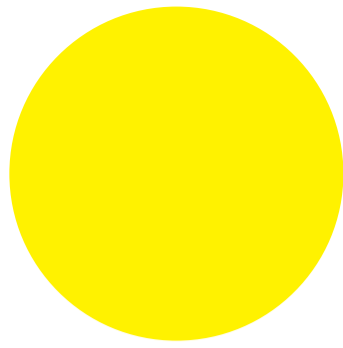


Pezeshtkian urges Muslims to 'act as one' against Israel

7 >



Iran Daily

Vol. 7674 • Thursday, October 17, 2024 • Mehr 26, 1403 • Rabi' al-Thani 13, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



irandaily.ir

newspaper.irandaily.ir

IranDailyWeb

Jordan says will not allow anyone to 'violate' own airspace

7 >

Iran to Israel: 'Don't Play with Lion's Tail'

7 >

Iran's diplomacy:

A call to end the war

4-5 >



SPECIAL ISSUE EXCLUSIVE



Iran invites Spanish experts to launch high-speed trains

2 >



Word Cup Asian qualifiers: Sweet revenge as ruthless Iran puts Qatar to the sword

6 >

A turning point in Iran-Jordan ties



By Reza Sadr al-Hosseini
Mideast affairs expert

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Jordan as part of his regional tour, holding talks with his Jordanian counterpart on pressing issues in West Asia, particularly the Gaza and Lebanon conflicts. Araghchi has emphasized deepening ties with neighboring countries and Muslim states in the region as a top priority, and Jordan is a key player in this regard. Although the Iranian foreign minister's visit to Jordan comes after a 10-year hiatus, it was Jordan that made the first move to cultivate relations. A few months ago, Jordan's foreign minister attended the memorial ceremony for Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi, signaling a willingness to expand ties with the Islamic Republic. The Iranian government is not indifferent to Jordan's relations with Israel, but shared goals and concerns have brought the two countries closer together. Araghchi's visit to Jordan coincides with a common threat posed by the Israeli regime and its war crimes in Gaza and Lebanon, which have raised concerns throughout the region. The Iranian foreign minister has already stated that his regional tour aims to consult on preventing the spread of war and establishing a cease-fire. He likely discussed these issues with Jordanian officials as well.

Page 7 >



Iran's government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani fields questions of reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting in Tehran on October 16, 2024.

IRNA

Gov't floats doubling tax exemption for next year



Economy Desk

The Iranian government has proposed doubling tax exemption under next Iranian year (to start March 21, 2025) budget bill, as announced by Fatemeh Mohajerani, the government spokeswoman. Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, she put the current figure for tax exemption ceiling at 120 million rials (\$200) per month which according the draft of the budget bill for next year will rise to 240 million rials (\$400), IRNA reported.

The draft of budget bill will be finalized soon by the government for submission to the Parliament, Mohajerani noted.

She went on to say that the details of the budget bill will be announced by the head of the Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) in a press conference or through a televised program.

"In the budget drafted by the government, it is emphasized that special attention should be given to livelihood, health and education, which are the basic needs of all Iranians," the spokeswoman stated.

Iran completes gas turbine project in Syria

Economy Desk

The Iran Power Plant Repairs Company (IPRC) has completed the project of repair and maintenance services of Jandar Gas power plant in the western Syrian province of Homs.

IPRC CEO Masoud Moradi told IRNA on Wednesday that Iran raked in €2.1 million through implementing the project in Syria thanks to its potentials in techno-engineering services.

The Jandar power plant can run on dual-fuel as the primary source being used to power the plant is natural gas. In case of shortage of natural gas, the plant will run on oil, he explained.

The gas-fired project consists of two steam turbines, each with 115MW nameplate capacity.

Japan's Mitsubishi Power is the turbine supplier for the gas fired project, Moradi said, adding that Iran had signed a contract with the Syrian side on repair and maintenance services of the power plant.

The company has plans to broaden his market overseas as it enjoys robust infrastructure and apt experts, the official noted.

Industry minister attends SCO summit in Islamabad

Economy Desk

The 23rd summit of the heads of the government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries was held in the Pakistani capital, with Iran's attendance.

Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak leads the Iranian delegation to the SCO summit, IRNA reported.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressed the opening ceremony of the summit where the representatives of the member states were present.

Upon his arrival in Islamabad on Tuesday evening, Atabak was welcomed by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The participating countries in the 23rd SCO meeting signed a joint document after the summit.

The Iranian trade minister also held a meeting with the host country's commerce minister on the sidelines of the summit.

Speaking at the summit, Atabak said that holding

such meetings is of paramount importance as the international system is now facing some challenges including the preservation of peace, stability and security.

The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran focuses on the preservation of regional security and the fight against Takfiri terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and organized crimes, the minister said.

According to a joint communique of the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the SCO, the heads of delegations noted the intention of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to join the work of the SCO Interbank Association.

They also welcomed the establishment of the SCO Investors Association and instructed the authorized bodies of the SCO member states to take measures to establish the practical work of this cooperation mechanism.

Heads of delegations noted the results of the meeting of the Special Working Group on Investment Promotion of the SCO Member



States (Tehran, February 20-22, 2024), co-chaired by the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the proposal to develop a set of measures to stimulate mutual investments.

They expressed confidence that the activities of these

mechanisms will give a new impetus to cooperation within the SCO in the investment sphere.

Moreover, the Republic of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the

Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan while reaffirming support for the People's Republic of China's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative, noted ongoing work on joint implementation of the project, including efforts to bridge



Heads of international delegates attend the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Islamabad, Pakistan on October 16, 2024.

● AFP

the Eurasian Economic Union and the OBOR.

Gasoline deficit narrows to 1m liters per day



Economy Desk

With the increase in refinery production since September 22, 125 million liters of gasoline have been produced in Iran every day as 126 million liters of gasoline were distributed across the country, as announced by the managing director of the National

Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC). Keramat Veys-Karami also said that the NIOPDC transports 260 million liters of petroleum products on a daily base, Tasnim News Agency reported. "A total of 9.7 billion liters of liquid fuel have been delivered to the country's power plants during March

20 to October 13, which indicates a growth of 38% compared to the corresponding figure of last year," the official stated. He went on to say that our estimate is to deliver another 10 billion liters of liquid fuel to the country's power stations by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2025).

Veys-Karami said 70% of Iran's gasoline is produced in the south of the country, while about 75% of consumption is in the northern part of the country, which imposes a heavy and intensive volume of operations on his company.

Iran invites Spanish experts to launch high-speed trains

Economy Desk

The executive board of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, in a meeting with the ambassador of Spain in Tehran on Wednesday, invited technical experts of the country to Iran to share experience on launching high-speed trains.

Speaking in a meeting with Spanish Envoy to Tehran Antonio Sánchez-Benedito, Jabbarali Zakeri expressed hopes to extend collaboration with the European country, IRNA reported.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran Railways has



had a good relationship with European countries over the years, and now we are ready to expand our cooperation with Spain in the field of railways, considering the scientific and industrial relations between Iran and the European Union," he said.

The two sides can co-

operate on railroad car production as Spain rail industry enjoys enormous capacity of passenger car production, Zakeri noted.

