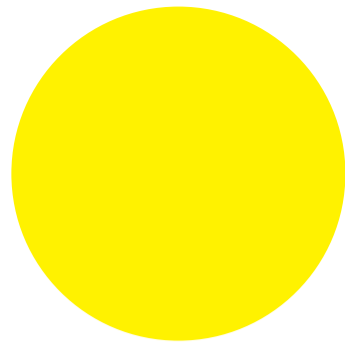


Spanish PM calls for global action to stop Israeli 'invasion'

7 >



# Iran Daily

Vol. 7668 • Thursday, October 10, 2024 • Mehr 19, 1403 • Rabi' al-Thani 6, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



irandaily.ir

newspaper.irandaily.ir

IranDailyWeb

## Iran FM Touring Region to Stop Israeli Crimes, Promote Peace

7 >



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) meets Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan (R) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on October 9, 2024.   
 ● SPA

### Iran's diplomacy to halt war in Lebanon



By Mohammadali Sobhani  
Ex-ambassador to Lebanon

**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has launched a diplomatic blitz to ease regional tensions and help end to the war in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. As part of his efforts, he Araghchi to Saudi Arabia, where he met with his Saudi counterpart for talks. Then, he will be heading to Qatar to continue his diplomatic overtures. Previously, he had visited Lebanon and Syria.

We are currently facing a highly volatile and complex situation in the region, where dozens of people are losing their lives and many more being displaced every day due to Israeli regime's attacks. Under these circumstances, it is only natural that Iran's Foreign Ministry is working overtime to prevent the war from spreading and to stop the attacks on Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. Therefore, Araghchi's trip is commendable. It appears that the top priority is to bring an end to Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and prevent a ground invasion. The situation in Gaza is no better and the developments related to a cease-fire there seem slightly more complicated than those in Lebanon.

Page 2 >

### Pezeshkian to meet Putin in Turkmenistan visit



7 >

### Symposium: Will US-Israel relations survive the last year?

SPECIAL ISSUE

4-5 >



### Iran aims to develop CNG as alternative vehicle fuel



2 >

### World Cup Asian qualifiers: Pole position at stake as Iran visits Uzbekistan in crunch Central Asian derby



6 >

### Global tribute to Hafez: Armenia, Iran to commemorate Persian poet



8 >

## Iran stands as world's 11th largest shoe producer



### Economy Desk

The head of footwear exports commission at Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade (MIMT) says the Islamic Republic is the 11th largest shoe producer in the world despite a sizable hike in smuggling foreign-made shoes into the country.

Javad Shabanzadeh, who is also the president of the mechanical shoe industry association of Qom Province, said the footwear industry is the "driving force" of 70 other industries and Iran maintains the 11th place in shoe production in the world. Shabanzadeh described Qom as the hub of the country's machine footwear production, saying more than 70% of the country's exports are related to the province.

The official said the volume of global turnover in the shoe industry stands at 3 billion dollars, of which 100 million dollars belongs to Iran, with its shoes being sold at world's markets for an average of four to 10 dollars a pair.

Pointing to the 600-million-population export targets in the neighboring countries, Shabanzadeh said as much as 50% of Iranian shoes are exported to Iraq and Afghanistan while exports to Tajikistan and Azerbaijan register an increase in the past years. Shabanzadeh touched on the issue of shoe smuggling into the country, saying, "The entry of smuggled shoes had decreased in the past years, which unfortunately has increased sharply in the last two years and has grown by 70% based on field observations."

The official pointed to the mechanism of the stock exchange and the price of raw materials, which is higher than the global average, as an effective factor in shoe smuggling.

# Iran can earn substantial revenues via exporting aquatics: *IFO official*



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

### INTERVIEW

Iran can rake in substantial revenues via exporting aquatic animals, said an official with the Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) on Wednesday, highlighting the country's "outstanding position" in seafood production.

Reza Abbaspour Naderi, the director general of the IFO fisheries affairs office, told Iran Daily that the country had "extensive reserves" of aquatic animals within reach in the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman in the south, which could provide ample opportunities to generate export income and create jobs.

Naderi noted that the marine resources had not been fully exploited except for some regions.

"For instance, these resources have been tapped into in certain regions and Iran has performed well in the Sea of Oman, ranking first in terms of tuna catch in the western Indian Ocean and second in the entire Indian Ocean among 40 countries that exploit it. Last year, Iran caught over 260,000 tons of tuna from the waters of this region." Currently, the livelihoods of



FARS

thousands of fishermen in southern Iran, particularly in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan and Hormozgan, depend on tuna fishing. Iranian fishermen begin catching tuna in the Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman from early September until early May when the turbulent waters make fishing impossible. In the Sea of Oman, there are also valuable reserves of lanternfish, which is used in industries to produce fishmeal or fish protein

powder. These products are used in poultry and fish farming.

According to Naderi, the majority of the country's fishmeal needs are met through imports.

"However, if the exploitation of the rich lanternfish reserves in the deep waters of the Sea of Oman becomes more feasible, this can reduce our reliance on imports."

The Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute (IFRSRI) has issued permits for

the annual catch of 200,000 to 300,000 tons of these fish.

However, Naderi said the IFO had approved an annual catch of 100,000 tons to preserve lanternfish reserves for the time being which would gradually increase in the coming years. Elsewhere in his remarks, Naderi said the IFO, which is responsible to ease aquaculture and fish farming, had drawn up plans to capitalize on opportunities available in Iran's waters.

"Under the Seventh Development Plan (SDP), the sea-oriented economy has been emphasized, and in this regard, clear targets have been set for the fisheries sector," he said. The SDP is a comprehensive government-proposed roadmap for the next four years in all economic, political, security and foreign relations areas.

He also touched on the shrimp fishing in the Persian Gulf, explaining that shrimp played a key role in

the economy and livelihood of southern fishermen.

Every year, fishermen take their boats out to sea from early August to catch shrimp.

"More than 600 tons of shrimp have been caught so far this year," Naderi said. Regarding the fishing status in the Caspian Sea, he said that last year, around 37,000 tons of various types of fish were caught, showing a 13% growth compared to the same period in 2022.

