

Directed by Iranian filmmaker Samad Alizadeh, the Short Film, "The Thirteenth Year" Is Scheduled to Compete in the Interfilm Berlin International Short Film Festival in Germany

# IRAN NEWS

Directed by Majid Tavakoli, the Iranian Film "Aziz" Will Be Screened at the Competition Section of the 47th São Paulo International Film Festival in Brazil

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TEHRAN (IRNA) - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution has said that the Western countries have crushed the honor and dignity of women for their own desires. "I have said many times that we hold an offensive position against the Western world, not a defensive position. They are the ones who must answer for what they've done," Ayatollah Khamenei said. He pointed out that they are the ones who have crushed the honor and dignity of women for their own desires. "We don't have any problems in this issue, but when the enemies line up against us, we must make a statement. We must show the truth," the Supreme Leader added.

The following is part of the speech delivered by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution in a meeting with the participants in the "Second national conference on the 8,000 martyrs of Hamedan Province": "I would like to speak about an active female combatant, the late Marzieh Dabbagh. The issue of women is an important issue in the world today. When it comes to women, we are not in a defensive position. I have said many times

that we hold an offensive position against the Western world, not a defensive position. They are the ones who must answer for what they've done. They are the ones who have crushed the honor and dignity of women for their own desires. We don't have any problems in this issue, but when the enemies line up against us, we must make a statement. We must show the truth." He added "This woman is one of the people who can show the truth about the role of women in an Islamic society. And this is not just in our Islamic Republic. Rather, this is also the case in the Islamic view, in Islamic logic, and in the Islamic culture. On the one hand, there was this woman's struggles before the Revolution and the beatings, torture, and imprisonment that she suffered. There was also the effect she had on her cellmates and fellow prisoners. In addition to these, she later went to the battlefields and took part in guerilla activities. Then she went to Paris to serve Imam [Khomeini]. Later she entered the real, tangible field of the Revolution and was actively present in a wide range of activities."

## Tehran Refutes Claims Iran Has Hand in Hamas Attack on Israel



TEHRAN (MNA) - Tehran is not involved in the current attack on Israel, the Iranian Permanent Mission to the United Nations said in a statement. "The decisions made by the Palestinian Resistance are fiercely autonomous and unwaveringly aligned with the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people. We emphatically stand in unflinching support of Palestine; however, we are not involved in Palestine's response, as it is taken solely by Palestine itself," the statement reads. According to the mission, reports alleging Iran's involvement in the attack on Israel could be viewed as an attempt by the Zionist authorities "to justify their failure and attribute it to Iran's intelligence power and operational planning." Earlier, the Wall Street Journal published an article alleging that Iran had helped Hamas plan the October 7 attack on Israel and green-lighted it at a meeting in Beirut on October 2. Hamas Resistance movement launched the large-scale operation on Saturday with a heavy barrage of rockets in response to the Israeli regime's desecration of al-Aqsa Mosque and increased settler violence. Both sides report hundreds of dead and thousands of injured as a result of the escalation of the conflict.

## Iran Warns Against Western Smearing Campaign in Recent Developments

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry Spokesman stressed that the supporters of the Israeli regime are trying to change the place of the oppressor and the oppressed in the recent developments to claim allegations against the Palestinian nation which is not acceptable. Speaking at his weekly presser on Monday morning, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani while referring to the latest developments in Palestine called them important and said: "Some who have been supporting Israel's daily crimes are trying to change the place of the oppressor and the oppressed in the recent developments, and regardless of the 75-year-old humiliation of the Palestinian nation, they have stood by the oppressor in recent developments. And they raise allegations against the Palestinian nation and resistance, which are not acceptable." Kanaani further stated: "The fact that the Western governments and the United States continue to use their heavy propaganda and psychological warfare against the Palestinian nation to put the oppressor in the place of the oppressed and support it, it is unacceptable that some governments turn a blind eye to the oppression of Israel and expose the oppressed nation to accusations." "Fortunately, we see the support of a number of countries in the world, including Islamic countries, for the Palestinian nation," Kanaani added. "In their statements, the extremist government of the Israeli regime committed crimes against the Palestinian nation, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, are addressed by the governments and nations," he said. He further noted: "Iran has always had a clear and firm position towards the Palestinian nation, and the president and the foreign minister announced their clear and transparent positions." Iran's top diplomat also went on to refer to the meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and said: "The organization's duty is to support the Palestinian nation, and holding the meeting of this organization will help Islamic countries use their domestic and international capacities for political and international legal support of the Palestinian nation." He went on to say that there is a consensus that within the framework of talks, the Azerbaijani embassy in Iran can start its activities soon. Kanaani, in response to the question, added: "Within the framework of joint military and defense cooperation and constructive meetings between the two countries, Iran and Azerbaijan will hold a joint military exercise in the Caspian Sea." While referring to the visit of the special assistant of President of Azerbaijan to Iran, Kanaani emphasized: "Various political issues and recent developments of Caucasus were discussed and good consultations were held regarding these developments." He noted: "Iran is ready to help Azerbaijan and Armenia in this regard."



