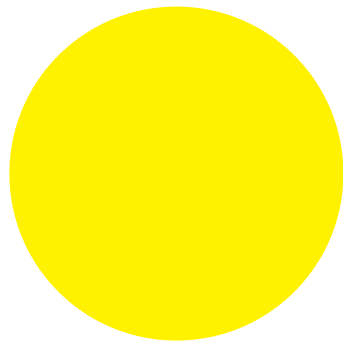


Sheikh  
Qassem  
appointed  
as new chief  
of Hezbollah

7 >



# Iran Daily

Vol. 7685 • Wednesday, October 30, 2024 • Aban 9, 1403 • Rabi' al-Thani 26, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



> [irandaily.ir](http://irandaily.ir)

| [newspaper.irandaily.ir](http://newspaper.irandaily.ir)

| IranDailyWeb

Tehran slams Berlin over criticism of terrorist's execution

## German passport provides no impunity to anyone: *Araghchi*

7 >

Inauguration of five museums

## *Pezeshkian*: Sacred Defense 'Timeless Necessity' for Society

8 >



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd R) and Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri (3rd R) are briefed during the inaugural ceremony of five Sacred Defense museums held at Tehran's Museum of the Holy Defense on October 29, 2024. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

### Iran FM urges diligent work toward immediate halt to war in Lebanon, Palestine

>

7 >

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses a gathering of ambassadors and heads of foreign missions in Tehran on October 29, 2024. [MOHAMMADREZA ALIMADADI/IRNA](http://MOHAMMADREZA ALIMADADI/IRNA)



### Tech diplomacy; Iranian Communications Ministry's strategy to break digital monopoly



By Sattar Hashemi  
Iran's communications & IT minister

OPINION  
EXCLUSIVE

of the internet, particularly social media, and satellites with the fabric of private and public life of the majority of people has made current and future opportunities in this field extremely valuable, while the existing and potential threats are equally perilous. There is no doubt that achieving the valuable goal of "maximizing benefits" from the output of communications and information technology developments, and containing the "challenging pitfalls" that come with it, is beyond the power of one or a few organizations or even countries. In fact, the nature of the ICT (information communication technology) sector is such that without expanding international cooperation and collaboration with states and leading multinational companies, its development is almost impossible. [Page 8 >](#)

In recent years, the world has witnessed an unprecedented leap in technological interactions and communications between nations. This phenomenon, like any emerging technology, has brought about a mix of opportunities and threats. Notably, the intertwining



### Parliament ratifies next year's budget bill outlines

2 >



### Wrestling World Championships: Mixed draws as Iranians learn freestyle fate

6 >



### Timeless art of knife making in Zanjan Province

3 >

### From Iron Dome to F-15s: US provides 70% of Israel's war costs

4-5 >



SPECIAL ISSUE

### Iran's nano-products exported to nearly 50 countries: *Official*

2 >



## Iran's nano-products exported to nearly 50 countries:

**Official**

### Economy Desk

Secretary of Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council Emad Ahmadvand said that Iranian-made nanotechnology products are exported to 49 countries, about 60 percent of the products are exported to Iraq, Syria, India, China and Turkey.

The country's export of nano-products in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 19, 2024) showed a 110% growth compared to the same period last year, the official note, as reported by Mehr News Agency.

He stated that \$145 million worth of nanotechnology products was exported from the country from March 21, 2023 to March 19, 2024. Iran had exported \$69 million worth of nanotechnology products between March 21, 2022 to March 20, 2023, the official noted. Ahmadvand further pointed out that sales of nano-made products in Iran in the previous Iranian year increased by 104% compared to the related figure for a year earlier.

The nano-coating technologies, nano-composites, and nano-catalysts accounted for major share at the domestic nano-tech market, he added. One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years, proving the country's scientific development, is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the world's fourth place.

An Iranian new technology-based firm has recently paved the way for exporting its technological products to China by signing an agreement during the China Nano 2024 exhibition. The contract aims to introduce the company's advanced nano-products into the Chinese market.

Hamzeh Qojavand, the commercial director of Payamavaran Nanotechnology Fardanegar, highlighted the company's innovative production methods, saying, "Our company has successfully produced various nanomaterials using two methods: electrical explosion of wire and electrical membrane technology."

He went on to say that prior to the exhibition, we established contacts with Chinese partners and sent product samples. Fortunately, during the exhibition, we reached an agreement on future orders, and the contract was finalized. We hope that China, as a vast market, will provide an opportunity for the growth of Iranian technological products. The successful participation of the Iranian company demonstrates the technical and export capabilities of Iran's nanotechnology industry and opens doors for expanding international cooperation in the field.

# Parliament ratifies next year's budget bill outlines

### Economy Desk

Iranian Parliament, in an open session on Tuesday, approved the outlines of a bill proposed by the government for next Iranian year's budget of the country.

Out of the 249 members of the Parliament present at the session, 146 MPs voted in favor of the bill, 96 MPs voted against the bill and four lawmakers abstained. The value of the draft budget for year 1404, including the budget earmarked to state companies, will be 504,890 trillion rials (\$77.675 billion at the free market rate).

The budget is more than 57% bigger than the budget for the current calendar year in terms of local currency.

Speaking at the session, President Masoud Pezeshkian said that a basic principle of the budget bill, drafted by his administration after two months of tireless efforts, was "strengthening Iran's defense power considering

the regional circumstances and threats against the Iranian nation."

According to the president, the budget bill has also taken into account schemes to ensure economic growth, increase oil production capacity, enhance medication reserves, manage water distribution, and provide affordable housing for lower classes.

"We suffer from shortages of water, electricity, gas and money, as solving these problems should be done with expert involvement and the help of scientific and political centers and universities," he noted. Stating that the government will move in line with the Seventh Development Plan, the general policies of the Leader of the Islamic Republic and the 20-year Vision Document, the president said, "Today, we must join hands to overcome crises and problems with cooperation and intimacy." Also, Head of Plan and Budget Organization Hamid Pourmohammadi said at the session of the Par-



liament that next year's inflation is expected to be around 30%.

In this bill, liquidity growth will be controlled, he noted, adding that the liquidity for Iran will decrease

from the current 29.5% to 26.5%, and inflation will decrease from 33% to 30.2%.

The current situation will result in a 2.5% growth for the country, while with

the implementation of the proposed budget bill, the growth will reach 4.4%, the official stated.

The bill was submitted by Pezeshkian on October 22 to the legislature for re-

view and approval. Once the parliamentarians endorse the government's proposed budget bill, it will go to the Constitutional Council for ratification before becoming law.

## Abadan Refinery not affected by Israeli aggression: *Shana*

### Economy Desk

None of the reservoirs and facilities of Abadan Refinery were damaged by the raids of Israel which were done on October 26, as the refining and production activities in the refinery are normal and desirable, Shana wrote on Tuesday.

