

# TEHRAN TIMES

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Two Israeli soldiers lose their lives and several others sustain injuries in an attack on the Tayasir checkpoint near Jenin

## West Bank Resistance Operation Exposes Israeli Military Failure



Israeli troops take positions following an attack on a regime army post near the northern West Bank village of Tayasir on February 4, 2025.

### Israel's isolation more evident than ever: Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi delivered an impassioned speech at a Tehran conference on Gaza developments on Tuesday, stating that recent events have exposed the “true face” of Israel and amplified its international isolation.

The majority of the top diplomat's remarks focused on the consequences of Israel's actions in Gaza, explaining, “The brutal actions and genocide perpetrated by this regime in Gaza have not only outraged the conscience of the global community but have also compelled the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue an arrest warrant for the Prime Minister of the Zionist regime as a war criminal.”

The Foreign Minister further noted that Israel's growing isolation is evident in travel restrictions faced by its leaders. “The international isolation of this regime has become increasingly evident, to the extent that many countries have prevented Benjamin Netanyahu from entering their territories and even closed their airspace to the aircraft carrying him, forcing the prime minister to take a new route to go to America.”

125 countries are members of the ICC. The court's 2024 arrest warrant for Netanyahu and his former War Minister Yoav Gallant over their war crimes in Gaza requires these nations to detain the two politicians should enter their territory.

The situation has made traveling challenging for the Israeli Prime Minister who had to choose an unusual route for the flight bringing him to the United States on Monday. ▶ Page 3

### Trump to “restore” his maximum pressure campaign on Iran: Reuters

TEHRAN – U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to sign a presidential memorandum on Tuesday to “restore” the infamous “maximum pressure” campaign on Iran, according to Reuters citing an unidentified U.S. official.

The campaign aims to prevent Iran from “acquiring nuclear weapons and reduce its oil exports to zero”, Reuters reported.

Trump came up with the campaign in 2018, after he left a deal that limited Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief. Biden, despite initially promising to return to the nuclear agreement, maintained the approach and subsequently imposed hundreds more sanctions, as stated by his Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Trump's new directive is supposed to bring about “maximum economic pressure” through new sanctions and enforcement on those violating the existing ones, the report said.

### Sabahi Fard appointed commander of Iran's central air defense base

TEHRAN – Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi Fard has been appointed commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base, the central headquarters for the country's air defense operations.

The appointment, made by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was announced Tuesday by Chief of Staff Brigadier General Mohammad Baqeri.

Sabahi Fard will concurrently hold his existing role as commander of the Artesh Air Defense Force, succeeding Brigadier General Qader Rahimzadeh. The Khatam al-Anbiya base coordinates the operations of Iran's air defense forces under the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

### Racists feel upset as Palestinians welcome released heroes

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN - Expressing delight over the release of Palestinian prisoners who have been detained for protesting and fighting against Israeli suppression, aggression, tyranny, and occupation is something normal. However, Israel is angry that Palestinians celebrate the release of their brave women and men from Israeli jails.

This anger is nothing except a sense of hatred and rage against Palestinians and their resistance fighters who are exchanging Israeli captives for Palestinian prisoners.

Extremist Israeli officials, including Bibi Netanyahu, and deranged West Bank settlers think that the Palestinians are now proud of their resistance fighters and the resilience of ordinary people.

They also feel degraded that in each stage a few Israeli captives are traded for dozens of Palestinian prisoners under the ceasefire agreement that took effect on Jan. 19.

### What sort of hegemony is US counting on?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Trump's issuance of an executive order to suspend funding for all projects funded by USAID has raised concerns among various Lebanese NGOs as it pays 22% of the total funding for the response plan in Lebanon.

For the year 2025, USAID had requested \$72,245,000. Suspending it now would mean cutting funding for the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in Lebanon, to which USAID has allocated about \$45 million. Thus, 170,000 Lebanese and 570,000 Syrian “refugees” will be cut off from aid provided by the WFP.

According to the US embassy in Beirut, USAID spent about \$293 million in Lebanon, during 2024. USAID also participated in financing the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) with an amount of \$128 million, representing 40.1% of the total amount paid to international organizations operating in Lebanon.

Trump decided to suspend most US foreign aid under the pretext of implementing a 3-month review to assess the extent to which this “aid” is consistent with the “America First” policy based on reducing foreign spending and spending it domestically.

### Trump's arms sale to Israel: A reward for Netanyahu's Gaza genocide

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- US President Donald Trump, who claims credit for last month's ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, has consistently expressed a desire to conclude the conflict in Gaza.

But his actions since assuming office on January 20 indicate that he is emboldening Israel to resume the war on the Palestinian territory.

On Monday, the Wall Street Journal revealed that Trump has floated a new \$1 billion arms sale to Israel.

According to the WSJ, the White House has asked Congress to approve the arms package.

The planned weapons sales include 4,700 1,000-pound bombs, worth more than \$700 million, as well as armored bulldozers built by Caterpillar, worth more than \$300 million, the report cited US officials as saying.

On January 25, Trump also ordered the US military to release a shipment of MK-84 2,000-pound bombs to Israel held up by his predecessor Joe Biden who had cited concerns over civilian casualties in Gaza.

### Global artisans to showcase talent at Fajr Handicrafts Festival

TEHRAN – Artists from 20 countries including England, Brazil, and Indonesia have entreated completion at the 9th Fajr Festival of Handicrafts, known as Sarv-e Simin, which is set to take place in Tehran from February 20 to 24.

The festival will showcase an array of handicrafts from both Iranian and international artists, with 200 entries from 20 countries submitted for evaluation in the international competition section.

During a press conference at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, on Tuesday, relative officials and experts provided details about the event. Behzad Ahmadi Farsani, the director-general of the Office for Handicrafts Education and Promotion, ▶ Page 6



### Over \$2.4b of transport, housing projects inaugurated in 14 provinces

TEHRAN – Iran's Transport and Urban Development Ministry inaugurated infrastructure projects worth over 12 quadrillion rials (\$2.4 billion) in 14 provinces on Tuesday as part of celebrations marking the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

According to the ministry's news portal, the projects—spanning housing, transportation, and meteorology—were inaugurated in a centralized ceremony attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian at the ministry's headquarters, with deputy ministers participating in various provinces via videoconference. ▶ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

Trump on Iran-Israel conflict

Arman-e-Emrooz wrote in an analysis: Trump has previously stated that he wants to end wars, not start or continue them. Therefore, it is unlikely that he will give Netanyahu much room to maneuver. Iran is an issue on which Trump and Netanyahu may disagree. Netanyahu has spoken openly about his hope for U.S. support in attacking Iran's nuclear facilities. But Trump seems ready to increase his "maximum pressure" campaign, but it is not clear that he wants to start a war. Trump has also vaguely indicated that his only concern is Iran's nuclear program, suggesting that he is prepared to resort to diplomacy rather than force. Therefore, there are few issues on which there is a possibility of immediate agreement between Trump and Netanyahu. Trump can easily ensure that Israel has the means to start a war he will refrain from making new commitments and will probably moderate Netanyahu's zealot for continuing the war.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Iran is the center of security

Siasat-e-Rooz argued the policy of Trump is based on the principle of creating security in the world. America knows that the new multilateral order is moving toward completion, and this means the end of American unilateralism. Experience has proven to the world that Iran is the center of security because Iran considers the security of the region as its own. By relying on its domestic power, Iran has been able to achieve many technological achievements in aerospace, maritime, and defense fields that are used in the direction of regional security. In contrast, the Zionist regime is the center of crisis-making and insecurity in the region. The truth is that Trump has chosen his path, and like other American presidents, his approach is in line with the interests of the Zionists. Therefore, the solution to repeating the failure of maximum pressure is to turn a blind eye to the mirage of a new agreement and rely on domestic resources to neutralize sanctions through broader engagement with neighbors.

Shargh: Netanyahu's challenge to Trump regarding Iran

Shargh discussed Netanyahu's visit to the

United States in an interview with Vahid Bayani, a senior commentator on Middle East affairs. He said: The important issue for Netanyahu in his visit to the United States is to win Donald Trump's consent for a full-scale confrontation with Iran. Netanyahu is trying to persuade the U.S. president on the path of a military attack. Although Trump does not have a positive view of Iran and will probably increase his maximum sanctions, he does not seem to want a war, especially in a situation in which his domestic and foreign policy formation is in an early stage and still unclear. Of course, it is said that Donald Trump has not clarified his concerns about the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, and this may mean his desire for a diplomatic solution rather than a military confrontation. It is an option that is desirable for Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf countries; therefore, it is expected that Trump and Netanyahu will agree on a few issues.

Iran: Never without Iran!

In an article, the Iran newspaper addressed the regional situation and the Islamic Republic's important presence in the region. It wrote: Regardless of Iran's political approach and the differences of opinion regarding negotiations to reduce tension with the United States and lift sanctions, international observers emphasize the need to pay attention to the current realities in the Middle East, especially after the October 7 event as Tel Aviv is trying to restore a sense of strategic deterrence against its enemies. Conversely, Middle Eastern countries, with the experience gained from the failure of Trump's "maximum pressure" policy against Iran, are now focused on trying to reform their economic and social systems. These countries want to prevent a wider regional war that could undermine the achievements they have made in recent years. Meanwhile, given its policy of constructive engagement with the world and political independence, Iran is singlehandedly capable to manage the current turbulence and provide a model of comprehensive cooperation. Now, the decision on what kind of negotiations with the United States will be used to implement this model is up to Tehran.

Iran and Pakistan discuss bilateral ties, regional issues in Tehran



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi meeting Pakistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Amina Baloch in Tehran on February 3, 2025.

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Pakistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Amina Baloch met on Monday to discuss bilateral ties and regional developments.

The meeting took place in Tehran, on the sidelines of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Deputy Foreign Ministers' High-Level Committee meeting. "Under President Pezeshkian's leadership, we aim to elevate our relationship with Pakistan. We recognize its significant role in our foreign policy," Araghchi stated. He further highlighted the importance of sustained dialogues and interactions at the highest levels to capitalize on shared opportunities while tackling common challenges.

Baloch, reflecting on mutual interests and concerns, emphasized issues such as border security, drug trafficking, and illegal migration.

"Pakistan is committed to advancing the relationship with Iran. We aim for more robust cooperation both bilaterally and regionally to manage these shared challenges," she explained.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for the diplomats to discuss regional developments, including the situation in Afghanistan, Gaza, Syria, and Lebanon.

Iran and Pakistan have historically maintained cordial ties. They share deep cultural and historical links and routinely support each other in international forums. Recent developments have further strengthened this close partnership.

In early 2024, the two countries demonstrated impressive diplomatic resolve by swiftly de-escalating border tensions through dialogue, leading to the inking of important security and military agreements in the ensuing months. Since then, significant efforts have been carried out to combat cross-border terrorism and ensure the security of the Iran-Pakistan border.

The visit of Major General Mohammad Bagheri, the chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, to Pakistan in early 2025 further solidified the two nations' commitment to security and military cooperation. Economic collaboration has also seen positive momentum in recent years, with several huge projects like the Iran-Pakistan (IP) Gas Pipeline underway.

The visit of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Pakistan in April 2024 marked a new chapter in economic engagements, with agreements signed to elevate bilateral trade to \$10 billion over the next five years.

Iran vows to defend nuclear program "with all its might"

TEHRAN – Iran is committed to defending its legal rights regarding its peaceful nuclear program with all possible means, stated Ali Shamkhani, a political advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, during a visit to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) on Tuesday.