## Iran aims to develop CNG as alternative vehicle fuel



### Economy Desk

The National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Co. (NIORDC) plans to increase the share of compressed natural gas (CNG) in the country's fuel mix through a three-stage program as part of efforts to cut gasoline consumption, the CEO of the state-owned company said on Wednesday.

Mohammad-Sadeq Azimifard

said the scheme, spanning short, medium and long-term phases, would help alleviate growing gasoline shortages, Shana reported.

According to Azimifard, the short-term plan aims to get part of gasoline cars on the roads converted to bi-fuel vehicles running on both gas and CNG within six months.

Under the medium-term plan, he said, more CNG filling sta-

tions would be built across the country.

Azimifard added that, as part of the medium-term plan, Iranian automakers would also be encouraged by the ministries of oil and industry to roll out more gasoline-CNG vehicles.

"Once the number of CNG stations has increased, the long-term plan will be implemented, under which diesel vehicles will be converted to run on dual fuel," he said.

Azimifard noted that the Oil Ministry had no choice but to opt for "non-pricing policies" to curb high fuel consumption given the country's situation. His remarks can be interpreted as a rejection of rumors about an imminent fuel price hike – a sensitive issue the government has been dodging for the past five years despite the depreciation of the Iranian rial.

Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad

last week denied any plans to raise gasoline prices. It came after a lawmaker said that the government would likely increase prices by 20% next year, after a six-year hiatus.

The rise in the prices of essential goods, particularly gasoline, has always been a contentious issue. In 2019, deadly street protests erupted in several Iranian cities following a surprise 200% gasoline price hike.

Over the weekend, the Iranian Oil Ministry adopted its first non-pricing measure by capping motorists' use of subsidized gasoline at the pump.

The ministry's fuel distributor announced that drivers could only top up their tanks twice a day, with a cap of 50 liters per fill-up which is 10 liters less per session, using their fuel cards.

Iran has been implementing a fuel rationing system since

2007, under which motorists get a quota of 60 liters of subsidized gasoline per month, priced at 15,000 rials per liter (around \$0.025).

Subsidized fuel is dispensed through dedicated fuel cards issued for each vehicle. For additional gasoline, drivers pay double the price of subsidized fuel while still using those cards.

Iran churns out around 110 million liters of gasoline per day, which falls short of its daily consumption by around 15 million liters. The country has been forced to import gasoline since 2021 to make up for the shortfall, with estimates indicating that around \$3 billion worth of gasoline will be brought in this year.

In September, consumption hit a record high of 142 million liters per day due to the summer's travel rush.

## Iran's diplomacy to ...

Saudi Arabia is a key player in Lebanon's political spectrum and the talks between Tehran and Riyadh could lead to positive outcome regarding the situation in Lebanon. Nevertheless, it would be prudent for the Islamic Republic of Iran to engage in talks with France as

Page 1 >

well, as part of its diplomatic efforts to halt the war in Lebanon. France, like Saudi Arabia, has considerable influence in Lebanon's political circles. In fact, Iran could form a four-party coalition comprising Iran, Saudi Arabia, France, and Lebanon. France could play a crucial role in liaising with the United States

and Israel.

Thus, Araghchi's visit to Saudi Arabia is a follow-up to his earlier trip to Lebanon. However, to succeed in this endeavor, it is essential that we also tap into France's potential.

After Saudi Arabia, Araghchi is set to visit Qatar, which has made tireless efforts to estab-

lish peace in Gaza over the past year and has even managed to broker a prisoner swap between Hamas and Israel. Talks between Iran and Qatar are important in this regard, as they could also boost chances of a cease-fire in Gaza. Although a cease-fire in Gaza appears to be a more daunting task under

current circumstances, these collective regional diplomatic efforts can undoubtedly contribute to the peace process.

Given the challenges facing a cease-fire in Gaza, the top priority at present is to stop Israel's attacks on Lebanon and prevent a ground invasion, which could escalate the conflict. Hezbollah,

along with the Lebanese government, has expressed its readiness for a cease-fire. Therefore, if the talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia lead to a mutual understanding, and with the support of France and the Lebanese government, a cease-fire in Lebanon could be within reach.

# Reimagining Kermanshah as a must-visit destination for the future



Biglarbeigi Tekiyeh



Bistoun



Anahita Temple



Kuhsar Park

## Iranica Desk

Kermanshah Province has much to say in the realm of valuable cultural heritage treasures of the world, as it is home to many of cultural heritage firsts. However, it has not been as successful in attracting tourists as it should be, and the lack of many welfare and recreational facilities plays a significant role for the problem.

The inscription of Marduk Apal Aydin was recently unveiled in Kermanshah—an invaluable heritage that indicates that the city of Sarpol-e Zahab in Kermanshah Province was considered an important border area in ancient Iran in 1160 BCE and archaeologists have regarded this region as the gateway for trade between the west and the east, IRNA wrote.

Interestingly, according to cultural heritage experts, when writing and literacy were not widespread in the world, the people of Kermanshah had their own writing system.

Seeing this single piece of stone could attract tourists and history enthusiasts, and Kermanshah has no shortage of such valuable artifacts. However, it is regrettable that the province lacks a modern cultural heritage museum.

The historical site of Bistoun, which has a worldwide reputation, has only recently resolved its lighting issues after years. However, one must ask whether recreational and welfare facilities have also been considered for tourists in that area.

According to official statistics, Kermanshah Province boasts 4,200 nationally registered sites, three world heritage sites, and dozens of tourist attractions that have yet to be registered, indicating the province's high potential in the tourism sector. However, an important issue in the discussion of tourism is whether the tourist attractions and cultural heritage of Kermanshah can encourage tourists to stay for several days in the province.

Key historical and natural tourist at-

tractions in Kermanshah Province include Bistoun, Taq Bostan, the Anahita Temple, Biglarbeigi and Moaven Al Molk Tekiyehs, Kuhsar Park, the traditional market, the Niloufar Springs, Harsin, Quri Qal'eh Cave, the Shah Abbas Caravanserais and Piran Waterfall. The responsible authorities should plan to promote these attractions and improve visitor retention.

