

# Israel launches airstrikes on Yemen

Worldwide rallies against Israel's war on Lebanon, Gaza

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## Reasons behind Israel's expansion of war



By Afifeh Abedi  
International affairs expert

**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

Israel's brazen attacks on Beirut continue unabated. While the Gaza war rages on, the Zionist regime has yet to achieve its declared objectives in the Palestinian enclave, and many expected the international pressure to lead to a cease-fire. However, it seems that the regime's plan is to push the war zone into Lebanon. This raises the question: what are the reasons behind Tel Aviv's expansion of the war, and why is the US openly supporting Israel in the Lebanon war?

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No future envisaged for Israel in region: *Iran's FM*

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## CBI allocates more subsidized forex for petchem development

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has allocated more subsidized forex for petchem industry development during the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 20-September 21), as announced by the deputy head of the Petrochemical Industry Employers Association on Sunday.

Fariborz Karimaei also said considering the importance of the petrochemical industry and the need to fulfill the Seventh Development Plan, we need support and financing, and in this regard, negotiations have been held with the CBI to finance the projects in forex and rials, ISNA reported.

During the six months to September 21, the CBI paid 14% more subsidized forex to the petrochemical industry to fulfill a production leap on the way to hit the targeted 132 million tons.

"In the rial and foreign currency financing sector, we have coordinated measures with the CBI so that we can push the projects of the industry," he stated Karimaei went on to say that there are methods that we are studying to find new ways for financing major projects of petchem industry.

According to the Seventh Development Plan, a total of \$25 billion to \$30 billion of investment has been allocated to petchem industry development, of which 30 to 40 percent has been financed so far, and the rest must be financed through domestic and foreign suppliers, he stated.

# Iran ready to export techno-engineering services in construction: **MP**

By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou  
Staff writers

Iran enjoys great potential in the field of construction, said the spokesman of the Civil Committee of the Parliament, adding that the skills of Iranian companies in the field of construction is outstanding the region, as now the ground is paved for exporting techno-engineering services in the construction sector to neighboring countries and global markets.

Talking to Iran Daily, Sodeif Badri also noted that the construction industry in Iran has advantages over other rivals thanks to its experienced and trained manpower, including our competitive price

in the market as well as the diversity of work of Iranian companies in the field of construction.

He went on to say that on this basis, other countries and especially neighbors welcome Iranian constructors and contractors for their projects.

Iran's infrastructures of technical and engineering facilities are available in terms of equipment, logistics and human resources, the lawmaker said, calling for the removal of obstacles to the presence of Iranian companies in the regional markets, including sanctions that affect money transfers.

Major Iranian construction companies have completed large housing construction projects in neighboring countries,

including Iraq, as well as distant countries such as Venezuela, in the past, and these projects will continue in the future.

The MP stated that several years ago, we started a huge residential construction project in Venezuela by building 3,000 housing units during the presidency of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, adding that the total number increased to 10,000 units after joining another consortium to construct housing projects in the Latin American country.

"Exporting technical and engineering services in the field of construction can fetch considerable income for the country so we should take advantage of the opportunity by attending foreign markets,"



he added. Regarding the policies of house building and mass construction by the new Iranian government, Badri said President Pezeshkian and Minister of Roads and Urban De-

velopment Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajard have placed a premium on the implementation of the law of leap in housing production and other residential unit projects in the country.

The government plans to build one million residential units annually and within four years a total of four million units is to be constructed which will help to meet part of the needs in the country.

## Electricity output capacity to increase by over 5,000 MW



One of the plans of the Ministry of Energy to provide sustainable electricity during the peak consumption of next year is to increase the power generation capacity, on this basis, it has been targeted to add 5,333 megawatts to the country's power generation capacity by the end of this year (March 20, 2025). With the aim of providing maximum electricity in the hot days of next year, as in previous

years, the Ministry of Energy has put two parallel measures to manage and optimize electricity consumption as well as increasing production capacity, IRNA reported. A sum of 2,817 MW by gas power plant units as well as 942 MW through combined-cycle units and 120 MW will be added to the national electricity grid through the building of hydroelectric power plants.

Also, a total of 1,254 MW will be added to the production capacity through renewable power plants, so that the total increase in the country's electricity production capacity will reach 5,333 MW by

yearend. Meanwhile, the chairman of the Board of Directors of Iran Renewable Energies Association said that foreign investors have shown interest in building renewable power plants in Iran for generating electricity, Mehr News Agency reported. Neighboring Turkey has requested to invest in Iran and export the produced electricity, Davood Madadi stated. He said considering that Iran is the best location for the construction of solar and wind power plants, foreign investors prefer to invest in Iran and export electricity in return.

## Iran expects bumper rice harvest this year

Iran is expecting a bumper rice harvest this year amid better government incentives for farmers and agreeable weather conditions. Iran's Ministry of Agriculture said that rice harvest in the country would amount to 2.7 million metric tons (mt) in the harvest period that ends in the coming weeks, Press TV wrote.

The ministry's contractor for wheat and rice Sohrab Sohrabi said the output would be an increase of nearly 26% compared to the 2023 harvest period. Sohrabi said that rice has been cultivated in some 750,000 hectares of lands in Iran with some 70% of production concentrated in

three northern provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran and Golestan.

He said main reasons behind the bumper rice crop in Iran this year is the support provided by the government, including the supply of genetically-modified seeds to farmers and the expansion of mechanization in the sector as well as better use of fertilizers by farmers.

Increased domestic production of rice can allow Iran to cut its sizable imports from countries like India and Pakistan.

The government has managed to reduce rice imports in recent years thanks to better crop yields.

Rice imports into Iran



reached some 1.054 million metric tons (mt) worth more than \$1 billion in the calendar year to March with India responsible for nearly 70% of the supply, followed by Pakistan at 29% and countries like Taiwan, Thailand and Iraq providing the rest, according to figures by the Iranian customs office. The total annual demand for rice in Iran is nearly 3.5 million mt with a bulk of the supply coming from paddy fields in provinces located along the Caspian Sea coast.