BBC recently claimed in a report that a storage unit of the Abadan Oil Refinery was damaged in the recent attack of the Zionist regime on some targets and facilities of Iran. According to investigations, the news is baseless and none of the facilities and tanks of Abadan Oil Refinery were targeted or damaged in this attack, reads the report by Shana. Managing Director of the Abadan Oil Refining Company Hakim Qayyem has



emphasized that all units and employees at the company continue operating normally. Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Qayyem said operations at the refinery are normal and employees are busily engaged in their units as they do routinely.

The CEO denied rumors of missile attacks on the

Abadan Oil Refining Company, adding that there is no problem at the refinery. Qayyem also explained that the sounds heard by citizens were the echoes of air defense fire, and no missile or shell had been fired at the refinery; therefore, all oil facilities at this refinery are intact and operational.

## Allocation of subsidized forex for imports tops \$40.4b: *CBI*

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said it has allocated some \$40.405 billion in subsidized forex to imports of goods and equipment into the country in more than seven months to October 28. CBI figures showed that it had earmarked some \$8.757 billion in heavily-subsidized currency to imports of basic goods and medicine over April-October, Press TV wrote. The CBI has a rate of 285,000 rials per US dollar which it applies to basic goods imports. That comes as the market price of the US dollar was 675,000 rials in Tehran on Monday. Iran has a secondary rate for the US dollar and other hard currencies which it uses for trade of non-essential



goods. CBI figures on imports showed that the lender had spent \$21.855 billion in NIMA rate on imports of commercial and trade commodities over the seven months to late October. The bank said that it had allocated another \$8.89 billion in the same rate to importers who had carried out exports to be able to obtain hard currency at subsidized prices. Another \$0.903 billion was spent on imports

related to Iran's services sector, showed the CBI figures. The figures come as Iran is still under a regime of unilateral US sanctions which restricts its oil exports and its access to the international banking system. The country has imposed controls on spending of hard currency for imports in recent years to be able to cope with the economic impacts of the sanctions.

## Annual trade between Tehran, Muscat tops \$3b

## Launch of direct shipping line to boost Iran-Oman trade

### Economy Desk

The launch of a direct shipping line will boost Iran-Oman trade, said the head of the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce Jamal Razeqi on Tuesday.

The two sides have set an annual target of \$5 billion for bilateral trade, he told ISNA as

he criticized that the absence of a regular shipping line has prevented the growth of bilateral trade.

"In addition to the obstacles regarding sanctions, we have yet to launch a regular shipping line between Iran and Oman. Despite the negotiations, it has not come true due to the lack of fi-

nancial resources," Razeqi said. Currently, annual trade between Iran and Oman has exceeded \$3 billion, but the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce has set a target of \$5 billion, the senior businessman stated. Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries, namely

the UAE, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia. Expanding trade with the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.





# Timeless art of knife making in Zanjan Province



visitiran.ir

## Iranica Desk

For centuries, Zanjan Province has been renowned for its high-quality knives, crafted by skilled artisans. Historical evidence indicates that the tradition of knife-making in the region dates back to the era of the salt men, with knives discovered among the artifacts, highlighting a long-standing legacy in the area. Zanjan knives represent some of the earliest and most significant documentation of the local knife-making industry. They are celebrated for their distinctive qualities, including elegance, balance, blade coating, and cutting power—all of which showcase the craftsmanship of both past and present artisans. During the Safavid era, masters like Abdolghaffar Sekak greatly contributed to the prosperity of this vital industry. Additionally, credible records from the National Archives and Library reveal

correspondence from 1944 CE listing the names and signatures of 31 Zanjan knife makers, IRNA wrote. Today, the knife-making industry in Zanjan continues to thrive, facing both challenges and triumphs. Some artisans have established noteworthy reputations through their exceptional work, while others are dedicated to preserving this authentic craft for future generations. These artisans pay close attention to their clients' preferences, producing a diverse range of knife models in various sizes and shapes. Some feature decorative handles, making them ideal for display in museums or as collector's items. According to the Deputy Head of Zanjan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization for handicrafts and traditional arts, approximately 2,000 small and large workshops currently operate in the province. Zanjani knife makers typically engrave their names and unique emblems or seals on the blades of their knives. Seyyed Mikaeil Mousavi highlighted that these craftsmen incorporate decorative elements such as jewels, mother-of-pearl, and ivory into their creations. The workshops in Zanjan produce a wide variety of items, from small decorative knives that can be used as keychains to large swords. He further noted that the knife handles showcase the artisans' artistry, as they strive to enhance the beauty and uniqueness of their pieces through intricate carvings and the addition of decorative elements. Zanjan knives are recognized for their spring-like flexibility, enduring sharpness, and ease of handling. Mousavi explained that the various types of Zanjan knives are influenced by the creativity and innovation of the artisans and can be categorized into two types: simple or regular knives and compound or intricate knives.

He mentioned that most collectible knives are exported, with Zanjan's pocket and carving knives unmatched in beauty, decoration, and the quality of their blades and coatings. In the city of Zanjan, artisans possess expertise in constructing over 40 types of knives, and many skilled craftsmen also excel at creating carving knives, kitchen knives, and sugar cutters. Moreover, decorative collectible knives are primarily exported to Arab and European countries, swords are shipped to Arab nations, and pocket knives are sent to both European and Arab markets. Various types of knives produced in Zanjan are available in both domestic and international markets, including pocket knives, hunting and outdoor knives, kitchen knives, butcher knives, gardening and grafting knives, as well as cleavers and kebab knives. The Zanjan carving knife, available in single and double blade options, is renowned for its high sharpness and durability, making it suitable for carving materials such as reed, bamboo, and rattan. Mousavi concluded by emphasizing that preserving, maintaining, and rejuvenating the knife industry in Zanjan requires supporting and encouraging children, youth, and individuals interested in this craft. Hadi Fazli, a prominent knife-making artist in the province with over 34 years of experience, shared his journey: "I entered this art in 1989 during my adolescence and have been dedicated to it ever since." At around 50 years old, this seasoned Zanjani artist conveyed his passion for the trade, stating, "Not only I, but many artists in this field have embraced this work with love and passion. As one of the late knife-making artists from the province remarked, it is love and passion that create a knife." Fazli highlighted the various challenges facing the knife-making art in Zanjan Province, noting, "In meetings with organizations such as the Cultural Heritage De-

partment, and the knife-making union, we've discussed the issues troubling this industry." He pointed out the detrimental impact of some individuals using low-quality raw materials for knife-making, saying, "Despite the recent resurgence of Zanjan knives, opportunistic individuals are tarnishing the reputation of this authentic art by selling subpar knives." The veteran Zanjani knife maker emphasized that the knives produced in this province belong to all its people, not to any individual or group. "Most people recognize this province by its knives, and the lack of serious inspection and oversight in this industry has compromised the production of quality knives," he said. Fazli also stressed that while a variety of knives are available, higher-quality options are significantly more expensive. He mentioned, "In meetings with the officials of Islamic Azad University, we agreed to brand and standardize Zanjan knives." He believes that branding could lead to positive outcomes, adding, "The lack of quality packaging is another issue within this industry." Additionally, he stated that insufficient income poses challenges for newcomers to the knife-making profession, remarking, "Creating a knife takes a considerable amount of time, making it difficult for those new to this craft, often resulting in lower earnings." Fazli expressed optimism about the potential for exporting fine knives to Persian Gulf countries, asserting, "The lack of a suitable market and insurance issues also dissuade participants in this field." He urged officials to offer greater support for the enduring and authentic art of knife-making, highlighting, "This industry has a rich history, and we hope that officials will provide the necessary backing to enable artisans to export their products comfortably throughout the country and abroad without concerns."