He went on to say that we welcome and support the cooperation between Spanish companies and Iran's private sector, which operates passenger cars.

Iran eyes annual trade jump of \$20b with Indonesia



Iran expects its annual trade with Indonesia to increase significantly with the implementation of a Preferential Trade Agree-

ment (PTA) that was finalized last week.

Yadollah Tahernejad, who leads a joint Iranian-Indonesian trade committee in

Tehran, said the PTA that came into force on October 13 would lead to a major jump in trade between the two countries, Press TV wrote.

Tahernejad said Iran's administrative bodies are waiting for an official announcement of the country's Ministry of Trade to start implementing the agreement.

He added that the implementation of the PTA with Indonesia would allow Iran to significant-

ly increase its exports of steel, petrochemicals and asphalt to Indonesia by reducing tariffs on export shipments.

"Indonesia has a population of 290 million people and a \$20-billion trade target is well within our reach," stated the former Iranian parliament lawmaker.

Iran and Indonesia finalized their discussions on a PTA during former Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Jakarta in May last

year. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian officially approved the agreement after it was endorsed by the Iranian Parliament last week, paving the way for its implementation by the country's customs office. Tahernejad said trade with Indonesia has many advantages for Iranian businesses compared to exchanges with other countries, adding that good political relations and cultural and religious

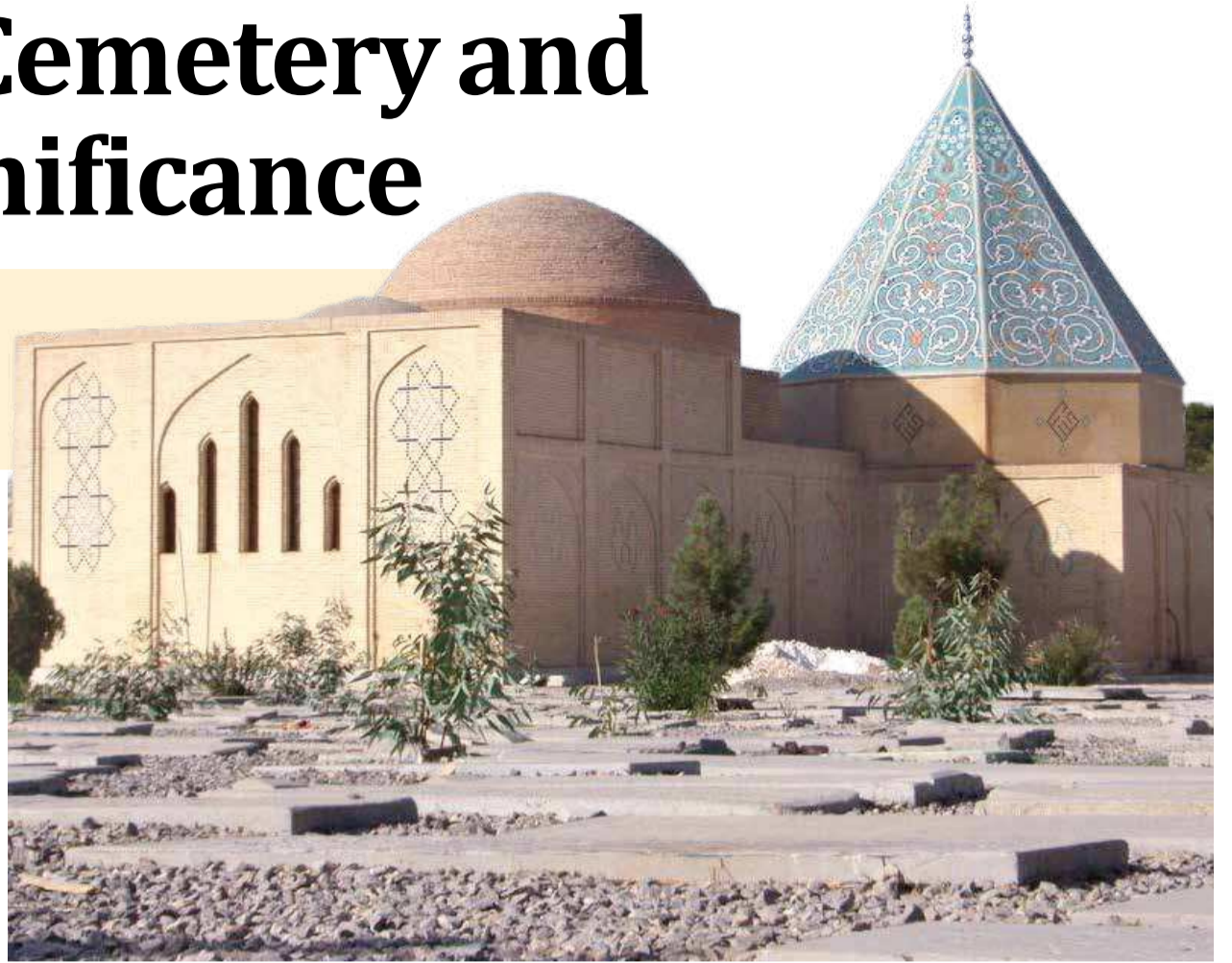
commonalities that the countries share make trade between them more attractive.

He noted that Iranian authorities are working to streamline banking operations and to improve transportation arrangements to facilitate trade between Iran and Indonesia, adding that a direct flight route between Tehran and Jakarta are also on the agenda to further help Iranian businesses with their activities in the East Asian country.

Takht-e Foulad Cemetery and its historical significance

Iranica Desk

Isfahan is a renowned city celebrated for its valuable historical sites, the flowing Zayandeh River, and unique handicrafts. It has consistently been recognized as one of the most important tourist destinations in Iran. Among its many attractions, the Takht-e-Foulad Cemetery may be an unfamiliar name to many visitors.



pinorest.com

Takht-e Foulad is also known as Lisan al-Arz and Baba Rokn al-Din Cemetery. The exact date of its establishment is not well-documented; however, based on existing relics, it appears that its origins may trace back to the pre-Islamic era. Covering an area of approximately 75 hectares, this cemetery is located on the southern edge of the Zayandehrud River. Due to its vastness, the multitude of notable figures buried there, and the presence of valuable historical structures, Takht-e-Foulad, listed on Iran's National Heritage List, is considered one of the most significant historical and cultural sites in Iran, IRNA wrote.

Within each section of the cemetery, the tomb of one or several renowned figures is located, and that section is referred to as a *tekiyeh* and named after the individual interred there. According to Chardin, during the Daylamite period, a military commander named Polad Bazou constructed a small palace in this area and built a stone platform for observing wrestling competitions. Historians trace the history of this cem-

etery back to the pre-Islamic era. Due to the limited number of gravestones dating from the 5th to the 7th centuries AH (11th to 13th century CE), further information from this period remains scarce.

Several written works and sources from the era of the Seljuk rulers reference Takht-e Foulad and its magnificent structures. Between the 7th and 10th centuries AH (11th to 14th century CE), Takht-e Foulad Cemetery emerged as an important site for worship and ascetic practices for esteemed mystics and scholars, such as Baba Rokn al-Din and Baba Foulad, who established their own places of worship within the cemetery. Baba Rokn al-Din is notably one of the pious scholars interred at this site.

