mem-

Waste management facilities and vehicles were destroyed during the Israeli genocide in Gaza.
● COURTESY OF AUTHOR

bers who had been sheltering in our main garage. Eight missiles destroyed over 120 vehicles used for waste collection, wastewater management, and water distribution. Half of my team was injured, many of whom will never be able to return to work.

A city drowning in its own waste

With over 150,000 tons of waste piling up in Gaza City, the environmental and health consequences are dire. As we approach winter,

these waste piles will block drainage systems, leading to potential floods in an already devastated city. Many displaced residents living in makeshift shelters will face the added horror of flooding. The air is thick with the stench of burning garbage as desperate residents try to manage the waste by setting it on fire. The toxic fumes are worsening the situation, causing an increase in respiratory illnesses. The Gaza Ministry of Health has reported over 250,000 cases of skin diseases due to exposure to waste. With medical and hazardous waste accumulating alongside household trash, we are on the brink of a catastrophic health crisis.

Our waste management system, once fragile but functional, is now in ruins. Over 150,000 tons of waste are poisoning the city, and the rainy season will only exacerbate the situation. We urgently need assistance. Gaza's infrastructure is collapsing, and its people are overwhelmed by the weight of genocide. We cannot endure this much longer. The world must act before Gaza becomes uninhabitable, its people left with nothing but memories of a once proud city now buried beneath its own waste.

The article first appeared on Mondoweiss.

Persian Gulf Pro League:

10-man Tractor beats Sepahan to go top

Sports Desk

Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh scored his fourth top-flight goal of the season as 10-man Tractor claimed a massive 1-0 victory at Sepahan to overtake its host on top of the Persian Gulf Pro League table.

The visitors had to play with 10 men for the best part of the game in Isfahan's Fooladshahr Stadium after a VAR review convinced referee Vahid Kazemi to show star winger Mahdi Torabi his marching orders for a foul on Mohammad-Mahdi Mohebbi on the half-hour mark.

Summer signing Mahdi Limouchi missed a glorious chance to break the deadlock for the home side late in the first half, only to see his close-range effort cleared by Aref Aqasi's tackle on the line and come off the post.

With both sides heading for a goalless stalemate in the first half, Hosseinzadeh gave Dragan Skocic's men a surprise lead in stoppage time, finding the net on the rebound after Sepahan keeper Payam Niazmand's save on Igor Postonjski's effort from outside the box.

Tractor held off the host's desperate push for an equalizer after the break to walk away with a first win against a Big Four opponent – which also includes Persepolis and Esteghlal – in two years and move atop the table with 13 points, thanks to a superior goal difference over Malavan and Sepahan.

On a rain-soaked pitch in Sirous Qayeqran Stadium, Milad Baqeri headed home an 86th-minute winner to help Malavan continue its impressive start to the season with

a 1-0 home win against Esteghlal Khuzestan.

Elsewhere, Golgozar and Havadar shared the points in a goalless game in Sirjan, while Iralco defeated Kheybar Khorramabad 1-0, courtesy of Rahman Ja'fari's sublime finish in the first half, to celebrate a first victory of the campaign.

Hadi Habibinejad's 93rd-minute strike led newly-promoted Chadormalou to a 1-0 triumph over Moharram Navidkia's Mes Rafsanjan at home.

Friday's results came two days after a stoppage-time spot-kick by Hossein Kan'ani had secured a sensational 1-0 win for Persepolis against archrival Esteghlal in Tehran Derby.

Chasing an eighth league crown in nine seasons, Persepolis is fourth in the table with 11 points with a game in hand, while Esteghlal – without a league victory since the opening-day win at Shams Azar – is 11th with five points.

The Tehran-based clubs will be back in AFC Champions League Elite action on Monday.

Persepolis will be looking to bounce back from a first-day loss at Al Ahli Saudi when welcoming Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor to Shahr-e Qods Stadium, while Javad Nekounam's Esteghlal will hope to end the domestic woes in an away game against Al Sadd in Doha's Jassim bin Hamad Stadium.



