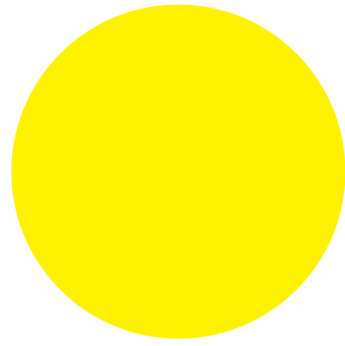


Khomeini calls for 'enhanced military deterrence'



8 >



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| newspaper.irandaily.ir

| IranDailyWeb

IRGC commander awarded after strike on Israel

7 >



Shrugging off Israeli threats:

Oil Minister Visits Export Terminal in Persian Gulf

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad on Sunday arrived on Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf – the country's largest oil export terminal – amid threats of a possible Israeli attack on Iran's petroleum infrastructure.

2 >



Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad visits a platform of Forouzan Oilfield near the southern Iranian Kharg Island, in the Persian Gulf, on October 6, 2024. SHANA

Fresh pro-Palestine rallies sweep across world

7 >



Unity helps ease financial restrictions on Iran: Minister

2 >



World Taekwondo Championships: Iran grabs 11 medals, beats South Korea to team titles

6 >

Pezeshkian: Iran's strike aimed at reining in Israel's barbarism

7 >



Unity helps ease financial restrictions on Iran: Minister



Economy Desk

Economy Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati said on Saturday evening that, "We will reduce the financial restrictions against Iran with cooperation and unity." In a note on his X page, Hemmati also wrote that, "Considering the repeated efforts of the country's enemies to create financial restrictions for Iran, this morning, I presented a report on the current situation and the necessary measures to normalize Iran's case in the FATF to President [Pezeshkian]." These proposed measures are different from what is said in the media as speculations, the minister added. "The president ordered to follow the necessary measures to remove the restrictions and suspend the countermeasures of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) within the framework of the country's national interests," Hemmati wrote. He said the president maintained that doubts in Iran should be resolved through the cooperation of economic bodies with the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) on the FATF case. Pezeshkian has expressed optimism about the future, promising that his administration will protect national interests and pursue regional and global peace through creating balance in the country's foreign relations.

Pezeshkian made the remark in a message to the Iranian people on July 30, the same day he took the oath of office as the 9th president of the Islamic Republic. He said in his message that although the current situation is complicated and people are facing livelihood problems, he remains optimistic about the future and resolution of the existing challenges through relying on domestic capabilities. Pezeshkian also said that his administration wants the West Asia region to be strong, where all countries take joint steps to achieve economic development and prosperity.

"We want tranquility in the region and the world," the Iranian president added, calling for joint efforts to alleviate people's concerns. He invited Western countries to establish ties based on mutual respect, and proposed dialog with "the countries that have not realized the position of Iran." Pezeshkian also said it is an inalienable right of Iran to have normalized economic relations with other countries, adding that he will make every effort to lift the existing cruel sanctions against Iran.

Shrugging off Israeli threats: Oil minister visits export terminal in Persian Gulf

Economy Desk

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad on Sunday arrived on Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf – the country's largest oil export terminal – amid threats of a possible Israeli attack on Iran's petroleum infrastructure. The visit, the first in 16 years by an Iranian oil minister, was aimed at "touring oil industry facilities and meeting operational staff located on Kharg Island," Shana News Agency reported. The isle's terminal can cater to nine tankers with different capacities simultaneously and deliver more than 10 million barrels of crude oil to customers on a daily basis. It also has the capacity to store over 23 million barrels of crude. The Kharg Island, through which around 90% of Iran's oil is exported, was repeatedly targeted by Iraqi airstrikes during the war in the 1980s. Last week, a ship monitoring service said that the

National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) was removing "empty" super-tankers from Kharg Island. TankerTrackers.com, a website focused on the oil trade at sea, said on the social media platform X that the NITC's decision only affected "the extra vacant shipping capacity" at the anchorage of Kharg and that crude oil loadings continued there. There were no comments from Iranian authorities about the tracking website's claim. Israel is reportedly "preparing a response" to a salvo of ballistic missiles Iran fired toward Tel Aviv and other areas on October 1 to avenge the blood of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah by an Israeli air strike in the Lebanese capital Beirut on September 27 as well as the targeted killing of former political chief of Hamas Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31.

It was Iran's second direct attack on Israel in less than six months with around 200 missiles. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to make Iran "pay" for the strike with sources saying Israel could target the country's oil installations. Paknejad said on Saturday he was "not worried about the crises created by the enemies" as he visited the southern city of Assaluyeh, which houses facilities to process natural gas extracted from South Pars, the world's largest gas field that Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf. Paknejad also met with Mohammad-Hossein Bargahi, a senior naval commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), to check the security arrangements for the South Pars gas platforms and assess the effective actions of the IRGC's 4th Naval Region. "The IRGC Naval Force plays an important role in ensuring the security of oil and gas installations," Paknejad was quoted as saying by IRNA. He also hailed Bargahi and the naval center under his command for their "sub-

stantial" contribution to sustaining crude oil production. Meanwhile, IRGC Navy chief commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said on Saturday they were ready for "any situation" including "Netanyahu's play with fire." Earlier in the day, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned of an "even stronger" response to any Israeli retaliation. "For every action, there will be a proportional and similar reaction from Iran, and even stronger," Araghchi told reporters in the Syrian capital Damascus, where he met President Bashar al-Assad and other top officials. US President Joe Biden had already advised Israel against attacking Iran's crude oil production facilities. "If I were in their shoes, I'd be thinking about other alternatives than striking oilfields," Biden told reporters at a White House press briefing on October 4.



Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad (U) visits a platform of Forouzan Oilfield near the southern Iranian Kharg Island on October 6, 2024. **SHANA**

Copper cathode output registers 12% rise in H1: IMIDRO

Economy Desk

Iran produced 145,000 tons of copper cathode during the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 20-September 21), which indicates a 12-percent rise compared to corresponding figure of preceding year. Announcing the above, Mohammad Aqajanlou, the head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), added that the growth was achieved despite the power shortages in the copper producing complexes, IRNA reported. During the six months to September 21, the exploratory operations of the



company reached 256,000 meters which shows a growth of 35% compared to the opposite figure of last year, the official stated. An 18% year-on-year sales growth was registered during the six months, as \$1.125 billion worth of copper products were destined to domestic and interna-

tional markets, Aqajanlou noted. Estimates suggest the country holds roughly 6% of the world's copper reserves. This translates to a staggering potential of over 50 million tons of recoverable copper, a figure that continues to grow with ongoing exploration efforts.