In Kermanshah Province, with a population of over two million, there are currently 26 hotels, five apartment hotels, 20 guesthouses, 18 service complexes, and 44 active eco-lodges. Given the province's capacity to accommodate tourists, this number should be increased to enhance visitor retention. Visitors' stay is important not only for its cultural and social impacts but also for creating sustainable income and new jobs for the people of Kermanshah from an economic perspective.

Attention to infrastructure like amusement parks, cable cars, sledding, suspension bridges, modern museums, suitable

accommodations, and even clean and well-maintained sanitary facilities can significantly affect the attraction and retention of tourists, as has been addressed in some other provinces.

It can be said that Kermanshah lacks many of the necessary indicators for retaining tourists, and the duration of their stay in this province is short — a fact acknowledged even by the Director General of Cultural Heritage and Tourism in Kermanshah.

Even after many years, there are still no cable cars or modern amusement parks in Kermanshah. However, providing all these facilities is not only the responsibility of the cultural heritage sector; it requires collective effort to create the necessary infrastructure, which calls for other organizations like the provincial government and municipalities to come on board.

Creating affordable shopping attractions with the flourishing of the Qasr-e Shirin free trade zone is another issue that should not be overlooked. This is

something that, for example, we see in the Anzali Free Zone, and we hope that one day large and modern shopping centers will be built in Kermanshah. Redefining events such as the Pavah Pomegranate Festival and the Qasr-e Shirin Lemon Festival and better planning for their organization seems essential.

The reality is that all these issues depend on the positive perspective of provincial officials regarding the arrival of tourists, viewing this as a valuable opportunity for the development and economic flourishing of Kermanshah.

Even an event like the Arbaeen Pilgrimage could provide a suitable opportunity for the retention of pilgrims, allowing them to utilize the amenities and tourist attractions of this province, rather than merely witnessing the passage of pilgrims through Kermanshah. In summary, efforts must be made to transform Kermanshah from a "transit point" into a "tourist destination" by leveraging various resources.



## Boshruyeh's historical seminary to be restored

### Iranica Desk

The historical seminary in Boshruyeh, located in South Khorasan Province, is currently undergoing restoration, as announced by Seyyed Amir Soleimani Rabati, the director of the city's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department. The restoration project, which began last month, focuses on strengthening the structure, constructing a new roof, and restoring the seminary itself. This significant site is recognized as part of Iran's National Heritage List, chntn.ir wrote. Rabati highlighted that the scien-

tific growth of Boshruyeh started during the Safavid era, a period marked by the presence of distinguished scholars such as Mola Abdullah. He contributed to the teaching of religious sciences at educational centers in Isfahan. The movement of scholars in and out of the area, along with the demand for book compilation, led to a flourishing of calligraphy, particularly by Haji Ali Ashraf and his sons. This period produced a valuable collection of written works and documents on various subjects that remain in Boshruyeh today.

He further explained that the conditions of the time necessitat-

ed the establishment of both religious and non-religious schools in Boshruyeh. This need resulted in the construction of a building during the Afsharid period, designed in accordance with the architectural styles of schools found in other Islamic cities, situated in the center of the Miandeh neighborhood.

The seminary is a two-aisled structure, resembling the Miandeh Mosque in Boshruyeh. It features two porticos aligned along the north-south axis, characterized by a simple appearance devoid of elaborate architectural decorations, with the exception of some latticework.

# Symposium: Will US-Israel relations survive the last year?

## ANALYSIS

The US-Israel relationship has been largely marked by Washington's consistent commitment to Israel's security, beginning with the formal recognition of Israel in 1948 by President Harry S. Truman. While the United States did not become Israel's dominant arms supplier until after the 1967 war, it has been clear to all in the region since at least the Kennedy era that Washington

was in Israel's corner — despite strong Arab opposition, Israel's wars on and with its neighbors, and its ongoing and often brutal struggle to deny the national aspirations of the Palestinian people in the name of ensuring its own security.

No matter the circumstances, from Tel Aviv's secret nuclear weapons program in the early 1960s to the building of illegal settlements on the Golan Heights, in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Washing-

ton has responded with more weapons, and more money for Israel — well over \$300 billion in all, the most US aid provided to a single foreign country by far. It has ensured Israel a Qualitative Military Edge, requiring Washington to maintain Tel Aviv's ability "to defeat any credible conventional military threat from any individual state or possible coalition of states or from non-state actors."

Despite this largesse, Israeli

leaders have often defied US presidents and policy, raising questions about the balance in the relationship, or, as President Bill Clinton once indelicately put it after meeting with Israel's longest-serving and current prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, "Who's the f..... Superpower here?"

More recently, Netanyahu's cabinet has repeatedly rejected President Biden's appeals to agree to ceasefire terms in Gaza. Netanyahu himself has

boasted of his ability to resist or manipulate Washington in ways that further his aims, once asserting, "I know what America is. America is a thing you can move very easily, move it in the right direction. They won't get in our way."

After a full year of war, Israel has used a steady flow of American weapons to wreak revenge for the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas in which 1,138 Israelis were killed and about 200 more taken captive. To date,

more than 41,000 Gazans, mostly civilians, have been killed, while at least 90 percent of Gaza's 2.2 million population has been displaced, and the vast majority of its buildings and infrastructure destroyed.

With Israel now invading southern Lebanon and Washington's nightmare scenario of a regional war breaking out, it would seem US-Israeli relations have reached a critical juncture.

Responsible Statecraft asked this group of scholars, journalists, and former diplomats if, for the first time in many decades, a real shift might be occurring. In other words, Has the last year of war permanently changed the US-Israel relationship? If so, how? If not, why?