Before the Safavid period, the area served as a gathering spot for dervishes and included a *khanqah* (Sufi lodge) known as the tomb of Baba Rokn al-Din. During the Safavid era, a caravanserai was constructed adjacent to the cemetery, serving as the final resting place for caravans arriving from

the south of Isfahan. Remnants of this caravanserai still exist today. The cemetery was regarded as a private burial ground reserved for the dignitaries of the country during the Safavid period. From the late Safavid period, particularly during the reign of Shah Sultan Hussein, the destruction of the tekiyehs at Takht-e-Foulad Cemetery began. Following this period, the cemetery transitioned into a public burial ground for the city. Despite the attention given to it by Fat'hali Shah during the Qajar era, the site continued to suffer from neglect and destruction.

In the Pahlavi era, most of the existing tombs in Takht-e Foulad were converted into private graves. In 1984, burials were halted in this cemetery, except for those of martyrs from the Iran-Iraq War, with all future interments subsequently moved to a new cemetery called Bagh Rezvan.

Very few architectural elements associated with Takht-e Foulad, such as mosques, caravanserais, and water reservoirs, have survived. There were two prayer halls in the southwestern

part of Takht-e Foulad, dating back to the Safavid era. One of these was restored in 1921 CE at the command of Hajj Mohammad Taghi Naqshineh; however, both prayer halls were demolished in recent years to make way for a new large mosque in Isfahan. Besides the Rukn al-Mulk Mosque, other mosques also existed in this cemetery but have all been destroyed in recent decades.

Takht-e Foulad is a treasure trove of various artistic works, including architecture, plasterwork, tilework, calligraphy, stone carving, poetry, painting, and design from different periods in Isfahan.

A tekiyeh refers to a place established for mourning ceremonies and commemorations for religious scholars and dignitaries, as well as their burial sites. The settlement, worship, and ascetic practices of the dervishes also fall under another definition of tekiyeh, where they were buried after their passing. According to historians, the construction of tekiyehs with the function of khanqahs began in the 14

century CE in Isfahan. These served not only as burial sites for mystics, religious scholars, and jurists of Isfahan but also as living spaces for followers of Sufism and impoverished dervishes. The presence of multiple chambers surrounding the courtyard of the Tekiyeh supports this claim.

Several notable architectural features of the tekiyehs in Takht-e Foulad, Isfahan, can be summarized as follows:

- All entrances included an archway, vestibule, or corridor.
- The tekiyehs featured courtyards, surrounding chambers, and porticoes.
- Each tekiyeh contained a main shrine that served as the burial place for the dignitaries and scholars of the time.
- Most shrines from the Safavid era share similar architectural characteristics.

During the Qajar period, tekiyeh construction experienced significant prosperity and advancement, as evidenced by the 20 tekiyehs built in Takht-e Foulad during this time. Most tomb designs in the Qajar era were shaped as regular octagons.

Efforts to revitalize Nilufar Lake in Kermanshah Province



borna.news

Iranica Desk

Head of the Kermanshah Province Tourism Development Company, Seyyed Mohammad Amin Hosseini, highlighted the alarming 90% reduction in the water supply of Sarab-e Nilufar (Nilufar Lake), a key tourist attraction in the province (Nilufar means lotus in Persian). He called on relevant agencies, including the regional water authority and the agricultural jihad organization, to take immediate action to address this issue.

In an interview with ISNA, Hosseini mentioned that significant measures have been implemented over the past eight months at the Nilufar Lake complex, including environmental beautification, installation of lighting, development of green spaces, and repairs and updates to restroom facilities. These efforts have resulted in an increase in the number of tourists visiting the site compared to previous years, ISNA wrote.

Hosseini underscored the necessity for relevant executive agencies to collab-

orate in tackling this issue, noting that the presence of numerous deep wells around the lake and the cultivation of water-intensive crops such as corn and potatoes have contributed to the decline in groundwater levels, thereby reducing the water supply in Nilufar Lake.

He added that if the regional water authorities cooperate, a dredging operation should be conducted at the lake's bottom to help facilitate water circulation in the shallower areas.

Despite Nilufar Lake being on the verge

of drying up, Hosseini pointed out that initiatives undertaken by local officials have led to an increase in tourist arrivals compared to previous years. He reported that approximately 1,500 vehicles entered the region between September 22 and October 2 of this year, compared to just 500 during the same period last year. He emphasized that if the water issue in Sarab-e Nilufar is resolved, there will likely be a significant increase in tourist entries to the site.

Nilufar Lake is located approximately 15

km northwest of the city of Kermanshah at the foot of Mount Komijar. This wetland features a large pool adorned with lotus flowers and serves as a recreational area where fishing is also permitted. The lake's surface is entirely covered with water lilies, making it a habitat for wild geese and herons.

Recreational and tourist facilities established around the lake, making it a popular destination during the Nowruz (Iranian New Year) celebrations and throughout the summer.

Iran's diplomacy:

A call to end the war



A handout picture provided by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) shows Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (R) meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Riyadh on October 9, 2024.

● SPA/AFP



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has embarked on a regional tour, visiting Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, and Oman in recent days. He has announced that the objectives of these trips are to express support for Lebanon and Palestine, as well as to push for a ceasefire and an end to the war. These diplomatic efforts come at a time when tensions between Iran and the Israeli regime have escalated, with Israel vowing to retaliate against Iran's missile attacks. The operation - dubbed Operation True Promise II - came on Oct. 1 in response to the assassinations of top resistance leaders, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah of Hezbollah, Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas and Abbas Nilforoushan of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC). Regional countries are growing increasingly concerned about the prospect of a direct confrontation between Iran and Israel. Iran Daily had a discussion with Qassem Moheb-Ali, a former diplomat and expert on West Asian affairs, regarding Iran's diplomatic efforts.



This handout picture provided by the Oman News Agency shows Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi (R) receiving Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Muscat on October 14, 2024.

● AFP



Qassem Moheb-Ali



Iran's position is clear: Tehran is not seeking war and wants to stop the war in Lebanon and establish a ceasefire.

IRAN DAILY: What do you believe were the main objectives of the Iranian foreign minister's regional trips in recent days?

Moheb-Ali: From the foreign minister's own words, it's clear that one of the main objectives was to express support for the people of Lebanon and Palestine, as well as the Resistance Axis. Another key goal was to work towards achieving a ceasefire and preventing the conflict from spreading to the entire West Asian region.

Do the countries visited by the foreign minister have the regional and international clout to help Iran achieve its objectives, and do they share Iran's goals?

To some extent, every country involved in the regional and international crisis has an impact. However, in this specific case—namely, Israel's extensive attacks on Gaza and southern Lebanon—it appears that the only nation capable of making a significant difference is the United States. Other countries might exert influence by urging the US to apply more pressure on Israel. Israel disregards international organizations and the counsel of any nation, leaving the US as the sole entity capable of exerting pressure. However, whether the current US administration, led by Joe Biden and the Democrats, is willing to apply such pressure to secure a ceasefire remains a topic of debate. A ceasefire prior to the US presidential election could serve as a strategic advantage for the Democrats, but the US also aims to sup-

port Israel and is likely aware of the Jewish lobby's influence in the polls. Conversely, the Republicans and Donald Trump's campaign would prefer the war to persist until the election, as this would benefit them. Netanyahu is also leveraging this situation to extend the conflict.