## Pasangan Caravanserai; a cultural oasis near Qom

Pasangan Caravanserai is situated near Zanburak, approximately 20km from the city of Qom, along the Qom-Kashan highway. Experts believe this caravanserai was constructed in the 13th century during the Qajar era by a businessman named Haj Mohammad Baqer Qazvini. Some speculate, however, that its origins may date back to pre-Safavid times. Covering an area of half a hectare, Pasangan Caravanserai features a complete brick square layout, measuring 50 meters by 50 meters, with four ivan (arched entrance halls). The structure is two stories tall and includes two smaller porches flanking each of the four ivans. The entrance gate, facing south, is adorned with ten arches on either side and is supported by four semi-circular stone towers at each corner. The main entrance consists of a brick

arch and a façade on both sides that leads into a vestibule. Historically, a second floor existed above the porch of the gate, but no remnants of it remain today.

Adjacent to the entrance is a courtyard featuring a central pond, while alcoves can be found on the second floor of the caravanserai.

The caravanserai also includes both an interior and exterior cistern for water storage. Various attractions are available for tourists at Pasangan Caravan-

serai, including a gallery, astronomy base, bird-watching pavilion, desert exhibition, handicrafts exhibition, art bazaar, and a reception hall.





# From Iron Dome to F-15s: US provides 70% of Israel's war costs



By Adrian Filut  
Journalist

## ANALYSIS

A report by Brown University's Watson Institute reveals that since the beginning of the war in Gaza, the US has spent more than \$22 billion on military aid to Israel — from weapons and equipment to the deployment of aircraft carriers. Israel receives more US military aid than any other recipient and is uniquely able to use that funding to spend on domestic goods.

The US government has spent at least \$22.76 billion on military aid to Israel from October 7, 2023, to September 30 of this year, according to a report by Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs as part of its Costs of War project. About \$17.9 billion was spent on direct military aid to Israel, and \$4.86 billion on US military operations in the war zone, including actions against Houthi forces in Yemen, such as deploying aircraft carriers and air defense batteries in the region. The project aims to shed light on the extent of US assistance in armed conflicts where the US is directly involved and adopts a critical tone regarding the lack of transparency surrounding these figures. In their recent paper entitled "United States Spending on Israel's Military Operations and Related US Operations in the Region, October 7, 2023 – September 30, 2024," the paper opens by stating that, "It has been difficult for the US public, journalists and members of Congress to get an accurate understanding of the amount of military equipment and financial assistance that the US gov-



US President Joe Biden (R) talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, on July 25, 2024.

● SUSAN WALSH/AP

ernment has provided to Israel's military during the past year of war. There is likewise little US public awareness of the costs of the United States military's own, related, operations in the region, particularly in and around Yemen." The study was led by Prof. Linda Bilmes, a senior lecturer in public policy and public finance at Harvard University. The study was published earlier this month and presents several important conclusions, particularly in light of the Biden administration's calls for a ceasefire in Gaza following the assassination of Yahya Sinwar and for increased humanitarian aid to the region. At the same time, calls are being heard in Israel to shut down the UNRWA refugee

agency (a move the US opposes), along with criticism of the Biden administration by Prime Minister Netanyahu and coalition leaders, such as Ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. The total amount of American aid since the start of the war is about NIS 85 billion (\$22 billion) based on an average exchange rate by the Bank of Israel over the past year. Most has been delivered but about \$5.2 billion will only arrive next year. According to official estimates from the Bank of Israel, the total cost of the war is estimated to be about NIS 250 billion (\$65 billion), including around NIS 118 billion (\$31 billion) for military costs including army operational costs, replenishment of military

equipment, ammunition, and logistical support. Therefore, by a simple calculation, the US has been funding about 70% of the war effort. Although this calculation is not exact due to the cash flow over time (there is a gap between actual expenditures and the receipt of funds), there is no doubt that without American assistance, the cabinet deficit for 2024–2025 — one of the highest in Israel's history — would be about 4.3% more of the GDP — an unmanageable amount. Therefore, it is doubtful that the war would have been conducted in its current intensity or scope without US assistance. The paper emphasizes the strategic importance of US funding and development for missile

defense systems including Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow. Additionally, due to the conflict's escalation, the rapid rearmament of Israel's weapons and ammunition stock — including critical supplies of artillery shells, bombs, precision-guided ammunition, and anti-tank missiles — has played a central role. The study notes that the vast sum already approved was merely a first round: on August 13 this year, the Biden administration announced additional arms deals worth \$20.3 billion, including the sale of F15 fighter jets from Boeing. The package includes 50 combat F15 jets (\$18.8 billion), more than 32,000 tank munitions (\$774 million), tactical vehicles (\$583 million), 30 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles (\$102 million), and 50,000 mortar rounds (\$61 million). According to the study, the Pentagon updated delivery dates for these systems is between 2026 (mortar shells) and 2029 (for the F15s).

The document highlights Israel's standing as the biggest recipient of US aid since World War II, totaling \$251.2 billion over 66 years. Additionally, the aid provided by the Biden administration to Israel over the past year was the highest in the history of relations between the two countries, 25% higher than the second-largest amount — \$14 billion in the late 1970s (in real terms, reflecting purchasing power by adjusting for inflation). Another unique feature differentiating US military aid to Israel from other countries is the allowance to spend up to 25% of the aid on Israeli-produced goods — a privilege the US has granted to no other ally. The authors believe that this provision supports Israel's defense industry, making it one of the most self-sufficient militarily while still receiving US assistance.

The article first appeared on CNN.



Although this calculation [\$22.76 billion] is not exact due to the cash flow over time (there is a gap between actual expenditures and the receipt of funds), there is no doubt that without American assistance, the cabinet deficit for 2024–2025 — one of the highest in Israel's history — would be about 4.3% more of the GDP — an unmanageable amount.



