



## FM Doesn't Rule Out Possibility of Nuclear Policy Change

Araghchi issues warning before Iran and Europe agree to schedule second round of talks in Geneva

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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaking to reporters in Lisbon, Portugal on November 27, 2024.

### Decisive, coordinated action needed to combat terrorism in Syria: Iran foreign ministry

TEHRAN – The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, Esmail Baqaei, has called for immediate and unified efforts to combat the resurgence of terrorist groups in Syria, warning of the severe consequences of inaction.

Reacting to recent developments in the war-torn country, Baqaei expressed deep concern over the increasing activity of Takfiri groups and underscored the importance of regional and international collaboration to prevent the spread of violence and instability in the region.

In his statement, Baqaei strongly condemned all forms of terrorism, describing the recent movements of extremist factions in Syria as a calculated plot orchestrated by the Zionist regime and the United States.

According to him, the goal of these powers is to disrupt the stability of West Asia and further complicate the fragile security landscape. He called on neighboring countries, particularly those with a stake in Syria's stability, to remain vigilant and take coordinated steps to counter this growing threat. ► Page 2

### Syrian Army launches counteroffensive against HTS terrorists

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Syrian Arab Army has launched a major counteroffensive against terrorist groups who waged a surprise assault from the northwestern city of Idlib.

Government forces have successfully halted the advance of terrorists led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), aligned with al-Qaeda.

Fighting between the Syrian army and HTS-led terrorists has reportedly expanded from western Aleppo city to southwest of Aleppo, east of Idlib in the vicinity of Saraqib city, and southeast of Idlib.

Terrorists have been launching major attacks on these fronts since Friday morning, intending to breach Aleppo.

A large majority of the terrorists who have been killed are foreigners, according to Syrian army sources.

After reinforcements and special forces were dispatched to the region, the army took back control of one village from the terrorists in southeastern Idlib after heavy clashes. ► Page 5

### Araghchi says terror resurgence in Syria part of Western-Israeli plot

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has asserted that the recent surge in terrorist activities across Syria represents a "U.S.-Zionist scheme" implemented in response to Israel's setbacks in Lebanon and Palestine.

Araghchi held a telephone conversation with Syrian Foreign Minister Bassam al-Sabbagh on Friday, where both officials examined the evolving situation in Syria and broader regional developments.

"The reactivation of terrorist groups in Syria is a U.S.-Zionist scheme after failure in Lebanon," Araghchi stated while reaffirming Tehran's unwavering support for Damascus in its ongoing struggle against terrorism.

Al-Sabbagh provided detailed insights into the deteriorating security situation in northern Syria, where terrorist groups have intensified their operations.

He emphasized that "the Syrian government and its citizens are resolutely standing against these terrorist groups."

Recent reports indicate that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) terrorists have launched aggressive assaults in government-controlled territories, resulting in Syrian military casualties and territorial gains extending toward Aleppo. ► Page 2

### Martyrdom true essence of Esfahan, Leader tells organizers of commemoration ceremony

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, paid tribute to the martyrs of Esfahan Province during a meeting with the Organizers of the Esfahan Martyrs Congress.

The "Martyrs Congress" is a ceremony held annually across Iran to honor the sacrifices made by those who fought during the 1980-1988 war imposed by the Iraqi Baath regime. While the meeting between Ayatollah Khamenei and the event's organizers occurred on November 11, the Leader's remarks were released on Thursday, coinciding with the commemoration ceremony.

During the meeting earlier this month, the Leader emphasized Esfahan's historic role as a pioneer in various fields, including science, industry, art, and architecture. He noted that the province's contribution to the Islamic Revolution and the sacred defense added a unique and unparalleled privilege to its historical achievements.

"Esfahan has always been a leader in all the signs of civilization," the Leader stated. "The events of the revolution showed that Esfahan is also a pioneer in the matter of sacrifice for the sake of God and fighting in the way of God." ► Page 2



### Iranians bid farewell to IRGC advisor martyred in Syria

TEHRAN – A solemn farewell ceremony was held at Tehran's Martyrs' Hall for Brigadier General Kioumars Pour Hashemi, a senior military advisor of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), who was martyred in Syria this week during a large-scale attack by Takfiri terrorists.

General Pour Hashemi, widely respected for his role in advising Syrian forces in their fight against terrorism, was killed in an assault by foreign-backed terrorists targeting Syrian military positions in Aleppo Province.

Iranian military advisors have been operating in Syria at the official request of the Syrian government, providing critical assistance in countering terrorism and stabilizing the war-ravaged nation.

The attack, reportedly carried out by members of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) terrorist group and allied outfits, targeted over ten areas controlled by the Syrian military in western Aleppo and eastern Idlib Province. Syrian forces described the assault as "a large-scale terrorist operation" involving heavy and medium weaponry. ► Page 2

### Longtime victim Iran rejects Western think tank claims of chemical weapons violations

TEHRAN – Iran's diplomatic mission to the United Nations has strongly dismissed claims of violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), characterizing the allegations as "psychological warfare by the Israeli regime."

"Iran is a signatory to the CWC," the mission stated on Thursday night through its account on X, emphasizing Tehran's commitment to prohibiting chemical weapons development and stockpiling.

The mission pointed to Iran's own history as "a victim of Western-donated chemical weapons employed by the Saddam regime" during the 1980s war.

It also emphasized that "not a single instance of Iranian violation" related to chemical weapons has been recorded over several decades.

The Iranian mission attributed these allegations to "psychological warfare" following recent developments in Lebanon. ► Page 2

### Nothing can break spirit of mothers of Lebanon's martyrs

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON – The "greater Middle East" that US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice heralded during Israel's war on Lebanon in July 2006 is no different from the "new Middle East" that Benjamin Netanyahu dreamed of before Hezbollah's drones invaded his sleeping room in the occupied Caesarea.

Over the past decades, there has been much talk in Washington and the capitals of the imperialist West about this Eurocentric colonial project, which divides Asia as the largest continent into the Near, Middle, and Far East. After a savage war that has just ended and two months of legendary steadfastness in the frontline villages in southern Lebanon, this "new Middle East" however will be nothing but what the indigenous inhabitants of the land aspire to. ► Page 5



### Iranian-made telesurgery systems installed in Indonesian hospitals

TEHRAN – Following the scientific and technological cooperation between Iran and Indonesia, two remote robotic surgery systems, developed by Iranian experts, were launched in Indonesian hospitals.