Do the Arab countries in the region share Iran's goals of achieving a ceasefire and preventing war, and are they willing to support Iranian diplomacy?

We need to differentiate between the Arab countries. Not all of them have the same views, especially when it comes to Hezbollah and Gaza. For instance, some countries like Saudi Arabia have a poor relationship with Hezbollah and have even had tense relations with them in the past. Therefore, while they might support a ceasefire in the current situation, they are not necessarily supporters of Hezbollah. There are also various groups within Lebanon that oppose Hezbollah. However, it seems that all Arab countries agree on the need for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Despite having good relations with the US and some even having relations with Israel, the Arab countries have not been successful in achieving a ceasefire so far. Why is that?

Yes, they have not been successful because they do not have the capability to pressure Israel. Israel is not willing to accept a ceasefire. Despite the efforts made by Egypt and Qatar, the war in Gaza continues because the Arab countries do not

have the necessary leverage. Moreover, since the 1973 war, the Arab countries have decided not to engage in war with Israel due to their past experiences and defeats. Many of these countries have long-term economic plans that would be severely impacted by the loss of security. Some Arab countries have even signed defense and security agreements with Israel. Therefore, the policies of the Arab countries do not align with those of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and there are significant differences between them.

Foreign Minister Araqchi's diplomatic trips come at a time when tensions between Iran and Israel have reached an all-time high. Do you think his diplomatic efforts will address this tension?

Naturally, discussions have been held on this matter as well. Iran's position is clear, as stated by the president (Masoud Pezeshkian) and the foreign minister: Tehran is not seeking war and wants to stop the war in Lebanon and establish a ceasefire. One of the predictable scenarios in the Gaza war was the expansion of the war to other regions, particularly a direct confrontation between Iran and Israel. This situation is not in the interest of either Iran or the region. The regional countries, including Iran, agree that the war should not spread. They do not want a confrontation between Iran and Israel. Tehran's diplomatic efforts aim to prevent such a scenario and establish a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, at least

stopping the war in Lebanon. Of course, Iranian officials, including the foreign minister, have emphasized that Tehran will stand firm against Israel's adventures and is not afraid of confrontation. However, war is not Iran's preferred choice. Diplomacy fundamentally involves give-and-take, and we need to see what Iran's diplomatic toolkit has to offer in its negotiations with Arab countries and the messages exchanged with the US or Europe that might make

or convince the other side to embrace Iran's perspectives and agree to a ceasefire. Can Iran's diplomacy, through talks with regional countries and possibly indirect talks or message exchanges with the US, prevent a large-scale war or deter Israel from responding to Iran's attack or affect the level of Israel's potential response? Only time will reveal the outcome. Nevertheless, the primary objective of Iran's diplomacy is to halt the war's expansion and secure a ceasefire.



The beginning of the end of Israel



By Craig Mokhiber
American former
UNHR official

OPINION

We have reached a grim milestone. A full year of gruesome Israeli mass murder. A year of epic Palestinian suffering. A year of direct Western complicity. A year of continuous media incitement. A year of shameful inaction by international institutions.

For twelve months, we have seen relentless persecution of human rights defenders across the West, solely for peacefully opposing genocide and apartheid. And fifty-two weeks of a horrified global public helplessly witnessing on their screens the first live-streamed genocide in history.

The carnage of this past year is unprecedented. The destruction is almost unimaginable. Still, this genocide will end. The Palestinian people and their besieged nation will undoubtedly emerge from the ashes of genocide, recover, and reassert their inalienable rights in their

ancient homeland. But international institutions and the global human rights system will be left bruised and battered. The political capital expended by the US empire and the broader West in defense of the slaughter, as well as their glob-

al standing and reputation, will never be recouped. And, almost certainly, this year of cruelty and lawlessness will mark the beginning of the end for the Zionist project in Palestine and, therefore, of the state of Israel as we know it.

A formula for disaster

Of course, neither the genocide nor the current wave of slaughter of Palestinians started in October of 2023. The systematic massacre, purging, and erasure of the indigenous Palestinian people began in earnest with the Nakba of 1947-48, and it has not ceased since that bloody beginning. And the genocidal threat was always obvious. Any thinking person could see, even prior to the establishment of Israel, that the Zionist project of the West was a formula for disaster. First, at the very historic moment when colonialism was being dismantled around the world, and global human rights rules were being adopted at the United Nations, the West carved out an exception for Palestine.

It was at this moment that Zionist forces chose to attack Palestine, murder and terrorize its population, chase many survivors away in terror, and begin the erasure of the indigenous people, and their replacement with a European settler colony founded by foreign invaders and radicalized by a deeply racist and fundamentally violent political ideology.

The colony was to be sustained at the barrel of a gun, by waging constant war both against the indigenous people and against the neighboring states. A colonial education system and a media ecosystem were built to dehumanize the indigenous and neighboring peoples and to instill a supremacist ideology into the settler population. The settler state, its economy, and its society were thoroughly militarized, enlisting all adults in the project of state violence, arming it to the teeth including with nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and even integrating the field-testing of new weapons on captive civilian populations as part of the business model of the colony's arms industry.

They ring-fenced the entire project with western-guaranteed impunity, carving out an exception to the application of all rules of international law. And they built an all-encompassing machinery of repression, including laws, policies, practices, and technologies to ensure the constant subjugation, dehumanization, and persecution of the indigenous Palestinian people. The toxic cocktail was complete.

Maintaining Western support

Of course, an artificially imposed European colony in the heart of the Middle East, which is necessarily maintained by force, could never become self-sufficient. Rather, it has always and will always rely on massive support from Western states, especially the US. Maintaining that vital support was to become a key goal of Israel and its transnational network of proxy groups.

As such, in the intervening years, the Israeli regime adopted a strategy of incremental genocide, with simmering persecution and dispossession, punctuated by periodic full-blown massacres, and marked by a continuous march of expansion.

It was a pace, tried and true over 75 years, with which the regime's Western sponsors were comfortable, allowing them to continue unbroken the flow of military, economic, and diplomatic support without significant domestic pressure at home.

And it allowed like-minded media corporations, decade after decade, to continuously disseminate pro-Israel propaganda as a smokescreen to obscure

the horrific realities being perpetrated against the indigenous people on the ground.

Expedited genocide

But when Israel's current ultra-Zionist cabinet took power last year, it immediately abandoned the strategy of incremental genocide. In its place, it moved to expedited genocide (beginning with waves of ethnic cleansing in occupied Jerusalem and the West Bank), betting that its Western sponsors (and their captured politicians and complicit media) would not dare (or care) to take the steps necessary to stop it, even when it launched wholesale civilian slaughter in Gaza.



They were right.

So much so that Western countries like the US, UK, Germany, and others, quickly moved beyond mere acquiescence for the genocide, and into direct complicity and participation in it. As a result, one year later, we are witnessing unprecedented bloodshed in the region, and the broader world is in deep trouble.

Axis of genocide

Thus, Israel is not alone in its march of terror. It is accompanied, in lockstep, by what has been called the Axis of Genocide.