## Iran's space technology leap amid yoke of sanctions

Iran's comprehensive scientific roadmap has set aerospace as a top priority goal in the country's science and technology system given the role it plays in the development of other priority technologies.

The aerospace industry is also a vital component of national security and integral to our lives in an interconnected world, from connecting people across the globe to keeping them safe, Press TV wrote on Sunday.

According to official reports, Iran ranks first among Islamic countries and in West Asia in aerospace science, where recent achievements, especially in design, construction and launch of satellites, have increased national self-esteem and self-confidence and improved the country's status globally.

Iran's vast land area and

privileged geopolitical position, its capability to build, launch and place satellites, spacecraft and other flying objects in space and remotely operate them besides its access to a pool of high caliber talent and a well-established community of experts in its world-class universities and research institutes make it an imperative to pay special attention to this sector.

These capacities and capabilities, along with other avant-garde opportunities, promise a bright future, the realization of which depends on the comprehensive planning and cogent efforts of aerospace administrators.

Iran broke into the global space race in February 2009 by launching its first domestically produced satellite, the Omid (Hope), into orbit aboard a

Safir rocket.

The successful placing of the payload into a low Earth orbit at an altitude of 299 kilometers coincided with the 30th anniversary celebrations of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, ushering the county into the elite league of the world's top 10 nations capable of launching satellites.

It generated a swell of joy, pride and enthusiasm among the people, academic community and knowledge-based companies which consequently joined a national drive to promote satellites and space-related technologies.

It came almost exactly a year after Iran launched the Kavosh-I (Explorer-1), a rocket capable of carrying satellites into space, which also marked the opening of an Iranian space center in the desert in Semnan.

After the Omid, four more satellites were put into orbit which catapulted Iran to the status of a global technology player in possession of the complete space cycle - having the capacity to manufacture satellites, their launchers and having their own launch platform.

According to head of the Iranian Space Agency Hassan Salarieh, ensuring security is no longer possible without being in space and using satellite monitoring on the ground. The monopoly on access to space technology and dominance in space, he says, has broken and all countries are in a race to use it to build their future.

Iran's space industry is indigenous, where the introduction and transfer of space technology has brought about an industrial transformation.

Its 10-year foundational space program calls for development of launch infrastructure and ground stations, design and construction of telecommunication satellites, launch of remote-sensing satellites with an accuracy of one meter and less, initiation of joint international projects, implementation of exploratory projects with a focus on infrastructure development and planning for launch of heavy cargoes. The plan aims to turn Iran into a regional hub in space technologies and launch services within 10 years by relying on the internal capabilities and knowledge of the country's specialists.

As part of the plan, the country is building a satellite constellation, named after the late legendary anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani, intended as



a dual-use narrowband telecommunication system for government users and the private sector. Last month, Salarieh said the pace of designing and manufacturing home-grown satellites has accelerated, with a raft of projects being jointly carried out with the private sector.

Earlier this month, Iran successfully sent into orbit the domestically-developed Chamran 1 research satellite.

In January, the Sorayya satellite was launched into a 750 km orbit, the highest by the country so far, followed by the sending of the Mahda research satellite, along with two research cargoes, to space onboard the Simorgh (Phoenix) rocket. It plans to send between five to seven domestically-developed satellites into space by the end of the current Iranian calendar year ending on March 20, 2025.

# Sovas; traditional footwear of Hormozgan

**Iranica Desk** The traditional footwear of southern Iran, particularly in Hormozgan Province, is regarded as an integral part of the region's cultural and artistic heritage, rooted in the lives of the indigenous people of tropical and coastal areas. These shoes not only symbolize the handmade artistry and creativity of the people of Hormozgan but also represent an important aspect of their history and cultural identity. Among these types of footwear, sovas is recognized as one of the most significant examples, woven using specific techniques.



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## Characteristics of sovas

Sovas is a type of traditional shoe made from natural fibers such as palm leaves, designed to protect the feet from heat and uneven surfaces. This footwear is especially well-suited for the warm and dry environments of Hormozgan Province, as it offers both lightweight comfort and adequate ventilation for the feet.

## Weaving process

The process of weaving sovas, a traditional art, requires skill and precision. First, palm

leaves, which are abundantly found in the region, are collected and cleaned. The leaves are then dried to prepare them for weaving, as drying increases the flexibility and durability of the fibers. Local weavers cut the palm leaves into thin strands, getting them ready for the weaving process.

## Handcrafted techniques

The weaving of sovas is performed by hand using simple tools. It typically begins with twisting and intertwining the fibers. The strands are sys-

tematically twisted together to form the sole of the sovas, starting from the bottom of the foot and gradually progressing upwards. Weavers continue the process using simple and sometimes repetitive patterns. Once the sole is complete, sections are added for the straps or lateral parts. These straps are usually made from the same palm fibers and are woven into both sides of the sole. Depending on the region or the weaver's preference, these straps may feature specific decorations or designs.

After the weaving is finished, the sovas must be placed in the sun for some time to dry and become sturdy. At this stage, the woven footwear is ready for use.

## Strap attachment

To attach the straps to the sovas, two models are used: one for men and one for women. The straps are woven from a specific fabric and sewn onto the sole of the sovas with a needle. To sew the strap onto the sovas, the needle is inserted from underneath and brought up through the top,

then pushed into the desired point on the sovas. The length of the strap for the sovas is 28 meters, and its width is eight centimeters. For the men's version of the sovas, an additional strap at the back of the foot is also included.

## Advantages of sovas

Due to the use of palm leaves, sovas are very lightweight and provide excellent airflow. Made from natural fibers, these footwear items are resistant to heat and harsh environmental conditions, making

them highly suitable for use in coastal and mountainous areas. Sovas also demonstrate strong resistance to thorns, allowing people in southern Iran to walk easily for kilometers during the hot season, as a single wetting of the shoes would keep their feet cool.

