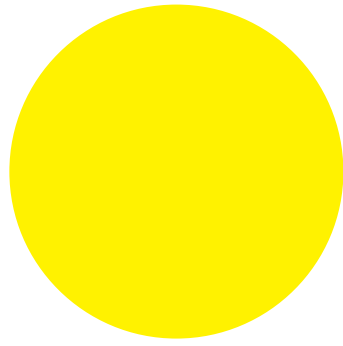


Pezeshkian:
Universities
should elevate
Iran to sci-tech
excellence

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> irandaily.ir

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IranDailyWeb

Macron: Arms embargo on Israel 'only way' to end war on Gaza, Lebanon

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Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf speaks to reporters at Beirut's southern neighborhood of Basta on October 12, 2024. IRNA

Speaker Reaffirms Iran's Support on Visit to Beirut

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Egypt could help complete puzzle of Iran's diplomatic efforts

By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

OPINION

Since taking office in August, the Iranian government has faced a string of surprise events, including the assassination of Hamas's political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, intensified Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, the assassination of Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah along

with an Iranian military advisor in Lebanon, as well as Iran's missile strikes on targets in Israel.

These developments, which reflect escalating tensions in the region, particularly between Iran and Israel, could have pushed the Iranian government's key foreign policy mantra of "constructive engagement with the world" to the sidelines. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the government of President Masoud Pezeshkian have simultaneously taken necessary defense measures and pursued active diplomacy in response to external threats, which appears to have been successful so far.

Following Iran's missile strikes on Israel in response to the assassinations, Pezeshkian visited Qatar, where he held talks with officials to de-escalate tensions in the region, despite the possibility of an Israeli response. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi flew to Beirut amid the crisis in Lebanon and daily Israeli attacks, to launch a series of intensive talks aimed at easing tensions and expressing support for the Lebanese government and people. He then traveled to Syria and later to Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

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Iran, Russia can provide regional gas needs:
Official

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Iran Men's Futsal remain Asia's top-ranked side

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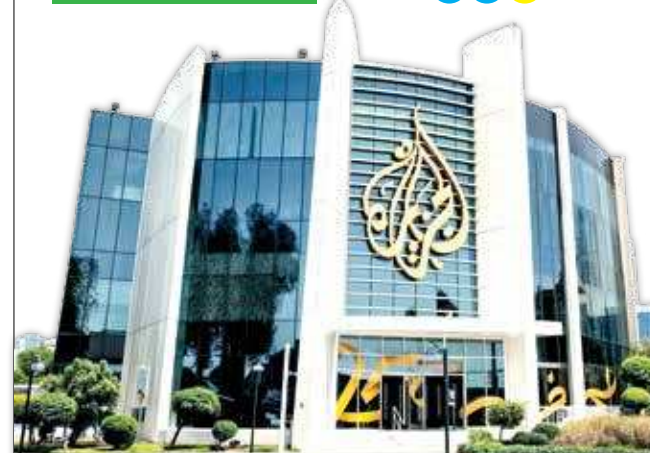
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Egypt could help...

Araghchi's statements had several key points including support for the Resistance Front and readiness to strike back to any new Israeli aggression against Iran as well as efforts to reduce tensions to stop attacks on Lebanon and Gaza and establish a cease-fire.

It is not far-fetched to assume that Araghchi, during his visits to Arab countries, also issued warnings to regional US allies that assisting Israel or the United States in any operation against Iran would come at a great cost. According to reports, the foreign minister is also set to travel to Baghdad today to pursue these objectives.

However, the most significant news is that Araghchi is reportedly planning to visit Egypt soon, where he will meet with the president, foreign minister, and intelligence minister. If realized, this would be the first visit by an Iranian foreign minister to Egypt in years, following a period of strained relations between the two countries. In fact, Araghchi's visit to Egypt is remarkable not only in terms of bilateral relations but also as a starting point for normalizing ties between the two major Muslim countries in the region. It also marks an important destination in Iran's diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions and stop the war. Egypt, along with Qatar and the US, has made efforts to mediate between Hamas and Israel and bring about a cease-fire over the past year. Although these efforts have not yielded the expected results, Cairo maintains relationships with both Hamas and other Muslim and Arab countries, as well as with Israel and the US.

In this regard, Egypt can be seen as the piece that could complete the puzzle of Iran's diplomatic efforts aimed at containing or reducing tensions in the region.

Islamabad eyes more trade with Iran

IRNA - Pakistan's acting president Yousaf Raza Gilani has said that his country is looking for further expansion of trade ties with Tehran. In a meeting in Islamabad with Iran's ambassador to Pakistan on Friday, Gilani appreciated the Iranians' hospitality for Pakistani pilgrims who come to Iran each year to visit the religious sites of the country and called for further expansion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in different trade, security, cultural, and educational areas.

Iran, Russia can meet regional gas needs: *NIGC chief*

Study shows Iran can define itself as bridge between INSTC, TITR



Economy Desk

The CEO of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Saeed Tavakoli said that connecting the Iranian and Russian gas networks is very important in supplying energy to the region, describing Iran's position at the center of the International North-South Corridor (INSTC) as unique. Participating via video-conference in the 13th St. Petersburg International Gas Forum, Tavakoli highlighted Iran's significant role due to its capacity to produce over one billion cubic meters of gas daily, its extensive distribution and export network, and its ability to supply energy to regional countries, Shana reported. He pointed out that Iran is the sole supplier of natural gas to Iraq and a major supplier to Turkey, with plans to expand gas exports and trade with both countries. The deputy minister of Petroleum also emphasized that Russia and Iran, as

the first and second largest holders of gas reserves globally, could play a major role in supplying clean energy through cooperation. According to him, a successful example of such collaboration was the formation of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), which was established through joint efforts of Iran and Russia along with other gas-exporting countries. He also expressed hope that this forum would play a major role in the gas market and maximize the benefits for exporting countries. Tavakoli expressed hope that a previously signed gas agreement between Iran and Russia would yield positive results for both countries and their neighbors, marking the beginning of an effective regional cooperation. Tavakoli stressed Iran's unique position at the center of the North-South energy corridor, noting that this position provides a suitable opportunity to fa-

cilitate gas supply through multilateral agreements, swaps, and transit to other countries, in cooperation with other nations including Russia. The CEO of the NIGC identified the target countries in this corridor as Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, India, and the southern Persian Gulf countries.

