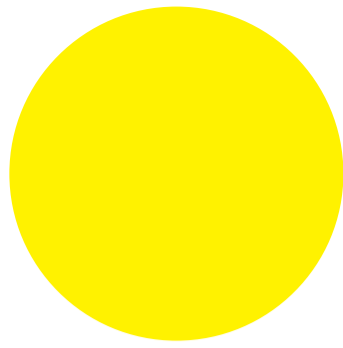


SCO roundly condemns Israeli aggression on Iran



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# Iran Daily

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## Pezeschkian stresses foreign investment in transit infrastructure development

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### US Embassy takeover marked Iran's 'Zero Hour'



By Ali Kakadezfuli  
Managing director

OPINION

The 1979 seizure of the US Embassy in Iran ushered in a "zero hour," profoundly reshaping Iran's political structure. Some analysts argue that this event should not have occurred and believe that, had it not happened, today's Iran—especially in economic terms—would be significantly better off, with its people enjoying greater prosperity. However, America's involvement in other countries' affairs makes such optimism difficult to buy with certainty. Nonetheless, even if we accept these analyses, they fall short as a "sufficient analysis." Now, 45 years after the event, it's crucial to consider its broad impacts. In this essay, without refuting or engaging with other analyses, I tend to introduce a new perspective suggesting that the embassy takeover was a response to the historical need for "independence."

#### A new political architecture rooted in independence

This event should not merely be seen as a protest against foreign intervention at that time. Rather, it served as a historic opportunity for redefining Iran's national and political identity. Especially in the context of designing a new government structure, this event highlighted the critical value of "independence." Iran's history shows that the desire for independence has been a fundamental driving force in shaping its national identity and politics, with roots that extend beyond the formation of the Islamic Republic.

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### IRICA reports 12-fold increase in car imports

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### Six countries compete in Iran's children's theater festival in Hamedan

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### American plot against cease-fire in Gaza, Lebanon



By Afifeh Abedi  
International affairs expert

OPINION

EXCLUSIVE

There has been a noticeable shift in the public diplomacy approach of the American-Israeli-Western alliance, aiming to separate the peace process of Lebanon, as well as both crises with Iran. This political and public diplomacy is evident across various platforms. The Israeli regime continues its ethnic cleansing in Gaza, prohibiting journalists and aid workers from entering the area to prevent the scale of humanitarian disasters from being reported beyond Palestinian borders. Simultaneously, Western and Hebrew media have been reporting details of a proposed cease-fire plan for Lebanon. Israeli media recently claimed to have uncovered a draft of a potential cease-fire agreement between Israel and Lebanon. This plan, titled "Cease-fire Declaration and Related Commitments to Strengthen Security Arrangements and Necessary Actions to Implement UN Security Council Resolution 1701," has been exchanged between Tel Aviv and Beirut. Strangely, there is no mention of Hezbollah in the proposal.

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## Leader Warns of 'Tooth-breaking Response' to US, Israel

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Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of students during a meeting in Tehran, on November 2, 2024. [khamenei.ir](http://khamenei.ir)

## Iran ready to share IT experiences with Venezuela



Iran's Minister of Communications and Information Technology Sattar Hashemi in a meeting with Venezuelan Minister of Transportation Ramón Blázquez voiced Tehran's readiness to share their experiences in the fields of electronic government, artificial intelligence and modern postal services with Caracas. As heads of the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemi and Blázquez held a meeting during the Iranian minister's trip to the Latin American state, IRNA reported.

Hashemi pointed to the holding of the next month's meeting of the joint commission of the economic partners of Venezuela and Iran, and expressed hope that the results of his current visit and the holding of the next meeting of the joint commission on cooperation between the two countries to lead to development of bilateral relations.

For his part, the Venezuelan minister expressed his satisfaction with Hashemi's visit to Caracas and emphasized that the trip has had good results despite the short time.

## AI, tech center under construction in Mashhad



The Iranian administration started on Saturday the construction of a high-rise building in the north-eastern city of Mashhad to serve as an AI and technology center.

The major project was unveiled at a ceremony attended by Vice President for Science and Technology Hossein Afshin whose department would finance the plan, IRNA reported. The ten-story building will be erected at the science and technology park in Khorasan Razavi Province and is expected to be completed in 30 months. As per the project, the first floor will be a permanent exhibition to stock hi-tech devices and products, and other floors will accommodate knowledge-based companies.

# Pezeshkian stresses foreign investment in transit infrastructure development

### Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian underlined the necessity and importance of private sector and foreign direct investment (FDI) in the development of railway, road, and port infrastructure in Iran, noting that foreign investors can invest in Iranian ports.

Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with economic officials from the Roads and Urban Development Ministry on Saturday, during which they reviewed the latest state of the country's transportation infrastructure and regional corridors, according to president.ir.

At the meeting, Roads Minister Farzaneh Sadeq-Malva-jerd pointed to Iran's ongoing talks with the Russian parties and presented a report on the agreements and cooperation documents with Moscow on the implementation of transportation infrastructure and regional

corridors.

After being briefed by the minister and other relevant officials regarding the country's international road and rail corridors, the president emphasized accelerating the implementation of the border corridor with the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as finalizing the construction of the International North-South Transit Corridor. "Considering the importance of these regional corridors, they should be completed as soon as possible," he stressed. The president tasked the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development with finalizing the plans for cooperation with Russia in the field of road and rail transport infrastructure.

Referring to the agreements signed with Iraq regarding speeding up the completion of the Shalamcheh-Basra railroad during his recent visit to the neighboring country, Pezeshkian said, "This route is very important for us as the Iraqi govern-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) speaks in a meeting with economic officials from the Roads and Urban Development Ministry in Tehran on November 2, 2024. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

ment officials have also stressed speeding up its implementation and completion. Therefore, we must increase our efforts to remove the barriers on the way of

the completion of the project." He criticized the implementation of some railway and road routes, stating, "The quality of materials used on some routes is not satis-

factory. As our focus is on transit trade in the country through these routes, the material quality for implementation of these routes should be enhanced."

## Major rise in Tehran-Istanbul flights after EU bans: IKA



The CEO of Imam Khomeini Airport (IKA), Saeid Chalandari, announced that Tehran has operated 366 flights to and from Istanbul after the European Union (EU) imposed sanctions on Iran. A sum of 74,111 passengers traveled between Tehran and Istanbul from October 15-29, IRNA quoted Chalandari as saying on Saturday.

After the sanctions, only 10 Iranian airlines flew to or from Istanbul, he said.

To meet the needs of Iranians, flights to Istanbul and Dubai were put on the agenda through coordination with the relevant authorities, the official added.

Regarding other destinations, 171,148 Iranian passengers were transported by 1,130 flights after the sanctions, he noted.

The bans have caused financial and time losses for Iranians intending to travel to Europe and vice versa, resulting in the need for two flights to travel to Europe instead of one direct flight, Chalandari stated.

Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, condemned earlier in the week the EU's recent sanctions on three Iranian passenger airlines, calling them a violation of international law and an infringement on Iranian citizens' rights.

## IRICA reports 12-fold increase in car imports

Car imports to Iran have increased 12-fold from March 20 to October 31, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

According to IRICA, the development came to pass since foreign currency was allocated for car imports, reported IRNA.