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-ballistic missile defense system is displayed during a Made in America showcase on the South Lawn of the White House, Washington, on July 15, 2019.

● ALEX BRANDON/AP





# Pro-Palestine activists target invisible genocide profiteer in arms supply chain

  
**By Rimsha Syed**  
Freelance journalist  
**PERSPECTIVE**

As Israel's campaign of mass killing in Palestine enters its second year and extends to Lebanon, the collective sense of urgency felt by people around the globe has inspired a

shift in organizing strategy. Activists in the US have been organizing to quell the Israeli war machine by turning their attention to logistics companies that physically deliver munitions to Israel. For the past several months, the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM), a transnational coalition guided by principles of

justice and liberation, has launched a new phase in its multipronged campaign against one of the world's largest genocide profiteers: Maersk. Maersk is a Danish logistics company that deals with shipping, port operation, supply chain management, and warehousing. As the world's largest container ship and supply

vessel operator, Maersk has subsidiaries and offices in over 130 countries. Since October 7, 2023, Maersk has shipped over \$300 million in weapons components to US arms manufacturers, organizers have found. As a key culprit in the weapons trade, Maersk plays a direct role in maintaining the flow of weapons and weapon

components used on the besieged population in Gaza, where the Ministry of Health reports more than 42,700 people have been confirmed to have been killed in Israel's genocide — widely considered to be a vast undercount. Truthout reached out to Maersk for comment, but did not receive a response in time for publication.

In a broader context, the US is Israel's largest foreign weapons provider; over 68 percent of the ammunition used to maintain their illegal apartheid is supplied by the American government. Taking inspiration from national organizing tactics, from direct actions outside Israeli arms company Elbit Systems to student-led

encampments that have successfully pushed universities to divest from genocide, the "Mask Off Maersk" campaign is gearing up to demand a total arms embargo with myriad political organizing strategies. Simply put, the mask has fallen and the demands of the campaign are clear: Maersk must cut ties with genocide.

## New campaign targets weapons supply chain

Earlier this year, thousands of participants in the movement for Palestine convened in Detroit for the People's Conference, where the "Mask Off Maersk" campaign was first announced. In July, students, activists, and community members in Houston, Texas, gathered for a Palestinian Youth Movement-led teach-in as part of a national week of action to bring the Maersk campaign to life. In this phase of the struggle to end the mass murder of Palestinians, campaign organizers understand the need to disrupt the supply chain that exists to fast-track the money-to-weaponry pipeline. Ending Maersk's relationship with Israel is one of the most explicit ways to stop the flow of heavy-grade artillery into Gaza — a concrete, tangible consequence for Israel after conducting genocide with relative impunity for more than a year.

Logistics companies and the facilitation of war go hand in hand; the latter cannot exist without the former. American weapon companies sit squarely at the top of the global arms industry. In 2022, the top five US weapons contractors made \$196 billion in military-related revenue — leaving tens of thousands of Palestinians killed as the companies fulfilled their greed. Israel's largest arms manufacturer, Elbit Systems, is responsible for supplying MPR 500 bombs used in the indiscriminate bombing of the Gaza Strip — bombs that are explicitly designed for "densely populated urban warfare". Hermes 450 and 900 drones, also manufactured by Elbit Systems, have been deployed for surveillance missions and attacks on Gaza, the occupied West Bank, and Lebanon.

Elbit Systems, along with the US-based Lockheed Martin and Raytheon, to name a few, are culpable in the same blood-soaked weapons-industrial complex. Maersk is the common denominator in this supply chain, which is why it sits at the top of PYM's campaign demanding an end to any contracts that fuel genocide. For many, Maersk is a relatively new household name to add to the list of companies that are part of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement. It's crucial to understand that the weapon components manufacturing system is typically decentralized: The wings of an F-35 fighter jet could be made at a factory in one corner of the world while the engine could be made in another country entirely. These components are then transported by Maersk to the US for assembly, an insidiously silent player in the war machine. The transport of weapons and their components through logistics companies allows the grenades, bombs, drones, and fighter jets

to eventually reach Israel, where they are used for mass ethnic cleansing. The campaign hopes to spread understanding about how these supply chains function, garnering support across sectors and struggles as we deepen the bonds for collective liberation.


## Connecting labor movement to movement for Palestine

PYM's multipronged approach against Maersk recognizes that coordinated efforts that take inspiration from successful organizing wins within the context of Palestinian liberation and beyond will guarantee a more robust campaign. There are four components to targeting Maersk: media and narrative, mobilization, labor, and city and campus. The media element hopes to illuminate the role that Maersk plays in the abetment



of genocide, the mobilization element seeks to popularize Maersk as an international target, and the city and campus sector hopes to cut any partnerships, investments, or affiliations that institutions may have with Maersk. Each vein of the campaign aims to inflict financial and reputational damage through coordinated actions — making mass pressure against Maersk unavoidable. Activists call on labor unions, student movements, community-based organizations, legal organizations, and other progressive movements to join the call to halt the flow of capital and logistics. Maersk has storage facilities, ports, and offices around the US, including training sites in Houston. During the national week of action against Maersk, one PYM Houston chapter organizer Obi (who preferred only to be identified by first name due to safety concerns) identified Houston as "an important node in Maersk's global operations" due to its location as both a port


city connected to the Gulf of Mexico and as a regional railroad hub. After a trip down to the port, Obi told Truthout, "Talking to workers at the warehouses and longshoremen at the port has highlighted how they are specifically exploited by Maersk and highlights the dangerous working conditions." Building rank-and-file power among workers already disgruntled by subpar working conditions could be yet another benefit of the campaign. Maersk has already been subject to multiple strikes from the International Longshoremen's Association, demonstrating their preexisting grievances with Maersk. Several leading labor unions have also already called for a cease-fire and an end to the US government's complicity in the genocide. "Building relationships with workers in order to stop the flow of weapons vis-à-vis Maersk enables us to raise popular consciousness and advance our politics of anti-Zionism and an-

 A forest in Naqoura, southern Lebanon, is seen burned by white phosphorus munitions used in Israeli bombardments, on November 3, 2023.  
● THE GREEN SOUTHERNERS

ti-imperialism through the lens of logistics companies and their role in facilitating the genocide in Gaza," says Obi. The Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions has called for a picket line around the handling of arms destined for Israel. The worker-liaison role that Obi plays is meant to facilitate that picket line from the US.