Shamkhani, formerly the secretary of Iran's National Security Council, toured the AEOI's latest achievements and advancements in the nuclear industry. His remarks come as for the past few weeks; Western media has been advocating for U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

"There is nothing we won't do to guard our right to a peaceful nuclear program," Samkhani said according to a report published on the AEOI's website.

Shamkhani's comments aligned with previous firm statements from other high-ranking Iranian officials. Kamal Kharrazi, an advisor to Iran's Leader and head of the country's Foreign Policy Council, warned in an interview last year that Iran would rethink its doctrine if its nuclear sites were harmed.

"[Iran has] no intention of producing a nuclear bomb, but if [its] existence is threatened, we will be forced to change our nuclear doctrine," he told the Financial Times in May.

Ayatollah Khamenei has prohibited the development of



Ali Shamkhani (L), political advisor to Ayatollah Khamenei, and Mohammad Eslami, Iran's nuclear chief, tour the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) on February 4, 2025.

weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, by issuing a fatwa (religious decree) in the early years of his leadership. He has reiterated this stance on numerous occasions in the years since.

In his Tuesday remarks, Shamkhani repeated Iran's stance on the development of nukes. "Iran has never sought nuclear weapons and will not do so."

He added, however, that Iran is determined to defend its rights, both "in political and technical dimensions with all its might."

The former security chief also stressed that nuclear technology is essential for the future of Iran, "Nuclear technology will not only create significant values for the country in the production of clean and renewable energy but will

also be very decisive and influential in areas such as agriculture, medicine, pharmaceuticals, water resource management, and environmental protection."

Israel is the main proponent of attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, having a history of assassinating Iranian nuclear scientists and attempting sabotage over the past three decades.

It has consistently lobbied Washington to strike Iran's nuclear sites. While Western analysts doubt the U.S.'s ability to destroy Iran's heavily fortified underground facilities, they warn that such actions would dangerously escalate regional tensions and have significant repercussions for Iran, the U.S., and the broader West Asia.

In the course of an ongoing

military drill last month, Iranian Armed Forces practiced downing bunker busters over the country's nuclear facilities scattered across its territory.

The international community is now watching to see if U.S. President Donald Trump will undo the damage he inflicted on the Iran nuclear deal in 2018 and rejoin the JCPOA.

Supporters of the pact point to claims by its Iranian negotiator Mohammad Javad Zarif, who stated recently that the JCPOA ensured Iran would not be able to "develop nuclear weapons for at least 15 years," even if constant escalating threats were to force it to rethink its doctrine.

Observers also point to Trump's failed "maximum pressure campaign" that followed his exit from the deal. The campaign which reinstated and intensified sanctions against Iran managed to harm its economy but did not reach its main objective, which was to dismantle the country's nuclear program.

Iran began new and unprecedented nuclear advancements under the watch of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 2020 after the remaining signatories to the deal failed to take the sting out of U.S. sanctions.

Western reports on Tuesday said Trump is poised to renew his anti-Iran maximum pressure campaign soon.

Manufacturing threats: West's constant fearmongering on Iran's nuclear program



West's double standards and Iran's role in regional security

The article paints Iran as a destabilizing force in West Asia, yet it conveniently ignores the role of the United States and its allies in creating regional chaos.

The U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003 under false pretexts, leading to the rise of terrorist groups like Daesh (ISIS). The U.S. and NATO's intervention in Libya turned the country into a failed state.

Meanwhile, Washington continues to support repressive regimes in the region while accusing Iran of "exporting revolution."

Iran, on the other hand, has been a key player in countering terrorism.

Iran played a major role in fighting Daesh in Iraq and Syria, while the U.S. and its allies stood by as terrorist groups gained strength.

Iran's regional allied groups that the West likes to refer to as "Iran-backed proxies" are in reality defensive alliances formed in response to external threats. Hezbollah, for example, was created as a response to Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

The Ansarullah in Yemen emerged as a reaction to a US-backed Saudi aggression. These groups are not tools of Iranian influence but rather regional forces defending their sovereignty. It is consistent with Iran's values to support these groups fighting for freedom and independence.

Who is the real threat?

The article claims that Iran's nuclear program poses a global threat, yet it ignores the very real and ongoing military actions taken by the United States and Israel. The U.S. assassinated Iranian leaders, including General Qassem Soleimani in 2020, in a blatant act of war.

Israeli airstrikes regularly target Syria, Lebanon, and Gaza, with no international consequences. Meanwhile, the U.S. military maintains bases across the Persian Gulf, constantly threatening Iranian security.

If any country is destabilizing West Asia, it is not Iran—it is the U.S. and its allies, who continue to impose their will on the region through military force and economic coercion.

'Maximum pressure': a repeat of failed policies

Another flawed argument in the article is that Iran is "scrambling" to negotiate because of Donald Trump's return to the White House.

This assumption is not only wrong but ignores the failure of Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign.

Trump imposed the harshest sanctions on Iran, withdrew from the nuclear deal, and increased military threats—yet Iran did not collapse.

The Iranian economy adapted, and the government continued its policies despite external pressure.

The idea that Iran fears Trump's return is simply wishful thinking. The real question is whether the U.S. is ready to repeat a failed strategy that only increased tensions in the past.

Additionally, contrary to the claim that Iran is "scrambling" to negotiate, Iranian officials have consistently set conditions for any future diplomacy with Western nations.

Iran is not pleading for talks; it is demanding clear guarantees and respect before even considering new agreements.

For nearly two decades, the world has heard the same warnings about Iran's nuclear program—yet nothing has materialized. It is time to move beyond fear-mongering and misinformation and engage with Iran based on mutual respect and international law.

Iran is not the aggressor in West Asia—it is a nation that has repeatedly been threatened, sanctioned, and targeted by outside forces.

If the West truly wants a peaceful future, it must abandon its failed policies and look for a win-win solution.

# Israel's isolation more evident than ever: Araghchi



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The majority of the top diplomat's remarks focused on the consequences of Israel's actions in Gaza, explaining, “The brutal actions and genocide perpetrated by this regime in Gaza have not only outraged the conscience of the global community but have also com-

pelled the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue an arrest warrant for the Prime Minister of the Zionist regime as a war criminal.”

The Foreign Minister further noted that Israel's growing isolation is evident in travel restrictions faced by its leaders. “The international isolation of this regime has become increasingly evident, to the extent that many countries have prevented Benjamin Netanyahu from entering their territories and even closed their airspace to the aircraft carrying him, forcing the prime minister to take a new route to go to America.”

125 countries are members of the ICC. The court's 2024 arrest warrant for Netanyahu and his former War Minister Yoav Gallant over their war crimes in Gaza requires these nations to detain the two politicians should enter their territory.

The situation has made traveling challenging for the Israeli Prime Minister who had to choose an unusual route for the flight bringing him to the United States on Monday. Netanyahu was also forced to skip a Holocaust memorial service in Poland this January, an annual event attended by top Israeli officials every year.

In another part of his speech, Araghchi

addressed the strength and resilience of regional Resistance movements fighting Israel in the past 16 months. He praised Hamas's performance following the recent ceasefire in Gaza, stating that the group “displayed the image of a resilient and confident group that... not only rebuilt its forces but also exchanged Zionist prisoners with authority and victoriously ended the war.” He also mentioned that Hezbollah, despite suffering losses, demonstrated “unparalleled resistance in the ground war in southern Lebanon.”

Hezbollah entered a 13-month battle with Israel on October 8, 2023, a day after the regime began its devastating and harrowing war against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip. The Lebanese Resistance group lost some of its most prominent members, including its long-serving and extremely popular leader Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah.

In his Tuesday remarks, the Iranian Foreign Minister emphasized the ideological foundation of these Resistance movements, citing the philosophy of resistance and Imam Khomeini's belief in “the victory of blood over the sword” as central tenets. He noted that the Hamas and Hezbollah see their primary weapon as “the blood of martyrs” rather than military armaments.

## Growing concerns in Israel over alleged Iranian espionage



Photo shows an Israeli settler accused of spying for Iran getting arrested by the regime

TEHRAN – The Israeli regime's media outlets are increasingly voicing concerns over what they claim to be a surge in Iranian espionage activities within the occupied territories.

Over the past year, there has been a notable increase in espionage cases the regime says are linked to Iran.

The Shin Bet, Israel's so-called security agency, and the regime's police have been warning against the risks of engaging with foreign entities, yet arrests for espionage persist.

According to Shin Bet's annual report for 2024, the number of identified espionage cases surged by an alarming 400 percent compared to the previous year, reflecting a significant security challenge for the Israeli regime.

The agency disclosed that it had indicted 27 Israeli settlers on allegations of spying for Iran and claimed to have dismantled 13 major espionage operations its said were orchestrated by Iranian intelligence.

The escalating cyber threats faced by Tel Aviv were also highlighted, with cyber-attacks reportedly quintupling in 2024.

Out of thousands of cyber-attack attempts, around 700 were allegedly thwarted, revealing significant vulnerabilities in Israel's cybersecurity defense capabilities.

### Israeli prison gets “Iran-linked espionage” wing

The revelation of a special section in a high-security Israeli prison, reserved for those accused of espionage for Iran, is particularly noteworthy.

This unit, known as “Ward 171,” reportedly houses 26 individuals accused of spy activities. Israeli media outlets were recently granted access to this section. They managed to capture the

gravity and extent of what they termed an espionage crisis.

One high-profile case involves two reserve soldiers, Georgi Andrayev and Yuri Eliashv, accused of selling classified information related to Israel's Iron Dome defense system to Iran.

Eliashv, previously a technician for Iron Dome, allegedly photographed radar details and sent them to Iranian contacts. He is also accused of passing along highly sensitive material about the system.

In October 2024, Channel 13 reported the arrest of seven Israeli settlers for spying on military bases like Nevatim and Ramat David, among other strategic locations.

Further arrests include individuals like Vladislav Viktorson and his wife, accused of sabotage, and Alexander Granovsky, charged with arson and photographing infrastructure, all allegedly on behalf of Iranian intelligence.

While social media has been an important tool, the methods Israel says are employed by Iran are diverse. The regime also claims that Tehran does not limit recruitment to specific groups rather, it engages with various segments of Israeli society, including Haredi Jews, new immigrants, minorities, and secular citizens.

These developments have led to a reevaluation of security measures and a public discourse on the vulnerability of Israel's intelligence apparatus to external influences.

Political analyst Ehud Yatom, writing for Ma'ariv, commented that the Shin Bet has detained numerous spies whose actions have significantly harmed Israel's security.

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

## “What did our revolution give us?”

A book that echoes the voice of lost generations

By Shima Naseri

TEHRAN – The history and revolutions of a country are not just identity cards for a nation but also mirrors reflecting its ideals, dreams, and sometimes its failures.

In every revolution, people fight with hopes for change and justice. But over time, a significant question arises: Have those ideals been realized? Are the people any different, or do their prominent concerns like class gaps and inequalities persist? These questions, which have troubled generations, remain central to our society.

The book “What did our revolution give us?” by Nader Ebrahimi delves deeply and honestly into one of the biggest questions of modern Iranian history: Have the ideals of the 1979 Islamic Revolution come true?

Narrated through the eyes of Fatemeh, a girl from the poorer parts of Tehran, it reflects the dreams of a generation shaped by social and economic realities. Ebrahimi listens attentively to Fatemeh's and her peers' concerns and critically examines the present through an honest dialogue.

Fatemeh, from a poor family struggling to make ends meet, writes to the author about social conflicts, class inequalities, and the gap between ideals and realities. With a sharp and candid tone, she writes about various aspects of the revolution and raises her unanswered questions. On page 13, she poignantly remarks: “In those expensive and lavish neighborhoods, there's something dirty that isn't seen; something dirty that I believed the revolution, with its big vision, would see and clean up. But the revolution did not see the dirt, nor did it dispose of it.” This sentence captures her disappointment with the fact that some of the ideals of the revolution remained only in slogans and promises.