Four members of that Axis, Israel, the US, the UK, and France, are nuclear-armed states. A fifth, Germany, is a serial genocide perpetrator and a major European economic power. Three (the US, UK, and France) have veto power in the UN Security Council.

Adding to the danger, all of its members share a common ideological grounding in militarism, colonialism, white supremacy, and political Zionism. Most have the stain of genocide on their historical records.

All have political systems that are deeply compromised and corrupted by the influence of the weapons industry, the billionaire class, and the Israel lobby. And all are marked by profound societal levels of Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism, and anti-Palestinian bigotry.

And, in defense of a single, small, oppressive, and violent settler colony in the Middle East, all have quickly abandoned the entire edifice of international law and international institutions built up since the end of the Second World War, and which they once claimed as part of their brand.

As recent history has shown, these bi-

ases, linkages, and incentives have become a formula not only for genocide in Palestine but for catastrophe on a global scale.

Breaking bones and records

And, indeed, the cost of Western-secured Israeli impunity has been shockingly high. In one year, Israel has set new records for the pace of civilian killing, the rate of destruction of civilian infrastructure, the killing of children, the killing of medical personnel, the killing of journalists, the killing of humanitarian workers, and the killing of UN staff. The depravity of Israel's actions has shocked the world. Collective punish-

human shields, or collateral damage, then reload and do it again.

The accumulated criminal guilt of the Israeli perpetrators and their complicit Western partners is staggering. But so too is the historic moral lapse of the wider world, both those who have defended the genocide, and those who have remained silent as it has been carried out with their tax dollars, with their government's political support, or in their name.

Today, everyone knows. No one can say they were not warned before the catastrophe. And no one can say they did not know of the horrors that followed, broadcast in real-time to all of us. Seventy-six blood-soaked years into

the accountability of both Israel and its Western accomplices must be secured, lest these horrors be repeated in an endless cycle of atrocity, impunity, and recidivism.

Israeli impunity is coming to an end

But there are flickering lights in the darkness, and they are growing. The just cause of Palestine and the steadfastness of her people have inspired millions around the world to stand up and fight back. The civilized world is now more mobilized than it has been in generations to oppose the horrific evil unleashed on the world by Israel and its Western sponsors.

More and more people are escaping from the distorting matrix of Western corporate media and turning to independent media and first-hand sources on social media, delivering a powerful blow to the controlled, pro-Israel narrative of official Western institutions. Today, Israel is on trial for genocide at the World Court, and its leaders are the subject of arrest warrant requests at the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, including extermination.

The ICJ has already issued a series of provisional anti-genocide measures against Israel, and a growing list of countries is lining up behind Palestine and South Africa in the genocide case against Israel.

A dedicated international tribunal is under discussion at the UN. Cases have already been brought in national courts around the world, and more are certain to follow. Plans are also underway to mandate an international anti-apartheid body to focus on Israel. In the meantime, the United Nations, its independent human rights mechanisms, and the leading international, Palestinian, and Israeli human rights organizations have all collected massive quantities of evidence, have strongly condemned Israel for its shocking criminality, and are working to ensure accountability.

Mass demonstrations against Israel are not only daily occurrences in capitals around the globe but they are actually growing, undeterred by the often-brutal efforts (especially of Western governments) to suppress them.

The ICJ has declared the obligation of all states to cut off all recognition, aid, investment, trade, weapons, and support of any kind with Israel's colonial project in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Israel is increasingly isolated on the global stage. And the global movement for boycott, divestment and sanctions is growing with every passing day.

In other words, the age of Israeli impunity is coming to an end, despite the best efforts of the US, the UK, Germany, and other complicit Western states.

And we may well be seeing, after decades of endless persecution and bloodshed, the beginning of the end of the European settler-colonial project in Palestine.

One year later, the flames of genocide still burn. At this tragic moment, it is hard to see through the smoke that obscures the path forward. But white supremacist settler colonialism was defeated in South Africa, Rhodesia, Namibia, and Algeria. It will be defeated in Israel too. Through struggle and solidarity, with law and politics, in resistance and resilience, this will end.

The article first appeared on *Mondoweiss*.

Israeli armored personnel carriers move past destroyed buildings during a ground operation in the Gaza Strip. AP

this colonial enterprise, it is clear to all who will see that what the West has constructed in the heart of the Middle East is not an enlightened project, but rather a rampaging Frankenstein monster that threatens to drag the indigenous Palestinian people, the region, and the world into a conflagration from which it may not recover for generations.

The darkness spreads

How long the rampage can be sustained is an open question. But there will undoubtedly be much more darkness before the dawn.

Israel, drunk with Western-backed impunity, even as it continues its genocide in Palestine, is now spreading its attacks across the region and leaving mountains of bodies and rivers of blood in its wake.

In a matter of weeks, it has waged terror attacks with booby-trapped communication devices in Lebanon, assassinated leaders across the region, launched military attacks on Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Yemen, has invaded Lebanese territory, and is now seeking to draw its US sponsor into an all-out regional war of conquest and domination.

For their part, collaborationist governments in the West show little appetite for reining in the rampaging monster that they themselves created in the Middle East, and to which they continue to provide endless flows of arms, money, intelligence, diplomatic cover, legal exceptionalism, and a heretofore impenetrable cocoon of impunity. When the reckoning comes, as it must,

ment, a chain of massacres, summary executions, torture camps, systematic sexual violence, starvation tactics, imposed disease, the direct targeting of small children with sniper rifles, and the blocking of humanitarian aid to facilitate starvation.

We have all seen the images. The methodical eradication of whole neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, universities, food stores, shelters, refugee camps, agricultural fields, and even cemeteries. The mangled bodies of Palestinians, the fear-filled eyes of the children, the terror as bombs fall on bread lines. The cold-blooded murder of innocents, of defenseless children like Hind Rajab, trapped in the family car, terrified for hours and then slaughtered by Israeli soldiers, and of thousands of others like her.

And we have seen the cold, cruel laughter of the Israeli soldiers, the deranged chants of violent Israeli settlers, the genocidal pledges of Israeli political and military leaders.

The promise of the Prime Minister to wipe out the Palestinians "like Amalek", a biblical verse that calls for Israel to "utterly destroy all that they have and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass."

The calls of Israeli leaders to perpetrate another Nakba, to raze Gaza to the ground, to make no distinction between civilians and fighters. To "bury them."

And, by now, we have all memorized the familiar barbarous pattern of Israel's crimes: target civilians and civilian infrastructure, then target the rescue workers who come to help, then celebrate in Hebrew but switch to English to claim that they were all terrorists,

Word Cup Asian qualifiers:

Sweet revenge as ruthless Iran puts Qatar to the sword

Iranica Desk

A revenge for the Asian Cup last-four heartbreak couldn't have come in a more emphatic fashion as Sardar Azmoun and Mohammad Mohebbi bagged a brace apiece to help Iran rout Qatar 4-1 in the World Cup Asian qualifiers.

A third victory in four outings saw Amir Qalenoee's men overtake Uzbekistan on top of the Group A table on goal difference. Uzbekistan had an Otabek Shukurov's late strike to thank for a 1-0 home win against the 10-man United Arab Emirates earlier on Tuesday.