## Iran Starts Building New Reactor at Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant



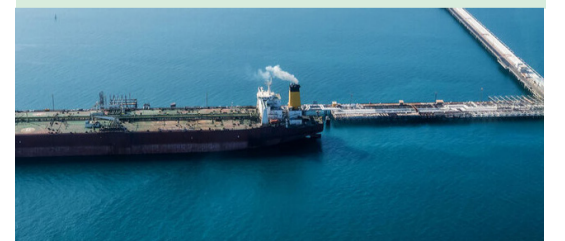
TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran has started building a new reactor at the second unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant. In a ceremony on Sunday, attended by head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Mohammad Eslami, the country began pouring concrete for the wall of the above-zero level reactor of the unit. "We took fundamental steps for faster implementation of units 2 and 3 of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, and in this regard, the obstacles ahead have been removed," Eslami said. He said over 1.8 billion euros has been allocated for the project since last year, adding that the volume of activities in the project has increased 10-fold compared to last year. "The production of parts and equipment required for this project has been ordered to domestic factories and industries and its contracts have been signed," he explained. The Iranian nuclear chief expressed hopes that the project would be completed in less than five years. "This year, we are celebrating the 10th year since the Bushehr nuclear power plant was put into operation, and in this decade, we managed to produce more than 60 billion kilowatt-hours of nuclear electricity." "Last year, in the Bushehr nuclear power plant, we managed to exceed the production level of 7 billion kilowatt-hours of nuclear electricity," he added. The construction of the second and third units of Iran's nuclear power plant began in 2016 and on a 50-hectare land next to the first unit.

## Iran, Iraq Call for Emergency OIC Meeting to Help Palestine

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq have called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to help Palestine amid incessant Israeli acts of aggression. During a telephone conversation late on Sunday, Iran's top diplomat Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein exchanged views on the unfolding developments across the occupied Palestinian territories. The two sides emphasized the need for coordination and coherence among Muslim countries in support of the Palestinian nation, calling on the OIC to convene an emergency meeting in order to review ongoing developments throughout Palestinian lands and back Palestinians and the al-Aqsa Mosque against the Israeli regime's atrocities. The Iranian foreign minister also emphasized the legitimate right of Palestinians to stand up against Israeli aggression and occupation. He described the large-scale surprise attack by members of Hamas and other Gaza-based resistance fighters as a natural response to the ongoing Israeli aggression, its extremist actions against holy Islamic sites, including the al-Aqsa Mosque, and its massacre of Palestinian people, particularly women, children and prisoners.



## Iran Oil Exports Up Despite Sanctions



TEHRAN (Shana) - A member of Iran's Parliament said the country's oil exports have surged despite sanctions. Alireza Varnaseri added, "Considering the plans outlined by the Oil Ministry, we can sell and export more oil and solve some domestic economic problems." Pointing to the oil industry's important role in creating job opportunities and developing the country, the lawmaker said the industry has now become the pivot on which the country's economic progress turns. The member of the Iranian Parliament's Energy Committee also referred to the oil sector's bigger contribution to Iran's economic growth. Last month, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) registered 16.4 percent economic growth for domestic oil industry. Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji said investment and completion of unfinished projects have led to the increase in production and exports and consequently helped the oil sector stand top in Iran's economic growth ranking in the past two years. He added the Monthly Oil Market Report (MOMR) of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) also showed that Iran has regained its position as the third-largest crude oil producer.