Head coach Dragan Skocic (R) and Tractor players celebrate after a 1-0 victory over Sepahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Isfahan, Iran, on September 27, 2024.

● RASOUL SHOJAEI/IMNA

World Junior Wushu Championships:
Sanda success as Iranians snatch double golds on Day 4

Sports Desk

Iranians continued their impressive campaign on Day 4 of the World Junior Wushu Championships by bagging double gold medals as well as a silver in the boys' sanda contests in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.

Representing the country in the 56kg – children event, Ali Rezaei defeated an opponent from Laos to walk away with the ultimate prize, while Amirreza Salar came out victorious over Shun Yat Leung of Hong Kong in the 45kg final for Iran's second gold in the same age-group.

Meanwhile, Ali Miri had to settle for a runner-up finish in the 80kg – junior category following a final defeat against Egyptian Youssef Karim Adel Taha.

Further sanda success awaits the country after seven Iranian boys and girls secured a place in the final showpiece of their respective weight classes on Sunday. Saghar Hosseinzadeh, Yekta Adibi, and Diana Rahimi will chase a gold in the girls' finals, with Alireza Zamani, Amirhesam Mohammadi, Abolfazl Asadi, and Sorous Hajj Mash'had going for glory in the boys' contests. Elsewhere, Iranian girl Sana Chak bagged a third talou medal in the competitions,



scoring 8.803 points for the nanquan silver.

Arsham Khalilpour also finished his campaign with a talou silver, courtesy of an 8.430-point performance in the boys' jianshu event.

Ramtin Siahmoshtei took his personal haul to three medals with a bronze in the boys' nanquan contest, while Zahra Botshekan finished third in the women's final of the same talou event.



Iranian boy Amirreza Salar (L) poses for a photo after winning the 45kg – children gold medal in the World Junior Wushu Championships in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, on September 28, 2024.

● iranwushufed.ir

Iranian bodybuilders crowned world men's champion

Sports Desk

A remarkable haul of 153 medals saw Iran dominate different age classes in the IFBB World Bodybuilding Championships & Men's Fitness World Cup on the Kish Island, southern Iran.

Iranians bagged 51 golds, 52 silvers, and 50 bronze medals across four days of the competitions.

Iran tallied 122 points for the top spot in the juniors' event, followed by Iraq (79pts), and China (53), while the home country also finished atop the masters' table with 160 points, with Russia (125) and Romania (82) in behind.

A third team trophy for Iran came in the seniors' contests, where the host dominated with 285 points, followed by China (152) and Saudi Arabia (147).



● iranbbf.ir

Iran edges India in U20 Asian Cup qualifiers



AFC – Iran needed a late strike to earn a hard-fought 1-0 win against India in their AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifiers Group G match in Vientiane, Laos, on Friday.

Both teams enjoyed opening day wins with India sealing a 4-1 victory over Mongolia, while Iran scored eight unanswered goals against Laos.

Iran struck in the 88th minute through Yousef Mazraeh to seal the three points and take a huge step towards making the February's finals in China.

● AFC

Hezbollah leader assassinated by Israel



International Desk

The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance group Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was assassinated in an Israeli air strike in Lebanon's capital Beirut on Friday.

The group in a statement on Saturday confirmed his death, saying that Nasrallah "has joined his fellow martyrs." Hezbollah vowed to "continue the holy war against the enemy and in support of Palestine."

The Israeli military said it carried out a precise airstrike on Friday while top Hezbollah officials were meeting at their headquarters in Zahiye, south of Beirut.

Lebanon's Health Minister Firass Abiad said at least 11 people were killed and 108 wounded in Israeli attacks. A source close to Hezbollah said Saturday that the group's commander in south, Ali Karake, was killed in the Israeli strike.

A senior general in Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps was also among the victims.

General Abbas Nilforoushan, deputy commander of IRGC operations, "was killed in Israel's attack on Lebanon that assassinated the Hezbollah chief," said the official IRNA news agency, giving no further details.