It added that 25,448 new passenger cars valued at over \$ 525.04 million were cleared and imported to Iran from March 20 to October 31.

In the same period last year, 2,999 new passenger cars worth over 60.4 million were imported, the report said.

The Iranian auto industry has a history of more than half a century, with a sizable industrial and employment base involved in assembling foreign brands.

French automakers and their peers, however, stopped supplying vital components to Iran as the US sanctions kicked in, targeting the Islamic Republic's key industries including cars.

The immediate impact was a sudden surge in car prices amid a widespread shortage of crucial parts, but it also became a *raison d'être* for survival as Iran's auto industry fought to pull together a remarkable spirit of economic resilience against the sweeping American sanctions.

Iran's defense industry stepped in to produce some crucial components, such as airbags and electronic control units, while a nascent



auto parts industry emerged out of the need for new cars.

Experts believe this is the missing link which had been overlooked for too long. They cite the world's biggest car manufacturers such as Germany, Italy, Japan and the US which all have powerful parts manufacturers.

The countries are totally self-sufficient in making parts for their own brand cars and source no component from other countries barring few exceptions, when their imports make more economic sense.

The automotive sector is a strategic industry that includes many upstream and downstream industries. It is the country's largest sector outside oil and gas that accounts for 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product and employs some 700,000 workers. With more than 85 million people and annual output of some \$500 billion, Iran is a large market where there is enough potential to become both a car making and parts

manufacturing powerhouse at the same time with better planning. The current auto industry had the full state support and a monopoly on the market which, many critics say, has resulted in a laggard sector with no serious efforts to improve quality despite frequent price hikes. The government also levies hefty customs duties on imports in order to protect the domestic auto industry.

A powerful parts manufacturing sector can help the auto industry improve and prosper. The most important requirement for this, experts say, is the access of parts makers to modern technology and modern machines to increase competitiveness.

They say if the quality of auto parts produced in Iran improves, there are enough markets to export them. Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, with a population of some 300 million people, are some of Iran's immediate neighbors with a potential market for auto parts.

## US Embassy takeover...

The seizure of the US Embassy allowed Iran to distance itself from its history of foreign interference and pursue a new path on the global stage aligned with the 1979 Revolution's slogans. Whether this path has succeeded is debatable, but at the minimum, this shift laid the foundation for a new political logic that also shaped the "structure."

**Testing concept of 'a world without American hegemony'**  
This historical "zero hour" in Iran means that the US does not occupy a central role in Iran's political architecture or in its hard and soft power dynamics. A close example is Iran's unique military architecture, which is relatively sophisticated in both structural

design and engineering. The fact that the embassy belonged to "America" is significant since this country has impacted global, regional, and even national governance worldwide. The embassy seizure was, in essence, a test of the idea of "a world without American dominance"—an experiment on which we cannot yet pronounce

success or failure as it is still ongoing. Beyond all the positive and negative repercussions of the embassy takeover, which warrant separate discussions, this historical zero hour stands as a strategic advantage that enabled Iran to forge an independent political identity that visibly shaped its power structure at all levels.

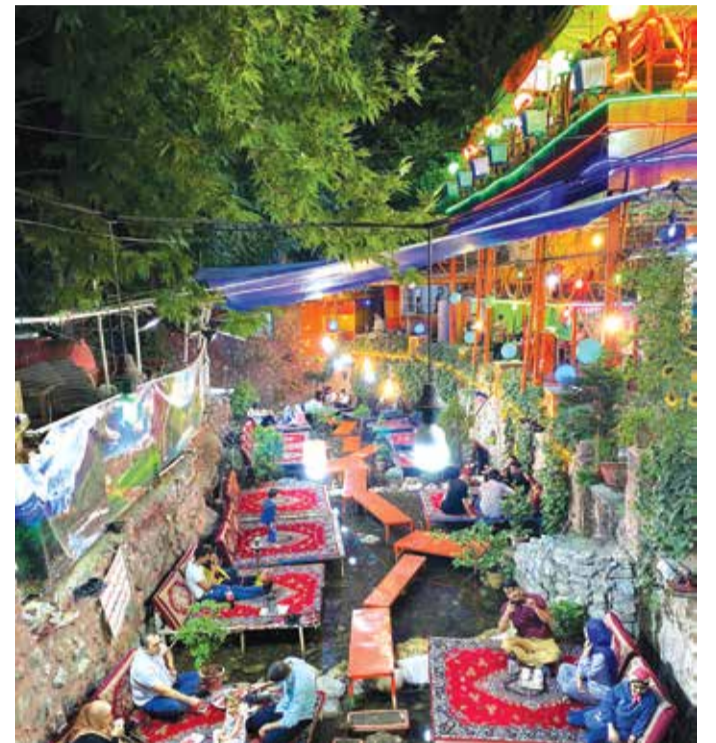
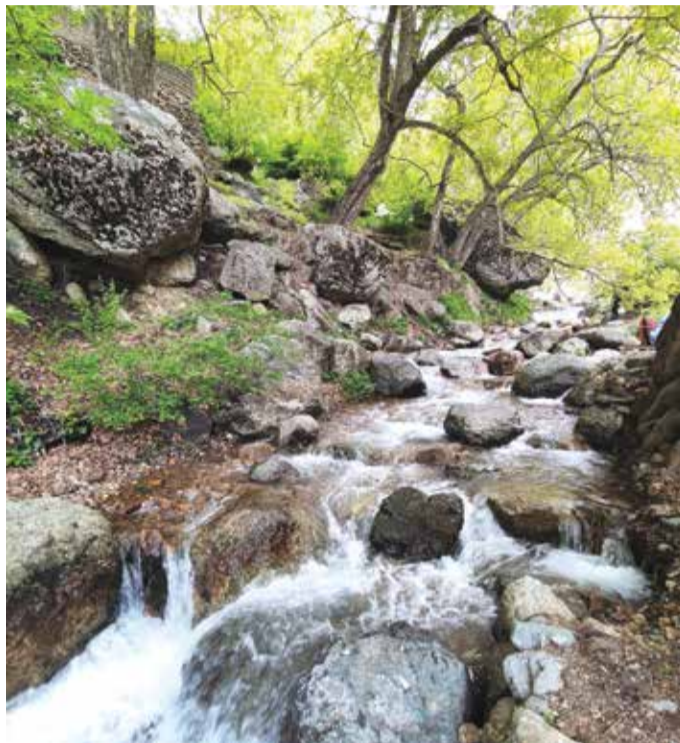
### Liberation from predetermined historical patterns

Beyond being a historical event, the US Embassy takeover should be recognized as a paradigmatic shift in Iran's politics—not only in post-Revolution Iran. This zero hour can be seen as the onset of Iran's distinct independence and identity that has the potential, over a historical horizon, to cata-

lyze significant transformations. Without such historical zero hours, nations are almost destined to repeat past patterns and struggle to construct a new government structure. For countries with deep historical backgrounds, the likelihood of being influenced by previous trends is even higher, as would likely have been the case in Iran had the Revolution not occurred.