## Activists target Israel's perpetration of environmental injustice

In addition to the immediate need to stop the ongoing genocide and displacement in Palestine, and now Lebanon, there is also the need to end the subsequent ecocide that's caused by the mass destruction. We need look no further than the indiscriminate

 Pro-Palestinian demonstrators protest against Maersk shipping company at the Cabrillo Way Marina at the Port of Los Angeles on August 28, 2024.  
● ALLEN J. SCHABEN/  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

bombardment of entire villages, olive tree groves, hospitals, and schools, many of which were designated as "safe zones," to understand the connectedness between the environmental justice movement's shared rage against logistics companies that facilitate the destruction of life, land, and resources. The relentless assaults in both Palestine and Lebanon have inflicted lasting damage on the environment that adds a long-term threat to the region's health and sustainability. Although Israel has destroyed vital agriculture and contaminated Gaza's drinkable water long before October 7, what followed has only worsened the environmental crisis.

"Climate justice cannot be achieved in a reality where white phosphorus is used as a war technology to poison and suffocate Palestinians, and entire cities are flattened," Trinit, a Houston-based organizer with experience in eco-activism who asked to be identified by first name only for safety reasons, told Truthout. This pattern of US-backed environmental degradation as a tool of warfare has alarmed climate justice advocates, who are demanding accountability. Many youth and BIPOC-led groups like Climate Justice Alliance, Friends of the Earth, Youth vs. Apocalypse, and Movement Generation have connected the liberation of Palestine and the restoration of our planet. Greta Thunberg, a well-known climate activist, was arrested for protesting against the Israeli occupation's genocide in Palestine. The Asian Pacific Environmen-

tal Network (APEN) has also been prolific in their public call for a cease-fire. APEN also helped to successfully advocate the Richmond City Council to pass a resolution "in solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza," making Richmond the first city in the US to do so.

Between munitions that contain heavy metals being deployed in densely populated areas in Palestine to the egregious use of phosphorus gas, weapon manufacturers and logistics companies are profiting off war crimes and ecological disasters. In November, Israeli shells incinerated 40,000 olive trees in southern Lebanon — a cultural, spiritual, and agricultural disaster.

Many environmental justice groups, in conjunction with the official BDS movement, have championed boycotts around Chevron for its allegiance to climate colonialism by way of leading Israel's extraction of the region's gas fields. In this vein, striking an alliance with the existing infrastructure of leaders within the environmental justice movement could be paramount in applying maximum pressure against Maersk.

Weakening this part of the war machine through protest, boycott, and direct action, says Trinit, "could have a great material impact on the Palestinian struggle for liberation from their occupiers". Specifically, targeting environmental colonialism in this campaign has far-reaching impacts, like lowering the emissions that come from manufacturing, transporting, and shipping weapons. "Less weapons to the Zionist occupation is, first and foremost, significant in protecting the lives of our comrades in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen," Trinit told Truthout. "There is simply an added benefit of lowering the environmental impacts of sending those weapons to the occupation."

In March, the International Alliance of App-Based Transport Workers, a coalition of 100,000 drivers and couriers from 20 countries, announced it would boycott all gas stations linked to Chevron. This display of solidarity that flows between the movement for Palestinian liberation, the network of unionized masses, and the environmental justice movement is but one example of the road forward. Weaving together the material connectedness of our struggles toward liberation to maximize the impact of the "Mask Off Maersk" campaign has the potential to shift the moral culpability of companies that profit off the lives of the Palestinian people. It all comes back to the actuality that none of us are free until we're all free.

The article first appeared on Truthout.



# Wrestling World Championships: Mixed draws as Iranians learn freestyle fate

Sports Desk

Iranian wrestlers will face a mix of fortunes when getting their freestyle campaigns underway at the Seniors World Championships – featuring non-Olympic weight categories – in Tirana, Albania, today. Kamran Qasempour, who stood behind Amir-Ali Azarpira in the pecking order for the Iranian 97kg slot at the Paris Olympics, will be looking to notch up a third world gold medal on return to his familiar territory of the 92kg class, starting with a bout against low-profile Japanese Takashi Ishiguro. A victory will see the Iranian take on Turkey's Feyzullah Aktürk – a three-time European champion and world bronze medalist last year – in the round of 16. However, all eyes will be on the first-round battle between two of the sport's sensations in recent years in Russian Abdurashid Sadulaev and American David Taylor, who have won a remarkable 11 world and Olympic gold medals between them in the 97kg



L-R: Kamran Qasempour (92kg), Reza Mo'meni (61kg), Sina Khalili (70kg), and Mohammad Nokhodi (79kg) are the four Iranians in the freestyle contests of the Wrestling World Championships in Tirana, Albania. ● IAWF

and 86kg weight classes. Qasempour, Sadulaev, and Taylor are in the same half of the draw, meaning wrestling fans could anticipate a last-four thriller featuring the Iranian and one of the

two greats. Elsewhere in the Feti Borova Sports Hall, Mohammad Nokhodi, chasing a fourth successive world medal, will go head-to-head with Austrian Alans Amirovs in

the 79kg event, with the winner facing Hungary's Murad Kuramagomedov or Chinese Cao Nan in the last 16. Legendary American Jordan Burroughs will begin

his quest for a seventh world gold against Russian-born Zelimkhan Khadjiev of France or Romanian Zurab Kapraev. Beaten by Burroughs in his previous two final appear-

ances in 2021 and 2022, Nokhodi will have to raise his level against the American if he wants to progress to the semifinals as the two are likely to cross paths in the last-eight round.

A world under-17 champion last year, Sina Khalili was only given the Iranian 70kg berth last week – after Amirmohammad Yazdani failed to fully recover from a broken hand – and the teenage prodigy will be eager to make the most of the opportunity in his senior debut. Khalili will meet Belarusian Niurgun Skriabin, who participates as a neutral athlete, with the winner facing former world bronze winner Alibek Osmonov of Kyrgyzstan in the last 16. Reza Mo'meni is the Iranian wrestler in the 61kg contests, starting his campaign against Besir Alili of North Macedonia. Should Mo'meni overcome the North Macedonian, he will have to square off against the host's Endrio Avdyli or Swiss wrestler Nino Leutert in the round of 16.



## Iranian fencer Hosseini wins Gymnasiade gold

Sports Desk

Iranian fencer Seyyed Sadra Hosseini finished his campaign at the 2024 Gymnasiade – International School Sports Games – on a high note by winning a gold medal in Bahrain. Hosseini defeated an Omani opponent in Monday's final to walk away with the ultimate prize in the boys' foil contests.

There was further glory for the Iranians on Day 4 of the Games in other sports as Arman Elahi (48kg), Reza Shamsipour (65kg), Arsham Vahabian (71kg), Reza Afshar (80kg), Amirhossein Naqdalipour (110kg) all won the gold medals of their respective weight classes in freestyle wrestling. Sam Sayyar settled for the 60kg silver after a final loss to

an Azerbaijani wrestler, while Benyamin Ashofteh took a consolation bronze in the 45kg contests. In taekwondo, Aida Najandnia and Rojan Goudarzi grabbed two gold medals in the girls' competitions, with Parnian Moradi and Sheida Mohammadi winning a couple of bronzes. Amirreza Roueintan and Amirreza Rahmanzadeh claimed the

titles in the taekwondo boys' event. Iran is represented by 120 contestants in eight sporting events across the 10 days of action the Persian Gulf kingdom. Participated by athletes from 71 countries, the 19th edition of the International School Sport Federation's flagship event features 26 sports, including four para sports.