Conversely, Nader Ebrahimi, as an intellectual studying the Islamic Revolution, tries to explain the complex realities of society. He believes revolution is a gradual process, and fundamental changes take time. This response may seem too abstract and detached for Fatemeh and her peers, who have protested against poverty and inequality. On page 67, he says: “The imagination of the revolution is not the

revolution itself. And now, in the hope that the meaning of illusion becomes clearer, I tell you: The day of the revolution is not the era of the revolution. Fatemeh! Don't think about the day of the revolution, think about the era of the revolution.”

Ebrahimi's book, in the form of two letters, juxtaposes two perspectives. Fatemeh's language is simple and sharp, speaking of social pains and gaps. On page 15, she writes: “Your children want multi-layer cakes for their birthdays, while we want leftover bread to survive.” This sentence vividly depicts the contrast between the lives of the poor and the rich. On the other hand, Ebrahimi's prose is calmer and more argumentative. On page 28, he says: “The results of our revolution will soon become clear. Some things will be resolved quickly. But some things will take time... slowly... slowly...”



Another poignant part of the book examines the status of women in society and highlights the vulnerability of women in the lower social strata, a reality that still exists today, albeit in a different form. “Is there such a shortage of women for you that you can't even pass by a thin, sickly-looking girl like me?” Fatemeh writes on page 41.

Ebrahimi's latest book isn't just a historical account; it speaks to an ongoing reality. This book tackles issues like class contradictions, gender inequalities, and the gap between ideals and actions that emerged after the revolution. In this context, Fatemeh, with her pain and protests, embodies the voice of a new generation grappling with the same questions, divisions, and injustices her kind did before the revolution. Ebrahimi's work refuses to accept indifference and challenges you on every page: Are the new Fatemehs still searching for their answers?

### Esteghlal face uphill task for ACL Elite next stage

TEHRAN – Esteghlal faced off against Iraqi side Al Shorta in a crucial match that ended in a disappointing 1-1 draw for the Iranian club HERE AT THE Azadi Stadium.

This encounter has significant implications for Esteghlal's aspirations to qualify for the 2024/25 AFC Champions League Elite next stage.

The match, held at Esteghlal's home ground, was watched by a fervent crowd eager to support their team. Esteghlal, known for their rich history in Iranian football, entered the match with high hopes of securing a win that could bolster their chances of advancing in the prestigious Asian tournament.

Joel Kojo gave the Iranians the lead in the fourth minute but Rewan Amin leveled four minutes after the interval for the visitors.

The second half saw Esteghlal intensifying their efforts to reclaim the lead. Despite numerous chances and a notable increase in pressure, the team struggled with finishing, missing several clear opportunities. Al Shorta's defense remained resolute, thwarting Esteghlal's attacks and keeping the scoreline intact.

As the match wore on, a sense of urgency became palpable among the Esteghlal players, but their inability to find the back of the net proved costly. The match concluded with a 1-1 draw, leaving Esteghlal with a bitter taste of what could have been.

The draw left both in danger of missing out on the knockout stage, with Esteghlal on six points with a match remaining while Al Shorta only have three on the board.

Esteghlal's performance against Al Shorta was a reminder of the fine margins in football and the importance of capitalizing on opportunities. With their qualification hopes hanging by a thread, Esteghlal will need to regroup, reassess, and come back stronger in their upcoming match against Al Rayyan of Qatar, slated for Feb. 19.

### Esteghlal's Bakhtiarizadeh satisfied with draw against Al Shorta

TEHRAN – Esteghlal coach Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh didn't have too many complaints after his side settled for a 1-1 draw in their AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 against Al Shorta of Iraq on Monday.

The draw left both in danger of missing out on the knockout stage, with Esteghlal on six points with a match remaining while Al Shorta only have three on the board.

“The draw was a fair result. We pressed more in the second half and were looking to win but were not in our regular form. We could have scored the second goal at the end of the first half, but it didn't happen,” said Bakhtiarizadeh.

“We took risks in the final minutes and made changes to put pressure and score. We had players on both wings who did what we wanted but despite these advantages, we were unable to score,” he added.

Esteghlal will meet Qatar's Al Rayyan SC on February 18 in Doha, Qatar.

### Al Shorta coach Alwan positive with draw against Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Al Shorta football team head coach Salah Alwan is positive following a 1-1 draw against Esteghlal however it was a result which neither desired.

The draw left both in danger of missing out on the knockout stage, with Esteghlal on six points with a match remaining while Al Shorta only has three on the board.

Salah Alwan was positive despite the result almost surely ending Al Shorta's campaign.

“Our team came to get three points, but this

one point is good for us, and I'm happy with the result we got at Azadi Stadium. Esteghlal is a great team but we were better and controlled the entire pitch,” said Alwan.

“It doesn't matter where we are in the standings or what our conditions are. We only think about getting better game by game in every league and every match, and we don't think about the table, and the table had no effect on our game.”

Al Shorta will end their League Stage campaign against UAE's Al Ain FC on February 17.

### Iran U20 football team arrive in Shenzhen

TEHRAN – Iran U20 football team arrived in Shenzhen, China on Tuesday.

The young Persians are drawn in Group C along with Uzbekistan, Indonesia and Yemen.

The AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025 is primed for thrilling action following the conclusion of the official draw at Grand Skylight International Guanlan in Shenzhen, China on Thursday.

The 16 teams were drawn into four groups with not just continental glory at stake but also four tickets to the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2025 in Chile.

The 42nd edition of the tournament will take place from February 12 to March 1, 2025 in Shenzhen, China.

Draw Result

**Group A:** China, Australia, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar

**Group B:** Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, DPR Korea

**Group C:** Uzbekistan, Iran, Indonesia, Yemen

**Group D:** Japan, Korea Republic, Syria, Thailand

### Iran fall short to Germany at 2025 Men's FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran were defeated by Germany 8-3 at the 2025 Men's FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup on Tuesday.

Team Melli are scheduled to play Malaysia on Wednesday.

Iran had defeated Argentina 5-3 on Monday in their opening match.

The top eight teams from across the three pools (the top two in each group, plus the two best third-placed teams) will go through to the quarter-finals.

The remaining teams will play in the 9th-12th position playoffs.

An added incentive is that a top 6-finish for an African team earns the continent an additional spot at the 2029 Indoor World Cup.

Groups:

**Pool A:** Austria, South Africa, Poland, Croatia

**Pool B:** Iran, Argentina, Germany, Malaysia

**Pool C:** Belgium, Australia, Namibia, Trinidad & Tobago

The competition is being held in Porec, Croatia from Feb. 3 to 9.

### Al Shorta file complaint against Esteghlal to FIFA

TEHRAN – Iraq's Al Shorta have reportedly filed a complaint against Iran's Esteghlal to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The Iraqi football team filed a complaint with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) against Esteghlal of Iran after they drew 1-1 in a Monday match.

The complaint is about the presence of Armin Sohrabian in Esteghlal's squad in last night's AFC Champions League Elite match.

Al Shorta claim that Sohrabian has played for three different teams this season and that his presence in Esteghlal's squad is against FIFA rules. According to international rules, a player can sign with three clubs during a season but only play for two.

The case is set to be reviewed by the AFC and the results will be announced.

## Iran imports 9m mobile phones in 10 months

TEHRAN – Iran imported approximately nine million mobile phones in the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024 – January 19, 2025), according to the head of the country's Customs Administration.

Foroud Asgari stated that the imported mobile phones were valued at \$1.8 billion, Tasnim News Agency reported.

He added that customs operations during this period covered around 158 million tons of goods worth \$103 billion.

During the same period, Iran imported 30.78 million tons of goods worth \$56 billion, showing a 3.0 percent decrease in volume but a 3.0 percent rise in value. Major imports included \$6.3 billion in gold bullion, \$2.3 billion in livestock corn, \$1.8 billion in smartphones, and \$1.6 billion in soybean meal.

Asgari stated that the UAE was Iran's top source of imports with \$17 billion, followed by China (\$14.4 billion), Turkey (\$9.9 billion), and Germany (\$1.9 billion).

## South Pars gas refining hits record high

TEHRAN – Iran's South Pars Gas Complex has set a new record in gas processing and transmission, delivering over 595 million cubic meters of refined gas to the national network, the facility's managing director announced.

According to Shana, citing the South Pars Gas Complex, Gholam-Abbas Hosseini credited the achievement to the continuous efforts of the facility's workforce in ensuring energy security and public comfort.

He stated that on Sunday, February 2, specialists and workers successfully injected over 595 million cubic meters of refined gas into the national grid, marking an all-time high.

Hosseini emphasized that the complex, which relies entirely on domestically produced equipment, supplies more than 73 percent of the country's gas needs.



Since the beginning of the year, over 170 billion cubic meters of gas have been injected into the national pipeline from the complex's 13 refineries, he added.

## Over 2.4\$b of transport, housing projects inaugurated in 14 provinces

TEHRAN – Iran's Transport and Urban Development Ministry inaugurated infrastructure projects worth over 12 quadrillion rials (\$2.4 billion) in 14 provinces on Tuesday as part of celebrations marking the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

According to the ministry's news portal, the projects—spanning housing, transportation, and meteorology—were inaugurated in a centralized ceremony attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian at the ministry's headquarters, with deputy ministers participating in various provinces via videoconference.

The projects include 82,590 urban and rural housing units valued at more than 740 trillion rials (\$1.48 billion), 2,296 transport-related projects worth over 520 trillion rials (\$1.04 billion), and 85 meteorological projects with a budget exceeding 2.0 trillion rials (\$4.0 billion).

Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq noted that some of these projects, launched decades ago, have now been completed under the current administration.

She emphasized the ministry's focus on urban planning, sustainable housing, and envi-

ronmental considerations in the construction of social housing projects.

The inaugurated projects include highway developments, accident-prone road improvements—credited with reducing annual road fatalities from 13,700 to 11,000—asphalt resurfacing, and the opening of 15 roadside service complexes. Additionally, a railway project and the rehabilitation of Kermanshah Airport's runways were completed.

Iran also unveiled its first domestically produced secondary radar system, developed by a knowledge-based company, which is expected to save €4,000 in procurement costs.

Sadeq also announced the launch of 16 private sector investment projects at Imam Khomeini International Airport and several ports, including Amirabad, Imam Khomeini, Bushehr, Chabahar, and Shahid Rajaei.

These projects involve the construction of silos, multi-purpose warehouses, cold storage facilities, and oil refining plants.

The minister expressed appreciation for provincial governors, officials, private investors, and road maintenance crews for their contributions.



Mahdi Nahavandi, a board member of the Association of Livestock and Poultry Feed Importers, emphasized that securing foreign currency for agricultural inputs remains a major challenge.

He noted that traders struggle with unpredictability in currency availability, making long-term planning nearly impossible. He also pointed out a lack of clarity in export procedures for agricultural products.

## TCCIMA calls for reforming complex processes in agricultural trade

TEHRAN – At the 18th meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA)'s Agriculture and Agribusiness Committee, private sector representatives urged the government to simplify and enhance transparency in the bureaucratic and time-consuming processes related to agricultural trade.

The meeting, attended by the Deputy Agriculture Minister for Trade Development Shahrzad Moshiri, highlighted major challenges facing businesses, particularly foreign currency allocation and the supply of raw materials and agricultural inputs.

The session, hosted by the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, featured discussions among members of the committee, union leaders, and industry association representatives. One of the most pressing concerns raised by participants was the inefficiency of the foreign currency allocation system and the cumbersome import registration process, which have hindered trade in the agricultural sector.