# Darband; a picturesque gateway to Alborz Mountains

**Iranica Desk** Nestled in the northern reaches of Tehran, Darband is a charming village serving as a stunning gateway to the majestic Alborz Mountains. Just a short drive from the bustling heart of Iran's capital, this idyllic destination provides a tranquil escape into nature, steeped in rich history and vibrant local culture. Whether you're an adventure enthusiast, a history buff, or simply seeking a peaceful retreat, Darband caters to all. In this article, we'll explore the history, attractions, and unique experiences that make Darband a must-visit location in Tehran.



● neshan.org

## Ancient origins

The history of Darband dates back centuries, serving as a critical route for travelers and traders journeying between Tehran and the mountainous regions to the north. The name Darband, Persian for 'gateway,' highlights its historical significance as a vital entry point into the Alborz Mountains. Over time, this area evolved from a simple mountain pass into a small village populated by locals who relied on agriculture and mountain-related endeavors for their livelihood. Its natural beauty and strategic location made Darband a popular retreat for Tehran's residents, offering a refreshing escape from the city's heat and dust.

## Development

In the 20th century, as Tehran expanded and modernized, Darband became increasingly accessible to the city's growing population. The village transformed into a vibrant tourist destination, with an array of restaurants, cafes, and hiking trails emerging to cater to the influx of visitors. Despite this development, Darband has maintained its rustic charm and natural beauty, earning its place as a beloved spot for locals and tourists alike. Its closeness to Tehran has anchored Darband within the city's social and cultural fabric, creating fond memories of family outings and gatherings. Today, it stands as a symbol of Tehran's connection to nature and the traditional lifestyle that continues to thrive amid rapid urbanization.

## Scenic trail to Sarband Square

One of Darband's main attractions is the scenic trail leading from the village entrance to Sarband Square, a bustling hub for visitors. Lined with trees, streams, and charming stone pathways, the trail winds through the village, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains. Along the way, you'll discover traditional tea houses and restaurants perched on the mountainside,

overlooking cascading streams. These establishments provide a unique dining experience, inviting you to relax on Persian carpets while sipping tea and savoring local delicacies amid nature. The well-marked trail is accessible to visitors of all ages and fitness levels. Along the path, several small shops sell handmade crafts, souvenirs, and local products — perfect for taking home a piece of Darband's charm. Sarband Square, located at the trail's end, is the heart of Darband, acting as a central gathering place for locals and tourists to socialize and enjoy the scenery.

One iconic feature of Sarband Square is the large statue of a mountain climber, celebrating the mountaineering culture deeply ingrained in the region. This statue reminds visitors that

Darband is not merely a leisure destination but a starting point for adventurous pursuits in the Alborz Mountains. From Sarband Square, you can continue your journey deeper into the mountains by hiking or taking a cable car to higher elevations. For those who prefer to relax in the village, the square offers an ideal setting to unwind and soak in the vibrant atmosphere.

## Hiking and natural beauty

Darband is renowned for its hiking trails, which provide access to the Alborz Mountains and showcase some of Iran's most breathtaking landscapes. These trails vary in difficulty, catering to both casual hikers and experienced mountaineers, presenting an opportunity to explore the region's diverse flora and fauna. One popular trail leads to To-

chal, a peak standing at 3,964 meters above sea level. The hike to Tochal is both challenging and rewarding, offering panoramic views of Tehran and the surrounding mountains. For those seeking a more leisurely experience, shorter trails lead to various viewpoints and picnic spots, allowing you to enjoy the tranquility of the mountains without venturing too far from the village.

The trails also pass by several historical and cultural sites, including old shrines and mountain lodges, shedding light on local traditions preserved through generations. For visitors wanting to experience the beauty of the Alborz Mountains without the physical exertion of hiking, the cable car to Tochal provides a convenient and exhilarating alternative. The cable car station,

located near Sarband Square, transports visitors up to Tochal Ski Resort, situated at about 3,500 meters.

The ride itself offers stunning bird's-eye views of Tehran, the mountains, and surrounding valleys. On clear days, the city unfolds below, beautifully contrasting against the rugged mountain landscape. At the top, seasonal activities abound. In winter, Tochal becomes a popular destination for skiing and snowboarding enjoyed on well-maintained slopes and facilities. In summer, the area invites hiking, mountain biking, and refreshing moments at high altitudes.

## Traditional Iranian cuisine

A highlight of visiting Darband is indulging in traditional Iranian cuisine against a stunning back-

drop. The village boasts numerous restaurants and tea houses, many built into the mountainside, providing outdoor seating with breathtaking views. Iranian cuisine is celebrated for its rich flavors and emphasis on fresh, local ingredients, and the eateries in Darband deliver this in spades. Popular dishes include succulent kebabs, hearty stews, and diverse vegetarian options, all served with aromatic rice and fresh herbs. Many restaurants also offer freshly baked bread from traditional clay ovens, pairing perfectly with the flavorful meals.

Beyond main courses, Darband is celebrated for its delightful snacks and sweets, perfect for enjoying alongside a cup of tea. A local specialty is *lavashak*, a type of fruit leather made from tangy fruits like plums and pomegranates, offering a unique taste of the region. Another beloved treat is *faloodeh*, a traditional Persian dessert crafted from thin vermicelli noodles, infused with rose water and lime juice, and served ice-cold — a refreshing indulgence after a day of hiking.

## Tea houses

Tea houses, or *chaikhanas*, hold a significant place in Iranian culture, and Darband is home to some of the most enchanting tea houses in Tehran. These establishments provide a serene setting to relax and savor a cup of Persian tea, often accompanied by sweets and light snacks amid the tranquility of nature.

The tea houses in Darband are typically nestled along the streams cascading down from the mountains, featuring outdoor seating that allows patrons to enjoy the soothing sounds of flowing water as they sip their tea. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal, making these spots favored locations for both locals and tourists to unwind and connect with nature. Whether you're seeking a quiet moment of reflection or a lively conversation with friends, the tea houses of Darband offer a perfect retreat, enhancing the overall experience of this picturesque village.



# Blueprint of Trump's mass deportation plan

## Questionable approach by Eisenhower



By Brit McCandless Farmer  
Digital producer for  
60 Minutes

### PERSPECTIVE

Former president Donald Trump has sought to make immigration a defining issue in the 2024 presidential race, pledging to oversee mass deportations if

voters return him to the White House.

"The Republican platform promises to launch the largest deportation operation in the history of our country," he said at the Republican National Convention this past July, as his crowd of supporters held signs bearing the phrase "mass deportation now!"

It's a pledge Trump has made frequently this campaign cycle, including at his rallies, in a recent conversation with billionaire Elon Musk, and in the official Republican Party platform. But it is not just during this election that Trump has promised to conduct the largest deportation operation in American history. He has said it since at least 2015, when he was first running for commander in chief. He brought it up in the fourth Republican primary debate, and earlier that year, he raised the subject of mass deportation in an interview with 60 Minutes correspondent Scott Pelley.

In the last nine years, one thing has frequently come up when Trump mentions removing en masse the migrants who have crossed the border illegally: the name of another former president.

"You look back in the 1950s, you look back at the Eisenhower administration, take a look at what they did, and it worked," Trump told Pelley in 2015.



What the US government did under Dwight D. Eisenhower was a massive military-style sweep. US Border Patrol agents conducted raids to round up Mexican laborers from farms and ranches, then transported them deported deep into Mexico. Historians say the program tore families apart, violated civil rights, and at times, even turned deadly.