Iran-EAEU trade volume up by 2.5 times: TPO

The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has said that the trade volume between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has increased by more than 2.5 times.

Mohammadali Dehqan Dehnavi on Sunday while addressing the businesses of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) said Iran and the EAEU started the implementation of the preferential trade agreement in 2018, IRNA reported. Referring to the ties between the two sides, the official added that Iran has suggested



the establishment of a free zone in Armenia, which is a good opportunity to supply Iranian export in the country.

Iran and the EAEU reached a preferential trade agreement in 2018, based on which about 862 commodi-

ty items are currently subject to preferential tariffs. The agreement came into effect on October 27, 2019.

In December last year, the two sides also signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) during the EAEU Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Iran's petchem exports proof against sanctions: NPC

Economy Desk

Sanctions on the export of Iranian petrochemical products are ineffective, said the caretaker of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) on Sunday. Hassan Abbaszadeh told IRNA that Iran enjoys diverse markets in the field of petrochemicals thanks to the wide variety of products of the industry. "Currently we are exporting our petchem products to many countries, so forex earnings will be good this year," he

added. Iran has plans to produce a sum of 83 million tons of petrochemical products during the current Iranian year, said Abbaszadeh in August, adding that 34 million tons of the figure is expected to be destined to international markets. Addressing the closing ceremony of the 15th Iran Petrochemical Forum on August 5, he stated that by launching new units, the nominal production capacity of the country will hit 103 million tons. Abbaszadeh went on to say

that petrochemical complexes of Iran churned out 74 million tons of products during 2023 which included 10 million tons of methanol, 5 million tons of ammonia, seven million tons of ethylene and about eight million tons of urea. As per the Seventh Development Plan of Iran (2024-2029), a total of 60 petrochemical projects will be implemented across the country which will increase the nominal production of Iran by 35 million tons, the NPC official said. Abbaszadeh stressed that the



projects have progressed over 50 percent, and a sum of \$24

billion is needed to complete the projects.

By Sadeq Dehqan &
Leila Imeni
Staff writers

Amir Bahador Bridge is the name of a very old neighborhood located in the center of Tehran. Since ancient times, this neighborhood has been part of a larger area called Amirieh, which, along with its surrounding neighborhoods, formed the initial nucleus of the capital city during the late Qajar period. Amirieh was an upscale neighborhood, characterized by gardens and trees that provided a retreat for the aristocracy and courtiers.

The Amirieh is a small area along the southern stretch of today's Valiasr Street, which, in earlier times, was considered the modern part of Tehran. Today, Valiasr Street, stretching 18 kilometers, is the longest street in the Middle East and the most famous and beautiful street in Iran.

The Amir Bahador Bridge neighborhood is located in the central and upper part of the street. The western side led to Qazvin Square — formerly known as Qazvin Gate — used by caravans for trade towards the west and back. To the east, it was adjacent to Vahdat Eslami Square and the Tehran Bazaar, the economic heart of the capital.



⬆️ Mohammad Ashtiani

The name Amir Bahador is associated with Hossein Pasha Khan, known as Amir Bahador, who served as the court minister and the minister of war under Mozaffareddin Shah and Mohammad Ali Shah of the Qajar dynasty. Interestingly, the ancestors of Amir Bahador were khans from the Caucasus who were compelled to migrate to Iran following the signing of the Turkmenchay Treaty. Although he was not well-versed in Persian, he had a deep passion for the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi, to the extent that, under his efforts, a lithographed edition of the Shahnameh was published, which is now famously known as the Amir Bahador Shahnameh. Amir Bahador himself resided in this neighborhood, and coincidentally, his large and historic house still remains. This building, over 120 years old, was originally constructed as a husseinih (a place in which Shia Muslims gather to hold religious ceremonies) for the courtiers. A bit further from Amir Bahador's house is another building used as a husseinih, named Beit al-Zahra, the gravestones and artifacts discovered during excavations date back to 120 to 160 years ago. This structure, built in the architectural style of traditional Tehrani homes, features a fountain and a courtyard with beautiful brickwork, and it belonged to Abolfazl Shirvani, a prominent cleric in Tehran.

Mohammad Ashtiani, a 62-year-old caretaker of the Beit al-Zahra Husseinieh, whose family is considered one of the oldest in the Amir Bahador neighborhood, explained the background of the area: "I was born in the Amir Bahador neighborhood. My father, Haj Yadollah, migrated to Tehran from Ashtian for work and education when he was only eight or nine years old, seeking opportunities to learn. He initially worked as an apprentice for a fabric seller in the bazaar, and because the Amir Bahador neighborhood was close to the market, he settled here. After some time, he opened an herbal medicine shop in the neighborhood."

Beit al-Zahra Husseinieh; the heart of Amir Bahador neighborhood in Tehran



Tafreshi and Ashtiani families

If you take a little tour around the Amir Bahador neighborhood, you will notice that the family names of Tafreshi and Ashtiani appear above many shops, mosques, husseinihs, and numerous religious centers in the area, indicating that many residents trace their origins back to these places. Tafresh and Ashtian are two cities in the Central Province of Iran. Ashtiani explained, "Our family was among the first to migrate from that region to Tehran, but gradually many families from the surrounding cities and areas came to this neighborhood so that now they make up a large part of the old residents."

Bridge's name

As the name of the neighborhood indicates, it seems that there was once a bridge in this location, which is why the area is referred to as Amir Bahador Bridge. However, no trace of a bridge can be found in the vicinity.

Ashtiani noted that in ancient times, there was a place called *Yakhchal* (icehouse) in front of Amir Bahador's house, where ice was produced. The buildings of the icehouse were connected by a bridge, and based on this, the neighborhood became known as Amir Bahador Bridge.

He continued, "Amir Bahador Bridge neighborhood was located within the Sangelaj, a historical and affluent area of Tehran. Esteemed scholars, prominent figures, commanders, and high-ranking individuals of the Qajar and Pahlavi eras resided in this area and on Farhang Street. In the past, much of the area was made up of trees and gardens, and even today, a few of those large garden houses still remain."

Transforming a historical house into a husseinih

Ashtiani referred to the historical building of the husseinih, noting, "This building was once the home of a cleric named Shirvani, who also hosted religious gatherings here. My father and my second brother, Amir Ashtiani, who were the main founders of the husseinih, had a close and cordial relationship with him. After Shirvani's passing, he entrusted this house to my brother to be used as a husseinih. Following that, the building was reconstructed while preserving its old architecture according to the standards of Iranian and Islamic style, and it has been known as the Beit al-Zahra Husseinieh. Each year, it serves the community during mourning ceremonies of Muharram (marking the martyr-

dom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his companions), the holy month of Ramadan, and other religious occasions."