The systems were installed in Wahidin Sudiro Husodo General Hospital in Makassar, and Haji Adam Malik General Hospital in Medan, IRNA reported.

Previously, two Iranian-made telesurgery systems were successfully installed in the hospitals in Bandung and Yogyakarta.

In December 2023, the former Iranian Vice-President for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi, and the Indonesian Health Minister, Budi Gunadi Sadikin, ► Page 7





## Over 29,400 passenger cars imported in 8 months

TEHRAN - The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said 29,418 passenger cars were imported into the country in the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 21).

According to Foroud Asgari, the total value of the imported cars was \$617.5 million, IRNA reported.

"Car imports to the country [in the men-

tioned eight months] increased by 736 percent in terms of number and 784 percent in terms of value compared to the same period last year," Asgari said.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade lifted the ban on car imports in late May 2022.

The decision was made to reduce the imbalance between supply and demand and to improve the country's economic conditions with regard to foreign currency revenues.

## Iran imports over 7m cellphones in 8 months

TEHRAN - Based on the latest data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), some 7.329 million cellphone handsets, valued at \$1.62 billion, were imported into the country in the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 21).

According to IRICA, the cell phones im-

ported in this period registered a 22 percent and a 15 percent reduction in volume and value, respectively.

In this period, more than 7.1 million mobile handsets were imported by commercial companies while 229,000 of the cellphone handsets were imported by passengers, IRNA reported.

## Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$925m to Turkey in a month

TEHRAN - Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$925 million to Turkey in the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr (September 22-October 21), according to the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade.

Ruhollah Latifi said that Turkey was the third export destination of Iranian goods in the mentioned month.

The official also announced that exporting goods worth \$1.755 billion to Iran, Turkey was the third source of import for Iran in the seventh month of the present year.

As previously announced by the former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of non-oil trade between Iran and Turkey stood at \$9.9 billion in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21).

Mohammad Rezvanifar said that Turkey was the second top trade partner of Iran among its neighbors in the seven-month period.

During a meeting between a delegation of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) and the senior directors of the Turkish Exporters Union (TİM), the two sides explored the ways to improve and develop trade relations between the private sectors of the two countries.

In the meeting, held at the place of TİM in Istanbul, in the first week of September, the areas of development of commercial cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries were discussed and the use of advantages and capacities in the fields of tourism, food, textile and pharmaceutical industries was emphasized, the TCCIMA portal reported.

In this meeting, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi-Arab referring to the trade balance of 1.6 billion dollars between the two countries, which is also positive for Turkey, mentioned the re-export of some Iranian products through this country as one of the opportunities to optimize the trade relations between the two countries.

Recalling that Turkey has great power and experience in the field of tourism, he mentioned the use of the capacity of Turkish tourism companies to cooperate with the Iranian tourism industry and to increase the attraction of foreign tourists to Iran as another area of development of relations between these two neighboring countries.

Najafi-Arab also pointed to Iran's high power and knowledge in the textile industry and said that by setting up a joint cooperation program, the global expertise of Turkish companies can be used to strengthen the branding of Iranian products in international markets.

The TCCIMA head then pointed to the

technical knowledge and expertise of Iranian companies in the pharmaceutical industry, especially in biotech drugs and probiotic industries, and emphasized on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in these sectors.

Addressing the same meeting, TiM Deputy Chairman Ahmet Gulec explained about this large Turkish private sector union and reminded that currently 150,000 Turkish exporters are members of this union and 61 export associations of this country also form the body of this large entity.

According to him, this union covers 27 product groups in the agricultural, industrial, mining and service sectors, and supporting Turkish exporters for their greater presence in the world markets is one of the main goals of the union.

He further put the export value of Turkey in 2023 at \$357 billion and the import value at \$410 billion, and reminded that the country plans to rise the value of products export to \$375 billion and the value of services export to \$200 billion by 2028.

He called the joint investment and the construction of Turkish factories in Iran and vice versa, among the capacities of joint cooperation and reminded that the TiM is ready to cooperate and interact with the TCCIMA to strengthen and develop the exports of the companies of the two countries.

In early July, Director of Asia and the Pacific Office of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) International Affairs Department Niloufar Asadi said a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Iran and Turkey should replace the previous trade agreements between the two countries to boost economic exchanges.

In a meeting with the Consul General of Iran in Istanbul, Asadi referred to a previously reached preferential trade agreement between Iran and Turkey under the framework of the Group of Eight Developing Islamic Countries (D8) and said: "Considering the shortcomings of the previously signed preferential trade agreement and the necessity to improve and develop it, I suggest that a free trade agreement between the two countries replaces the previous agreements."

During a meeting on October 29 between Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Hicabi Kirlangic, the Iranian minister said Iran and Turkey play a fundamental role in regional transit and freight transportation as the bridge between East and West.

According to her, the geographical position of Iran and Turkey acts as a link between Asia and Europe, opening up a priceless chance to boost regional and international freight and transit networks.

# Longest Iran-Armenia power transmission line reaches 90% progress

TEHRAN - A 270-kilometer power transmission line between Iran and Armenia, the longest overseas line in Armenia, has reached 90 percent of physical progress, IRIB reported.

As reported, this 400 kV transmission line, which is being constructed in the forested, mountainous, and difficult-to-access areas of Armenia, is expected to be completed in the near future to facilitate the exchange of electricity between the two neighbors.

Iran and Armenia have been cooperating for years in gas and electricity swaps, and two-way economic and political ties have grown in tandem with an increase in trade.

Back in July 2019, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in



Teheran to expand economic cooperation, especially in the field of energy.

The MOU was signed by the Iranian Energy Minister at the time Reza Ardakanian and Armenian Deputy Prime Minister

Mher Grigoryan at the end of the 16th Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting.

Based on the MOU, the two sides agreed to complete the construction of an electricity

transmission line from Iran to Armenia in order to increase the country's electricity exports to Armenia to over 1000 megawatts (MW).

The MOU also covered cooperation in a variety of areas including road and railway transportation, customs, standardization, establishing free trade zones as well as industry, mining, and trade.