## Heritage and preservation

The method of weaving sovas has been passed down through generations, remaining an integral part of the cultural identity of the people of Hormozgan. Sovas weaving is not only a handicraft but also a significant aspect of the cultural heritage and traditional life in this region. This craft has been preserved as an essential skill for rural and nomadic communities, adapting to the local environmental and climatic conditions.

## Challenges and future

Despite modern changes and the introduction of industrial shoes, sovas weaving continues in some areas of Hormozgan Province. However, due to reduced demand and changes in lifestyle, this traditional craft faces the threat of extinction. Sovas weaving is specifically tailored to the region's environment and climate, symbolizing the creativity and skill of local weavers while representing a vital aspect of the culture and identity of the people of Hormozgan Province.

## A blend of history, nature and tradition in Khorheh



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Khorheh is an ancient region located in the village of the same name, situated in the northeast of Mahalat in Markazi Province. This historical area encompasses 13 villages and lies within the valley of Haftad Qolleh, nestled between the Lorakh Gav and Khorzin mountains. The Qomrud River, originating from the Tayqan Mountain, flows through this valley near the village. The ancient land of Khorheh extends from the Haftad Qolleh Mountain in the north to the Yakhchal Mountain in the south. Within this area, one can

find the ruins of a fire temple, a summerhouse, a fort, and a cemetery, all spread over an approximate area of 3,500 square meters in a quadrilateral layout divided into three sections. These ruins date back to the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid periods. The first reconstruction of this historical site occurred in 1916. Among the significant findings are two slender columns, each six meters tall, crafted from travertine stone and adorned with Greek-style Ionic capitals. These

columns are attributed to the Seleucid and Parthian periods. Each Seleucid column is made of six stone sections stacked on top of one another, featuring a square hole along the axis of each piece for a wooden bar to be inserted. The remains of several interconnected rooms, corridors, and staircases can still be observed from this ancient structure. A staircase on the west side leads to the roof, which was complemented by a columned porch supported by twelve columns — six on each

side. It is estimated that the roof was originally nine meters high, but only two columns remain standing today. Additionally, acid rain has eroded the ancient stones, highlighting the urgent need for protective measures to prevent further deterioration. Excavations have also uncovered a room with a furnace, along with various archaeological artifacts, including different types of pottery, clay burners, handled jars, cosmetic stones, and the remains of seven human skeletons.

Furthermore, a stone inscription dating back to the Seljuk period has been discovered; it is currently located in Nimvar, southwest of Khorheh village, beside the Qamrud River. Khorheh boasts a variety of remarkable sites that attract tourists, such as the Shah Bolbol Cave, the historic Lorakh Gav Cave, the Vazvan or Shureh Spring, and the Imamzadeh Haft Ivan. The region is also known for its handicrafts, including carpets, rugs, and woolen socks.

# Late Hezbollah leader hard to be succeeded

International Desk

## ANALYSIS

The assassination of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the veteran leader of Hezbollah, on Friday marks a watershed moment in the Middle East conflicts. Both Nasrallah and the movement he led have been hardened by decades of successive conflicts within Lebanon, against Israel, and have become powerful, political and social forces with significant regional and local influence.

Over his three decades at the helm of Hezbollah, Nasrallah built a devoted personal following, guided the Shia Muslim movement through a series of transitions, balanced its military ambitions with extensive social welfare systems, established a political faction, and negotiated through various crises that unfolded across the region. He earned adulation from supporters and bitter personal enmity from foes.

A qualified Islamic scholar, effective public speaker, and skilled organizer, Nasrallah acquired leadership experience during the long battle against Israeli forces and their local proxies in southern Lebanon. In 1992,



following Israel's assassination of Sayyed Abbas al-Musawi, he was chosen as the new secre-

tary-general of the movement. In 2000, Israel's humiliating and chaotic withdrawal from south-

ern Lebanon earned Hezbollah and Nasrallah widespread admiration across the Middle East

and the Muslim world. Six years later, Nasrallah led Hezbollah into a new confrontation with

Israel, ordering a retaliatory attack across the disputed border that killed eight Israeli soldiers and captured two.

Assessing the consequences of Nasrallah's assassination is difficult. Pessimists predict a severe escalation of tensions, with Iran seeking revenge for the assassination of a leader who was one of its most valuable allies abroad. Optimists may argue that this has effectively removed a key player from the conflict, paving the way for some form of de-escalation, if not an end to hostilities.

Finding a replacement for Hezbollah will be extremely challenging. Even without the assassination of key lieutenants by Israel in recent months, no one within the popular Lebanese movement possesses Nasrallah's stature, experience, or regional influence.

Nasrallah's departure has dealt a severe blow to Hezbollah. However, it would be premature to conclude that the resistance group is coming to an end and that it will forever lose its influence. Hezbollah, with deep roots in Lebanon's political spectrum, will continue to exert its influence and will carry on its struggle against Israel under the new leadership.



By Afifeh Abedi  
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## OPINION EXCLUSIVE

*Israel's brazen attacks on Beirut continue unabated. While the Gaza war rages on, the Zionist regime has yet to achieve its declared objectives in the Palestinian enclave, and many expected the international pressure to lead to a cease-fire. However, it seems that the regime's plan is to push the war zone into Lebanon. This raises the question: what are the reasons behind Tel Aviv's expansion of the war, and why is the US openly supporting Israel in the Lebanon war?*

The Israeli regime sees its existence as dependent on the revival of deterrence through more violent means.

## Reasons behind Israel's expansion of war

If we take a step back and look at the Zionist regime's image within the historical and recent conflicts in West Asia and the world, we see a small, heterogeneous entity struggling to survive in a different geography. Meanwhile, examining the conditions of the Jewish community and the AIPAC organization within the United States reveals that Israel also needs to strive for dominance in all decision-making and financial spheres of the US to survive.