He noted that a library has also been established beside the husseinih, housing at least 3,000 rare and ancient books covering cultural subjects, including historical and religious topics. He said that this husseinih actively engages in charitable activities and collaborates with several welfare centers, a nursery in Tehran, and a charity organization that supports mentally disabled children, providing assistance to them to the best of our abilities.

Moreover, despite being a husseinih, it hosts wedding ceremonies for couples who lack the financial means to hold a celebration at a banquet hall, upholding Islamic dignity.

The husseinih organizes these wedding ceremonies and prepares meals in its kitchen. To date, more than 12 weddings have been held at the husseinih.

150-year-old tombstones

On the wall of the husseinih hangs a tombstone that reads, "The late Torab, son of Muhammad Khan, Ramadan of 1281 AH (1701 CE)". The tombstone is etched with an image of a gun and a powder bag, indicating that the deceased was a soldier or commander from the Qajar period. "When we began the renovation of the husseinih, we planned to convert part of the old water reservoir into a kitchen. During the work, we discovered tombstones over 150 years old at the reservoir's bottom. In total, nine tombstones were uncovered, which are now preserved in our collection, and one of them has been installed on the wall of the building," Ashtiani said.

Additionally, in another corner of the husseinih, several tiles related to the shrine of Hazrat Abolfazl (PBUH), dating back to 1133 AH (1720 CE), have been displayed, capturing the attention of every visitor.

Ashtiani pointed to a black-and-white image on the wall of the husseinih, depicting one of the religious groups from old Tehran, with his father in the center of the photograph. This image, dating back to 1881 CE, relates to a historical religious group in Tehran.

"The Beit Al-Zahra Husseinieh was affiliated with a community of craftsmen, merchants, and benefactors from the Qanat Abad neighborhood, approximately in what is now the Molavi neighborhood, and my father was one of the founders of this group," he concluded.



'Dahiyeh Doctrine' returns to Dahiyeh

Targeting civilian life, an Israeli tactic under infamous 'Dahiyeh Doctrine'



By Somdeep Sen
Scholar

OPINION

When Israel struck an underground Hezbollah command centre in Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh last Friday, killing its longtime Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, the damage to civilian life was huge. Reportedly, Israeli jets dropped more than 80, 2000-pound "bunker-busting" bombs that have a destruction radius of 35 metres on their target. The strike that killed Nasrallah also flattened six residential buildings. Similar Israeli attacks in the past two weeks have wreaked havoc on civilian infrastructure in Beirut and across Lebanon. The death toll in Lebanon has now crossed the 1000 mark and a million people have fled their homes. Israeli leaders have called on the people of Lebanon to get out of harm's way and to not become "human shields" for Hezbollah. Such messages suggest that the killing of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure are unintended consequences of Israel's warmaking. In reality, targeting civilian life is a well-established tactic of the Israeli armed forces under the infamous "Dahiyeh Doctrine".

The doctrine, which takes its name from the Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut and entails the large-scale destruction of civilian infrastructure to pressure a hostile government or armed group, was devised in the context of Israel's 2006 war on Lebanon.

At the time, Israeli forces levied a destructive assault on the densely populated Dahiyeh and the remainder of Lebanon. According to the Red Cross, the 34-day campaign killed more than 1000 people and displaced 900,000. The Israeli forces destroyed or seriously damaged the country's entire civilian infrastructure, including its airports, water reserves, sewage treatment and power plants, fuel stations, schools, health centres and hospitals. In addition, 30,000 homes were destroyed or seriously damaged.

Experts have asserted that this tactic is a gross violation of international law and that targeting civilian infrastructure, no matter the justification offered, is a war crime. Yet, Israeli authorities insist that it's a legitimate tactic of war and helps deter future attacks on Israel by its enemies.

Two years after the devastating 2006 campaign on Lebanon, the head of Israel's northern command, Gadi Eisenkot, asserted that Israel will continue to use the strategy in future conflicts.

"What happened in [Dahiyeh]... will happen in every village from which Israel is fired on," he said. "We will apply disproportionate force on it and cause great damage and destruction there. From our standpoint, these are not civilian villages, they are military bases."

"This is not a recommendation," Eisenkot added, "This is a plan. And it has been approved."

And the plan was indeed followed. In the following years, the doctrine was implemented, over and over again, just not in Lebanon, but in Gaza.

The doctrine, for example, was clearly in play during Israel's "Operation Cast Lead" in 2008 that killed 1,400 Palestinians, including 300 children, in Gaza. The Goldstone report from the UN's post-war fact-finding mission found that Israeli soldiers "deliberately subjected civilians, including women and children, to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment... in order to terrorize, intimidate and humiliate them". It also detailed that the Israeli forces systematically destroyed Gaza's civilian infrastructure, including flour mills, farms, wastewater treatment plants, water installations and residential buildings. In fact, the report said Israeli soldiers engaged in a "wave of systematic destruction of civilian build-



ings" during the last three days of the operation, despite being "aware of their imminent withdrawal".

In 2012, Israel's "Pillar of Defense" operation similarly targeted civilian infrastructure in Gaza. Israeli forces destroyed or severely damaged 382 civilian residences. This included an airstrike on a three-storey home in the al-Nasser neighbourhood that killed 12 people, including 5 children. Israeli forces also destroyed or damaged bridges, sports facilities, banks, hospitals, media offices, farms and mosques.

"Operation Protective Edge" killed more than 2,000 Palestinians - including 1,400 civilians - in Gaza, in 2014. It also followed the Dahiyeh Doctrine. In violation of international law, Israeli rockets and mortars targeted "civilian buildings and infrastructure, including schools and houses, causing direct damage to civilian property amounting to almost \$25 million". In total, 18,000 housing units were damaged or destroyed. Israeli forces also struck Gaza's water, sanitation, electricity and healthcare infrastructure as part of this operation.

Of course, the most severe display of the Dahiyeh Doctrine has been during Israel's ongoing genocidal campaign in Gaza. Since October 7, Israel's apparent strategy of targeting Gaza's civilian population and infrastructure with the full force of the military to try

A man runs for cover as a smoke raises in the background following an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut, Lebanon, on Oct. 4, 2024.
● HASSAN AHMAD/AP



Israel's strategy of destroying civilian life to deter its adversaries reached its peak in Gaza, and has now returned to its namesake - Beirut's Dahiyeh.