Leader of the Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in a message of condolences later on Saturday said the foundation the Hezbollah chief laid in Lebanon and directed towards other Resistance groups will not be destroyed by his absence, but will be further strengthened by his blood and that of the other martyrs of this incident.

"The blows of the Resistance Front will become more crushing against the worn-out and

crumbling body of the Zionist regime, by the will of God. The Zionist regime's wicked nature has not achieved victory in this incident," the Leader added.

"The Zionist criminals should know that they are too small to cause significant damage to the strong construction of Hezbollah in Lebanon," Ayatollah Khamenei said in an earlier statement on Saturday.

The Leader said resistance forces are the ones to decide the fate of the region despite the criminal Israeli massacres.

"The killing of defenseless people in Lebanon once again revealed to everyone the ferocity of the Zionist rabid dog, and proved the short-sightedness and stupid policy of the leaders of the usurping regime," he said.

"The terrorist gang ruling the Zionist regime did not learn from their one-year criminal war in Gaza and failed to understand that the mass killing of women, children and civilians cannot affect the solid construction of the resistance organization and destroy it.

"Now they are trying the same foolish policy in Lebanon. The Zionist criminals should know that they are too small to cause significant damage to the strong construction of Hezbollah in Lebanon. All the resistance forces of the region are with Hezbollah and support it," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the fate of the region will be decid-

ed by the resistance forces, with Hezbollah at the head of them.

"The people of Lebanon have not forgotten that once upon a time when the military of the usurping regime had all the way to Beirut under its boots, it was Hezbollah that cut off their leg and made Lebanon dear and proud," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also declared five days of mourning for the Hezbollah chief.

'Stand with Lebanese'

He said, "It is obligatory for all Muslims to stand with the people of Lebanon and proud Hezbollah with their resources and help them in confronting the usurping, cruel and evil regime."

The Palestinian resistance group Hamas in a statement issued condolences to its ally, Hezbollah. Nasrallah frequently described launching rockets against northern Israel as a "support front" for Hamas and Palestinians in Gaza.

"History has proven that the resistance ... whenever its leaders die as martyrs, will be succeeded on the same path by a generation of leaders who are more valiant, stronger and more determined to continue the confrontation," the Hamas statement said.

It added that, "The assassinations will only increase the resistance in Lebanon and Palestine in determination and resolve."

US complicity

Iranian President Masoud

Pezeshkian issued a statement, saying the assassination of Nasrallah "will only further strengthen the resistance."

He added that the international community will not forget that the order for this "terrorist attack" was issued from New York, likely referring to Israeli Prime Minister's Benjamin Netanyahu's address at the UN General Assembly on Friday.

Pezeshkian also said the US cannot deny complicity in Nasrallah's killing.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Israel used several US "bunker buster" bombs to strike Beirut on Friday.

"Just this morning, the Israeli regime used several 5,000-pound bunker busters that had been gifted to them by the United States to hit residential areas in Beirut," he told a UN Security Council meeting on the Middle East.

Israel only notified the US about the major airstrike targeting Hezbollah leader after its planes were already in the air and the operation was in motion, a US official said on Friday.

'Path of Nasrallah will continue'

Iran's Foreign Ministry said Saturday the path of Hezbollah chief will continue despite his assassination.

"The glorious path of the leader of the resistance, Hassan Nasrallah, will continue and his sacred goal will be realized in the liberation of Quds, God willing,"

Rescuers stand on the rubble of a building destroyed in an Israeli air strike in the Haret Hreik neighborhood of Beirut's southern suburbs on September 27, 2024.

AFP

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in a post on social media X.

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said the killing of Hezbollah chief will bring about Israel's "destruction."

"We warn the leaders of the occupying regime that the unjust bloodshed... especially of Hezbollah's secretary general, martyr Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, will bring about their destruction," Iran's ISNA news agency quoted Aref as saying.

'Cowardly act'

Former Lebanese prime minister Saad Hariri said that the assassination of Nasrallah plunged Lebanon and the region into a new phase of violence.

