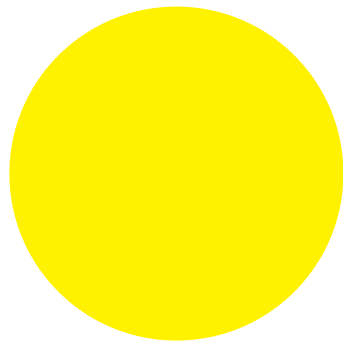


Israeli strikes kill dozens in Lebanon, northern Gaza

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# Pezeshkian issues key orders to facilitate Makoran development

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## Iran's active diplomacy amid regional wars

By **Abed Akbari**  
International affairs expert  
**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

The current Iranian government assumed office amid unprecedented conflict and unrest in West Asia. On the day of President Masoud Pezeshkian's swearing-in, the Israeli regime carried out a terrorist attack, assassinating Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh who was in Tehran for the inauguration ceremony. Following the assassination, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a sense, got into direct confrontation with the Israeli regime, ten months after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm. Subsequent assassinations of resistance leaders, particularly Secretary General of Hezbollah Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, placed the region on the brink of a large-scale war. Since then, the Iranian government has pursued a multilayered military deterrent strategy while also implementing an active and unprecedented diplomatic campaign. These diplomatic efforts complemented military endeavors, fostering effective deterrence.

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## Path of Martyr Nasrallah goes on

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## Suspension; Trump's sole method of addressing issues

By **Gholamreza Mansouri**  
Political science expert  
**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

Expectations are over, and as realistic experts predicted earlier, Trump is the president of the United States. He won the election with 295 electoral votes and was named as the 47th President of the United States of America. Although he claims to have concrete solutions to America's domestic problems, his clever solution to the world's pressing issues seems to be a form of indifference, especially through suspension. That is, Trump's method of dealing with external problems is suspending the issues instead of finding solutions. It appears that he prefers a strategy of suspending problems rather than solving the fundamental or root causes. It also seems that Trump is aiming for economic exploitation by suspending political issues. In the following, I will draw your attention to three categories of such global problems.

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## Trump's election win has no impact on Iranian economy: **CBI**



Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin said Donald Trump's victory as the next US president has nothing to do with Iran's economy or its financial growth.

Trump as president does not have direct effects on Iran's economy because we do not have any direct commercial, monetary and financial cooperation with the United States and Europe, Farzin told during a televised interview on Saturday evening, IRNA reported.

The CBI chief, however, acknowledged that global economies and financial markets can feel the heat in case of the change in policy by the incoming US administration.

As you have seen, cryptocurrencies reacted to the arrival of Trump with Bitcoin experiencing a 20% increase, but our exchange rate only reacted by 1%, he said, arguing that part of the fear in markets was caused by the policies of Trump's previous tenure. Farzin warned about a severe impact on global markets as well as the economies of China and Europe if Trump renewed his past policies related to trade and commerce, especially his tariff regime.

His remarks are in line with western financial experts who have also warned that Trump's victory will lead to a risky time for the United States and rest of the world and any attempt by him to impose higher tariffs can lead to higher prices of goods for general consumers.

On the domestic front, the head of Iran's Central Bank expressed hopes that the country's inflation will decrease to 30% by the year end and then to 20%. Today, our dependency has decreased a lot and we have expanded regional interactions, and in the BRICS too, we have taken forward good activities and already made necessary preparations for the beginning of this era, Farzin underscored.

# Pezeshkian issues key orders to facilitate Makoran development

### Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday highlighted the importance of fundamental reforms in the proposed plans for the development of the Makoran coastal region, issuing four key directives to facilitate the preparation of the necessary conditions for development in the region.

Pezeshkian referred to the necessities of achieving the desired outcome in the proposed development plans for the Makoran region as requiring problem-solving and providing solutions to the issues with the goal of creating a region that serves the people and the country. "I believe that the general plans for the development of the Makoran region require fundamental changes," IRNA reported. He added, "Since this region is to be introduced as a new model of development and a politico-economic hub for the country, any plan should be in line with this vision."

"We are determined to develop the Makoran region because it is one of the priorities of the

Leader and a basic need of the country," the president said, noting that to accelerate the development process, the government may hold some cabinet meetings in the region.

Pezeshkian introduced four key initiatives and immediate proposals to facilitate paving the ground for the development of Makoran as "boosting the region's local economies", "ensuring the necessary infrastructure in the field of renewable energy", "accelerating the completion of the region's transportation corridors with international cooperation," and "attracting domestic and foreign investment in Makoran."

"It is essential that planners of the Makoran development project make use of the expertise of international consultants in preparing the draft of the Makoran development plan," the president concluded.

The ancient region of Makoran located in the southeast of the Iranian plateau and on the northern shores of the Sea of Oman has been in the crosshairs of the enemies which coveted its resources or tried to choke



off Iran's access to its wealth throughout history.

Since 2008, when Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei underlined the significance of Makoran, the development of the strategic region has been put on the front-

line of Iran's drive to reorient its economy.

The general policies of sea-based development call for a whole-of-government approach to develop Iran's coasts, especially Makoran beyond the strategic port of Chabahar.

The geopolitical, geostrategic and geoeconomic advantages of Makoran hosting a comprehensive sea, road, rail and air transportation network along oil and gas transmission lines would enormously fortify Iran and upgrade its status.

## Scheduled electricity cuts amid fuel shortages at Iran's power plants

Iran's state electricity company Tavanir announced a series of scheduled power cuts in the country amid a cold snap that has pushed up demand for natural gas and left power plants struggling with low supplies of mazut. Tavanir issued a statement late on Saturday asking its customers to check the power cut schedule announced by its local branches in the Iranian provinces, Press TV wrote.

It said the reason for power cuts was the restrictions imposed on the supply of fuel feedstock in power plants because of the current cold wave. The statement said another reason for the cuts was a recent decision by the government to ban the use of mazut in power plants to prevent pollution in major industrial cities.

It is the first time in decades that Iran has imposed power cuts in cold months as the country faces an increasing demand for energy in its household, business, and manufacturing sectors.

In a post on the X platform earlier, Iranian government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said that scheduled power cuts would be much better for people than exposing them to pollutants resulting from burning mazut in power plants.

Many power plants in Iran use natural gas as their main feedstock to generate electricity. In fact, the electricity sector is responsible for nearly 250 million cubic meters per day, or a third of the total gas demand in Iran. However, power plants normally tap their supplies of gas-



oil in cold months of the year when household demand for natural gas hits record highs.

A Saturday report by Tasnim news agency said mazut supplies at Iranian power plants had declined 43% in August compared to the same month last year.

Tavanir Managing Director Mostafa Rajabi-Mashhadi said on Sunday that with the cold season approaching and the increase in domestic gas consumption,

power plants across the country face gas consumption limitations, forcing some to use liquid fuel as an alternative.

He went on to say that almost 85% of the liquid fuel used by power plants is supplied by diesel, with the remaining 15% coming from mazut.

"The electricity-intensive sectors of the country have posted a 7.5% rise these days, compared to corresponding figures of last year," the official stated.