Hosting the Qataris in the neutral venue of Rashid Stadium in Dubai due to the AFC's security concerns amid the political tensions in the region, Iran got off to lively start but the Asian champion thought it was on its way to a second triumph over Team Melli in just over eight months when Almoez Ali found the net against the run of play in the 17th minute.

Lucas Mendes' long ball released Ali behind the Iranian backline and the striker smashed a devastating first-time strike into the roof of Alireza Beiranvand's net. Azmoun restored parity with three minutes left in the first half, rising unmarked in the box to head home an Omid Nourafkan's cross into top corner.

The Iranian striker scored his 55th international goal three minutes after the break, when Mahdi Qayedi's cross was headed into the air by Mendes but, as Qatari keeper Barsham came to collect, he tripped over his teammate and Azmoun smashed into the empty net.



Sardar Azmoun (20) heads home Iran's equalizer during a 4-1 victory over Qatar in the World Cup Asian qualifiers in Dubai, UAE, on October 15, 2024.
● MOHSEN DAVOUDI/FFIRI

The prolific forward then rounded off his outstanding performance with an assist in the 65th minute, bursting through the Qatar defense before unselfish-

ly rolling the ball across goal for Mohebbi to tap the ball into the net with Barsham well beaten. Mohebbi completed the rout in the eighth minute of added time as his glancing header on Nourafkan's corner kick found the bottom corner to put the seal on a commanding victory. "I think it was one of our good days," Qalenoee said after the game, adding: "We scored four goals and had several other opportunities."

"Overall, it was a very good game. Congratulations to Qatar for the way they played today. It was one of the best games of the group that Asia enjoyed. "This win will help us further. We can rejoice for a day or two and then we have to think about the next games. I hope we can make Iranian people happy with more good results," added the Iranian coach.

Tuesday's results meant Iran and Uzbekistan now have a six-point lead over third-place UAE in the six-team table and with the top two in each group progressing to the World Cup finals, Qalenoee's side will be looking to take a significant stride towards the 2026 showpiece in away game against North Korea and the Kyrgyz Republic in November's international break. "It's a bit too soon to talk about

securing World Cup qualification but this win definitely paved the way for us," Iranian winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh, who was introduced as a late substitute said.

"We have utmost respect for all of the teams in the group. Uzbekistan is equal [on 10 points] with us, and Qatar, the UAE, Kyrgyzstan and even North Korea have had some decent performances so far. I think today's victory was a testament to what our team is capable of."

Jahanbakhsh was part of the Iranian team that fell to a 3-2 loss to Qatar in the Asian flagship international event in Doha.

"All of us still regret that defeat. We were unlucky to miss out on the Asian title but we just can't turn back the clock. Today's result showcased the gap between Qatar and us."

Elsewhere in the group, Khristiyan Brauzman's 11th-minute strike led the Kyrgyz Republic to a 1-0 win against North Korea in Bishkek.

In Group B, Jordan eased past Oman by four goals in Amman, with Palestine and Kuwait sharing the spoils in a 2-2 draw in Doha. South Korea defeated Iraq 3-2 at home to stay atop the group with 10 points – three points clear of Jordan and Iraq.

Japan kept a five-point lead over Australia on top of Group C standings, despite playing to a 1-1 draw with the Soccerroos in Saitama.

Saudi Arabia was held to a goalless stalemate by Bahrain in Jeddah, with the two teams equal on five points with Australia.

Branko Ivanovic's China was given a lifeline in its qualification campaign, edging out Indonesia 2-1 at home.

Tuchel 'very proud' to be named England manager

BBC – Thomas Tuchel has been appointed England manager from 1 January 2025.

The 51-year-old German, who has signed an 18-month contract, becomes the third non-British permanent manager of the men's team after Sven-Goran Eriksson and Fabio Capello. Gareth Southgate resigned in July after England's defeat by Spain in the Euro 2024 final.

Lee Carsley, who was overseen four games since being appointed interim manager in August, will remain in charge for the Nations League matches against Greece and the Republic of Ireland next month.

Former Chelsea boss Tuchel, who left Bayern Munich at the end of last season, said: "I am very proud to have been given the honour of leading the England team.

"I have long felt a personal connection to the game in this country, and it has given me some incredible moments already.

"To have the chance to represent England is a huge privilege, and the opportunity to work with this special and talented group of players is very exciting."

Chief executive Mark Bullingham said the Football Association had appointed "one of the best coaches in the world". He said: "Thomas and the team have a single-minded focus on giving us the best possible chance to win the World Cup in 2026."

England have not won a major trophy since the 1966 World Cup.

They will start their qualification process for the 2026 tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United States next year.

The FA approached Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola in the summer to see if had an interest in the role, while Newcastle United boss Eddie Howe and ex-Brighton and Chelsea manager Graham Potter were also linked with the position.

FA said, external Tuchel was the "preferred candidate" from "several" managers interviewed.

It said the FA board approved the decision last week and Tuchel signed a contract on 8 October.

Under Carsley, England lost to Greece on 10 October and beat Finland on 13 October.

Tuchel won the German Cup with Borussia Dortmund and two Ligue 1 titles at Paris St-Germain, including a domestic treble in 2019-20.

He became Chelsea manager in January 2021, winning the Champions League, Club World Cup and UEFA Super Cup before being sacked in September 2022.

After Bayern failed to win the Bundesliga title last season for the first time since 2011-12, Tuchel left despite still having a year to run on his contract.

Messi never ceases to amaze, Argentina boss Scaloni says



● MATIAS BAGLIETTO/REUTERS

REUTERS – Lionel Scaloni has been witness to many of Lionel Messi's magical moments over the course of his career but the Argentina manager said on Tuesday that even at the age of 37 his captain continues to amaze him.

Messi, who was making just his second international appearance since recovering from an injury sustained at the Copa America in July, scored his 10th international hat-trick as Argentina beat Bolivia 6-0 in a World Cup qualifier.

The record eight-times Ballon d'Or winner said after the game he would keep playing as long as he can perform the way he wants and Scaloni hoped he would be on the pitch for years to come. "It never ceases to amaze," Scaloni told reporters. "At one point I sit down with

(assistant coach) Pablo Aimar and tell him that this is wonderful.

"To be able to be on the bench and see the things he does? The team is with him and what I ask him to do is to play as long as he can."

Despite missing a few players through injury and suspension, Scaloni said he could not be more proud of his squad.

Goalkeeper Emiliano "Dibu" Martinez was suspended for two matches by FIFA for offensive behaviour in September and missed qualifiers against Venezuela and Bolivia.

"The big players know that if they give the chance to play to a kid who comes from behind they could lose their place," Scaloni said. "That breath of fresh air generates a lot for us. The boys are behaving in an exemplary manner."



● JUAN MEDINA/REUTERS

Jordan says will not allow anyone to 'violate' own airspace

International Desk

Jordan said it will not allow any party to the conflict in region to violate its airspace and threaten its citizens' security amid fears of Israel's retaliation against a recent Iranian missile attack on the occupied territories.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited Jordan on Wednesday as part of a diplomatic push to end Israeli crimes in the region, which has also taken him to Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq and Oman.

During his stop in Jordan, Iran's top diplomat held separate talks with his counterpart Ayman al-Safadi and Jordan's King Abdullah II.