In a statement on Saturday, he said, "It is a cowardly act, condemned in every way by us, who have paid dearly with our loved ones when assassination became a substitute for politics."

"We disagreed greatly with the late Mr. Hassan and his party, and rarely found common ground, but Lebanon was the umbrella for all. During this extremely difficult phase, our unity and solidarity remain essential. Lebanon remains above all."

'Shameful attack'

Iraq's Prime Minister Moham-

med Shia al-Sudani also condemned the assassination of Hezbollah chief as a "crime" and declared a three-day period of mourning in his country.

The Friday attack on Hezbollah's south Beirut stronghold that killed the group's leader was a "shameful attack" and "a crime that shows the Zionist entity has crossed all the red lines," Sudani said in a statement, calling Nasrallah "a martyr on the path of the righteous."

'Genocide' in Lebanon

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also reacted to the Israeli attack on Lebanon, saying that the regime was committing a "genocide" in Lebanon.

"Lebanon and the Lebanese people are the latest target of a policy of genocide, occupation and invasion carried out by Israel since October 7," Erdogan wrote on X.

'Danger is extreme for world'

Jean-Luc Melenchon, a left-wing French politician and former Member of the European Parliament, said the assassination of Hassan Nasrallah "is one more step towards the invasion of Lebanon and general war."

In a post on X, he said, "France no longer counts on the ground. Netanyahu's crimes will continue since they are unpunished. The danger is extreme for the region and the world."

Fanning 'flame of sacrifice'

Yemen's Ansarallah resistance group said the killing of Hassan Nasrallah would strengthen their determination to confront the Israeli enemy.

"The martyrdom of... Hassan Nasrallah will increase the flame of sacrifice, the heat of enthusiasm, the strength of resolve," said a statement, vowing to achieve "victory and the demise of the Israeli enemy."

Since the beginning of Israel's war on Gaza in last October, Hezbollah has been exchanging fire with the Israeli occupation army in support of Palestinians in Gaza where more than 41,000 Palestinians - mostly women and children - have been killed in the Israel's strikes.

The cross-border strikes have gradually escalated and displaced tens of thousands of civilians on both sides of the border.

Hostilities escalated dramatically last week when thousands of explosives hidden in pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah detonated, killing dozens of people and leaving thousands, including many civilians, with severe injuries to the eyes, face and limbs. Israel is widely believed to be behind the attack.

Israel has also killed several top Hezbollah commanders in Beirut, especially in the past two weeks.

The UN refugee chief said Saturday that more than 50,000 people had fled to Syria amid escalating Israeli air strikes on Lebanon.

He added that "well over 200,000 people are displaced inside Lebanon."



Georgia ready for cultural cooperation with Iran



Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri (2nd L) and Georgia's caretaker of the Ministry of Culture and Sports Ioseb Bagaturia (2nd R) display a box of Iranian handicrafts during a meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Georgian officials expressed their readiness for comprehensive cultural cooperation with Iran during a visit by Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri. Salehi Amiri met with the caretaker of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Georgia Ioseb Bagaturia, in Tbilisi, IRNA wrote. The Iranian minister high-

lighted the importance of cultural cooperation between the two countries, citing their shared heritage and historical ties. Salehi Amiri pointed to Iran's rich cultural heritage, with 28 UNESCO World Heritage sites and 24 intangible cultural heritage items, and noted the presence of Georgian communities in Iran as an example of the two countries' cultural commonalities. The minister expressed Iran's readiness to cooperate with Georgia in three areas: Restoration of cultural artifacts, archaeological research, and cultural exhibitions. He also mentioned that Iran is already cooperating with Shanghai in the field of museum exhibitions.

Bagaturia emphasized the importance of cultural cooperation with Iran and expressed his country's readiness to collaborate in all areas. He proposed signing a cultural cooperation agreement and suggested that the Iranian side submit a draft text for review. The Georgian official also noted that the signing of a cultural exchange program between the two countries had been delayed due to the separation of the education and culture ministries. He suggested that the agreement be reviewed and signed separately. During his visit, Salehi Amiri also toured the Georgian National Museum, which includes sections on jewelry and Qajar-era artifacts.