## Iran aims for annual trade of \$1b with Armenia: **TPO**



Iran plans to boost trade exchanges with Armenia to \$1.0 billion as the neighbor is Iran's gateway to the Eurasian market, an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said.

"Our goal is to increase exports to Armenia to \$1 billion in the first step and to \$3 billion in the long term; we expect to have a 20-30 percent growth in trade with this country in the next year," Akbar Godari, the head of TPO's Central Asia, Caucasus, and Russia Department, was quoted by Mehr News Agency as saying.

According to the official, Iran exported more than \$412 million of goods to Armenia in the previous Iranian calendar year of 1402 (ended on March 19) while imports from

this country stood at \$45 million.

He said the exports to Armenia reached \$225 million in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-Septemehr 21), registering a growth of 15 percent compared to the same period last year.

Food products, fruits and vegetables, cement, rebar, chemicals, polymer materials, and bitumen were the top exported items to Armenia in the mentioned six months, Godari added.

Pointing out that Armenia imports \$5 billion worth of goods and exports \$4 billion annually, he said, "China is the first trade partner of this country, followed by Russia, while Armenia's third trade partner is Iran."

## POGC announces rise in Phase 11 gas output at South Pars

### Economy Desk

The CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) announced an increase in daily natural gas production from Phase 11 of the South Pars field, stating that, "The seventh well of the development plan of this phase has been launched."

Touraj Dehqani, in an interview with Shana on Sunday, a reporter, added

that after the completion of the acidization operation in the coming weeks, the extraction of gas from this well will reach full capacity.

Phase 11 of the South Pars Gas Field is the latest development project in the giant field, which is located near the border with Qatar. The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) signed a development contract for this

phase in 2017 with France's TotalEnergies, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), and PetroPars.

With the withdrawal of foreign companies from the contract after the US sanctions on Tehran, Iranian companies took over the responsibility for the development of Phase 11, and the first extraction from this phase was carried out last year.

With the full operation of Phase 11 of the South Pars Gas Field, gas extraction will reach 28 million cubic meters per day.

Gas produced in Phase 11 is transported from its offshore location in the Persian Gulf to the onshore processing facilities of Phase 12. Upon refinement, it is injected into the national gas network.





Iranica Desk

Sistan is a captivating land rich with myths and stories from the Shahnameh, a realm filled with unknowns and hidden treasures. Ancient and historical sites, along with impressive castles—from the fabled Castle of Rostam to Sam Castle—highlight the continuity of life in this region, stretching back from prehistoric times to the early Islamic centuries. These sites not only serve as a testament to the area’s rich history but also invite tourists from around the world to discover the wonders of this ancient city.

The region’s ancient, historic, and robust castles serve as a clear reflection of the long-standing habitation that spans thousands of years and highlight Sistan’s rich culture and its significance as one of the great centers of civilization in world history. The castles remain largely pristine and untouched, still holding many wonders and secrets just waiting to be uncovered, IRNA wrote.

Located in the northern part of Sistan and Baluchestan, Sistan is often regarded as the cradle of art, science, literature, and magnificent architecture. This region comprises a flat and enclosed area formed by the alluvial deposits of the ancient and current Helmand River Delta. Its untouched and pristine areas have earned it the reputation of being a hidden treasure, a land of unknowns, bestowing a unique heritage upon the world.

Sistan is essentially a treasure trove filled with everything considered essential for an important land, concealing numerous historical and natural sites within its borders. With its considerable capacity and potential for attracting tourists, the region is poised for growth. However, much of this potential remains hidden from the general public, as the attractions within Sistan do not enjoy the same level of recognition as other domestic travel destinations.

To unlock the full potential of Sistan’s tourist and historical attractions, it is crucial to broadly introduce the area through mass media, influential bloggers, and dedicated tourism websites. Creating on-going interaction and coordination with managers of domestic and international tours is an approach that should be pursued continuously. By taking these steps, new job opportunities can be generated for the residents of the region. Moreover, it is essential to identify the historical tourism capacities and capabilities to create an active and vibrant life for both citizens and visitors. If this is not achieved, these areas risk becoming abandoned spaces threatened in terms of their identity and structural integrity.

If there aren’t enough facilities to draw tourists to the historical contexts, these sites may quickly decline and lose their historical identity. However, by harnessing existing opportunities and employing modern tools and strategies, we can better introduce and showcase our culture, civilization, and history. Such efforts are paramount in preventing the historical identity of this region from deteriorating.

# Sistan; a land of myths and hidden treasures



### Rostam Castle

One of the most famous historical remnants from the Islamic period in the Sistan region of Sistan and Baluchestan is Rostam Castle, named after the legendary hero of Iranian mythology, Rostam Dastan. This magnificent castle is situated approximately 70 kilometers from the main road that connects Zabol to Zahedan, specifically 70 kilometers southwest of Zabol. It lies just off the main road, after the Burnt City, accessible by traversing a few hundred meters.

Archaeological experts believe that its peak of glory and prosperity occurred during the Safavid dynasty. In this vicinity, the remains of an ancient city can be found, showcasing impressive brickwork, mul-

tiple buildings, an entrance gate, a watchtower, and 15 defensive towers.

The central building of Rostam Castle features several important architectural elements, including a spacious courtyard, northern and southern verandas, numerous rooms arranged around the courtyard, a governor’s residence, and a three-story security building integrated into the complex.

Some of the castle’s rooms are adorned with intricately patterned latticed windows, skillfully crafted by placing bricks side by side. The castle’s walls and fortifications are constructed to align with the natural landscape, extending in an irregular polygonal shape from east to west. The design of the castle

was deliberate, ensuring that the northern side effectively served as a windbreak against the notorious 120-day winds of Sistan. Notably, the eastern section of the castle, opposite the central building, features a large circular ice storage facility that rises approximately five meters above ground level.

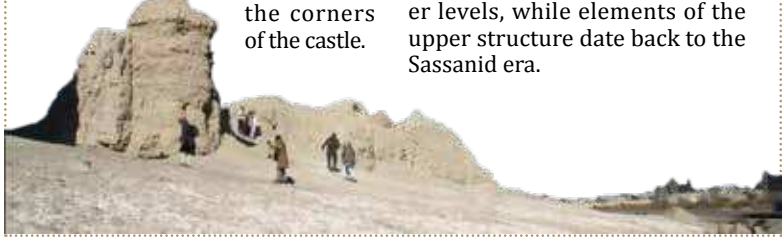
In proximity to the central citadel, known as *shahneshin*, a stable can be found, behind which lies a long building featuring rows of feed troughs along its sides. Surrounding the castle is a moat measuring five to seven meters in width, with varying dimensions in certain areas. The accumulated soil has caused the depth of the moat to appear less significant over time. Given the climatic conditions, geo-

graphical status, and strategic location of the area, architects and builders were tasked with creating a robust fortress suitable for both military and residential functions. They utilized the most appropriate building material available: raw brick, although traces of plaster can also be observed in some rooms.

The entrance gate and the fifteen defensive towers that encircle the castle were designed to mitigate natural adversities. Arrow slits within the walls and towers, as well as the battlements, demonstrate the castle’s defensive capabilities. Archaeological investigations in the area have also uncovered several silver coins belonging to Porandokht, a Sassanid queen.