On the sidelines of the mentioned meeting, Ardakanian voiced Iran's readiness to increase gas exports to Armenia and in this regard, the two sides agreed to take necessary measures in order to provide infrastructure in this due.

Iran and Armenia use a barter system to exchange gas for electricity and other basic goods.

## Capacity of Iran's renewable power plants exceeds 1,300 MW

TEHRAN - The capacity of Iran's renewable power plants has reached 1,317 megawatts (MW), based on the latest data released by Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA).

As IRNA reported, of the mentioned figure, the share of wind power plants is 29 percent with 376.3 MW and the share of solar power plants with 608.03 MW is 60 percent, according to the SATBA data for the end of the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (September 21).

Small hydropower plants account for 8.0 percent of the country's total renewable power with 103.73 MW.

Biomass power plants also have a two percent share with 22.13 MW, and the share of expansion turbine power plants with 9.6 MW is also one percent.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has taken serious measures to accelerate the growth and development of renewable energies in the country.

Diversification of financing models for renewable projects, increasing the ceiling of guaranteed electricity purchase, providing the possibility of buying and selling renewable electricity in the green board of the Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and providing the possibility of exporting renewable electricity have been the most important measures taken for this purpose.

Iranian Energy Ministry has also put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of 2025.

In January 2022, the Energy Ministry and some of the country's private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the construction of new renewable power plants across the country.

Iranian renewable power plants generated 264 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity in the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 22-August 22), reg-

istering a 23-percent growth compared to the same month in the previous year.

According to SATBA data, renewable power plants generated over 1280 Kwh of electricity since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

The electricity generated by renewable sources also increased by nine percent in the fourth Iranian calendar month of Tir (ended on July 21) compared to a month earlier.

In late July, SATBA Head Mahmoud Kamani said 600 renewable power plants with a total capacity of 13,500 MW are under construction across the country and with these power plants going operational the share of renewables in Iran's power generation will reach 15 percent.

"We hope that by implementing these power plants, the share of renewable energies in Iran's electricity production will increase to more than 15 percent in the next two years," Kamani said.

## Over 2,000 ha of lands provided for National Housing Movement units in 100 days



TEHRAN- As announced by the Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry, 2,046

hectares of land have been provided for the construction of National Housing Movement units across the country in the first 100 days of the current government administration's office.

As IRNA reported, 440 hectares of the mentioned figure were allocated in Tehran province, 292 hectares in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province, and 180 hectares allocated in Qazvin province.

The National Housing Move-

ment is one of the major policies of the government in the housing sector, and according to this policy, the construction of four million residential units is planned in four years.

It is one of the projects through which the government is trying to help low-income individuals in society become homeowners.

According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and

800,000 units in villages.

After the National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), the National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-income classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of the National Housing Movement began in February 2022.

## Iran imports 61.5 tons of gold in 8 months

TEHRAN - Iran has imported some 61.5 tons of gold in the eight months to November 20 amid efforts to offset sanctions that restrict the country's access to the international banking system.

Figures by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) show that the value of Iran's gold imports in the mentioned eight months stood at \$4.6 billion.

The figures indicate that Iran's gold imports in the said time span increased by 462 percent and 371 percent in terms of value and volume, respectively, year on year.

Iran has been taking delivery of large gold shipments in the past two years amid a relaxation of gold import rules that are aimed at helping exporters return their proceeds to the country.

A government law adopted in November 2022 allows Iranian exporters of goods and commodities to import gold to pay their hard currency liabilities to the country's central bank.

The decision was part of a previous government's efforts to minimize the impacts of US sanctions on Iran's economy and its access to the international banking system.

## Iran-Iraq Chamber head stresses private sector role in economic growth

TEHRAN - Yahya Al-e Eshaq, chairman of the Iran-Iraq Chamber of Commerce, has emphasized that fostering collaboration between the government and the private sector is essential for achieving an annual eight percent economic growth envisaged in Iran's five-year development plan.

Speaking about Iran's economic performance, Al-e Eshaq noted an average growth rate of 4.5 percent over the past four years. He cited projections by the Parliament's Research Center, which forecast growth rates of 2.5 percent for the

calendar year to March 2025 and 2.9 percent for the year to March 2026.

He referred to the government's ambitious goal of 8% economic growth, noting that it involves two components: a 5.2 percent contribution from investment and production and 2.8 percent from improved productivity.

Achieving 5.2 percent growth in investment and production requires a predictable environment for businesses, trust-inspiring regulations, and adequate financing for

investments, he said. He also highlighted the need for at least four years of consistent engagement between the government and the private sector as well as fulfillment of governmental commitments.

Addressing productivity growth, Al-e Eshaq stressed the importance of professional workforce development, access to advanced technology, and clear, supportive policies on foreign exchange, taxes, and insurance for producers.

Government must establish economic infrastructure, ef-

fective diplomacy, and general conditions conducive to eight percent growth, he said, highlighting that coercion or making appeals will not be able to bring any achievement in this regard.

He was certain about the feasibility of eight percent growth, arguing that the country enjoys huge economic potential, including skilled workforce, economic facilities, geographic advantages, and financial resources, while facing shortcomings in strategic planning and economic policies.

# Nothing can break spirit of mothers of Lebanon's martyrs

Mothers bring up resistance fighters to defend Lebanon's dignity

From page 1 ▶ The new era in our region will not resemble the previous colonial eras as we are owed to the martyrs, those who have refused to remain silent seeing the Palestinian people being ethnically cleansed. They have confronted, stood firm, and sacrificed what was most precious to them. Those heroic knights have firmly rejected the threats of the satanic US embassy in Beirut, which sought in vain – day and night – to weaken the resistance after the failure of its military aggression.

Hezbollah martyrs' mothers will teach the generations of mothers how to defeat the colonial killing machine. They are the ones who have orchestrated a "new Middle East" for which they sacrificed the precious blood of their beloved sons.

One of these mothers is Hajja Umm Ali, who has sacrificed seven of her children to defend the



dignity of the Lebanese nation. Among them is a martyr paramedic, who has gone missing. The paramedic had left Germany to attain martyrdom along with his heroic uncles. She is an exceptional mother in every sense of the word.

