

Leader says talks with U.S. unwise, unsmart, and dishonorable

The Reason? Experience

'In the 2010s, Iran's government sat down with Americans, shook hands with them, and acted friendly. A deal was eventually reached, which the U.S. later shunned'

'Some believe that if Iran negotiates with the U.S., it can solve certain problems. They should realize that talks with the U.S. are useless in this regard'

'If the U.S. threatens Iran, or acts on its threats, we will threaten them and act on ours. And if they undermine our national security, we will too'

Opinion **T** Experience of talks could have been different, but US did not want

By Mohammad Sarfi
Editor-in-chief

TEHRAN – Western media and analysts like to have their own interpretations of events. There's nothing wrong with that! As long as these interpretations are not completely contradictory to reality. One of these events is the dispute between Iran and the United States. U.S. presidents, whether Democrat or Republican, disagree on many issues, but Iran is perhaps the only topic on which they have little disagreement.

Imagine a group of people intending to take someone's life. Person A says they should be shot;

B believes killing them with a knife is quieter and better; C suggests strangling them with a rope; and D believes they should be gradually weakened and brought down. The difference in the perspectives of U.S. presidents toward the Islamic Republic of Iran is more or less of this nature.

However, most Western analysts prefer to turn a blind eye to this reality and accuse Iran's Leader of having a purely ideological approach in this regard, claiming that Ayatollah Khamenei's opposition stems from such a mentality. However, limiting the cause of this opposition to ideology is a distortion of reality.

Suppose we've just decided to negotiate...

By Mahdi Mohammadi

TEHRAN – Let's say we decide to negotiate with Trump under today's circumstances. Here's what's likely to happen:

First, the U.S. – and especially Israel – will likely interpret this as a sign of Iranian weakness and a victory for Netanyahu's aggressive policies over the past year and a half. Consequently, from the very start of negotiations, the demands on Iran will probably go far beyond just the nuclear issue.

Because the other side will believe their pressure tactics are working, they'll likely increase

that pressure even while negotiating. Even now, while Trump is seemingly open to talks, he's already been working for over a month to cripple Iran's oil sales and drastically cut its revenue. The language of negotiation and the reality of pressure will be tightly intertwined.

Therefore, at this stage, agreeing to formal, public negotiations offers no real advantage. It only validates their pressure strategy and encourages them to escalate it. If they believe they can dictate Iran's national security decisions through pressure, the negotiations are essentially doomed from the outset.

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Zarif's Baghdad visit focuses on security, cooperation, and regional peace

TEHRAN – In a bid to strengthen bilateral ties and reinforce regional stability, Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif, visited Iraq on Thursday, holding a series of high-level meetings with top Iraqi officials.

The discussions focused on deepening security and economic cooperation, addressing regional developments, and reaffirming Iran's support for Iraq's sovereignty and independence.

Zarif met with Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid, Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani, and Parliament Speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, emphasizing Tehran's commitment to defending Iraq's national interests against external threats. The meetings also covered regional crises, including the Palestinian issue, and underscored the importance of continued diplomatic engagement between the two neighboring nations. ► Page 2

Trump disgracefully sanctions ICC amid Bibi trip

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – U.S. President Donald Trump has shamefully slapped sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC), which issued an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, also known as Bibi.

Trump criticized the ICC for issuing arrest warrants against Netanyahu and ousted Israeli war minister Yoav Gallant, calling the move a dangerous overreach and an attack on "U.S. and Israeli sovereignty." ► Page 5

Educational reform in Iran after Islamic revolution

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN – Subsequent to the Islamic revolution in 1979, Iran's education system has experienced great changes thanks to the establishment of the Literacy Movement, and the development of educational infrastructure which have resulted in increased education coverage rate, decreased literacy gap between men and women, and the growth of per capita educational space, particularly in deprived areas.

The literacy rate among those aged above 6 has risen from 47.5 percent before 1979 to 90.7 percent after the victory of the Islamic revolution, ranking Iran among the top countries in education coverage, ISNA reported. ► Page 7

Iran inaugurates Shahid Bagheri, its first drone-carrier warship

TEHRAN – In a landmark ceremony attended by senior military officials on Thursday in Iran's southern port of Bandar Abbas, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy welcomed its first domestically developed drone carrier, the IRIS Shahid Bagheri, into its fleet.

The drone carrier, a converted commercial container ship repurposed in the course of two years, honors Bahman Bagheri, an IRGC commander martyred during the fight against Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iran. ► Page 3



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Tehran will never surrender to pressure: FM Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has reaffirmed his country's unwavering stance against external pressure, stating that whenever the Iranian people face excessive and unjust coercion, they respond with maximum and heroic resistance.

Addressing foreign ambassadors and envoys in Tehran on Thursday, he emphasized that Iran will not yield to economic terrorism and will continue to defend its sovereignty with resilience. ► Page 2



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran's missile power is a major challenge for Israel

In a commentary, Kayhan discussed a report by the American magazine National Interest about Iran's missile arsenal and said: The Revolutionary Guard Navy unveiled a new underground missile base in the southern coastal region. Iran's missile arsenal has expanded significantly over the past decade. Over the past few years, the IRGC has specifically used these missiles to attack ISIS positions in Syria, and the positions of terrorist separatist groups in the Iraqi Kurdistan. But what was more important is that Iranian-backed groups in the region, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, and the Houthis in Yemen, have benefited from Iran's expanding missile arsenal. Iran's weapons stockpile now includes high-precision guided ballistic missiles, drones, and cruise missiles. Such weapons allow Iran to target American military ships in the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf. Of course, we should not forget the Strait of Hormuz, through which one-fifth of the world's oil passes and is constantly under the control of Iran, whether through missiles or other asymmetrical tactics. As tensions in the Middle East escalate, Tehran's missile capabilities are becoming a greater challenge for the United States and Israel.

Iran: Negotiation and resistance, Iran's formula against Trump

In an analysis of Trump's second maximum pressure order, the Iran newspaper wrote: Donald Trump has declared that Iran cannot have nuclear weapons but he wants a "verified nuclear peace agreement" with Iran, and the United States must immediately begin working on it. The United States has also tried to limit Iran's oil revenues for decades but has never been able to completely freeze its exports. These oil cargoes are transported by a fleet known as the "Ghost Fleet" outside American control and evade Western banking and insurance services. Oil experts believe it is difficult for Trump to zero Iran's oil exports. On the other side, if Trump tries to impose limitations on Iran's ballistic missile program in his proposed agreement, Tehran will probably not accept it. Saeed Laylaz, a political and economic expert, says though Iran is ready to negotiate, it is ready to resist Trump if necessary.

Sobh-e-No: Saboteurs are fighting each other

In an article, Sobh-e-No dealt with the conflict between foreign-based opposition groups and wrote: According to the latest news, freezing the funds to the opposition groups by the U.S. government has caused physical and verbal conflicts among them. The monarchists insult the leftists and the intellectuals boast against the monarchists. They were waiting for Trump to come to power so that they could "attack" Iran, but they were shocked in the early days of his administration, and Trump froze the funding for them in his first executive order. At the same time, the list of some of the recipients of the dollars has come out and worried them, and now the anti-revolution groups are fighting each other and making revelations against each other. Ataollah Mohajeri, (a former Iranian culture minister and history professor now living in London), Trump destroyed the world of the saboteurs. They thought that with the arrival of Trump and the Trump-Netanyahu alliance, the Islamic Republic would be finished, but Trump has distanced himself significantly from them. Will this move cause the saboteurs to rethink their policies? It is unlikely because if they had been smart enough, they would not have reached this point.