### Sam Castle

Sam Castle is shaped like an irregular trapezoid and features two gates — northern and southern — each complemented by a watchtower. Constructed during the Parthian era using raw brick, this complex includes more than thirty-six towers, with eight of them being significantly larger than the remaining twenty-eight smaller towers, which are strategically placed around the corners of the castle.



Named after Rostam’s ancestor, the castle succumbed to destruction following a change in the course of the Helmand River, which led to flooding and water pressure that compromised its structure. The castle showcases a two-layered construction, with a central wall covered in mud on both sides.

Archaeological excavations have revealed Greek inscriptions from the Parthian period on the lower levels, while elements of the upper structure date back to the Sassanid era.

### Qalehno Village

Qalehno (literally meaning New Castle) is the only village in Sistan that has preserved its traditional fabric and indigenous architecture. The houses in this village are constructed with domed roofs and mud-brick walls, designed to mitigate the intense heat and the harsh, 120-day winds characteristic of the area.

Located along the Zabol-Zahak road, Qalehno’s history spans

160 years, as documented by the travelogues of English travelers. During the Qajar era, villages in Sistan maintained a defensive and fortified structure. The village derives its name from a nearby earlier settlement, Qaleh Kohneh (Old Castle), which was established in the form of a fortress.

Built on a natural hill, Qalehno features houses arranged in a terraced manner, enhancing its unique architectural charm.



### Khajeh Mountain

When discussing ancient mountains in Iran, Alborz is typically at the forefront; however, Khajeh Mountain also deserves recognition as a distinct geological feature. This mountain stands as one of the most significant tourist destinations in the Sistan region, located just a short distance from Zabol. It is home to invaluable historical artifacts that lie hidden from tourists, enhancing its allure. Additionally, the various beliefs and narratives surrounding Khajeh Mountain further elevate its importance.

Khajeh Mountain is a basaltic lava formation with a trapezoidal shape. In the past, when Hamun Lake was abundant, Khajeh Mountain appeared as an island rising above its waters. The mountain stands as the only natural feature in the Sistan, with an approximate height of 609 meters above sea level (around 100 meters above the surrounding area). It hosts remarkable archaeological sites from the Parthian dynasty. Although many portions of this earthen structure have suffered damage from natural and human factors, the architectural style of the fortress remains discernible.

Named after the tomb of Khajeh Mahdi, a Shia Muslim, whose

shrine is situated atop the mountain, Khajeh Mountain, along with Hamun Lake, is sacred to the followers of Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam. This area has been extensively studied by researchers, all of whom recognize the Parthian and Sassanid architectural elements present. The most significant and largest archaeological remains of Khajeh Mountain are found on its southeastern slope. This area features three defensive walls, a main gate, side corridors, a central courtyard, and a fire temple, collectively known as Kafarun Castle. Above Kafarun Castle, the Kak Kahzad Complex is perched at the highest point. Mythology identifies Kak Kahzad as a demon-infested ruler who was defeated by Rostam Dastan, and this site is believed to be the location of a royal palace.

Architectural decorations in some sections of Kafarun resemble Greek styles, featuring Doric columns with spiral volutes. Other decorative elements, including small floral patterns resembling lotus blossoms, are influenced by Achaemenid art, with some similarities to Mesopotamian art as well. Evidence of regular stone staircases connecting Kafarun Castle to Kak Kahzad can still be observed.



Participants of Int'l conference of Nasrallah's School of Thought:

# Path of Martyr Nasrallah goes on

*Hezbollah will stand stronger than ever*



By Sadeq Dehqan & Zohreh Qanadi  
Staff writers

## INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

The late Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement, was not a one-dimensional man and many who have known him attested to this. This has again been proven in an international conference, titled 'Nasrallah's School of Thought,' held at the Iran International Conference Center in Tehran on Saturday, December 10. Scholars and experts from different countries participating in the event explored various intellectual, personal, and political dimensions of the Lebanese martyr, referring to him as a great "mujahid" (a Muslim who is fighting in support of Islam). He was assassinated by the Zionists due to their frustration and despair and the fact that he was keeping the banner of resistance aloft in the region. The attendees emphasized that Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was not just a person, but represented a path, a school, and a model for the resistance forces and Hezbollah. With his martyrdom, not only did the structure of Hezbollah not waver, but also the Islamic political organization has continued his path more strongly, fighting against the occupiers. The international conference, coinciding with the 40th day of the martyrdom of the standard-bearer of the Resistance, martyr Nasrallah, was the result of a joint effort by Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance as well as the Islamic Culture and Communication Organization. Experts from Lebanon, Iraq, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Turkey, India, Malaysia, Algeria, Tunisia, Pakistan, and other countries were present at the gathering. Several Iranian military and state officials also made speeches, commemorating and discussing the character of Lebanon's magnificent commander and role model for future Resistance leaders. On the sidelines of the event, Iran Daily conducted exclusive interviews with several esteemed guests to explore the impact of Nasrallah's physical loss on the Resistance Axis as well as the responsibilities and duties of leaders and scholars of the Islamic world in promoting Resistance against Israel and the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in strengthening the movement.



## Nasrallah's legacy expanded operations

Khaled Qaddoumi  
Hamas's representative in Tehran

We should not look at Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as an individual but as an intellectual school. Although he was a religious scholar, he was also a strong and brave fighter. After Sayyed Hassan's martyrdom, his place is truly vacant. However, with the legacy he left behind, we are witnessing a surge in the Resistance Axis's struggles. The Lebanese fighters, after his martyrdom, have expanded their operations against the Zionists. Nasrallah explicitly declared his support for the Palestinian people from the beginning because Palestine is a symbol of unity in the Islamic world. He clearly stated that our enemy does not understand any language other than resistance and the field, and this is the main legacy of Sayyed Hassan. We must continue the resistance

to achieve the freedom of Palestine. All the fighters of the path of freedom, from Ismail Haniyeh to Yahya Sinwar and other Palestinian, Iraqi, Yemeni, and other fighters, have moved in solidarity and unity towards the freedom of Palestine, and this path continues. Today, the solution to the Palestinian issue is being formed in the field of battle because the United States has been supporting Israel since 1948. In these years, no US president, whether they be Democrat or Republican, has reduced the country's support for the Zionist regime. Now, even though Mr. Trump has come to power and says that he is looking to stop the war, there will be no difference in the US approach to supporting the Zionist regime. The American support for the Zionist

regime's genocide is clear, as 70% of the Zionist regime's military budget is provided by the United States. Therefore, what Trump says is not important; what matters is what happens in practice. Does he really respect the rights of the Palestinians, or does he want to pursue issues that have no benefit for the Palestinians? With the sacrifices and bravery of the Resistance Axis and Hezbollah in the field, people from all over the world, even in Amsterdam, New York, and London, have been compelled to support the Resistance and defend the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people. This support is the result of the martyrdom of Palestinian and Lebanese women, men, and children, and today the world emphasizes the righteousness of the Palestinian people.