## Vinicius believes fighting racism led to Ballon d'Or defeat

REUTERS – Brazil and Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr said that he will keep on fighting racism even if his activism is what led to him not winning the Ballon d'Or, sources close to the player told Reuters. Vinicius took to social media after finishing second in the prestigious award voting behind Spain and Manchester City midfielder Rodri. "I will do it 10 times if I have to. They're not ready," Vinicius posted on X after his LaLiga side Real Madrid cancelled their plans to attend the ceremony in Paris, boycotting it in anticipation of the Brazilian not winning the men's award. Asked what Vinicius meant with his post, his management staff told Reuters that he was referring to his fight against racism and that they believe it was what led to him not winning the award, saying that "the football world is not ready to accept a player who fights against the system." The 24-year-old Brazil international has been subjected to racial abuse on several occasions in Spain, leading to at least two convictions for racist insults in pioneer cases in the country. Real also won the men's club of the year award, and their manager Carlo Ancelotti was named men's coach of the year after winning the European and Spanish league double in a near perfect campaign last season. France Football, which organises the Ballon d'Or awards, was not immediately available for comment. The awards are based on voting by a panel of journalists from the top 100 FIFA-ranked countries.



● GETTY IMAGES

"FOOTBALL POLITICS X. My brother, you are the best player in the world and no award can say otherwise. Love you my bro," Real's Eduardo Camavinga posted on X, while several other teammates shared messages with photos of Vinicius saying "You are the best". "I waited all year for Vini Jr to be deservedly recognised as the best player in the world and now they come to tell me that the Ballon d'Or is not for him?" Brazilian women's great Marta said in a video on Instagram. Vinicius was instrumental in Real's Champions League-LaLiga double along with 21-year-old Jude Bellingham, who scored 19 goals in a sparkling debut campaign and helped England reach the Euro 2024 final, and came third in the Ballon d'Or ranking

## Man United in Amorim talks as Ten Hag successor sought

BBC – Manchester United are in talks about appointing Sporting manager Ruben Amorim as Erik ten Hag's replacement. Dutchman Ten Hag was sacked on Monday following the side's poor start to the season. Amorim, 39, is a highly regarded coach who has won two Portuguese league titles with Sporting – including their first in 19 years – since joining in 2020. The extent of the talks over Amorim are not known. It is also not clear whether other alternatives remain in the frame to take the Old Trafford job. However, Amorim is now becoming the leading candidate. Speaking at a news conference on Monday, Portuguese Amorim said he was expecting a question about the Manchester United job but was not prepared to talk about it. United have appointed Ten Hag's assistant Ruud van Nistelrooy as interim manager but have so far refused to clarify how long the Dutchman will



● GETTY IMAGES

remain in charge, or whether he will definitely be in post for today's Carabao Cup tie with Leicester at Old Trafford. The club has already ruled out Van Nistelrooy conducting a pre-match media conference on Tuesday. Ten Hag spoke about the EFL Cup game after Sunday's defeat by West Ham. Although United have spoken about the financial impact of paying compensation to Ten

Hag and an incoming coach, others with a knowledge of United's finances have suggested this will not be an insurmountable issue. Sunday's 2-1 defeat at West Ham left Manchester United 14th in the Premier League with three wins from their opening nine matches. They are also 21st of 36 teams in the Europa League table, having drawn their three opening fixtures.



# Iran FM urges diligent work toward immediate halt to war in Lebanon, Palestine

## International Desk

Iran's foreign minister stressed that all influential parties must work diligently to bring an immediate end to the conflict in Lebanon and Palestine, and that the legitimate interests and demands of the Lebanese and Palestinian people must be considered to achieve a favorable diplomatic outcome. Addressing a gathering of ambassadors and heads of foreign missions in Tehran on Tuesday, Abbas Araghchi said, "At this critical juncture, the Islamic Republic of Iran stresses the need for collective diplomatic efforts to stop the Zionist regime's crimes and aggression, and we urge members of the international community to take swift and decisive action to halt the bombing campaigns and the slaughter of innocent civilians in Gaza and Lebanon, and to provide urgent assistance to the dire situation of refugees and facilitate humanitarian aid in these areas." Israel waged a genocidal

Gaza onslaught on October 7, 2023, after the Palestinian Hamas resistance group carried out an operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people. So far, at least 43,020 Palestinians, mostly women and children were killed, and 101,110 others injured in the besieged Gaza. After nearly a year of exchanging fire across the border with Lebanon, Israel also intensified its strikes on southern part of the country and beyond over the last month. The Iranian foreign minister added, "We firmly believe that as long as the aggression in Gaza and Lebanon continues, the region will not see peace. We have proposed a regional and operational solution for a lasting, fair, and comprehensive peace in the region, which is based on recognizing the inherent rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination." Regarding Lebanon, he

added, "We believe that the facts on the ground and the country's geography must be taken into serious consideration. Hezbollah and the Lebanese resistance have deep roots in the country and are not going anywhere." He emphasized, "Any plans that only serve the interests of the Zionist regime are doomed to fail. The Security Council is duty-bound to take action against this regime's insistence on continuing the war and bloodshed in Gaza and Lebanon, and to impose strict sanctions against the Zionist regime based on Chapter VII of the UN Charter."

## Israel's ban on UNRWA

In a move that has further escalated its war crimes, Israel's parliament passed a law on Monday to ban the UN relief agency UNRWA from operating inside the occupied territories, alarming some of Israel's Western allies who fear it will worsen the already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

The move has stirred a growing international backlash, including from Israel's allies — the United States and European powers. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned in a statement that the decision could lead to catastrophic outcomes for Palestinian refugees, deeming such a scenario unacceptable. Gaza war mediator Qatar on Tuesday condemned the Israeli parliament's decision with its Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari saying, "We emphasize that stopping support for UNRWA will have disastrous consequences." Qatar, along with the United States and Egypt, has mediated months of negotiations for a deal to end the Gaza war and exchange Israeli captives held there for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. The talks have thus far failed to result in an agreement, with both of the warring parties accusing the other of blocking it. The US State Department



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi(c) addresses a gathering of ambassadors and heads of foreign missions in Tehran on October 29, 2024.  
● MOHAMMADREZA ALIMADADI/IRNA

warned on Monday that humanitarian assistance was not getting to people that need it in Jabalia in northern Gaza, which spokesperson Matthew Miller said the US does not accept. "That's one of our assessments, is that the food and water and medicine that needs to get to people in Jabalia, they aren't getting it right now. And we want to

see that change," Miller said. The Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said around 100,000 people were marooned in Jabalia, Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun without medical or food supplies. Ireland's Prime Minister Simon Harris urged the EU to review trade ties with Israel Tuesday over Israeli lawmakers' "despicable" ban of the UN's Palestinian aid

agency UNRWA. The Irish leader criticized the Israeli parliament's "shameful" banning of the agency, which coordinates nearly all aid to Gaza. "Ireland, Spain, Belgium, Slovenia and others have been calling for more actions at an EU level. I think that would be a very effective way and I'll be continuing to make that case," he said.