Hamshahri: I prefer an agreement with Iran

On Trump's new message that he wants an agreement with Iran, Hamshahri wrote: In a message, the U.S. President announced his readiness to reach a verifiable agreement with Iran on its nuclear program by saying that he wants Iran to be a successful country. Trump said that he wants Iran to be a wonderful and successful country, but one that does not have nuclear weapons. Trump believes that we should work on this issue immediately and hold a big celebration in the Middle East when it is finalized and signed. The repeated claim that Iran seeks military goals under cover of its nuclear program comes as officials in Iran have repeatedly emphasized that despite high capacity to enrich uranium, the production and use of nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's nuclear program. Iran's nuclear program has been subject to one of the most stringent monitoring and verification programs of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has not yet confirmed the veracity of this claim.

Iran's nuclear program achieving world-class advancements, declares AEOI chief



TEHRAN – Iran has achieved full mastery of nuclear science and is now ranked among the 18 countries with a recognized nuclear industry, according to Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

During a one-day visit to the city of Qom on Thursday, Eslami met with senior religious scholars and clerics to discuss the country's latest advancements in nuclear technology and its broader applications in various fields.

Speaking at the meeting, Eslami emphasized that Iran's nuclear energy program has reached the level of developed nations, despite ongoing opposition from global powers. "Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran has full mastery of nuclear science and is among the select group of 18 countries with an established nuclear industry," he stated.

Eslami highlighted that Iran's progress in

nuclear technology has been achieved despite resistance from "hegemonic powers." He noted that the country remains under some of the strictest monitoring measures imposed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) due to its nuclear advancements.

"The global hegemonic system opposes Iran's access to advanced technologies, including nuclear energy," he said. "As a result, our country is subject to the most extensive and stringent inspections by the IAEA."

Despite these challenges, Iran has continued to develop its nuclear sector, which Eslami credited to the research, dedication, and faith of Iranian scientists and engineers. He also acknowledged the strong support of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in guiding Iran's nuclear program.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran will never surrender to pressure: FM Araghchi

From page 1 ▶ "We firmly believe that active diplomacy and constructive engagement with the world are the keys to global peace, stability, and progress. However, Iran will never surrender to coercion or unjust pressure. We will not compromise on our legitimate rights as we continue on the path of national development."

He reiterated that Iran's diplomatic strength lies in its people, who take pride in engaging in negotiations based on mutual respect and honorable agreements. He noted that for 46 years, Iran has remained fully committed to its international obligations whenever agreements were founded on dignity and fairness.

The Foreign Minister warned that any attempt to impose unjust pressure on Iran would be met with unparalleled resistance. He asserted that Iran's history demonstrates its ability to defeat aggressors and defend its sovereignty with remarkable courage and decisiveness.

"Whenever Iran has faced oppression, it has shattered the dominance of its adversaries, delivering a powerful lesson to those who seek to undermine its independence," he said.

Araghchi highlighted Iran's critical role in maintaining regional and global stability, particularly in combating occupation, terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking.

"Iran has paid a significant price—both materially and spiritually—to ensure security in the region," he stated, emphasizing



the country's frontline efforts in countering these threats.

He also pointed to current administration's commitment to a proactive and independent foreign policy, stressing justice, mutual respect, non-interference, and independence from global superpowers as guiding principles.

The Foreign Minister reiterated Iran's commitment to strengthening relations with neighboring countries and the broader international community, emphasizing that Iran seeks to develop partnerships based on mutual respect and shared interests.

"Iran is ready to expand its good-neighbor policy and enhance cooperation with all nations, particularly those in the region," he affirmed.

Concluding his remarks, the Foreign Minister highlighted Iran's rich cultural and historical heritage, expressing the country's readiness to collaborate across various sectors.

"As a nation with an ancient and

profound civilization, Iran remains open to cooperation with all countries in diverse fields," he stated.

Nuclear weapons never on Iran's agenda: President Pezeshkian

Speaking at the same event, President Masoud Pezeshkian categorically rejected claims that Iran seeks nuclear weapons, calling such allegations unfounded and politically motivated.

"We are not pursuing nuclear weapons. Our dear Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has issued a fatwa against it," he stated.

He stressed that Iran's nuclear doctrine is based on this religious decree, which explicitly bans the production, possession, and use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Pezeshkian dismissed repeated claims about Iran's nuclear ambitions, noting that International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors have had full access to

Iran's facilities.

"Whenever inspectors have wanted, they have come and inspected. They can come a hundred more times. When we have no such intention, why should we keep hearing these baseless accusations?" he asked.

Pezeshkian accused Israel of spreading false claims about Iran's nuclear program while committing aggression against all regional countries.

"The occupying regime of Israel has violated the sovereignty of all nations in the region—yet human rights advocates claim it is merely defending itself," he said.

Addressing ambassadors from Islamic countries, Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's desire for genuine diplomatic engagement and regional cooperation.

"Iran seeks sincere relations based on mutual respect and the exchange of experiences," he stated.

He also pointed to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as proof of Iran's commitment to peaceful nuclear development. However, he criticized Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the deal in 2018, which led Iran to roll back its commitments after the other signatories failed to uphold their obligations.

Despite this, Pezeshkian maintained that Iran remains open to constructive diplomacy while standing firm against foreign pressure.

Zarif's Baghdad visit focuses on security, cooperation, and regional peace



From page 1 ▶

Iran pledges support for Iraq's security, sovereignty

Zarif reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to supporting Iraq's security, sovereignty, and independence during a series of high-profile meetings in Baghdad on Thursday.

Zarif made these remarks while meeting with Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid, emphasizing the crucial role both nations play in maintaining regional stability. According to a statement

from the Iraqi presidency, Zarif stressed that Iran stands firmly with Iraq in defending its national interests against external threats.

For his part, President Rashid expressed Iraq's desire to strengthen ties with Iran and expand bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Beyond bilateral relations, the two officials also discussed key regional issues, including the ongoing situation in Palestine. President Rashid reiterated Iraq's unwavering stance in support of the Palestinian people's right to self-deter-

mination.

Zarif also met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani, where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation. They highlighted the need to accelerate the implementation of agreements made during recent visits by Iranian and Iraqi officials.

The Iranian Vice President and the Iraqi Prime Minister further exchanged views on regional challenges, advocating for continuous dialogue to reinforce stability in the region.

During his visit, Zarif held talks with Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, who underscored the importance of increasing diplomatic exchanges between Tehran and Baghdad. Al-Mashhadani, who had recently visited Iran, described his discussions with Iranian officials as highly productive.

Zarif also met with Mohammed Al-Hassan, the Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), to discuss Iraq's security, regional dynamics, and the Palestinian issue. Al-Hassan briefed Zarif on UNAMI's latest efforts in Iraq.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Washington targets Tehran's oil exports with fresh sanctions



TEHRAN – The Trump administration has announced a new round of sanctions targeting Iran's oil industry, escalating tensions in a bid to curb Tehran's crude exports.

On Thursday, the U.S. Department of the Treasury unveiled measures against over a dozen individuals, firms, and tankers that it said facilitate Iranian oil shipments to China, India, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Some of the listed entities and individuals had already been sanctioned during the Biden administration.

The move follows President Trump's signing of a National Se-

curity Presidential Memorandum (NSPM) on Wednesday, which seeks to "restore maximum pressure" on Iran by aggressively targeting its oil sector.

The memorandum explicitly states the aim of reducing Iran's oil exports to "zero," a goal Trump echoed during a joint press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"We will once again enforce the most aggressive possible sanctions [on Iran]," he declared.

In sharp contrast to his actions, the president struck what seemed to be a contradictory tone during the memorandum's signing ceremony, stating, "I'm unhappy to [sign] it. I hope that it's not going to have to be used in any great measure at all."

With these newly announced sanctions, however, Trump appears to have already initiated the very process he claimed to be trying to avoid. It remains unclear how this renewed campaign would differ

from the previous one, which the Biden administration also maintained.