Jordan's King told the Iranian foreign minister that

Jordan will not be a battleground for regional conflicts.

King Abdullah II expressed serious concern regarding the existing circumstances in the region and the serious dangers arising from the expansion of conflict and insecurity.

He reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to assist and participate in initiatives to maintain stability and security in the region.

Jordan's king highlighted the necessity to stop the Israeli war on Gaza and Lebanon "as the first step towards comprehensive calm," according to a Royal Court statement.

Araghchi, for his part, called for greater cooperation and solidarity among Muslim countries in the region to compel the Israeli regime to halt its genocidal

actions and warmongering.

War on Lebanon

Araghchi expressed deep concern and sorrow over the dire conditions facing the displaced people in Gaza and Lebanon, who are currently deprived of basic necessities for survival.

He called for mobilizing all capacities of Islamic countries to collect and send humanitarian aid to the region. Both officials also stressed the need for regional de-escalation.

Also on Wednesday, Araghchi also met with his Jordanian counterpart.

The Jordanian foreign minister echoed the king's remarks, saying that Jordan will "not be a battlefield for anyone and will not allow any party to violate its sovereignty and airspace



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (C) meets with Jordan's King Abdullah II (R) in Amman, Jordan, on October 16, 2024.



and threaten its citizens' security."

Araghchi also held talks with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres.

Araghchi warned about the consequences of any possible unwise measures by the Israeli regime against Iran.

He underlined that the responsibility for the consequences of the spread of insecurity in the region will rest with the Israeli regime and its main supporter, the United States.

After Iran's missile attack on Israel, there has been speculation that Israel

could strike Iran's nuclear facilities.

However, the spokesperson for Iran's atomic energy agency Behrouz Kamalvandi said the probability

of an attack on Iran's nuclear sites remains low but any potential damage would be "quickly compensated."

"We have always taken

these threats seriously," Kamalvandi said. "We have planned in a way that if they commit any stupidity, the damages would be minimal."

Pezeshkian urges Muslims to 'act as one' against Israel



Haitham bin Tariq Al Said

Masoud Pezeshkian

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said increased pressure on the supporters of the Israeli regime can stop its "killing machine."

In a phone conversation with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said on Wednesday, Pezeshkian thanked Muscat for its stance on Israeli violations in Gaza and Lebanon, urging "greater unity" among Muslim countries, Press TV reported.

"If Muslim countries act as one, the Zionist regime will not dare commit violations so easily, nor will the US and Western countries be able to support it,"

he said. Pezeshkian also reiterated Tehran's willingness to strengthen bilateral ties with Muscat, noting that relations with Oman are among the Islamic Republic's top priorities and lie within the framework of expanding cooperation with neighboring states.

"Strengthening friendly and amicable relations between regional countries, and expanding regional cooperation, guarantee a shared vision and language to solve our region's problems. This also provides a platform for collective development, promoting the welfare,

peace, and comfort of our nations," he added.

For his part, Sultan bin Tariq hailed Iran's stance on regional issues, including Gaza and Lebanon, and stressed the need for Western countries to avoid double standards in addressing such issues.

He also emphasized that supporting the rights of the oppressed people of Gaza and Lebanon remains a priority for Oman, saying, "Oman has always maintained that the continued support by Western countries for Israel's crimes is neither acceptable nor justified in any way."

Iran to Israel: 'Don't play with lion's tail'

International Desk

Iran's government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani warned Israel not to play with the "lion's tail," stressing that Iran is serious about defending itself and does not joke about such matters. Referring to the Iranian foreign minister's visits to regional countries, Mohajerani said the trip aims to establish peace in the region which is in danger of a wider war after Israel's military offensive on Lebanon late last month.

Her remarks came amid Israel's threats of military action against Iran's recent missile attack on the regime's military sites, which the Islamic Republic carried out in response to the assassi-

nation of the leaders and top commanders of resistance movements in region. Mohajerani warned about the consequences of any military attack on Iran.

On October 1, Iran responded to the Israeli assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC general Abbas Nilforoushan by launching as many as 200 ballistic missiles toward the regime's military and intelligence bases all over the occupied Palestinian territories.

Dubbed Operation True Promise II, the retaliatory strike dealt a severe blow to the regime all the more ruinous than its prequel in April, with Tel Aviv having

so far declined to reveal the extent of loss it suffered despite vowing to respond on several occasions.

While the Israeli regime has threatened to retaliate, Iranian officials have warned that Tehran is "ready" to respond to any adventurism. The United States has also announced it is sending an advanced anti-missile system, known as THAAD, and a number of troops to Israel to defend the regime against any Iranian missile attack on the occupied territories.

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh on Wednesday downplayed as part of a "psychological warfare" the US deployment of the THAAD anti-missile system. Speaking with reporters on

the sidelines of a weekly cabinet session in Tehran, Nasirzadeh said, "THAAD is an anti-ballistic [missile] system. It is not anything new and had already been brought up."

"We consider such measures by the enemy to be in line with a psychological war. There is no specific problem," he added. "None of the threats issued by the Zionist regime is new."

Since October 2023, the regime has launched a devastating war on the Gaza Strip where more than 42,000 Palestinians – mostly women and children – have been killed in the Israeli strikes. It has also intensified its strikes on Lebanon since late last month, killing more than 2,300 people there.

France: 'War in Gaza must stop now'

International Desk

France's Ambassador to the United Nations Nicolas de Riviere on Wednesday called the humanitarian situation in Gaza "catastrophic," saying that, "War in Gaza must stop now."

Speaking at an emergency meeting at the UN Security Council regarding the ongoing Israeli conflicts, Riviere said, "We can no longer accept that humanitarian trage-

dy as an inevitable fact. There needs to be an immediate permanency by the release of all hostages as well as the delivery at scale of humanitarian aid," he said.

"War in Gaza must stop now," Al Jazeera quoted him as saying. Riviere said that France will continue to work towards the implementation of a two-state solution.

"And we will continue to work on this task including

within the Security Council. Measures aiming to weaken the Palestinian Authority must stop," he said.

"The humanitarian situation is worsening as a result of the intensification of Israeli strikes. There too we need to see an immediate cease-fire." French President Emmanuel Macron also denounced the Israel's atrocities against Palestinians and Lebanon as well as its recent attacks on the UN peacekeepers in

Lebanon, saying that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu must not forget that Israel "was created by a UN decision."

Macron, who had called to stop the export of weapons to Israel for use in Gaza and Lebanon, warned that this is not the time to ignore UN decisions. Despite international outcry and calls for a cease-fire, Israel has continued its war on Gaza and offensive in Lebanon.

A turning point ...

The visit also sends a clear message to countries that constantly seek to deepen regional divisions. The success of Iran's diplomatic efforts to prevent an all-out war and establish a cease-fire will become apparent in the future. However, a significant aspect of diplomacy is effort and hope. Expressing Iran's foreign policy stances and

goals in person with regional countries can bring them closer together, contributing to a stronger Middle East. This could also help resolve ambiguities and potential misunderstandings.