In his last speech, Hezbollah Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassim praised her steadfastness, saying: "You are people of

patience, you are people of faith, you are people of resistance, the resistance cannot be victorious without your sacrifices ... We hear the husband of a martyr says, 'I want to upbringing my children in the same way as my husband' and the mother of seven martyrs say, 'We are ashamed of the sacrifices of Sayyedah Zainab (SA) as we have offered only a little'. What a great community! Our opponents

are confused from what they hear from them, from their sacrifices, their steadfastness, their patience."

Indeed, the West can possess the latest modern technological killing machine, but it cannot and will not be able to weaken the unbreakable revolutionary spirit of brave mothers. Historians say that nine mothers in Karbala pushed their children to jihad and martyrdom.

Today, the mothers of the martyrs of the resistance are proud of their martyred sons and express their readiness to give more on the path of resistance because they are at the peak of faith, patience, and devotion. They have taught their sons that victory does not come with empty slogans but with great sacrifices. They taught their sons that homelands cannot be shielded unless they are watered with the blood of their best heroes.

## Syrian Army launches counteroffensive against HTS terrorists



From page 1 ▶ In two other villages, terrorists have been forced to retreat to Idlib city.

The counteroffensive has seen heavy rocket barrages and Russian-Syrian warplanes targeting the positions of the HTS-led Joint Operations Room.

Terror groups are reportedly attempting to open a new front after failing to advance toward a main highway called M5.

Intense battles are also taking place south of Idlib, which is under Syrian army control.

Russian and Syrian airstrikes have stretched from villages that had been taken over by terrorist groups in Western Aleppo and newly established HTS supply lines in Jabal al-Zawiya (Zawiya Mountains), south of Idlib.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting continues on two fronts in Aleppo's countryside between the Syrian army and terrorist groups who are fiercely trying to make advances.

Syrian warplanes also targeted terrorists

near the city of Marea, north of Aleppo.

According to reports, clashes persist in Saraqib, west of the Aleppo-Damascus highway, as militants fail to make any breakthrough.

The Syrian army also repelled militant attacks on a front southwest of Aleppo city, thwarting four attacks from Thursday evening until Friday morning.

Additionally, the army repelled five successive assaults on Andan, northwest of Aleppo, inflicting heavy casualties among the terror groups.

Violent clashes are also ongoing in the town of Mansoura, west of Aleppo, as militants tried unsuccessfully to enter. The town is less than two kilometers from Aleppo.

Reports indicate that large convoys of militants, heavy weapons, and other ammunition entered through a Syrian crossing with Turkey, heading toward combat fronts in western Aleppo and southern Idlib.

Syrian warplanes monitored the convoys entering the town of Marea and conducted airstrikes targeting terrorist positions and some of the newly arrived military vehicles.

In recent days, HTS, alongside factions of the Turkish-backed groups, launched a surprise broad offensive on Syrian army positions

in Idlib province and the city of Aleppo.

Reports suggest that HTS used new weapons, including Ukrainian drones.

On Wednesday, at least 400 militants linked to HTS were killed while attacking Syrian army positions in Aleppo and Idlib, according to Oleg Yeghnsiyuk, deputy chief of the Russian Reconciliation Center in Syria.

Analysts have been quick to point out that the timing of the terror offensive on Aleppo, which has led to the martyrdom of a senior Iranian military advisor in Syria, coincided with the Israeli ceasefire with Lebanon.

On Wednesday, the 60-day truce ended the daily exchange of fire between Hezbollah and the Israeli military since October 8, 2023.

The last battle in Aleppo saw similar terrorist groups defeated in 2017 when the Syrian army, backed by Iranian military advisors and Russia, liberated the ancient city.

It was widely believed to be the turning point in the more than a decade-long Syrian war on terrorism that saw militants, who had once controlled large swathes of Syria, holed up in Idlib.

Northwest of Syria, where there are oil reserves, is also occupied by the United States military and mostly US-backed Kurdish rebels.

Turkey has maintained an illegal occupation in the northern Syrian border near Idlib over the past years as well.

This is while the Israeli regime has, for decades now, occupied the Syrian Golan Heights in another threat to the stability of the Arab country.

## Was COP29 in Azerbaijan a failure?

By Alice C. Hill and Priyanka Mahat

COP29 traversed a rocky path from the moment UN officials selected petrostate Azerbaijan as the host nation.

The conference ended in overtime on November 24 with only modest climate finance goals, failed to deliver on an expected announcement of a new commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and displayed unusually high tensions among nations, spurred in part by statements from the host, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, that oil and gas was a "gift from God."

The result was deep concern among climate policy activists for the future of climate diplomacy.

This was known as the 'finance COP'. What new commitments were accomplished?

At COP29, intense negotiations over the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate

finance stretched beyond the final hours, yet again illustrating the eleventh-hour deal-making that has become a hallmark of COP summits. At COP26, it was the "phasing down" of coal; at COP28, language on fossil fuels was born under similar pressure. At COP29, increasing commitments to climate finance was the most anticipated outcome.

The G77 bloc—developing countries plus China—had firmly demanded \$1.3 trillion by 2035 from historic emitters such as the United States and European Union (EU) countries.

One economic study released during COP29 estimated the actual need for funding is \$6.3–6.7 trillion per year by 2030, with developing countries alone requiring \$2.3–2.5 trillion. But developed nations balked.

The final NCQG text includes a goal to mobilize \$300 billion annually by 2035 for developing countries.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](https://tehrantimes.com))

## Thousands rally in Jakarta to protest Gaza bombardment



Thousands of pro-Palestinian supporters amassed in front of the US embassy in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on Saturday to condemn Israel's ongoing violation of international law amid heavy bombardment of the Rafah refugee camp.

The protest, titled "A Billion Curses for Zionist Israel," was organized to show solidarity and support for Palestinians, particularly following an Israeli airstrike in Rafah on May 26 that killed at least 45 Palestinians, including many women and children, the local daily Jakarta Globe reported.

The hashtag #alleysonrafah has been shared over 47 million times on social media, attracting global attention.

## Children in Gaza queue for meals as food crisis worsens



Palestinians, including children, holding metal pots and pans have gathered to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen in Gaza's southern city of Khan Younis.

According to UNRWA, more than 1.8 million people across the Gaza Strip are

experiencing "high levels" of food shortages.

About 133,000 people face "catastrophic" food shortages with acute malnutrition 10 times higher than before the war, the agency said, Al Jazeera reported.