Trump first introduced the so-called maximum pressure campaign in 2018 after he withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – an international deal that limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanction relief.

During his first term, Trump claimed that the campaign would prevent Iran from "developing nuclear weapons." However, despite the severe impact of the re-imposed and intensified sanctions on the Iranian people's livelihood, Iran's nuclear program has achieved new, and at times unprecedented, advancements.

Officials in Tehran have meanwhile maintained close cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog and repeatedly reiterated their lack of interest in producing nukes.

New US sanctions 'illegitimate and unlawful'

Tehran swiftly denounced the

new U.S. sanctions, condemning them as a violation of international norms.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei issued a statement on Friday, calling the measures "entirely illegitimate" and noting that Washington is trying to obstruct Iran's lawful trade with economic partners.

"The U.S. government's decision to weaponize sanctions against the Iranian people is an illegitimate and unlawful act," Baqaei asserted, emphasizing that Tehran reserves the right to respond to such "economic warfare."

In similar remarks on X, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi dismissed Trump's policies as a repetition of past failures.

"Reviving the 'maximum pressure' strategy will only provoke 'maximum resistance' from Iran," the top diplomat wrote, adding that "Wise leaders should pursue 'maximum wisdom' instead of repeating doomed tactics."

Trump disgracefully sanctions ICC amid Bibi trip

From page 1 ▶ The U.S. president, who signed an executive order after Congress rejected to back the move, delivered a sharp warning to the ICC.

He authorized the freezing of U.S.-based assets belonging to ICC officials involved in investigations targeting citizens of the U.S. as well as its ally Israel.

The order also bars the ICC judicial officials and their immediate families from entering the United States.

Trump affirmed that the U.S. "strongly opposes any action taken by the court against its close ally Israel" and expects its allies to adopt a similar stance.

The move highlights Trump's defiant stance in shielding U.S. officials from accountability for war crimes, aligning with his broader effort to protect Israeli leaders from international prosecution for the numerous war crimes committed during the 15-month Gaza conflict.

The measure coincided with the visit of Netanyahu to Washington.

On Friday, the ICC condemned Trump's action and called on its "125 States Parties, civil society and all nations of the world to stand united for justice and fundamental human rights."



"The court stands firmly by its personnel and pledges to continue providing justice and hope to millions of innocent victims of atrocities across the world, in all situations before it," it added in a statement.

In December, the war court's president, Judge Tomoko Akane, warned that sanctions would "rapidly undermine the court's operations in all situations and cases, and jeopardize its very existence."

The Netherlands, the host nation of the court, also said it regretted the sanctions.

"The court's work is essential in the fight against impunity," Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp said in a post on social media.

The United Nations on Friday sharply condemned Trump's decision and called on him to swiftly reverse the controversial move.

This step is not the first of its kind. Trump had previously imposed sanctions on the ICC in 2020 during his first term in response to its investigations into war crimes committed by U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Anti-war activists have vehemently condemned Trump's latest move, denouncing it as a deliberate attempt to protect Netanyahu and Gallant from the ICC jurisdiction.

They accused the Israeli prime minister and his former security minister of masterminding war crimes in the Gaza genocide and

insisted, "They must be held accountable."

The ICC is a permanent international court established to prosecute individuals for the most heinous crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and crimes of aggression.

It has the mandate to hold individuals accountable for these atrocities, whether committed within the territory of member states or by their nationals, ensuring justice for grave violations of international law.

In February 2025 the Hague-based court issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant, accusing them of war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Gaza war.

Evidence was presented to the court which showed that from October 8, 2023, to May 20, 2024, Netanyahu and Gallant were responsible for the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare, as well as crimes against humanity, including murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts.

Despite Trump's actions, the ICC has strongly indicated that its staff won't be intimidated by the White House as it pledges to continue its work.

How will Bibi's golden pager gift to Trump provoke us?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON – Trump's provocative phrase "It was a great operation," after Bibi Netanyahu gave him a golden pager was not surprising. This is the Western barbarism at its finest! It is a reminder to those deceived by Western "civilized" values, panting to appease the Great Satan.

If the Lebanese resistance movement did the same thing against the Zionists or Westerners, would it also be a "great operation"?

For long, the colonial West has legitimized the use of any possible tool to ethnically cleanse civilians, and cause them permanent disabilities and chronic diseases.

Netanyahu, the criminal, had urged – more than 20 years ago – that after the military war, a cultural war must be waged against us to eliminate Islamic values and replace them with Western values.

The enemy knows that even if they kill us, they will not be able to eliminate the idea of resistance because it is rooted in our culture. It is not stupid and knows very well that shaking the Muslims' allegiance to their Islamic identity is the solution.

This hypothesis is even stipulated in the Holy

Quran: "And never will the Jews or the Christians approve of you until you follow their religion (Surat Al-Baqarah: 120).

The enemy will not explicitly call us to abandon the Hijab and religious rituals, but rather they will work to spread any means that would distract us from the essence of Islam.

They know that religion is synonymous with politics, and whenever we adhere to our religion, this means that we will not accept injustice, occupation, and the desecration of our sanctities.

Hence, the easiest way to do this is to promote obscenity, the culture of consumption and individualism, to have women abandon chastity, and other liberal values.

This is the same goal of the UN 2030 plan, the normalization agreements, and the fabricated "Abrahamic" religion.

Was not Prophet Abraham's movement a resistance uprising?

Did he not refuse to submit to anyone but the One God?

Did he not resist in defense of his beliefs?

Our peoples in West Asia have long coexisted; the values of love, brotherhood, and compassion prevailed among them until imperialism was implemented: "Divide and conquer."

13 years of patience and steadfastness on principles were spent by Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and his followers in Mecca before the Almighty God ordered them to migrate to Medina.

Then, Medina included a diverse community of Muslims (the Meccan immigrants and the Ansar from the Aws and Khazraj tribes) and the Jews. So, he called on them to sign the "Charter of Medina" which obligated them all to defend the state. But what happened? Did they abide?!

Before him, they fought Prophet Zechariah (AS) until they cut him up with saws, which made the matter difficult for his son Prophet Yahya (AS), who narrated that he was skilled in the Mosaic Law provisions.

Along with his cousin Prophet Jesus, Prophet Yahya (AS) revolted against Herod, the head of the Byzantine occupation of Palestine at that time, who was not only a dictator but also an immoral adulterer.

When his prostitutes became an old hag, he wanted to marry her daughter. Prophet Yahya denounced that and explained to the people that Herod's relationship was illegitimate. Once that old woman found out, she got angry and asked Herod for the dowry to be Prophet Yahya's slaughtered head.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Canada is merely first in line

All of America's allies should prepare for Trump's coercion

Earlier this week, it appeared as if the Trump administration was going to follow through on its threat to impose a sweeping 25 percent tariff across the board on Canadian exports to the United States. Canada owes the United States "a lot of money, and I'm sure they're going to pay," President Donald Trump claimed. "We may have, short term, some little pain, and people understand that. But long term, the United States has been ripped off by virtually every country in the world." Ottawa was sent scrambling for a response and announced a set of retaliatory tariffs, targeting \$150 billion on an array of U.S. products, including appliances, machinery, and agricultural goods. "Tariffs against Canada will put [U.S.] jobs at risk, potentially shutting down American auto assembly plants and other manufacturing facilities," warned Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

After a series of calls with Trump, however, Trudeau was able at the last moment to secure a 30-day pause on tariffs. (Mexico, which faced a similar threat from Trump, also won a reprieve.) In exchange, Trudeau offered a suite of measures to shore up the Canadian border,

including a variety of previously announced investments on increased manpower and surveillance capabilities aimed at curbing illegal immigration and combating the flow of fentanyl.