Multiple factors, such as the Middle East's geopolitical position, America's grand strategy since World War II, and the attempt to expand capitalism through arms trade, have shaped these two interconnected yet separate entities in occupied Palestine and

the US and have also driven their increasing efforts to survive, infiltrate, and dominate together. Consequently, the survival of these two regimes is closely tied. One of the main components of Tel Aviv's military doctrine since its establishment has been the use of an intelligence-security approach to ensure existential security, which it has pursued by creating extensive spy agencies and carrying out sabotage and organized terrorist operations against its enemies. However, Israel's intelligence and operational failure occurred after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm on October 7, when the internal political and identity crisis that has plagued the regime since its inception reached its peak.

The regime was trying to create a safety net to focus on internal challenges with US support and normalization of relations with some regional countries.

In reality, after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, the lost deterrence added to Israel's plethora of problems, leading to a war that many analysts acknowledged from the start would drag the Zionist regime into a quagmire, exacerbating its regional and international legitimacy crisis. The feeling of illegitimacy in the Zionist regime has become so ingrained in the region, within the regime itself, and in the global community that its top decision makers believe that ending the war would mean its destruction. This is because the unprece-

dent intelligence, security, and military blow dealt to Israel by the Palestinian resistance movement in the 7 October attack has taken down the two main pillars that any political system needs to survive: legitimacy and deterrence.

As the issue of security and upgrading deterrence has always been the primary concern of the Israel's policymakers, the Zionist regime now has no choice but to revive at least one of these elements. In other words, since legitimacy is an implicit and long-term concept that is intertwined with peace and stability or sacred resistance, and given the Zionist regime's criminal record, fragmented cultural and social identity, and insurmountable structural problems, it is out of reach for Israel. Therefore, the regime sees its existence as dependent on the revival of deterrence through more violent means.

The Zionist regime's behavioral pattern also suggests that it sees its continued existence as tied to increasing public fear and terror and pursuing an expansionist policy. The fact that Israel has the strongest army in the region is also a myth aimed at boosting the regime's psychological deterrence. Of course, the Zionist regime receives logistical, military, and intelligence support from one of the world's largest armies, the United States, and receives almost all modern military equipment, technology, and hardware from Washington to use in the air, on land, and at sea. However, the moral, reputational, and public opinion backlash against the Zionist regime will

have a significant impact on its internal legitimacy. The ongoing war and the economic and political consequences of the conflict, combined with the changing migration trends from inside the occupied territory to outside, could lead to an unexpected collapse of the Zionist regime's war-torn system.

Despite Israel's criminal war-mongering, the overall assessment suggests that the Zionist regime is going through an extremely tense period. Therefore, the Israelis are trying to change their vulnerable security and military image and present a harsh and vindictive face that responds to any aggression with tenfold aggression. In fact, Israel's unbridled atrocities are a smokescreen for its deep-seated crises.

It has become clearer than ever that the Zionist regime would have collapsed decades ago without US support. Clearly, Washington's goal is not just to preserve the existence of Jewish and Zionist citizens, but occupied Palestine has now become a strategic military base for the United States in West Asia, preventing the formation of new regional arrangements that would strengthen the trend of establishing a non-American international order.

However, while the Zionist regime is facing the issue of "to be or not to be" or "to survive or perish" more than ever, the United States, as the self-proclaimed champion of liberal democracy and global order, is also facing numerous challenges both domestically and in its Middle Eastern and global policies.



Smoke rises from Israeli airstrikes in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024.  
● HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

# Big Brother without borders: Israel's psychopathic warfare in Lebanon

By Belén Fernández  
Al Jazeera columnist

**OPINION**

Israel, on September 17, remotely detonated hundreds of handheld pagers used by members of Lebanon's Hezbollah, killing at least 12 people. Two children were among the fatalities of the terror attack, which also wounded thousands and overwhelmed Lebanese hospitals.

The following day, walkie-talkies exploded across the country, ending 20 lives. Two days after that, on September 20, an air strike on a densely populated neighbourhood in the Lebanese capital of Beirut killed scores of people. And on September 23, the Israeli military commenced a patently psychopathic bombing spree over various sectors of Lebanon that has killed more than 700 people, including 50 children.

In addition to the physical bombardment, Lebanese phones are also being bombarded with evacuation warnings courtesy of Israel - a form of terror in their own right given Israel's history of ordering folks to evacuate and then bombing them when they comply.



A week of attacks on Lebanon has revealed Israel's Orwellian surveillance terror tactics are now being deployed beyond the occupied Palestinian territory.



This video grab shows a walkie-talkie that was exploded inside a house, in Baalbek, east Lebanon, on Sept. 18, 2024. AP



Ambulances arrive at American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) as people were wounded and killed when the pagers they use to communicate exploded across Lebanon on September 17, 2024. MOHAMED AZAKIR/REUTERS

During Israel's 34-day war on Lebanon in 2006, for example, 23 residents of the southern Lebanese village of Marwahin were slaughtered at close range by an Israeli military helicopter as they followed Israeli instructions to abandon their homes. Most of the dead were children.

To be sure, the very existence of Israel has always been predicated on mass killing - an arrangement that has produced, inter alia, the continuing genocide in the Gaza Strip, where officially more than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed in less than one year but the true death toll is, no doubt, many times higher. And yet the sudden onslaught of exploding Lebanese electronic devices and ramped-up psychological warfare is taking Israel's destructive ef-

forts in an even more Orwellian direction than usual.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines the word Orwellian as "characteristic or suggestive of the writings" of British author George Orwell, especially of the "totalitarian state depicted in his dystopian account of the future, Nineteen Eighty-four". The book was published in 1949 - incidentally one year after Israel's bloody self-invention on Palestinian land - when the year 1984 was still 35 years away.

By the time 1984 actually rolled around, Israel had already expanded its experiment in inflicting regional dystopia to encompass Lebanon, as well, where the 1982 Israeli invasion of the country killed tens of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians.

And what do you know? It was this very apocalyptic invasion that occasioned the formation of Hezbollah, thereby ensuring another handy enemy whose acts of legitimate resistance would be exploited to justify Israeli aggression for the foreseeable future.

Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-four is also the source of the phrase "Big Brother is watching you" - a comment on surveillance regimes and one that has long applied to Israel, particularly in

light of its position at the vanguard of the global spyware industry. As with other components of Israel's arsenal of repression, the marketability of Israeli hacking technologies is bolstered by the fact that all such expertise is battle-tested on Palestinians. In an essay for the Jerusalem Quarterly, titled Strategies of Surveillance: The Israeli Gaze, the late Palestinian sociologist Elia Zureik noted that Israel's punitive surveilling of Palestinians had predated even the founding of Israel when data on Palestinian villages was compiled in order to facilitate conquest and dispossession.

Nowadays, Israel's draconian checkpoints in the West Bank constitute one of the many faces of Big Brother, while in Gaza, Israel's implementation of an extensive facial recognition programme simply adds insult to genocide.

Over in Lebanon, meanwhile, we are seeing what happens when Big Brother is also capable of making your personal electronic devices explode - a crime that merits categorical denunciation as terrorism but that has nonetheless been hailed as a "sophisticated" attack in certain awestruck Western media outlets.

According to international humanitarian law, it is "prohibited in all circumstances to use any mine, booby-trap or other device which is designed or of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering". As per the law, "other devices" means manually-emplaced munitions and devices including improvised explosive devices designed to kill, injure or damage and which are actuated manually, by remote control or automatically after a lapse of time".

Then again, international law also prohibits the deliberate targeting of civilians, which has never stopped Israel from doing just that.

In the 2006 war on Lebanon, the Israeli military eliminated approximately 1,200 people, the vast majority civilians, and in the final days of the conflict, fired millions of cluster munitions at Lebanon, many of which failed to explode on impact and continued for years to wound and kill. So much for the prohibition on mines and boobytraps.

As in the case of the exploding pagers, unexploded cluster bombs are not only weapons in and of themselves; they are also armaments of psychological warfare, designed to keep civilian populations good and terrorised.

With Israel now undertaking to normalise lethal surveillance and unrestrained psychopathy in both Gaza and Lebanon, admirers of the "sophisticated" attack would do well to keep in mind that dystopia is a slippery slope.

Israel's fundamental role in shaping surveillance infrastructure and fortifications on the United States-Mexico frontier is proof enough that Big Brother knows no borders. And as walkie-talkies blow up against a background of US-backed genocide, how will anyone ever draw the line?

The article first appeared on Al Jazeera.

## World Junior Wushu Championships:

## Final-day heroics as Iran seals sanda crown



## Sports Desk

Iran claimed the sanda title at the World Junior Wushu Championships in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, thanks to a remarkable haul of seven gold medals and three silvers.

The country still had to settle for the fourth place in the overall standings – comprising sanda and talou competitions – with 23 medals, finishing behind China, Indonesia, and Malaysia, which bagged the same number of golds as Iran – nine – but stood third with more silvers. Iranian boys and girls stole the show on the final day of the competitions by collecting five golds and double silvers across different weight and age classes.

Abolfazl Asadi defeated China's Jinghua Liu for the boys' junior 65kg gold, while Amirhesam Mohammadi came out on top against Indonesian Genea Elyos Silaban to win the ultimate prize in the 52kg contests.

Meanwhile, Yekta Abdi, Saghar Hosseinzadeh, and Diana Rahimi were all victorious against Chinese opponents in their respec-

tive final showpieces, as Iran made a clean sweep of sanda golds in the girls' contests.

Adibi beat Jiaqi Lou in the junior 52kg final, with Hosseinzadeh outmuscling Baijin Yang for the 56kg prize, before Rahimi brought the curtain down on a perfect run for the Iranian girls with a victory over Miaoqi Ma in the 60kg final.

Elsewhere, Alireza Zamani settled for a silver in the children's 48kg contests after a final loss to Indian Shaurya.

Soroush Haji Mash'had also finished his campaign with a silver medal, suffering a final defeat against China's Fengjian Zhang in the junior 70kg final.

In the talou events, Sana Panahi won her second silver medal at this year's event when she scored 8.470 points to finish runner-up to the American opponent in the nanquan contest. Ramtin Siahmoshtei and Sana Chak were the most productive Iranians in the talou competitions, grabbing a gold, a silver, and a bronze medal apiece, while Arsham Khalilpour also enjoyed a decent campaign with a silver and a bronze medal.

## AFC Champions League Elite:

## Persepolis looking to build on momentum; Esteghlal eager to end blues

## Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League clubs Persepolis and Esteghlal will be back in AFC Champions League Elite action today, with the two Tehran archrivals on opposite ends of the spectrum as they head into their second continental outing.

Fresh from Wednesday's 1-0 triumph over Esteghlal in the league, Persepolis will be looking to take its domestic form into the home game against Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor, while Esteghlal is eager to bounce back from the derby disappointment when playing away to Qatar Stars League champion Al Sadd in Doha.

## Reds on the rise

The Reds faithful had major doubts about Juan Carlos Garrido being the right fit when the relatively unknown Spaniard took over at Persepolis in the summer, after the club had just won a seventh top-flight title in eight years but had to part ways with several key players in the

squad, including the Iranian international keeper Alireza Beiranvand and wizard winger Mahdi Torabi.

Despite a slow start to the season, Garrido has managed to prove his doubters wrong as his team is the only unbeaten side in the Iranian league after six rounds of matches and could go top of the table should it win its game in hand at Golgozar.

Persepolis might have felt unlucky to kickstart the revamped Asian Champions League with a 1-0 loss to Al Ahli Saudi, in a game that Garrido's men conceded an early goal but dominated against the star-studded host for the best part of the game, squandering numerous chances for an equalizer.

A repeat of the performance in Jeddah could be enough for Garrido's team to collect all points against the Uzbek guest, which also finished its ACL Elite opener empty-handed, suffering a 1-0 defeat against the UAE's Al Wasl in Tashkent.

Star winger Oston Urunov, who

missed the derby victory with an injury, was back in training on Sunday and is likely to start today's game.

## Writing on the wall for Nekounam

Esteghlal will step onto the pitch at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium on the back of weeks of chaos and uncertainty swirling around the Blues bench.