Moreover, those who have studied the Eisenhower administration's approach say this short-term show-of-force did not stop the problem.

"I would describe [it] as a very cruel operation of deportation," said immigration historian Mae Ngai, whose book "Impossible Subjects" examines how illegal migration became a central issue of US immigration policy. "But also, it was a kind of political theater. It did not solve the issue of undocumented migration."

### 'Operation Wetback'

Following World War II, immigration into the United States was fairly low. The US government imposed strict immigration quotas that limited the number of people allowed to enter the country. The controversy over immigration arose in the early 1950s, around

the Bracero program, a guest worker program for agricultural laborers from Mexico.

According to Ngai, the American growers who were hiring these Mexican laborers preferred undocumented workers because they had fewer regulations governing their treatment. This embarrassed the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Ngai said, because they wanted the farmers to only take the legally contracted Braceros.

Although the terms have since become ethnic slurs, in the 1950s, most everyone involved in immigration policy on both sides of the border referred to people who crossed the river illegally from Mexico as "wetbacks" or "mojados". In 1953, CBS's Edward R. Murrow reported on the situation at the border using that term.

"Every 30 seconds, a Mexican wetback enters this country illegally," Murrow detailed. "The number is increasing. Some days as many as 5,000 are caught and sent back in a single day."

To deal with the issue of illegal entries from Mexico, Eisenhower assigned his commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Lieutenant General Joseph Swing, Eisenhower's friend and former West Point classmate. Swing concoct-

ed a military-style plan to round up and mass deport those laborers who crossed the border outside of the Bracero program. The plan became known as "Operation Wetback".

Although the US had steadily increased deportations of Mexican laborers, the largest effort commenced in June 1954, when US Border Patrol head Harlon Carter promised "the biggest drive against illegal aliens in history," according to a contemporaneous report by the Los Angeles Times.

Over the next year, hundreds of Border Patrol agents apprehended and deported anyone suspected of being in the United States illegally. They flew airplanes over the Rio Grande Valley to see where people were working and would check to see if there was a farm that was illegally contracting workers. While the operation included some raids in cities such as Los Angeles and Chicago, Ngai said, the primary focus was laborers near the Mexican border. "These people were just rounded up, put on trucks and buses, driven over the border, dumped on the other side, sometimes in the desert," Ngai said.

Ngai said about a quarter of the people deported through "Operation Wetback" were put on ships and taken across the

Gulf of Mexico to Veracruz in the Yucatan Peninsula.

"There was a big exposé that these ships were barely converted freighters that were very old and dirty," Ngai said. "One person in Congress called them 'hell ships'."

According to Ngai, migrants were sometimes left in the scorching Mexican desert, with temperatures soaring over 100 degrees. "In one case, 88 people died from sun-stroke, and more would have died had the Mexican Red Cross not come to their rescue," Ngai said.

"Operation Wetback," Ngai said, was largely intended to show force to two audiences: Americans living near the border who had complained about the migration problem, and the growers, in an effort to make them obey the federal hiring program. It was not intended to score political points nationally.

"It was not a campaign issue," Ngai said.

"Most Americans didn't think about farm workers at the border, legal or not."

The mass deportation operation lasted about a year. The program had become expensive to maintain, and American agriculture growers had begun to comply with the Bracero program to hire Mexican workers legally, leading them

Families of migrants attempting to enter the US illegally are housed in inhumane, overcrowded conditions at a US border patrol station in McAllen, Texas, on June 10, 2019, during Donald Trump's first term.  
● GETTY IMAGES

to use fewer undocumented laborers. At the time, the Eisenhower administration said it carried out more than one million "returns," but historians believe many people were deported more than once and that the actual number of people is significantly less. Two historians told 60 Minutes that some American citizens were mistakenly deported in the roundups.

### How Trump's plan today connects

Former president Trump's running mate Sen. JD Vance once believed the Republican Party was being "tone deaf" to suggest millions of undocumented people could be deported. While a law student at Yale, he wrote a since-deleted blog post for the Center for World Conflict and Peace that criticized the Republican Party's immigration positions.

"Think about it: we conservatives (rightly) mistrust the government to efficient-



Illegal immigrants are being escorted back across the border to Mexico during the infamous Operation Wetback of 1954. The United States later claimed that 1.3 million people total were deported.  
● LOOMIS DEAN/THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION

Mexican immigrants are seen caged and shipped over the Mexican border in 1954 during the racist-named "Operation Wetback," the largest mass deportation of people from the US up until that time.  
● US BORDER PATROL MUSEUM

ly administer business loans and regulate our food supply, yet we allegedly believe that it can deport millions of unregistered aliens," Vance wrote in 2012. "The notion fails to pass the laugh test." Today, Vance supports Trump's pledge of mass deportation, telling the New York Times in an interview that meaningful border enforcement requires both a physical deterrent and a willingness to deport people. "I think it's certainly reasonable to deport around a million people per year," he told the Times. To see how Trump's plan today connects to that of the Eisenhower administration, 60 Minutes correspondent Cecilia Vega spoke with Tom Homan, the acting director of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) during the first year and a half of the Trump

administration. Homan led ICE when thousands of migrant children were separated from their parents at the border, and Trump has counted Homan, a Fox News contributor, among those who will join him if he wins a second term. Vega noted to Homan that Trump often invokes Eisenhower's name, referencing a deportation program in which civil rights were violated, migrants were deported in dangerous conditions, and some people died. Vega suggested this history might give people pause. "That doesn't mean people are going to die," Homan said. "That doesn't mean civil rights are going to be violated. President Trump doesn't mean that." Although he said he did not know what the Eisenhower administration's plan entailed, Homan said Trump's plan

would not follow it in all aspects. "He could say he's got the Eisenhower plan because the Eisenhower plan was a massive deportation, but it doesn't mean all the negative things that happened are going to happen under his leadership," Homan said. But mass deporting undocumented migrants would be much more complicated now than it was in the 1950s. "They're not Mexican workers," Ngai said. "The large numbers of people who are crossing the border are asylum seekers. They're people who are fleeing civil war, civil strife, gang violence." Today's migrants live in cities throughout the country, not just near the border, and many have been in the country for years, often establishing families and work histories. A study by the American Immigration Council found that mass

deportation could result in the removal of millions of construction, hospitality, and agriculture workers, which would reduce the GDP by \$1.7 trillion. To see how ICE conducts targeted apprehensions today, 60 Minutes embedded with a group of ICE agents in Silver Springs, Maryland. There, the agents were locating and arresting undocumented immigrants identified by ICE as a threat to public safety, including those with criminal histories such as assault, robbery, drug, and gun convictions. 60 Minutes watched as it took a team of more than a dozen officers seven hours to arrest six people, not including the many hours spent searching for them. Matt Elliston, the director of ICE's Baltimore field office, said that deporting a mass number of undocumented migrants — such as the one million num-

ber Vance suggested — would be logistically infeasible. "I could say here in Maryland, we would never be able to resource or find that amount of detention, which would be our biggest challenge," Elliston said. "And just the amount of money that that would cost in order to detain everybody, it'd be, you know, at the Department of Defense level of financing." No matter how many people an administration were to deport, historian Ngai said, history suggests mass deportation is no panacea. "You can try to have a big show, but ultimately you don't solve the problem," Ngai said. "You hurt some people, and then people don't look anymore, and the problem doesn't go away."