## All bakeries shut in central Gaza due to supply shortages

All bakeries have shut down in central Gaza due to severe supply shortages, the World Food Programme (WFP) warns in a post on X, Al Jazeera said.

"Bread is a lifeline for many families – often the only food they can access. Now, even that is slipping out of reach," the UN agency said, urging vital aid to enter the besieged enclave.

## Videos show Israeli forces firing at people burying relative in Lebanon's Khiam

Footage released by Lebanese media outlets and verified by Al Jazeera's fact-checking agency, Sanad, shows Israeli forces stationed in the town of Khiam in southern Lebanon firing at several people as they try to bury a body in the cemetery, Al Jazeera reported.

One of the video clips shows a person fleeing and falling to the ground as the soldiers shoot as another person tries to escape to a side street.

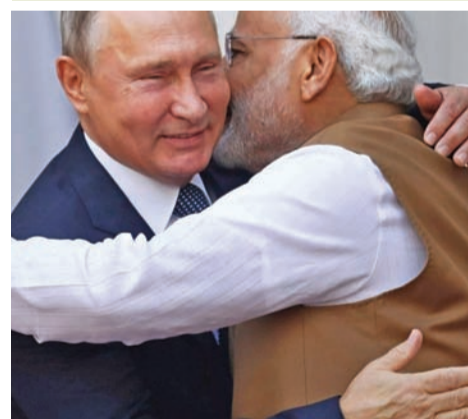
A witness told Lebanese media that the Israeli army fired at people twice while they

were trying to bury their relative despite having obtained approval from the Lebanese army and UNIFIL peacekeeping forces to be at this location near the Israeli army's positions.

Other images posted by Lebanese activists online and verified by Sanad show several Israeli tanks positioned near the Khiam cemetery and a western neighbourhood of the town.

The National News Agency (NNA) confirmed the presence of four Israeli tanks in the town.

## The BRICS summit, de-dollarization, and the global realignment



By Axel de Vernou Farrell Gregory

Last month's BRICS summit saw representatives from thirty-six countries discuss the formation of a new world order without dollar dominance—and, by extension, one in which America and its allies no longer play a preeminent role.

As BRICS member states alleviate bilateral tensions and Global South countries turn away from American aid, Washington urgently needs to adjust to today's shifting geopolitical landscape.

The summit's theme was unlocking the potential of countries that felt spurned by the West in the post-Cold War era. "We are not building up a bloc that will be targeted against somebody's interests," Putin said. He envisions BRICS as a safe haven for countries wronged by Washington's punitive use of the dollar. However, Russia alone cannot create an alternative financial ecosystem. This is why outreach to the Global South is indispensable to its strategy.

In September, during the Russian Energy Week International Forum, Putin em-

phasized that BRICS countries will lead the world's future economic growth and that Moscow will support their industries by exporting fuel and energy products.

A few days before the summit, Putin noted that BRICS, thanks to its new members, has surpassed the G7's contribution to global GDP. Xi Jinping closed the event by repeating that the rise of the Global South heralds a "great transformation across the world."

If these countries, as Putin contends, are seeking refuge from a U.S.-led financial system, what is the best way to attract them into an alternative geopolitical sphere? Russia and China see the solution in cross-border payment systems that rely on local currencies.

The BRICS Cross-Border Payments Initiative (BCBPI) will act as the vehicle that establishes these channels so that member countries can conduct exchanges while circumventing any American involvement.

The feasibility of adopting a unified BRICS currency remains remote. For years, the national interests and domestic fiscal policies of India, Russia, China, Brazil, and South Africa have impeded this objective.

The organization's recent expansion to include Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Ethiopia will lead to further divergence in the group's financial priorities, suggesting that BRICS is not immediately interested in launching a unified fiat currency.

However, this does not mean that the pace of global de-dollarization will slow down. If anything, it has dramatically picked up speed since Russia invaded Ukraine.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](https://tehrantimes.com))



# Iran attends 1st meeting of Counter-Narcotics Working Group in Kabul

TEHRAN –Iran's special representative to Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi-Qomi, has participated in the inaugural meeting of the Counter Narcotics Working Group held by the Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The initiative was held online on Thursday, November 28, as a follow-up to the third Meeting of Special Envoys on Afghanistan, held in Doha, Qatar, in June, where counter-narcotics was identified as a key priority for international cooperation.

According to the latest report by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), there has been a 30 percent increase in opium production, reaching 433 tons, in Afghanistan compared to last year.

Representatives from other countries including Turkey, Pakistan, the United States, Russia, China, and Norway, as well as experts from the European Union, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also participated in the event.

According to UNAMA, the working group would facilitate coordinated collaboration with the Taliban in the field of counter-narcotics.

"The issue of narcotics is interconnected with other issues such as political stability, economic situation, livelihood, and infrastructure development in Afghanistan. So, combating drugs necessitates considering crises as well as other issues," IRNA quoted Kazemi-Qomi as saying.

The solution to Afghanistan's problem lies in the collective efforts of the regional countries. It involves utilizing the capabilities, capacities, and experiences of the countries in the region to find a coherent, inclusive, and sustainable solution to address the challenges in Afghanistan.

Highlighting the country's capabilities and potential in different sectors, particularly the experiences in cooperating with various UN institutions, the official voiced the country's readiness to engage in advancing regional-oriented plans and projects in Afghanistan.

Pointing out that the meeting



is an intergovernmental one, Kazemi-Qomi emphasized that regional capacities should be used to lead the meeting. Hence, the Iranian and Pakistani delegations announced readiness to lead the meeting in order to propel the negotiations forward.

## The initiative was held online as a follow-up to the third Meeting of Special Envoys on Afghanistan, held in Doha.

During the meeting, Roza Isakovna Otunbayeva, the representative of the UN Secretary-General and the head of UNAMA, called counter-narcotics an issue of critical importance to Afghanistan, which, according to her, affects both rural communities and regional peace and stability.

At the end of the meeting, it was approved to establish three more specialized working groups, including a working group to combat drug supply, strengthen law enforcement and police cooperation, a working group to reduce demand and support the health and treatment sector, and a working group for alternative livelihoods. These working groups will be established in February 2025.

**'Effective implementation of anti-narcotics program needed'**  
In March, the former secretary

general of the anti-narcotics headquarters stressed the need for effective implementation of anti-narcotics programs in the region free from political considerations.