Greater synergy

A study by the Iran Chamber of Commerce Research Center has shown that in the long term, not only the North-South Corridor would not conflict with the Middle Corridor, also known as the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR), but also the two will have increasing synergy. Iranian research and policy centers often portray the Middle Corridor as a competing corridor to transit routes through Iran, such as the South Corridor and the North-South Corridor. Iran has also not yet provided a clear definition of its tran-

sition and advantages in proximity to the combined routes of the Middle Corridor. However, this recent study emphasized that Iran's active participation in the Middle Corridor will strengthen the country's international transit advantages, particularly in the east-west route, according to ISNA. This combined corridor connects China and Kazakhstan via rail and sea routes, crosses the Caspian Sea to Azerbaijan and Georgia, and then continues via rail or sea (Black Sea) routes through Turkey to Europe. In its report on "Free and Special Economic Zones of Iran's Northern Strip," the research center highlighted that the Middle Corridor is increasingly influenced by geopolitical dynamics in Central Eurasia and is at the heart of east-west transit-logistics equations. Iran is also a potential partner in the development of the Middle Cor-

ridor. Three geographical areas have been defined as central to the development of the Middle Corridor by bringing in new stakeholders: Free and special economic zones adjacent to the combined routes of the Middle Corridor, adjacent rail networks that intersect at points along the Middle Corridor, and major ports adjacent to the Middle Corridor with port services and sea transit capacity. According to the study, the missing link in connecting the North-South Corridor to the Middle Corridor and creating transit synergy between these routes is Iran. Iran's position along both routes provides a unique opportunity to define Iran as a central part of the connections of both corridors. "Therefore, we need to rethink our position in the Middle Corridor and fundamentally revise the traditional definition of the North-South route as a competing route to the Middle Corridor," the study stated. "Iran can define it-

self as the connecting link and bridge between the two main routes." The report states that the nominal transit capacity of the Middle Corridor is six million tons, while its operational capacity is approximately two million tons per year. Estimates indicate that cargo transport through the Middle Corridor from the Caspian Sea route will exceed 11 million tons by 2030. Despite technical and infrastructural limitations, the war in Ukraine has created a new outlook for the Middle Corridor as an alternative route to diversify transport routes between Asia and Europe, aiming to create geo-economic flexibility and reduce dependence on corridors passing through Russia. Assessments suggest that the Middle Corridor will gradually become the primary transit route between Asia and Europe, replacing the Northern Corridor (which goes through Russia) and the Southern Corridor (which goes through Iran).

Pezeshkian: Tehran finalizing gas, power deals with neighbors



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) talks with his First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (2nd-R) upon returning from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in Tehran on October 11, 2024. [president.ir](https://www.president.ir)

group that will be held in Tehran within the next month." Referring to his meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, the Iranian president said they discussed the agreements signed by the two countries as well as the acceleration of the implementation of projects relating to energy, the railway, desalination systems, and petrochemicals. "It was agreed that our

neighboring countries should form working groups with Iranian officials to increase regional communications," he said. Noting that he also met with the presidents of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, Pezeshkian said, "The working groups of all these countries are scheduled to come to Iran and hold a meeting with [Iranian] officials." He hoped the meetings would yield actions that would "increase our connection with the region". The president said the expansion of cooperation with neighboring countries can resolve many problems and decrease the impact of sanctions imposed on Iran.

Iran's private sector satellites set for Russian launch

Economy Desk

Two Iranian satellites, developed by a private sector company, have been sent to Russia on Friday for launch into orbit. The launch of these satellites, named Kowsar and Hodhod, is considered a major milestone in the history of Iran's space industry as it signifies the first substantial effort by the country's private space sector, Tasnim news agency wrote. The Kowsar satellite is designed for precision agriculture and mapping, while Hodhod is an Internet of Things (IoT) communications satellite, providing services in remote areas with limited access to terrestrial networks. The development of Kowsar, a high-resolution remote sensing satellite, began in 2019. Hodhod, which applies advanced

technologies from Kowsar, was designed and built within a year. Kowsar is a high-resolution imaging satellite aimed at applications such as agriculture, natural resource management, environmental monitoring, and disaster management. The head of the Iranian Space Organization says Tolou-3 and Zafar-2 satellites will be put into space via a foreign launcher by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (ends March 20, 2025). Earlier in September, the head of the Iranian Space Agency Hassan Salarieh announced that at least five satellites would be sent into space by the end of the current Iranian year, Mehr news agency reported. The homegrown Kowsar satellite would blast off this year, Salarieh added, underlining that this satellite was built by the private sector.

Revitalizing Isfahan's handicrafts for a new generation

Iranica Desk

Changes in lifestyle and technology have led to a decline in the relevance of many handicrafts in today's society, raising concerns among artists and art lovers about the uncertain future of these crafts. Handicrafts are symbols of the country's history and culture; however, many traditional crafts face serious threats to their survival due to the rise of machine-made products and social changes.

Isfahan, recognized as the first Iranian city in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and designated as a World Craft City, boasts around 200 handicraft branches, but some of these are at risk of being forgotten and disappearing, IRNA wrote.