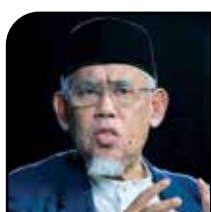
## Divine civilization vs. satanic civilization

Muhammad Amin Shaheedi  
Head of Pakistan's United Ummah Party

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah is undoubtedly a charismatic figure. For the past 32 years, he has been at the helm of both Hezbollah and the Resistance front in the Arab world. He had a significant impact on the youth of the resistance axis. This role of Nasrallah stemmed from his spirit, which also helps him remain alive in the hearts of people. From the very beginning, Nasrallah has been a humble individual and a great fighter. While he showed kindness to his friends, he possessed an extraordinary presence when facing his enemies. Recently, his stature and spiritual influence have grown significantly. Following Hamas's attack on October 7, global media turned their attention to Nasrallah, eagerly anticipating his words. This highlights his international prominence, as he has dedicated himself to God. Consequently, Nasrallah serves as the emotional focal point for the oppressed people worldwide.

**Iran's role**  
The heart of the Resistance is the

Islamic Republic. Without the Islamic Republic of Iran, there would be no resistance. The Islamic Republic has posed a significant challenge to the Capitalist system. Today, the sole entity opposing the Capitalist system is the Islamic Republic; the Imam and leader of the Resistance axis is the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ayatollah Khamenei. Thus, the role Iran plays in supporting the oppressed is both enduring and impactful. Over the past year, we have witnessed an unequal war of oppression against the oppressed. This Resistance axis has evolved into a culture and civilization. This culture and civilization stand in opposition to Western culture and civilization. In reality, this is a battle between two civilizations: the divine and spiritual civilization against the Western and satanic civilization. In such an environment, the Resistance plays a pivotal role. The West will also fall, meaning that the forces of God will prevail over this civilization, and religion will triumph.



## Hezbollah leader embodies meaning of courage

Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid  
President of Consultative Council of Islamic Organizations of Malaysia

Nasrallah's character embodies the meaning of Islamic leadership, the courage, the determination, the clarity, the discipline, the ability to organize and the steadfastness to continue the struggle until the end of his breath. So that is a personality that we need to continue the struggle until the end of his breath. So, that is a personality that we need for the Ummah now to resist the enemies of Muslims; the enemies who are planning a lot of things to crush Muslims, but Nasrallah was able to show that we have the ability to resist and to fight back. In Islam, it is thought we don't attack, but we defend ourselves. So, this is what Nasrallah has shown to us, as an effective leader. Removing such a charismatic figure from the movement has no effect. Nasrallah understood the dynamics, how to resist, how to strengthen the fighters, and to instill in them inspiration and identity as Muslims who fight for their rights and their promise. And that is how Nasrallah's impact resonates, inspiring the followers and

other movements around the world. We have so many Islamic movements around the world. Of course, we have Hamas in Palestine. We have our Muslim movement in Malaysia, Indonesia. So, he taught the meaning of the struggle, how we should be able to fight back and to defend our rights.

### Iran's role in strengthening movements

Iran has played a very vital role since even 1979 because Imam Khomeini taught to the Muslims around the world who is actually our enemy. We missed the real understanding that our enemy is the Zionist. So, from that revolution, 1979 up until now, Iran has shown that he has been consistent, very clear. So, whatever the west or the Zionist movement does to Iran, including sanction, pressure, Iran still stands very strong. The country become a role model for many Muslim countries. Iran has developed its own strength, its own capability, military capability, the economy also quite bad, but still, people are living. I went



around the city. People are happy. They go in the restaurants. They have holidays. They're still strong. So, Iran is a very strong nation. You have problems, as many other countries have problems, but to be still intact. Iran has an important role to tell the world, look, let's put away our differences, and unite and develop ones as an independent group of Muslim countries. The role is to regain our dignity as Muslim. Islam is the best. Islam is the highest and nothing else beyond Islam. We should show that in our personality, in our family, in our nation, in our Ummah, we should show to people that we are the ummah; we are the best in everything, in economics, in agriculture, in technology.

So, this is our role. Now come back to Islam. Of course, we have to fight. If they attack us, we have to fight, but we have to strengthen our position.

### Real message of Resistance

I think the Resistance — they call the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm —, this flood, this storm, has gone all over the world, people from Tokyo to Sydney to South Africa, even to Chile, London, Paris and Washington. They are absorbing the spirit of Resistance. It's not wild. People understand what Resistance means. It starts from the Palestine Resistance, and then you have the leaders like Hassan Nasrallah. So, I think this is about not only unity of the Ummah, [it] is a unity of humankind, of the whole world.





Muslims stand with oppressed

Mufti Amir Zaib  
Information secretary of Pakistan's Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JU) party

Anyone who advocates for the oppressed and raises their voice deserves our support and sympathy as Muslims. Nasrallah did this, and his message was heard.

Iran's role

Iran plays an important role in the Resistance. It has long been committed to supporting this cause. Unfortunately, the leaders of Muslim countries have not taken the necessary actions regarding Palestine. Nevertheless, the hearts of the Muslim people throughout the region are with the oppressed worldwide. Thus far, Muslim countries have done little for Palestine, and we witness the resulting issues.

True voice of Resistance

We are prepared to do whatever it takes for the Resistance. If it weren't for Hamas, Palestine would still be marginalized. Thanks to Hamas' efforts, the world has come to recognize that Palestine is oppressed and has identified the oppressor in relation to this victim. God willing, in this war, victory will belong to the Muslims and Palestine.



Leader of humanity

Danish Nadeem  
Representative of Pakistan's Al-Mustafa International University

Nasrallah was not only a leader of the Shia world but also a leader of humanity. He stands as one of the significant figures in the contemporary Islamic landscape. About the physical elimination of this leader the enemy has been misguided. The enemy believes they have eradicated the Resistance, but this belief is misguided. The title of martyr among Muslims will not fade; instead, its significance will grow, and the actions once confined to this world will become limitless. We will all witness the effects of his martyrdom, which will surpass the influence of his life. A true narrative will emerge, and a culture will be fostered that draws more followers to the Axis of Resistance. The most crucial duty of leaders and scholars in the Islamic world is to promote and maintain unity among Muslims. Muslims must focus on their commonalities. Without unity, they cannot achieve significant progress. Emphasizing the shared aspects of Muslims — such as the single Qibla, the Prophet Muhammed (PBUH), the Qur'an, and the Imams — will enhance their unity. In the next phase, Muslims must not remain passive or idle in the face of the enemy; they must act as one and stand against the adversary.



Shias, Sunnis equal to Nasrallah

Mohammad Sadeq Fahimi  
Bandar Abbas's Sunni Friday Prayer imam

The enemies of Islam have always sought to create divisions between Shias and Sunnis and do not want unity and solidarity among Muslims to be established. Accordingly, they tried very hard to portray Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as a defender and supporter of Shias only, but Sayyed Hassan never distinguished between Shias and Sunnis. He showed this in practice by supporting the people of Gaza. He was only seeking the advancement of the Islamic world and defending the rights of the oppressed. The path of Nasrallah will not end with his martyrdom because as Allah says in the Qur'an, "If Muhammad is taken away from you, will you return to your previous beliefs?" The answer is no. Therefore, the divine tradition in this regard is established. Just as when Imam Khomeini passed away, Imam Khamenei took over the leadership, after Sayyed Hassan, the path of Hezbollah continues. Although it is possible that with the martyrdom of the Resistance leaders, there may be a pause in the path, but the path will not be lost. Even Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah himself had once replaced the former secretary-general of Hezbollah, Sayyed Abbas al-Musawi, who was martyred. Therefore, with Sayyed Hassan's martyrdom, the struggle continues.