"One of the most important challenges of the present era is the narcotic drugs, industrial substances and new psycho-delics and the sufferings that I would like to refer to as the quiet war against humanity," IRIB quoted Eskandar Momeni as saying.

He made the remarks in the 67th UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, urging all countries to be committed to the sustainable and effective implementation of international drug control conventions.

"In the past five years, adopting a balanced strategy in the fight against drugs, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken effective measures to promote security and public health in alignment with the implementation of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, international treaties, and conventions," Momeni added.

Intensifying efforts to combat drug supply and transit via enhanced border control measures and cracking down on money laundering are among the actions taken by the country.

"In the past five years, 4,450 tons of various materials of Afghan origin have been discovered through the dedication of 50 martyrs and sacrifices made by my colleagues," he noted.

Iran welcomes any practical measures that lead to the reduction and stopping of the cultivation and production of all kinds of narcotics in Afghanistan.

"Despite our efforts, we have not observed a substantial decrease in drug trafficking in Afghanistan. In the last two weeks, two operations discovered shipments totaling 4800 kilograms of drugs destined for a certain European country," Momeni added.

He continued: "Last year, as in previous years, we have witnessed the increasing trend of discovering methamphetamine from Afghanistan."

He referred to the compilation and implementation of the comprehensive document on treatment and harm reduction; the expansion of treatment centers both quantitatively and qualitatively, the maximum use of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (7,200 centers), employing diverse treatment methods including pharmaceuticals and psychological and social interventions, ensuring access to medicinal substances for medical and scientific purposes, boosting harm reduction programs by providing various services to people at risk and managing the spread of AIDS and Hepatitis C as other measure taken by the country.

Momeni further underscored the need to stop the cruel and unilateral sanctions and foster cooperation between the United Nations, international communities, and Iran in various aspects to strengthen the global fight against drugs.

Improving the effectiveness of programs through the exchange of successful experiences in combating narcotics, reducing demand, fostering scientific collaborations, and monitoring illegal activities in cyberspace and the dark net which can be achieved by establishing specific mechanisms coordinated by relevant international authorities, are among the issues raised by Momeni.

In the end, he said the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly disagrees with the revision of the international drug control regime based on decriminalization, which is considered to be the destruction of humanity's heritage in this important field.

## Iranian-made telesurgery systems installed in Indonesian hospitals

From page 1 ► signed a memorandum of understanding based on which Iran will establish a robotic remote surgery center in a hospital in the city of Makassar, Indonesia.

Developing a robotic remote surgery training service center at Wahidin Sudiro Husodo General Hospital, and strengthening the capacity of surgeons and resident doctors through advanced surgical skills training based on the latest scientific methods, were among the main topics of the agreement.

Moreover, creating an interdisciplinary platform between clinical doctors, researchers, and engineers, creating a dynamic environment for promoting new ideas in the field of medical education, and encouraging new research projects in the field of medical and surgical interventions were other axes of cooperation, IRNA reported.

According to the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters, Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh, Medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60

countries annually.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

## ENGLISH IN USE

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## 'Salt particles raising from Lake Urmia contained by 80%'

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), Sarkhosh said. He went on to say that the major salt particle hotspots in the West Azarbaijan province include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghah, Urmia, Chooanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation, ISNA reported on Saturday.

## کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سپورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میاندوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند.

## IRCS, IFRC explore ways to sustain support for war victims in Lebanon

TEHRAN –The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Lebanon have discussed ways to continue providing assistance to war-affected people in Lebanon.

The secretary general of the IRCS, Meysam Afshar, and the IFRC director for international affairs, Razieh Alishvandi, in a meeting with Cristhian Cortez Cardoza, the IFRC deputy director for emergency response and operations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in Beirut highlighted the need for a ceasefire in Gaza, IRNA reported.

With the ceasefire now in place, the officials discussed ways to speed up providing aid to the war victims and focused on assessing how they can further support the humanitarian efforts in these critical times.

They also discussed opportunities for enhanced collaboration to address urgent needs and provide relief to affected communities.

Lauding the IRCS humanitarian efforts in assisting Lebanese, Cortez asked for boosting cooperation in this regard.

Setting up health centers, providing medical care, as well as making preparations for winter are among the main issues, he noted.

Afshar, for his part, said the IRCS is dedicated to supporting people affected by war or any other disasters worldwide to alleviate their suffering. He went on to say that, "having assessed the needs of war-affected people, the IRCS will do its best to meet their needs."

Alishvandi, for her turn, said the IRCS is ready to dispatch two more humanitarian consignments including essential goods like



sanitary and medical items to Lebanon. The official asked the IFRC to further facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid.

"Iranian Red Crescent is willing to share its experiences and strengthen cooperation with other societies through establishing an international training center," Alishvandi added.

Since the beginning of Israeli attacks on Lebanon, the IRCS has dispatched 10 consignments of relief items to people affected by Israeli attacks in Palestine and Lebanon.

Lebanese health authorities said Thursday that nearly 4,000 people have been killed in Israeli attacks in Lebanon since last year.

After two full months of uninterrupted Israeli attacks on civilians and Hezbollah forces, a ceasefire came into effect in Lebanon.

The Health Ministry said that 78 people were killed in Israeli attacks on Tuesday, a day before the cease-fire took effect, bringing the overall death toll since last October to 3,961 people.

The ministry added that 266 people were also injured, pushing up the number of injuries to 16,520.

## Anti-Narcotics Police equipped with medical devices to monitor drug trafficking

TEHRAN –To further enhance the operational capacity of the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has provided them with two Medical Devices, including a portable Doppler sonography, and a veterinary anesthesia machine to support drug supply reduction activities in Iran.

In this line, an event was organized at the premises of the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) in Tehran, with the presence of representatives from the UNODC Iran, DCHQ, and Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police (ANP), the UNODC website announced in a press release on November 18.

Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries. UNODC has built a strong partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in several areas including the capacity building for the Iranian law enforcement forces and has been providing technical assistance to the Iranian Government in their fight against illicit trafficking of drugs and precursors.

UNODC has supported the work of the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police dog training center, through the provision of fully trained dogs, canine trailers, and canine accessories, as well as the provision of specialized training for canine handlers and trainers, and medical veterinary equipment.

These procurements were carried out under Sub-Programme 1 of the UNODC Country Partnership Programme (CPP) 2023-2026.