Geoff Aronson, Andrew Bacevich, Daniel Bessner, Dan DePetris, Robert Hunter, Shireen Hunter, Daniel Levy, Rajan Menon, Paul Pillar, Annette Sheline, Steve Simon, Barbara Slavin, Hadar Suskind, Stephen Walt, Sarah Leah Whitson, James Zogby

### Geoff Aronson, Middle East Institute:

The relationship between the US and Israel remains grounded in seminal US-Israeli understandings reached in the aftermath of the June 1967 war, according to which the US pledged to maintain Israel's conventional military superiority over any combination of regional enemies. In return, Israel committed to maintain ambiguity about its nuclear weapons arsenal — undeclared and undeveloped. During this last year in particular, the Biden administration has remained true to this commitment to maintain Israel's Qualitative Military Edge (QME) — a commitment enshrined in US law — notwithstanding unprecedented concerns about Israel's (mis)use of US-supplied weapons. The US insists that its support for Israel remains "ironclad." "Make no mistake," insists the president, "the United States is fully, fully supportive of Israel." However, the unprecedented deployment of US forces to defend against Iranian missile attacks against Israel undermines Israel's long-held contention at the heart of US-Israel strategic cooperation — that the conventional arsenal supplied by the US to Israel, or QME, enables it to "defend itself by itself." The consequences of this critical Israeli dependence upon Washington's direct military engagement remain to be seen.

**Andy Bacevich, co-founder of the Quincy Institute, Boston University:** No real change will occur in the US-Israeli relationship as long as President Biden remains in the White House. What has changed over the past year are popular American attitudes toward Israel. Israel's "right to defend itself" cannot offer an adequate moral justification for the brutal punishment inflicted on the Palestinian people. Many Americans had grown accustomed to seeing the Arab-Israeli conflict as a contest between an innocent



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) and US President Joe Biden hold a bilateral meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on July 25, 2024.  
BLOOMBERG

party and a guilty one. Events in Gaza and Lebanon have demolished that formulation once and for all.

**Daniel Bessner, University of Washington:** It's far too early to tell whether Israel's assault on Gaza has changed the US-Israel relationship. On one hand, there's been unprecedented youth criticism of Israel and the "uncommitted" campaign indicates that in several important swing states unquestioning US support for Israel might become a significant liability. Nothing will really change until the current generation of leaders gives way to younger politicians who came of age in a different moment, something that isn't exactly in the offing.

**Dan DePetris, Defense Priorities:** It's quite clear that the last year of war hasn't changed much of anything in the US-Israel relationship. US officials may be more vocal about their disagreements with Israeli policies and more willing to confront their Israeli counterparts rhetorically. But the actual policy doesn't match the rhetoric. The US is still effectively

enabling Israel to escalate even as it calls for regional de-escalation. It continues to sell large munitions and offensive weapons to Israel unconditionally while at the same time begging Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to sign a ceasefire deal in Gaza and make peace in Lebanon. It remains virtually nonchalant, even as Israel, the junior partner in the relationship, pursues highly risky strategies that could eventually blowback on US forces in the Middle East. The US isn't incapable of reforming the relationship — it's unwilling.

**Robert Hunter, former US Ambassador to NATO:** America will continue rock-solid support for Israel's security: It's deep in US culture. Further, Israel's perspective on the Middle East continues dominating the narrative in US society, politics, most think-tanks, and main-stream media. Thus without serious blow-back in Washington, Israel

managed to kill the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, while thwarting US efforts to reduce tensions with Tehran; and President Biden is able to give Israel near-total support, in practice though not words, for its military actions in Gaza and Lebanon. But the human toll of today's multi-faceted conflict has raised questions about the terms of US support for Israel's actions. There is erosion of initial sympathy for Israel's response to Hamas' horrendous slaughter last October 7. Some incalculable portion of younger Americans is less committed to virtual carte blanche for Israel's leaders. Yet however US domestic politics develop, they — more than US interests — will shape America's regional policies.

**Shireen Hunter, former diplomat, Georgetown University:** Following Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, the war in Gaza has caused serious tensions in Israel's relations with

the United States. Israel's indiscriminate bombing of Palestinians, the large number of dead (41,000-plus), massive destruction, and Washington's inability to end the war have been the main causes of these tensions.

With Israeli attacks in recent days, minor clashes between Israel and Hezbollah expanded to major conflict and the killing of the Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah, thus increasing the risk of Iran's response. Nevertheless, it is unlikely that the fundamentals of US-Israel relations will change, at least not soon. This is because no state, notably any key Arab state, has risked antagonizing the US by helping the Palestinians. In short, in terms of its relations with Arab and other states, the United States has not paid any political or other price for its unstinting support of Israel.

### Daniel Levy, US/Middle East Project:

The US support for Israel this past year (irrespective of its illegal actions in Gaza and elsewhere) represents more continuity than change. That manifests itself in the indispensable and constant conveyor belt of weapons supplies, the political-diplomatic cover and the alignment with, and repetition of, Israeli narratives — no matter how implausible, incredulous or extreme those are. But as the world around the US/Israel bubble reconfigures, the spillover looks different. The Trump innovation — unquestioningly embraced by Biden — of attempting to advance an Israel/allied Arab state regional hegemony, premised on the marginalization of Palestinian rights and embrace of Israel's apartheid and displacement project, lies in tatters. It cannot be sustained even by willing regimes as Israel insists on alienating and enraging ever-broader swathes of Arab opinion. Nevertheless, expect the D.C. blob to double down on pushing this pitiful paradigm.

More intriguing perhaps is the realization of the deepening and staggering level of Israeli dependence on the US — precisely at a time when the relationship is contrib-



uting more than ever to the geopolitical weakening of America. As the Biden administration frantically runs cover for Israeli criminal actions, the cost to the US in political, reputational, legal and other arenas increases exponentially.

**Rajan Menon, City College of New York, Columbia University:** Has the US-Israeli relationship changed “permanently” following the attack by Hamas last October? No. True, the Biden administration provided unalloyed support—diplomatic, economic, and military—to Israel’s massive overreaction. But it’s long been an axiom in American politics that Israel must be backed unreservedly—not only during crises and wars, but even when it continues, as it has with particular vigor during the past few years, to expand settlements in the West Bank and allow “outposts” to proliferate there, to evict Palestinians from their land and allow settlers to attack them with impunity and even steal their livestock. To all this the current administration has turned a blind eye, but so did its predecessors. Nothing has changed and nothing will, no matter who is president. Even in our currently poisonous politics, bipartisan agreement prevails in the corridors of power on one point of policy: Israel must be supported unequivocally—always.