The article first appeared on CBS News.

## Trump's plan to deport millions of immigrants Nightmare for workers, economy

By David Dyssegaard Kallick and Daniel Costa  
Directors at nonpartisan organizations

### PERSPECTIVE

here are two facts that are not controversial among economists: 1) Immigration expands the US economy, and 2) the economy grows without hurting the wages of US-born workers.

Former president Donald Trump is promising to deport millions of immigrants if he wins back the White House, and estimates put the cost of implementing such a move in the hundreds of billions. Trump's mass deportation plan would also tear apart communities, put people into camps, and break up families.

But what about the cost to all of our economic futures?

While the US immigration system is far from optimal and urgently needs reforms,

Doubt it? Look what has happened in just the past few years. Immigration has increased since the Covid pandemic hit the US in 2020 while unemployment rates have been near historic lows. That increase in immigration led the Congressional Budget Office to predict an increase of \$8.9 trillion in GDP and a decrease of \$900 billion in the deficit over the next 10 years as immigration contributes not only to economic growth but also to tax revenues.

There are significant challenges in the US economy, to be sure. We have seen decades of economic polarization and stagnating wages for most workers. But some politicians like Trump have tried to blame immigrants for our economic policy failures. We shouldn't fall for it. Immigrants are a vital part of our economy, making up nearly 19% of the labor force in this country, and 21% of business owners. The jobs immigrants hold are vital to our economic future,

especially as the population ages. Without them, our economy would suffer and tens of thousands of US-born workers would lose their jobs. And, as The Guardian reports, "the loss of migrant workers would trigger productivity losses and a new round of inflationary pricing pressure."

The majority of immigrants — like the majority of US-born workers — are in middle-wage jobs (earning \$35,000 to \$104,000) or in upper-wage jobs earning more than that. Immigrants are about as likely as US-born workers to be truck drivers, registered nurses, and retail supervisors. It's also true that certain sectors of our economy rely more heavily on immigrants. For example, immigrants are more likely than US-born workers to be janitors, construction laborers, and maids. The economic inclusion of immigrants — who typically come to the United States in prime working age — helps balance the number of people who are retiring, which stabilizes programs like Social Security. And retirement with dignity will require at least as many home health aides, nurses, and doctors (many of whom are immigrants) as we have today, and likely many more. These are all areas where immigrants play a significant role.



Field workers pick strawberries in Oxnard, California, on April 16, 2013. GUS RUELAS/REUTERS

The way to improve wages for all workers is to invest in our infrastructure, manufacturing, and care economy, set strong labor standards, and have immigration policies that ensure working people have full rights on the job and can exercise them without fear of retaliation. We need to invest in policies that will support wage gains, not look for scapegoats to blame when we don't focus on the real problem. We have seen some positive developments over the past few years — thanks to smart economic policies and investments — and during a period when immigration, coincidentally, was high. Between 2019 and 2023, many workers have experienced some of the biggest gains they've had in decades. The lowest-wage workers saw a 13% gain in hourly wages after adjustment for inflation — that's a 34% increase without inflation adjustment — over that same period. That's

a fact that should be making headlines week after week. Wage growth has been particularly strong for Black men, young workers, and working mothers. It is, in other words, very possible to improve wages and working conditions in the United States without shooting our economy in the foot by turning against immigrants. Many immigrants come to the United States to pursue opportunities and freedom. They also expand America's culture: Bringing food, music, customs, and ideas from different parts of the world. They add strands to the rich and diverse fabric of this country. But the economic story is an important one. And, while politicians might try to blur the picture, for economists it is crystal clear: immigration expands the American economy.

The article first appeared on In These Times.



People rally in solidarity with immigrant workers who were targeted by president Donald Trump's immigration policies in 2017. GETTY IMAGES

## Mass deportation 'very unpopular': Survey

DATA FOR PROGRESS - Immigration is among the top issues for voters in this election, and previous Data for Progress polling has found that former President Donald Trump has a trust advantage on the issue. Trump has pledged to carry out "the largest deportation operation in American history," and surveys from the Pew Research Center and Ipsos have found that a majority of voters support "mass deportation." However, as Vox suggests, these poll questions could be misleading, as voters may have different interpretations of what "mass deportation" means and what types of undocumented immigrants would actually be affected.

In a new survey, Data for Progress tested how voters feel about a range of example immigrant cases that could be impacted by Trump's mass deportation plan. Voters were provided with nine examples of immigrants and asked for their opinions on whether or not those immigrants should be deported. Of the nine examples tested, a majority of voters support deportations for only two: a person who recently crossed the border illegally (70%) and a person who crossed the border illegally and has a criminal record for a nonviolent offense (67%). However, for the seven other examples tested, most voters think immigrants should not be deported.

Only 31% of voters think a person with a doctoral degree from a US university who overstayed their visa should be deported. Additionally, less than 1 in 4 voters think the following people should be deported: an undocumented community volunteer who has lived in the US for 10 years and has no criminal record (24%), an undocumented person who has lived in the US for 15 years and has US-born children (24%), and an undocumented person who has lived in the US for more than 10 years and owns a small business employing American workers (24%). Even smaller percentages of voters think a person residing in the US

under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) from an ongoing conflict (21%), a person who has been awaiting a decision on their asylum application for three years (20%), and a person brought to the US without legal status as a child 20 years ago (19%) should be deported. Broadly, these findings indicate that voters do not support mass deportation. They are aligned in supporting deportations of criminals and new arrivals — but do not think that immigrants with other cases, including those who have US-born children, own a small business, are covered by TPS, or are seeking asylum should be deported.



A person holds a sign that reads "Mass Deportation Now" on the third day of the Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 17, 2024. LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES

# Iran to learn from freestyle setback in Wrestling Worlds, Dabir says

## Sports Desk

The Iranian freestyle wrestling team will have to look back at the recent setback at the World Championships as a "pivotal point" for future success, said Alireza Dabir, the head of the country's Wrestling Federation. Pejman Dorostkar's four-man squad settled for a single bronze through Mohammad Nokhodi in the 79kg contests in Tirana, Albania.

While young wrestlers Reza Mo'meni and Sina Khalili suffered last-eight exits in the 61kg and 70kg events respectively, two-time world champion Kamran Qasempour missed out on the 92kg podium on his return to action following back-to-back defeats against two of the sport's greats in Russian Abdulrashid Sadulaev and American David Taylor.

Iranians had more to cheer about in last week's Greco-Roman competitions in Tirana as Mohammadali Geraei marched past Hungarian Erik Szilvassy (8-0) in the final to walk away with the 82kg gold, with Pouria Dadmarz finishing with a 55kg silver after a defeat against Azerbaijan's Eldaniz Azizli.

The seniors championships – featuring non-Olympic weight categories – came after Iran had bagged a total of 14 medals to make a clean sweep of team trophies in the under-23 event in the Albanian capital earlier in October.

"The Greco-Roman and freestyle teams won the under-23 titles in emphatic fashion, which is a massive achievement for Ira-



Iranian Mohammad Nokhodi (red) concedes a lace-lock roll against Georgian Avtandil Kentchadze in the freestyle 79kg semifinals at the Wrestling World Championships in Tirana, Albania, on Oct. 30, 2024. UWW

nian wrestling," Dabir told the official website of the Iranian federation, adding: "I think it's fair to say we had a decent Greco-Roman campaign in the seniors' contests with a gold and a bronze across four weight classes."