Hezbollah paramedic staff left on the debris after an airstrike hit an apartment in a multistorey building, in central Beirut, Lebanon, on Oct. 3, 2024.
● HUSSEIN NALLA/AP

and deter Hamas has brought a catastrophe comparable only to the Nakba of 1948. In just a year, Israel's military completely devastated all infrastructural and institutional bases of Palestinian civilian life in Gaza.

Now, in a tragic turn of events, the Dahiyeh Doctrine has returned to the very neighbourhood it was originally conceived in - Beirut's Dahiyeh. Israel is not only continuing its air assaults on Dahiyeh and wider Lebanon but has initiated a ground invasion. More than 1,000 have died

and entire neighbourhoods have been devastated, with no end in sight to what the Israeli military calls a "limited, localised, targeted" operation. Israel is once again implementing the Dahiyeh Doctrine, waging war on an entire civilian population, with no regard for international law or human rights.

That Israel has been allowed to pursue the wholesale destruction of civilian life as a military objective, first in Lebanon, then repeatedly in Gaza, then again in Lebanon, with complete impunity is a grim reminder of the

extent to which the peoples of the region have been devalued and dehumanised. Their lives seem to count for so little that rather than being condemned as a blatant assault on international law and morality, the "Dahiyeh Doctrine" appears to have been accepted by those leading the global community - Israel's Western allies and backers - as a legitimate pathway to achieving regional stability.

The global majority is of course deeply critical of Israel's assaults on civilian infrastructure in Gaza and Lebanon. Yet, Israel's partners in the West continue to support these efforts both materially and ideologically. Even when Israeli authorities outrageously claim that they are "escalating" their war efforts - meaning killing and maiming civilians and making their environments inhabitable - to "de-escalate", they nod in approval.

Israel's use of the Dahiyeh Doctrine, against different peoples, repeatedly and openly over two decades, without facing any official sanction, is yet another confirmation that the same countries and leaders who posture as the guarantors of the liberal order are also woefully guilty of violating its fundamental ethos.

Tragically, the hypocrisy of the leaders of the global community means that there is no incentive for Israel - today or in the foreseeable future - to confine this brutal, illegal and inhuman strategy to the dustbin of history. Until the masses across the world rise up to apply pressure on their leaders to put an end to Israel's many excesses, civilians in Lebanon, Palestine and across the region will continue to suffer and die under the Dahiyeh Doctrine.

The article first appeared on Aljazeera.





The recent events in Lebanon and the unprecedented Iranian attack on Israel reveal a convergence of ideas upon which Israel has increasingly relied over the past two decades: a fusion of intelligence, airpower, and the application of force in an attempt to dismantle the systems of its enemies.

Israel defines its adversaries as an interrelated set of elements that work together as part of a larger system. It attempts to find inroads into those various elements for intelligence-gathering and operations that seek to destabilize that system. It aims to shock its enemies into paralysis and render them unable to mount an effective counterattack. This is the central tenet guiding Israel's approach to overcoming resistance in the region.

But in the face of Israel's relentless application of force on the Lebanese resistance, what happened instead was the renewed resolve of Hezbollah's will to fight and the provocation of a direct response from Iran. Hundreds of missiles struck Israeli military infrastructure, their impacts recorded as they found their targets, and the psychological comfort provided by the so-called "Iron Dome" and "Arrow" missile defense systems began to disintegrate. Even then, Israel hastily declared the attack a failure. From the outset of this war, Israel has meticulously managed the flow of information, downplaying the damage inflicted by its enemies while amplifying the effects of its own operations.

Operational 'shock' and language of force

In the first major assault Israel carried out against the Lebanese resistance, it targeted Hezbollah's very tools of communication, transforming pagers and walkie-talkies into miniature bombs that left their users blinded, battered, or dead. The operation was meant to project an image of Israeli cunning and ingenuity, yet it lacked the heroism of soldiers grinding through battle.

All organizations must communicate, but turning communication tools into weapons sent shockwaves through Hezbollah's military and political membership, already entangled in low-intensity combat with Israeli forces across the southern Lebanese border. Coupled with a concentrated assault on leadership, this campaign struck at the heart of the resistance, taking out key figures and military commanders and eventually reaching the Secretary General of Hezbollah, Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah.

The operation was prepared over years, awaiting the opportune moment to utilize it to erode the determination of its opponents. In any major military confronta-

tion, Israel would have employed these tools as instruments designed to disorient and demoralize its enemy's fighting force and take away its will to fight. The operational shock it aims to induce is grounded in its belief that every "system" harbors key vulnerabilities; within these vulnerabilities lies the pathway to undoing the system.

As Israel escalates, intoxicated by its own perceived victories, the resistance in the region finds itself, paradoxically, both battered and more alive.

Having deployed some of its most surprising elements in the campaign, Israel now ascends the ladder of escalation, each rung a calculated step toward an uncertain end. The surprise once held in reserve has been spent, and with it, the path forward becomes all the more perilous. Israel's strategic objective is to embroil the U.S. in a war it has already demonstrated it is incapable of fighting alone.

As Israel escalates, intoxicated by its own perceived victories, the resistance in the region — unable to deny the operational successes of Israel's assassinations, mass airstrikes, and intelligence capabilities — finds itself, paradoxically, both battered and more alive. The blows that were meant to extinguish its resolve have also played a role in intensifying Hezbollah's fervor. A strange energy arises not from triumph but from the very encounter with loss.

Israel's attempt to coerce the Lebanese resistance into halting its "support front" for Gaza has not been reached. Israel now inches toward a deeper entanglement as a ground operation in Southern Lebanon slowly but steadily commences. It has now started to realize that it is one thing to achieve operational success, but entirely another to bend the will of resistance.

Israel might be able to conquer the south at great cost, but such a venture will sustain resistance against it for years to come. In light of this, the assassination of Nasrallah no longer seems like a calculated and measured strategy, but an impulsive act of vengeance and an expression of how deeply the Hezbollah Secretary General has lodged himself within Israeli consciousness.

His elimination was sought not merely to weaken Israel's adversaries, but to soothe the restless disquiet that his figure provoked. But now the specter of his death has served to fuel the resolve of the resistance, galvanizing the fighters awaiting the arrival of soldiers in their villages and the treacherous terrain of Lebanon's southern mountains and hillsides.