## Iran to Hold Combined Naval Exercise in Indian Ocean

TEHRAN (MNA) - Expressing Iran's readiness to exchange information on atmospheric issues, Iran's Army Navy commander announced that Iran will hold a combined naval exercise in the Indian Ocean. Addressing the first International Conference on Indian Ocean Tropical Cyclones, Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said, "We are responsible for providing the economic security of shipping and major oil tankers and commercial vessels, and it is necessary to be aware of the storms in advance because they affect shipping." He also stressed the need to use the capacity of storms in the world. Announcing that Iran will hold a combined exercise in the Indian Ocean, he added, "God willing, we will also hold exercises in other oceans." "We are expanding cooperation with all maritime security centers, and are ready to exchange information on atmospheric issues," he said, adding that the priority is in the Indian Ocean. Currently, Iran has a direct relationship with Oman and Pakistan in the field of maritime security, and the country is trying to have a serious presence in the Indian Ocean and other oceans, he added.





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## China Near Breakthroughs With Nuclear-Armed Submarines

HONG KONG, Oct 9 (Reuters) - A submarine arms race is intensifying as China embarks on production of a new generation of nuclear-armed submarines that for the first time are expected to pose a challenge to growing U.S. and allied efforts to track them. Analysts and regional defence attaches say evidence is mounting that China is on track to have its Type 096 ballistic missile submarine operational before the end of the decade, with breakthroughs in its quietness aided in part by Russian technology. Research discussed at a conference in May at the U.S. Naval War College and published in August by the college's China Maritime Studies Institute predicts the new vessels will be far harder to keep tabs on. That conclusion is credible, according to seven analysts and three Asia-based military attaches. "The Type 096s are going to be a nightmare," said retired submariner and naval technical intelligence analyst Christopher Carlson, one of the researchers. "They are going to be very, very hard to detect." The discreet effort to track China's nuclear-powered and -armed ballistic missile submarines, known as SSBNs, is one of the core drivers of increased deployments and contingency planning by the U.S. Navy and other militaries across the Indo-Pacific region. That drive is expected to intensify when Type 096s enter service. The Chinese navy is routinely staging fully armed nuclear deterrence patrols with its older Type 094 boats out of Hainan Island in the South China Sea, the Pentagon said in November, much like patrols operated for years by the United States, Britain, Russia and France. But the Type 094s, which carry China's most advanced submarine-launched JL-3 missile, are considered relatively noisy - a major handicap for military submarines. The paper notes that the Type 096 submarine will compare to state-of-the-art Russian submarines in terms of stealth, sensors and weapons. It said that jump in capabilities would have "profound" implications for the U.S. and its Indo-Pacific allies. Based partly on Chinese military journals, internal speeches by senior People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers and patent data, the paper charts more than 50 years of the PLA navy's often-glacial nuclear submarine



development. It contains satellite imagery taken in November at China's new Huludao shipyard showing pressure hull sections for a large submarine being worked up. That puts construction on schedule to have the boats operational by 2030, the timeline stated in the Pentagon's annual reports on China's military. The research also details potential breakthroughs in specific areas, including pump-jet propulsion and

internal quieting devices, based on "imitative innovation" of Russian technology. Neither the Russian nor the Chinese defence ministries responded to Reuters' requests for comment. The vessel is likely to be significantly larger than the Type 094, allowing it to contain an internal "raft" mounted on complex rubber supports to dampen engine noise and other sounds, similar to Russian designs.