Iran showcases tourist attractions in Kazakhstan

Iran displayed its tourist attractions in a showcase at the National Academic Library of Kazakhstan on September 27, marking World Tourism Day. The event featured books and handicrafts that highlighted Iran's cultural and historical sites, as well as its natural beauty, IRNA wrote. Iran's cultural attaché in Kazakhstan, Ali Akbar Talebi Matin, emphasized the importance of boosting tourism between the two countries. Talebi Matin called for canceling visa requirements for travelers between Iran and Kazakhstan, saying it would be a great opportunity for citizens of both countries to plan their next tourist destination. The tourism exhibition, which included participants from Turkmenistan, India, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, and Portugal, aimed to promote cultural exchange and tourism between the countries. Iran's pavilion at the exhibi-



tion featured various books and handicrafts that introduced visitors to the country's rich cultural heritage. Talebi Matin pointed out that despite the many tourist attractions in both Iran and Kazakhstan, people from both countries still lack a deep understanding of each other's cultures. To address this, Talebi Matin

suggested organizing tourist tours between the two countries. He noted that a successful tour was launched last year from the Kazakh city of Aktau to Iran, which attracted a significant number of Iranian tourists. Talebi Matin emphasized the need for continued cooperation between the tourism ministries of Kazakhstan and

Iran. He invited people from Kazakhstan and other participating countries to visit Iran and explore its diverse tourist attractions, including historical sites, artistic and handicrafts, music, traditional food, and natural wonders. The event was part of a larger effort to promote tourism and cultural exchange between the participating countries.

Iranian filmmakers win Russian award for documentary 'Stand with the Wolf'

Arts & Culture Desk

An Iranian filmmaking duo won a top award at a Russian film festival for their documentary 'Stand with the Wolf' which took part in the festival with the name 'Next to the Wolves'. The film, directed by Saeed Nabi and Maryam Khadivi, took home the Muravyov-Amursky Award, a special prize from the Irkutsk Regional Museum of Local History, at the 23rd Baikal International Film Festival "Man and Nature" in Russia, ISNA wrote. The award was given to the filmmakers for their work in showcasing the ideals of faith, conscience, and beauty in their documentary, the festival's jury members announced. 'Next to the Wolves' tells the true story of Hadi Jalali, an Iranian environmental activist who was shot by hunters and has over 99 lead bullets still lodged in his body. The film was one of 24 selected for the final round of competition at the festival, which took place from September 17-27 in Russia. The festival,



which focuses on the relationship between humans and the environment, featured films from around the world, including Iran, Germany, Romania, South Korea, and the UK. The Muravyov-Amursky Award is named after a 19th-century Russian statesman and hero who founded several cities in the country's Far East. The award is considered one of the top prizes at the festival, which is supported by the Russian Ministry of Culture and the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives. "We are honored to receive this award and grateful for the recognition of our work," said Nabi and Khadivi in a statement. "We hope that our film will continue to inspire people to take action in protecting the environment and preserving the natural world."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iranian musician Mohammad Motamedi nominated for German Critics' Award

Iranian musician Mohammad Motamedi's album 'Intizar: Songs of Longing' was nominated at the German Critics' Award (Preis der deutschen). The album, a collaboration with the Dutch jazz group Rembrandt Trio, was recorded live at the Oude Kerk church in Amsterdam in December 2021. The album features traditional Persian songs and poems by famous Persian poets such as Hafez and Khayyam. Motamedi has a long history of collaborations with

named the best album of the year in the Netherlands by the respected newspaper NRC. The newspaper listed it as one of the top 25 albums of 2023 in the country. The German Critics' Award winners will be announced in October. The album features seven tracks, including traditional Persian songs and poems by famous Persian poets such as Hafez and Khayyam. Motamedi has a long history of collaborations with



international artists and groups, and this nomination

is the latest recognition of his work.