The deputy head of Isfahan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization believes that the primary reason for the decline of certain handicraft branches is the lack of use and the disinterest of the younger generation in learning these arts. He noted that many of these crafts no longer have significant applications in the modern world. In times when agriculture and traditional lifestyles prevailed, handicrafts such as saddle-making and saddle-bag-making thrived due to demand; however, today, these arts are gradually becoming obsolete. Noorullah Abdollahi noted that some handicraft arts, such as lock-making, have lost much of their practicality today due to the replacement of manual locks with digital and automatic ones. However, the traditional craft of lock-making has evolved into decorative arts through dedicated effort and training.

He highlighted the revival of crafts like *zari-bafi* (gold lace work) and *makhmal-bafi* (velvet weaving), explaining that these arts flourished during the Safavid era, producing luxurious royal garments made from exquisite textiles. However, with the rise of spinning factories, these crafts fell into obscurity and were on the verge of extinction until revived through the efforts of relevant organizations.

Abdollahi emphasized that the revival of *zari-bafi* has been a key concern for the provincial Cultural Heritage Organization.



Lock-making
● kelidsazitehran.com



Zari-bafi
● yjc.ir



Makhmal-bafi
● destinationiran.com

With its resurgence, this valuable art form has gained a luxurious and decorative quality and has even reached the export stage.

He added that many traditional embroidery arts had also faced extinction but are now being revived, although some have been marginalized due to the introduction of new fabrics.

Abdollahi stated that the most important strategy for preserving handicrafts is to make them practical and economically viable. He noted that the field of

firoozeh-koobi (turquoise-inlaying) has flourished again after several years of effort by the Cultural Heritage Organization, contributing to job creation and attracting individuals interested in learning this craft.

He pointed out that the disinterest of teenagers and young people in learning these arts significantly impacts the survival of handicrafts. He added that, in today's modern world, the new generation has distanced itself from working with and learning handicrafts, even though these

arts can still find a place in contemporary life.

He emphasized that the summer season used to be the best time for learning handicrafts, as students would seek to acquire these skills during their school holidays. However, cultural changes and current lifestyles have led to a decline in such activities and training.

Abdollahi concluded by stating that families play a crucial role in encouraging their children to learn these traditional arts. If these teachings are conducted

under the guidance of experienced masters, a bright future awaits them.

Majeddidin Taj, the head of Isfahan's Handicrafts Union, emphasized the need to enhance the status of handicrafts in people's lives. He stated that Isfahan is recognized as one of the key hubs for handicrafts in Iran and the world. Given the employment opportunities and value-added benefits this sector provides for the country, neglect and a lack of proper analysis could lead to some handicrafts

Firoozeh-koobi
● chikadoo.ir

being forgotten due to economic challenges and inadequate markets.

Taj added that nearly 20 branches of handicrafts in Isfahan are on the verge of being forgotten, and their revival can only be achieved through education. He pointed out that the Handicrafts Union of Isfahan currently has only one educational center, which is insufficient for such an important center for handicrafts in Iran and the city known for its creative handicrafts.

He noted that their request to the Handicrafts Department of Isfahan Province's Cultural Heritage Organization and the Isfahan Municipality is to provide space for the Handicrafts Union so they can collaborate with prominent masters to revive the arts that are fading away.

Ali Danesh Pazhooh is a skilled artisan in the handicraft industry who has been actively reviving the traditional art of locksmithing for over 10 years in the city of Aran and Bidgol. He believes that with innovation, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn, it is possible to breathe new life into defunct artistic disciplines.

He considers the key to the longevity of traditional art in today's modern world to be the hard work of artists and the creation of works that resonate with contemporary tastes.

Danesh Pazhooh asserts that if a student lacks interest, they cannot produce pieces that will be well-received by the public. He emphasizes that by creating unique and innovative works, artists can help revive the craft, as these pieces can endure when showcased in exhibitions for collectors. However, he stresses that training artists and selecting interested and creative apprentices is crucial, and this can be achieved by envisioning a promising economic future for the artistic field.

Danesh Pazhooh is particularly concerned with finding and training creative and passionate apprentices in this art form — individuals who can create works infused with the same love and dedication he possesses, even if those pieces are unique yet enduring.

Majestic Shevi Waterfall in Dezful

Iranica Desk

The Shevi Waterfall is one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Iran and the Middle East, located in a village of the same name in Dezful, Khuzestan Province, not far from Lorestan Province. The waterfall springs from a cave and cascades down a high mountain, creating a unique natural landscape. The area surrounding the waterfall is rich with oak trees, almonds, and various types of plants.

The Shevi Waterfall, also known as Tal-e-Zang Waterfall and Dezful Waterfall, is approximately 90 meters high and about 85 meters wide. It ultimately drains into the Dez River, which



leads to the Dez Dam. Accessing the waterfall is not easy, which is considered an advantage as it helps preserve the natural envi-

ronment around the waterfall. Often referred to as the 'Niagara of Iran', the waterfall is situated about 450 meters above sea



level. Its volume varies with the seasons, reaching its peak flow in spring. The significance of the Shevi

Waterfall is underscored by its registration on January 19, 2015, as the first natural Heritage of Khuzestan Province on

Iran's National Heritage List. Reaching the waterfall is possible via two routes: rail and road. The first route is quite difficult and challenging, while the second route is relatively easier. It is important to note that accessing the waterfall from both routes requires several hours of walking and hiking. This difficulty in access is one of the reasons why the area around the Shevi Waterfall has remained pristine and untouched.

Additionally, this area serves as a habitat for endangered species of salamanders. Nature lovers from all over the country visit this region for recreation in the spring. In the local dialect, the waterfall is known as 'Taf Shevi'.