The pause is good news, especially for Canadians, who would have suffered immediate economic harm had Trump followed through. But in other ways, the damage is already done. Trump's decision to penalize a neighbor, an ally, and one of the closest economic partners of the United States in a manner more commonly reserved for adversaries is an unprecedented move that signals a fundamental shift in Washington's approach to alliances. The treatment he has doled out to Canada is a harbinger of what is to come for U.S. allies in Europe and Asia. In recent days, Trump has chastised Taiwan for its trade surplus with the United States and warned the European Union that tariffs could be "coming soon."

The Trump administration's doctrine of brute-force economic coercion—executed through tariffs, executive orders, and the wielding of Washington's financial hegemony—threatens to transform transatlantic and Indo-Pacific relationships

into almost purely transactional affairs. The results will hurt everyone involved—and help American adversaries such as China and Russia. In the short term, the most pragmatic approach for Canada (and other U.S. allies, as their turns come) is to respond to Trump's threats in a calibrated and clear-headed manner. This is easier said than done, however, as domestic politics often incentivize responses driven by pride or nationalism. Canadians and others must resist the temptation to lash out. Countermeasures and retaliation are necessary, but overreactions will only hurt Canada's economic and security interests in the long run.

Transaction man

Trump's approach to foreign policy is rooted in a zero-sum, dealmaking mentality, in which economic leverage represents the primary tool of statecraft. Traditional diplomacy and alliance management are relegated to the sidelines in favor of an aggressive, protectionist agenda that prioritizes immediate economic gains over long-term strategic stability. Although many American allies have become accustomed to criticism from Washington over trade imbalances and defense

spending, Trump is the first U.S. president in the contemporary era to translate those grievances into direct economic warfare against partners—using weapons generally reserved for Washington's foes.

Trump's rhetoric makes clear that his administration views all economic relationships, including those with allies, as inherently adversarial, requiring constant renegotiation under the threat of financial penalties. This approach creates uncertainty among U.S. partners and raises concerns that Washington's commitment to collective security and economic cooperation is contingent on short-term transactional benefits. Trump's defenders argue that his approach is necessary to address trade imbalances and force allies to take their security commitments more seriously. But the long-term consequences of his economic belligerence have been largely negative for all involved. Steel and aluminum tariffs the Trump administration placed on Canada in 2018, for example, prompted retaliatory measures that harmed American businesses and consumers while failing to yield significant strategic gains.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

How civilian resistance forced Israeli retreat from southern Lebanon



By Sayyed Pezhman Madany

TEHRAN – In the annals of modern conflict, the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon stands as a striking example of how unarmed civilian movements can disrupt even the most entrenched military occupations.

Despite repeated ceasefires and diplomatic pressure, Israel refused to retreat—until a grassroots civilian campaign, marked by mass marches and the return of displaced families to their villages, rendered its position untenable. This retreat was not merely a military setback for Israel but a psychological triumph for the resistance. It underscored a critical lesson in asymmetric warfare: victory often begins not on the battlefield, but in the mind.

Despite a U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement mandating Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon by January 26, 2025, Israeli forces refused to fully retreat, maintaining a presence in over a dozen villages. This refusal ignited frustration among displaced residents, who organized protests to reclaim their villages. On January 26–27, Israeli troops killed 24 protesters and wounded over 130, escalating tensions and drawing international condemnation for breaching the ceasefire terms. Mass civilian protests erupted across southern Lebanon, with displaced residents, many accompanied by Lebanese army vehicles, attempting to return to their homes. Israeli forces responded with live fire, killing two and injuring 17 on January 27 alone, as demonstrators in villages like Odaisseh and Aitaroun faced gunfire and roadblocks. Hezbollah, framed the protests as defiance against Israeli occupation, while civilians like Mona Bazzi declared resilience: "Bullets don't scare us." The protests underscored a grassroots demand for sovereignty, even as Israel blamed Hezbollah for "inciting" unrest and fired shots at approaching crowds.

Israel's refusal to comply with deadlines became a recurring theme, rooted in its belief that military dominance and geopolitical calculations would prevail. Despite international pressure, Israeli leaders insisted that withdrawal would only occur under "secure conditions," effectively granting themselves veto power over any timeline. This intransigence reflected a confidence in conventional military logic: that superior firepower, surveillance, and fortified positions could indefinitely suppress resistance. However, this calculus ignored a critical variable—the agency of Lebanon's civilian population.

On Sunday, January 26th, a civilian movement emerged. Displaced families from occupied villages began organizing marches, demanding the right to return home. These protests were not explicitly armed but carried profound symbolic weight. Thousands of Lebanese civilians flooded into the occupied zone. The images of unarmed civilians confronting occupation forces shattered Israel's narrative of control.

This movement was revolutionary in its simplicity. Unlike traditional military oper-

ations, which Israel had prepared to counter, the civilian marches operated outside the framework of "war." They weaponized visibility, exposing the moral bankruptcy of the occupation and stripping Israel of its pretexts for staying. The occupation's infrastructure—checkpoints, fortifications—collapsed not under artillery fire, but under the weight of collective defiance.

Israel's miscalculation lay in its narrow focus on military and guerrilla threats. It had anticipated Hezbollah's tactics but failed to account for the power of civilian mobilization. In modern warfare, states often rely on predictive models: they assess an adversary's capabilities, map probable responses, and plan accordingly. When Hezbollah engaged in guerrilla strikes, Israel adapted. But the civilian marches defied categorization. They were neither violent nor passive; they were a form of resistance that weaponized presence rather than weapons.

For an occupier, civilian noncompliance is a nightmare scenario. It denies legitimacy, complicates counterinsurgency, and attracts global scrutiny. By returning en masse, Lebanese civilians transformed the occupied territories from a "security zone" into a moral and logistical quagmire. Israel could not justify firing on unarmed crowds without risking international condemnation.

The withdrawal from Lebanon underscores a paradigm shift in conflict: the ascendancy of psychological and informational dimensions. Modern wars are often won not by overpowering an enemy materially but by outmaneuvering them cognitively. Israel's occupation relied on a rigid playbook—deterrence through force, divide-and-rule tactics, and diplomatic stalling. The resistance, however, rewrote the script.

The Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon offers enduring lessons for asymmetrical conflicts. First, it demonstrates that civilian agency can alter the trajectory of wars, even against materially and technologically superior foes. Second, it reveals the limits of conventional military logic in the face of unpredictable, grassroots resistance. By acting outside Israel's calculations—prioritizing visibility over violence—Lebanese civilians and the resistance movement achieved what cautious warfare alone could not.

Ultimately, this episode reaffirms that modern conflicts are as much contests of perception as they are of force. To prevail, resistance movements must innovate not just tactically but psychologically—crafting strategies that confound an adversary's expectations. In southern Lebanon, the people's refusal to surrender their right to return became the occupation's undoing, proving that the most potent weapon in war is often the one the enemy never sees coming.

Chinese archaeologists visit Susa's World Heritage site

TEHRAN – On Thursday, a group of Chinese archaeologists, professors, and students visited the UNESCO World Heritage site of Susa in southwest Iran, gaining insights into the region's rich history, civilization, and unique historical artifacts.

According to IRNA, a 12-member delegation comprised of Chinese archaeologists, history, and art professors, and students embarked on a one-day visit to Susa. During their visit, they explored Susa's vast cultural heritage museum and its archaeological sites.

In recent years, the expansion of cultural and economic relations with China has led to an increase in the number of Chinese tourists visiting Iran and Susa.

Weeks ago, Chinese ambassador to Tehran, Chang Hua, visited Khuzestan, where he toured the UNESCO-registered ziggurat of Tchogha Zanbil, the museum, and the heritage site of Susa, as well as the tomb of Daniel the Prophet.