While not all objectives may be achieved, reaching some common goals and finding solutions to shared concerns can be seen as an achievement, which is

the essence of diplomacy. Countries become aware of each other's concerns and demands, as well as their capacities to address regional crises, through direct dialogue. They also discuss areas of disagreement. Therefore, Araghchi's regional tour is in line with the Islamic Republic's declared policies, aiming to create a strong region and address the current crisis,

namely the Israeli threat to the entire region. His visit to Jordan marks a turning point in bilateral relations and is a justifiable attempt to ease regional tensions. In the same vein, we can expect the Iranian foreign minister's upcoming visit to Egypt, which will not only strengthen bilateral ties but also reinforce Iran's efforts to promote regional stability.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



- License Holder
- ICPI CEO
- Managing Director
- Editor-in-chief
- Int'l & National Desk
- Economy Desk
- Sports Desk
- Iranica Desk
- Arts & Culture Desk
- Language Editor

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
Ehsan Salehi
Ali Kakadezfuli
Mostafa Shirmohammadi
Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi,
Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollaei Mozaffari
Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, Sadeq Dehqan
Amirhadi Arsalanpour
Leila Imeni
Hamideh Hosseini
Mehdi Ebrahim

- Editorial Dept. Tel
- Address
- ICPI Publisher
- Advertising Dept. Tel/Email
- Website
- Email
- Printing House

+98 21 84711226
208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
+98 21 88548892-5
+98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com
www.irandaily.ir/newspaperirandaily.ir
irandaily@icpi.ir
Iran Cultural & Press Institute



Strengthen relations, avoid divisive rhetoric: *Iran to Turkey's TRT*

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, emphasized the need to avoid divisive rhetoric in a phone call with Fahrettin Altun, Presidency's Head of Communication, in response to recent anti-Iranian remarks made by the head of Turkey's state-run TRT network.

Salehi stated that the recent remarks by some Turkish media officials have caused concern among the Iranian public and should be avoided.

He emphasized that Iran's foreign policy is based on strengthening ties with its neighbors, particularly Turkey, and that the two countries have a significant cultural exchange program in place.

"The approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to strengthen relations with its neighbors, and Turkey has a special place among them," Salehi said. "The year 2025 has been designated as the year of cultural exchange between Iran and Turkey, and this provides opportunities for expanding cultural relations between the two countries. Culture is a platform for interaction, cooperation, and connection, and the two countries have a lot of common cultural capacities that can be utilized."

Salehi also emphasized the importance of media cooperation between the two countries, saying that while it is necessary to strengthen media cooperation, it is also important to be careful about



the media space and public opinion in both countries.

Zahid Sobaci, the head of TRT, had sparked outrage with his comments, saying that the network would launch a Persian-language channel by the end of the year with the aim of "disturbing" Iran. Sobaci's remarks were widely criticized in Iran, with many calling for his dismissal.

Altun apologized for Sobaci's remarks, saying that they did not reflect the views of the Turkish government.

He emphasized that Turkey's approach is to strengthen ties with Iran and that any rhetoric that contradicts this approach is not acceptable.

The incident has also sparked a heated debate in Turkey, with some politicians

and media outlets criticizing Sobaci's remarks as "unworthy of a statesman" and calling for his dismissal.

Doğu Perinçek, the leader of Turkey's Patriotic Party, demanded Sobaci's immediate dismissal, saying that his remarks were "unworthy of a statesman" and could only come from supporters of the United States and the Israeli regime.

Perinçek emphasized that friendship with Iran is "essential" for Turkey, noting that there is "no solution" to US plans in the region without Iran.

He added that the establishment of the TRT Persian channel should strengthen friendly ties between Iran and Turkey, serving as a joint media outlet against US-Israel-centered threats in West Asia. Other Turkish politicians, including Umit Ozdag, the leader of the Victory Party, and Kazan, also criticized Sobaci's remarks.

Ahmad Noroozi, the president of IRIB World Service, took to X (formerly Twitter) to censure Sobaci's inflammatory remarks, saying that while Iranian media is committed to reporting developments in the region, particularly the genocidal war of the Zionist regime in Palestine and Lebanon, it will not be distracted by "unhealthy and imprudent" remarks. The incident has also highlighted the importance of cooperation between Iran and Turkey in the media sphere. The two countries have a long history of cultural exchange, and there are hopes that the establishment of a Persian-language channel by TRT could help promote understanding and cooperation between the two nations.

In a statement, Sobaci attempted to backtrack on his earlier remarks, saying that he was misunderstood and that his comments were meant to emphasize the competitive nature of the media landscape.

Snapshots of sound

'Musical Frames' brings Iranian music to life through photography



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

a master of *ney* (end-blown flute). Other notable musicians featured in the exhibition include Hossein Alizadeh, a tar and setar player, and Farhad Fakhreddini, a musician and conductor.

The exhibition began on October 10 and will run until October 18.

In the final days of the exhibition, we sat down with Kavooos Sadeghloo to talk about 'Musical Frames' and his work as a photographer. The following is the full text of the interview:

The 'Musical Frames' photography exhibition, showcasing the works of veteran photographer Kavooos Sadeghloo, is being held at the Iranian Artists' House in Tehran. The exhibition features 40 black and white photographs of prominent Iranian musicians, taken over the course of three decades.

The exhibition includes portraits of famous Iranian vocalists Mohammad Reza Shajarian and Shahram Nazeri, as well as late musicians Parviz Yahaghi, a renowned violinist, and Hassan Nahid,



IRAN DAILY

IRAN DAILY: Can you tell us a bit about your background in photography?

SADEGHLOO: I was born in 1969. I became interested in photography in 1984 and began taking courses and gaining experience in the field. In 1992, I started working as a news and documentary photographer for the newspaper Hamshahri, and later joined the

newspaper Iran in 1994. I completed advanced courses in photography at the Technical and Vocational Training Organization, as well as at the Asia News Agency. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in news photography from the Faculty of Journalism. I was a member of the board of directors of the Iranian Photojournalists Association for 16 years, and served as its president for 12

years. During this time, I was involved in organizing several photography exhibitions and judging photography competitions.

Can you explain about the 'Musical Frames' exhibition?

This exhibition features my photographs of musicians from the era of film photography to the digital age. The

exhibition is divided into two sections: Portraits of musicians and concerts. The exhibition features 40 photographs in three sizes, all in black and white. The photographs are printed on natural fiber paper and mounted on canvas, showcasing the artistic style of the day. We have also included QR codes under each photograph, which allow viewers to access the biography and music of each musician.

When did you come up with the idea for this project?

The idea for this project came to me in the early 1990s, when I was interviewing and photographing musicians. I realized that if I took portraits of these musicians, I could create a unique collection. Over the years, I have photographed many musicians, although my work was slowed down during my 12

years as president of the Iranian Photojournalists Association. This exhibition is the result of my work over the past 30 years. I also plan to publish a book of photographs of Iranian musicians at the end of the exhibition, as a way of fulfilling my duty as a photojournalist and preserving these images for the country's cultural heritage.

What distinguishes your photographs from others, aside from the fact that they are all of musicians?

In most of my photographs, aside from the concert photos, I have used controlled lighting and composition to create a specific atmosphere. I have used single light sources with unique angles, often using natural light from windows to illuminate the musicians' faces. I have also used bright backgrounds to create a sense of depth in the photographs.