● pinorest.com



ALJAZEERA

Why Did Israel Shut Down Al Jazeera's Voice?

Israel shut down Al Jazeera's office in Ramallah last month, raising global concerns about press freedom. While Israel claims the network poses a threat to its national security, the move has sparked widespread criticism, especially given Al Jazeera's critical role in covering the Gaza conflict. This infographic breaks down the reasons behind Israel's decision and the broader implications for media coverage in the region.

1 Legal Basis for Shutdown

In April 2024, Israel passed the "Al Jazeera Law," which gives the regime the authority to ban foreign media perceived as a threat to national security. Israeli forces used this law to raid and shut down Al Jazeera's office in Ramallah for 45 days.



2 Violation of International Norms

Ramallah is in Area A of the West Bank, governed by the Palestinian Authority under the Oslo Accords.

Israel's shutdown of Al Jazeera in Ramallah is illegal, even under its own laws, as the area is outside Israel's jurisdiction.

3 Al Jazeera's Role in Region

Founded in 1996, Al Jazeera has become a significant media outlet in the Arab world and internationally.

Its coverage has often been criticized by various countries and political groups for being too aligned with the Qatari government's views.

The network has faced restrictions in the past, notably during the 2017 Qatar sanctions, when Saudi Arabia and Bahrain blamed it for biased reporting.



Al Jazeera Digital wins Edward R. Murrow Awards for Gaza war coverage. It has been honored with four prestigious Edward R. Murrow Awards by the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) of America, recognizing its extensive and in-depth coverage of Israel's ongoing war on the besieged strip.



Gaza tower housing Al Jazeera and AP collapses after an Israeli missile strike on Gaza city on May 15, 2021.

● MOHAMMED SALEM/REUTERS





← Palestinian journalist Bisan Owda who works for Al Jazeera won a Peabody Award, one of the highest honors in journalism, for coverage of the devastating impact Israel's war on the Gaza Strip in May 2024.



← In this undated photo, Anas al-Sharif reports from Gaza for Al-Jazeera. The news network has condemned the Israeli incitement against its correspondent al-Sharif and staff in Gaza.

4

Al Jazeera's Coverage in Palestine

Al Jazeera has long been accused by Israel of supporting Hamas, particularly since the group's rise to power in Gaza in 2007. During the Gaza war in 2023, Al Jazeera's reporters were among the few providing live coverage, making it a key source of information on the conflict.



↑ Israeli forces raided Al Jazeera Media Network's office in Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank in the early hours of Sept. 22, 2024, and ordered its immediate closure. The action followed a decision by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet in May 2024 to shut down Al Jazeera's operations within the occupied territories.

5

Israel's Justification for Shutdown

The Israeli regime claims Al Jazeera's content incites violence and endangers national security and public order. However, since the start of the Gaza war, Israel has targeted numerous journalists and media outlets presenting narratives that contradict its own.

6

Broader Strategy of Censorship

The closure is part of Israel's larger effort to control public opinion and suppress information about its actions in Gaza. The shutdown follows a pattern, including bombing Al Jazeera's Gaza office in 2021 and the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in 2022.