At the start of the meeting, Mohammad

# Iran Expo 2025 to showcase country's export capabilities

TEHRAN – Iran will hold the 7th Export Capabilities Exhibition (Iran Expo) from April 28 to May 2, 2025, aiming to highlight the country's potential in global trade, a senior official announced on Tuesday.

Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), said the event will provide international visitors with a comprehensive view of Iranian companies' export capabilities, ultimately boosting non-oil exports.

"Iran Expo is a multi-industry exhibition, representing a wide range of sectors.

It serves as a condensed version of all trade shows and benefits from the full cooperation of the Foreign Ministry and Iranian embassies abroad," he stated.

Dehnavi emphasized that Iran Expo is a vital tool for trade expansion, particularly through bilateral negotiations.

He noted that next year's exhibition will focus on improving quality, with stricter participant selection to enhance export opportunities.

He further highlighted a key advantage of Iran Expo compared to other exhibitions, saying: "The policymaking council of Iran Expo is led by the First Vice President, underscoring the exhibition's significance and en-



suring high-level coordination among government agencies."

"This exhibition serves as a platform to showcase Iran's export capabilities, and we aim to present the latest advancements, innovations, and leading industries to both domestic and international participants," he added.

Regarding Turkey's participation, he described the country as a key trade partner for Iran and a crucial transit route to other markets.

"Turkey has consistently ranked among our top five trade partners.

This year, a high-level delegation from Turkey attended Iran Expo, and we plan to invite both

government and private-sector representatives again in 2025," he said.

Addressing the impact of sanctions, Dehnavi acknowledged that restrictions have created challenges for Iran's trade but stressed the resilience of the private sector.

"Iranian businesses have found ways to circumvent sanctions and keep the economy thriving.

While the government has at times created hurdles with slow-moving regulations, the private sector has remained steadfast," he said.

The official added that any reduction in sanctions would lower costs and open new export markets, urging officials to facilitate

trade in a more open environment.

Dehnavi also confirmed that Saudi Arabia is among the countries invited to Iran Expo 2025. "Apart from the Israeli regime, we have no restrictions on trade expansion with any country.

Saudi Arabia shares cultural, historical, and geographical ties with Iran, offering a valuable trade opportunity.

With political differences being resolved, we look forward to strengthening economic cooperation," he stated.

Iran Expo 2025 is set to be the country's largest international trade fair, bringing together manufacturers, exporters, and investors from various industries.

The exhibition will feature key sectors such as petrochemicals, automotive, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and information technology.

As Iran seeks to diversify its economy beyond oil revenues, the event is expected to attract thousands of international buyers and industry leaders looking for trade and investment opportunities.

Iran Expo 2025 will also host business matchmaking sessions, trade delegations, and panel discussions on global market trends.

## Non-oil export from Bushehr province rises 11% in 10 months on year

TEHRAN – The value of non-oil export from Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran, rose 11 percent in the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024-January 19, 2025), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to a provincial official.

Ali Soleymani, an official with the province's customs department, said that 26.543 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$10.058 billion were exported from the province in the ten-month period, indicating four percent growth in terms of weight as well.

The official named China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), India, Pakistan, Brazil, Iraq, Turkey, Oman, Qatar, and Bangladesh as the main destinations to them the products were exported from the province in the mentioned ten-month period.

He also announced that 716,000 tons of goods valued at \$2.218 billion were imported to the province in the first ten months of the present year, with 22 percent rise in value, and 30 percent growth in terms of weight, as compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

Soleymani named the United Arab Emirates (UAE), China, Philippines, India, Russia, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Japan, Malaysia, and Hong Kong as the major sources of import for the province during the first ten months of the present year.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran's non-oil exports reached approximately \$48 billion in the first 10 months of the current Iranian year, marking an 18 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

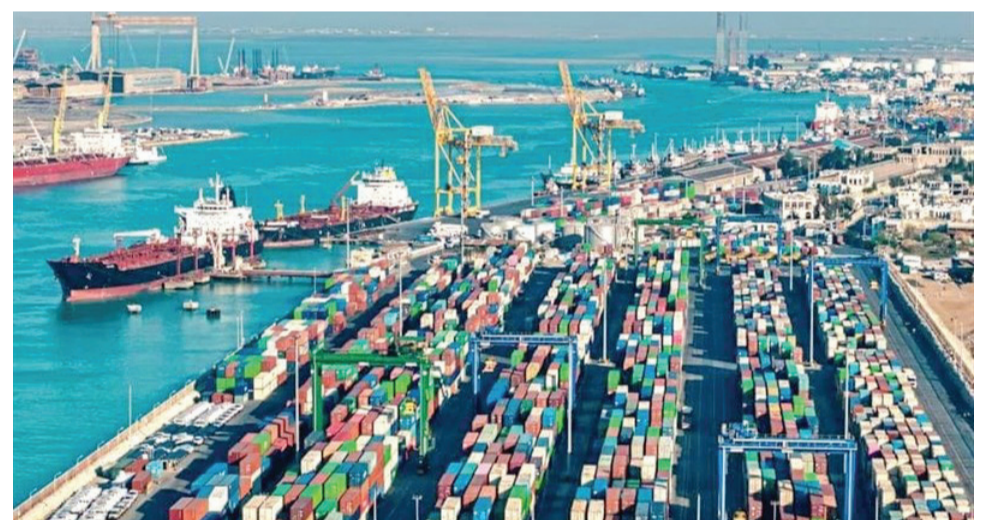
Foroud Asgari said the country's total foreign trade during this period amounted to 158.18 million tons, valued at \$103.85 billion.

Out of this, exports accounted for 127.4 million tons worth \$47.76 billion, reflecting a 12 percent rise in volume and an 18 percent increase in value.

China remained Iran's top export destination with \$12.3 billion in imports, followed by Iraq (\$10 billion), the United Arab Emirates (\$5.9 billion), and Turkey (\$5.5 billion).

During the same period, Iran imported 30.78 million tons of goods worth \$56 billion, showing a 3.0 percent decrease in volume but a 3.0 percent rise in value. Major imports included \$6.3 billion in gold bullion, \$2.3 billion in livestock corn, \$1.8 billion in smartphones, and \$1.6 billion in soybean meal.

Asgari stated that the UAE was Iran's top source of imports with \$17 billion, followed by China (\$14.4 billion), Turkey (\$9.9 billion), and



Germany (\$1.9 billion).

He also noted a sharp increase in car imports, with 41,297 vehicles worth \$877 million entering the country, marking a 709 percent surge in quantity and a 744 percent rise in value compared to the same period last year.

Asgari, who also serves as deputy economy minister, emphasized the role of trade in bolstering the national economy amid ongoing international sanctions.

The 11th session of the Supreme Council for the Development of Non-Oil Exports was held after a four-year hiatus, with the participation of Iran's first vice president on January 1.

In an exclusive interview with IRIB, Alireza Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), highlighted the significance of this council, which had been inactive for nearly four years.

He noted that the council had played a key role in national decision-making processes before falling into disuse.

Dehnavi explained that the revival of the council was prompted during this year's National Export Day event, where Masoud Pezeshkian instructed its reactivation.

With the efforts of the government and the support of the first vice president and the minister of industry, mining, and trade, the groundwork for the council's return was laid, culminating in its 11th session.

The session, chaired by First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, brought together all council members to discuss pressing trade issues. The meeting focused on three main areas:

The council reviewed the statistical performance of the country's non-oil exports. Dehnavi acknowledged that Iran's non-oil trade balance has been negative in recent years, with a \$17 million deficit recorded last

year despite a positive overall trade balance. The Vice President tasked the TPOI with reversing this trend by boosting non-oil exports.

The council identified several obstacles hindering foreign trade, including excessive regulations, insufficient infrastructure for exports (such as transportation and customs facilities), and challenges in export-related policies.

Dehnavi emphasized the need to align monetary and trade policies, as the former has often overshadowed the latter. The council resolved to reform trade policies to address these issues.

Several proposals were approved, including holding regular council sessions and establishing provincial export development task forces led by governors. These initiatives aim to make export promotion a nationwide campaign.

The council also discussed a strategic roadmap for free trade zones, aiming to transform these areas into export hubs. The TPO is preparing this document with council support.

Additionally, collaboration with the private sector was emphasized to identify and implement high-impact export projects.

Other topics included reforms in re-exports and temporary imports, with a task force comprising customs, agriculture, health, and trade organizations formed to streamline processes. The pricing of export goods at customs was also debated, with calls for a review to enhance coordination among export-related bodies.

The session concluded with plans to establish specialized commissions to maintain continuity between council meetings and ensure effective decision-making in foreign trade.

# Two Israeli soldiers lose their lives and several others sustain injuries in an attack on the Tayasir checkpoint near Jenin

## West Bank resistance operation exposes Israeli military failure

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – A Palestinian resistance fighter has killed two Israeli soldiers and injured others in a complex shooting operation near Jenin.

The operation took place at a heavily fortified checkpoint near the village of Tayasir, southeast of Jenin in the northern West Bank.

According to Israeli Army Radio, two Israeli troops were killed. Another eight were injured, including two in critical condition.

The wounded were evacuated by a military helicopter following the attack.

The incident occurred at a military compound that includes a watchtower and several buildings housing Israeli soldiers.

Israeli Army Radio revealed that the attacker managed to infiltrate the site where soldiers were deployed in the field.

“Inside the compound, he opened fire, leading to clashes with the forces. The exchange of gunfire lasted several minutes before the forces managed to kill him inside the compound,” according to the report.

During the operation, an Israeli Zik surveillance drone was kept in the air. However, the occupation army opted not to use it to eliminate the resistance fighter from the air due to concerns that it might hit their own forces on the ground.

Israeli media confirmed that the shooting took place near an area frequently used by the Israeli army for operations in the northern West Bank.



The Tayasir area itself has witnessed several clashes in the past.

Doron Kadosh, an Israeli military correspondent, reported that the attacker successfully entered the military site, reached the upper floor, and climbed into the watchtower, where he engaged Israeli forces in a gunfight.

Kadosh described the incident as “worrisome” and said it would prompt difficult questions regarding the security protocols at such military sites.

In a statement, Hamas said the Tayasir checkpoint operation confirms that the crimes and aggression of the Israeli occupation in the northern West Bank will not go unpunished.

Hamas praised the resilience of Palestinian youth in the West Bank and called on the Palestinian people to escalate the confrontation with the occupation regime and its illegal settlers.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement also published a statement

that read, “The qualitative operation in Tayasir reaffirms our people’s and resistance’s determination to confront the crimes of the Israeli occupation, which demolishes homes, displaces families, and terrorizes civilians.”

The Palestinian Resistance Committees described the Tayasir checkpoint operation as “a new slap to Zionist security and military establishments.”

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine hailed the “heroic Tayasir operation,” emphasizing that it “exposes the fragility of the Israeli security system and its inability to withstand the resistance.”

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine stated that the Tayasir operation proves that the occupation regime’s crimes aimed at breaking the resistance in the West Bank will not succeed.

Similarly, the Palestinian Mujahideen Movement confirmed that the Tayasir operation delivered another security blow to the Israeli security

and intelligence apparatus.

The Israeli army has intensified its deadly aggression and war crimes against Palestinians in the West Bank over the past weeks, employing offensive military equipment rarely used in the past.

In recent days, it deployed Eitan (armored fighting vehicle) used by the Nahal Brigade in combat operations in the Tubas and Jenin areas for the first time since the 2002 second intifada.

Palestinian media have reported that clashes between the Palestinian resistance forces and occupation troops are ongoing in the flash-point city of Jenin as the regime’s aggression enters its 15th consecutive day.