Engaged in a never-ending run-in with the club hierarchy, head coach Javad Nekounam handed in his resignation in the aftermath of the derby defeat, only to see his decision rejected with the Al Sadd game looming.

It still seems to be a matter of time before Nekounam leaves the job, with a significant portion of the supporters having turned against him for his defensive approach after they were denied a first win against their city rivals since 2018.

Al Sadd has suffered three defeats in six QSL games this season and is six points adrift of Al Duhail on top of the table, though Akram Afif and his



teammates are flying high after a 4-2 beating of Al Gharafa on Thursday and will chase a first win in the new Asian competition following the 1-1 draw at

Al Ain.

Esteghlal, meanwhile, has been without a win in the domestic league since the opening-day victory at Shams Azar, but Nek-

ounam will be keen to build on the ACL 3-0 triumph over Al Gharafa in a last-ditch effort to turn the tables and save his career with the Blues.



## Barca boss Flick takes blame after squad rotation backfires

REUTERS – Barcelona manager Hansi Flick took the blame for his team's 4-2 LaLiga defeat at Osasuna on Saturday, saying that his decision to rest key starters had an impact in their first loss of the domestic season.

Leaders Barcelona went into Saturday's game on the back of seven consecutive wins to start the LaLiga season but were stunned by an Osasuna side that were lethal on the counter attack with Ante Budimir scoring a brace and Bryan Zaragoza a constant menace.

"You have to accept these defeats. We

didn't play very well. I think it's my responsibility," Flick told Movistar Plus. "(With the rotations) I tried to protect the players, because they have been playing a lot of minutes. But I didn't expect us to play like this.

"We made a lot of mistakes and Osasuna did well. Although in the second goal I think there was a foul at the start of the action, I'm not entirely sure because I haven't been able to see it yet, but that's what I've heard. "To score four goals against us is too much, but I've told the team that we have to keep going. It's a busy schedule and

we are on the right track."

Flick was referring to a challenge by Osasuna midfielder Lucas Torro, who stood on Pau Victor's foot, in the buildup to Zaragoza scoring their second goal in the 28th minute.

The goal was given as neither the referee nor the VAR saw an infringement. "For me it is a clear foul," a visibly frustrated Pedri told Movistar Plus. "It's normal to make (team) rotations, there are a lot of matches. It's no excuse. We had to go out with 11 players and the score at halftime penalised us."

# IRGC confirms martyrdom of senior commander in Beirut raid



Abbas Nilforoushan

Salami, said the death of Nilforoushan, the deputy commander for operations of the IRGC, "will not go unanswered." "This vicious and cowardly act is another clear sign of the terrorist and criminal nature of the Zionist regime and its notorious supporters," Araghchi said. "The diplomatic apparatus will also use all its political, diplomatic, legal and international capacities to pursue the criminals and their backers," he added. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also said Israel has gone on an assassination spree against resistance commanders in a desperate effort to prevent its

demise. The terrorist act came almost a year into Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip and deadly aerial assaults on Lebanon. "The Zionist enemy has not achieved its objectives and it has been defeated [on the battlefield], thus it has begun assassinations to survive and avert its demise," he said during an open parliamentary session. "It is not the Zionist regime that has the upper hand, but on the contrary, it has adopted the tactical methods of assassination and psychological warfare in an act of desperation ... to compensate for strategic setbacks." Some other Iranian offi-

cial also condemned the assassinations. On Sunday, Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif, said a response "will occur at the appropriate time and at Iran's choice, and decisions will definitely be made at the leadership level, at the highest level of the state," IRNA reported. The Israeli military has claimed it killed "more than 20" Hezbollah members of varying ranks during its attack on Friday. Hezbollah on Saturday confirmed the killing of Sheikh Nabil Qaouk, who was also targeted in an Israeli raid on the southern suburb of Beirut.

## Iran urges UNSC emergency meeting after Israeli attacks on Lebanon

### International Desk

Iran on Saturday called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council in protest at the Israeli regime's ongoing deadly aggression across the region. In the letter, Iran's UN envoy Amir Saeid Iravani called on the council to "take immediate and decisive action to stop Israel's ongoing aggression and prevent... from dragging the region into a full-scale war." On Friday, the Israeli regime launched an attack on the suburbs of Lebanon's capital Beirut, which led to the death of the leader of the Hezbollah resistance movement, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, alongside many others, including an Iranian military advisor.

The assassination came amid the Israeli regime's October-present escalation against Lebanon and genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, which have respectively claimed the lives of hundreds of Lebanese and north of 41,500 Palestinians. Women and children comprise the majority of the victims.

Iravani denounced the unbridled aggression as "war crime and crime against humanity."

He said the UNSC had to convene the meeting "to address Israel's terrorist aggression and the continuous atrocities perpetrated by the warmongering Israeli regime in Lebanon and across the region."

"These brazen acts of aggression...pose a grave threat to regional and international peace and security, pushing the entire region into an all-out catastrophe," he cautioned. The envoy, meanwhile, reminded that attacks on Beirut had been carried out "using US-supplied thousands-pound bunker busters."

He also denounced the US for preventing the council from taking "an effective decision" against the regime, thus providing Tel Aviv with "complete impunity."

"The Security Council must compel Israel to immediately cease its acts of aggression and crimes in Gaza and Lebanon, and comply with relevant UNSC Resolutions."

Iravani reminded that the regime's regional aggression saw it targeting the Iranian Consulate in the Syrian capital Damascus in April, leading to the martyrdom of a commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), his deputy, and five of their accompanying officers. He asserted that the Islamic Republic "will not tolerate any repeat of such aggression."

**International Desk**  
Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Sunday confirmed that its military advisor

Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut on Friday, in which the secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah re-

sistance movement also lost his life. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, in a letter to IRGC Chief Commander Major General Hossein

## Israel launches airstrikes on Yemen

No future envisaged for Israel in region: *Iran's FM*

### International Desk

The Israeli military launched new air strikes on Yemen on Sunday as it continues to expand its war in the region. The Israeli occupation army confirmed that it attacked the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah, saying, "Dozens of air force aircraft" were used in the attacks. The strikes came a day after Yemen's Ansarullah resistance group said it targeted Israel's Ben Gurion Airport with a missile.