7

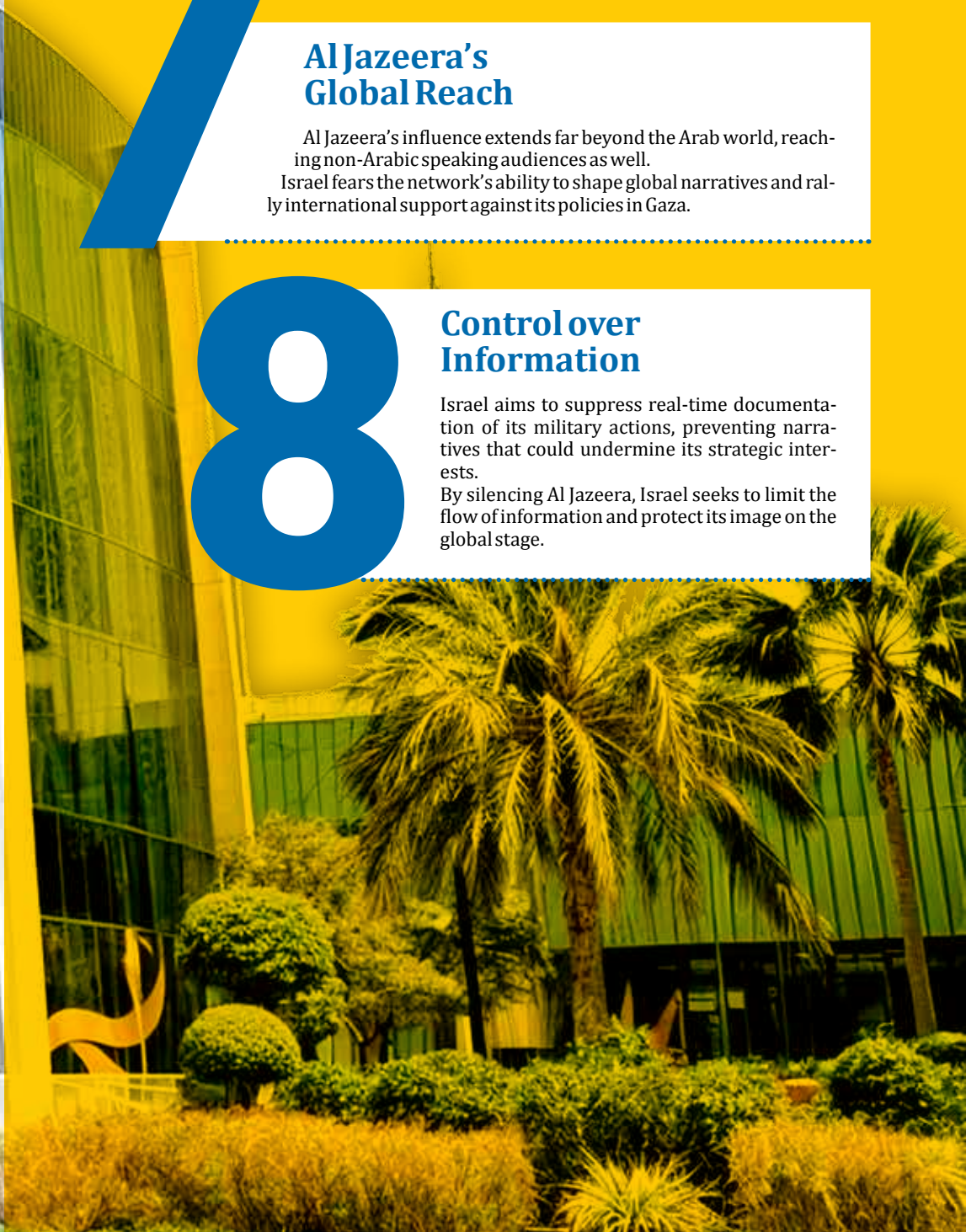
Al Jazeera's Global Reach

Al Jazeera's influence extends far beyond the Arab world, reaching non-Arabic speaking audiences as well. Israel fears the network's ability to shape global narratives and rally international support against its policies in Gaza.

8

Control over Information

Israel aims to suppress real-time documentation of its military actions, preventing narratives that could undermine its strategic interests. By silencing Al Jazeera, Israel seeks to limit the flow of information and protect its image on the global stage.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Romanian coach
Reghecampf
linked with
Esteghlal

● TASNIM

Romanian coach Laurentiu Aureliu Reghecampf has been linked with a move to Iran's Esteghlal football club.

He began his coaching career in the Romanian club Snagov in 2009, wrote Tasnim News Agency

The 49-year-old coach has also led Emirati clubs Al Wahda and Al Wasl.

Reghecampf has coached Romanian giant Steaua București and Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal.

He has most recently worked as head coach in Al-Tai in the Saudi First Division League.

Esteghlal has been without a head coach since parting ways with Javad Nekounam two weeks ago.

Saudi players
cannot live
in the past,
warns coach
Mancini

● REUTERS

Saudi Arabia coach Roberto Mancini warned his players not to rest on their previous achievements as he seeks to reinvigorate his team's challenge for an automatic berth at the 2026 World Cup, Reuters reported on Saturday.

Mancini saw his side slip to a 2-0 loss in Jeddah on Thursday against a Japan side that has dominated Asia's third round of preliminaries to leave the Saudis playing catch-up in the race for World Cup qualification. Saudi Arabia are looking to book a spot at a third consecutive World Cup – and seventh in total – with Mancini telling his players they cannot rely on historic performances to confirm their passage to North America in two years' time. "We don't live in the past, the important thing is to qualify regardless of the ranking," said Mancini, who took over as the long-term replacement for Herve Renard in August 2023.

"Three years ago the situation was different. Maybe the players were playing more or were younger. We have to deal with the current situation."

Iran Men's Futsal remain
Asia's top-ranked side

Iran remained as Asia's top-ranked team despite falling two spots to sixth in the latest FIFA Men's Futsal World Ranking.

Iran stumbled in the Round of 16 of the FIFA Futsal World Cup Uzbekistan 2024, losing 4-3 to Morocco, the AFC reported.

Thailand - who also exited at the same stage after going 5-2 down to France - dropped two rungs to 11th.

Japan, meanwhile, are the third highest Asian side, moving up two spots to 13th.

Uzbekistan, who failed to make it out of the group stage of the World Cup, dropped 10 spots to 21, while Indonesia, ranked 28th, rounded out the top five.

Brazil increased rankings lead after FIFA Futsal World Cup triumph – as five teams enter women's list.

Recently crowned world champion Brazil (1st, unchanged) has held on to the top spot and extended its lead over Portugal (2nd, unchanged), whose defense of its FIFA Futsal World Cup title came to a halt in the round of 16.

Three teams have made significant progress in the top ten – runner-up Argentina (3rd, up 2), quarter-finalists Kazakhstan



● AFC

(5th, up 3) and bronze medalist Ukraine (9th, up 3), the latter leapfrogging France (10th, unchanged) after overcoming Les Bleus in the match for third

place. In the women's rankings, Thailand are Asia's best ranked team, occupying sixth ahead of Iran, who dropped one position

to ninth, while Japan is a spot behind.

Vietnam improved to 11th, followed by Uzbekistan who moved up six spots to 18th to

complete the top five women's sides in Asia.

Saudi Arabia also made huge strides, improving five spots to 46th.

Iran's quadruple sculls claim silver in Asian games



● TASNIM

Iran's Kimia Zareei, Fatemeh Mojallal, Mahsa Javar and Zeinab Norouzi won a silver medal in the 2024 Asian Rowing Championships on Saturday.

The Iranian team came second with a time of 06:56.550 in the quadruple sculls. China won the title with 06:47.285 and bronze medal went to Vietnam with 07:07.390.

The competition is being held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from October 10 to 14.

Iranian athlete Norouzi won a gold medal in women's lightweight single sculls at the Asian Rowing Championships in the games.

By overcoming her rivals from Kazakhstan, Hong Kong, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Thailand, Norouzi finished first in the Asian competitions after

setting the time 08:02:72. Uzbekistan and Hong Kong stood second and third, IRNA wrote.

Meanwhile, Fatemeh Mojallal, another member of the Iranian rowing team, finished second in women's heavyweight single sculls.