Israel expands and entrenches again

Israel, once pragmatic enough to retreat behind walls, now

Israeli soldiers move on the top of a tank near the Gaza fencing, on April 25, 2024.

by @abdjawad_omar

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In Gaza and Lebanon, Israel is projecting its force while burrowing itself deeper into a quagmire. While it may achieve brief operational successes, it fails to extinguish the spirit of the resistance or coerce it into submission.

Israeli soldiers move on the top of a tank near the Gaza fencing, on April 25, 2024.

by @abdjawad_omar

Israel's forever war and what comes next



By Abdaljawad Omar
Author

OPINION

The pursuit of military excellence in Israel has been a hallmark of its relentless endeavor to compel the Arab world to yield to the theft and erasure of Palestine. Through force, Israel not only sustains itself by merging with the greater ambition of securing American hegemony over the region but also seeks the elusive affirmation of its fragile existence. This existence has been forged in violence and ethnic cleansing. This is why force becomes more than method — it becomes the only language through which the Israeli state can reproduce itself. It is not surprising, then, that innovation and creativity become the products of a society consumed in finding ways to kill.

finds itself expanding. In Gaza, it expands while burrowing itself deeper into a quagmire. In Lebanon, it initiates a ground invasion, hoping to erase the scars of past failures, seeking not only to cleanse but to dominate new territory.

But as it commits the bulk of its power to the north, Israel also risks the possibility of a historic strategic defeat. It mistakes operational or tactical success with the ability to induce shifts in the strategic theater, believing that with each strike, it draws closer to victory. But it risks getting caught up in a bloody war of attrition with an overstretched military, a semi-functioning economy, and a fractured society.

The oscillation between these states of pragmatic retreat and obstinate expansion suggests a nation caught in a perpetual cycle of conquest and entrapment.

Unlike Israel, the Lebanese resistance has yet to use its wide array of destructive weapons. It is not surprising that Israel has never been a strategic player, resembling Ariel Sharon, who took matters into his own hands and hoped for the best, but more often than not was forced to reckon with the long-term impacts of his actions — such as the rise of Hezbollah after Sharon's decimation of Lebanon, or the entrenchment of the resistance in Gaza in the wake of his brutal crackdown against the Second Intifada.

Israel's strategy is to borrow road, pushing the can down the road.

As Israel's expansionism continues, it will once again find itself at a crossroads: either retreat in the wake of fragile agreements or dig deeper and force new generations of Israelis to confront resistance at every turn. The oscillation between these states of pragmatic retreat and obstinate expansion, neither fully secure nor fully expanding, suggests a nation caught in a perpetual cycle of conquest and entrapment.

It seeks control yet never truly attains it.

Total dependence on allies

The successes Israel has witnessed in recent weeks are the result of a comprehensive investment in intelligence-gathering over the past two decades, particularly since it suffered a decisive blow in Lebanon in 2006. Israel spent its time developing, accumulating, and creating opportunities for operational triumph, employing a vast network of intelligence channels with its allies that serve to feed it information, multiplying its strength through the powers of NATO, cyberintelligence, AI, and other forms of intelligence-gathering.

Israel is granted the space to demonstrate its usefulness to the imperial center that backs it. But its triumph is no triumph of its own, but the product of the distant empire that furnishes it with arms, tools, and a flow of resources that it cannot claim to independently generate. In many respects, Israel mirrors Ukraine, clinging to its benefactors but with the difference that it is not standing against a single towering enemy, but against several enemies that are both numerous and elusive. This network of dependencies defines Israel's strength, which cannot be separated from its vulnerability.

On October 7, it was the Palestinian resistance that not only shocked but also tore open a profound rupture in Israel's self-perception. For days, Israel crumbled under the weight of its own disarray, desperately struggling to reclaim the territory briefly seized by Palestinian forces and killing, in the process, many of the fighters and its own citizens. In that moment, the image of invulnerability shattered, and what was left behind was not merely land, but a deeper unraveling — a story no longer able to sustain itself.

The forces that resist Israel yearn

for a long, grinding war of attrition where victory and defeat become indistinguishable.

Israel seems determined to stare into the abyss, laboring under the assumption that no matter how difficult the situation becomes, it retains the ability to reshape hardship into a narrative of unqualified success. This mindset reflects a deep-seated conviction in the utility of force as a primary tool in shaping its regional environment. The objective is not merely to degrade the material capabilities of its adversaries, but to fundamentally alter its relationship with both the region and the Palestinians. It wants the Arabs, and by extension, the Iranians, to submit.

But the forces that resist it are also invested in denying Israel a frictionless victory. They are organizations that yearn for a long, grinding war of attrition — a war without end that turns every battlefield into a cycle of endless struggle, where victory and defeat become indistinguishable. Israelis will spend more time on the frontlines than at beaches and drug-infused parties.

The operational shock that Israel sought to impose on the Lebanese resistance failed to extinguish its spirit or coerce it into submission; instead, it provoked a direct response from Iran, and continued resistance operations in Gaza.

Israel, with its reliance on assassination and its display of cunning intelligence operations, continues to speak of "closing the circle." Yet, for over a century, it remains ensnared in this endless process, striving to close these circles only to watch them reopen and expand. With each expansion, new generations and systems arise, defying Israel with impressive and unexpected resilience, shaking its military strategies and forcing Israel to confront a recurring question: "We have made great operational achievements. What comes next?"





Aynaz Nasiri celebrates with the Iranian flag after winning the women's -59kg gold at the World Taekwondo Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, on Oct. 1, 2024.

● WORLD TAEKWONDO

World Taekwondo Championships: Iran grabs 11 medals, beats South Korea to team titles

Sports Desk

A remarkable haul of 11 medals, including seven golds, saw Iran steal the show at the World Taekwondo Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, beating the host to the men's and women's team titles. Iranian boys collected three golds, one silver, and double bronze medals to finish above South Korea and Uzbekistan. This was a third men's title for Iran, which is the only country other than South Korea to lift the team trophy over 14 editions of the competition. Meanwhile, four gold medals and a silver helped Iranian girls claim the title, with South Korea and Croatia in the following spots.

Iran's Sina Mohtarami celebrates after winning the men's -55kg gold at the World Taekwondo Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, on Oct. 3, 2024.

● WORLD TAEKWONDO

This was only a second women's crown for the country.

Iran's sensational campaign began with a couple of girls' golds on the first day of the competitions, when Parnian Nouri defeated China's Yinuo Xu in an intriguing -52kg final, while Aynaz Nasiri came out on top against Kazakhstan's Nuray Kaznabek in the -59kg showdown. Ghazal Houshmand bagged a third gold medal for Iranian girls on the penultimate day of the event, thanks to a straight-round triumph over Yang Xiruo of China in the -42kg final. Hana Zarrinkamar also finished on a high note, winning the -68kg final against the host's Lim Yerim.