Hezbollah chief behaved like friend, not leader

Nour al-Laqqis  
Daughter of Hezbollah's commander

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah is considered a way of thinking and an ideological movement for Hezbollah, and everyone knows that a fundamental thought does not end with the departure of a person. He cultivated an ideological and intellectual movement in Hezbollah, and the followers of his school will continue on this path with greater strength after his martyrdom. If the Zionist enemy can take away the intellect, heart, will, and devotion that Sayyed Hassan instilled in my heart, it can claim that Hezbollah has been eliminated, but this will never happen and the followers of Sayyed Hassan's school will not deviate from this path.

Allah has given me many blessings in life, but the greatest blessing was the existence of my dear father, Hassan al-Laqqis. He had a very great and distinguished personality, and it is difficult for me to describe a human being of such greatness in words. Words do not do justice to him. My father was known among the people as the martyr of generosity because his ethics, behavior, and character were characterized by generosity and kindness. Many Iranian commanders had dealings with him, and they all agreed that his generosity was exemplary, and they learned many things from his virtues. Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah always

called my father the creator of new ideas because there was no idea in his field of work that he was asked to implement and he did not do it. All those who were around Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and lived with him never realized from his behavior that he was the leader and commander. He treated everyone around him like a friend. Anyone who met Sayyed Hassan for the first time felt as if they had known him for years and had a relationship with him. This behavior of Sayyed Hassan was also true for my father, and their friendship was very close and intimate as if there was no work relationship between them.



Nasrallah's intellectual school enduring

Seyyed Mubarak Hosseini  
Head of Thailand's association of Islamic sciences students

Nasrallah was the leader of an ideology and intellectual school, and usually, ideologies do not end with the departure of their leaders and are enduring until they achieve their goals. As you saw, when Sayyed Hassan was martyred by the Zionist regime, Hashem Safiedine was chosen as his successor on the same day, and when the Zionists martyred Safiedine, Sheikh Naim Qassem became his successor and is continuing Nasrallah's path well. This shows that the struggle does not end with the departure of the commanders. We must accept that after the Zionist regime's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the only party and group that was able to stand up to this regime was Hezbollah. Then, in 2000, Hezbollah was able to expel the Zionists from southern

Lebanon, showing that the Resistance Axis could expel Israel from Lebanon despite its advanced military equipment and support from the West, especially the United States. Also, Hezbollah, under the leadership of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, was able to expel the Zionists from Lebanon again in the 33-day war in 2006. The continuation of Hezbollah's resistance in Lebanon, led by Nasrallah, over the past 33 years has also shown that the Resistance Front, especially Hezbollah, is very strong and steadfast, and there will be no disruption in its struggle. After Sayyed Hassan's martyrdom, we saw that Hezbollah's forces attacked Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, and Hezbollah's drones hit Netanyahu's house, which surprised many analysts.



Nasrallah not left us

Syed Mohammad Askari  
Head of Delhi's Jamia Ahlabait

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was multi-faceted. He was at a high level in both military and political aspects, as well as in worship and mysticism, and the secret of his successful leadership, popularity, and endurance was in the comprehensiveness of his personality. Nasrallah did not rely on material means. He was a brave commander

on the battlefield and used weapons, but he relied more on his faith and beliefs. It was this trust in divine help that helped him achieve his goals. This spiritual aspect and his deep beliefs and unwavering will in continuing the struggle were what shook the Zionist enemy and its supporters to their core. After his martyrdom, a terrible media

war was launched against him, and they tried to introduce him as a terrorist. When he was martyred, most Indian media outlets tried to show a weak image of him. These media campaigns were influenced by the Zionists because most media outlets in the world are slaves to the great powers and do not have free and independent thought and character. However, we were amazed to see that when the news of his martyrdom was announced in India, people took to the streets. Mourning and sadness were seen among Sunnis and even Hindus, but in Shia communities, it was as if Muharram had arrived; black flags were raised, and people wore black

clothes. As a religious preacher, I have participated in many ceremonies and delivered speeches in India, but I have never seen such a large crowd gather spontaneously. Sayyed Hassan did not leave us with his martyrdom; the intellectual school of individuals does not end with their departure — just as when Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his family were martyred in Karbala, their school of thought is still going strong even after 1,400 years. The path and school of Sayyed Hassan will also persist. Today, we practically see that with the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and other leaders of the Resistance Front, Hezbollah has become stronger

than before. During the 33-day war, the Zionists set foot 40 kilometers deep into Lebanon and were expelled, but after Sayyed Hassan's martyrdom, the Zionists, with all their efforts, could not enter Lebanon far. This shows that Hezbollah has not only not been eliminated but has become more resilient and more rooted. Today, all Islamic countries have a duty to support Hezbollah and the Resistance Axis, and if they do not, they will be committing treason. However, whether the help is given to the Lebanese fighters and the people of Gaza or not, it makes no difference. Allah's promise to pave the way for the victory of those who fight for Him is certain.



# Qalenoey names Iran's squad for World Cup qualifiers



## Sports Desk

Iran's head coach Amir Qalenoey named a 28-man squad for the upcoming fixtures against North Korea and the Kyrgyz Republic in the World Cup Asian qualifiers. Team Melli takes on North Korea in Vientiane, Laos, on Thursday, before playing away to Kyrgyzstan at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek the following Tuesday. Having beaten Qatar 4-1 last time out in the third round of the qualifiers, Iran is top of Group A with 10 points – equal on points with Uzbekistan and six points clear of third-placed UAE – after

four games.

With a top-two finish securing direct qualification for the 2026 finals, maximum points against the bottom two sides of the group will put Iran on the verge of punching ticket for showpiece in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Persepolis center-back Hossein Kan'anizadegan is back in the squad after missing the games against Uzbekistan and Qatar in October with an injury, while Esteghlal midfielder Rouzbeh Cheshmi has received a first international call-up since the AFC Asian Cup in February. Young striker Saeid Saharkhizan

has also been rewarded with a place in the list, thanks to an impressive form with FC Orenburg, which has seen the 21-year-old bag seven goals in 17 games across all competitions since joining the Russian top-flight side from Golgozar Sirjan in July. Elsewhere in Group A on Thursday, reigning Asian champion Qatar – trailing the top two by six points – will host Uzbekistan in Doha's Jassim bin Hamad Stadium, with the United Arab Emirates and the Kyrgyz Republic squaring off in Abu Dhabi. Paulo Bento's UAE will play Qatar at home on Nov. 19, while North

Korea will be back in Vientiane's Lao National Stadium KM16 to face Uzbekistan. The following is Iran's full squad for the double-header:

**Goalkeepers:** Alireza Beiranvand (Tractor), Payam Niazmand (Sepahan), Seyyed Hossein Hosseini (Esteghlal), Mohammadreza Akhbari (Golgozar Sirjan)