## Global Economy's Glide to Soft Landing Gets Bumpy



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Rocketing U.S. government bond yields that have led to a global jump in borrowing costs are raising new risks for economic policymakers hoping to lower inflation without triggering a major crisis. The world's finance officials, who will gather in Morocco this week for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, may disagree over the exact drivers of a global bond rout that now appears to reflect more than guessing how far central bankers will raise interest rates. The cause - whether high government deficits, China's suddenly turgid economy, or political dysfunction in the U.S. Congress - may be less important, though, than the implications for a world financial system that had seemed headed for a "soft landing" from the post-pandemic breakout of inflation. Central banks around the world approved rapid-fire interest rate increases in response to rising prices, and officials throughout the policy tightening welcomed the largely smooth adjustment in global financial conditions as a testament to better monetary and fiscal management across many countries. But after what was deemed "a summer of resilience," Goldman Sachs economists said "cracks" are appearing as emerging market sovereign bonds come under pressure on the heels of rising yields on U.S. Treasuries, the world's risk-free benchmark that draws money from other investments as interest rates rise. The yield on the 30-year U.S. Treasury bond last week pierced 5% for the first time since 2007. While it was routinely above that level through the first years of this century, analysts say the speed of its rise is noteworthy, particularly as it occurred even as the Federal Reserve and other central banks have signaled their own rate hikes are near an end. "There should be concern less about the level and more about the pace of change," said Gene Tannuzzo, global head of fixed income at Columbia Threadneedle. Long-term U.S. yields have climbed roughly 1 percentage point in the past three months compared with a single quarter-percentage-point Fed rate hike during that period. "That is a rate of change that cannot be sustained, and if we continue to move in that direction, then we would need to see action from the Fed" to blunt the impact, Tannuzzo said. The IMF and World Bank meetings are a chance to take stock of the state of the global economy, and are accompanied by signature reports on the world economic outlook and the state of global financial markets. Inflation and the impact of tighter monetary policy have been focal points since prices began a sharp climb in 2021. The IMF's last Global Financial Stability Report, issued in April, showed risks to the financial system were top of mind after several high-profile U.S. bank failures in the prior month. But that moment passed without any broader contagion, and the outlook turned steadily brighter from there, particularly in the U.S.: The prospect of continued economic growth alongside falling inflation - the so-called soft-landing scenario - went from a history-defying aspiration to, in effect, the Fed's baseline. That sort of best-case outcome would have positive global repercussions. Keeping the world's largest economy out of recession provides steadier demand for other countries' exports, as well as more certainty as Fed rate hikes hit a stopping point. The fast moves in financial markets, however, could prove destabilizing, with the impact felt through rising bond yields, a stronger dollar, and, if sustained, renewed inflation pressures in other countries. "There are effects that could happen if you create budget strains in other countries or ultimately budget crises in other countries. I think that is something that the Fed needs to be watching," Karen Dynan, an economics professor at Harvard University, said during a recent presentation at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. "Those sorts of crises could spill over into broader financial markets and then pose a real threat to our economy."

Fed officials don't see that yet.

## Afghan Earthquakes Kill 2,445, Taliban Say

KABUL (Dispatches) - More than 2,400 people were killed in earthquakes in Afghanistan, the Taliban administration said on Sunday, in the deadliest tremors to rock the quake-prone mountainous country in years. The Saturday quakes in the west of the country hit 35 km (20 miles) northwest of the city of Herat, with one of 6.3 magnitude, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said. They were among the world's deadliest quakes this year, after tremors in Turkey and Syria killed an estimated 50,000 in February. Janan Sayeeq, spokesman for the Ministry of Disasters, said in a message to Reuters that the toll had risen to 2,445 dead, but he revised down the number of injured to "more than 2,000". Earlier, he had said that 9,240 people had been injured. Sayeeq also said 1,320 houses had been damaged or destroyed. The death toll spiked from 500 reported earlier on Sunday by the Red Crescent. Ten rescue teams were in the area, which borders Iran, Sayeeq told a press conference. More than 200 dead had been brought to various hospitals, said a Herat health department official who identified himself as Dr Danish, adding most of them were women and children.

## Far-Right, Conservatives Gain in German Votes



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Voters dealt the parties of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's fractious centre-left coalition a sharp rebuke in the key states of Bavaria and Hesse on Sunday, with economic woes and migration fears boosting the opposition conservatives and the far right. The elections saw the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party burst out of its post-industrial eastern strongholds to score its best-ever result in a western state, in Hesse, and come in second place in both states. All three parties in Scholz's federal coalition - his Social Democrats, the Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) - did worse than five years ago in the states that together account for around a quarter of the German population. The FDP looked on track to fail to reach the 5% threshold to enter parliament in Hesse, and possibly Hesse too. Analysts said this would further stoke tensions in a coalition that has struggled to find common ground, with Scholz accused of failing to show the leadership needed to impose order and tackle crises, from the war in Ukraine to the green transition. "If necessary the FDP needs to be ready to leave" the coalition, Thomas Kemmerich, head of the FDP in the eastern state of Thuringen that is to hold its own election next year, was quoted as saying by German media outlet The Pioneer. "This cannot be a taboo." Jens Spahn, a senior legislator for the conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), said that rarely had a government been given such a comprehensive slapdown. "And rarely has it been so clear: whether on migration, the economy or climate policy, people want a different politics," Spahn said. In Hesse, home to the glittering towers of financial capital Frankfurt, the CDU were forecast to get 34.6% of the vote for the state legislature, likely allowing them to govern for another term, projections for ARD state broadcaster at around 2200 CET showed. The SPD's 15.1% - down 4.7% on its 2018 results - was a personal