During his visit, Chinese envoy expressed hope that with effective promotion, more Chinese tourists would be drawn to Khuzestan, further enhancing tourism exchange between the two nations.

Situated between the Karkheh and Dez rivers in southwest Iran, Susa was once one of



the most important and glamorous cities of the ancient world. Susa, which has been inhabited for thousands of years, embraces several layers of superimposed urban settlements from around the late 5th millennium BC until the 13th century CE.

The ancient town served as the capital of Elam (Susiana) and the administrative capital of the Achaemenian king Darius I and his successors from 522 BC.

Susa was once part of the historic kingdom of Elam between Babylon and ancient Persia as the lower Zagros Mountains of Persia descend into the Mesopotamian region.

Archaeologists uncover 'lost' home depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry

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.

To confirm this location, researchers used a range of methods, such as analysis of standing structures within the current house, ground-penetrating radar to scan and map any buried remains of the medieval palace, and a review of evidence from a 2006 excavation inside the house and the garden.

(Source: CNN)

Echoes of Iran



Clay vessel, excavated from Dalma Tepe, northwest Iran, chalcolithic period, ca. 5000-4500 BC, being kept at the Metropolitan Museum of Art
Diameter: 17.15 cm; Height: 15.24 cm; Diameter of rim: 13.18 cm

Deyr-e Gachin: the mother of Iran's caravanserais

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Situated 80 kilometers northeast of Qom, the caravanserai of Deyr-e Gachin is widely known as the "Mother of Iranian Caravanserais". The impressive monument, strategically positioned along the historic Silk Roads and the ancient Ray-to-Qom route, now lies within the vast expanse of Kavir National Park.

Recognized for its architectural and historical significance, Deyr-e Gachin is one of 54 Iranian caravanserais collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2023 under the title "The Persian Caravanserai".

These structures once served as essential roadside inns, offering shelter, food, and water to caravans, traders, and pilgrims. Despite seeming to be situated in the middle of nowhere, the placement of caravanserais was carefully determined by water sources, geographical features, and security considerations.

A glimpse inside

Upon entering the major gateway, visitors are faced with a vast courtyard encircled with single-door rooms in a single-story arrangement along with a mosque, bathhouse, and mill. A northeastern alcove and special rooms with three doors opening to the exterior further enrich the site's architectural diversity.

A legacy of centuries

Some sources suggest that



the origins of Deyr-e Gachin trace back to the Sassanid era, with historical accounts linking it to Ardashir I who reigned from 211/2 CE to 224.

Over the centuries, the caravanserai underwent restorations during the Seljuk, Safavid, and Qajar periods, preserving its grandeur and functionality.

Architectural marvel

Spread across 12,000 square meters, the caravanserai is loosely in the form of a giant Chahar-Taq. Technically speaking, Chahar-Taq is an ancient square-shaped brick room surmounted by a domed roof.

There are various structural elements in the caravanserai including gateways and towers. More precisely, it has four rectangular towers and two half-towers flank the entrance; a

mosque with a 300-square-meter prayer space; amenities like a stone mill, bathhouse, two vestibules, and more than 40 rooms; two wells ensuring access to fresh water, and staircases leading to the rooftop.

Beyond the caravanserai, there are additional structures such as a fire temple on the western side, a fortress, a brick kiln, water reservoirs, and a graveyard. Moreover, the surrounding fortified wall is over five meters high, one meter thick, and eighty meters long, featuring crenels for defense.

A highlight is the craftsmanship of Sassanid-era bricks that have intricate details. Some of these bricks were later repurposed for restoration during the Seljuk dynasty, preserving the site's authentic charm.

Persian Caravanserai

Caravanserai or caravansary is a compound word combining "caravan" with "sara"; the former stands for a group of travelers and the latter means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them, with doors in the corners of the yard.

For centuries, caravanserais constituted key parts of a rich circuit of travel and trade by providing shelter, food, and water for caravans, pilgrims, and other trekkers. For many travelers, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a broad experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back to a forgotten age.

The earliest caravanserais in Iran were built during the Achaemenid era (550 - 330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 to 1629, he ordered the construction of a network of caravanserais across the country. Such roadside inns were once constructed along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Road may be the most famous example, dotted with caravanserais.

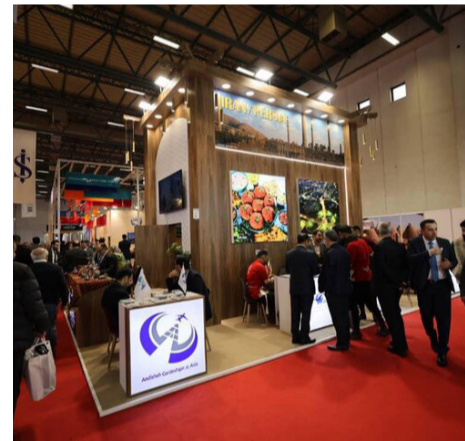
Iran showcases charm at EMITT 2025

TEHRAN – Iran participated in the Eastern Mediterranean International Tourism and Travel Exhibition (EMITT), which was held in Istanbul from February 5 to 7.

Cultural performances, featuring traditional dances from various ethnic groups, harvested exceptional attention for the country's pavilion at the event, Mehr reported. "These cultural programs, designed by the Touring & Automobile Club of Iran, were part of Iran's broader efforts at the 28th edition of EMITT to showcase its rich cultural heritage."

The presence of Iran at EMITT, was facilitated by the Club and representing the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts. Its pavilion highlighted diverse sectors such as cultural and natural sites, Persian cuisine, and intangible cultural heritage, to name a few. It offered visitors an experience of the country's tourism potential in the realms of eco-tourism, health tourism, and traditional handicrafts.

Beyond visual appeal, Iran's presence was aimed to enhance global partnerships and promote sustainable tourism. Moreover, the Club organized a number of interactive sessions and meetings to engage international tourism professionals, investors, and



stakeholders.

Hassan Didehban, the cultural advisor of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul, praised Iran's active and notable participation in this year's EMITT. He highlighted the importance of such international exhibitions for promoting Iran's tourism capabilities.

Didehban emphasized the significance of Iran's presence in global exhibitions and international arenas. It has provided an excellent platform for showcasing the country's tourism potential, the official said.

The head of EMITT, also acknowledged Iran's key role in the regional tourism industry, describing the country's participation as a valuable opportunity to enhance cultural and tourism relations between Iran and Turkey. She expressed hope that this renewed participation, realized after several years, would pave the way for stronger collaborations and increased tourist exchange between the two nations.

The fair recognized as one of the top five tourism exhibitions worldwide, was inaugurated with the participation of high-ranking Turkish officials, including Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya and Istanbul Governor Omed Khoshnaw, the report said. It brought together 450 active representatives from 110 countries to the TÜYAP Istanbul Fair Center.

Renowned for its UNESCO-listed heritage sites, Iran is a treasure trove for travelers. From the architectural splendor of Persepolis and the intricate tilework of Isfahan's mosques to the lush Caspian forests and the rugged beauty of the Alborz Mountains, the country offers a rich array of experiences. Visitors are also drawn to its renowned hospitality, vibrant bazaars, and culinary delights.

Nowruz 1404: handicraft exhibits to be set up at city entrances, border crossings

TEHRAN – Iran plans to establish handicraft sales exhibitions at railway stations, city entrances, and border crossings across the country during the Nowruz 1404 holidays.

This initiative aims to support artisans and craftspeople by providing them with opportunities to showcase and sell their handcrafted products to millions of travelers during the peak holiday season.

Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi, Deputy Minister of Handicrafts, announced the plan during the 64th meeting of the National Travel Services Coordination Headquarters. She emphasized that handicrafts will have a strong presence in key travel hubs throughout the Nowruz celebrations.