**Defenders:** Hossein Kan'anizadegan (Persepolis), Ali Ne'mati (Foolad Khuzestan), Shoja Khalilzadeh (Tractor), Mohammad-Amin Hazbavi (Sepahan), Mohammad-Mahdi Zare' (Golgozar Sirjan), Milad Mohammadi (Persepolis), Omid Nourafkan (Malavan), Arya

Yousefi (Sepahan), Saleh Hardani (Sepahan)

**Midfielders:** Saeed Ezzatollahi (Shabab Al Ahli), Mohammad Karimi (Sepahan), Mohammad Qorbani (FC Orenburg), Saman Qoddous (Ittihad Kalba), Mohammad Mohebbi (FC Rostov), Mahdi Qayedi (Ittihad Kalba), Ali Qolizadeh (Lech Poznan), Mohammad-Javad Hosseinnajad (Dinamo Makhachkala), Rouzbeh Cheshmi (Esteghlal), Alireza Jahanbakhsh (SC Heerenveen)

**Strikers:** Mahdi Taremi (Internazionale), Sardar Azmoun (Shabab Al Ahli), Shahriar Moghanlou (Ittihad Kalba), Saeid Saharkhizan (FC Orenburg), Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh (Tractor).

## Persian Gulf Pro League: Persepolis back to winning ways as Esteghlal snaps losing streak

### Sports Desk

Tehran archrivals Persepolis and Esteghlal claimed 1-0 victories over Golgozar Sirjan and Mes Rafsanjan respectively in two rescheduled fixtures from matchday four of the Persian Gulf Pro League. Sepahan, meanwhile, salvaged a point in a 1-1 home draw against Nassaji Mazandaran to go one point clear of Persepolis on top of the table. Beaten 1-0 by Esteghlal Khuzestan last time out in the Iranian top flight, Persepolis had veteran skipper Vahid Amiri's composed finish the second

half to thank for walking away with a massive win in the battle of the league's two teams with the best defensive record.

The result saw Juan Carlos Garrido's men overtake Sepahan in the standings on goal difference and would have finished the day in the first place, had it not been for Steven Nzonzi's last-gasp equalizer against Nassaji later on Saturday. Mersad Seifi's sizzling strike from 25 yards out found the bottom corner to give Nassaji a 27-minute lead in Isfahan's Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium.

The visitors, who are rock-bottom in

the table after 10 games, were minutes away from a first win of the campaign before the French midfielder headed home Mohammad Karimi's set piece in the second minute of added time to rescue a point for the home side. This was a final game in charge for Sepahan's interim coach Hugo Almeida, who had taken over from fellow-Portuguese Jose Morais last week and led the club to a much-needed 3-1 victory over Sharjah FC in the AFC Champions League Two.

In Tehran's Shahr-e Qods Stadium, Esteghlal ended a miserable run of five successive defeats across all competitions, while South African head coach Pitso Mosimane – appointed to role in late October – celebrated a first win in his fourth game on the Blues bench. Making only a second start in Esteghlal colors to fill in for injured Ramin Rezaeian, academy fullback and Iran under-20 international Abolfazl Zamani vindicated Mosimane's faith by scoring the match winner, slotting home Milad Zakipour low cross on the far post 10 minutes into the game.

The third league win of the season lifted Mosimane's men to the 10th place in the table with 11 points – 10 adrift of the top – while Mes Rafsanjan was left struggling in 14th spot, with just two points separating Masoud Shojaei's side and relegation-threatened Havadar.



Persepolis skipper Vahid Amiri (1) celebrates after scoring the winner in the 1-0 victory over Golgozar Sirjan in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Sirjan, Iran, on Nov. 9, 2024.  
● persopolisnews.com

## Iran lines up star-studded teams for wrestling double-header with Russia

### Sports Desk

The Wrestling Federation of Iran named the country's freestyle and Greco-Roman squads for a friendly double-header against wrestling powerhouse Russia in Moscow on November 22-23.

Newly-crowned world 82kg champion Mohammadali Geraei will spearhead the Iranian Greco-Roman squad in the Russian capital, with his younger brother Mohammadreza competing in the 72kg contest.

The two will be joined by Iranian prodigy Saeid Esmaeili, who won the 67kg gold at the Paris Olympics in August, with world under-20 champion Ahmadreza Mohsennejad also in contention for the weight class.

Pouya Dadmarz, a silver medalist at the World Championships two weeks ago, will be the Iranian 55kg wrestler in Moscow. Alireza Mohmadi (87kg) and reigning world super-heavyweight champion Amin Mirzazadeh (130kg) will make a first appearance since winning an



Olympic silver and bronze respectively.

Ali Ahmadi-Vafa (60kg), Iman Mohammadi (63kg), Ali Oskou (77kg), Mahdi Bali and Shayan Habib-Zare' (97kg) complete the Iranian Greco-Roman lineup.

The Iranian freestyle team will be headlined by two-time world champion Kamran Qasempour (92kg) and Olympic silver medalist Amirhossein Zare' (125kg), while Amirmohammad Yazdani (74kg) will be back in action after missing the

World Championships with injury.

Rahman Amouzad will also be back on the mat for the first time since a 65kg final defeat against Japanese Kotaro Kiyooka in the Paris Games.

Other weight classes will feature Ali Mo'meni (57kg), Reza Mo'meni (61kg), Sina Khalili (70kg), Mahdi Yousefi (79kg), Abolfazl Rahmani (86kg) and Amirhossein Firouzpour (97kg) in thrilling bouts against the Russian opposition.



# Iran, Saudi top military officials discuss defense diplomacy

**International Desk**

Top Iranian and Saudi Arabian military officials discussed ways to improve defense diplomacy between the two countries, in a rare high-level meeting since the countries restored ties last year. Saudi Chief of General Staff General Fayyad bin Hamed al-Ruwaili arrived in Tehran on Sunday at the head of a high-ranking military delegation to hold talks with top Iranian military officials. In their meeting, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri and Al-Ruwaili also exchanged views

about the improvement of bilateral defense cooperation. Back in November 2023, Baqeri in a phone conversation with Saudi Arabian Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman said Iran's Armed Forces are fully prepared to promote military ties with Saudi Arabia. Baqeri and Salman also discussed key issues of the Muslim world and invited each other to visit their respective countries. In March 2023, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed under a Chinese-brokered deal to restore diplomatic relations severed in 2016 after Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran were attacked

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri (R) and Saudi Chief of General Staff General Fayyad bin Hamed al-Ruwaili (L) meet in Tehran on November 10, 2024. ● IRNA

during protests over Riyadh's execution of Shia cleric Nimr al-Nimr. As part of a joint statement issued by the two sides, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to implement a security cooperation agreement signed in April 2001 and another accord reached in May 1998 to boost ties in various sectors.



## Iran rejects 'fabricated' US claims about anti-Trump plot



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi denounced as a "fabricated scenario" claims about Iran's assassination attempt against US President-elect Donald Trump, saying

that the path forward begins with respect. Araghchi made the remarks in a post on X on Saturday, a day after the US Justice Department accused Iran of backing a plot to kill Trump just weeks before the November 5 election. "The American people have made their choice and Iran respects their right to elect the president of their choice. The path forward is also a choice. It begins with respect," Araghchi said. Pointing to the assassination of

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran just hours after he attended the inauguration of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Araghchi suggested that the accusation against Iran of plotting to assassinate Trump right before he is elected has been made to serve the same purpose. "Remember the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran right after our President's inauguration? Everyone knows who did it and why," he said. "Now, with another election, a new scenario is fabricated with the same goal."