On Monday, the Palestinian Health Ministry announced in a statement that 70 Palestinians have been killed in the occupied West Bank since the beginning of this year, most of whom from the Jenin governorate.

Palestinian officials have said the recent invasion of Jenin and raids across the occupied West Bank are aimed at covering up for Tel Aviv’s failures to achieve any of its goals in the Gaza Strip where it waged a genocidal war for more than 15 months.

Despite the many war crimes committed in Gaza, the regime was forced to negotiate a ceasefire with Hamas to bring back its captives whereby the Gaza-based group, which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to eliminate has returned to power.

## Trump’s arms sale to Israel: A reward for Netanyahu’s Gaza genocide



*The Wall Street Journal: The Trump administration has asked congressional leaders to approve new transfers of roughly \$1 billion worth of bombs and other military hardware to Israel. [Tom Brenner/Reuters]*

From page 1 ▶ The announcement concerning the transfer of \$1 billion in bombs and other military equipment to Israel coincides with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to the United States, which primarily focuses on the Gaza ceasefire agreement.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas which took effect on January 19 is set to be implemented in three phases. It would lead to the full withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Gaza Strip and the release of captives held in Gaza.

The Israeli military invaded Gaza on October 7, 2023, following a surprise attack by Hamas in southern Israel. The Hamas attack resulted in the deaths of over 1,100 individuals, with approximately 250 others being taken captive.

Netanyahu had vowed to continue the war until eliminating Hamas and releasing all the captives.

He had no choice but to consent to the ceasefire following his inability to accomplish his military objectives.

During the course of the Gaza war, the Biden administration threw its full political and military weight behind Israel.

A report from Brown University’s Costs of War project revealed in October last year that Washington had committed a record \$17.9 billion in military aid to Israel since the start of the Gaza war. In early January this year, the Biden administration also informed Congress of a planned \$8 billion weapons sale to Israel.

Biden’s decision to pause the shipment of 2,000-pound bombs to Israel in May was just in line with efforts to appease domestic opposition to Washington’s support for Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza.

According to health officials in Gaza, more than 61,700 Palestinians including close to 18,000 children have lost their lives in the conflict.

Biden did not hesitate to wait on Israel hand and foot. Trump will also toe the line of influential Zionist lobbies in the United States.

Some argue that Biden was unable to exert pressure on Israel to end the war but Trump’s election pushed the regime to agree to the truce agreement.

Such ideas are delusional because the ceasefire emerged from Israel’s military setbacks in the face of rising resistance in Gaza.

Before his inauguration, Trump had signaled eagerness to end the Gaza war. But it does not mean that he is a pacifist.

The charm offensive directed at Palestinians by the incumbent and former US presidents is merely a strategic maneuver intended to obscure Israel’s atrocities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

## Senator Sanders sounds alarm on ‘kleptocracy’ in US

Independent US Senator Bernie Sanders has issued a call for his supporters to “stand up and fight back” against a rising tide of “oligarchy, authoritarianism [and] kleptocracy” that is the “state of America today”.

In an interview with US television news media and in a post on social media, Sanders said the US economy must work for everyone “not just Elon Musk”.

Sanders said the US was going through “difficult times” and that US democracy must be maintained at this “unprecedented moment in American history”.



## Turkey concerned about resumption of Israeli ‘genocide’

The Turkish foreign minister has expressed concern about potential actions that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet could take after Israeli captives are released from the Gaza Strip.

Speaking at a news conference alongside his Egyptian counterpart, Badr Abdelatty, in Ankara, Hakan Fidan said he had a meeting in Doha on Sunday with the members of the political bureau of Hamas.

“The Hamas side has no hesitation in ful-

filling the terms of the ceasefire agreement. However, there are questions around the world about how the Netanyahu government will behave after the release of Israeli prisoners,” Fidan said, according to Anadolu Agency.

The diplomat also urged the international community to take a unified stance in preventing Netanyahu from restarting “genocide” in Gaza for political gain and expressed Turkey’s rejection of Donald Trump’s suggestion to “clean out” Palestinians from Gaza.

## Racists feel upset as Palestinians welcome released heroes

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN – Expressing delight over the release of Palestinian prisoners who have been detained for protesting and fighting against Israeli suppression, aggression, tyranny, and occupation is something normal.

However, Israel is angry that Palestinians celebrate the release of their brave women and men from Israeli jails.

This anger is nothing except a sense of hatred and rage against Palestinians and their resistance fighters who are exchanging Israeli captives for Palestinian prisoners.

Extremist Israeli officials, including Bibi Netanyahu, and deranged West Bank settlers think that the Palestinians are now proud of their resistance fighters and the resilience of ordinary people.

They also feel degraded that in each stage a few Israeli captives are traded for dozens of Palestinian prisoners under the ceasefire agreement that took effect on Jan. 19.

An extreme majority of these Palestinian prisoners have not committed any crime against Israeli settlers or troops.

They have just been raising their voices

against the confiscation of their lands, the burning of their olive trees, the demolition of homes, the imprisonment of 2.3 million people in the Gaza Strip, etc.

The sense of racism and loathing against Palestinians is boiling otherwise there was no reason for the Israeli regime to ban celebrations.

On January 29, Israeli troops arrested 12 Palestinians in East Jerusalem for celebrating the release of prisoners.

Also, illegal settlers attacked the northern outskirts of the Palestinian town of Sinjil and set fire to four Palestinian vehicles in a show of disgust against celebrations.

West Bank settlers, Israeli Zionist religionists, who are mainly far-rightists, and hardliners like Netanyahu now feel humiliated that Palestinians, despite 16 months of extreme and indescribable physical and spiritual agonies are still vibrant.

The more hatred against Palestinians who celebrate and welcome the released prisoner will make extremists in Israel look more loathsome and disreputable.

In summary, they must swallow their pride.

## Trump tariffs: China hits back

Beijing announced a broad package of economic measures targeting the United States on Tuesday, hitting back after US President Donald Trump imposed 10% tariffs on Chinese imports, CNN reported.

The fresh duties, announced by China’s Ministry of Finance, levy a 15% tax on certain types of coal and liquefied natural gas and a 10% tariff on crude oil, agricultural machinery, large-displacement cars and pickup trucks. The measures take effect on February 10.

The Ministry of Commerce and China’s customs administration also announced new export controls effective immediately on more than two dozen metal products and related technologies.

Those include tungsten, a critical mineral typically used in industrial and defense applications, as well as tellurium, which can be used to make solar cells.

The ministry also said it was adding two American firms — biotech company Illumina and fashion retailer PVH Group, owner of Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger — to its unreliable entities list, saying they “violated normal market trading principles.”

A Ministry of Commerce spokesperson said Tuesday that it found PVH discriminated

against and interfered with the operations of Chinese companies, though the spokesperson failed to provide specifics.

PVH criticized the decision and said it would work with Chinese authorities to resolve the situation.

In a separate statement, China’s State Administration for Market Regulation said it was initiating an investigation into Google for suspected violation of its anti-monopoly.

The company, whose search engine is not available in China, has minimal operations in the country.

The raft of announcements come as a broad-based 10% tariff on Chinese imports to the United States announced by the White House on Saturday came into effect.

China’s measures appear to vary in their potential impact on the US economy and businesses.

For example, China is the leading global producer of tungsten concentrates, representing more than 80% of world production, according to US government estimates from 2020.

The tariffed items, however, represent a relatively small proportion of overall bilateral trade.

## What sort of hegemony is US counting on?

### USAID cuts Lebanon’s share

From page 1 ▶ Trump believes that it is possible to achieve the imperialist goals sought by these institutions without paying these amounts.

As a businessman, Trump believes that a single tweet can threaten a country like Colombia with raising customs tariffs and sanctions without the need to spend millions to exploit local NGOs to influence its official policy.

It is noteworthy that Trump excluded Egypt and the Israeli occupation entity. Between 1946 and 2022, the latter received about \$317.9 billion in aid, while Egypt received about \$182 billion.

To deal with the expected financial shortage, these Lebanese NGOs have rushed to lay off a large number of employees, noting that Trump’s decision will also have obvious repercussions on various projects funded by Washington in

Lebanon.

As mentioned earlier, Trump’s decision will lead to the cessation of the activities of the WFP in Lebanon, which USAID allocated about 62.2% of the amount it needs, while 8 international agencies were to receive the remaining amount of \$27 million.

Among these international agencies are: the International Organization for Migration (which was to receive \$12 million); the World Health Organization (which was to receive \$3.5 million).

Annually, the Asian continent tops the list of USAID funding with \$20 billion, followed by Africa with \$14 billion, which exposes the extent of Washington’s interest in its areas of imperial expansion.

Besides, the “global governance” sector receives about \$16.8 billion annually from USAID, as “governance” is one of the tools that

Washington uses to direct global economies towards neoliberalism.

The term “global governance” refers to the rules through which formal structures such as governments are directed, as well as informal structures such as NGOs.

During his first term (2017-2021), Trump sought to cut foreign aid budgets less radically than he has in his current term.

At the time, observers believed he was convinced that “imposing maximum sanctions on Iran” and toppling anti-American governments were of high priority.

Now, Trump claims that he will not base his decisions on the whims of the deep state in the US (the establishment), threatening to “exercise his authority to direct foreign policy.”

Seemingly, the neoliberal cultural globalist movement (close to the Democrats) is likely to bridge the gap.

Glenn Dessen, a Russian foreign policy professor, compares Biden’s policies and his successor Trump’s impact on global governance, noting that both share the goal of preserving the United States’ “unipolarity.”

“Biden sought to restore the US greatness through ideological alliance systems that fragment the world into regional blocs, bolster the loyalty of allies, and marginalize adversaries,” he states.

In contrast, “Trump seeks to withdraw from global governance institutions, which drain the US resources because he believes the alliance system is too costly and limits diplomatic freedom of maneuver.”

Glenn Dessen warns that unipolarity “encourages other states to work collectively to diversify economic and military enterprises and develop new regional institutions of global governance.”

### Iran, Lufthansa in talks to resume flights, aviation official says

TEHRAN - Iranian Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mohammad Amirani has announced that Iran and German flag carrier Lufthansa are in discussions to resume flights.



Amirani, who also serves as the acting chairman of Iran's Airports and Air Navigation Company, stated on Monday that Lufthansa and the company will hold their final meeting "within the next 24 hours", IRNA reported on Tuesday.

"We will soon witness flights carried out by this aviation group in our country," he said, without specifying an exact date or details regarding the planned operations.

Additionally, Amirani noted an increase in transit flights over Iranian airspace following the expiration of a security advisory issued by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) last Friday.

The Iranian official explained that EASA had issued the advisory on November 29, urging air operators to monitor airspace developments in Iran and the broader Middle East amid regional tensions.

He reassured that Iranian airspace remains fully secure, with over 700 transit flights occurring daily.

Meanwhile, on January 13, the Head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) Hossein Pourfarzaneh announced that Iran would resume flights to Europe in February. He stated that the first flight would operate from Tehran to Paris.

Flights between Iran and Europe had been suspended since mid-October 2024 following EU sanctions imposed on Iran over allegations of supplying drones to Russia for use in the Ukraine war—allegations that Tehran has consistently denied, the report said.

### Archaeologists uncover 'lost' home of England's last Anglo-Saxon king

Often referred to as the world's most famous medieval artwork, the Bayeux Tapestry is both an intricate illustration of the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England in 1066 and a historical enigma. Several mysteries still surround the dazzling embroidery, including the identity of its maker, but new research may have found another piece of the puzzle.