Mojallal won over her rivals from Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan, Hong Kong and Japan, but she could not pass the powerful representative of China.

Mojallal finished at 07:50:70 and received the silver medal, and Uzbekistan stood in third place.

Also, the Iranian women's team finished second in the quadruple sculls and won silver in Asia. The Iranian team with five athletes has attended the Asian Rowing Championships underway in the Uzbek city as of October 10 for five days.

Noshad Alamiyan qualifies for
2025 ITTF World Table Tennis Championships

Iranian professional athlete Noshad Alamiyan has booked his place at the 2025 ITTF World Table Tennis Championships, which will be held in Doha, Qatar.

Alamiyan defeated his Chinese rival, Liang Jingkun, world No. 5, on Saturday at the 2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships, IRNA reported.

With a 3-0 victory, the Iranian table tennis player advanced to the round of sixteen at the Asian event and sealed a spot at the 2025 ITTF World Table Tennis Championships.

In a related development, Benjamin Faraji was defeated by his Chinese opponent Lin Shidong 3-2.

Noshad Alamiyan qualifies for 2025 ITTF World Table Tennis Championships

Earlier, Iran's 14-year-old had defeated world No. 1 Wang Chuqin in the 2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships.

The 27th ITTF-Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024 has officially begun on October 6 in Astana, Kazakhstan, kicking off two exciting weeks of continental championships.

This event marks the first of five continental competitions, where the finest players from across Asia to compete in the Men's Team, Women's Team, Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles events.

These competitions also serve as a qualification path for the ITTF World Table Tennis Championships Doha 2025.

The Asian Championships herald the start of a thrilling fortnight in the table tennis calendar. The spotlight will then move to San Salvador, where the ITTF Pan American Championships will take place from October 13 to 20, 2024. Simultaneously, the ITTF African Championships will be hosted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 to 19 October. As the excitement builds, Oceania and Europe will join the global table tennis scene on October 15, with both regions kickstarting their respective Continental Championships.



● IRNA

The Oceania event, happening in Auckland, New Zealand, will run until 18 October, while the

European Championships held in Linz, Austria, will conclude on October 20.

Macron: Arms embargo on Israel 'only way' to end war on Gaza, Lebanon

International Desk

French President Emmanuel Macron reiterated his call for an arms embargo on Israel, saying that "stopping the export of weapons" used in the besieged Gaza Strip and Lebanon was the only way to end the occupying regime's fighting there.

"This is in no way a call to disarm Israel... but a call to stop any destabilization in this part of the world," Macron said at a summit of European and Mediterranean leaders in Cyprus.

"We have reiterated the need for a ceasefire, and this ceasefire is essential both in Gaza and in Lebanon. It is necessary now both for our hostages and the civilian population who are victims of the violence, and to avoid regional contamination," he added.

"This is why France has called for an end to the export of weapons used in these theatres of war (...). We all know that this is the only way to put an end to

it."

The French president also underlined that Israel was "deliberately" targeting UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon.

Macron said it was "absolutely unacceptable" that UN peacekeepers in Lebanon are "deliberately targeted" by Israeli forces.

Last Saturday, the French president had already said shipments of arms used in the war on Gaza should be stopped as part of a broader effort to find a political solution to the year-long Israeli aggression on the besieged territory.

France, as one of the weapons providers for Israel, shipped military equipment worth 30 million euros (\$33 million) last year, according to the French Defense Ministry's annual arms exports report.

Israeli sites targeted

Resistance groups struck Israeli military positions in the occupied territories in retaliation for the Tel Aviv regime's ongoing military

onslaught against Gaza and devastating strikes on Lebanon, Press TV reported.

Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah said it launched a rocket barrage at a gathering of Israeli soldiers at the al-Jardah site on Saturday, emphasizing that the operation was conducted "in support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and their valiant and honorable resistance, and in defense of Lebanon and its people."

The Lebanese resistance group also claimed responsibility for a missile strike on the Soma base in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, in retaliation for the barbaric Israeli strikes on towns and villages in southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah fighters also launched a salvo of missiles at Israeli troops stationed at the Zarit barracks and struck an Israeli military position at Mi'ilya in the western Galilee region.

Moreover, Lebanese resistance fighters shelled



The photo shows Israeli targeting of residential areas in central Khan Yunis in southern Gaza Strip on January 19, 2024.

AFP



an Israeli infantry unit in the Khirbet Zarit outpost, confirming a direct hit, before shelling the 7200 base south of Haifa and pounding a factory in the area with a barrage of advanced rockets.

Separately, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq said in a statement that it had conducted new operations against Israeli military sites in the occupied territories, using kamikaze drones in response to ongoing Israeli military onslaught against Gaza and devastating strikes on Lebanon.

The umbrella group of anti-terror fighters made the declaration in a statement on Saturday, stating they had hit a vital target in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

The resistance alliance also

reported a second drone strike on a key target located in the same Israeli-occupied region.

Gaza vs. Hiroshima

Meanwhile, the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize warned that conflicts raging around the world, including in Gaza, are heightening the possibility of a nuclear war, renewing calls for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Susumu Ogawa, 84, was

five when the bomb all but obliterated Hiroshima 79 years ago, and many of his family members were among the tens of thousands killed.

"My mother, my aunt, my grandfather, and my grandmother all died," Ogawa told the AFP news agency.

"All nuclear weapons in the world have to be abandoned," Ogawa said. "We know the horror of nuclear weapons, because we know what happened in

Hiroshima." Toshiyuki Mimaki, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing, said after a Japanese rally in support of Palestinians in Gaza that the situation for children in the besieged Palestinian territory is similar to that of Japan at the end of World War II.

"In Gaza, bleeding children are being held [by their parents]. It's like in Japan 80 years ago," Mimaki told a news conference in Tokyo.