## IAEA chief due in Tehran on Wednesday

The chief of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, Rafael Grossi, will visit Iran in days for talks with senior officials, Iranian state media reported on Sunday. "The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency will arrive in Iran on Wednesday ... at the official invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran," IRNA reported. Grossi will meet with Iranian officials

on Thursday, the agency added. The IAEA confirmed Grossi's visit to Iran this week, without specifying the date in a post on X. It said the visit would include talks with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. The agency also quoted Grossi as calling for "substantive progress" on a March 2023 deal that had outlined basic cooperation, including on safe-

guards and monitoring. In a September interview with AFP, Grossi said Iran was showing "will- ingness" to re-engage on the nuclear issue. Grossi last visited Iran in May, when he called for "concrete" measures to help bolster cooperation on Iran's nuclear program at a news conference in Isfahan Province, home to the Natanz uranium enrichment plant.

## Global campaign to boycott Israel at Baku summit



A global campaign has been launched to boycott the presence of Israeli officials at the UN climate summit in Azerbaijan, citing Israel's ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

The campaigners say the Israeli regime views such an event as a significant opportunity to whitewash its crimes, rebuild relations, and gain global consensus in its favor. It plans to enter Azerbaijan with a large delegation of businessmen and political, economic, and security lobbyists. "We urge all awakened consciences around the world and governments aligned with the oppressed people of Gaza to strike at Zionist interests. Make it a priority to neutralize this global sedition and support an international boycott of the presence

and speech of Israeli president Isaac Herzog at the COP29," the campaigners said. Israel has plunged deep into international isolation in the wake of its terrible crimes in Gaza and Lebanon. Many countries have prevented the presence of the regime in various global events. The 29th World Summit on Climate Change, known as Baku COP29, is scheduled to be held in Azerbaijan's capital from November 11 to 22. Nearly 11,000 people have signed the petition to boycott Israel's president in the event so far.

## Israeli strikes kill dozens in Lebanon, northern Gaza

Israeli strikes killed dozens of people on Sunday in Lebanon and the northern Gaza Strip, where the military has been waging a major offensive for more than a month that aid groups say has further worsened the humanitarian crisis in the besieged territory. An Israeli airstrike killed at least 23 people in the village of Aalmat, north of Beirut and far from the areas in southern and eastern Lebanon where the Hezbollah group has a major presence. Lebanon's Health Ministry said a further six people were wounded. There was no immediate Israeli comment, AP reported.



In northern Gaza, an Israeli strike on a home sheltering displaced people in the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya killed at least 33 people including 13 children. The Israeli military claimed it targeted a site where resistance forces were operating in Jabaliya, without providing evidence. A separate strike on Sunday hit a house in Gaza City, killing Wael al-Khour, a minister in the Hamas-run government, as well as his wife and three children, according to the Civil Defense. Israeli forces have encircled and largely isolated Jabaliya and the nearby towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun for the past month, allowing in only a trickle of humanitarian aid. Hundreds of people have been killed since the offensive began on October 6, and tens of thousands of people have fled to nearby Gaza City. On Friday, experts from a panel that monitors food security said famine is imminent in the north or may already be happening. The growing desperation comes as the deadline approaches for an ultimatum the Biden administration gave Israel to raise the level of humanitarian assistance allowed into Gaza or risk possible restrictions on US military

funding. The northern third of Gaza, including Gaza City, was the first target of Israel's ground invasion and has suffered the heaviest destruction of the 13-month-old war, which was triggered by Hamas' attack into the occupied territories.

### Aggression on Lebanon

In videos purporting to show the aftermath of Sunday's strike in Aalmat, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Beirut, people were seen pulling the body of a little girl out of the rubble. The house had been flattened and several cars nearby were also damaged. Hezbollah began firing rockets, drones and missiles into Israel after war broke out in Gaza in solidarity with the Palestinians and its fellow resistance group Hamas. Israel retaliated, and a series of escalations over several months led to all-out war in September, when Israel carried out a wave of heavy strikes and killed Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, as well as most of his top commanders. Since then, Israel has struck areas deeper and deeper inside Lebanon, while Hezbollah has expanded its rocket fire from northern to central Israel. The fighting has killed over 3,000 people in Lebanon, according to the Health Ministry, and more than 70 people in Israel.

## Iran's active diplomacy ...

As tensions escalated in the region, with exchanges of fire between Israel and Lebanon, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made his first official visit to Beirut. The visit occurred under highly sensitive circumstances, as Iran responded to Israeli aggression with a massive missile strike codenamed Operation True Promise 2 against the regime. Despite threats from the Israeli regime to block any Iranian aircraft from landing at Beirut Airport, Araghchi's plane touched down, drawing significant media attention. The media, both official and unofficial, even broadcasted the foreign minister's landing live. The trip marked the beginning of an intensive diplomatic initiative that

took the foreign minister to most countries in the region as part of a war-and-peace diplomacy strategy. The most outstanding visits were those to Manama, Cairo, and Amman. They were the first by a high-ranking Iranian official to Bahrain in 17 years, to Egypt in 14 years, and to Jordan in 10 years. Considering the strategic importance of these countries and their relations with the Israeli regime, these visits were highly important, constituting a milestone in the diplomatic activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The president's own visits, whether attending international summits or engaging in bilateral trips, prioritized strengthening ties with neighboring countries, a core objective of the ad-

ministration's foreign policy. In his meetings with heads of state, Pezeshkian emphasized forming a strong region rather than fostering relationships where regional countries exhaust valuable resources on arms races and wearing rivalries. A focus on cooperation with Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, alongside active participation in regional organizations, was pursued to deepen economic ties, enhance trade relations, promote joint investments, address shared challenges, and move toward a regional framework for dialogue, confidence-building, and development. This policy has been actively followed by the Iranian Foreign Ministry over the past 100 days.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist







# Iran's 'The Plain Sings' lands perfect pitch at Bulgarian festival

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'The Plain Sings', written and directed by Gita Feizi, won the Early Bird Grand Award at the 20th edition of the Early Bird International Student Film Festival in Bulgaria.

The festival, which was established in 2005, aims to showcase the unique perspectives of young filmmakers and their bold views on contemporary issues. The event, which was held from November 1-5,

2024 brings together a diverse range of films from around the world, ISNA reported.

In a statement, the jury praised 'The Plain Sings', saying, "A beautiful story about a girl whose only desire is to sing, exploring the emotions that come with chasing a dream. The creator crafted thoughtful shots and compositions that convey the painful narrative in every frame. The contrast between her singing freely in stunning wide shots and the restrictions

imposed by her culture and family is powerful. The tragic ending represents the consequences of her choice. The heartfelt storytelling and striking visuals made it an easy choice for Early Bird Grand Award."