**Paul Pillar, former CIA, Georgetown University:** The principal sources of the extraordinary US-Israel relationship are embedded in domestic American politics and culture, and that is where to look for any signs the relationship may be changing. The influence of those sources—including a formidable lobby—remain strong. That influence has counteracted decades of Israeli conduct that has run counter to US strategic interests, and it will counteract much of the outrage over Israeli conduct during the past year. The domestic politics of relations with Israel are evolving, however. In an increasing partisan split, automatic Republican Party support for Israel has accompanied Israel’s own lurch to the extreme right. Increasingly vocal opposition to Israel within the Democratic Party could lead a President Harris to adjust US policy once she is no longer the understudy to a self-proclaimed Zionist. A second Trump presidency would, like the first, give the Israel almost anything it wants.

**Annelle Sheline, Quincy Institute:** The most senior members of President Biden’s foreign policy team appear to be as tenaciously committed to maintaining full US support to the Israel as they were on October 7. This is the case, despite Israel repeatedly humiliating Biden and the US by disregarding every red line the president tried to establish. Biden’s response was to send more weapons and support. It seems that there is nothing Israel could do that would cause this administration to impose consequences or restrict the vast flow of American resources into Israel’s war machine, even as



⬆ Demonstrators protest the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House during a rally, on July 25, 2024, in Washington.  
● MIKE STEWART/AP

it threatens to drag the United States into war and potentially to destroy the Democrats’ chance of retaining control of the White House.

Yet the broader relationship has changed significantly. US support for Israel is no longer a bipartisan issue. The Israel lobby had to spend millions of dollars on two House primary races to defeat Black members who criticized Israel’s actions in Gaza, and were unable to primary Reps. Summer Lee (D-Pa.) and Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich). This caused many Americans to question the role of the Israel lobby in our politics, and whether such influence is in America’s interest. The next generation of American voters has demonstrated they will not support the US sending billions of our tax dollars to Israel that murders and starves entire populations.

**Steve Simon, Quincy Institute, Dartmouth College:** The past year might accelerate a trend already underway, namely the narrowing of Israel’s base of support here. Israel will retain strong Republican support while support among Democrats will contract. But it will not disappear, especially when Israel is under attack. Bipartisan support for US-Israel relations has been jettisoned by the Likud and Republican parties. For Likud’s purposes, the Republican Party is the horse to ride. And Republicans can weaponize support for Israel for political gain and outbid Democrats whenever an issue arises regarding US financial and military assistance. This is risky for Israel, but the Right appears relaxed and eager to boost Trump’s prospects despite his affinity for antisemites. Perhaps the Israeli right is

willing to trade off the security of American Jews to get its way on the West Bank. Netanyahu thinks that liberal American Jews will soon disappear so he might assess the opportunity cost as acceptable.

**Barbara Slavin, Stimson Center, George Washington University:** I wish I could say that the past year has altered the US-Israel relationship but I’m afraid that the US is now even more embroiled in defending Israel against its many enemies. Without US arms shipments and intelligence, Israel would not have been able to pursue its retaliatory war against Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iran with such impunity, killing tens of thousands of civilians and turning Gaza into a moonscape of rubble. There have been moments when Washington was able to pause regional escalation—as after the Iran-Israel exchanges in April. But that ability appears to have waned as we sit at the brink of a wider conflagration drawing in US forces along with Israelis, Palestinians, Lebanese, Iraqis, Yemenis and Iranians, with no prospect of a ceasefire or return of Israeli captives in sight.

**Hadar Suskind, Americans for Peace Now:** The “special relationship” between the United States and Israel is not gone, but let’s just say, it’s not running for reelection either. The way Congress discusses and debates Israel and Palestine has changed more in the past year than in the 25 previous years. For the first time multiple members of Congress have,

for conditional cutting, or all together ending aid to Israel. When Netanyahu spoke to Congress, fully half of the Democratic caucus refused to be used as a prop in his campaign and skipped the speech. And while President Biden has largely maintained his historical views on Israel, the next generations of leaders did not, as Biden so often mentions, know Golda Meir. They do know Benjamin Netanyahu, and they don’t like him. If Israel wants to maintain a special relationship with the US, it needs to do so on the merits, and that remains to be seen.

**Stephen Walt, Harvard University:** At first glance, the “special relationship” between the United States and Israel seems stronger than ever. The Biden administration has given Israel a blank check, while Israel has ignored Washington’s ineffectual calls for restraint. Netanyahu got repeated ovations as he told a pack of lies to Congress, and universities have bowed to pressure from politicians and wealthy donors by cracking down on pro-Palestinian protests.

Yet October 7 and after still constitute a watershed in US-Israeli relations. Israel’s brutal attempts to destroy not just Hamas but thousands of innocent Palestinians have cost it the sympathy it received a year ago, and its violent campaigns on the West Bank, in Lebanon, and elsewhere have exposed its true character. The Israel lobby has been forced into the open, de-

fending a genocide that has done lasting damage to America’s own image and interests. It won’t end overnight, but “special relationship” will never be the same.

**Sarah Leah Whitson, Democracy in the Arab World Now:** Israel’s year of atrocities in Gaza has permanently transformed the American public’s perceptions, not only of Israel as an abusive, apartheid state that the International Court of Justice said could be committing genocide in Gaza, but of Palestinians as a victimized, subjugated population, such that a majority of Americans now oppose military aid to Israel. However, the US government’s own backing for the Israel remains unconditional, despite the tremendous costs to America’s global standing. Our government has provided Israel with unprecedented military and political support for the war in Gaza, which has now dangerously expanded to military support for Israel’s fighting in Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Iran. This has brought into stark relief the gross misalignment of US policies towards Israel with public sentiments, and the outsized, malign role of pro-Israel organizations, including their influence on government officials to promote dangerous policies.

**James Zogby, Arab American Institute:** Israel’s year-long assault on Gaza hasn’t yet “permanently” changed the US-Israel relationship.” It has, however, altered the political landscape shifting opinions, with key demographics— younger and non-white voters— moving in a pro-Palestinian direction.

As a result, pro-Israel groups and their congressional supporters have attempted to silence debate and arrest the growth of pro-Palestinian sentiment. State laws have been enacted penalizing individuals or groups that endorse sanctions on Israel and they’ve expanded the definition of antisemitism to include legitimate criticism of Israel. There’s been pressure from Republicans and donors to impose severe speech restrictions on university campuses and “dark money” groups are spending over \$100 million to target the campaigns of members of Congress sympathetic towards Palestinians. Given the reactions to Israel’s deplorable conduct and the repressive new “McCarthyite” measures against pro-Palestinian sentiment, the already deeply polarized debate over the US-Israel relationship is likely to become more intense in the future.

*The article first appeared on Responsible Statecraft.*



## World Cup Asian qualifiers:

## Pole position at stake as Iran visits Uzbekistan in crunch Central Asian derby

## Sports Desk

Uzbekistan will host Iran in Tashkent's Bunyodkor Stadium today, with both sides keen to claim the maximum points and take a significant stride towards the World Cup finals in two years' time.

The two teams are tied on six points, and a goal difference of +2, with Uzbekistan leading the table in Group A of the qualifiers after scoring more goals in the wins against North Korea (1-0) and Kyrgyzstan (3-2).

There was little to separate the two sides when Iran and Uzbekistan shared the spoils in both meetings of the previous qualifying group phase.

Uzbekistan pulled off a sensational fightback in the second half to come from two goals down on home soil in November last year, before no goals were scored in the dead-rubber reverse fixture at Tehran's Azadi Stadium in June.

Sardar Azmoun was on target when Iran last beat Uzbekistan 1-0 in the CAFA Nations Cup final last year – Team Melli's 10th victory in 14 games against the fellow-Central Asians since they first met in 1998, with Uzbekistan's sole win (1-0) coming in a World Cup qualifier in Tehran 12 years ago.

While Iran remains an undisputed member of the old guard in Asian football, Uzbekistan is building on an impressive run in



● AFC

youth-level competitions over the past decade to establish itself as a rising force in the continent.

Persepolis winger Oston Urunov and Esteghlal midfielder Jaloliddin Masharipov are Uzbekistan's familiar faces for Iranian fans, though the former is a doubt for today's encounter after suffering a

groin injury during warm-up ahead of Saturday's top-flight game against Chadormalou.

However, there are more to expect from Uzbekistan's formidable frontline, as AS Roma striker Eldor Shomurodov will be looking to add to his 41 international goals, while Abbasbek Fayzullaev, with

two strikes in nine appearances for CSKA Moscow this season, could make a contribution off the bench.

**'More clinical'**

Despite not being at its free-flowing best, Iran secured 1-0 wins against Kyrgyzstan and the United Arab Emirates last time out in the group, but head

coach Amir Qalenoee says his players will have to be more clinical in today's encounter if they are to leave Tashkent with a decisive victory.

"I want my players to make the most of their chances. Iran should have scored more goals in the last two games but we were wasteful and a repeat of that will

cost us against Uzbekistan," the Iranian said in the pre-match press conference on Wednesday.

"It is going to be a tight and physical game and, hence, there won't be too many clear-cut chances for either of the two sides. We'll have to be spot-on with our tactical plan and more clinical in our finishing."

Asked about his team's performance in last year's 2-2 draw, Qalenoee said: "Our players were a bit tired in that game and lost motivation as the game wore on. Uzbekistan still deserve credit for the way they fought back in the second half and could have even won that match."

Qalenoee will be without center-back Hossein Kan'anizadegan, who is set to be sidelined for three weeks due to a hamstring problem, with Shoja Khalilzadeh and young Sepahan prodigy Mohammad-Amin Hazbavi likely to form the backline partnership.

Elsewhere in the Asian qualifiers today, the UAE – third in Group A with three points – will play at home to North Korea, with Qatar and the Kyrgyz Republic squaring off in Doha's Al Thumama Stadium.

Jordan and South Korea, the top two in Group B with four points, will go head-to-head in Amman, while Oman will chase first points in the group when hosting Kuwait.

Iraq, also on four points, welcomes Palestine to the Basra International Stadium.

In Group C, a highly-anticipated fixture will see Roberto Mancini's Saudi Arabia and Japan battle it out in Jeddah.

Australia and China will meet in Adelaide, with Bahrain facing Indonesia at home.

## World Taekwondo Junior Championships:

## Double delight for Iran coach in winning the title in sport's hub

## Sports Desk

Head coach Fatemeh Safarpour, who led Iran to the women's crown at the World Taekwondo Junior Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, said she felt an even greater sense of triumph in winning the title in a country considered the hub of the sport.

Ghazal Houshmand, Parnian Nouri, Aynaz Nasiri, and Hana Zarrinkamar all walked away with the ultimate prize of their respective weight classes, with Saghar settling for a silver, as Iran finished atop the medals table, followed by the host, which bagged a single gold and three silver medals.

This meant that South Korea missed out on the girls' trophy for only a third time across the 14 editions of world junior event.

Iran celebrated a first ti-

tle in Burnaby, Canada, in 2016 before Russian girls' triumph two years later in Hammamet, Tunisia.

"There was a unique joy of winning this title in a country where taekwondo is a traditional sport," Safarpour told Mehr News Agency.

"With all the global contenders in the mix, the competition was held at such a high level. It's always a real test when South Korea hosts a taekwondo event, but the Iranian girls and all of my colleagues in the coaching staff, as well as the federation, deserve credit for working tirelessly to make this success happen," added the Iranian, who was named the Best Women Team Coach on the final day of the event.

"The gold medals of the 10 weight classes were won by seven countries. Iran collected four of them and South Korea,

the Chinese Taipei, Tunisia, Croatia, Morocco, and the Philippines claimed one apiece, which shows many countries have invested on the sport," said Safarpour, whose team had finished runner-up to South Korea in Sofia two years ago.

"There was a high number of contestants in all weight classes, and each participant had to win at least six bouts to win a gold medal, which made it even a more precious achievement for the Iranian girls. They surely deserved this title."

Head coach Fatemeh Safarpour hugs Parnian Nouri after the Iranian girl's win in the -52kg final at the World Taekwondo Junior Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, on Oct. 1, 2024.

● WORLD TAEKWONDO



# Iran FM touring region to stop Israeli crimes, promote peace

## International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who has embarked on a regional tour, expressed hope that his visits to the regional countries would lead to better conditions for Palestine, Lebanon and peace in the region. Araghchi made the remarks upon his arrival in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh on Wednesday, where he held talks with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan. The Iranian foreign minister said that the purpose of his trip to Saudi Arabia and other regional countries is to discuss regional issues, especially developments in Lebanon, Gaza, crimes committed by the Israeli regime as well as the Lebanese people who have been displaced following Israel's attacks on their country. Iranian Foreign Minis-

try spokesman Esmail Baghaei in message on X described the meeting as constructive, saying that both sides discussed the latest developments in the region, especially in Gaza and Lebanon. Baghaei said that the two foreign ministers called for cessation of Israel's genocidal war on Gaza and Lebanon as well as providing refugees with humanitarian aid. Earlier on the day, Baghaei said on X that Araghchi's visit would focus on stopping "the Israeli regime's genocide & aggression" and aimed to "alleviate the pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters in Gaza and Lebanon." Israel has been waging a year-long war on the Gaza Strip where more than 42,000 Palestinians – mostly women and children – have been killed in the regime's strikes. Hezbollah, based in Lebanon, began firing on north-

ern Israel in support of Palestinians in Gaza, and since last month, Israel has significantly ramped up its strikes on the resistance movement's positions. Baghaei said the meetings in Riyadh were "in furtherance of our diplomatic efforts, in coordination with countries of the region." In Beirut on Friday, Araghchi said Tehran supports efforts for a "simultaneous" cease-fire in Lebanon and the Palestinian territory.

## Tehran-Riyadh ties

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported that the top diplomats "discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in various fields" and also addressed regional developments. After meeting with Saudi officials, the Iranian top diplomat will travel to Qatar to hold talks with the officials of the Persian Gulf



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (R) meets Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on October 9, 2024.

● SPA

country. The Islamic republic has called Hamas's last year Operation al-Aqsa Storm on Israel "a turning point in the history of the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people against Israel."

Iran has also repeatedly accused Israel of committing genocide and war crimes since the Gaza war began. Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter and custodian of Islam's two holiest sites, paused US-brokered talks on nor-

malizing ties with Israel after the Gaza war broke out. Saudi officials said they wanted a pathway towards a Palestinian state as a condition of normalization. But last month, the kingdom's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Sal-

man, toughened his tone, explicitly saying that an "independent Palestinian state" was necessary. Araghchi also met and discussed latest regional developments with Bin Salman after talks with his Saudi counterpart.

## Pezeshkian to meet Putin in Turkmenistan visit

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin for talks Friday at a forum in the Central Asian country of Turkmenistan. Yury Ushakov, Putin's aide on foreign policy, told journalists the leaders would meet in Ashgabat while attending an event celebrating a Turkmen poet. "This meeting has great significance both for discussing bilateral issues as well as, of course, discussing the sharply escalated situation in the Middle East," Ushakov said. Leaders of Central Asian countries are meeting to commemorate the 300th an-



Masoud Pezeshkian

Vladimir Putin

niversary of the birth of 18th-century poet Magtymguly Pyragy. Putin's attendance had not been previously announced. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin visited Iran last week for talks with Pezeshkian and First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref. Russia has close rela-

tions with Iran, and Western governments have accused Tehran of supplying Moscow with drones and missiles, which it has repeatedly denied. Pezeshkian will also hold talks with Putin during a visit to Russia this month to participate in a BRICS summit of emerging economies.

## Spanish PM calls for global action to stop Israeli 'invasion'

### International Desk

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez described Israel's military offensives in Lebanon as an "invasion" on Wednesday, saying that the international community had to act. "It is clear that there has been an invasion by a third country of a sovereign state such as Lebanon, and therefore the international community cannot remain indifferent," the Socialist premier told parliament. "We denounced (this situation) in Ukraine, we also denounce it in Gaza and now we are also denouncing the invasion of Lebanon," he added. After killing more than 42,000 people in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli regime is now focused on Hezbollah, the Lebanese ally of Hamas resistance group in the Gaza Strip. Israel launched ground incursions into southern Lebanon on September 30 where some 10,000 peacekeepers

are deployed under the command of a Spanish general. According to official Lebanese figures, nearly 2,000 people have been killed in Lebanon since October 2023, including more than a thousand since the start of Israeli strikes in the south and east of its territory, as well as in the southern suburbs of Beirut, on September 23. Sanchez is one of the most outspoken critics among European Union leaders of Israel's response to the Hamas attack on the Israeli positions in the occupied territories on October 7, 2023. He has angered Israel by saying he had "serious doubts that Israel is complying with international humanitarian law" in Gaza and under his watch Madrid in May recognized a Palestinian state. Sanchez also expressed his regret at the "lack of agreement within the European Union" on the situation in West Asia.



AFP

### 'Zionist terrorist organization'

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also on Wednesday decried Israel's genocidal war in Gaza and Lebanon, calling it a "Zionist terrorist organization." Arguing that last year Israel made a choice between being a state and being a terrorist organization, Erdogan, addressing the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party's meeting in Ankara, said since then it has been acting like a "terrorist organization."

He said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his "murderous network are delusional and embarking on a very dangerous adventure." Erdogan also criticized western countries of defending cease-fire on stage, while continuing to provide Israel with weapons. "History will never forgive those who applaud the monster responsible for the blood of tens of thousands of Palestinian children, women, civilians," he said.

## Quds Force commander to receive top order from Leader: IRGC

### International Desk

An advisor to the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said Brigadier General Esmail Qa'ani is in good health and will receive Order of Fat'h (Conquest) from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in the coming days. Brigadier General Ebrahim Jabari made the remarks on Wednesday, amid Western media speculations that the IRGC

Quds Force commander might have been wounded, or even martyred, in a massive Israeli strike last week that was reported to have targeted senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine in Beirut's densely populated southern neighborhood of Dahiyeh, Press TV reported. Qa'ani also sent a message to the 7th International Conference on Solidarity with Palestinian Children and Adolescents this week and offered his apologies for not being able to take part.

## Iran roundly rejects plot accusations by UK

### International Desk

Tehran adamantly dismissed accusations put forward by a British security official that the Islamic Republic has been involved in "potentially lethal" plots against the UK. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said on Wednesday that such anti-Iran accusations have been leveled against the country over the past two years without a shred of evidence or documenta-

tion. UK's MI5 spy chief has claimed on Tuesday 20 Iran-backed potentially lethal plots had been disrupted in Britain since January 2022. Ken McCullum accused Iran of being behind "plot after plot" on British soil. Baghaei said Britain was hosting "terrorist" groups that take advantage of free speech to promote violence, according to the statement and asked London to reconsider its policies towards "the nation of Iran and West Asia."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



Global tribute to Hafez:

# Armenia, Iran to commemorate Persian poet



## Arts & Culture Desk

A series of events will be held in both Armenia and Iran to mark the occasion of Hafez Shirazi's commemoration day (October 11).

The Cultural Center of Iranian Embassy in Armenia and the Oriental Studies Faculty of Yerevan State University are organizing a joint event, while various programs are also being held across Iran to celebrate Hafez contributions to Persian culture, IRNA reported.

According to ICRO, the main objective of these events is to honor Hafez legacy, explore the depth of his impact on Persian literature and Islamic civilization, and promote a deeper understanding of Iran's rich culture among literature enthusiasts in both countries.

In Armenia, the literary and cultural event will take place on Friday, October 11, at the Oriental Studies Faculty of Yerevan State University. Iranian and Armenian scholars and professors of Persian language will deliver speeches and analyze various aspects of Hafez personality and works. Students of

Persian language from Armenian and Greek universities will also perform traditional music and recite Hafez poems in Persian and Armenian.

In addition, in Iran, various programs are being held to celebrate Hafez contributions to Persian culture. A play titled "Lisān al-Ghayb" will be performed at the Hafez Tomb in Shiraz, while a symphony concert will be held at the newly renovated Hafez Hall, marking its official reopening. Several musical tributes are also planned, including the release of an album titled "Khalvat-Neshin," featuring compositions inspired by Hafez poems. A new board game, "Rendoo," will be unveiled, aiming to introduce children to the poet's works in a fun and educational way.

Academic sessions will be held at the Tomb of Hafez, where scholars will explore the topic "Hafez in the Geographical Landscape of Iran." International academic sessions will also be held virtually in collaboration with universities in Japan, Italy, Turkey, the UAE, and Australia, highlighting Hafez enduring global influence.

## IDFA festival to feature films by Kiarostami, other Iranian directors



ates a famous Iranian filmmaker and inserts himself into a family's life under the pretext of making a movie.

Joining 'Close-Up' in the festival lineup are three other Iranian films: 'Home' by Elahe Esmaeili, 'My Stolen Planet' by Farahnaz Sharifi, and 'A Sisters' Tale' by Leila Amini, all of which will be showcased in the "Best of Festivals" section.

Iranian cinema will be well-represented at the 37th International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), with Abbas Kiarostami's critically acclaimed film 'Close-Up' screening as part of the festival's "Top 10" section. The film, released in 1990, tells the true story of a man who imperson-

Kiarostami discovered the story through a 1989 article in the Soroush magazine and went on to create his own narrative around the events.

'Close-Up' has consistently ranked among the greatest films of all time, often placing within the top 20 in the British Film Institute's list of the 100 greatest films of all time.

## Iranian-Belgian film 'Nigeria' to compete in German, American festivals

The Iranian-Belgian short film 'Nigeria' directed by Sabah Gavili will compete in two international film festivals in Germany and the United States.

The short film will be screened at the 14th Kurdish Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, and the 8th Kurdish Film Festival in New York, USA, Mehr News Agency reported.

The Kurdish Film Festival in Berlin, established in 2002, has grown to become a prominent cultural event in the city, showcasing films by Kurdish directors from around the world, including those from the diaspora community. The festival has gained recognition not only among Kurdish communities but also among film enthusiasts and the general public in Berlin. This year's festival will take place from October 9 to 15, 2024.

The New York Kurdish Film Festival, founded in 2017, aims to promote and showcase Kurdish participation in visual and performing arts, cinema, and literature. The festival creates a platform for



Kurdish artists to share their work with a broader audience, fostering connections between Kurdish and non-Kurdish communities. The festival prides itself on being a discrimination-free zone, where everyone can engage in a safe and inclusive environment. The 8th edition of the

festival will run from October 12 to 19, 2024.

'Nigeria' tells the story of two young delinquents who commit murder during a robbery. A street vendor witnesses the crime, setting off a chain of events that unfolds in the film.

## Kish Island hosts Int'l expo of sustainable cities, fostering tourism, cultural exchange

### Social Desk

The 2nd International Exhibition of Sustainable Cities kicked off at the Kish International Exhibition Center on Kish Island, a popular tourist destination in the Persian Gulf.

The four-day event, running from October 8 to 11, brings together municipalities, government agencies, and private companies from across Iran to showcase the latest innovations and best practices in sustainable urban development.

Organized by the Tehran Munic-

ipality's Social and Cultural Affairs Department, the exhibition aims to promote sustainable tourism, urban management, smart cities, green energy, and eco-friendly infrastructure.

The event provides a platform for city officials, experts, and industry leaders to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas on creating livable and sustainable cities.

Aqil Tohidian, Head of Public Relations at the Tehran Municipality's Social and Cultural Affairs Department, highlighted the significance of the exhibition in



enhancing the quality of life in cities.

"The primary goal of this exhibition is to develop the sustainable city market and promote effective interaction with urban elites, leveraging the existing capacities in various urban areas, including cultural and social capacities, and utilizing the experiences of successful sustainable cities," he stated.

The exhibition features various sections, including sustainable tourism, urban management, smart cities, green energy, eco-friendly transportation,

environmental conservation, sustainable buildings, and innovative technologies.

Tehran Municipality is participating in the exhibition with four deputy mayor offices and several organizations, presenting their accomplishments in various fields. The municipality's Social and Cultural Affairs Department is also promoting its services in developing cultural spaces, introducing the Tehran Tourism Office's services, and showcasing the capabilities of the iconic Milad Tower, a major tourist attraction in Tehran.