## UNSC discusses Israeli attack on Iran

## Iran's response to Israeli aggression to fit within int'l law: **Envoy**



Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani(front R), attends a meeting at the United Nations Security Council on October 28, 2024 in New York City.  
● SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

civilian, Iravani added, "Our response will be lawful, and fully compliant with international law." Iravani regretted that the United States had emboldened Tel Aviv towards perpetrating the aggression with its "unwavering and unconditional" support and obstruction of the Security Council's efforts at holding the regime accountable. He considered the US to be "complicit" in the regime's acts of aggression across the region due to its provision of technical expertise and advanced military systems to Tel Aviv. Meanwhile at the meeting, the US warned Iran of "severe

consequences" if it undertakes any further aggressive acts against Israel or US personnel in the Middle East. "We will not hesitate to act in self-defense. Let there be no confusion. The US does not want to see further escalation. We believe this should be the end of the direct exchange of fire between Israel and Iran," US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the 15-member council. The Iranian envoy, meanwhile, condemned the Israeli regime's backers for supporting its atrocities as acts of "self-defense," while "shamelessly" calling on the Islamic Republic to exercise self-restraint. Addressing the same meeting, China as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, said the Israeli attack violated Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity. China also said the situation in the Middle East is quite volatile and that Beijing is worried about Israel's behavior. Russia's permanent representative to the world body, Vasily Nebenzya, said the

"successful" conduct of Iran's air defense system during the Israeli act of aggression prevented more casualties in the deadly attack. Nebenzya also warned that the Israeli raid not only violates international law, but also destabilizes the already highly tense situation in the region. He said that the Israeli assault was "coordinated with the US" against a number of Iranian targets. Israel did not hide its intention to conduct the raid while the US did not try to talk the regime out of it, and even provided Tel Aviv with intelligence, he added. Like her US counterpart, the British diplomat expressed support for Israel and said, "Iran should not respond to Israel's attacks." The French diplomat stressed that a ceasefire should be established in Gaza as soon as possible and asked Israel to pull out its troops from Lebanon. Algeria's representative, Ammar bin Jame, said the Israeli attack endangers international peace and security.

## Tehran slams Berlin over criticism of terrorist's execution

**Araghchi:** German passport provides no impunity to anyone

## International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Tuesday lambasted remarks by his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock criticizing Iranian authorities over the execution of dual national Jamshid Sharmahd. "No terrorist enjoys impunity in Iran ... A German passport does not provide impunity to anyone, let alone a terrorist criminal," Araghchi said in a post on X, urging Baerbock to stop "gaslighting." His remarks came after the German foreign minister in a statement condemned the execution of Sharmahd who was the ringleader of a US-based terror group behind a series of deadly attacks against Iran. She said that Germany has repeatedly made it

clear to Tehran that the execution of a German citizen will have serious consequences. Sharmahd was sentenced to death in 2023 for committing "corruption on earth" by planning and orchestrating the terrorist acts. Sharmahd had for years, at the behest of his masters in Western intelligence agencies, designed and carried out a series of terrorist attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran, said a statement by the Tehran Prosecutor-General's Office on Monday. Following the execution of Sharmahd, Germany on Tuesday recalled its ambassador to Iran and summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to voice Berlin's protest. Iran also summoned German ambassador in Tehran for Berlin's meddling in Iran's affairs.

## International Desk

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations said the Islamic Republic reserves its inherent right to respond to the Israel's recent attacks against the country, saying Tehran's potential retaliation will be perfectly aligned with the international law. Amir Saeid Iravani made the remarks at the UN Security Council meeting held Monday to discuss the regime's attacks against defensive targets across Tehran, Khuzestan, and

Ilam Provinces on Saturday. As a sovereign state, Iran reserves "its inherent right to respond at a time of its choosing to this act of aggression, a right clearly affirmed under Article 51 of the UN Charter," he said, echoing various Iranian authorities' promise of retaliation against the aggression. Denouncing the Israeli atrocities as "egregious and severe violation of international law and the UN Charter" that led to the martyrdom of four Iranian servicemen and one

**Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
Cartoonist



## Sheikh Qassem appointed as new chief of Hezbollah

Hezbollah's Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem was elected as the new chief of the Lebanese resistance movement after his predecessor Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was assassinated in an Israeli strike on southern Beirut last month. On Tuesday, Hezbollah's Shura Council, the group's central decision-making body, appointed the 60-year-old cleric to the post, Press TV reported. "Based on faith in Allah Almighty..., adherence to

Hezbollah's principles and goals, and following the established procedure for the election of the Secretary-General, Hezbollah's Shura Council has elected His Eminence Sheikh Naim Qassem as Secretary-General of Hezbollah, entrusting him with the blessed banner on this journey," the council said in a statement. Sheikh Qassem is a veteran figure in Hezbollah, having served as deputy secretary general of the Lebanese resistance group since 1991.

**MS can be controlled with timely diagnosis and new drugs**



www.iranms.ir  
Assistance practices  
\*780\*2223#  
\*733\*4\*2223#  
Tel: 02166953907-9



● 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/newspaper.irandaily.ir  
irandaily@icpi.ir  
Iran Cultural & Press Institute



62607571900044 > irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7685 ● Wednesday, Oct 30, 2024 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages

## Inauguration of five museums

# *Pezeshkian:* Sacred Defense ‘timeless necessity’ for society

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian urged Iranians to hold onto the values of the Sacred Defense, which he described as a “timeless necessity” for society, as he spoke during a ceremony marking the inauguration of five Sacred Defense museums in five provinces and the launch of 262 books about the conflict.

He stated that for those who lived through the war and have those memories, it is painful that we have not been able to pass on those beliefs and values to the new generation in a way that is worthy, president.ir reported.

During the Sacred Defense era, “our youth abandoned their studies, work, and lives to defend the country without expecting anything in return. If we have that same faith and conviction today, no power can have a biased or hostile view of our country and our land.” President Pezeshkian pointed out that

the factor that enabled the Iranian nation to resist enemy attacks was the strong faith of the country’s youths. The president also referred to the cowardly act of the Zionist regime in violating Iran’s airspace, saying that the enemy’s assumption that such actions can make us surrender is a “futile dream”. Pezeshkian emphasized that our martyrs sacrificed their lives for this country and Islamic Revolution, and now it is our responsibility to continue their path.