This win is not the first for 'The Plain Sings', which has previously picked up several awards, including Best Kurdish Language Film and Best Short Film at the 14th Berlin Kurdish Film Festival, Best Film in the Invisible Lands section at the 4th Son of a Pitch

Festival in Italy, and Best Music at the 20th Nahal International Short Film Festival. The film has also won the Mitosfilm award and has been selected for several other festivals, including the 10th Sakarya Student Film Festival, the 3rd Kaaffilm International Short Film Festival, and the Abbas Kiarostami and ISFA. The film's plot revolves around a shepherd girl whose daily routine is disrupted by a wolf attack on her flock, leading her to make a crucial decision.



## Iranian illustrator wins at Sharjah Children's Book Award

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian illustrator, Shima Zarei, took the Best Children's Book in the Sharjah Children's Book Award, for her outstanding work in creating a high-quality book with a strong cultural and educational message.

Zarei's achievement was announced at the Sharjah Children's Book Award, a major cultural event in the region that promotes reading and literacy among children and young adults, Mehr News Agency reported.

The award was presented to her in recognition of her tireless efforts and creativity in producing a book that has made a significant impact in the field of children's lit-



erature.

The Sharjah Children's Book Award, organized by the Sharjah Book Authority and under the patronage of the Sharjah Ruler, provides a platform for authors and publishers from around the world to showcase their works. The event aims to foster a love of reading among children and young adults, and to promote cultural exchange and

understanding.

Zarei, who has collaborated with publishers from the United States, Europe, Dubai, and Turkey in recent years, has illustrated numerous books for children. Her win is a testament to her skill and dedication to her craft, and is expected to further boost her international reputation as a leading children's book illustrator.

## Iranian audience hails Tehran Symphony Orchestra's 'Persian March' performance

### Arts & Culture Desk

The Tehran Symphony Orchestra's performance of 'Persian March' met with widespread acclaim from audiences, a survey conducted by the Rudaki Foundation has shown.

According to the survey, which polled 50 audience members after the concert on November 5 and 6, a vast majority of viewers left the Vahdat Hall satisfied with the performance, IRNA reported.

The survey aimed to assess the quality of the orchestra's performances, as well as the overall experience of attending a concert at the Vahdat Hall. Seventy-four percent of respondents rated the performance as "excellent",

while 17% deemed it "good", 7% "average", and 2% "poor". The selection of pieces performed also received high praise, with 71% of respondents rating them as "excellent", 20% as "good", 5% as "average", and 4% as "poor".

The survey also evaluated the pre-concert advertising, with 39% of respondents rating it as "excellent", 25% as "good", 32% as "average", 2% as "poor", and 2% as "very poor". The Rudaki Foundation's services were rated as "excellent" by 56% of respondents, while 15% deemed them "good", 22% "average", 5% "poor", and 2% "very poor".

The concert, which was conducted by guest conductor Maziar Younessi, featured a diverse range of pieces, includ-



ing Johann Strauss II's 'Persian March', Felix Mendelssohn's Italian 'Symphony No. 4', Peyman Yazdani's 'Reward of Silence', Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's 'Swan Lake', Jacques Offenbach's 'Barcarolle' from 'The Tales of Hoffmann', and Hossein Alizadeh's 'Paykubi' (Dance), arranged by Younessi.

## Iran's Music Industry Exhibition set to strike a chord

The 2nd Music Industry Exhibition in Iran is set to kick off on November 19, bringing together 60 specialized booths showcasing a wide range of musical instruments, equipment, and services.

The four-day event, to be held at the Milad Tower Exhibition Center in Tehran,

will feature a diverse lineup of participants, including music associations, schools, publishers, and manufacturers of traditional and modern instruments, as well as retailers and suppliers of music accessories, ISNA reported.

Exhibitors will include producers and sellers of Irani-

an and foreign traditional instruments, such as the *tar*, *setar*, and oud, as well as modern instruments like guitars and pianos.

Plus, manufacturers of sound systems, recording equipment, and music-related accessories, such as drum sets, cymbals, and music bags, will also be present.



## Suspension; Trump's sole ...

First of all, sanctions. Sanctions

are among the most significant issues that America faces. Although the United States has imposed most of the sanctions against various countries itself, Trump now argues that this is a problem facing the world, especially regarding the dollar's global standing. He claims that the use of sanctions has weakened the dollar, while, on the other hand, China has improved the value of its currency. A few days before the election, Trump emphasized in his speech that we should use sanctions only in necessary situations. That is, Trump does not try to solve bilateral problems but rather seeks to suspend them to benefit from economic cooperation with these countries for the in-

terests of America.

Ukraine is the second issue. Russia's invasion of Ukraine occurred during Biden's presidency. Trump has stated many times that if he were president, this war would not have happened—a claim that cannot be easily proven. Experts say that the most critical issue regarding the war in Ukraine is the US financial aid, which amounts to \$60 billion—close to the damage caused by the recent Atlantic hurricane. Although Trump himself has not made an announcement about this war, a member of his election team told the media, "Crimea is gone. Kiev should focus on peace, not on the return of lands."

Zelensky will demonstrate his frivolity if he declares at the ne-

gotiating table that the return of Crimea to Ukraine is necessary to achieve peace. This point of view was voiced by senior advisor to President-elect Donald Trump and Republican Party strategist Bryan Lanza in an interview with the BBC.

"And if President Zelensky sits down at the negotiating table and says that we can have peace only if we have Crimea, he will show us that he is not serious," he said.

It is clear that Trump is trying to suspend the war in order to create a unilateral solution for peace. According to Trump, providing agricultural needs from Ukraine is more important than the territorial integrity of that country.

The third problem is Gaza. Trump's solution in this case

is very clear. A member of Trump's election team stated about Israel's actions in the Gaza war that Trump had asked Netanyahu to do whatever it took against Iran but to end the war before the official start of his term.

Experts believe that Trump wants to stop funding Israel's war against Gaza. Although he is aware that he will be pressured by Israeli lobbyists in the US, Trump aims to shift the focus from politics to economics to avoid spending more money. In general, Trump avoids spending any kind of money on problems outside the United States. Newsweek presents Trump's positions in the first round of his presidency in this regard: President Donald Trump criticized US spending of more than

\$7 trillion on conflicts and reconstruction efforts in the Middle East and Afghanistan shortly after officials stated that the US would not pledge money to a major conference aimed at helping Iraq rebuild after more than 15 years of conflict. Trump's remarks, which coincided with the release of his 2019 budget proposal, targeted the choices of past administrations, especially concerning foreign policy in the Middle East and Central Asia since the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan. Trump argued that the costly struggle to stabilize Afghanistan, as well as Iraq, which the US invaded in 2003, has only exacerbated economic difficulties at home.

In a nutshell, since Trump refused to spend money abroad during his first term in office, it

seems that his foreign policy is based on the same general principle. Instead of finding a final solution, he tries to suspend big problems in the world because it costs less money for Washington. He is deliberately trying to disprove the stereotypical expectations of America to solve world problems. No doubt that Trump has a business and economic personality stronger than a political one. The overall policy of suspending political issues to reduce economic costs is an opportunity for countries like Iran, as Trump is not interested in spending money and is striving to quickly reduce the costs incurred on the United States by suspending global problems and issues. Will the Iranian government have a plan to take advantage of this opportunity?