In July, Israel also hit Hodeida port, causing what a port official said was at least \$20 million in damage, after an Ansarullah drone strike penetrated Israel's air defenses and killed a civilian in Tel Aviv. The strikes came after the regime intensified its attacks on Lebanon, killing more than 1,600 people, including the leader of Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. The Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said Israel's assassination of Nasrallah will accelerate



AFP

the regime's decline and leave it with no future in region. "Definitely, this martyrdom is a great loss, but it will not cause any disruption in the resilience," he added.

"With what it did in Gaza and then in Lebanon, the Zionist regime will certainly have no future in the region. It will never see peace. The natural outcome ... is the acceleration of the Zionist regime's collapse." Araghchi also noted that Iran views the United States as a "partner" in the Israeli crime, expressing dismay at the UN Security Council's inability to resolve current problems. Meanwhile, the commander of IRGC's Quds Force said Iran will stand

by Hezbollah until the liberation of the occupied al-Quds. "God willing, we will remain by your side in continuing [Nasrallah's] path until the conquest of Palestine and the liberation of Jerusalem," IRNA quoted Esmail Qa'ani as saying in a statement.

On Friday, Israel assassinated Nasrallah in the southern Beirut suburb of Zahiyyeh at the culmination of its intensified acts of terror and aggression in Lebanon over the past two weeks. Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging deadly fire since early October, shortly after the regime launched a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip which has claimed the lives of more than 41,000 Palestinians in nearly one year.

## Worldwide rallies against Israel's war on Lebanon, Gaza



### International Desk

People staged mass protests across the world in denunciation of Israel's war on Gaza and Lebanon. The demonstrators also expressed outrage at Israel's assassination of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Israel has killed more than 41,500 Palestinians since it launched its merciless offensive in October 2023. Israel launched the war after some 1,200 people were killed in a retaliatory attack by Palestinian resistance groups. The regime has also launched a deadly war on Lebanon, killing more than 1,600 people there.

In Sweden's capital Stockholm, hundreds of people took to the streets to show their anger at Israel's atrocities against Palestinians and Lebanese. "Hands off Lebanon," and "Free Palestine" filled the air. Swedish artist and activist Samuel Girma called Israel "a terrorist state," and urged the boycott of trade with the regime following "terror attacks on Beirut and Lebanon."

Similar protests unfolded in Finland's capital Helsinki, where dem-

onstrators demanded an immediate end to Israeli operations in Lebanon. In Paris, protesters gathered near the Innocents Fountain, holding banners that read "End the genocide in Gaza," and "Boycott Israel."

Protesters also marched from the Levent Metro Station to the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul, chanting, "Murderer Israel, get out of Palestine," and "Murderer Israel, get out of Lebanon." Protests were also organized in Indian-administered Kashmir where the demonstrators urged their government to halt arms deals with Israel and to stand against the escalating violence.

In Australia, thousands rallied in cities and towns around the country, calling for a ceasefire to the conflicts in both Gaza and Lebanon. People in some Arab countries also took to the streets on Saturday night. In the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, hundreds of Palestinians marched through the city in support of Gaza and Lebanon. Participants in the march vowed to continue with the resistance against Israel and avenge the killings



*Demonstrators march through the streets against Israeli strikes in Gaza and Lebanon at a protest rally in the central business district of Sydney on September 29, 2024.*

SAEED KHAN/AFP

of Nasrallah and slain Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, stressing, "Palestine's message is loyalty to the resistance in Lebanon."

Iranians also staged similar protests across the country against Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon that killed Nasrallah.

Hundreds of people also protested near the Israeli embassy in the Jordanian capital Amman on Saturday evening. People carried pictures of Nasrallah and demanded "revenge for his blood and the blood of the martyrs."

In the Moroccan capital Rabat, people gathered in front of the parliament building to condemn Nasrallah's assassination, chanting slogans like "the resistance will not die," and "Nasrallah, rest, we will continue the struggle." Around 4,000 people also gathered in the Pakistani capital Islamabad and 3,000 thousand others in the southern port city of Karachi during rallies and funeral prayers for Nasrallah.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist





# Iranian artists react to martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah

**Arts & Culture Desk** *A number of Iranian artists have taken to social media to express their condolences and sympathy with the people of Lebanon following the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary-general of Hezbollah.*

However, their tributes have not been without challenge. In a concerning development, many users on Instagram have reported that their posts and stories about Sayyed Nasrallah have been deleted, with some receiving warnings about "dangerous content." Meta, the owner of Instagram and Facebook, has been criticized for this move, with many accusing the company of censoring content related to the resistance movement. This is not the first time Meta has been accused of censoring content related to the martyrdom of resistance leaders, including Brigadier General Qassem Soleimani.



Filmmaker Ebrahim Hatamikia was among the first to react, writing a condolence message and emphasizing that "the path of re-

sistance will continue." Hatamikia wrote, "The Pharaonic regime, as witnessed by history, will disappear, but your path, ideology, and vision of resistance will remain."



Jamal Shourjeh, a veteran screenwriter and director, shared a brief anecdote about his encounter with Sayyed Nasrallah during the production of the TV series Prophet Joseph. Shourjeh wrote, "Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return). The martyrdom of the leader of the resistance is a testament to the continuation of the Islamic path until the emergence of the Imam Mahdi. I met Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah during the production of Prophet Joseph, and he welcomed me and the late Farajollah Salahshoor with open arms. I never

thought I would see the day of his martyrdom... Alas, the path of Islam will continue until the emergence of the Imam Mahdi, God willing."



Davood Mirbagheri, another prominent filmmaker, wrote a heartfelt condolence message, stating his spirit will continue to inspire the resistance movement. Mirbagheri emphasized that the martyrdom of resistance leaders only strengthens their cause and brings them closer to victory. He wrote, "Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, with the phoenix of martyrdom, flew to the realm of eternal love and will rest in the proximity of his pure ancestors. The news of his martyrdom was sudden and painful. I ask God to grant him and his martyred companions the

highest ranks."