He stated that to follow in the footsteps of the martyrs, we have a much harder road ahead and must control our ego and selfish desires. Today, most of our disagreements and disputes are over power, fame, and position, whereas those who intend to serve should not have any disputes.

The president emphasized, “we are duty-bound to serve this country and nation for the sake of the martyrs’ blood and to make them happy. We must



● president.ir

show through our sincere behavior and actions that we are committed to serving the people.”

During the ceremony, the president also unveiled a commemorative stamp for the opening of the five Sacred De-

fense museums in the provinces of Zanjan, Qazvin, Golestan, Gilan, and Lorestan.

## Global literati pledge boycott of Israeli cultural institutions

Sally Rooney, Arundhati Roy and Rachel Kushner are among more than 1,000 writers and publishing professionals who have signed a letter pledging to boycott Israeli cultural institutions that “are complicit or have remained silent observers of the overwhelming oppression of Palestinians”.

Signatories to the pledge say they will not work with Israeli publishers, festivals, literary agencies and publications that are “complicit in violating Palestinian rights”, including operating “discriminatory policies and practices” or “whitewashing and justifying Israel’s occupation, apartheid or genocide”.

Institutions that have never publicly recognised the “inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as enshrined in international law” will also be boycotted, The Guardian reported. The campaign was organised by the Palestine festival of literature (also known as PalFest), which

runs an annual festival with free public events in cities across Palestine, alongside campaign groups Books Against Genocide, Book Workers for a Free Palestine, Publishers for Palestine, Writers Against the War on Gaza and Fossil Free Books.

“We, as writers, publishers, literary festival workers, and other book workers, publish

in Gaza since last October, and that this follows “75 years of displacement, ethnic cleansing and apartheid”.

Culture “has played an integral role in normalising these injustices”, it says. Israeli cultural institutions, “often working directly with the state, have been crucial in obfuscating, disguising and art-washing the dispossession and oppression of millions of Palestinians for decades”.

Industry workers have a “role to play”, states the pledge. “We cannot in good conscience engage with Israeli institutions without interrogating their relationship to apartheid and displacement,” it reads, noting that “countless authors” took the same position against apartheid in South Africa. The letter ends with a call to the signatories’ peers to join the pledge.

In response to the letter, UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI), an association of lawyers supporting Israel, has sent its own letter to the Society of Authors, the Publishers Association and the Independent

Publishers Guild. “This boycott is plainly discriminatory against Israelis. The authors do not impose similar conditions on publishers, festivals, literary agencies or publications of any other nationality,” the UKLFI alleged, adding that its members believe there are legal risks involved in participating in the boycott.

Omar Robert Hamilton, co-founder and current festival director of PalFest, said he believes the UKLFI’s letter “is only notable for its moral bankruptcy and proves that Israel’s apologists have nothing to say.” Rooney, the author of Normal People and, most recently, Intermezzo, has long been an outspoken advocate for Palestinian rights, and in 2021 refused to sell the Hebrew translation rights of her third novel, Beautiful World, Where Are You, to an Israeli publisher.

Roy and Kushner are also vocal critics of Israel. Upon accepting the PEN Pinter prize earlier this month, Roy used her speech to discuss Gaza, and said that she would donate her prize money to the Palestinian Children’s Relief Fund.

## Tehran Symphony Orchestra to perform ‘Persian March’ concert

Arts & Culture Desk

The Tehran Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Maziar Younessi, will perform a concert titled ‘Persian March’ at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall on November 5.

The orchestra features a diverse program that includes ‘Persian March’ by German composer Johann Strauss, ‘Symphony No. 4’ by Italian composer Felix Mendelssohn, and excerpts from ‘Swan Lake’ by Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

The concert will also feature ‘Barkarole’ from the opera by French composer Jacques Offenbach, and ‘Dance’ by Iranian composer Hossein Alizadeh, arranged by Maziar Younessi.

Maziar Younessi is a composer, musician, and conductor who has performed a wide range of symphonic works in the past. He has led the Austro-Iranian Symphony Orchestra (AISO) and has worked on numerous film, television, and animation scores.

Younessi is also a member of the “Kaste Quartet” as a composer and pianist.

This concert follows the orchestra’s successful performance in September, led by guest conductor Arash Gouran, which was met with great enthusiasm from music lovers.

## Tech diplomacy; Iranian...

Therefore, the formation and strengthening of regional and international alliances in this field has become an inescapable necessity. Relying on this reality, technological interactions have taken a key place in the theoretical and practical structures of forward-thinking governments’ diplomacy, to the point where it is rare to find a pragmatic government that has not prioritized “tech diplomacy.”

The philosophy of tech diplomacy is based on three core pillars: 1) digital transformations and the redistribution of power in international relations, 2) the emergence of new challenges and conflicts, and 3) the consolidation of digital governance in countries, covering

ing over 50 critical issues and challenges in international relations and digital governance. Some of the most pressing challenges include:

### Cyber governance challenges

■ Interference by some states in the economic, social, cultural, and security affairs of other countries through the widespread production of misinformation, conspiracy theories, online radicalization, and fake news dissemination on social media and messaging platforms, as well as cyberattacks and the development of cyber weapons such as Stuxnet.

■ The emergence of transnational and satellite internet service providers from the East to the West.

■ Resolving frequency interference and establishing new international standards in the field of communications.

■ The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence and its global challenges.

■ The increase in sellers and providers of services and products from outside the traditional borders of countries in the virtual space.

■ Supporting the international growth and development of private digital companies.

■ The continuous rise of cryptocurrencies and digital assets.

■ Cybersecurity, privacy, and dependence challenges, as well as strengthening national capabilities.

These challenges pose a pervasive threat to all countries active in the

field of communications and technological interactions. The harsh reality is that no country is immune to these challenges, although the intensity and vulnerability of each country vary for different reasons. More regrettably, Iran has been subject to more targeted and widespread cyberattacks, mainly due to the illegitimate and unlawful political motivations of some rival countries, and has been imposed with numerous technological sanctions on users, as well as unjustifiable sanctions on private businesses and some official organizations. In the era of globalization, participating in international institution-building to establish standards in the ICT sector is crucial, as governments that set standards will dictate the agenda for other

governments and gradually dominate them.

Therefore, in recent years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has, through international organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations, regional alliances like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, and bilateral interactions with countries like China, Russia, Cuba, Venezuela, and others, pursued synergies with a view to laying the groundwork for collectively rooting out obstructions and illegal measures, as well as politically motivated disruptions, thereby narrowing the room for maneuver for cyber activists, in order to provide a safer virtual space for all citizens and businesses.