Saghar Moradi, meanwhile, made it to the final showpiece in the -63kg weight class, only to settle for a silver medal after a loss to Tunisian girl Masghouni Wafa.

In the men's draw, Amirmohammad Ashrafi opened the gold account for

Iran at the expense of Australian Aiden Stilley in the +78kg final.

Sina Mohtarami doubled Iranian boys' gold count with a three-round win against Nurali Makhmut of Kazakhstan in a thrilling -55kg final, before Mahdi Razmian walked away with the ultimate prize in the -48kg class, courtesy of a victory over Spain's Agenjo Trigos.

Elsewhere, Ali-Akbar Ebrahimi suffered a final defeat against South Korea's Park Jae-won to take the silver in the -73kg contests.

Amin Ahmadvand (-78kg) and Amirmohammad Nasirahmadi (-51kg) finished their campaigns with a couple of bronze medals.

The juniors' success came less than two months after Arian Salimi notched up a gold, with Mehran Barkhordari and Nahid Kiani collecting double silvers, while Mobina Ne'matzadeh won a bronze as Iranians made a clean sweep of four medals at the Paris Olympics.



Persian Gulf Pro League:

Gvelesiani nets last-gasp winner as Persepolis edges out Chadormalou

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League champion Persepolis needed a 95th-minute strike from Georgian center-back Giorgi Gvelesiani to beat newly-promoted Chadormalou 1-0 at home on Saturday.

There was little to separate the two sides in a game of few chances at Tehran's Takhti Stadium, before Juan Carlos Garrido's men managed to pull off a late surge to secure a fourth successive win in the new campaign. The Reds' luck seemed to be running out when substitute Lucas João and Milad Mohammadi hit the woodwork in stoppage time, but Gvelesiani, who bagged the title-winning strike against Mes Rafsanjan on the final day of the previous campaign, was alert to tap in on the rebound after Ayoub El Amloud's effort was cleared off the line by the visiting defender.

Elsewhere, summer-signing

Mahdi Limouchi got off the mark in the Sepahan shirt late in the first half as Jose Morais's side walked away with a 1-0 away win against Esteghlal Khuzestan.

Kaveh Rezaei missed the opportunity to double Sepahan's lead deep into stoppage time as he was denied from the spot by former Persepolis keeper Ahmad Gohari, though the scoreline was still enough to secure a first win in three league games for the Isfahan-based club.

In Tehran's Shahr-e Qods Stadium, first-half goals by Brazilian defender Raphael Silva and Mehrdad Mohammadi saw Esteghlal beat Havadar 2-1 in a first game under interim coach Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh, who replaced Javad Nekounam last week.

Mahdi Goodarzi pulled one back for Havadar from the spot in the fifth minute of added time but it proved too little too late for Mahdi Rahmati's side, which is yet to

win a game this season, sitting rock bottom in the table with three points.

Saturday's results came a day after Iralco thrashed Zob Ahan 4-0 in Isfahan, with Behrouz Norouzifard, Amin Kazemian, Taleb Rikani, and Aref Haji Eidi on the score-sheet for the visitors.

Kheybar and Golgozar played to a goalless stalemate in Khorramabad, while Ali Azadmanesh's second-half penalty helped Shams Azar beat Mes Rafsanjan 1-0 – a first win of the campaign for Saeid Daqiqi's men.

In Qaemshahr, Malavan's Omid Nourafkan scored with 20 minutes left on the clock to cancel out Hamed Pakdel's first-half opener for Nassaji as it finished 1-1 at the Shahid Vatani Stadium.

Persepolis players celebrate their late winner in a 1-0 victory over Chadormalou in the Persian Gulf Pro League at the Takhti Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on October 5, 2024.

● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA



UAE Pro League:

Qoddous off the mark in Kalba colors

Sports Desk

Iranian internationals Saman Qoddous and Mahdi Qayedi combined for a couple of goals as Ittihad Kalba secured a 3-0 home victory over Al Bataeh in the UAE's ADNOC Pro League.

Making his first appearance for the club since joining as a free transfer from Brentford in September, Qoddous found Qayedi on the edge of the box, before the wizard winger

went past a defender and slotted home with a powerful left-footed effort midway through the first half – the Iranian's third goal in four league outings this season.

Qayedi repaid his international teammate's favor minutes later, as Qoddous collected his pass behind the box and fired a sublime strike into the bottom corner to open his Kalba account right before halftime. Leandro Spadacio Leite's side-footed effort from inside the box in the ad-

ditional time secured a second victory of the league campaign for the home side.

The result saw Ittihad move up to sixth in the table with seven points.

Saman Qoddous (L) and his Iranian international teammate Mahdi Qayedi celebrate during Ittihad Kalba's 3-0 victory over Al Bataeh in the UAE's ADNOC Pro League in Kalba, Sharjah, UAE, on October 5, 2024.

● uae.proleague.ae

IRGC commander awarded after strike on Israel

International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has conferred the Order of Fat'h (Conquest) on Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC's Aerospace Division. The order is granted to warriors with dramatic victories. The awarding on Sunday came after Iran's launch of 180 ballistic missiles at Israeli military and intelligence bases in the Tel Aviv area on Tuesday, Press TV reported. "The awarding of the order is

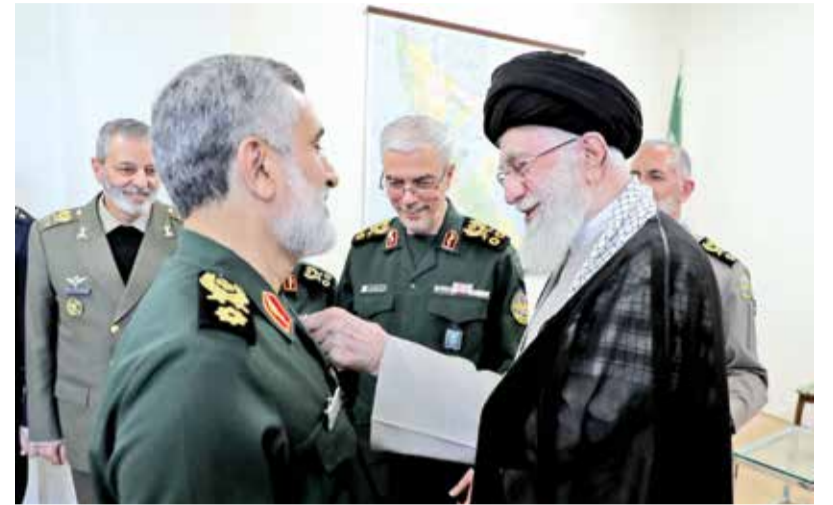
in recognition of the brilliant Operation True Promise," Iran's news agencies reported. The medal consists of the likeness of three palm leaves on top of the grand mosque of Khorramshahr in southwest Iran as a symbol of resistance, the flag of Iran and the word fat'h. In April, Iran launched hundreds of drones and missiles against Israel, in an unprecedented attack that came as a response to the occupying regime's raid on the Iranian consulate in Syria. On Tuesday, the Islamic Revolu-

tion Guards Corps launched 180 ballistic missiles at two Israeli airbases housing F-35 and F-15 warplanes as well as the Mossad headquarters in retaliation for the regime's assassination of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders and a top IRGC commander. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has described the attacks as being "among the largest in history." "Iran has twice fired hundreds of missiles" towards the territories, he said of the retaliation in a video message that was released on Saturday.