The 68.3-meter-long (224-foot-long) tapestry depicts William, Duke of Normandy, and his army killing Harold Godwinson, or Harold II, the last Anglo-Saxon king of England, at the Battle of Hastings. While the embroidery's portrayal of Harold pulling an arrow out of his eye may be a matter of debate, a team of archaeologists says it has confirmed a different detail from Harold's tapestry scenes: the location of his residence in Bosham, England.

The team used a combination of traditional and modern techniques to establish the site of the king's palace, which appears twice in the artwork — once when Harold is feasting in an extravagant hall before setting sail to France and the second time on his return prior to the battle. The researchers reported their findings January 9 in *The Antiquaries Journal*.

"We often just think of (the Bayeux Tapestry) as a piece of artwork, but of course, it's

depicting events and places. And to be able to, with some certainty, locate one of those places from the tapestry on the ground in real life is really exciting," said the study's lead author Dr. Duncan Wright, a senior lecturer in medieval archaeology at Newcastle University in Newcastle, England.

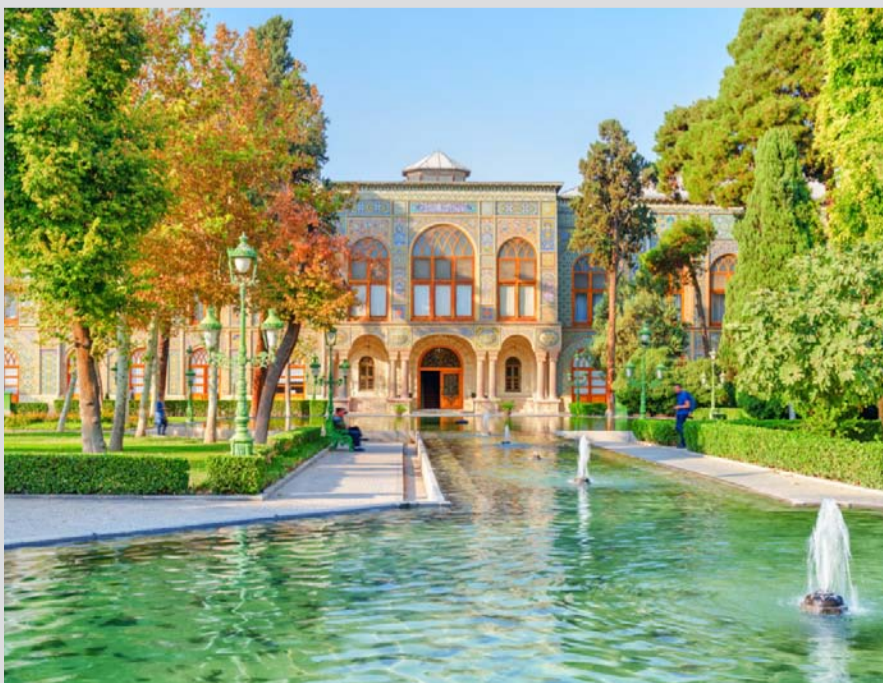
Archaeological remains from this period are hard to come by, said study coauthor Oliver Creighton, a professor of archaeology at England's University of Exeter. The houses, even for those of high status, were made of timber, and the wood would not have survived. Also, the Norman Conquest likely eradicated most evidence of its predecessors, Creighton added.

The discovery not only sheds light on the final Anglo-Saxon king, it also provides a rare window into a key turning point in history for England, researchers said.

Bosham is named on the Bayeux Tapestry, but the exact location of Harold's residence depicted on the embroidery has not been clear. Over the years, archaeologists had a hunch that a large house built in the 17th century, the focal point of the present-day village that exists there, sat on top of where the palace once stood.

(Source: CNN)

### Echoes of Iran



A view of Golestan Palace, Tehran's sole UNESCO World Heritage site

# Global artisans to showcase talent at Fajr Handicrafts Festival

TEHRAN - Artists from 20 countries including England, Brazil, and Indonesia have en-treated completion at the 9th Fajr Festival of Handicrafts, known as Sarv-e Simin, which is set to take place in Tehran from February 20 to 24.

The festival will showcase an array of handicrafts from both Iranian and international artists, with 200 entries from 20 countries submitted for evaluation in the international competition section.

During a press conference at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, on Tuesday, relative officials and experts provided details about the event. Behzad Ahmadi Farsani, the director-general of the Office for Handicrafts Education and Promotion, announced that selected works would be displayed in three exhibition halls at Sa'dabad Palace Complex. He also noted that international evaluators visiting Iran for the festival would participate in a scholarly discussion on handicrafts.

The festival will feature expert panels, special discussions led by judges from Thailand and India, as well as a special program titled "From Word to Pattern" with contributions from Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. A panel of four international and five Iranian judges will assess submissions based on artistic message and storytelling, quality of raw materials, creativity, authenticity, and identity.

Executive Secretary Amin Sanei-Mehri emphasized the festival's broader objective of



strengthening the handicraft industry and fostering an identity-driven economy.

Alongside the main exhibition, the event will include a diplomatic gifts showcase and a special Nowruz sales exhibition. Sanei-Mehri highlighted the rigorous selection process, revealing that 7,497 domestic works from 4,378 Iranian artists were submitted, along with 198 pieces from international participants. The festival's jury includes experts from countries such as Pakistan, Indonesia, and Tajikistan.

As part of transparency efforts, all judging processes have been conducted digitally, ensuring fair and open evaluation, Sanei-Mehri underlined. Among domestic handicrafts, wooden and wickerworks were the most frequently submitted, while bone, marine, and paper-based crafts had the lowest participation rates. A total of 200 artists, 85 women and 115 men, qualified for the final exhibition.

Additionally, organizers announced that the first-ever auction of fine handicrafts would be held in June in close collaboration with the private sector, providing further opportunities for artists.

In a move to promote domestic handicraft markets, selected items will be showcased as diplomatic gifts for official delegations and made available for purchase through private-sector collaboration.

Moreover, a number of officials speaking at the event, including Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi, the

deputy minister for handicrafts, highlighted initiatives to support artisans, including efforts to enhance industry associations and improve insurance coverage for handicraft professionals.

In a move to promote domestic handicraft markets, selected items will be showcased as diplomatic gifts for official delegations and made available for purchase through private-sector collaboration, Jalali-Dehkordi said.

According to organizers, the 9th International Fajr Festival of Handicrafts promises to be a major cultural event, fostering international exchange and celebrating Iran's rich artistic heritage.

The event is intended to highlight traditional skills passed down through centuries.

It also seeks to inspire future generations to embrace these time-honored practices while facilitating new economic opportunities for artisans.

According to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Iran's annual handicraft exports currently stand at about \$250 million, with an additional \$250 million in informal "suitcase" exports. However, the global market for handicrafts is valued at \$770 billion, underscoring a significant opportunity for growth.

Currently, a selection of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as "world cities of handicrafts".

### Iran promotes tourism amid Chinese New Year celebrations

TEHRAN - Iran cherishes the Chinese New Year festivities to highlight its tourism opportunities and draw more visitors from China, according to the director-general for marketing and tourism development at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

On Tuesday, Moslem Shojaei stated that efforts were made to utilize this festive period to highlight Iran's tourism industry and facilitate the entry of Chinese tourists. He noted that preliminary discussions had taken place between Iran's Tourism Deputy and the embassies of Iran and China to explore ways to enhance bilateral tourism cooperation.

As part of the initiative, a special promotional campaign targeting the Chinese market was launched for the 15-day period starting on January 29.

The campaign includes video and visual content featuring the theme "A Century of Friendship Between Iran and China," aimed at raising awareness and encouraging Chinese



travelers to visit Iran. The materials have been sent to Iran's embassy in China for dissemination through various media channels.

Shojaei emphasized the impact of experience-based video content created by Chinese influencers visiting Iran's tourist destinations. He stated that these efforts significantly enhance Iran's presence in the Chinese

digital space and serve as an invitation for Chinese citizens to explore Iran.

The promotional materials consist of three videos and 15 celebratory banners, which have been distributed to Iranian diplomatic missions in China, Iranian expatriates, and tourism companies for sharing on social media during the holiday period.

### Tourism rally to help revive historic spice route between Iran, Pakistan, and India

TEHRAN - A special tourism rally, known as the Spice Route Rally, is set to take place in Kerman with the goal of showcasing the region's economic and tourism potential while reviving the historic trade route connecting Iran to Pakistan and India.

The coordination meeting for the rally was held at Kerman province's local government office on Tuesday.

According to Amir Hassanzadeh, Kerman's deputy governor-general for economic affairs of Kerman, the event is being organized by the Touring and Automobile Club of Iran in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, Cultural Heritage Department, the Foreign Ministry's local office, and the Kerman provincial government along with relevant officials in the two other countries.

Hassanzadeh emphasized that the rally aims to highlight the cultural and economic ties between Iran, Pakistan, and India, reinforcing the historical significance of this trade route.

"This rally will introduce Kerman's cultural, economic, investment, and tourism opportunities to the people of these two neighboring countries," he stated.

As part of the initiative, a three-day exhibition will be held in New Delhi to showcase Kerman's handicrafts and investment opportunities.

Hassanzadeh also pointed out that India and Pakistan, with a combined population of nearly two billion, represent a key export market for Kerman's products.

The "Spice Route Rally," under the theme "From the Lut Desert of Kerman to the Taj Mahal of In-

dia," is scheduled to commence on March 4 and will last for 35 days.

A total of 20 participating vehicles will travel 7,000 kilometers on the round-trip journey.

This rally represents a significant step in strengthening tourism and trade connections along the historic Spice Route, further fostering cultural and economic exchanges between Iran, Pakistan, and India.

Iran, with its strategic geopolitical position as a junction of Asia, Africa, and Europe and its proximity to major global population centers, including India, holds significant historical importance.

Given the current dynamics and powerful trends, the revival and redefinition of the "Spice Route" can strengthen strategic programs for both India and Iran.



Historical evidence shows that over 2000 years ago, combined sea and land transport existed between Iran and key economic hubs like India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

This relationship expanded, becoming one of the significant trade routes in regional history, particularly after the Industrial Revolution.

# Gandoman registered as Iran's 27th wetland on Ramsar Convention

TEHRAN –Gandoman wetland, a permanent inland freshwater wetland located in the Middle Zagros mountain range, has been registered as Iran's 27th wetland of international importance.

Gandoman wetland, stretching to 1,070 hectares, is located in Borujen county, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province. It is one of Iran's top five birdwatching sites and the country's most important permanent habitat for migratory birds.

The site is particularly notable for its plant diversity, with 129 species from 32 families and 87 genera identified. It is one of the most important habitats in Iran for the endemic Zagros pupfish. The wetland is an important wintering habitat for several bird species, including the critically endangered sociable lapwing and the vulnerable common pochard.

While drought, climate change, fire, and pollution pose threats to the wetland, experts regularly monitor the site in accordance with the Gandoman Wetland Management Plan. Moreover, local communities play a role in mitigating such threats due to the wetland's importance to their livelihoods and spiritual beliefs.

Due to the high value of this wetland and Gandoman city, which is located in the vicinity of the wetland, the inclusion of Gandoman in the list of Wetlands



of International Importance and the accreditation of the city in the list of wetland cities was followed up by the Department of Environment.

Gandoman along with two other cities namely Babol in northern Mazandaran province, and Kiashahr in northern Gilan province has also been awarded Ramsar wetland city accreditation.

## Significance of wetlands

Wetlands are ecosystems, in which water is the primary factor controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life. A broad definition of wetlands includes both freshwater and marine and coastal ecosystems, such as all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves

and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fishponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.