blow to Interior Minister Nancy Faeser, whose campaign to head the state was dogged by criticism of her handling of a surge in irregular migration. The failure of the far-left Left party to reach the 5% threshold necessary to remain in the state parliament in Hesse added to the broader shift to the right. Meanwhile the CDU's sister party the Christian Social Union (CSU), which has run Bavaria since 1957, was projected to win 36.4% of the vote in that state - its worst result since 1950, although only a fraction below 2018's. This would likely weaken the potential claim of CSU leader Markus Soeder to the chancellor candidacy for the conservatives ahead of the 2025 federal elections, analysts said. The CSU is expected to continue its coalition with the populist Free Voters on 15.3%. They and the AfD were the only parties to make gains in the Bavaria election. The AfD was on track for 18.6% in Hesse and 16% in Bavaria, compared with 13.1% and 11.6% respectively in 2018, confirming the political ascendancy of a party created just 10 years ago. The nationalist, anti-migrant AfD is currently polling in second place nationwide, up from fifth in the 2021 election, in a shift that could make it harder for Germany to form stable majorities given that other parties refuse to work with it. Approval of Scholz's government remains at its lowest level since it took office in December 2021, according to the ARD-Deutschland Trend survey, with four out of five Germans dissatisfied with its work. "We are right in the middle of the federal legislative term, where it is not unusual for the government to have low approval ratings and lose state elections," said Philipp Koeker, political scientist at the University of Hanover. Still, coalition parties were likely to continue to follow increasingly separate paths to focus on issues relevant to their core electorate in response to the bad results, he said, while all taking a tougher stance on migration.



## U.S. to Send Military Ships, Aircraft Closer to Israel

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The United States will send multiple military ships and aircraft closer to Israel as a show of support, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said, with Washington believing Hamas' deadly attacks may have been motivated to disrupt a potential normalizing of Israel-Saudi Arabia ties.

Hamas fighters rampaged through Israeli towns as the country suffered its bloodiest day in decades on Saturday. Israel battered Palestinians with air strikes in Gaza on Sunday, with hundreds reportedly killed on both sides. The spiraling violence threatens to start a major new war in the Middle East. At least three Americans were among those killed, CNN reported on Sunday, citing a U.S. memo.

Austin in a statement said he ordered the moving of the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group to the Eastern Mediterranean closer to Israel. The force includes the carrier, a guided missile cruiser and four guided missile destroyers.

## Venezuelan Opposition Leader Says Party to Decide His Primary Candidacy

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Two-time former Venezuelan presidential candidate Henrique Capriles placed the future of his candidacy in limbo on Sunday, saying he would let his party decide if it wanted to replace him because of his political disqualification. Capriles is one of three candidates running in the Oct. 22 primary who is barred by the Venezuelan government from holding public office. "The reality is that I keep facing political disqualification that makes me decide that I can't continue with this electoral race," Capriles said in a statement on social media platforms Instagram and X. It will be up to the "bases that elected me in my party" to decide the future of his candidacy, he added. It was unclear if his Justice First party will choose another candidate to replace him, or if it can decide to continue with his candidacy. A possible withdrawal by Capriles, a 51-year-old lawyer, had been anticipated in some local media for weeks, in part because his campaign was not taking off in the polls and his political star seems to have waned following previous attempts to become president. Capriles has repeatedly said opposition unity is the only way to defeat President Nicolas Maduro in the 2024 presidential elections. The head of state has not yet formalized his candidacy, but it is widely believed he will seek reelection. Capriles did not express support for any other candidate on Sunday, but reiterated his call for unity. "Unity is our biggest strength and together we are capable of overcoming whatever obstacle appears in our path," Capriles said. Maria Corina Machado, a 57-year-old industrial engineer, leads the primary polls with more than 40%, while her closest rivals barely touch 10%. Machado, like Capriles, is prohibited from seeking elected office under a decision by the Controller General, seen by critics as an arm of Maduro's government. The opposition has not said how it will proceed if the winner of the primary is barred from holding office.