Iran stood runner-up to Azerbaijan, which won a remarkable three golds, in the Greco-Roman

team table, while finishing behind Georgia and Japan, which were tied for the first place, in the freestyle event.

Dabir, however, believes the two standings do not reflect Iran's true status in world wrestling. "I'm sure Japan and Georgia wouldn't have been the top two, if the competition had been held in all 10 weight classes.

Iran would have had a more successful campaign with a full squad, as is the case with Team USA, which took just a couple of bronzes, or wrestling powerhouse Russia, which won a single gold medal," Dabir added. "We still have to acknowledge the final outcome in the freestyle contests should have been much better, but one of our med-

al hopefuls Amirmohammad Yazdani missed the event with injury and was replaced with a young and inexperienced wrestler in Sina Khalili.

"Regarding the 79kg and 92kg classes, I must say we can either continue to mourn what happened to Nokhodi and Qasempour or, on the contrary, build on those defeats as a pivotal

point for future success," added the former world and Olympic champion.

Nokhodi, who defeated six-time champion Jordan Burroughs in the quarterfinals, surrendered a 6-0 lead against Georgian Avtandil Kentchadze with 45 seconds remaining to suffer a 14-8 loss in the semifinals.

Qasempour, meanwhile, looked to be on course for a third world final when he took a late 3-1 lead against Sadulaev, before the Russian sensation pulled off a four-point takedown with four seconds left on the clock.

"I had a long meeting with the Iranian freestyle coaching team after the event and told them they would have to come up with new training methods. The Japanese have been different from other teams in that regard, innovating their training approach, and their results [at major international competitions] have been evident," Dabir said.

"We learned about our shortcomings in those four weight classes and have to make sure they will not repeat in next year's World Championships."

Regarding Iran's freestyle rivalry with the United States and Russia, Dabir said: "Iran surpassed the Americans at the Olympics and the recent competitions, but we need to face the Russians more often and learn from possible defeats."

## I was told it was now or never: Amorim on United move



PEDRO ROCHA/REUTERS

BBC – Ruben Amorim says he wanted to take the Manchester United job at the end of the season but accepted a mid-season appointment after being told it was "now or never".

Amorim, 39, was confirmed as Manchester United's new head coach on Friday and will complete his move to Old Trafford from Lisbon club Sporting on 11 November.

Speaking after Sporting's first match since that announcement – Friday's 5-1 league victory over Estrela

which maintained their perfect start after 10 games – Amorim explained his only request following United's approach was to see out the current campaign, which he had already informed the club's president would be his last.

But the Portuguese coach was told that would not be possible as the Premier League club sought an immediate replacement for Erik ten Hag, who was sacked on Monday.

"The season started, we started very

well, and then Manchester United came, they pay above the compensation clause and the president defends the club's interests," Amorim explained.

"I never discussed anything with the president. For three days I said I wanted to stay until the end of the season, but then I was told it was not possible.

"It was now or never, or Manchester would go for another option. So, I had three days to make my mind up, to make a decision that changes radically my life."

Amorim, who has agreed a contract until June 2027, is the sixth permanent manager United have appointed since Sir Alex Ferguson's illustrious 26-year reign ended with his retirement in 2013.

He has established a reputation as one of Europe's most promising managers, leading Sporting to two league titles – including the club's first in 19 years – but said he only wanted Manchester United as his next move.

"I've had other opportunities – the president and [director of football] Hugo Viana can confirm this. It's not the first or the second time that I have been requested by another team and I don't want another team," said Amorim.

"After Sporting I wanted that one, Manchester, and I want that context because that context allows me to do things my way and the club believes me that way."

## Morais steps down as Sepahan head coach

### Sports Desk

Jose Morais has left his job as Sepahan head coach, the Persian Gulf Pro League club announced on Saturday. Morais's number two and fellow-Portuguese Hugo Almeida will take the interim role on Sepahan bench "until further decisions are made by the club board," the Iranian top-flight side wrote in a statement.

The Portuguese's decision comes as a shock after his team overtook Tractor on top of the domestic league table thanks to a 1-0 home victory over Iraslco on Friday. No clear reasons have been mentioned behind Morais's resignation, who skipped the post-match press conference on Friday, though he is believed to have grown frustrated with sections of Sepahan fans following chants against him and his players at the Fooladshahr Stadium.

A former assistant to Jose Mourinho in Inter, Chelsea, and Real Madrid, Morais was appointed to the Sepahan role for the start of 2022/23 season and led his team to a runner-finish behind Persepolis in the league. Sepahan finished third in the league last campaign and then lifted the domestic cup trophy in June – a first piece of silverware for the club in nine years – while being knocked out by Saudi giant Al Hilal in the AFC Champions League last 16.

The Isfahan-based club, which had to part ways with several key players in Ramin Rezaeian, Shahriar Moghanlou, Farshad Ahmadzadeh, and Omid Nourafkan in the summer, got off to a disappointing start to new season, falling to a 4-1 home

defeat against the UAE's Shabab Al Ahli in the AFC Champions League Elite qualifying playoff.

The defeat sent Morais's side into the continent's second-tier club competition, AFC Champions League Two, where Sepahan is third in the Group C table with three points – trailing Sharjah and Al Wehdat by four – courtesy of two defeats in three outings.

Sepahan's first game under Almeida will come against Sharjah in Doha on Tuesday.



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# Leader warns of 'tooth-breaking response' to US, Israel

## International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei warned the United States and Israel that they will definitely receive a crushing response for their atrocities against Iran and the resistance front.

"The enemies, both the US and the Zionist regime, should know that they will definitely receive a tooth-breaking response for what they are doing against Iran and the resistance front," he said in a meeting with students on Saturday.

Iranian officials have pledged to avenge Israel's act of aggression targeting three Iranian provinces of Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran in the early hours of October 26.

Israeli warplanes used the space available to the US military in Iraq to fire

long-range air-to-air missiles at Iran's provinces in flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter.

Israel claims the aggression was a response to Iran's missile attack on the regime's military sites on October 1, itself a retaliation for the assassination of the leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah resistance groups and an Iranian commander.

Four members of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force and one civilian were killed in the attack.