Houshang Tavakoli, a veteran actor, reacted to the news by highlighting the significance of the resistance movement in the region and the role of Sayyed Nasrallah as a leader. Tavakoli stated that the region has been embroiled in war for years and that the resistance movement, led by Sayyed Nasrallah, has been a beacon of hope. He emphasized that the martyrdom of resistance leaders like Sayyed Nasrallah only serves to galvanize the movement and bring about its ultimate victory. Tavakoli said, "The war between the world of Islam and the Zionist regime is ongoing, and the resistance movement, led by Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, has been a shining example of resistance. Every martyrdom of a resistance leader brings

us closer to victory."



Ali Salehi, an actor, expressed his condolences and solidarity with the people of Lebanon through a social media post, writing "Curse on war and warmongers, curse on Israel" and sharing a photo of the devastation in Lebanon.



Hassan Rouholamin, an artist, published a digital artwork titled "Amir" (Commander) in tribute to Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and the martyrs of Hezbollah. Rouholamin wrote, "Digital artwork (Amir) dedicated to the brave and oppressed commander, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and all the martyrs of Hezbollah."

## 500 International publishers call on Frankfurt to cut ties with Israel

Publishers for Palestine, an international coalition of more than 500 publishers, issued an open letter demanding that organizers of the Frankfurt Book Fair cut ties with Israel. In the letter, the coalition, which formed last November, called for Frankfurt to "publicly denounce Israel's regime of genocide and settler-colonial apartheid against the Palestinian people," among other demands. The coalition also urged the fair to refuse collaborations with Israeli cultural institutions that support the country's policies, unless those institutions acknowledge the rights of Palestinians under international law. The group specifically condemned Israel's targeting of Palestinian writers, academics, and cultural institutions, which it said is part of a broader effort to erase Palestinian culture, publishersweekly.com reported. Publishers for Palestine also called on the fair to feature Palestinian writers and narratives prominently at its 2024 event, without downplaying the Israeli occupation and its impact on Palestinians. The



coalition formed last November and represents a broad range of publishers from around the world. The members presses in Publishers for Palestine hail from 50 countries, including Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Nigeria, the Philippines, Spain, Tanzania, Turkey, Wales, and others. The US.-based member presses, which include several regular exhibitors at Frankfurt, are

Haymarket Books, Interlink Publishing, Microcosm Publishing, OR Books, Other Press, Seven Stories Press, Sublunary Editions, and Verso Books. The open letter comes shortly before this year's Frankfurt Book Fair, which is slated for October 16-20. Ahead of last year's fair, held just weeks after the October 7 attack on Israel, Frankfurt director Juergen Boos expressed support for Israel with a statement saying that the fair "stands with complete solidarity on the side of

Israel" and intended to highlight Israeli voices at that year's show. Additional programming featuring Israeli speakers crashed into last year's Frankfurt program including an event called "Out of Concern for Israel," organized by PEN Berlin, which took place on the first day of the fair. (The majority of Israeli publishers canceled their appearances at the 2023 fair following the attack.) Last year, fair organizers also canceled a ceremony for Palestinian author Adania Shibli, who was to be awarded the LiB-

eraturpreis for her novel 'Minor Detail', about the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The cancellation prompted a number of major Arab publishing organizations to pull out of last year's fair, although some are expected to return this year. This year's programming highlights, sent to press earlier this week, include "Occupied, Destroyed, Fought over, in Turmoil: Quo Vadis Palestine?," an Oct. 19 conversation with Palestinian novelist and former culture minister Atef Abu Saif moderated by German journalist Kristin Helberg, and a talk from Palestinian author Abdalrahman Alqalqa on writing in exile scheduled for the new Center for Words on Oct. 17. "Every year, people from more than 100 countries attend Frankfurter Buchmesse," a Frankfurt Book Fair representative said in a statement to PW. "The book fair is a platform for democratic discourse and peaceful encounters between publishers, authors, translators, illustrators, and readers from all over the world. Our program reflects this, featuring voices from every corner of the globe."

## Iranian artist's work to go under hammer at Rosebery's London

A piece by Iranian contemporary artist Hojat Amani will be auctioned off at Roseberys London Fine Art Auctioneers alongside works by artists from around the world. The upcoming Rosebery's London auc-



tion, titled 'Islamic Art,' will feature modern and contemporary pieces from Iran, Kuwait, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, and Egypt, and will take place on October 2, 2024, ILNA wrote. Amani's works have previously been sold at auctions in the Netherlands, Dubai, and London, and have been exhibited at museums in Los Angeles, Munich, Doha, and the US. In 2021, Amani registered the art of calligraphy on the National Heritage List and was recognized as a calligraphy revivalist. Born in Lorestan, Amani holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Art History (Mid-

dle East) and has completed advanced calligraphy courses under Master Mo'in Al-Kitab Esfahani. Amani's works have been showcased in over 40 group and solo exhibitions in Iran and abroad, and he has held calligraphy workshops in Turkey, London, Lithuania, and Germany. His art has been reviewed by critics, including Edward Lucie-Smith. Amani's style, which blends painting, photography, illustration, and installation, sometimes overlaps with environmental and performance art. His method has been dubbed "process art" and "post-pop."

## Iranian short films to compete at Baku festival

The 15th Baku Film Festival in Azerbaijan will play host to two Iranian short films, showcasing the country's cinematic talents. According to reports, the short film 'Taxidermist' directed by Behzad Alavi and Susan Salamat, and the animated short 'The Splint' directed by Mehdi Sadeqi, will compete in the International Competition section, ISNA reported. The Baku International Film Festival will take place from October 4 to 8 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Established in 2004 by the Azerbaijan Young Filmmakers Center, the festival

has grown to become one of the most prestigious film festivals in Azerbaijan. The event aims to attract more viewers and introduce local writers and filmmakers to international trends and approaches.