Reflecting on last year's success, the official noted that over two million holidaymakers

engaged with handicraft workshops during Nowruz 1403. She highlighted the significance of Nowruz overlapping with [the lunar month of] Ramadan, stating that many traditional handicrafts are deeply rooted in religious and cultural expressions. Visitors to religious sites and shrines will have the opportunity to explore locally crafted artworks.

Jalali-Dehkordi also encouraged the National Travel Services Coordination Headquarters to make full use of Iran's handicraft industry. She suggested that artisans could enrich Red Crescent aid stations, urban service centers, and nomadic settlements along travel routes. Temporary handicraft bazaars could also be strategically placed to attract passing motorists, she added.

Additionally, Jalali-Dehkordi proposed that artists set up



sales and exhibition booths in educational centers, allowing travelers to experience and purchase authentic Iranian handicrafts during their journeys.

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".

Educational reform in Iran after Islamic revolution

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN –Subsequent to the Islamic revolution in 1979, Iran's education system has experienced great changes thanks to the establishment of the Literacy Movement, and the development of educational infrastructure which have resulted in increased education coverage rate, decreased literacy gap between men and women, and the growth of per capita educational space, particularly in deprived areas.

The literacy rate among those aged above 6 has risen from 47.5 percent before 1979 to 90.7 percent after the victory of the Islamic revolution, ranking Iran among the top countries in education coverage, ISNA reported.

During the 46-year period, the number of students has increased by 10 million, reaching 17 million, and eight schools have been constructed on a daily basis in under-privileged areas.

In 1976, the literacy rate amounted to 47.5 percent; the literacy rate for men and women aged 10 to 49 was 61.8 and 35.5 percent, respectively, indicating a big educational gap. However, in the Iranian calendar year 1402 (March 2023-March 2024), the literacy rate increased to 90.7 percent with 97.8 percent of men and 96.1 percent of women, aged 10 to 49, being literate. After the Islamic revolution, the rate of literacy among women has grown by 2.5 times.

In the past, literacy referred to the ability of being able to read and write, later it included mastering a foreign language. Currently, the term literacy has gone



beyond these concepts, encompassing the ability to solve life problems, and this is what the country is trying to achieve.

Since 1979, school construction has experienced a three-hundred percent growth, rising from 33, 121 schools with 132,484 classrooms to 107,000 schools with 560,000 classrooms now.

Education space per student in Iran has increased from 1.8 square meters at the beginning of the revolution to 5.45 square meters in the current year. Currently, there are over 1,100 stone-made schools. President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration is determined to eliminate and replace stone-made as well as pre-fabricated schools with new schools in a year.

One of the other recent achievements of the education system is preparing and implementing a reform plan, as a bedrock of development. After being reviewed and studied for 12 years, the plan is meant to act as a roadmap to further enhance the quality of education in the country.

It has been implemented in ten schools so far; it is scheduled to be implemented nationwide in three years and is expected to positively transform education.

The plan focuses on management, teachers, families, curriculum, and physical and cultural environment. It aims to help realize students' personal, and social skills and improve educational quality among both students and teachers. It also helps families by enhancing their parenting skills training.

Educational equity is not a slogan

President Masoud Pezeshkian has said that the administration intends to transform the education system so that no student is deprived of the right to quality education, highlighting that educational equity is not a mere slogan but a fundamental goal.

It is not acceptable that students in public schools in under-privileged areas do not receive a good education while they have to

compete with students in private schools that benefit from the best education, Pezeshkian stressed.

He made the remarks on Thursday in Bojnourd, the capital of North Khorasan province, Borna reported.

The president said providing vocational training alongside education is one of the key areas of transforming educational methods, through which the youth will develop skills needed for a profession after graduating from high school.

Referring to the extensive plans to solve the infrastructural challenges of schools, the president stressed, "We will overcome all school constructing challenges within a year. One of our main objectives is to turn public schools into the best education model."

The president urged governor generals and all executive officials to cooperate with other sectors on a national plan to promote equity in educational spaces within the specified timeframe.

He went on to stress the necessity of public participation and the role of citizens in realizing the major national plan of building schools, saying, "We need to share our plans with the people to build not only schools for their children but also appropriate sports and recreational spaces for extracurricular activities."

Pezeshkian further emphasized the importance of action instead of mere speeches, stating that his administration has prioritized solving the issue of educational space shortages, especially in deprived areas across the country within a year.

Iran to unveil anti-cancer vaccine in summer

TEHRAN –Iran's National Institute of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (NIGEB) has developed an anti-cancer vaccine that will be released in the summer.

"The vaccine will be able to prevent all cancers," Mehr news agency quoted Javad Mohammadi, head of NIGEB, as saying.

Referring to the two new products manufactured by Iranian knowledge-based companies, namely intravenous immunoglobulins (IVIg) and albumin, the official said IVIg is essential for people with congenital immunodeficiency. Due to their weak immune system, these patients need immunoglobulin injections every 20 days.

Currently, to meet the needs of patients, blood plasma is sent to other countries to be turned into various proteins, including immunoglobulin, and the products are imported to be used by patients. The process is not only costly but also time-consuming, Mohammadi noted.

Albumin is a type of protein made by the liver. It keeps fluid from leaking out of blood vessels, so it is critical for patients suffering from kidney and liver diseases, he added.

"These two products are now available to patients in the domestic market. Knowledge-based companies will soon be able to meet 70 percent and then 100 percent of the market's needs," Mohammadi highlighted.

National Institute of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology

NIGEB was established in 1989 under the supervision of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology. Since then, NIGEB has been given a mandate to undertake original, state-of-the-art research activities.

It was established with dual purposes of



promoting research in avant-garde areas of biological sciences and biotechnology as well as providing advanced training and educational programs for scientists and students from other universities and academic institutions.

NIGEB is a pivotal hub for advancing the field of biotechnology in Iran, notable for its focus on multidisciplinary collaboration and ethical progress.

Impressively, they engage in both basic and applied research across various biotechnology sectors while considering the implications of technological commercialization and socio-economic impacts.

NIGEB's commitment to global cooperation and knowledge sharing is essential, particularly in a domain as fast-evolving and globally connected as genetic engineering and biotechnology.

Their work not only propels the scientific community within Iran but also makes significant contributions to international efforts addressing complex issues in agriculture, industry, the environment, and health. This reflects a comprehensive approach to research and education in the field.

Over 4,000 individuals affected by blizzards rescued

TEHRAN –Since Thursday night, relief teams have provided rescue services to more than 4,000 people who were affected by snow storms in 15 provinces, an official with Crisis Management Organization has said.

The rescuers have helped 2,500 of the individuals trapped in blizzards, by transferring them to safe places and providing emergency shelters to them, IRIB quoted Hossein Zafari as saying.

The temperature is predicted to drop by 8-12 degrees in most parts of the country in the next few days.

According to a report by the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), the relief teams have provided rescue services in fifteen provinces including East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Ardebil, Isfahan, Ilam, Qazvin, Kermanshah, Kordestan, Lorestan, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Mazandaran, Markazi, Hamedan, and Semnan provinces since February 6, the IRCS website reported.

The relief teams have so far conducted 108 rescue missions to save 2,649 individuals affected by snow, pulling 960 vehicles out of heavy snow, the IRCS website quoted Babak Mahmoudi as saying.

They provided emergency shelters, food-stuff, and basic goods to 857, 364, and 111 individuals, respectively, the official added.



IRCS is a top organization

In September, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) project manager, Faisal Mahboob, lauded the capabilities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society as outstanding.

The official said he was really impressed by the capacity and the wide range of activities carried out by the IRCS.