The event was organized as part of the activities outlined in the framework of Sub-Programme1, specifically focusing on "Border Management and Illicit Trafficking".

During the official ceremony, Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Iran Country Representative, stated that UNODC has established a strong relationship with the Government of Iran and is highly aware of the educational and technical requirements of the drug control and law enforcement agencies and is willing to extend required support upon the availability of financial support from donor countries.

Mohammad Narimani, Interim Director General of the International Relations Office of DCHQ expressed his gratitude to the UNODC

for continuous support particularly in providing cutting-edge equipment and specialized training that have significantly improved operational effectiveness in drug control efforts.

### Boosting Iran's capacity

In August, the UNODC in Iran procured and installed three X-ray Body Scanners crucial for efficiently identifying narcotic drugs concealed in the body or swallowed in three international airports of the country, namely Imam Khomeini International Airport, Gorgan International Airport, and Ahvaz International Airport.

The aim is to prevent the illegal trafficking of drugs through the air border of Iran, the UN website announced in a press release on August 7.

On August 4, the UNODC in an official ceremony handed over one X-ray Body Scanner.

The official event was organized at the Imam Khomeini International Airport, with the presence of representatives from UNODC Iran, the DCHQ, and the Anti-Narcotics Police of Iran.

The Office also provided pertinent specialized training for end users of each device, under the guidance and supervision of professional technical engineers.

Mahdi Javaheri, Director General of the International Relations Office of DCHQ, in his statements, expressed his gratitude to the UNODC for continuous support extended to the Iranian controlling entities and hoped the support will continue and increase in the future, considering the high demand for provision of controlling equipment, especially X-ray devices.

On July 24, UNODC in Iran handed over 4 drug identification devices, procured through generous support by the Japanese Government, in an official ceremony at the premises of the DCHQ in Tehran.

These devices which will be used for controlling a wide range of drugs trafficked, especially at the eastern borders of Iran with Afghanistan, have been procured under sub-program 1 of the UNODC Country Partnership Program (CPP) 2023-2026.

The government of Japan has been supporting UNODC Iran's activities on Drug Supply Reduction for many years.

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NOVEMBER 30, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*When you get ill do not get nervous about it and try as much as possible to be hopeful.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:11:53 Evening: 17:11 Dawn: 5:27 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:56 (tomorrow)

## What's in Tehran art galleries

### Painting

\* An exhibition of paintings by Mahsa Rezaei is currently underway at Baharin Gallery.

The exhibit named "On the Hair of The Sun" will run until December 9 at the gallery located at No. 509, Hafez St., Karim Khan Ave.



\* An exhibition of paintings by Pegah Shamloo is currently underway at Sharif Gallery.

Entitled "Rust", the exhibit will be running until December 13 at the gallery that can be found at 11 Mahruzadeh Alley, Shariati Ave. near Quds Square.



\* Javid Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Parvin Heidarinasab.

The exhibition named "The Hidden Secrets" runs until December 9 at the gallery that can be found at 17 Zartosht St., Vali-e Asr Ave.



\* Leila Qandchi is putting her latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

Entitled "Fragile Facets", the exhibit will run until December 16 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.



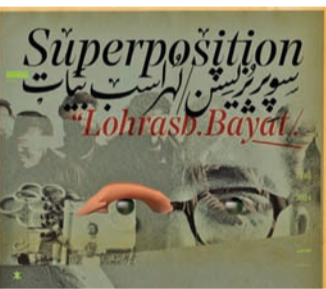
\* 009821 Projects Gallery is showcasing a collection of paintings by Shabnam Emdadian.

The exhibition titled "The Tyranny Essence of the Gaze" will run until December 10 at the gallery located at No. 25, 18th Alley, Kheradmand St., Karim Khan Ave.



\* A collection of paintings by Lohrasb Bayat is on display in an exhibition at Tarrahan Azad Gallery.

The exhibition named "Superposition" will be running until December 17 at the gallery located at 5 Salmas Square, off Fatemi St.



\* Paintings by Masoud Sadeeddin are currently on view in an exhibition at Liam Gallery.

The exhibit runs until December 9 at the gallery located at No. 118, Fathi Shaqaqi St. near Salmas Square.



\* An exhibition of paintings by Gelareh Goudarzi is underway at Yafteh Gallery.

The exhibition named "The Pines of Kashefi" will run until December 13 at the gallery located at 8 Taleqani Dead End, Yarmohammadi St. in the Darus Neighborhood.



\* Behrouz Zindashti is showcasing a collection of his latest paintings in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibition named "A Letter" will run until December 11 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.



\* Paintings by Taher Pourheidari are on view in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.

The exhibit titled "The Desert" runs until December 10 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



# 19th International Resistance Theater Festival kicks off in Kerman

TEHRAN-The opening ceremony of the 19th International Resistance Theater Festival was held on Thursday in Kerman, near the resting place of Martyr Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and other honorable martyrs of Kerman.

"The festival reflects the recent developments of the Resistance Front, and we have strived in this edition to bring the recent events of the Resistance Front to the theater stage for the audience," Mohammad Kazemtabar, the festival's secretary, said.

Presenting a report on the organization of this edition, he stated: "This year, we have sought to adopt a new approach for the festival. Today, as the festival officially begins, it will continue for 45 days. Over this period, audiences will witness 420 performances of 28 plays," Honaronline reported.

"We have encountered a wealth of topics in the field of street theater as well, and in honor of the great name of Qassem Soleimani, we have designed and executed this section under the title 'Heavenly Commander,'" Kazemtabar added.



In the final part of his remarks, he condemned the crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza and Lebanon and congratulated the noble people of Iran on the recent victories of the Resistance Front.

The 19th edition of the International Resistance Theater Festival has introduced a special award named after Ismail

Haniyeh, chief of the political bureau of the Palestinian Resistance Movement Hamas. Titled Martyr of Al-Quds Ismail Haniyeh, the award will be presented in two categories of stage performances and street theater.

The special award will be granted to the best theatrical work addressing the genocide

of the oppressed people of Gaza and the Palestinian resistance front.

Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards, who had participated in the swearing-in ceremony of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran, were assassinated in their residence in Tehran on July 31.