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) awards Medal of Conquest to Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC's Aerospace Division, in Tehran on Oct. 6, 2024. khamenei.ir

Back in April too, the country had fired more than 300 missiles and drones against the territories in an operation codenamed True Promise in reprisal for deadly aggression by the regime against Iranian diplomatic facilities in the Syrian capital of Damascus.



Fresh pro-Palestine rallies sweep across world

International Desk

Crowds participated in pro-Palestinian protests across the world on Sunday on the eve of the first anniversary of Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip where nearly 42,000 people have lost their lives so far. Sunday's events followed massive rallies that took place Saturday in several European, African and Asian cities, including London, Berlin, Paris, Rome and Cape Town. In Australia, thousands of people on Sunday protested in support of Palestinians and Lebanon in various cities. Samantha Gazal, who came to the rally in Sydney, said she was there "because I can't believe our government is giving impunity to a violent extremist nation and has done nothing. ... We're watching the violence play out on livestream, and they're doing nothing." On October 7 last year, Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel's positions in the occupied territories, killing nearly 1,200 Israelis and taking 250 people captives. In response, Israel



launched a devastating war on Gaza, which has claimed the lives of more than 41,800 Palestinians so far. In late September, Israel shifted some of its focus to Lebanon where it has killed more than 2,000 people there so far. Since the beginning of war in Gaza, Lebanon's Hezbollah group has been exchanging fire with the Israeli army in support of Palestinians in Gaza. Tens of thousands of Moroccans also protested in Rabat on Sunday in support of Palestinians and against normalization of ties with Israel. In the US, hundreds of people took to the streets of central Detroit and Washington, DC, in a show of support for Palestinians and Lebanese.

In Washington, more than a thousand protesters demonstrated outside the White House, demanding the United States, Israel's top military supplier, stop providing weapons and aid to Israel. Similar protests took place in the Canadian city of Toronto, as well as Mexico's capital, Mexico City. More than a thousand Indonesians gathered outside the US Embassy, calling for an independent Palestine and for the incoming Indonesian government to refuse the normalization of relations with Israel. On Saturday, hundreds of thousands of protesters also marched in cities around the world calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon.

Pezeshkian: Iran's strike aimed at reining in Israel's barbarism

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran's missile attack on Israel's military sites on Tuesday was aimed at reining in the barbarism of the regime and its efforts to spread its aggression across the region. Referring to Israel's assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July, Pezeshkian said that instead of condemning the regime's terrorist actions, Western countries constantly urged the Islamic republic to exercise restraint. He made the remarks in a phone conversation with Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof on Sunday. Schoof, for his part, said the Netherlands believes that the West Asia region does

not have the capacity for more tension, saying Amsterdam has asked all parties to refrain from expanding the tension. He said his country has also asked Israel to agree to a cease-fire deal in Gaza. The talks came as Israel kept pounding Lebanon and the Gaza Strip on Sunday, killing more innocent people. Israeli air attacks battered Beirut's southern suburbs overnight and early on Sunday in the most intense bombardment of the Lebanese capital since Israel sharply escalated its campaign against Hezbollah resistance group last month. Lebanon's Health Ministry said on Sunday that Israeli strikes killed 23 people across Lebanon on Satur-



Masoud Pezeshkian

Dick Schoof

day. It was the single biggest attack of Israel's assault on Beirut so far, witnesses and military analysts on local TV channels said. Israel claimed its air force had targeted a number of weapons storage facilities and infrastructure sites belonging to the Hezbollah organization in the area of Beirut. More than 2,000 people have been killed in nearly a year of fighting, most of them in the past two weeks,

according to the Lebanese health ministry. In Gaza, at least 26 Palestinians were killed and many others wounded after Israeli forces attacked a mosque and a school sheltering displaced people in central Gaza's Deir el-Balah, the strip's Health Ministry said. "The Israeli occupation committed three massacres against families in the Gaza Strip, resulting in 45 martyrs and 256 injuries arriving at hospitals during the past 24 hours," it added.

US sowing insecurity in Red Sea by backing Israel: Iran

Iran's representative at the 82nd session of Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) expressed Tehran's commitment to international maritime obligations and said the United States is the source of insecurity in the Red Sea region. Pouria Kolivand made the statement in response to "baseless" accusations made by a number of certain countries, led by the United States, against Iran

at the meeting on the security status of the Red Sea, Press Tv reported. "Iran adheres to all its obligations, but America has created insecurity in the region, including in the Red Sea, by supporting the Zionist regime," Kolivand said. The US and its Western government allies have for long been accusing Iran of involvement in and assistance with anti-Israel maritime operations by Yemen's

armed forces in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, an allegation adamantly rejected on numerous occasions by the Islamic Republic. Since October last year, the Israeli regime has been involved in merciless aggression against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip, which has so far claimed nearly 42,000 lives, most of them women and children. The Yemeni armed forces have since carried out operations against Israeli ship-

ping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden by targeting Israel-bound and -owned vessels in retaliation for the regime's onslaught on the blockaded Palestinian territory. Yemen's Al-Masirah television network reported on Friday that the US and UK had carried out 18 airstrikes on several regions in the country, including the capital Sana'a, and the provinces of Dhamar, al-Bayda, and Hudaydah.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Vacancy Notice

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in I.R. Iran is seeking a qualified National Consultant for a consultancy as a Construction Engineer, based in Tehran.

For details and to apply online: visit <https://iran.unfpa.org> before 17:00 Tehran Time on 16 October 2024.