"The International Federation will support the activities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society to commence a new phase of collaboration with the society," Mahboob added, the IRCS website reported.

In May 2024, Pir-hossein Kolivand, head of the IRCS, said the IRCS is recognized as one of the five prominent societies worldwide thanks to its wide range of activities and great achievements both nationally and internationally.

Referring to health, treatment, and rehabilitation as one of the parts of the IRCS activities, Kolivand said the IRCS hospitals, pharmacies, and clinics meet the medical and therapeutic needs of thousands of citizens every day.

The IRCS medical centers abroad are reputable worldwide. As a humanitarian organization, the IRCS is trying to alleviate the suffering of the people involved in accidents, emergencies, and conflicts.

"Today, collaborations with knowledge-based firms have resulted in advancements in manufacturing orthoses, prostheses, artificial organs, and new medications, with plans to extend cooperation to rescue and relief efforts as well," the official noted.

According to a report released by the IFRC on the most important achievements of the Iranian Red Crescent Society during January-December 2023, the IRCS continues to tackle the impacts of climate change, program adaptability, and preparedness efforts that have been triggered by the climate crisis.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran spends \$477m on refugee education annually

Iran spends about 20 trillion rials (nearly \$477 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) every year on the education of foreign national students residing in the country, head of the international affairs department of the Ministry of Education has said.

Over 558,000 foreign national children are receiving education in Iran completely free of charge, 474,000 of whom are Afghan children, ISNA quoted Gholamreza Karimi as saying on Wednesday.

Karimi said that there are currently about 137,000 undocumented Afghan students in the country, adding that their parents do not have valid residency documents, "but we have provided the conditions for enrolling them in schools."

ایران سالی ۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای دانش آموزان اتباع خارجی هزینه می کند

ایران هر سال حدود ۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای ۵۵۸ هزار دانش آموز اتباع خارجی در مدارس سراسر کشور هزینه می کند.

به گزارش روز چهارشنبه ایسنا، غلامرضا کریمی رئیس مرکز امور بین الملل و مدارس خارج از کشور وزارت آموزش و پرورش گفت از این تعداد ۴۷۴ هزار نفر آنها اتباع افغانستانی هستند.

کریمی با بیان اینکه در حال حاضر ۱۳۷ هزار دانش آموز غیرمجاز در کشور داریم گفت پدر و مادر این افراد مدارک اقامتی معتبر ندارند اما ما شرایط ثبت نام آنها را مدارس فراهم کردیم.

Visually impaired students to benefit from new braille embosser

TEHRAN – The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has procured a high-tech braille embosser for the Ministry of Education (MoE) and Special Education Organization (SEO), which will enhance learning for a total of 7,145 children with visual disabilities across the country.

The Braillo 600 SR2 braille embosser will address the critical need for accessible learning materials among the 7,145 children with visual disabilities currently studying in Iran's formal education system, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on February 4.

This includes 5,239 girls and boys in mainstream schools and 1,906 in special schools, ensuring more equitable educational opportunities for these students gaining access to inclusive education through enhanced production of braille textbooks.

This initiative addresses a pressing challenge in Iran's education system, where the previous two Norwegian braille embossers, after 35 years of service, have become unreliable and insufficient for current needs.

The SEO must produce approximately 28,000 braille textbooks annually, comprising 194 subject-grade specific textbooks in 279 volumes, to ensure all students have access to educational materials before the school year begins.

Access to braille learning materials is essential for ensuring children with visual disabilities fully participate in society and realize their rights. This new embosser will serve generations of students, with an estimated 214,350 children benefiting over its 30-year lifespan.

UNICEF's procurement of the embosser was especially critical, as international sanctions had prevented SEO from acquiring the equipment directly. This intervention demonstrates UNICEF's commitment to supporting inclusive education and ensuring no child is left behind due to disability.

Measures focusing on children with disabilities

UNICEF and Tejarat Bank have started a campaign titled 'Disability is part of me, not all of me' which aims to empower children with disabilities in Iran through raising

awareness and fostering a supportive environment.

This initiative highlights the commitment of both organizations to promoting inclusion, accessibility, and equal opportunities for children with disabilities in Iran, UNICEF website announced in a press release on January 30.

The nationwide fundraising campaign is designed to improve children with disabilities' lives. The campaign's messages emphasize empowerment, dignity, and inclusion for children with disabilities.

This co-branded campaign will run across all Tejarat Bank branches, ATMs, Tejarat Bank customer clubs, and digital platforms, encouraging the public to donate to UNICEF.

Under a globally unique program called 'Earthquake Preparedness Education for Children with Disabilities', UNICEF and its partners have developed three books each targeting different stakeholders, i.e. parents/caregivers of children with disabilities, teachers, and policymakers.

Throughout the books, UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in collaboration with the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES), offer guidelines on disaster management, including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, focusing on children with hearing impairments, mobility impairments, and autism spectrum disorder so far, UNICEF website announced in a press release on January 19.

Furthermore, four consultative training workshops were held, where teachers, social workers, and aid workers learned and provided feedback on strategies for supporting children with disabilities before, during, and after earthquakes.

The program's journey does not stop here. Plans are already underway to update the guidebooks to include guidelines for children with vision impairments and to expand the resources to address all types of disabilities. This initiative represents a significant leap towards inclusive earthquake preparedness, ensuring a safer and more resilient future for every child in Iran, regardless of their disabilities.



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FEBRUARY 8, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Beware, beware of sinfulness. By God, He has veiled His servants' guilt so much as if He has forgiven them.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:18 Evening: 17:58 Dawn: 5:32 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:57 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* Nian Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Hamed Sadr-Arhami.

The exhibition entitled "Dewall" will be running until February 21 at the gallery located at 5 Abhari Alley, Vafai St. off Tur St. off South Mofatteh St.



* Paintings by Ali Sharifi are currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled "Night Orchestra", the exhibition runs until February 21 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Akbar Raad is showcasing his latest paintings in an exhibition at Bostan Gallery.

The exhibit named "Flowers of Suffering" will run until February 19 at No. 71, 22th Alley, Larestan St. off Motahhari Ave.



* Shamis Gallery is showcasing paintings by a group of artists including Leila Banki, Hassan Ayyazi, Bamdad Rezvanian, Mehrdad Khotai, Masiha Mandegar and Sara Keshmiri in an exhibition.

The exhibit named "Agnosia" will run until February 21 at the gallery located at 8 Daniali St., Andarzgu Blvd. in the Farmanieh neighborhood.

* Aran Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Maryam Farzadian.

The exhibition titled "Resume of A Gardener" will run until February 21 at the gallery located at 5 Lolagar St., Neauphle-le-Chateau St.



* A collection of paintings by Amir Mohammadzadeh is on display in an exhibition at Tarrahan Azad Gallery.

The exhibition named "Termite Corrosion" will be running until February 18 at the gallery located at 5 Salmas Square, off Fatemi St.



* A collection of paintings by a group of artists including Hamideh Akbari, Aida Raad, Parva Karkhaneh, Arian Qasempour and Ofogh Hosseini is on view in an exhibition at Soo Gallery.

The exhibition will continue until February 21 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St.



* Saless Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Moqaddasi.

The exhibit will be running until February 17 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.



* Paintings by Nasrin Eidi, Mina Golparvar, Sheida Mashayekhi, Homa Fallah, Nedereh Navidi and several others are on display in an exhibition at Idea Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until February 12 at the gallery located at 26, 18th St. off Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

* An exhibition of paintings by a group of artists including Bahareh Talebi, Mahnaz Nasser, Zeinab Yadmand and Paniz Otadi is underway at Ebteda Gallery.

The exhibition titled "New Motif" will run until February 12 at the gallery located at 35 Farrokhi Alley, near Vali-e-Asr Square.