"This is not merely a matter of revenge but a logical action—an approach aligned with religion, ethics, and the Sharia, in accordance with international regulations," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader made the statements on the occasion of marking the US embassy takeover by Iranian students on

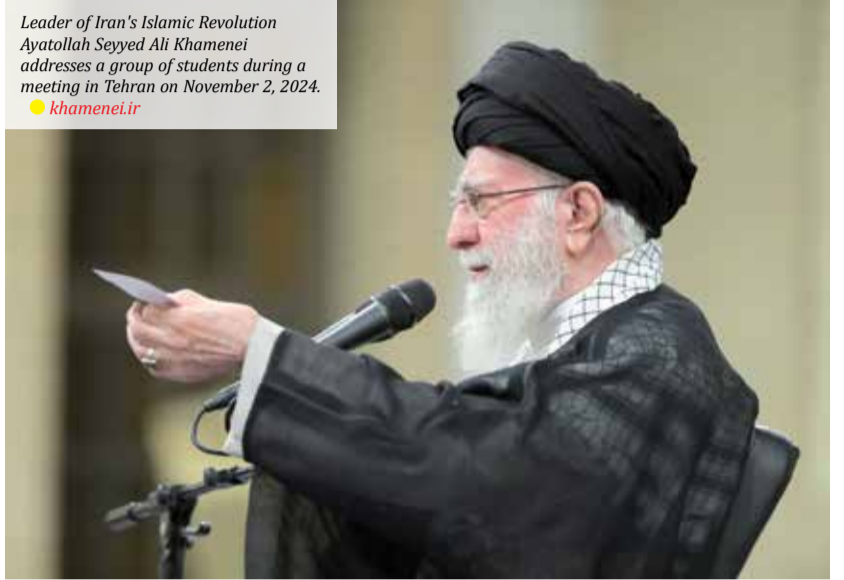
November 4, 1979, known as the National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance.

"We are certainly doing everything necessary to prepare the Iranian nation to stand against arrogance, whether in terms of military readiness, armaments, or political actions, and thank God, our officials are currently engaged in this," the Leader said.

Iran has also warned that it would change its military doctrine to make a nuclear bomb in case of an existential threat.

"What I said [previously that] if its existence is threatened, the Islamic Republic of Iran will revisit its military doctrine, is still in place and we have the capability to build the whole weapon," said Kamal Kharrazi, a senior adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of students during a meeting in Tehran on November 2, 2024. [khamenei.ir](http://khamenei.ir)



## UN agency chiefs call northern Gaza situation 'apocalyptic'

### International Desk

The unfolding situation in the northern Gaza Strip is "apocalyptic," said United Nations chiefs on Friday, warning that its entire population was at "imminent risk" of death. They said the entire Middle East region was now on a precipice and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Israel launched a major air and ground assault in northern Gaza last month, claiming that it wanted to stop Hamas fighters from regrouping there.

"The situation unfolding in North Gaza is apocalyptic," said the joint statement from heads of organizations that form the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

"The area has been under siege for almost a month, denied basic aid and life-saving supplies while bombardment and other attacks continue. Just in the past few days, hundreds of Palestinians have been killed, most of them women and children, and thousands have once again been forcibly displaced.

"The entire Palestinian population in North Gaza is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine and violence."

They urged all parties



fighting in the besieged Palestinian territory to protect civilians, and called on Israel "to cease its assault on Gaza and on the humanitarians trying to help."

"Humanitarian aid cannot keep up with the scale of the needs due to the access constraints. Basic, life-saving goods are not available. Humanitarians are not safe to do their work and are blocked by Israeli forces and by insecurity from reaching people in need," they said.

"Humanitarian relief must be facilitated, and we urge all parties to provide unimpeded access to affected people," while hospitals "should not turn into battlegrounds." The statement was signed by the heads of the UN humanitarian, health, food, rights, migration, refugee, development, children and women's agencies, among others.

"The entire region is on the edge of a precipice. An immediate cessation of hostilities and a sustained, unconditional cease-fire are long overdue," they said.

Gaza's Health Ministry said on Saturday that at least 55 people were killed and 192 others injured across Gaza in just 24 hours.

Israel's genocide in Gaza has killed at least 43,314 Palestinians and wounded 102,019 since October 7, 2023.

At least 25 towns and villages in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley also came under heavy Israeli air attacks on Friday, killing dozens of people.

At least 2,897 people have been killed and 13,150 wounded in Israeli attacks against Lebanon since the war on Gaza began, with 30 people killed across the country in 24 hours, the Lebanese Health Ministry said on Saturday.

## SCO roundly condemns Israeli aggression on Iran

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in a statement condemned a recent aggression of the Israeli regime against Iran's military facilities and expressed deep concern over the escalating situation in the West Asia region.

The statement was issued during a four-hour emergency meeting called by Iran on October 31 following the regime's attack on Iran on October 26, IRNA reported.

The member states voiced grave concern over the escalating situation in the Middle East, which poses a significant threat to international peace, security,

and stability.

They also called for the immediate implementation of effective measures to stabilize the region through political and diplomatic means in accordance with the recognized norms of international law, including those outlined in the UN Charter.

During the meeting, Iran's permanent representative to the SCO Mohammad Rasoul Jafari addressed the root causes of the current situation in the region, attributing it to the occupation of Palestinian land and the genocide of Palestinians by the Israeli regime.

He highlighted the re-



gime's brutal crimes against the civilian population of Gaza over the past year, which have resulted in the deaths of more than 43,000 residents of the Gaza Strip.

Jafari called for a strong condemnation of the Israeli regime's actions and emphasized the need to prevent the continuation of these crimes.

Since October 2023, the Israeli regime has launched a devastating war on the Gaza Strip, which has claimed the lives of more than 43,000 Palestinians – mostly women and children. The regime has also expanded the war into Lebanon where more than 2,800 people have been killed in the Israeli strikes.

## Israeli secret services make arrests after leak probe in Netanyahu's office

Several people have been arrested and questioned by Israeli security services as part of a probe into how secret documents that favored Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies in Gaza were leaked to two foreign newspapers.

The arrests were made public after Israeli newspapers convinced a court to partially lift a gag order related to the investigation, with the court telling the newspapers that the leaks "may have damaged Israel's war goals in

the Gaza Strip", Financial Times reported.

"Several suspects were arrested for questioning, and the investigation is ongoing," the judge said in court, in remarks cited by local media.

Netanyahu had earlier in the day asked for the order to be lifted too. Israeli media reported on Friday that one of the suspects is a press adviser to Netanyahu but not an employee of his office.

"Contrary to the false publications and the appear-

ance that the media try to paint, no one from the prime minister's office was investigated or arrested," Netanyahu's office said.

The leaks to the UK-based Jewish Chronicle and Germany's Bild Zeitung cited documents found in Gaza that showed Hamas planned to divide Israeli society with propaganda efforts about the captives. They also suggested the group wanted to smuggle the captives to Egypt via tunnels under the so-called Philadelphi corridor,

which separates Gaza from Egypt. The Israel Defense Forces had seized the area in May.

The stories appeared at the end of August and beginning of September when regular mass street protests in Tel Aviv were piling pressure on Netanyahu to accept a cease-fire to free the captives.

Netanyahu refused to give up control of the Philadelphi corridor, which many regional diplomats believe was a big reason for the negotiations failing.

## American plot against ...

According to the American-Israeli [Page 1 >](#) cease-fire plan, Israel reserves the right to conduct military operations within Lebanon in coordination with the US, provided that Israel withdraws its forces from Lebanon in seven days and fully implements the agreement during a 60-day cease-fire. Moreover, the draft mentions

the disarmament of Hezbollah by the Lebanese army.

Amos Hochstein, US President Joe Biden's envoy, has been responsible for drafting the cease-fire agreement between Lebanon and the Israeli regime. The terms of the draft are heavily biased in favor of Israel, with any potential commitments from the Lebanese gov-

ernment resembling a capitulation to Israeli demands.