- This consultancy is open only to Iranian Nationals.
- UNFPA does not charge any fees during the application process and does not discriminate based on HIV/AIDS status or disabilities. Women and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Iran, Malaysia ink media collaboration deal to boost cultural ties

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Malaysia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen cultural and artistic ties through a focus on multimedia technology. Iran's cultural attaché in Malaysia, Habib-Reza Arzani, announced the signing of the MoU with Malaysia's Multimedia University (MMU), which he said would pave the way for enhanced cooperation in the fields of culture and arts between the two countries, ILNA reported.

According to Arzani, MMU is Malaysia's first private university to be recognized for its achievements in IT and multimedia, and

has a strong reputation in animation, short films, and visual arts. The university, he said, is a pioneering center for entrepreneurship with a focus on multimedia technology, offering courses in telecommunications, multimedia, computer science, digital arts management, animation, information technology, and software development. Arzani emphasized the importance of developing media cooperation between Iran and Malaysia, citing the two countries' shared religious, cultural, and public diplomacy ties. He noted that the MoU aims to promote cultural and artistic exchanges, including the organiza-

tion of cultural events, workshops, and exhibitions, as well as student and faculty exchanges in the fields of arts and culture. The agreement, signed by Arzani and MMU President Mazliham Mohd Su'ud, also includes plans to co-host a festival of Iranian films, with a special guest appearance by a renowned Iranian filmmaker. The event will feature a screening of the filmmaker's work, followed by a discussion and critique session with students and faculty. Arzani emphasized the crucial role of media in promoting culture and civilization, and highlighted the importance of leveraging this opportunity to showcase Iran's rich Islamic culture.



Khomeini calls for 'enhanced military deterrence'

By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

A recent live television appearance by Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, a grandson of the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has drawn widespread attention from various media outlets and social networks for his comments on Israel and suggestions for bolstering Iran's military capabilities. Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, a 52-year-old cleric and a key figure among reformists and moderates in Iran, is the highest-ranking member of Imam Khomeini's family and enjoys considerable popularity among the people. Despite this, he has had limited opportunities to show up on official platforms, including state TV, in recent years. Seyyed Hassan Khomeini's Saturday night TV appearance drew attention for his emphasis

on bolstering Iran's deterrence power, which he believes should encompass not only military effectiveness, but also economic power and popular satisfaction. He also made a specific appeal for increased military strength, saying, "I think it's time for our military deterrence to reach a higher level." These remarks come at a time when tensions between Iran and the Israeli regime have reached their highest point in four decades. He stressed that Iran is not war-mongering and that war is a terrible phenomenon that should be avoided, but fear of war is worse than war itself. "We have not been and are not warmongers against Israel, and defense is our top priority, but if necessary, we will stand firm," he said. Another part of the remarks by Ayatollah Khomeini's grandson that has generated significant buzz is his assertion that Israel has no right to kill Iranians, even those opposed to the Is-

lamic Republic. He stated, "Netanyahu is mistaken if he thinks he can kill an Iranian, even if that Iranian is opposed to the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the founder of the Islamic Re-

public. He has no right to raise his hand against an Iranian. Mr. Netanyahu should not try to make decisions for this country." Imam Khomeini's scion also re-



called and defended the Islamic Republic's proposed solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – a referendum – and criticized Western governments for only advocating for a so-called "Two-State" solution during times of crisis. Khomeini's grandson questioned why Western governments only push for a two-state solution during times of turmoil, asking, "Why don't they talk about a two-state solution when things are calm?" He noted that 20 years have passed since the Oslo Accords, yet progress on a two-state solution has stalled. He suggested the two-state solution is a means of legitimizing Israel, and that it's only been revisited by Western governments in response to pressure from Palestinians, particularly during times of heightened conflict like Operation al-Aqsa Storm. Seyyed Hassan Khomeini's TV appearance came a day after

the Tehran Friday prayers, led by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, which drew millions of participants and showcased national unity in the face of Israeli threats. Referring to the event, Seyyed Hassan Khomeini said, "All those who attended the Friday prayers, knowingly or unknowingly, boosted our security; we should thank them." Khomeini's grandson stressed the importance of building public trust and strengthening the bond between citizens and the government, saying, "If an external enemy is to come, unity is necessary. This requires empathy, cooperation, and listening to the people." He added that increased public participation and engagement would fortify the Islamic Republic, saying, "The more people participate and have symbolic presence, the stronger the Islamic Republic will become, and the farther away the threats will be."

Iran's globetrotting 'Anita, Lost in the News' awarded in US

Iranian animator Behzad Nalbandi racked up his sixth international award for his 17-minute film 'Anita, Lost in the News', which took home the prize for Best Animated Short at the 7th Cordillera Film Festival in Nevada, USA. The film, which has been making the rounds at global film festivals, has now picked up six international awards, including the Audience Award at the 6th Rising of Lusitania

– AnimaDoc Film Festival from September 10 to 23 in Łódź, Poland, IRNA reported. 'Anita, Lost in the News' tells the story of a Kurdish-Iranian family of four who lost their lives in the sinking of a migrant boat in the English Channel in 2020. The film is

created using puppets made from newspaper clippings. Nalbandi's latest triumph builds on his previous success, with his earlier film 'The Unseen' having already won several awards at film festivals around the world. His name is cropping up again on the international scene, with 'Anita, Lost in the News' picking up another accolade to add to his collection.



Iranian conductor Rahbari to kick off Istanbul's new artistic season

Acclaimed Iranian composer and conductor Ali Rahbari is set to launch the new artistic season of the Istanbul Symphony Orchestra in Turkey with a concert at the Atatürk Cultural and Art Center on October 11. Rahbari, who has led numerous high-profile concerts with the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra over the past 30 years, will take the stage alongside Turkish pianist Gülsin Onay. This marks the 15th consecutive year Rahbari has held the title of principal guest conductor with the orchestra, IRNA reported. Turkey boasts 22 state symphony orchestras, and Rah-

bari, former artistic director of orchestras in Brussels, Malaga, Zagreb, and Prague, is a popular choice among them. He has frequently collaborated with symphony orchestras in Ankara, İzmir, Bursa, and Antalya, and was invited to conduct the Antalya State Symphony Orchestra for seven consecutive years to enhance its quality. Rahbari is currently the principal guest conductor of the Mariinsky Opera Orchestra in St. Petersburg, Russia, and recently performed with the ensemble for the 19th time on October 5, kicking off the 2024-2025 artistic season. The concert featured works by

Austrian composer Franz Peter Schubert and Armenian composer Alexander Arutiunian, as well as 'Persian Echoes' by Iranian composer Amir Mahyar Tafreshipour.