36th Festival of Films from Iran kicks off in Chicago

TEHRAN-The 36th Festival of Films from Iran began in Chicago, the U.S., on Friday, showing some of the highlights of Iranian cinema presented at the Gene Siskel Film Center - during the festival and year-round - in the last 36 years.

The festival has selected award-winning films as well as films from globally-renowned directors to show at its current edition, ISNA reported.

The lineup includes "The Sealed Soil" by Marva Nabili (1977), "Close Up" by Abbas Kiarostami (1990), "Leila" by Dariush Mehrjui (1997), "Children of Heaven" by Majid Majidi (1997), "A Separation" by Asghar Farhadi (2011), and "Starless Dreams" by Mehrdad Oskouei (2016).

Now as the festival gears up to conclude its third decade, the organizers are nostalgic for these momentous years of this groundbreaking festival and of a selection of the films that have defined the last 36 years of Iranian cinema. In an ever-shifting cinematic landscape, and in a volatile time for Iran, the festival looks back in homage, while simultaneously looking forward in anticipation.

The Festival of Films from Iran was founded in 1989 and continues as a yearly showcase



that spotlights the innovation, resilience, and humanism of contemporary Iranian filmmakers and acclaimed Iranian auteurs. The festival serves as a window to Iran and its political, social and cultural world, forming and challenging audiences' perceptions of Iran, while also building a richer understanding of the country and its cinema.

The Gene Siskel Film Center is Chicago's premier art house cinema in the heart of the theater district, bringing film lovers together for an unparalleled movie-going experience. It presents a curated collection of eclectic international, independent, and classic cinema with festivals and year-round programming while striving to provide a wel-

coming space reflective of Chicago's diverse community. As a public program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Film Center fosters dialogue that sets films in historical and cultural context through panels, lectures, and filmmaker conversations.

Since 1972, the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago has presented cutting edge cinema to an annual audience of 100,000. The Film Center's programming includes annual film festivals that celebrate diverse voices and international cultures, premieres of trailblazing work by today's independent filmmakers, restorations and revivals of essential films from cinema history, and insightful, provocative discussions with filmmakers and media artists. Altogether, the Film Center hosts over 1,600 screenings and 200 filmmaker appearances every year. The Film Center was renamed the Gene Siskel Film Center in 2000 after the late, nationally celebrated film critic, Gene Siskel.

After a week of screening glorious Iranian films, this year's edition of the Festival of Films from Iran will conclude on February 13.

17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival to kick off in Tehran

TEHRAN- The Tehran province section of the 17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival, featuring My Homeland segment, will officially open on Tuesday at Rasul Mehr Gallery in Tehran.

This provincial artistic event will showcase the works of 15 selected artists from Tehran in various disciplines, including painting, calligraphy, sculpture, photography, installation art, performance art, and printmaking.

Leila Banki, Saman Shadanlou, Zohreh Hassani, Mohammad Kariminia, and Mehrdad Mehrkish are among the selected artists participating in the festival.

This edition of the festival will be held in



a non-competitive format, focusing on the subcultures, traditions, and local arts of the country's provinces.

My Homeland section of the festival will also take place across all 31 provinces, featuring exhibitions of artists' works curated by the festival's provincial artistic directors.

My Homeland segment will begin in Fars province, with the opening bell signaling the start of the festival ringing from the Sarv Gallery in Shiraz.

Under the artistic management of Behdad Najafi Asadollahi, the Tehran province event will run until February 18.

Tehran's City Theater to stage Slawomir Mrozek's "The Martyrdom of Peter Ohey"

TEHRAN-The play "The Martyrdom of Peter Ohey" by Polish playwright Slawomir Mrozek will go on stage at the City Theater in Tehran from February 9.

Fares Bagheri has directed the 90-minute play, which has Morteza Hoseinzadeh, Farzaneh Meydani, Mohammad Ashkanfar, Amir Shams, Mehdi Abuzamzeh, and Aynaz Jalili in the cast.

In the play, a family's home life turns upside down when a tiger suddenly appears in their bathroom.

As more and more absurd characters invade their home (a scientist, a government official, a circus manager, and more), the family must decide whether or not to give in and join the circus.

The play shows how the hero of its title deals with the appearance of a bloodthirsty tiger in his bathroom. Peter is a decidedly unpolitical and oblivious person, more interested in his daily newspaper than his wife or children. He's so oblivious that it takes a buffoonish official to in-

form him that there's a wild animal in his own home. The tiger attracts a pageant of characters that seek to exploit the tiger on behalf of their respective institutions. Representatives of science, economics, art and government make themselves at home, while Peter is too ineffectual to stop them.

Slawomir Mrozek (1930-2013) turned from journalism to creating absurdist satires, the peculiarities of which helped him evade censorship. "The Martyrdom of Peter Ohey" was

written in 1959 by Mrozek, a journalist and cartoonist by training during Poland's Stalinist era.

One of Poland's most celebrated playwrights, Mrozek wrote this absurdist piece as a subtle critique of the political system of the time.

Mrozek began writing plays in the late 1950s. His theatrical works belong to the genre of absurdist fiction, intended to shock the audience with non-realistic elements, political and historic references, distortion, and parody.

Peter Carey's "Oscar and Lucinda" available in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the novel "Oscar and Lucinda" written by Australian author Peter Carey has been released in bookstores across Iran.

Maliheh Ghodrati has translated the book and Afkar Publications has brought it out in 540 pages, Mehr reported.

Carey's Booker Prize winning novel imagines Australia's youth, before its dynamic passions became dangerous habits. It is also a startling and unusual love story.

Oscar is a young English clergyman who has broken with his past and developed a disturbing talent for gambling. A country girl of singular ambition, Lucinda moves to Sydney, driven by dreams of self-reliance and the building of an industrial Utopia. Together this unlikely pair create and are created by the spectacle of mid-19th century Australia.

Carey's visionary brilliance, and his capacity to delight and surprise, propel this story to its stun-

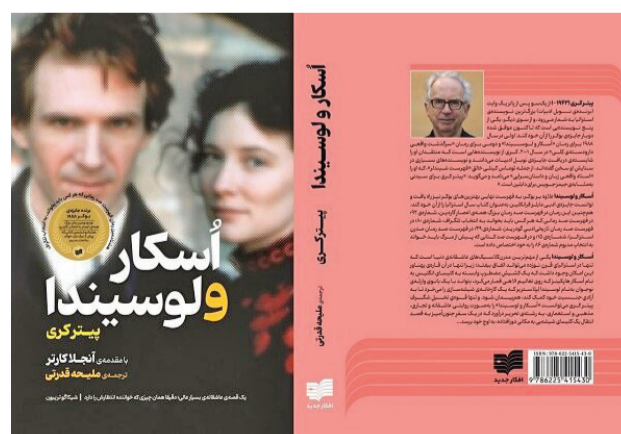
ning conclusion.

It won the 1988 Booker Prize the year it was released, and the 1989 Miles Franklin Award. It was short-listed in 2008 for The Best of the Booker, in celebration of the prize's 40th anniversary.

The novel was adapted years later for a film of the same name, released in 1997. It was directed by Gillian Armstrong and starred Ralph Fiennes, Cate Blanchett, and Tom Wilkinson.

Peter Carey, 81, is one of only five writers to have won the Booker Prize twice. Carey won his first Booker Prize in 1988, for "Oscar and Lucinda," and won his second Booker Prize in 2001, for "True History of the Kelly Gang".

Carey has won the Miles Franklin Award three times, and is frequently named as Australia's next



contender for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

In addition to writing fiction, he collaborated on the screenplay of the film "Until the End of the World" with Wim Wenders and was, for nineteen years, executive director of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at Hunter College, part of the City University of New York.