Speaker reaffirms Iran's support on visit to Beirut



Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf speaks to reporters at Beirut's southern neighborhood of Basta on October 12, 2024.

IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf

traveled to Beirut on Saturday to express the Islamic Republic's support for the Lebanese nation

and government as well as its resistance movement Hezbollah amid Israel's escalated aggression on the Arab country.

Qalibaf, at the head of a delegation, arrived at Beirut's international airport following an invitation

by his Lebanese counterpart, Nabih Berri, and was warmly welcomed by the country's officials.

He told reporters upon arrival that he came to Beirut to convey a message from Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as well as Iranian officials saying, "As always, we stand in solidarity with the Lebanese people, government, and resistance."

He stressed that he would later in the day leave Leb-

anon for Geneva, Switzerland, where he is scheduled to attend the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) taking place on October 13-17.

At the IPU meeting, Qalibaf said he would "deliver the message of the innocence of the people of Gaza and Lebanon, elaborate on our duties in the international arena in supporting the oppressed, and support the innocence of the people of Lebanon and Palestine."

Qalibaf also met with Berri and Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati before paying a visit to Basta neighborhood of Beirut, where a number of residential buildings had been destroyed in Israeli airstrikes 48 hours earlier.

"Undoubtedly, all Muslim countries must condemn these crimes by the Zionist regime," he told reporters at Basta.

"In this situation, there is no doubt that the Islamic Republic of Iran always supports the people of Palestine and Lebanon and this support continues," he added. "We also consider taking care of the oppressed and displaced people of this region as one of our duties."

Lebanon has been attacked 9,588 times by the Israeli occupation army since October last year, resulting in 2,229 deaths and 10,380 injuries in Lebanon alone, according to statistics released by the Lebanese government on Friday.

'Undeniable war crime': Envoy slams Israeli bombing of hospital in Syria

International Desk

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations condemned the Israeli strike attack on a medical facility near the Syria-Lebanon border, describing it as a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and an undeniable war crime, Press TV reported.

"This heinous attack on humanitarian aid is a flagrant violation of international law and an egregious attack on life-saving relief efforts," Amir Saeid Iravani said in letters to UN Security Council president Pascale Baeriswyl and UN chief António Guterres.

"The humanitarian facility was established by the Iranian Red Crescent solely to provide critical assistance to displaced Lebanese civilians and victims of the Israeli regime's relentless and barbaric aggression, offering a vital lifeline to those suffering in the face of such atrocities," he added.

He emphasized that the Red Crescent Society of the Is-

lamic Republic of Iran had formally informed the International Committee of the Red Cross of its intention to establish the humanitarian aid center.

Iravani said the Iranian humanitarian aid depot included 200 hospital beds, a fully equipped field hospital with 56 beds and advanced medical equipment, oxygen production units, critical medical items, two mobile bakery machines, food and drinking water, 5,000 food packages, and other vital shelter materials.

"Yet, despite its clear humanitarian purpose, the facility and its supplies were completely destroyed in this savage and terrorist attack," he said.

"The deliberate targeting of humanitarian and medical facilities by the Israeli regime is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and constitutes an undeniable war crime. Under international law, any attack on civilian infrastructure, particularly humanitarian and medical facilities, equip-

ment, and hospitals, is unequivocally prohibited."

Iravani called on the Security Council to condemn the heinous crime in the strongest possible terms, and to take immediate and decisive action to prevent further violations by the Zionist regime.

"In light of the ongoing genocidal war and relentless aggression by the Israeli occupying regime against the people of Palestine and Lebanon, the Security Council must fulfill its duty to protect civilians, humanitarian aid workers, and medical facilities. International law must be upheld, and these egregious crimes cannot go unanswered. In this regard, the Security Council must act to ensure accountability and prevent further atrocities," he said.

Israeli strike on hospital 'a war crime'

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi also condemned Israel's attack on the charity hospital on the Syria-Lebanon border,

calling it "a war crime."

"It is also considered a violation of the principles and rules of international humanitarian law contained in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the customary international humanitarian rules, which absolutely prohibit any attack on civilian places and centers, especially medical centers and hospitals," Gharibabadi stated. Since Israel's offensive began on October 7 last year, the Israeli military has frequently targeted Gaza's healthcare and education sectors. Several hospitals, schools, colleges, and universities have been bombed, with hundreds of educational institutions, including 65 run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), either destroyed or damaged. Despite calls from the UN Security Council for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the Israeli regime is pressing ahead with its genocidal war, aiming for the complete eradication of the Palestinians trapped in the besieged territory.

Top court overturns death sentence for activist

Iran's highest court overturned the death sentence of a woman labour rights activist who was accused of links to an anti-Iran Kurdish terrorist group, local media reported Saturday.

"The Supreme Court...

has overturned the verdict against my client, Ms. Sharifeh Mohammadi," her lawyer Amir Raisian was quoted as saying by the Shargh daily. He added that the case was referred for a re-trial.