In 2006, following the 33-day war, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1701 to halt hostilities between Hezbollah and the occupying army. The resolution mandates that the area between the Blue Line (the demarcation line between Lebanon and occupied Palestine) and the Litani

River in southern Lebanon be free of armed forces and military equipment, except for the Lebanese army and UNIFIL troops. However, the proposed cease-fire grants Israel permission for military presence on Lebanese soil. The plan is viewed as part of a larger strategy in the West Asia region, aimed at advancing aggressive and hegemonic Western-Israeli

agendas. Key objectives include: 1) terminating the conflict in Lebanon by transforming it into internal strife; 2) suppressing and asserting Israeli dominance over the Gaza Strip; 3) shifting the conflict to territories further afield, such as Iran, Iraq, and Yemen; and 4) rendering other Islamic countries in the region passive in the face of regional de-

velopments.

These goals illustrate the intent to separate the Gaza cease-fire from that of Lebanon and further dissociate them from the proxy wars waged by the American-Israeli alliance against other members of the Resistance Axis.

From the outset of Israel's aggression against the Gaza Strip, members of the Resistance Front

have repeatedly emphasized that the primary focus should be ending the war in Gaza and halting the crimes of the Israeli regime in occupied Palestine. However, an analysis of Western-Israeli war diplomacy reveals a conspiratorial effort to manage the battlefield in favor of Israel, aimed at achieving long-term regional dominance.

## Six countries compete in Iran's children's theater festival in Hamedan



### Arts & Culture Desk

The 29th International Theater Festival for Children and Youths officially began on November 1, 2024, with a grand opening ceremony at the Imam Ali Sports Complex in Hamedan, Iran. The festival, which runs from November 1 to 7, has brought together six international groups from Uzbekistan, Armenia, Iraq, Brazil, Turkey, and Russia, as well as local artists and officials. Hamedan's Mayor, Seyyed Masoud Hosseini, welcomed the guests, saying, "This opening ceremony has been met with



an unprecedented enthusiasm from children and youths, which is a good omen for the rest of the festival."

He added, "You are guests in Hamedan, the capital of Iran's history and civilization, which has nurtured great figures like

Martyr Hossein Hamedani, and is home to valuable assets like these children." Hosseini emphasized that this

is the second major event of the year in Hamedan, which has been recognized globally, and that the city is proud to host the festival. He also expressed gratitude to the representatives of the people of Hamedan and Famenin for their efforts in bringing the festival back to Hamedan. The Director General of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Hamedan province, Masoud Vjeh, told IRNA that the festival is unique in that it engages the general public and families, creating a wave of joy among children. He noted that last year's festival had over 100,000 attendees in

various venues. Vjeh added that their goal is to hold events not only in Hamedan but also in nine other counties of the province. He mentioned that two mobile units will cover marginalized areas and villages, and TV networks will be activated to reflect the festival's activities. Hamedan has been a hub of artistic heritage in Iran, with many national artists hailing from the city. The first spark of international theater was ignited in Hamedan with the first International Children's Theater Festival, held in 1991.

## Iran-India cultural heritage 'treasure trove for humanity': Envoy

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi, emphasized the significance of the historical and cultural ties between Iran and India, stating that the two countries' cultural heritage is not only a treasure for the two nations but also a valuable asset for humanity. During a meeting with B.R. Mani, the Director General of the National Museum of India, Elahi highlighted the deep historical relations between Iran and India, saying that the two countries have enjoyed mutual respect and admiration since ancient times. He noted that cultural and literary exchanges have played a crucial role in strengthening the bond between the two nations, IRNA reported. Elahi added that the history of

Iran and India is replete with shared stories, artistic and literary works that are not only a heritage for the two nations but also a treasure trove for humanity. He emphasized the need to further strengthen these ties, as they represent a deep connection between the two nations. B.R. Mani also underscored

the importance of constructive and historical interactions between Iran and India, saying that the cultural heritage of the two countries goes beyond geographical boundaries and is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. He noted that Iran and India have had a profound impact on each other and that their



cultures, arts, and literature are intertwined, showcasing a cultural solidarity. The Indian official also pointed out that the shared cultural heritage of the two countries is a symbol of the extensive interactions that have taken place throughout history and have continued to this day. He said that the people of India have always looked at Iranian culture and art with respect and admiration, and this cultural bond has been passed down through generations. Mehdi Khajeh Piri, the Director of the International Microfilm Center, referred to the joint cultural projects between the two countries, particularly in the fields of digitalization, cataloging, and restoration of written heritage. He explained that the center aims to provide a suitable plat-

form for future studies and research by preserving and digitalizing the shared heritage, hoping that this cooperation will help create a sustainable cultural bridge between Iran and India. The meeting was followed by a visit to the activities of the International Microfilm Center at the Iranian Cultural House in New Delhi. The visit aimed to familiarize the guests with the center's efforts in preserving, digitalizing, and promoting the written heritage of Iran and India. The participants in the meeting emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation to promote and protect these cultural treasures, highlighting the historical and cultural ties between Iran and India as one of the strengths and shared assets of both countries.

## Iranian actress Fatemeh Mokhtari awarded at US festival

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian actress Fatemeh Mokhtari won the Best Actress Award at the IndieFEST Film Festival in the United States for her role in the short film 'Stupid', directed by Meysam Mohammadkhani. According to IRNA, 'Stupid' made its international debut at the festival and managed to scoop up



the award for Best Actress, marking Mokhtari's first international award for her performance in the film. Mokhtari has previously won numerous awards at global film festivals and is no stranger to recognition for her talent. The IndieFEST Film Festival, which was launched in 2008, aims to introduce independent filmmakers and unique voices from around the world to serious film enthusiasts. The film's plot revolves around Marzieh, a short-statured university student who lives in a dormitory and discovers that she is being mocked by her roommates. However, as the story unfolds, Marzieh's patience wears thin, and she reaches her breaking point. Mokhtari, who has previously spoken about her role in the film, said: "Marzieh is a character who lives a normal life with utmost honesty and innocence until she receives a shock from her roommates that pushes her to her limits. I was able to showcase a range of emotions and performances in this role, and I'm thrilled about it." 'Stupid' boasts an ensemble cast, including Saeedeh Roodbaraki, Kimia Khalaj, Mahna Meraji, Mohaddeseh Mohammadzadeh, and Behnaz Heydari, among others.

## 50 Iranian scholars attend international school course in Malaysia

### Arts & Culture Desk

Fifty Iranian professors and students are set to attend the third round of international mutual school courses in Malaysia, which will take place at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. The event, scheduled to run from November 3 to 11, aims to bring together young global scientists and leaders to tackle new international challenges, IRNA reported. According to Mohsen Sarraf, the education attaché at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Malaysia, the course is the result of an agreement signed between Iran's University of Isfahan and Malaysia's University of Malaya (UM) on the sidelines of the Developing Eight (D8) Summit. The course will feature six topics, including the impact of artificial intelligence on privacy and security, integrated water management, Islamic heritage and civilization, sustainable climate governance, crisis management, and the balance of reasoning and faith in lifestyle. Sarraf noted that extensive collective programs have been planned to promote scientific and academic diplomacy during the event. The Uni-

versity of Malaya will host the course, which is designed to provide education to foreign students or Iranians who have completed part of their studies abroad. Applicants are encouraged to check the registration requirements and eligibility criteria for the course, which include having residency or citizenship in Iran.