## Shahzadeh N. Igual's book on Polish refugees in Iran available in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "Her Name is Mercan - A Forgotten Story of World War II" written by Shahzadeh N. Igual has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Roya Pourmanaf has translated the book that has been published by Hoonaar Publication in 330 pages, Honaronline reported.

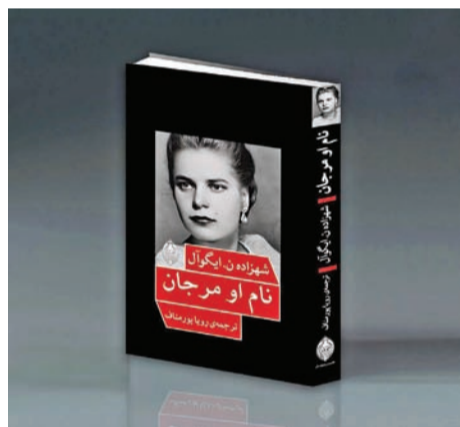
After Soviet soldiers began occupying Poland, thousands of people were forcibly sent to Siberia. Some died on the way, others from starvation or disease. The nearly 200,000 Poles who remained in the camps were loaded onto ships and forced to emigrate, ending in Isfahan and Tehran in Iran. These people, who now knew death by its smell, had come to a brand new country that welcomed them.

At that time, the Iranian people were also struggling with famine and epidemics, but they loved and accepted their guests. In saffron-scented cities, the refugees who saw humanity, cooperation and love felt like the sun had risen on their frozen lives. They learned Persian and carpet weaving, fell in love with Iranians and married them.

In her new novel, Shahzadeh N. Igual poetically tells the drama of all people torn apart by war, based on the real-life stories of a group of Poles who were forced to leave their homeland. What the heroes Rahel, Helena and Sara experience is actually the eternal struggle of all refugees. Those who were driven from their homes, held captive, left to die, killed and exiled. The book is a novel of absolute love and holding on to life abroad.

Born in Tehran, Shahzadeh witnessed the war between Iran and Iraq as an elementary school student. She went to Turkey in 1990 with her mother and sisters.

After high school, she studied sociology in Izmir, then she started to travel and was on every acre of land across the world where coffee is grown. She obtained her doctorate in Middle Eastern religions abroad. She



traveled the Silk Road. Specializing in thematic and business trips, she also worked as a manager in hotel companies.

She published several articles on sociology, most of them in Iran; she translated Iranian literary works and films into Turkish.

Shahzadeh writes novels that critics describe as multi-layered works, about Iran's past and present, with autobiographical touches, telling stories of families or the Iranian society before and after the Islamic Revolution, making a powerful synthesis of the conjuncture of historical events with fiction. She also draws attention with her own poetry as well as poems by great Iranian and Turkish poets of the past and present in her text.

Her first novel "The Red Sirens of Tehran" was published in 2017, her second novel "They Shot at the Rolls-Royce, Daddy" in 2018, and her third novel "Tears of Isfahan" in 2021.

With her original concept "Iran, Yesterday and Today" - seminars on Iran's past and present with its history, sociology, ethnography, traditions, heritage, and literature as well as traveling in Iran - she is a requested speaker by academic institutions such as Istanbul, Akdeniz, Ege, Dicle and Pamukkale Universities, by clubs such as Rotary Club and Lions Club, associations and non-gov-

ernmental organizations such as the Union of Writers of Turkey, Galatasaraylilar Dernegi, the Association of Istanbul Tourism Guides, also for events of major travel agencies such as Setur and Dünyanın Renkleri as well as institutions such as the French Institute of Turkey in Istanbul, Ayna Akademi and Ortak Yasami Gelistirme Vakfi, among others.

In 2018, she wrote and produced "A Thousand and One Nights in One Night", a poetry and music show: an excellent selection of Persian poetry, sagas and tales, ancient and contemporary, performed by herself in Persian and in Turkish, with the musical participation of Hoom Blues Band from Iran and the renowned special guest, guitarist Akin Eldes from Turkey. The show was accompanied by a live painting session on stage by an Iranian painter and an exhibition by a celebrated Iranian photographer in the foyer.

She was decorated with a Prize of Honor by the Islamic Republic of Iran, for her efforts to help the Turkish intelligentsia get acquainted with Iran, she also received a certificate of honor from the Association of Iranian Businessmen and Industrialists in Turkey.

She continues to accompany distinguished cultural groups in Iran for renowned travel agencies, sharing the best of her native land with her travelers for whom she organizes literature and sociology seminars as well as exclusive travel events. She organized and guided the first Persian Literature Theme Tour in Iran, which has been continuing with great success since then. Her original concept of the expedition of "Meetings of Persian Art and Culture in Iran" took place between famous Turkish writers such as Nedim Gürsel, Ayşe Kulin, and Tuna Kiremitçi and great Persian writers and poets such as Nahid Tabatabai, Ahmad Pouri, Shams Langeroudi and Seyed Ali Salehi.

## Tehran museum to commemorate Marcos Grigorian with exhibition of his iconic works

TEHRAN- A retrospective of the life and works of Iranian-Armenian-American artist Marcos Grigorian will be held at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA).

The exhibition will open on Monday commemorate the artist's 100th birthday anniversary, Mehr reported on Friday.

The exhibition will showcase a carefully curated selection of Grigorian's works from five sig-

nificant phases of his career, viewed through an artistic historical lens. It will feature a collection of expressionistic paintings, as well as clay and straw artworks, arranged with a scholarly approach.

The retrospective will run until January 12.

Marcos Grigorian (1925-2007) was an impactful artist and gallery owner, celebrated as a pioneer of modern Iranian art. Born

in Kropotkin, Russia, to an Armenian family fleeing massacre, he moved to Iran in 1930, where he later opened the Apadana gallery in Tehran in 1949. Grigorian studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome, graduating in 1954, and subsequently established the influential Galerie Esthétique in Tehran. He was instrumental in organizing the first Tehran Biennial in 1958 and was a dedicated educator at the Fine Arts Academy.

In the 1960s, he relocated to the United States, establishing Universal Galleries in Minneapolis. Grigorian also co-founded the Group of Free Painters and Sculptors in Tehran. In his later years, he settled in Yerevan, Armenia, where he created the Museum of the Middle East and donated thousands of artworks. His legacy was marred by tragedy when he was fatally assaulted in 2007.