These lands are critical to people and nature, given the intrinsic value of these ecosystems, and their benefits and services, including their environmental, climate, ecological, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic contributions to sustainable development and human wellbeing.

In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value with an area of over 3 million hectares have been identified, of which 27 wetlands are designated as wetlands of international importance (registered in the Ramsar Convention).

According to Mehri Asna-Ashari, an official with the Department of Environment, the

conservation project of Iranian wetlands has resulted in a 27.5 percent decrease in irrigation water consumption while increasing agricultural products by 22.5 percent.

"Currently, 49 wetlands, covering around 22 percent of the whole wetlands in the country, are being conserved in the form of native ecosystem management partnership," IRNA quoted Asna-Ashari as saying.

Since 2021, the conservation project has been carried out in three wetlands including Shadegan in Khuzestan province, Bakhtegan in Fars province, and Urmia in West Azarbaijan province, the official noted.

Sustainable farming methods were implemented and 2,433 farmers were trained. By February 2024, the results showed that average agricultural production increased by 22.5 percent, whereas irrigation water consumption reduced by 27.5 percent. In addition, the consumption of chemical fertilizers decreased by 25 to 30 percent. Consequently, the income of each farmer increased by 14 percent.

The establishment of 26 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and 181 livelihood support groups, and the implementation of alternative livelihood plans in 44 villages are some of the other achievements of the project, she added.

## Japan funds medical, vocational projects for vulnerable people in four provinces

TEHRAN – The Government of Japan has allocated some €360,000 to fund four projects, providing medical and vocational equipment for financially vulnerable people in four provinces.

The pieces of equipment were provided to a hospital in the Persian Gulf island of Qeshm, Hormozgan province, the medical science university of Bushehr, Bushehr province, and two charity foundations in Tehran and Alborz provinces, Borna News Agency reported.

Japanese Ambassador to Tehran Tamaki Tsukada endorsed documents related to the financial support in Tehran on Monday.

Endoscopy, mammography, and physiother-

apy equipment as well as technical and vocational training systems will be installed at the targeted centers in the four provinces.

### Japan's recent contribution

On December 1, 2024, Japan provided 690,000,000 yuan to enhance wetland management and strengthen climate resilience in Lake Urmia, Shadegan, Parishan and Anzali wetlands.

Japan has been a key partner of the Government of Iran and UNDP since 2014 in supporting sustainable natural resource management in wetland basins and diversifying livelihoods of communities reliant on wetlands.

## Iranian-made natural supplement relieves chronic joint pain

TEHRAN –Iranian researchers have managed to produce a natural edible supplement, containing the inner membrane of eggshell, avocado, soy, and bromelain, from pineapple stem, which effectively reduces chronic joint pain.

The eggshell membrane is rich in hyaluronic acid, glucosamine, and collagen, and has anti-inflammatory and acts as an essential substance to repair joints, IRNA reported.

Avocado extract, soy, and bromelain, a natural enzyme found in pineapple, help rebuild joints and increase joint space, lost from degenerative changes. They also contribute to easing symptoms, reducing chronic inflammation of joints, and quickly relieving pain and inflammation in patients suffering from joint pain.

This anti-inflammatory drug is an effective over-the-counter (OTC) remedy for orthopedic



pain and arthritis who usually experience pain, stiffness inflammation, diminished joint space, and reduced mobility.

The affordability of the supplement and its natural ingredients that help reduce pain as well as repair joints keep it competitive with those made in foreign countries.

## Iran committed to fostering AI cooperation in region

TEHRAN –The combination of talent, data, and innovation makes Iran a key player in the regional Artificial Intelligence (AI) value chain, capable of driving meaningful cooperation and development. Iran is committed to fostering regional cooperation and building a future where AI drives prosperity and unity, the minister of information and communications technology has said.

Emphasizing that Iran is a major stakeholder in the regional digital landscape, Hashemi said Iran is a major player in AI in the Persian Gulf, and that the country is ready to start cooperation with regional states on this matter.

The official made the remarks while addressing Iran Corridor 2025 conference held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, on Monday.

He stated that the country's mobile phone operators as well as its thriving digital service platforms such as Snapp! And Digikala, each serving more than 30 million users, provide an abundance of multifaceted data — an essential ingredient for AI development, Press TV reported.

Despite facing economic sanctions, Iran has successfully developed a resilient fintech ecosystem that continues to thrive and innovate, Hashemi noted.

"Our country's academic and research capabilities have propelled us to the forefront of AI advancements. In 2023, Iran ranked second in the region in terms of the number and quality of scientific papers in AI, demonstrating our commitment to cutting-edge research and development," he added.

"Iran holds the second position in the region for AI developers, highlighting the depth of our skilled workforce, and stands fourth in the region in terms of the number of AI firms, showcasing our dynamic and rapidly growing ecosystem," the Iranian minister continued.

He underlined that Iranian human capital, available at competitive costs, is a strategic advantage that positions Iran as a valuable partner in regional AI initiatives.

According to Hashemi, by cultivating environments that encourage collaboration and investment, Persian Gulf region can be turned into a powerhouse of Artificial Intelligence excellence, attracting global tech giants while strengthening intraregional partnerships for

shared prosperity.

"The Persian Gulf region offers an unparalleled opportunity to foster AI initiatives that cater to our collective aspirations.

The region has a pivotal role in evolving the AI ecosystem, stressing, "This region possesses unique strengths that position us to harness AI's potential and become a global digital leader."

The regional countries lay the cornerstone for innovation-driven economies that shape the future, as they increasingly invest in AI infrastructure, Hashemi stated.

The official went on to propose a strategic framework for collaboration that leverages the collective strengths, combining Iran's skilled human capital and its infrastructure with the investment capabilities and infrastructure of the neighboring countries.

"By establishing AI acceleration hubs, facilitating joint investment in free zones, and enhancing academic collaboration and elite exchange programs, we can unlock new opportunities for innovation and economic growth," he noted.

### Iran Corridor 2025

Iran Corridor 2025 was held on Monday, aimed to showcase Iran's communication infrastructure as a secure route for data transmission in the region.

Iran Corridor 2025 aimed to showcase Iran's communication infrastructure as a secure route for data transmission in the region.

The Iran Corridor aimed to promote regional cooperation in advancing the Digital Economy by enhancing interconnected digital infrastructures.

The country plays a strategic role as a vital corridor, linking regions through terrestrial and submarine fiber optic networks, and fostering diversity in digital facilities. This position enables the integration of regional digital platforms and reliable, high-speed data communication.

The event explored opportunities for co-investment in interregional cable systems, leveraging Iran's role at the crossroads of Trans-Eurasian corridors: the Middle East to Central Asia and the Caucasus, the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea, and the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea.

## Kish Island to play host to 4th intl. WANA congress

TEHRAN – The fourth international congress of West Asian and North African (WANA) countries is scheduled to be held from May 3-4 in the Persian Gulf island of Kish.

Royan Institute in cooperation with Kish Free Zone Organization, domestic and international universities, scientific centers as well as knowledge-based companies will organize the event which aims to lay the ground for joint scientific research in the regional countries, ISNA reported.

The fourth congress will mainly center around 'Stem Cells in Regenerative Biomedicine', focusing on the latest scientific achievements in the globe, particularly in the WANA countries.

The themes of the two-day event include organoids and disease modeling, novel approaches in cancer treatment, bioengineering in regenerative biomedicine, cell therapy and gene therapy in regenerative biomedicine, artificial intelligence, and computational biology in regenerative biomedicine.

It also aims to expand the science communication network among students, professors, and researchers in WANA countries. The congress will be held in person for national attendees. International participants can attend both in person and online.

The third WANA international congress was held in the city of Urmia, northwestern West Azarbaijan province, from May 16 to 17, 2024.

It mainly focused on Assisted Reproductive

Technology (ART) Outcomes at the global level focusing on the WANA countries.

Moreover, it served as a platform for boosting synergy among scientific and commercial professionals in infertility treatment, as well as an opportunity for the presence of domestic and foreign knowledge-based companies involved in the production of medicines.

The congress featured presentations and discussions by 30 noted Iranian, and 10 foreign lecturers on the consequences of Infertility treatment and its related challenges.

The themes included monitoring the children born as a result of infertility treatment, ethical and legal issues, the role of imaging, the impact of environmental factors and lifestyle, enhancing the outcome of assisted infertility: challenges, management and options, preserving fertility in patients suffering from cancer, and the role of surgery in improving assisted reproductive outcome technology.

### Establishing the WANA Scientific Network

The main objectives of establishing this scientific association include:

- Facilitating the exchange of scientific knowledge by building connections with research institutions, scientists, and centers in the WANA region globally.

- Identifying opportunities for collaboration within the region and expanding communication networks.

- Enhancing networking among knowledge-based companies in the WANA region to boost interactions and trade of scientific products.

- Offering a comprehensive range of knowledge-based services (total solution), such as training, expert consulting, and project implementation in biotechnology, to countries seeking assistance from knowledge-based companies.

### Royan Institute for Stem Cell Biology, Technology

Royan Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Technology (RI-SCBT), formerly known as the Department of Stem Cells, was first established in 2002 to promote research on general stem cell biology in Iran. Thereafter, the Department of Stem Cells was promoted to the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Technology which included three departments with multiple research groups that conduct studies on stem cells and developmental biology, regenerative medicine, personalized medicine, cancer medicine, biomedical engineering, and the brain and cognitive sciences.

Currently, the institute departments are Department of Stem cells and Developmental Biology; Department of Cell Engineering; and Department of Regenerative Medicine.

The mission of RI-SCBT is to generate insights into the biology of stem cells through basic research and to provide the foundation needed for novel therapies by means of regenerative medicine.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## \$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained.

According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

## تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامه‌ریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهرداری تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد.

وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی است.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران، موضوع توجه به دوچرخه‌سواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تأکید قرار گرفته است.



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FEBRUARY 5, 2025

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*He who engages in various tasks, cannot do any of them properly, and brings himself into troubles.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:12:18 Evening: 17:55 Dawn: 5:35 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:00 (tomorrow)

## Adaptation of "Of Mice and Men" on stage at Tehran theater

TEHRAN- A loose adaptation of American writer John Steinbeck's novella "Of Mice and Men" is currently on stage at Hafez Theater Hall in Tehran.

Mehdi Rezaei is the director of the play, which will remain on stage until March 10.

Ali Baqeri, Milad Farajzadeh, Hamid Rashid, Borna Ansari and Negar Salahshour are the main members of the cast for the play.

"Of Mice and Men" is set against the backdrop of the Great Depression and follows the journey of two migrant field workers in California: George Milton and Lennie Small. George is an intelligent yet uneducated man, while Lennie, a large and strong individual, suffers from a mental disability. Together, they share the dream of owning a piece of land where they can settle down, a fantasy that symbolizes hope amidst their harsh reality. Lennie's specific desire is to tend to rabbits, reflecting his innocence and childlike nature, but his love for soft creatures often leads to tragic consequences, as he tends to accidentally harm them when he pets them too strongly.

The story begins with George and Lennie fleeing from the town of Weed, where Lennie's innocent mistake of grabbing a woman's skirt led to false accusations of rape and a mob wanting to lynch him. Their reliance on each other is a central theme, with George acting as Lennie's protector and caretaker.

Upon securing employment at a ranch, they encounter various characters, including Curley, the boss's aggressive son, who takes an immediate dislike to Lennie due to his size. Curley's flirtatious wife also becomes an unintended source of conflict, as Lennie is drawn to her, which complicates the dynamics on the ranch. The duo forms a friendship with Candy, an older disabled handyman, and Slim, a thoughtful and competent mule driver. Slim's kindness includes giving Lennie a puppy, further solidifying their bond and hinting at their aspirations for the future.