Mohammadi, 45, was sentenced to death in early July following her arrest in the northern city of Rasht over accusations of being a member of the Komala party, according to rights groups.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Pezeshkian: Universities should elevate Iran to sci-tech excellence

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the crucial role of universities in driving the country's development and innovation during a ceremony marking the start of the new academic year at the University of Tehran on Saturday. Pezeshkian stressed that universities have a key mission to elevate the country to the pinnacle of science, technology, arts, and innovation, president.ir reported. He encouraged academics and students to strive for excellence, saying that Iran should aim to become the top country in the region. "We must find the best way to solve problems," Pezeshkian said, emphasizing the need for a scientific approach to addressing challenges. "We should not oppose correct ideas, regardless of who

presents them. Standing against correct ideas is injustice." The president also highlighted the importance of universities in driving economic growth and improving people's lives. He encouraged students to take on projects that can help solve the country's problems, such as those related to agriculture, industry, and healthcare. Pezeshkian suggested that universities should focus on practical applications of knowledge, rather than just theoretical learning. "Instead of just sitting in class, go and take on projects, solve problems," he told students. "We need professors who can teach us how to manage systems, how to solve problems." The president also emphasized the need for universities to be financially independent and to generate their own revenue. "Universities should not rely



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses students at the University of Tehran during a ceremony marking the beginning of the new academic year in Tehran, Iran on October 12, 2024. president.ir

on government funding," he said. "They should be able to generate their own income." Pezeshkian also expressed his concern about the "brain drain" of talented academics and students leaving the country. "We need to support our professors and talented individuals who are working hard for the country," he said. "If we can support them, they will stay and work for the country." The ceremony was attended by the ministers of science and health, as well as university officials and students.



Tehran Auction breaks records with \$1.9m in sales

Arts & Culture Desk

The 21st edition of the Tehran Auction, a showcase for contemporary Iranian art, has wrapped up with a total sale of \$1.9 million, more than double the sales of the previous online auction in November/December 2023.

According to reports, the online auction, held on October 11, saw 132 out of 140 artworks sell for a combined total of \$1.9 million. The organizers of the Tehran Auction reported that the sales were a significant increase from the previous online auction, which brought in \$983,000, ISNA reported.

This edition of the auction introduced 36 new artists to the Iranian art market, alongside works by renowned artists such as Monir Farmanfarman, Aydin Aghdashloo, Mansour Ghandriz, Masoud Arabshahi, Farideh Lashai, Parviz Kalantari, Parviz Tanavoli, Jazeh Tabatabaie, and Reza Derakhshani.

The auction saw 51 artworks sell for above their estimated price, while 81 sold within the estimated range. A



total of 140 artworks, including 115 paintings, 17 sculptures, and 8 photographs, were on display for three days, with buyers able to purchase online during this period. The top-selling artworks were a piece by Monir Farmanfarman, which fetched \$187,032, followed by a work by Aydin Aghdashloo, titled 'Summer, Winter', which sold for \$180,323, and a painting by Reza Derakhshani, titled 'Counting Days and Nights, Every Day and Every Night', which brought in \$162,903.

Other notable sales included works by Parviz Tanavoli and Farideh Lashai, which sold for \$112,258 and \$80,968, respectively. In total, 25 artworks sold for over \$16,129, 18 sold for between \$8,065 and \$16,129, 74 sold for between \$1,613 and \$8,065, and 15 sold for under \$1,613. Eight artworks by artists including Farideh Lashai, Hossein Mohjoubi, Javad Nobahar, Sadeq Tirafkan, Mostafa Dashti, Reza Bakhshi, Ahmad Rafie, and Anahita Ghasemkhani did not find buyers.

Iranology, Persian language room opens at Kyrgyz Nat'l University

A room dedicated to Iranology and Persian language was inaugurated at the Kyrgyz National University on Friday, coinciding with the commemoration of the Persian poet Hafez.

The room named after the Persian poet Yusuf Balasaguni, was established in collaboration with the Institute of History and Regional Studies at the university and the Saadi Foundation, Mehr News Agency wrote.

Abuzar Toghani, Iran's Cultural Attaché in Kyrgyzstan, expressed his delight at the opening of the room, saying that understanding a nation's culture requires knowledge of its language. "To know a nation, you need to know its culture, and to know its culture, you need to know its language," he said.

Toghani emphasized the importance of strengthening cultural ties between Iran and Kyrgyzstan, citing the two nations' centuries-long shared history and cultural heritage. "Unfortunately, our knowledge of each other has decreased over time. Our current task is to develop and strengthen cultural relations to bring our nations closer together," he added.

The room's renovation and equipment were made possible through the sup-

port of the Saadi Foundation and the Institute of History and Regional Studies.

Malahat Mamedova, a veteran professor of Persian language and director of the Iranian Studies Center, will teach Persian language classes, while Iranian professor Zoleikha Saghafi, who teaches at the Bishkek State University, will also join the faculty soon.

The room, which was renovated and equipped with the support of the Saadi Foundation, will offer Persian language classes and Iran studies programs.



BRICS countries endorse Iran's proposal to shift focus to children in fight against NCDs

Social Desk

Iran's Deputy Health Minister, Alireza Raisi, said Friday that member countries of the BRICS bloc have welcomed his country's proposal to shift focus from adults to children in combating non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Raisi, who attended the 14th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Health in Moscow, said that Iran pro-

posed changing the approach to NCDs, which are currently focused on adults, to include children, IRNA wrote.

He noted that the changing lifestyle worldwide, including obesity, physical inactivity, and air pollution, has put children's health at greater risk.

Raisi said that the proposal was well-received by BRICS member countries, particularly Russia, India, and China, as well as the World Health Organization (WHO). He added that Iran will present

a detailed proposal at the next BRICS meeting in Brazil to discuss the issue further.

During his visit to Russia, Raisi also signed a memorandum of understanding on scientific cooperation in the fields of prevention, treatment, and medicine.

He said that Iran has experience in combating tuberculosis, which is a major concern in Russia, and can share its expertise.

Raisi also visited a Russian health center and was impressed by the successful use of artificial intel-

ligence, which he said could be replicated in Iran given the country's good infrastructure.

He emphasized the importance of BRICS cooperation in countering sanctions, noting that the bloc represents 40% of the world's population.

Raisi also highlighted the potential for Iranian companies to invest in Russia's pharmaceutical and medical equipment sectors. The 14th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Health was held in Moscow on October 7 and 11.