As the narrative progresses, their shared vision of owning land becomes more tangible when Candy proposes to contribute \$350 to their dream in exchange for a place to live. This excitement is abruptly interrupted when Curley attacks Lennie, and under George's encouragement, Lennie retaliates, easily crushing Curley's hand. This incident temporarily boosts George's sense of security, leading him to briefly abandon Lennie while socializing with others from the ranch.

Later, while exploring the stable, Lennie meets Crooks, the isolated black stable hand, and they discuss their dream. Candy joins them, trying to fend off Crooks' pessimism about their aspirations. However, the dream continues to feel fragile and threatened, especially with Curley's wife, who later threatens the men, revealing her own loneliness and bitterness.

Tragedy strikes when Lennie accidentally kills his puppy, which leads to a fateful encounter with Curley's wife. She enters the barn seeking companionship and eventually allows Lennie to stroke her hair. Overwhelmed by fear when he pulls too hard, she screams, prompting Lennie to panic and unintentionally break her neck. In a state of terror, he flees the scene.

As news of her death circulates, the ranch hands form a lynch mob to hunt Lennie down. Understanding that their dream has been shattered, George rushes to find Lennie at their designated meeting spot. There, he comforts him by recounting their dream one last time, fully aware that it is now just an illusion. When the mob closes in, George takes the heart-wrenching decision to shoot Lennie in the back of the head, offering him a merciful death compared to the brutality he would face from the villagers. Afterward, Slim is the only one who comprehends the depth of George's sacrifice, leading him away from the grim reality, while Curley and Carlson fail to grasp the emotional turmoil that lies beneath George's actions.

# IAF to host concert featuring artists with autism, Down syndrome, CP

TEHRAN- Mehr-o-Ma ensemble, comprised of artists with autism, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy (CP), is set to hold a concert at Jalil Shahnaz Hall of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) on Thursday.

Moreover, an exhibition showcasing the artworks of this group will be held on Thursday and Friday in the Summer Gallery of the forum.

The group had performed in November and decided to return to the stage due to the enthusiastic response from the audience, IRNA quoted Aalam Nattaj, the founder of Mehr-o-Ma ensemble, as saying.

Previous concerts by the group have captivated many art lovers, she noted.

These artists have reached a level of readiness such that they only require two months of practice for each concert, she remarked.

"With each passing day, we discover more about their capa-



bilities. These artists are truly intelligent and alert, and we are delighted that their concerts have garnered attention," she mentioned.

The group includes Arezou Yashavardi, Fatemeh Aramesh Talab, Nasrin Moqaddam, Narges Roshan Akhgar, Maryam Qanei, Mandana Safavi, Baran Atashran, Noura Mousavi, Zahra Pashaz-

adeh, Ahdieh Nikpey, Bahareh Farshbaf, Mohammad Zarinkhah, Farshad Ardabili, Miaad Arab, Behnam Jalali, and Behzad Jalali among others.

## Divar Art Home staging Brian Clark's "Whose Life Is It Anyway?"

TEHRAN-The play "Whose Life Is It Anyway?" by Brian Clark is being performed on stage at Divar Art Home in Tehran.

Dorsa Aghaei has directed the 80-minute play that has Shahin Zare, Yukabed Mousavi, Alireza Sa'adati, Hadiseh Rezaei, Hamid Mehrju, Negin Khosrow, Shayan Heydari, Naghmeh Mon'emi, and Sara Lotfi in the cast among others.

Set in a hospital room, the action revolves around Ken Harrison, a sculptor by profession, who was paralyzed from the neck down (quadriplegia) in a car accident and only his brain functions normally. He is being kept alive by the miracles of medicine, but wishes to die.

Clark presents arguments both in favor of

and opposing euthanasia and to what extent government should be allowed to interfere in the life of a private citizen. In portraying Ken as an intelligent man with a useless body, he leaves the audience with conflicting feelings about his desire to end his life.

As he fights for his right to die rather than live in an incapacitated state, the play examines the moral and legal aspects of the situation and the reactions of the hospital staff.

Brian Clark (1932-2021) was a British playwright and screenwriter. He taught in schools, colleges and universities and was a member of the Drama Department at the University of Hull from 1968 to 1972.

He is best known as the author of the multi-award-winning play "Whose Life Is It

Anyway?", which was first produced in 1978.

In the 1970s, it took Brian Clark six years to find a West-End theater management brave enough to risk presenting a play in which the central character is a tetraplegic faced with a future of total dependence on a life-support machine. But it was a smash hit both here and on Broadway winning several awards, and a film version followed. The dilemma posed by a medical professional committed to saving life on the one hand, and an individual claiming the right to make their own decisions about their life on the other, is one that has struck a chord deep in the public imagination and is as real today as it was then.

"Whose Life Is It Anyway?" will remain on stage at Divar Art Home, located at No. 72, Sepand St., Nejatollahi St.

## Iranian music ensemble performs in Moscow

TEHRAN- The Iranian music ensemble of Mehraban performed a concert at the Evangelical Lutheran Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Moscow on Sunday.

Under the baton of renowned multi-instrumentalist Hamid Reza Dadoo, the musicians presented a repertoire of Iranian classical music, showcasing the country's rich musical heritage.

The concert featured works by prominent Iranian composers, including Homayoun Khorram, Ali Tajvidi, Rouhollah Khaleghi, and others.

One of the highlights of the evening was the improvisational performances of traditional instruments, including ney, tom-bak, daf, and santur. These instruments added a unique layer of depth and emotion to the concert, transporting the audience to the ancient land of Persia.

According to Hamid Reza Dadoo, the concert aimed to bridge the cultural divide between Iran and Russia, promoting cross-cultural understanding and exchange through the universal language of music. "Iranian classical music has a special place in our hearts, and we be-

lieve that its beauty and emotional depth can be understood and appreciated by people from all cultures," he said.

The musician also praised the Russian people for their warm hospitality and open-mindedness. "Throughout my 15 years in Russia, I have always been greeted with kindness and generosity. I believe that our music has played a part in building a cultural bridge between our two nations, and I look forward to continuing this collaboration in the future."

The concert was a celebra-

tion of Iranian culture, with the ensemble's soloist, Hamid Reza Dadoo, delivering a mesmerizing performance on the ney. He was joined by Ksenia Sviridenko on the organ, Lyubov Zavyalova on the piano, and the violinists, Aleksander Malomozhnov, Ekaterina Mironova, Anastasia Kutuykhina, Amin Ismailu, Erfan Changizi, and vocalist Yasaman Gheibolahi.

"Music has the ability to move people to the depths of their souls, and I believe that Iranian classical music has a special place in the hearts of people all around the world," Dadoo said.

## London's P21 Gallery to host Palestinian embroidery workshops

The P21 Gallery in London will host a series of workshops on Palestinian embroidery by the end of the month.

According to the gallery website, the workshops will be held on February 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, and 26. They will be delivered by Rifqah Tamimi, a Palestinian embroiderer with extensive experience in all patterns, garments, and cross-stitching.

Rifqah Al Tamimi hails from the city of Hebron (Al-Khalil) in Palestine. She grew up watching the older ladies in her family practice embroidery of all types. She was particularly impressed by her maternal grandmother, who was truly talented. From her and others, she acquired the skill of weaving and stitching.

She is proud of this Palestinian art form and eager to teach it to others who are interested in preserving this heritage. She is delighted to be part of this workshop.

Palestinian embroidery, or "Tatreez", is a vital cultural practice that embodies the history, identity, and resilience of the Palestinian people. Recognized by

UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage, Tatreez dates back over 3,000 years to the Canaanite era and has evolved into a profound symbol of Palestinian heritage and resistance.

Each stitch and motif in Tatreez carries deep meaning, reflecting aspects of daily life, social status, and regional identity. Patterns often depict nature, architecture, and historical events, with colors like red symbolizing cultural significance. Regional variations further highlight Palestine's rich diversity.

Traditionally passed from mothers to daughters, Tatreez fosters intergenerational bonds. Girls start learning embroidery as early as six years old, preparing wedding garments and household items. This practice not only preserves heritage but also strengthens community ties through collective embroidery sessions.

Tatreez has also served as a form of resistance. During the First Intifada (1987-1993), women embroidered national symbols onto garments as defiance against bans on Palestinian flags.

Additionally, in refugee camps and the diaspora, embroidery sustains cultural identity while providing economic opportunities for women.

Learning Tatreez is crucial for preserving Palestinian heritage amid displacement and cultural appropriation. It safeguards stories of resilience and connects individuals to their roots. Supporting this craft ensures its continuation as a living testament to Palestinian history and identity.

Moreover, a "Public Conversation" event about Palestine will be held at the P21 Gallery on February 20, titled "Palestine: Repair & Return - Stories of Disability and Rehabilitation".

The event will be led by Jamal Al Rozzi, CEO of a major Palestinian rehabilitation organization. There will be contributors from activists and experts in Palestine and around the world. Hear what wisdom and invention Palestinian culture has demonstrated in its response to the attempt by the Israeli state to disable so many of its people, understand the development of psycho-social support

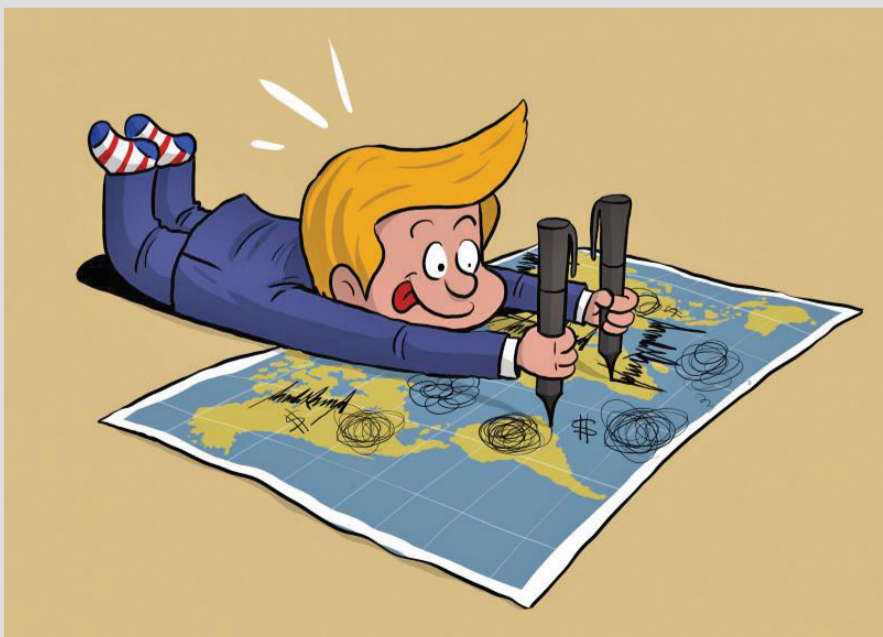
as a resistance strategy, especially important because the disabilities are consciously inflicted by other human beings.

This event seeks to create links between skill and knowledge communities outside Palestine with projects and people in Palestine.

P21 Gallery, located in Somers Town, is a London-based charitable trust promoting contemporary Arab art and culture. It is also committed to creating visibility for Arab artists worldwide. Their residency program, reACT, offers invaluable opportunities for emerging and student artists to contribute their talents and artwork to help build and strengthen cultural ties and to facilitate dialogues between the East and West on terms designed by a younger generation.

P21 Gallery's architectural spaces were designed to maximize the effect of contemporary art as a discourse, through multimedia installations with supporting facilities for public functions. These include conferences, workshops, lectures, and film screening. A specialized café serves the general public.

## Cartoon of Day



Trump  
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen