



# One Voice

**Across Iranian politics, officials unite behind Ayatollah Khamenei's rejection of talks with 'bullying' US**

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## Is it wise for US to attack Iran? Tucker Carlson ignites national debate

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – In a seismic shift from mainstream media's hawkish rhetoric, American journalist Tucker Carlson has become an unlikely catalyst for rethinking U.S. policy toward Iran.

The former Fox News host's Sunday post on X, which has amassed over 5.8 million impressions as of this writing, critiques the exaggerated portrayal of Iran as a "terror sponsor." This analysis has sparked bipartisan scrutiny of Washington's persistent war-mongering tactics.

As U.S. President Donald Trump, echoing the warmongers and anti-Iran neoconservatives in Washington DC, escalates threats against Tehran, Carlson's data-driven critique and growing public skepticism signal a turning point in the debate over America's priorities—domestic crises versus foreign interventions.

### 'Compare the Numbers'

Carlson's post cut through decades of fearmongering with a simple question: "How many Americans have been killed by Iran on U.S. soil in 20 years? Compare that to drug ODs, suicide, or car accidents. Still think Iran is the greatest threat?" ▶ Page 2

## Petchem industry nearing 100m ton production capacity

TEHRAN – Iran's petrochemical industry is on the verge of reaching a production capacity of 100 million tons, with feedstock already supplied to several petrochemical plants set to become operational in the coming months, the head of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said.

Speaking at the 11th Petrochemical Industry Excellence Award ceremony on Saturday (March 8), Hassan Abbaszadeh stressed that developing the complex petrochemical sector without modern management systems is highly challenging. He noted that the industry has been at the forefront of adopting these systems.

"The Excellence Award process leverages these scattered management infrastructures within petrochemical companies, providing a framework for assessment and improvement," Abbaszadeh said. "Excellence is not a fixed point but a continuous journey, one that the petrochemical industry embarked on years ago despite various challenges." ▶ Page 4

## Trump wants to reopen talks with Iran, but is the West ready to change its approach?



Trump wants to reopen talks with Iran, but is the West ready to change its approach?

By Najah Mohammed Ali

LONDON – U.S. President Donald Trump has resumed discussions about the possibility of negotiating with Iran, claiming that he has sent a message to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

This assertion comes amid the continuation of his "maximum pressure" policy against Iran. Simultaneously, senior Iranian diplomat and former negotiator Abbas Araghchi emphasized that Iran will not resume negotiations as long as this hostile policy persists.

This stance raises a fundamental question: Is the West, especially the United States and the European troika (Britain, France, and Germany), genuinely committed to resolving the dispute with Iran through diplomacy, or will it continue to rely on threats and sanctions? ▶ Page 3

## Starvation is weaponized again in Gaza

By our staff writer

TEHRAN – In a blatant violation of international humanitarian law, Israel has cut humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

Students were reading in history books that during World War II, the warring sides cut off food to people to force their enemies to surrender. But these sadistic acts are happening before our eyes today.

Israel was using starvation once in a while as a weapon during its war on Gaza, punishing Gazans collectively. In the early days of the war, it even cut water to Gaza. It is for nine days that this cruel regime has fully cut aid to the enclave while Hamas and Israel have signed a ceasefire agreement that one of its terms is to allow the flow of aid to the blockaded strip.

Over a dozen human rights experts have denounced Israel's "weaponized starvation" in Gaza after it decided to delay ceasefire efforts and block humanitarian aid from entering the enclave, Middle East Eye reported.

## Massacres in Syria claim over 1,000 lives

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has confirmed that over 1,018 people have been killed in Syria's coastal region within just 48 hours.

According to the monitoring group, this number includes at least 745 civilians, most of whom are from the Syrian Alawite sect. However, sources on the ground believe this is a conservative estimate, suggesting the real death toll could be much higher.

Field sources in Baniyas (Tartous) and Al-Bahluliyah (Latakia) report that civilian deaths are likely between 2,300 and 2,400.

Fox News and the New York Times report, based on eyewitness accounts, that more than 4,000 people have been killed in Syria's coastal areas.

Eyewitnesses told the Western news outlets that they had received lists documenting the mass killing of Alawite civilians.

Graphic footage circulating online reveals disturbing scenes of violence. In some videos, government forces are seen executing elderly individuals, women, and young boys at point-blank range.

## Can the Lebanese army protect the south from the vicious Talmudic myths?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON – Southern Lebanon, according to the Israeli enemy's distorted biblical narrative, represents northern Galilee, and the Zionist regime has launched a movement intended to establish a settlement in southern Lebanon as part of "Greater Israel."

This colonial call received support from members of the Knesset. Investment companies also took the initiative to announce settlement projects in southern Lebanon.

The danger of this expansionist proposal is that settlement plans in the West Bank seemed impossible five decades ago, but they were established despite the Oslo Accords and repeated calls to establish a Palestinian state on the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 in a blatant violation of international law and condemnation by the United Nations.

Therefore, it should not be surprising what the settlement movements suggest regarding the northern Galilee (southern Lebanon), which may become a reality one day.

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## Iran-Saudi Reconciliation should be part of any future regional order

By Dr. Jin Liangxiang

SHANGHAI – March 10, 2025, marks the second anniversary of the big event of the Iran-Saudi reconciliation under China's mediation two years ago. Though sustainability was once doubted as the rivalry between the two was long and profound, the process finally proved to be steady and successful, which has contributed to the stability of the region. The years ahead will see the new momentum of the reconciliation, but new efforts will have to be invested in. And the reconciliation will be a part of any arrangements of future regional order. ▶ Page 5



## Girls celebrate first Ramadan

A special ceremony was held on Saturday at the Shahcheragh holy shrine in the city of Shiraz for over one thousand girls who are fasting for the first time in Ramadan. Any girl should fast whenever she reaches the age of discretion.

Ramadan is a brief spell of abstinence as God – who had created us all – has seen fit for human beings to limit their food intake for some days throughout the year. Fasting is also observed in some other religions or other philosophies as well to some extent by cutting down on foods and drinks.



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

## Trump destroyed his letter before sending it to Iran

In a commentary, the Keyhan newspaper analyzed Donald Trump's letter to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution for negotiations. It said this is the umpteenth time a U.S. president has sent a letter to the Iranian Leader. Unlike previous oral and written letters from U.S. presidents to the Iranian leadership, Trump's letter to the Leader was not done secretly or without public announcement. Rather, for the first time, Trump himself made this matter public. Even when, according to an American official, the letter had not been sent to Tehran it was made public. It was for this reason that Iranian officials declared they had not received such a letter. This action means destroying the letter. Trump's mistake is that in the field of negotiations, he is not only result-oriented but also likes the process. Trump's goal with this action is to throw the ball back to Iran's court. Before this, when Trump signed the presidential memorandum to restore the maximum pressure, he requested to negotiate with Iran. At the time, the Leader of the Revolution rejected negotiations in the most explicit way possible, saying talks will not be "wise, intelligent, and honorable."

### Jam-e-Jam: Negotiations with America won't produce results

In a commentary, Jam-e-Jam addressed America's breach of promise and illusionary trust in the U.S. by some pro-Americans at home. The paper said: America's recent behavior shows that it always prefers its interests over everything else and is willing to humiliate even its allies. This incident is a lesson for supporters of negotiations with America, the most important of which is that negotiation with America do not yield results. The Leader has repeatedly emphasized that negotiations with America not only do not resolve the country's problems but may also lead to an imposition of America's demands and national humiliation. The recent behavior of the U.S. toward Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky is a clear example of this reality. On the other side, negotiators with America should know that talks with America are not sustainable. The result of such negotiations always

prove detrimental to the weaker party because America is unwilling to accept the rights of other countries. Some believe that negotiations can reduce pressure and result in quick gains, but these compromises are temporary and will end up to the country's detriment in the long run.

### Hamshahri: What will be the quality of Iran's response to Trump's letter?

Hamshahri discussed Trump's letter to Iran in an interview with Farshid Bagherian, an expert on international affairs. He said: Speculation about Trump's direct letter to the Leader of the Revolution continue in domestic and international media outlets and political circles, while attention should be focused more than anything else on Iran's reaction to the letter. Trump is cleverly trying to create a gap between the government and the people inside Iran. He wants to create an image in people's minds that America is seeking negotiations and reconciliation, while Iran is to blame for failing to reciprocate. Assuming that this letter has reached Iran, the Leader of the Revolution will not respond to it. If Iran is to respond to the letter, it will be within a structural framework. For example, the Islamic Republic's conditions for negotiations will be set by the government or the Supreme National Security Council. On the other side, if there is no response to this letter, it will mean emphasizing no negotiations with the United States.

### Farhikhtegan: A common goal and two opposing solutions over CCW

In an article, Farhikhtegan dealt with the dispute between supporters and opponents of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in the parliament and wrote: The main dispute between supporters and opponents of joining the CCW is whether this convention can benefit Iran or will end up damaging to the Islamic Republic. Supporters see it as an opportunity for active diplomacy and reducing pressure, while opponents see it as a step towards surrendering to the will of the United States and limiting defense capabilities.

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

# Iran, Russia, and China to conduct major naval drill in Indian Ocean

TEHRAN – Iran, Russia, and China are set to conduct a large-scale joint naval exercise in the northern Indian Ocean, focusing on maritime security operations and strategic military coordination.

The drill, named Security Belt-2025, will take place in early and mid-March near Iran's southeastern Chabahar Port, involving various branches of the three nations' naval forces.

The Chinese Defense Ministry announced the exercise on Sunday via its official Weibo account, detailing that the drill will include multiple training operations such as maritime target strikes, VBSS (visit, board, search, and seizure), damage control, and joint search and rescue missions.

According to the ministry, the primary goal of Security Belt-2025 is to enhance military trust and strengthen practical cooperation between the participating forces. China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy is set to deploy a destroyer and a replenishment ship for the exercise.

A Chinese military analyst emphasized that the drill will contribute to safeguarding security in a strategically critical region, particularly one that serves as a key transit route for global energy shipments.

Security Belt-2025 marks the fifth joint naval exercise between Iran, China, and Russia since 2019.



Over the past few years, the three nations have conducted multiple military drills to reinforce regional maritime stability and safeguard international trade routes.

In addition to countering piracy and maritime terrorism, these exercises have facilitated intelligence sharing on naval rescue operations and the exchange of tactical and operational expertise.

In March 2024, the Iranian Navy, along with Chinese and Russian naval and airborne units, participated in the Maritime Security Belt-2024 drills. Observers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, and South Africa attended the exercises, reflecting the growing interest in multilateral maritime cooperation.

The joint maneuvers were designed to strengthen maritime security, bolster international trade protection, combat piracy, and

enhance operational coordination among naval forces. The drills also served as a demonstration of the participants' collective commitment to global peace and stability at sea.

As part of the upcoming exercises, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) will deploy two advanced vessels: the Shahid Nazeri and the Shahid Sayyad Shirazi.

Commissioned into the IRGCN Navy in September 2016, the Shahid Nazeri is a high-speed patrol and reconnaissance vessel designed for extended operational reach. With a length of 55 meters, a width of 14 meters, and a height of 13 meters, the vessel significantly enhances the IRGCN's maritime capabilities, extending its operational range up to 10,000 kilometers.

The Shahid Nazeri features a specialized twin-hull (SWATH -

Small Waterplane Area Twin Hull) design, providing enhanced stability in high-speed operations and rough seas. Its design ensures that it remains steady even at high speeds, reducing the risk of capsizing.

Equipped with a helicopter landing pad, the vessel can conduct surveillance and reconnaissance missions across various maritime zones, making it a valuable asset for intelligence gathering and patrol operations.

The Shahid Sayyad Shirazi is a newly commissioned stealth warship from the Shahid Soleimani class, officially joining the IRGC Navy in February 2024. This catamaran-style ocean-going vessel is designed for high-speed operations, with a maximum speed of 45 knots.

Armed with a wide array of offensive and defensive missile systems, the Shahid Sayyad Shirazi is equipped with vertical-launch Nawab air defense missiles and Sayyad cruise missiles with a strike range of 700 kilometers.

With a length of 67 meters, a width of 20 meters, and a displacement of 600 tons, the vessel is powered by four engines, enabling long-distance operations. It has an operational range of 5,500 nautical miles and is capable of carrying three missile-launching fast attack boats along with an armed combat helicopter.

## Iran condemns Canada's new sanctions as 'unlawful and politically motivated'

TEHRAN – Tehran has strongly condemned the latest round of Canadian sanctions against Iran, calling them deceitful, unlawful, and a blatant violation of international law.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry dismissed the measures as politically motivated and accused Canada of hypocrisy in its human rights claims.

In a statement on Sunday, Issa Kameli, Assistant to the Foreign Minister and Director General for the Americas Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, denounced the sanctions as illegitimate and an infringement on the rights of the Iranian people. He argued that such actions make the Canadian government internationally accountable for violating fundamental human rights.

"The new sanctions imposed by Canada against Iran under the pretext of human rights are a politically motivated and deceptive move that contradicts the principles of the United Nations Charter and international trade laws," Kameli stated.

The Canadian government announced the fresh sanctions on Friday, targeting seven Iranian individuals and entities. Ottawa alleged that these individuals and organizations were linked to networks involved in the production of weapons purportedly supplied to Russia for use in the ongoing war in Ukraine. Canada further justified the measures by citing Iran's alleged role in "gross human rights violations" and destabilizing activities in the region.

According to the Canadian Foreign Ministry, these sanctions align with similar measures imposed by Canada's Western allies, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union.

Responding to the accusations, Kameli vehemently rejected the claims of Iranian involvement in the Ukraine conflict, emphasizing that repeating falsehoods does not make them true. He reiterated Tehran's position of neutrality, reaffirming that Iran has no role in the Russia-Ukraine war and advocating for diplomatic negotiations as the only viable path to resolving the conflict.

## Is it wise for US to attack Iran? Tucker Carlson ignites national debate

From page 1 ▶ Backed by stark statistics—over 108,000 overdose deaths in 2022, 49,000 suicides, and zero Iran-linked fatalities on U.S. soil—the tweet challenges the logic of prioritizing regime change over healthcare or infrastructure.

The timing is critical. Trump's recent unsent letter to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, threatening military action if negotiations fail, mirrors the bellicose posturing of allies like National Security Advisor Mike Waltz ("all options on the table") and Israeli regime's convicted war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu, who has declared an intention to "finish the job" with U.S. support.

Carlson's rebuttal, however, resonates with a war-weary public: a 2024 poll found 61% of Americans oppose military action against Iran, even if diplomacy collapses.

**Trump's brinkmanship**  
Despite Carlson's reported influence in de-escalating past crises—notably persuading Trump to abort a 2019 strike after Iran downed a U.S. drone—the president's recent threats mark a dangerous pivot.

Trump's assertion that military action would be "a terrible thing for [Iran]" disregards Tehran's adherence to the 2015 nuclear deal until the U.S. unilaterally withdrew in 2018.

This stance also overlooks the fact that Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei issued a fatwa explicitly prohibiting the acquisition, development, and use of nuclear weapons, reinforcing the country's commitment to peaceful nuclear activities.

Furthermore, as a long-standing member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) since its inception, Iran has con-

sistently emphasized its compliance with international frameworks aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

This pattern of provocation reflects a broader agenda to destabilize Iran for geopolitical gain.

Carlson's independent platform, amplified since his 2023 departure from Fox News, has become a prominent space for anti-war perspectives.

His interviews have featured a range of guests, including military veterans, geopolitical analysts, and outspoken critics of U.S. foreign policy.

Figures like Colonel Douglas Macgregor, known for his opposition to interventionist wars, and journalist Glenn Greenwald, a vocal critic of U.S. militarism, have used Carlson's platform to challenge mainstream narratives.


Comedian Dave Smith hailed his recent tweet as "THE America First message," while Army veteran John demanded, "Stop fighting Israel's war!"

Even geopolitical analyst S.L. Kanthan, often critical of U.S. conservatives, praised Carlson's "non-ideological thinking" post-Fox.


**Manufacturing Iranphobia: media complicity and historical amnesia**

The demonization of Iran is rooted in decades of U.S. interference. The 1953 CIA-backed coup against Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, which reinstated the authoritarian Shah, set the stage for the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

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



**INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER**  
**Second Announcement**  
**55/03/30184**  
**10/03/2025**



**AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY**

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of **3x35000±10% MTS of Granular Triple Super Phosphate** through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Sunday** dated **09/03/2025** until **Saturday** dated **15/03/2025** (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9<sup>th</sup> floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 33903978226350065000000000000000

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Monday** dated **21/04/2025** (During official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on **Tuesday** dated **22/04/2025** at **14:00** with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9<sup>th</sup> floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

- 1- The bid bond value should be at **€420124** or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer rate of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, [www.fxmarketrates.cbi.ir](http://www.fxmarketrates.cbi.ir), on **01/3/2025** for each lot of 35000 MTS ± 10% in bank guarantee.
- 2- The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 35000 MTS ± 10% will be **IRR 124,537,278,296** which must be only submitted by the bidders.
- 3- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

**For more information, you may refer to our website [www.assc.ir](http://www.assc.ir), and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.**

**Public relations and international affairs of agricultural support services company**

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By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Iranian officials on Sunday rallied behind remarks by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who told authorities a day earlier that Tehran would not negotiate with Washington, a stance taken for the second time since Donald Trump assumed the role of president this year.

"The persistence of some bullying governments in wanting negotiations is not to solve issues but to impose their own expectations. The Islamic Republic of Iran will undoubtedly reject their demands," Ayatollah Khamenei stated on Saturday. That came after Trump told American media he had sent a letter to the Leader, expressing willingness to strike a deal with Iran on its nuclear program. Iran says it has received no such letter, while an unnamed American official later told Al Jazeera that the message had been penned but not sent.

Trump withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018, and re-imposed the anti-Iran sanctions that had been lifted under the deal. He appears to want more from Iran than just the limitations the JCPOA put on its nuclear activities, pushing for concessions on its domestically-developed missiles and drone programs and its close ties to regional Resistance forces. Iranians have repeatedly said that the country's military capabilities or alliances are not up for discussion. They also point to continued Israeli aggressions in the region, and the regime's long-lasting threats of striking Iran.



Iranian lawmakers, including Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, said during their latest session that Tehran will not wait to receive any letter from Washington. "What is clear is that no negotiation would result in the removal of sanctions under the specter of threats and with an American agenda that entails new concessions," Qalibaf stated, adding, "We believe that the enormous internal capacities and the opportunities for the promotion of foreign relations with other countries could take Iran to such a position that the enemy will have no option but to remove the sanctions within the framework of continuation of negotiations with the countries remaining in the JCPOA."

Iran is currently engaged in talks with European signatories to the nuclear deal – France, Germany, Britain – discussing a range of issues including the lame-duck state of the JCPOA.

After decades of U.S. sanc-

tions, Tehran has honed the art of circumventing or neutralizing them. But its currency market remains susceptible to external developments. The Iranian Rial fell to a record low against the dollar in February following Trump's renewal of the "maximum pressure" campaign through an executive decree, worsening inflationary pressures within Iran.

The directive aims to bring Iran's most important source of revenue – oil exports – to zero. However, within a month of its signing, Iran's oil sales reached their highest level since 2018. Analysts suggest that the U.S. has exhausted its pressure tools against Iran and that Iranian authorities must prioritize strategies to insulate the economy from currency volatility. The government is expected to announce policy decisions regarding inflation control in the upcoming Iranian year, with numerous solutions reportedly having been proposed.

Military officials also weighed in on Trump's negotiation proposals. The Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Army (Artesh), Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, told Al Mayadeen that "no rational person would accept negotiations under pressure and sanctions."

Former President Hassan Rouhani, who oversaw the signing of the JCPOA in 2015, also said to the Lebanese media outlet that the U.S. has "failed to achieve its political and international objectives" against Iran. Gholamreza Mesbahi Moghaddam, a member of Iran's Expediency Discernment Council, said talks with Washington under the current circumstances would only bring about harm.

Trump says if Iran refuses to strike a deal he wants, he would "bomb the hell" out of the country. Analysts and leaders in the region have warned that such an action would not be limited to potential damage to Iranian nuclear facilities, but would unleash a period of devastating regional instability.

In a phone call on Sunday, President Masoud Pezeshkian told the Norwegian Prime Minister that Iran has, despite repeated Israeli provocations, consistently worked to prevent a regional conflagration. He emphasized, however, that Iran would not hesitate to defend its sovereignty and interests. The president further stated that Israel has been attempting to demonize Iran's nuclear program, which he reiterated remains peaceful under a religious decree (fatwa) issued by Ayatollah Khamenei.



just sanctions that hinder diplomatic progress.

One significant development in Iranian domestic politics is the reemergence of Abbas Araqchi, a key figure in the original nuclear negotiations. His return as Foreign Minister reflects Tehran's willingness to engage in dialogue, as announced by Iranian President Massoud Pezeshkian, albeit conditioned on a change in the West's approach.

### Recommendations for the West

To break the current impasse, the United States and Europe must realize that Iran will not return to the negotiating table under threats and sanctions. To achieve a sustainable agreement, the following principles should be adopted:

1. Ending the maximum pressure policy: Sanctions have not weakened Iran nor curtailed its nuclear program. The only path to full compliance is a gradual lifting of sanctions and rebuilding the lost trust.

2. Ensuring no further withdrawal: Iran's primary concern is the potential for the U.S. to withdraw from agreements again. Trump, or any future U.S. president, must guarantee the reliability of any new deal.

3. Respecting Iran's sovereignty: Iran has repeatedly asserted that it does not seek to possess nuclear weapons but retains the right to peaceful nuclear technology. The West should acknowledge this and address its concerns through cooperation rather than

threats.

4. Ending double standards in the region: If the West wants to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, it must address the nuclear arsenal of the Zionist entity, which remains outside any oversight, while Iran, a signatory to the NPT, faces continuous pressure. This double standard undermines trust and hinders diplomatic efforts.

5. Engaging in respect-based negotiations: Iran asserts that negotiations can only occur from a position of equality and respect. Policies based on threats will only escalate tensions.

### A Missed opportunity could await

Iran and the West stand at a crossroads requiring decisive choices. Iran has demonstrated its resilience against pressures, but if the West is serious about seeking dialogue, it must take tangible steps.

If Trump is sincere in his desire to negotiate with Iran, he must translate words into actions. The time has come to move beyond media spectacles, lift unlawful sanctions, and engage in smart, fair, and unconditional negotiations. Europe must also choose between remaining a hostage to U.S. policies or taking an independent stance.

Time is of the essence, and while Iran has always sought diplomatic solutions, its patience is not infinite. If the West continues its previous policies, the door to negotiation might close permanently.

## Trump wants to reopen talks with Iran, but is the West ready to change its approach?

From Page 1 ▶

### Trump's miscalculations: maximum pressure yields contrary results

Trump and his advisers believed that withdrawing from the nuclear agreement and imposing further sanctions would force Iran to succumb and accept a new deal. However, the outcomes were entirely opposite. Since 2018, we have witnessed:

1. Strengthened Iranian resilience: Contrary to Washington's expectations, Iran adopted a policy of "active resistance" and expanded its nuclear program, while keeping it within the bounds of peaceful uses in line with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

2. Diminished U.S. standing: U.S. actions did not isolate Iran; rather, they deepened the rift between Washington and its European allies, who refused to withdraw from the nuclear agreement after Trump did and resisted Trump's pressure.

3. Undermined diplomatic credibility: The unilateral withdrawal from an international agreement backed by a UN Security Council resolution (Resolution 2231) and the International Atomic Energy Agency harmed the United States' reputation as a reliable negotiator.

### Europe: between independence and dependency on the United States

Europe finds itself in a complex situation. The European trioka ostensibly supported the JCPOA but, in reality, failed to fulfill its commitments. It succumbed to U.S. pressures and failed to implement mechanisms like INSTEX, designed to circumvent U.S. sanctions.

Now, with Trump talking about negotiations, Europe must decide whether to remain tethered to White House policies or to adopt a more independent approach toward Iran. If it seeks to revive the nuclear agreement or reach a new arrangement, it must offer genuine guarantees, including:

- Ending delay and empty promises: Demonstrating genuine commitment instead of formal statements.

- Investing in the agreement and economic relations with Iran: Taking tangible steps to support the agreement and enhance trade relations.

- Pressuring Washington to lift unlawful sanctions: Advocating for the removal of un-

### Iran NPC winner of 2025 International Women's Day Recognition Award

TEHRAN – The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has announced the three exceptional winners of the 2025 International Women's Day Recognition Awards.

Penny Briscoe CBE from ParalympicsGB (Leadership), Paralympian Zakia Khudadi (Emerging Leadership), and National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Iran (IPC Member) were each recognized for their outstanding work ahead of International Women's Day on 8 March.

The Awards, which have been running since 2013, recognize women in the Paralympic Movement who inspire and emulate the Paralympic ideals and serve as positive role models. The winners were chosen by members of the IPC Governing Board following nominations by IPC member organizations.

Andrew Parsons, IPC President said: "The quality of nominations this year was exceptional, and I congratulate Penny, Zakia and NPC Iran. It is my pleasure and honor to know you and work with you."

"Leaders like Penny, rising stars like Zakia and committed members like NPC Iran show us that anything is possible in the Paralympic Movement, reminding us that greatness knows no limits and that representation is key in shaping a more inclusive and equal future."

Commenting on recognition of NPC Iran in the Membership category, Ghafour Karegari, President of NPC Iran said: "NPC Iran not only believes in gender equality but also provides enhanced privileges, services, and support tailored for women with disabilities. Through this vision and diligent oversight of its implementation, it has created a supportive and empowering environment for women with disabilities."

This category recognizes the leadership, impact and effective change initiated by a member (NPCs, International Federations, International Organizations of Sport for the Disabled, and Regional Organizations) who promote and support equality and inclusion of women in sport. In 2025 the winner in this category is NPC Iran.

Since its establishment in 2000, women have been at the core of the NPC's strategic plans and decision-making processes, with a focus on enhancing participation in key areas such as national and international competitions, leadership roles, and educational programs.

Iranian women made their Paralympic debut at the Barcelona 1992, with four athletes competing in a single sport. At Paris 2024, the number of female athletes had increased to 12 across five sports, with seven medals won (an increase of 33.3 per cent in participation). Today, over 60,000 athletes are supported by the NPC in sports for all, with more than a third of them being women.

Well-known Iranian Paralympians who inspire other women in the country include four-time Paralympic champion Sareh Javanmardi, and three-time Paralympic champion Zahra Nemati who serves as a UN ambassador.

NPC Iran has one female vice president and 40 per cent representation of women in board meetings, including two athlete representatives.

### Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr to host Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Cristiano Ronaldo is expected to be back powering Al Nassr Club when the Saudi Arabian team hosts Esteghlal in the return leg of the AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 Round of 16 tie on Monday.

The match at Riyadh's King Saud University Stadium promises to be a thriller, with last week's first leg having ended in a goalless stalemate.

An injury kept Ronaldo out of the first leg – which saw the Riyadh-based club squander

six clear chances – but the Portuguese star scored in Al Nassr's 2-2 draw with Al Shabab in a Saudi Pro League tie on Friday.

The goal took Ronaldo's domestic tally to 18 and the Al Nassr skipper has also been in fine form on the continental stage, having already found the back of the net six times.

He has yet to, however, score against a side from Iran but Al Nassr – aiming to make the last eight stage for the fifth time – will head into the tie with confidence, having not lost to teams from the Central Asian nation in its last 12 meetings.

Esteghlal, however, will take on Al Nassr on the back of a five-match unbeaten run in the AFC Champions League Elite.

A resolute defensive performance helped the Iranian side keep Al Nassr at bay last week but it will need to adopt a more attacking outlook if it is to reach the quarter-finals for the third time in its history.

They will also draw confidence from the form of Hossein Hosseini, whose 39 saves has him top of the goalkeepers' chart.

### Iran into Asian Mini Football Championship 2025 final

TEHRAN – Iran advanced to the final match of the Asian Mini Football Championship 2025.

Team Melli defeated the UAE 1-0 thanks to a goal from Amin Rezaei.

Indonesia also qualified for the final after beating Oman 3-2.

On Sunday, Iran will face Indonesia in the final, and Oman will play the UAE in the bronze medal match.

The competition takes place at the Shams Stadium in Sharjah, the UAE.

Minifootball (sometimes referred to as mini-football or minifoot) is a small-sided variation of football.

Minifootball is played in 5-a-side format, with additional variants of 6-a-side, 7-a-side, 8-a-side, 9-a-side and indoor football.

The 6-a-side format is governed by the International Football Federation, while the 7-a-side format is governed by several sub-continental bodies, including the IFA7 and FIF7. In recent years, minifootball has grown in popularity globally.

### Esteghlal midfielder Rezavand to miss Al Nassr match

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team midfielder Arash Rezavand will be absent in the match against Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr.

The 31-year-old player has been diagnosed with a sprain of the medial collateral ligament.

Esteghlal ars scheduled to meet Al Nassr at Riyadh's King Saud University Stadium in the return leg of the AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25 Round of 16 tie on Monday.

Two teams shared the spoil in a goalless draw in the first leg in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

### Sepahan forward Limoochi may miss rest of season

TEHRAN – Sepahan football team forward Mehdi Limoochi may be out for the season with a foot injury.

He sustained the injury in the match against Esteghlal Khuzestan.

Limoochi has scored nine goals for Sepahan in the 2024-25 Iran Professional League and his absence will be a major blow to the Isfahan-based team.

Sepahan sit second in the table behind Tractor.



## Liquid fuel supply to power plants raises by 6 billion liters

TEHRAN - Iran has supplied 20.8 billion liters of liquid fuel to the country's power plants since the beginning of the current Iranian year (late March 2024), the head of the National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC) said.

According to Mehr News Agency, citing NIOPDC, Keramat Veis-Karami stated on Thursday that 11.97 billion liters of gasoil and 8.83 billion liters of fuel oil have been delivered to power plants across the country since the start of the year.

He noted that liquid fuel consumption in power plants is expected to rise by 33% in 2024, adding that due to an early onset of cold weather and severe winter conditions, power plants have consumed 2.2 billion liters more gasoil and 2.9 billion liters more fuel oil com-

pared to last year.

Veis-Karami also provided guidelines to company managers to ensure better fuel distribution during the upcoming Nowruz holiday.

He emphasized the need for greater coordination between operational and administrative units to address potential issues and enhance equipment in CNG stations and the smart fuel card system.

He further noted that despite operational challenges, an average of more than 50 million liters of gasoil has been supplied daily to power plants from late November to mid-March. He described this as an unprecedented achievement made possible through coordinated efforts in production, supply, transportation, and storage.

## U.S. fails to renew Iraq's waiver for electricity purchases from Iran

TEHRAN - The U.S. government has not renewed Iraq's sanctions waiver for purchasing electricity from Iran, a move aimed at increasing economic pressure on Tehran.

According to Tasnim News Agency, the U.S. State Department confirmed on Saturday that the waiver, which had allowed Iraq to continue importing electricity from Iran despite sanctions, was not extended upon its expiration. A spokesperson for the State Department said the decision ensures that Iran does not receive any economic or financial relief.

Washington first imposed sanctions on Iran's energy exports in 2018, citing Tehran's nuclear program and what it described as Iranian interference in the Middle East. However, the U.S. granted waivers to certain buyers to help them meet their energy needs. While both the Trump and Biden administrations extended these waivers multiple times, Washington repeatedly urged Baghdad to reduce its reliance on Iranian electricity. The State Department spokesperson reiterated this stance on Saturday, stating that the U.S. expects Iraq to end its dependence

on Iranian energy as soon as possible, calling Iran an "unreliable energy source."

To downplay the impact of the move, the official noted that in 2023, electricity imports from Iran accounted for only 4% of Iraq's total power consumption.

A U.S. official had previously stated that Secretary of State Antony Blinken could modify or revoke existing waivers while working with the Treasury Department on efforts to cut Iran's oil exports to zero.

Meanwhile, Iraq's Minister of Electricity denied receiving any formal notification from Washington regarding the suspension of the waivers, which allow Baghdad to import natural gas from Iran. Iraqi Electricity Ministry spokesperson Ahmed Moussa also stated that Iraq maintains official channels of communication with U.S. officials, and no formal notice has been issued regarding the waiver's cancellation. He added that the ministry is preparing for any potential energy crisis if Iranian imports are completely halted in the future.

## Rainfall drops 41% this water year, raising reservoir crisis concerns

TEHRAN - Iran has experienced a 41 percent decline in rainfall compared to the long-term average, leading to critically low water reserves in several regions, a senior water industry official warned.

According to Iran Water Resources Management Company, Issa Bozorgzadeh, the spokesperson for the country's water industry, said that total precipitation from October 2024 to March 7, 2025, reached 93.8 millimeters, significantly below the long-term average of 157.8 millimeters. This also marks a 21 percent decrease compared to the same period last year.

Bozorgzadeh noted that the drop in rainfall has directly impacted the country's reservoirs, with water levels in dams falling seven percent year-on-year to 22.09 billion cubic meters.

"The inflow to dams has also seen a dramatic decline," he said, noting that total water

inflows since the start of the water year have reached 8.7 billion cubic meters, a 33 percent drop from the previous year. Water outflows have also declined by two percent standing at 11.16 billion cubic meters.

Bozorgzadeh highlighted that provinces such as Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Khuzestan, Kermanshah, and Isfahan have been hit hardest by the rainfall deficit.

Hormozgan has seen a 77 percent drop in precipitation compared to normal levels, while Sistan-Baluchestan has recorded a 72 percent decrease.

Several major dams, including Shamil and Niyan, Amir Kabir, Zayandeh Rud, and Esteghlal Minab, have suffered sharp declines in water reserves.

For instance, Amir Kabir Dam is currently at only six percent of its capacity, marking a staggering 60 percent drop from last year.

## Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$5.5b to Turkey in 10 months

TEHRAN - Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$5.5 billion to Turkey during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024-January 19, 2025), Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

According to the TPO's report, Turkey was Iran's fourth top export destination in the mentioned ten-month period.

Exporting commodities valued at \$9.9 billion to Iran, Turkey was Iran's third top source of import in the first ten months of the present year, the report added.

Turkey's Minister of Trade has emphasized the importance of expanding

economic relations and cooperation between Iran and Turkey.

Omer Bolat, speaking at a joint press conference with Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh in late January, highlighted the 29th meeting of the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Committee and the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

He mentioned the goal of increasing bilateral trade to \$30 billion and noted that trade between the two countries had grown in 2024, with Turkish companies investing approximately \$2 billion in Iran.

Bolat also pointed to other agreements reached during the meeting,

including the renovation and reconstruction of border crossings on the Turkish side, measures to facilitate smoother transportation between the two nations, and the development of trade, transport, and transit relations.

The Iranian delegation, led by Farzaneh Sadegh, traveled to Ankara on January 27 for bilateral meetings with Turkey's ministers of transport and trade.

On December 11, a trade cooperation memorandum of understanding was signed between Iran and Turkey in the presence of Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development and Turkey's Minister of Trade. Both sides emphasized their commitment to increasing bilateral trade to \$30

# Petchem industry nearing 100m ton production capacity

From Page 1 ▶ Highlighting the importance of external evaluations, Abbaszadeh said assessments from independent entities help companies improve their performance. He also emphasized leadership as a key criterion in the award evaluations, pointing out that the industry is significantly influenced by both domestic and international political and economic factors. "The adaptability of managers to environmental changes is crucial in navigating challenges," he added.

Abbaszadeh underscored the need for artificial intelligence integration in the petrochemical industry, urging companies to embrace AI-driven transformations. He also called on industry leaders to stay informed about market trends and technological advancements. "Human capital is the most valuable asset. I urge managers to maintain a respectful and warm approach toward employees, as their satisfaction



is key to advancing the industry," he said.

Afshar Baziyar, the newly appointed CEO of Shastan Commercial Investment Company, also spoke at the event, emphasizing the role of the petrochemical industry as a cornerstone of Iran's economy. He highlighted the importance of sustainable development, which he defined as op-

timizing production, minimizing environmental impact, increasing profitability, and fulfilling social responsibilities.

Baziyar stressed the necessity of completing the value chain, diversifying feedstock supplies, upgrading technologies, and expanding target markets. "Increased investment in the petrochemical sector is crucial to

achieving planned objectives," he added.

He also pointed to Iran's key advantages for petrochemical investment, including abundant hydrocarbon resources, a skilled workforce, and access to open waters for exports.

Baziyar concluded by advocating for improved energy efficiency, waste recycling, and circular economy initiatives within the industry. He suggested that NPC implement an integrated system covering all aspects of the industry's operations to streamline growth and excellence.

During the event, in addition to awarding top-performing companies, NPC signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Water and Wastewater Company to launch water supply projects for underprivileged villages as part of the industry's corporate social responsibility efforts.

## Govt. approves support package for exchange-listed and non-listed industries



TEHRAN - Iran's Cabinet has approved a support package to mitigate the impact of electricity and gas cuts on both publicly traded and private companies, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The government approved the measure on February 27, following a proposal by the Minister of Industry and in coordination with the Ministry of Labor, the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI). The initiative aims to alleviate some of the economic burdens caused by energy shortages.

Under the plan, with the approval of the CBI and the Industry Ministry, a portion of bank

loans and tax payments for affected production units will be deferred for six months and three months, respectively.

Additionally, production units that owe payments to the Social Security Organization due to power and gas shortages can access special deposit bonds through Bank Refah to cover their dues.

Another provision in the decree allows for a three-month tax deferral for affected production units, subject to approval by the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade.

The resolution also mandates a task force comprising the Ministries of Industry, Oil, and Energy, along with the PBO, to develop strategies for ensuring power and gas supply to major industries in the coming year.

The recent energy imbalances and frequent power outages have had a significant impact on Iran's industrial sector, disrupting production lines and increasing operational costs for manufacturers.

Many industries, particularly energy-intensive sectors such as steel, cement, petrochemicals, and aluminum, have faced periodic shutdowns due to gas supply restrictions in winter and electricity shortages in summer. These disruptions have not only led to financial losses for companies but have also slowed

down project developments and reduced output, affecting both domestic supply and exports.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have been particularly vulnerable to these disruptions, as they often lack backup energy solutions and face greater difficulty in absorbing financial shocks.

Many businesses have reported delays in fulfilling contracts and increased maintenance costs due to the strain on machinery caused by inconsistent power supplies.

The ripple effects of these challenges have also been felt in employment levels, with some factories forced to reduce working hours or temporarily lay off workers.

The government's support package comes in response to mounting concerns from industry leaders, who have repeatedly warned about the long-term consequences of energy shortages on Iran's manufacturing sector.

While the short-term relief measures provide temporary financial ease, industrial stakeholders stress the need for long-term solutions, including investment in energy infrastructure, diversification of power generation sources, and improved efficiency in energy consumption.

## Nearly \$63b supplied for essential goods, trade, and service needs

TEHRAN - Iran's Center of Exchange of Currency and Gold has announced that a total of \$63 billion has been allocated for essential goods, commercial imports, and service-related needs since the beginning of the current Iranian year (late March 2024).

According to the center, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has provided \$62.99 billion in foreign currency funding up to March 8, 2025, for three main categories: essential goods and pharmaceuticals, trade and commerce, and service-related demands.

Out of the total allocation, \$48.55 billion has been directed toward trade and commercial sectors, with industries such as automotive and transportation, production machinery and equipment, and mining receiving the largest

shares of imported capital goods.

The report also highlights that \$13.23 billion was allocated for essential goods and medicine, with \$10.33 billion designated for basic commodities and agricultural imports—including wheat, oilseeds, and livestock feed—while \$2.9 billion was provided for pharmaceuticals, raw materials for drug production, and medical equipment.

Additionally, \$1.22 billion was allocated to meet various service-related foreign currency demands.

Since the launch of Iran's Trade Currency Market within the Foreign Exchange and Gold Exchange Center, the total transaction volume has surpassed \$5.3 billion as of March 6, 2025.



By currency type, total transactions included 7.74 billion dirhams, 2.15 billion U.S. dollars, 5.98 billion Chinese yuan, 237 million euros, and 507 million Russian rubles, with the cumulative market value reaching the equivalent of \$5.33 billion.

actions would serve as the foundation for increasing bilateral trade.

Atabak noted that the economic relations between Iran and Turkey, underpinned by deep cultural and historical ties, should yield a higher volume of trade.

The Iranian minister expressed optimism about progress in the joint cooperation framework between the two countries and referred to it as a crucial step toward boosting trade between the capitals. He added that the initial phase of this cooperation, in line with the terms of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee, would significantly enhance trade relations.

billion over the next five years.

Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Mohammad Atabak has emphasized that enhancing trade between Iran and Turkey requires the establishment of a preferential trade agreement and the removal of tariff restrictions.

During a meeting with Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat and his accompanying delegation in mid-December 2024, Atabak pointed out that the trade potential between Tehran and Ankara surpasses the current volume of exchanges.

He stressed that implementing bilateral agreements, reviving preferential trade, and strengthening inter-

The official further emphasized that increasing trade would accelerate the implementation of facilitative trade programs. The roadmap developed in collaboration with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) would be pivotal in advancing the execution of these plans and deepening bilateral ties.

Atabak also welcomed the formation of specialized committees to address bilateral issues, stressing that most trade-related challenges could be resolved through the Trade Promotion Organization. He elaborated on the preferential trade agreement between the two countries, suggesting that its terms could be revisited to expand preferential trade volumes.



# Massacres in Syria claim over 1,000 lives

## Concerns grow over true casualty figures against minority Alawite sect

From page 1 ▶ Other clips show armed men rounding up groups of people, who are then beaten before being subjected to summary executions.

Many bodies remain scattered along roads and in village streets, with families unable to retrieve or bury their loved ones.

The UN envoy for Syria, Gier Pedersen, has called for civilians to be protected.

Local sources say many residents fled to nearby mountains and forests, afraid to return home due to what some describe as an ethnic cleansing campaign.

Activists accuse Syrian government forces of deliberately targeting the Alawite community.

However, they also report that hundreds of Christians are among the victims.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Syria, Adam Abdelmoula, and the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syrian crisis, Ramesh Rajasingham, condemned the violence in Syria's western provinces of Tartous, Latakia, Homs, and Hama.



Latakia, Homs, and Hama.

In a joint statement, they urged all parties to end hostilities and protect civilians in line with international humanitarian law.

In a related development, Syrian security forces reportedly blocked foreign groups from entering Damsarkho, a town near Latakia.

Reports indicate that several massacres took place on Saturday in villages across rural Latakia, Tartous, and Hama, resulting in at least 145 deaths.

On Sunday, local sources reported that villages in Tartous and rural Latakia faced renewed attacks by armed groups aligned with the government in Damascus.

The Syrian Ministry of Interior announced that the General Security Administration is sending reinforcements to rural Tartous to restore order.

A source in Syria's Ministry of Defense told state news agency SANA that violent clashes broke out near a village in rural Latakia,

where "several elements affiliated with the previous regime had fled."

Meanwhile, communication and internet services were cut off in the southern provinces of Daraa and Suwayda due to damaged cables between Daraa and Damascus, according to SANA.

In response to the ongoing violence and reports of field executions allegedly carried out by security personnel, Syria's interim President, Ahmad Al-Sharaa, acknowledged the crisis as a major challenge.

He reaffirmed his commitment to "national unity and civil peace."

The Syrian government has declared full military mobilization and suspended all educational activities in Tartous and Latakia governorates until Tuesday.

According to Colonel Hassan Abdul Ghani, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense, a "second phase" of the ongoing military operation is now underway.

However, this new phase offers little hope of relief for Syria's vulnerable minority groups.

## Can the Lebanese army protect the south from the vicious Talmudic myths?

From page 1 ▶ Any absence of the army's deterrent force will only help in invading Lebanon again, and what is happening in Syria is the best evidence.

Relevant sources have confirmed that the Lebanese army received orders from the United States not to bring any weapons for the resistance found in areas south of the Litani River into its warehouses.

Information has conflicted between seizing weapons and ammunition left by the resistance fighters in the south inside special warehouses or detonating them directly, knowing that the Israeli enemy had informed Washington of its desire to destroy the weapons so that they would not fall again into the hands of Hezbollah.

In the time of the late Arab leader Abdel Nasser, Abdel Halim Hafez sang the song "Keep the weapon awake" and roused the nation.

Today, in a time of inaction and stupidity, certain people sing like a fool, "Keep the weapon exclusive!"

This call is repeated until you almost think that the weapon is the magic wand of sovereignty by the anti-Hezbollah team known for their subservience and humiliating submission to the West. Obviously, they seek to abort the resistance doctrine against the Zionist project.

These sell-outs intended to deny that resistance is inherent in human history and has ex-

isted wherever there is injustice or oppression.

As for the exclusivity of weapons, it is a new political concept that appeared with the emergence of the nation-state. However, it has never abolished the right to resistance when any country is exposed to a blatant threat.

History is full of armed resistance to occupation, from Algeria to South Africa, Vietnam, etc. Resistance has never been confined to the state or even to one faction.

On the international legal level, the right to armed resistance is an inherent right stipulated, without ambiguity, in United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 45/130.

The resolution stipulates "the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial domination, apartheid and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle."

Article 51 of the UN Charter also grants any state the right to defend itself in the event of armed aggression. It does not grant it the right to monopolize the resistance weapon.

The legitimacy of the weapon stems, in the final instance, from the legitimacy of the cause for which it is raised, which is the liberation of the land and the defense of the people's right to live in security and dignity.

The Lebanese resistance, with all its spec-

trums, liberated the south after 22 years of occupation and protected it through its deterrent forces for nearly half a century.

As for the Lebanese army, despite the bravery of a number of its members, it never deterred the Israeli enemy. In fact, in some historical stages, groups split from it to deal with the occupation against the southerners and contributed to the division of Lebanon.

During the past two months, in light of the army's inaction, the popular resistance, represented by the return of the southern residents, contributed directly and effectively to accelerating, if not imposing, the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation from the frontline villages.

This popular resistance that we witnessed in the south, along with the military resistance that preceded it, thwarted the US-led Israeli aggression. It does not contradict the role of the army, diplomatic work, etc. Rather, it complements them.

Is the Lebanese army capable of protecting southern Lebanon from Zionist settlement?

A question for those who demand the disarmament of the resistance movement after the repeated scenes of the Lebanese army's inability after more than two months of Israeli violations. The army did not carry out any military measure to liberate the land and prove confidence in its capabilities.

## America may survive, but not as it has been for decades...

By Martin Love

Masculine republics give way to feminine democracies which give way to tyrannies, claimed the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle. Is the U.S. there yet? Is the U.S. being overwhelmed by a Trump tyranny?

It's difficult to say but the U.S. is severely and rancorously split between those who agree with what President Donald Trump and his administration and Republican supporters are doing, and those especially on the side of the Democratic Party, which lost big in last November's elections. The Democrats claim Trump is tyrannical, and he may well be to some extent given the extreme rapidity he is forcing huge changes in Washington and across the country. Also, notably, Trump addressed the U.S. Congress this week and his speech was horrible. He burned any bridges to his opponents and was insulting to the Democrats. At the least he could have explained to the American people why he has been in a frenzy to cut waste in government. He blew a serious opportunity.

Trump and his supporters, probably a majority of Americans, would say that "NO" he is not imposing "tyranny" on the country at large. They would say the President is attempting to rectify bad governance and bad policies at home and abroad and deep corruption

that has been extant for at least the last 30 years, and much of that corruption burgeoning with the Democratic Party warmongers in Congress and with presidents like Bill Clinton and Barack Obama and lately, the brain dead Joe Biden. But Republican Party "leaders" all along have been FAR from faultless, too, in creating the mess and chaos that is a fact of America nowadays. In many instances they have been worse than Democrat leaders. But there is overall and balance of horrors.

Biden was arguably the worst President. In retrospect, he often appeared incapable of rational thinking himself, and he was fed marching orders and what to promote or say from the beginning by his advisors, by his appointees and by so-called "Deep State" ideologues in various departments of governance such as the FBI, the CIA, even the Treasury and other departments.

Complicit with the Biden White House was the mainstream U.S. media — for examples newspapers like the New York Times and the Washington Post. Those and other formerly magnificent bastions of truth telling which dominated "news", which this writer well recalls from youth back in the 1970s and earlier, have fallen some but by no means been extinguished. (And most Amer-

icans simply do not have the time with families and jobs to tend to become themselves more than just superficially knowledgeable about world and national issues, and perhaps particularly about other countries including Iran!)

It seems clear that Trump styles himself by experience, history and habit first and foremost a businessman, and he is trying to govern the "business" of America as such, as now the "CEO" of America in his mind. There is no doubt a "dictatorial" if not tyrannical aspect to his attempted management so far as with all potentially effective CEOs who at least nominally are trying to manage properly their organizations. The tyranny angle comes up with Trump's many detractors often because of his attempts to downsize government where many citizens working in some part of government are getting fired, their lives turned upside down. There are thousands of alleged "victims" of Trump's White House already after just a few weeks. Biden had little managerial talent and if nothing else aimed to keep going what was in fact a failing status quo in the U.S. But Biden did more and worse: funding and promoting Israel's genocide and the proxy war against Russia in Ukraine. Trump is attempting to halt the Ukraine travesty. Credit Trump for trying that.

Trump in any event is not going

to make the U.S. "great" again because he cannot if "great" to him means the economic and military hegemony that arose after World War 2. Underneath everything he does is at least some reasonable recognition of a changed world with rising countries like Russia and China and their allies. What he is doing is by pure necessity because the U.S. has been headed to moral and economic bankruptcy for some time. This process has speeded up dramatically this century and may not abate economically given almost \$37 trillion in debts and 200 or so trillion bucks in unfunded liabilities. As for the moral rot, that's Trump's Achilles heel, most evident in his unchecked support for Israel and his own past personal moral failings. His administration seems Hell bent to criminalize anger and dismay, especially among protesting students and any expressions of that kind. Free speech is becoming far less free over the crimes of Apartheid.

The U.S. under Trump is not a tyrannical monster provided Trump's moves are strictly aimed at weeding out vast corruption, especially in Washington and restoring some sense and sanity regarding U.S. finances. But it can feel like tyranny to those whose personal lives have been upended by what seems to be at least some recognized necessity to act.

## Iran-Saudi Reconciliation should be part of any future regional order

From page 1 ▶ The last two years have seen Iran-Saudi reconciliation progressing steadily. Iran's late president Ibrahim Raisi paid a visit to Saudi Arabia in November 2023 to participate in the conference of Islamic and Arab countries for the Palestine issue; The incumbent Iranian President Pezeshkian and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister exchanged phone call dialogue in November 2024. The two had conducted even more frequent dialogues by different means at military and foreign ministerial levels. The three parties of Iran, Saudi and China had conducted two trilateral meetings at the level of deputy foreign ministers respectively in 2023 and in 2024.

The reasons contributing to the sustainability of the process are numerous, but primarily and fundamentally lies in that the reconciliation is in accordance with regional aspiration for peace and stability. After decades of clashes and frustrations, the region is in urgent need of stability, though it is still facing severe challenges as a result of Israel's encroachment of the legitimate rights of Palestinians. What's more, it also aligns with the macro trend of the world for peace and stability, and the Middle East is one part.

The significance of the reconciliation can never be emphasized enough, particularly within the context of the latest round of the Palestine-Israel conflict since October 7, 2023.

The region had plunged into the most serious turmoil as a result of the conflict and its spillovers. Albeit turbulent, the region has maintained the minimal needed stability. The reconciliation should be one of the major factors among others contributing to such stability.

The reconciliation also benefited Iran and Saudi Arabia respectively in different ways. With the reconciliation, Iran has been able to enhance its diplomatic relations with its neighboring countries in a rather comfortable way, and been able to concentrate its resources on its struggle with regional mess. And Saudi Arabia has taken advantage of the reconciliation to push forward some of its most important domestic and regional agendas.

For the future, it should be noted that the reconciliation should be an indispensable part of regional order. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia are among the most powerful regional players in terms of political and strategic influences. Both of the two command large amounts of territories, huge populations and rich resources, and the two represent significant cultural and traditional influence. To put it another way, sustainable reconciliation will serve to maintain necessary peace and stability; confrontation as a result of disrupted reconciliation will make the region more dangerous. And the two are neighbors that will not move away.

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

## Lebanon's visually impaired population rises sharply after Israel's pager attacks

Lebanon is grappling with a sharp increase in its visually impaired population following Israel's deadly pager attacks in September 2024, which left hundreds blind, including men, women, and children.

The attacks, widely condemned as a war crime, resulted in widespread civilian casualties and mass injuries.

According to disability rights activist Ibrahim Abdullah, those injured in the attacks have joined an estimated 15,000 to 17,000 visually impaired people in Lebanon, with at least 8,000 officially registered. The New Arab reported.

Speaking to the Lebanese daily Al-Akhbar, Abdullah said the surge in visual impairment now makes Lebanon one of the countries with the high-

est rates of blindness per capita in the world.

The pager attacks were particularly devastating due to their deceptive nature. The devices reportedly emitted a notification alert designed to draw attention. Victims instinctively held the pagers close to their faces to inspect the message - at which point the devices detonated.

The proximity of the blasts caused severe facial injuries, with shrapnel tearing into victims' eyes, resulting in widespread blindness and permanent disabilities.

"Their intention was clear — to cause the greatest possible harm," Abdullah said. "The devices were designed to explode when held at eye level, which is why saw so many cases of severe visual impairment."

## Starvation is weaponized again in Gaza

From page 1 ▶ The move "flagrantly breaches international law and any prospects of peace", the independent UN experts said in a statement on Thursday.

"We are alarmed by Israel's decision to suspend once again all goods and supplies, including life-saving humanitarian aid entering the Gaza Strip," they added.

"As the occupying power, Israel is always obliged to ensure sufficient food, medical supplies and other relief services. By deliberately cutting vital supplies... Israel is once again weaponizing aid."

The press release added that such blockades violate international humanitarian and human rights laws and are considered war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute.

Al Jazeera television has reported that some 2.3 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are in pressing need of food and essentials.

Israeli authorities have blocked all the humanitarian deliveries to the blockaded enclave. Some bakeries cannot open because of fuel shortages.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu chose to stop aid after the ceasefire's first phase expired on March 1. He said Hamas had refused a US proposal to extend the Gaza ceasefire.

Thousands of aid trucks had surged into Gaza each week under the ceasefire deal that started on 19 January.

Food prices in Gaza have risen sharply and aid food parcels could soon run out.

If the blockade continued, "at least 80 community kitchens may soon run out of stock"

and remaining food parcels that "will support 500,000 people, will soon run out", the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has warned.

Even Britain, France, and Germany which were unstopably shipping arms to Israel in its genocidal acts in Gaza, have raised alarms over the prevention of aid to the war-ravaged coastal strip, calling the move "catastrophic".

"A halt on goods and supplies entering Gaza, such as that announced by the government of Israel would risk violating international humanitarian law," read a statement by the foreign ministers of the three European countries. "Humanitarian aid should never be contingent on a ceasefire or used as a political tool."

Food prices have increased greatly as a result of this shocking crime.

"The recent decision is unfair as it wrongs our children. How will our children live in light of these high prices that will increase in an arbitrary way?" Issa Meit, a Gaza resident, told the BBC Arabic.

Also on Monday, Israeli Energy Minister Eli Cohen ordered the stoppage of electricity transmission to Gaza, the Israeli public broadcaster Kan reported.

Last Sunday, the Israel Hayom newspaper reported that the Israeli government was willing to cut electricity and water if Hamas did not agree to extend phase one of the ceasefire deal instead of moving on to phase two.

Israel's savagery and sadistic moves are making war criminals in the course of history look less cruel, especially as these horrible acts are taking place in today's world.



## Investments along southern and northern Iranian coastlines in progress, tourism minister says



TEHRAN - Iran's tourism minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri has announced plans to boost tourism investments along the country's northern and southern coastlines, highlighting the untapped potential of the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Caspian Sea.

Speaking at a gathering of senior naval officials on Saturday, Salehi-Amiri emphasized the importance of a maritime-based economy and the role of coastal tourism in Iran's economic growth.

He noted that proposals for investment in these regions are under review.

"There are vast opportunities for tourism development along the northern and southern shores of the country. The collaboration of the armed forces in making sections of the coast available for tourism activities is a crucial step forward," he said.

The minister also outlined a goal of attracting 15 million international tourists by the end of the 7th National Development Plan, up from the approximately 7 million visitors recorded last year. Moreover, he stressed the need to expand the country's hospitality infrastructure, including doubling the current capacity of 1,843 accommodation centers and 455,000 beds.

Comparing Iran's tourism potential with

regional competitors such as Turkey, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia, the minister highlighted the country's rich cultural and historical assets. "With over one million historical and cultural heritage sites, Iran is one of the world's premier tourist destinations. Historical locations such as Jiroft, Susa, Shushtar, and Firouzabad hold immense potential for industry growth," he added.

The minister acknowledged infrastructure deficiencies as a major challenge to Iran's tourism sector and called for increased domestic and foreign investments, banking support, and legal facilitations to address these gaps.

He also pointed to the growing investments by Caspian Sea nations such as Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Tajikistan in maritime tourism, stressing that Iran has yet to fully capitalize on its coastal tourism potential.

The minister also emphasized the importance of international cooperation in expanding Iran's tourism industry, highlighting the role of the International North-South Transport Corridor and connectivity with Central Asia and the Caucasus.

He concluded by urging the use of diplomatic channels to enhance global tourism ties and attract foreign investment to further strengthen the sector.

Last November, his former deputy tourism minister, Ali-Asghar Shalabafian, alongside several experts and private investors, held a meeting to discuss strategies for advancing marital tourism within the framework of the Development Plan.

A significant highlight of the discussion was the emphasis on developing sea tourism around the strategically important Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Greater, and Lesser Tunbs. This initiative is seen as a direct response to baseless territorial claims by the United Arab Emirates.

# Ancient Achaemenid drains prevent water accumulation at Persepolis

TEHRAN - Recent heavy rainfall in Fars province led to the destruction of parts of historical houses in Shiraz, the provincial capital which is situated 70 km southward from Persepolis, which was once a ceremonial capital of the Persian Achaemenid Empire (c. 550 - 330 BC).

However, Persepolis successfully drained a significant volume of water thanks to its underground channels, originally constructed during the Achaemenid era and known as the Achaemenid water channels, ILNA reported on Sunday.

Videos circulated on social media showing water overflowing from Persepolis' staircases, raising concerns about severe flooding similar to past years before the discovery and cleaning of these ancient drains. However, it has now been confirmed that these underground channels, designed over 2,500 years ago to manage surface water and potential floods, efficiently directed large amounts of rainwater away from the site, the report explained.

### 100 millimeters of rainwater drained from Achaemenid palaces

Alireza Askari Chaverdi, the director of the Persepolis World Heritage Site, told ILNA that crisis management is a key part of the site's management plan. A specialized task force was formed to implement the crisis management plan, which was executed during the recent heavy rains.

The archaeologist and site director stated that restoration and monitoring teams collaborated with archaeologists, technical personnel, and the Persepolis security unit to address surface water challenges over two days of rainfall, successfully directing 100 millimeters of rainwater out of the Persepolis terrace. "Preventive conservation measures were conducted a week before the rainfall, covering the entire 12-hectare complex and the 7-hectare Rahmat Mountain fortifications. Additionally, the 2-kilometer-long underground water channels of Persepolis were thoroughly cleaned in preparation for the expected rain," the archaeologist explained.

During the rainfall, the crisis management team remained on-site to monitor various sections and ensure the water was directed through ancient drains out of Persepolis, the archaeologist underlined.

### Readiness to control water accumulation

Shahram Rahbar, head of the Persepolis restoration team, highlighted the site's extensive 125,000-square-meter area. "When including the southern residential district and the tombs of Artaxerxes II and III in the eastern highlands, the total area exceeds 250,000 square meters,"



Rahbar added.

He pointed out that managing [potential threats of] rainfall is a major challenge, and the technical team is responsible for protecting Persepolis' invaluable structures. In preparation for the storm, the conservation and restoration teams, along with civil and maintenance teams, were ready to handle potential flooding and prevent damage to active restoration workshops.

Despite three consecutive days of predicted rainfall, coordinated efforts ensured that visitor paths remained open and active restoration projects were protected. Close coordination between the security unit and conservation experts ensured overnight monitoring of vulnerable sections, with continuous communication over two nights to manage potential flooding risks, the expert explained.

Rahbar noted that, despite exhaustion from two days of continuous work under heavy rain, a coordinated effort ensured effective water management. By Friday, when the rainfall intensified, field teams systematically monitored the site and executed emergency measures to protect the monuments.

According to Rahbar, the key achievement was preventing damage to stone artifacts and active stone restoration sites. "Thanks to collaborative efforts among conservation, maintenance, and security teams, the storm did not significantly impact visitor accessibility or preservation activities."

### Discovery of Achaemenid drains ends decades of flooding

Parts of Persepolis' drainage system were first identified during excavations by the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute. However, these channels remained hidden until the 2000s when archaeologists gradually uncovered and cleaned them, leading to a major breakthrough in the 2010s. That restorations enabled the complete drainage of surface water through the site's original ancient system.

The Achaemenid rulers designed these water

channels to control rainwater flow from the palaces to areas outside Persepolis. Over time, these channels became filled with soil, leading to repeated flooding that caused damage to the site. However, extensive archaeological excavations eventually restored their function, permanently solving Persepolis' flooding issues from the 2010s onward.

### Glimpses of Persepolis

Also known as Takht-e Jamshid, Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites, which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

Majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne and reception rooms, and dependencies have made the vast ensemble one of the world's greatest archaeological sites.

Construction of its immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

The terrace is a grandiose architectural creation, with its double flight of access stairs, walls covered by sculpted friezes at various levels, monumental gateways, gigantic sculpted winged bulls, and remains of large halls.

By carefully engineering lighter roofs and using wooden lintels, the Achaemenid architects were able to use a minimal number of astonishingly slender columns to support open-area roofs. Columns were topped with elaborate capitals; typical was the double-bull capital where, resting on double volutes, the forequarters of two kneeling bulls, placed back-to-back, extend their coupled necks and their twin heads directly under the intersections of the beams of the ceiling.

Narratives say that Persepolis was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge against the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

## Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System ready to welcome visitors for Nowruz

TEHRAN - The UNESCO-listed Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System is set to host visitors during the upcoming Nowruz holidays, marking the arrival of the new Iranian calendar year.

Relative authorities in Khuzestan province have announced comprehensive preparations to ensure a smooth and enriching experience for both domestic and international tourists.

Seyyed Mohsen Hosseini, the deputy director of Cultural Heritage in Khuzestan, on Sunday, noted that efforts have been made to enhance visitor services, maintain safety standards, and provide detailed information about the engineering marvel that is the Shushtar Hydraulic System. He emphasized that these initiatives are crucial for preserving and revitalizing the historical site.

"Necessary measures for Nowruz 1404 (which officially starts on March 21) have been planned. The Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System is one of Iran's most significant World Heritage Sites. Beyond its historical and technical value, it plays a key role in attracting tourists," Hosseini stated.

Shushtar Hydraulic System is an extraordinary complex of dams, bridges, mills, water tunnels, and artificial waterfalls, designed and constructed in ancient times to regulate and harness

the waters of the Karun River for agricultural and industrial purposes. Even today, it stands as a testament to ancient Persian engineering excellence.

Hosseini further explained that the site management team has undertaken various protective and restoration measures, as well as infrastructure improvements, to enhance visitor experience. "Ensuring the safety of visitor pathways, deploying professional tour guides to explain the site's historical and technical aspects, installing informative signage, and implementing security monitoring systems are among the steps taken to boost tourist satisfaction and maintain the site's national and international standing," he added.

As a globally recognized "masterpiece of creative genius" by UNESCO, the Shushtar Hydraulic System showcases the sophisticated engineering knowledge of ancient Iranian civilizations. It is often referred to as a "living museum" of Iran's water industry, reflecting the ingenuity and resourcefulness of its builders. Although only parts of the original system remain intact, the cascading waters, functioning mills, and scenic artificial waterfalls continue to provide a breathtaking experience for visitors.

The origins of this complex date back to the Achaemenid era, specifically to the reign of Darius the Great in the 5th century BC.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra

These two fortified historic centres are remarkably well preserved, and this is particularly true of their vernacular buildings.

They have been continuously inhabited from ancient times down to the present day. Situated in the Balkans, in Southern Albania, and close to each other, they bear witness to the wealth and diversity of the urban and architectural heritage of this region.

Berat and Gjirokastra bear witness to a way of life which has been influenced over a long period by the traditions of Islam during the Ottoman period, while

at the same time incorporating more ancient influences. This way of life has respected Orthodox Christian traditions which have thus been able to continue their spiritual and cultural development, particularly at Berat.

Gjirokastra was built by major landowners. Around the ancient 13th century citadel, the town has houses with turrets (the Turkish kule) which are characteristic of the Balkans region. Gjirokastra contains several remarkable examples of houses of this type, which date from the 17th century, but also more elaborate examples dating from

the early 19th century.

Berat bears witness to a town which was fortified but open, and was over a long period inhabited by craftsmen and merchants. Its urban center reflects a vernacular housing tradition of the Balkans, examples of which date mainly from the late 18th and 19th centuries. This tradition has been adapted to suit the town's lifestyles, with tiered houses on the slopes, which are predominantly horizontal in layout, and make abundant use of the entering daylight.

(Source: UNESCO)

### First Announcement



### Iran Tobacco Company ONE TIER GENERAL INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO TENDER NOTICE Ref No 53/189/664

Iran Tobacco Co, intends to purchase below tobacco raw materials through one tier general international tender, all eligible applicants will be invited to receive the tender documents from 10/03/2025 until the end of office hours on 27/03/2025, after payment the amount of 2 million Rials to the account No. 47000701336609 of Parsian bank, Azadi branch and receive the bid documents from ITC tender secretariat department located at 1st floor, Education building, Qazvin Ave, Iran Tobacco Company or from the national tender website: iets.mporg.ir after registration process and receive tender documents.

All applicants who do not have the approved sample/consignment in the tender row in the last One years period, must send the sample to Iran Tobacco Company security department, 1st floor, Shahid Golchin building, Qazvin Ave, Qazvin square, Tehran, Iran, in the amount specified in the tender documents, from 10/03/2025 to 23/04/2025, Complete and accurate details of the seller must be indicated on the samples.

The deadline for submitting offers and envelopes to the security secretariat office located in, 1st floor, Shahid Golchin building, Qazvin Ave, Qazvin square, Tehran, Iran, is the end of office hours on 05/05/2025.

The offers will be opened in Iran Tobacco Company located at Qazvin Sq, Qazvin Av, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, at 10:00 on 07/05/2025

Applicants for participation in each row of tender items can provide the guarantee of participating in the tender in the same row and submit the price proposal in the same row based on the below table.

The cost of inserting the entire ad in the newspaper up to 800 million rials will be responsible for the tender winners according to the number of wins items.

If the sample does not match the declared technical specifications, it will be possible to correct and resend the sample during the period of initial sending of the samples by the bidder to the management of the central security office.

### Description and amount of guarantee for participation of tobacco raw material tender

Item	Description of tobacco	unit	Quantity	Bank guarantee (EURO)	Bank guarantee (RLS)
1	Italian burley position 1	Kg	138,600	50,582	36,801,389,520
2	Brazilian burley position 3	Kg	158,400	53,750	39,106,283,760
3	Brazilian burley position 4	Kg	59,400	30,980	22,539,856,410
4	Brazilian burley position 5	Kg	158,400	53,750	39,106,283,760
5	Zimbabwean FCV position 7	Kg	158,400	50,582	36,801,389,520
6	Brazilian FCV position 8	Kg	158,400	53,750	39,106,283,760
7	Chinese FCV position 10	Kg	138,600	46,424	33,776,215,830
8	Chinese FCV position 11	Kg	217,800	63,056	45,876,910,590
9	Brazilian FCV position 12	Kg	316,800	90,182	65,612,567,520
10	Brazilian FCV position 13	Kg	158,400	53,750	39,106,283,760
11	Brazilian FCV position 14	Kg	158,400	53,750	39,106,283,760
12	Zimbabwean FCV position 16	Kg	79,200	33,950	24,700,694,760
13	Brazilian FCV position 17	Kg	178,200	58,304	42,419,569,230
14	Toasted burley	Kg	39,600	25,740	18,727,265,700
15	Thai burley	Kg	277,200	75,530	54,952,431,660
16	Homogenized tobacco	Kg	376,200	60,205	43,802,505,774

For more information, you can contact to 0098 21 51261651 & 51261920 Communications and International Affairs Management, Iran Tobacco Company



# Tehran hosts national conference on conservation of natural resources

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) held a national conference on the conservation of natural resources in Tehran on Saturday.

“Concerning the fact that the country is affected by climate change, we need to take steps to develop adaptation solutions and foster resilience. It will require close cooperation among different organizations,” IRNA quoted Shina Ansari, head of DOE, as saying.

“Over the last century, the world has lost one-third of its natural resources. In our country, the depletion of natural resources has occurred in both quantitative and qualitative terms for various reasons,” Ansari said while addressing the conference.

When talking about the value of forests, economic benefits are usually considered, while non-market services such as water regulation, soil conservation, carbon sequestration, as well as the habitat of plant and animal species, are neglected.

The official went on to say that the DOE is estimating the value of 64 percent of sensitive ecosystems to be able to assess their true economic value. It will contribute to exploring the true value of natural capital as they are not everlasting gift of God.

Moreover, it will help make correct decisions between development goals and the benefits of healthy ecosystems, she added.

Forests are home to 80 percent of terrestrial biodiversity, and forest degradation causes serious habitat destruction, leading



to species loss, said Ansari.

The official also highlighted the significance of promoting environmental culture, educating local communities, restoring damaged areas, developing a sustainable forest management plan, utilizing modern technologies, and smart monitoring of the areas as the key factors in preserving natural resources.

**National week on natural resources and watershed management**

The natural resources and watershed management week was held from March 5 to 13 with the theme “consensus and empathy for preserving natural resources”.

March 5 is celebrated annually as National Tree Planting Day by planting saplings across the country. The event is held on the fifteenth day of Esfand, the last month on the Iranian calendar, and it marks the beginning of the National Week of Natural Resources. Also, the day has been approved to be registered on

the national calendar as ‘Environmental Protection Education Day’.

Ali Teymouri, the head of the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization, has said deserts constitute some 32 million hectares of 134 million hectares of natural land across the country.

Forests and pastures also account for 17.5 million hectares and 84 million hectares of natural land, respectively, he added, IRNA reported.

According to the secretary of the national policymaking headquarters for dealing with sand and dust storms, 2.5 million hectares of sand dust storm hotspots in the country have been stabilized over the past six years.

The conservation of natural resources is crucial to ensuring the survival of all creatures across the globe to the extent that using them wisely will protect the vibrant ecosystem and enhance the well-being of humans.

Protecting nature as a habitat for various animal species is of great importance, but in the past few years, the impact of climate change and humans’ unwise and selfish exploitation of nature has almost destroyed it.

If it goes on like that, soon there will be no habitat or animal left on the earth. Finding shelter to live in, breed, and raise children is the basic need of not only humans but all the other creatures on the earth, whether on land or in the sea.

Animals need security, but humans pursue their work, failing to see them considering the whole earth as their own inheritance. While the earth belongs to all its inhabitants, humans’ intervention in nature has made the habitat of animals unsafe and more and more cramped, a real challenge for the environment and its creatures to meet.

Iran, having a diverse climate, is home to many plant and animal species, which increases the importance of habitat protection. The vertebrates include 165 species of mammals, 517 species of birds, 209 species of reptiles, 174 species of fish, and 22 species of amphibians.

However, issues such as indiscriminate construction, mineral exploration, road construction agricultural land development, and climate change have all caused habitats of animals and plants to be reduced year after year. Eventually, their disappearance and extinction will be inevitable because of their disturbed habitat.

## Iran, China announce new Talented Young Scientist Program

TEHRAN – The new edition of the Iran-China Talented Young Scientist Program (TYSP), announced in January, opens up 53 opportunities for young scientists from the two countries.

According to the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, the two countries started the young scientists exchange program in 2017, IRNA reported.

The program, which includes scholarships and financial support by Chinese universities, as well as educational and research institutes, came to a halt following the Covid-19 pandemic. The program restarted in October 2024.

The Talented Young Scientist Program (TYSP) is an international mobility scheme funded by the Chinese government aimed at cultivating future leading scientists together with other countries.

TYSP promotes cross-border exchanges of excellent young scientists, scholars, and researchers. The program also enhances cooperation among research institutes, universities, and enterprises.

### TYSP promotes cross-border exchanges of excellent young scientists, scholars, and researchers.

It offers sponsorship for talented young scientists from other countries to work in China on a full-time basis for 6 or 12 months together with China’s team.

When the program is over, participant will receive a TYSP Certificate based on their performance evaluation.

The executive agency will continue to follow up on the project management, encourage foreign experts and their host institutes to continue cooperation, and apply for bilateral intergovernmental joint research projects.

**INSF, NSFC to support joint research projects**

Iran and China will support the implementation of 10 out of 136 research projects proposed subsequent to the fourth joint call by the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and the National Natural Science Foundation



of China (NSFC).

These projects cover the three fields of energy, regenerative medicine (bioengineering or materials for regenerative medicine), and environment (water and solid waste treatment).

In addition to these research projects, three out of 21 joint workshops on climate change, artificial intelligence, and big data in industrial engineering, advanced materials, and construction, have been approved to be conducted.

The proposals were initially discussed in each country; after that specialized working groups evaluated the project in an international committee. Subsequently, the results were exchanged with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

**Chinese envoy praises Iran’s advancement in technologies**

Iran is a leading country in different fields of technology with significant achievements in certain fields such as nanotechnology, the Chinese ambassador to Iran said in September 2024.

On September 18, Cong Peiwu along with some other Chinese officials paid a visit to Tehran’s Pardis Technology Park to get familiar with the technology and innovation ecosystem of the center as well as the companies’ achievements in the field, IRNA reported.

Attending a meeting, the officials exchanged views and explored ways to boost technological ties.

“Some countries become upset with the technological advancement of other nations. They want to hold a monopoly on technology,” the Chinese envoy stressed.

To face them, the developing countries need to have close cooperation in all fields, particularly technology, Peiwu added.

## Farabi Intl. Award to be held



TEHRAN – The 16th Farabi International Award (FIA), the most prestigious award for humanities and Islamic studies in the Islamic world, will be held by the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology in cooperation with the National Foundation for Elites and the National Commission for UNESCO.

FIA aims to identify talents, best scientific works, theories, new methods, and research in the fields of humanities and Islamic studies, ISNA reported.

The participants will present their researches in fields such as “Ethics, Religions and Mysticism”; “History, Geography and Archaeology”; “Law”; “Language, Literature and Linguistics”; “Social Sciences and Communication Sciences”; “Economics, Management and Financial Sciences”; “Educational Sciences, Psychology, Behavioral Sciences and Sports Sciences”; “Political Sciences, International Relations and Regional Studies”; “Quranic Sciences, Interpretation

and Hadith”; “Jurisprudence and Principles”; “Philosophy, Logic and Theology”; “Theoretical Studies of Information Technology, Informatics and Librarianship”; “Studies of the Islamic Revolution and Imam Khomeini”; “Studies of Art and Aesthetics”; “Interdisciplinary Studies”, and “Islamic Humanities Committee (Articles)”.

Participants will be able to share their works from March 10 to April 30. Works that are both innovative and research-based are accepted, reviewed, evaluated, selected, and honored in the award.

The event presents the awards in the categories of books, final research project reports, doctoral dissertations and master’s theses, and research articles (merely in Islamic Humanities).

The Award receives, reviews, and chooses

### The Award aims to identify talented figures and best scientific works in humanities and Islamic studies.

the selected works at the two young (under 35 years) and adult levels and, in terms of territory, covers both domestic and foreign areas. Where the domestic area is concerned, all the works produced by Iranians, regardless of their current location and profession, are considered.

## Pneumococcal, Rotavirus vaccinations for babies at no cost: health ministry



TEHRAN – Children can get free pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccinations in all medical centers across the country, the deputy health minister, Alireza Raeisi, has said.

Rotavirus can cause severe watery diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and abdominal pain. Children who get rotavirus disease can become dehydrated and may need to be hospitalized.

The vaccine is added to the country’s immunization program to prevent severe diarrhea in infants and their hospitalization.

Annual rotavirus vaccination prevents the hospitalization of over 50,000 individuals. It will also prevent some 10,000 severe cases of diarrhea, IRNA reported.

Babies can get three doses of vaccine at the 2nd, 4th, and 6th months of life. The vaccine is administered by putting drops in the child’s mouth.

The national vaccination program against pneumococcal will prevent 1,500 deaths. The pneumococcal vaccine helps protect against some types of bacterial infections that can cause serious illnesses like meningitis (an infection in the brain and spinal cord) sepsis (a life-threatening reaction to an infection) pneumonia (an infection in the lungs).

Pneumococcal vaccine can be injected when babies are 2, 4, and 12 months old. The vaccination is estimated to prevent the annual death of 1,100 children and the hospital admissions of more than 10,000 babies in the country.

The vaccination program to combat pneumococcal and rotavirus kicked off in February 2024 after being missed from the immuniza-

tion schedule for a decade.

In June 2024, Farshad Hosseini, deputy health minister, announced the pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccination program will cover the entire country soon. “People should not be concerned about the [probable negative effects of] vaccines. Fortunately, surveys and studies have shown that pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines do not have any severe complications,” Hosseini stressed.

According to the head of the preventable diseases department of the ministry of health, Mohsen Zahraei, annual vaccination worldwide prevents the death of two and a half million children, which shows the very high effectiveness of vaccines

“We hope to be able to develop these two vaccines soon. Once the vaccines pass the quality control trials, and obtain the Food and Drug Organization approval, we will be able to use the domestic products in the national vaccination program, the official noted.

Some 2,000 billion rials (around 3.4 million dollars) has been allocated to domestic production of rotavirus vaccine.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### ‘Organ donation rate grows 60-fold in 18 years’

Organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years, though the growth is not considerable compared to the global scale, head of the transplantation and treatment of diseases department at the Ministry of Health has announced.

Some countries including China have grown 122-fold in terms of organ donation over the past 10 years, ISNA quoted Mehdi Shadnough as saying on Monday.

Although, Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world, it can claim better ranks given some plans being implemented in this regard, he highlighted, adding, we will achieve better results certainly by the next year (March 2019-March 2020), as many barriers have been removed last year.

### رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته ، ۶۰ برابر شده است

ریس مرکز مدیریت پیوند و درمان بیماری‌ها وزارت بهداشت گفت: رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته در ایران ۶۰ برابر شده است البته در مقیاس جهانی شاخص قابل قبولی نیست.

به گزارش ایسنا دکتر مهدی شادنوش اظهار کرد: کشوری مانند چین طی ۱۰ سال در زمینه اهدای عضو رشد ۱۲۲ برابری داشته است.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: رتبه اهدای عضو ایران در رنکینگ جهانی ۲۶ است اما می‌تواند وضعیت بهتر داشته باشد و البته با توجه به فعالیت‌هایی که آغاز شده نتایج بهتری در انتظار خواهد بود و در سال ۹۸ نیز جهش خوبی را شاهد خواهیم بود چراکه چالش‌های موجود در سال ۹۷ رفع شده است.





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MARCH 10, 2025

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Do not feel ashamed if the amount of charity is small because to refuse the needy is an act of greater shame.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:12:15 Evening: 18:26 Dawn: 4:58 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:21 (tomorrow)

## Persian audiobook of Henry Slesar's short stories released



TEHRAN-The short story collection "Mysterious Room" written by the American author and playwright Henry Slesar has been turned into an audiobook in Persian and released on digital services and platforms.

The audiobook has been directed and narrated by Bahman Vakhshour and produced at Avaye Chirok, a major Iranian institute that produces audiobooks, Mehr reported.

The Persian print edition of the book has been translated by Mandana Garshasbi and published by Ghesse Baran Publications. Henry Slesar wrote more than 40 short stories that were chosen for the classic television show "Alfred Hitchcock Presents". Some of the stories in this collection include "Night of the Execution" (1957), "Cop for a Day" (1957), "Party Line" (1960), and "A Crime for Mothers" (1961).

Irony, not suspense, is the key ingredient in the stories by Slesar offered in this collection. For Hitchcock and his writers, irony, not just suspense, was the basis of storytelling, along with its two constant companions: humor and pity.

Henry Slesar (1927-2002) is famous for his use of irony and twist endings. After reading Slesar's

"M Is for the Many" in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, Alfred Hitchcock bought it for adaptation and they began many successful collaborations. Slesar wrote hundreds of scripts for television series and soap operas, leading TV Guide to call him "the writer with the largest audience in America."

In his introduction Henry Slesar says, "Hitchcock always appreciated a good joke. He also appreciated a good story. I have never needed a more gratifying commendation than the fact that he liked the ones in this book."

"Alfred Hitchcock Presents" is an American television anthology series created, hosted and produced by Alfred Hitchcock, airing on CBS and NBC, alternately, between 1955 and 1965. It features dramas, thrillers, and mysteries.

By the time the show premiered on October 2, 1955, Hitchcock had been directing films for over three decades. In the 21st century, Time magazine named "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" as one of "The 100 Best TV Shows of All Time".

The Writers Guild of America ranked it #79 on their list of the 101 Best-Written TV Series. In 2021, Rolling Stone ranked it 18th on its list of 30 Best Horror TV Shows of All Time.

## Cartoon of Day



World Women's Day  
Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

TEHRAN- Iran's leading Kurdish family music ensemble, the Kamkars, held a concert on Saturday night, marking their final orchestral performance of the current Iranian year.

Coinciding with International Women's Day, this performance was dedicated by conductor Arsalan Kamkar to the women of Iran, Honaronline reported.

Entitled "Living Fire," the concert was held at Tehran's Espinas Hall and presented a distinctive combination of Iranian and international musical traditions, accompanied by a string and wind orchestra.

The ensemble performed a variety of pieces that highlighted their characteristic approach, which merges traditional elements with contemporary flair by incorporating authentic Iranian sounds alongside classical Western instruments.

The concert showcased a captivating blend of Iranian tunes with classical Western instruments, including violin, viola, cello, and wind instruments.

"Living Fire" also included Kurdish music, classical Iranian pieces, and selections inspired by global music, appealing to a wide array of tastes.

Moreover, the partnership with a string and wind orchestra enhanced the musical depth, offering the audience a richer listening experience.

Established in 1961 in Sanan-

# Kamkars celebrates International Women's Day with "Living Fire" concert



daj, the Kamkar Family is one of the most recognized musical groups in Iran, celebrated for their Kurdish and Iranian music repertoire.

The Kamkars, led by Hushang Kamkar, is a Kurdish family of seven brothers and a sister who have performed numerous concerts in the country and around the world.

They have released several albums, including "In

Memory of Hafez," "Darya," "In Memory of Saba," "Living Fire," "Nightingale with a Broken Wing," "Chant of Drums," and "Music from Kurdistan."

Their music is characterized by beautiful melodies, diverse rhythms, and the incorporation of traditional Iranian instruments.

The Kamkar Family's performances often explore themes of love, heroism, and spirituality,

which have gained widespread popularity among audiences worldwide.

Key members of the Kamkar Family include Arsalan Kamkar (rubab), Ardavan Kamkar (santur), Hassan Kamkar (violin), Hooshang Kamkar (accordion), Bijan Kamkar (vocalist), Pashang Kamkar (santur), Ghashang Kamkar (vocalist and violinist), Arzhang Kamkar (tonbak), and Ardeshtir Kamkar (violin).

## Two Iranian short films win five awards at Kraken International Film Festival

TEHRAN-Two short films from Iran won five awards at the 2025 winter edition of the Kraken International Film Festival (KIFF), which was held last week in Milan, Italy.

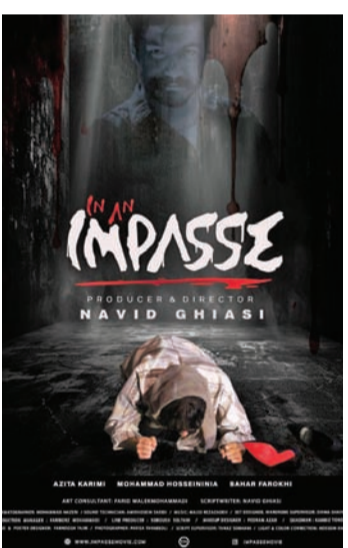
The Iranian winners included "In an Impasse" directed by Navid Ghiasi and "The Stake" by Kiarash Dadgar, Honaronline reported.

This season of the KIFF focused on films that explored the rights of women, exposing the turbulent waters of poverty, human trafficking, and the quest for equal opportunities.

The festival has been a voyage into the uncharted territories of sirens' waters, where women's stories are demanding to be heard.

"In an Impasse" won four awards at the event, including the awards for the Best First Time Filmmaker, Best Produced Screenplay,

Best Women Film, and Diversity Spotlight Excellence award. Moreover, "The Stake" won the award for the Best Director of Short Film.



In the movie, Sara finds herself in a desperate situation: Her mother is hospitalized and needs urgent surgery to survive.

With no help in sight, Sara faces a major challenge and must somehow raise the necessary money.

In this impasse, she decides to steal from a luxury jewelry store.

The cast includes Azita Karimi, Mohammad Hosseininia, Bahar

Farrokhi, Sahar Kimiaei, Khadijeh Amini, and Elaheh Sarouei.

A drama, "The Steak" is an eight-minute flick made in 2023. It depicts a mother who prepares a cake and food for her daughter's birthday on an ordinary day.

Suddenly, the enemy's Army launches a surprise attack, leaving the mother with no time to escape, to protect her daughter, she hides the girl in a closet.

The Soldiers attack the house and kill the mother. A medic soldier discovers the girl and tries to bring joy by celebrating her birthday. However, the birthday is changed to a funeral.

Faranak Khamis, Amin Simiar, and Panisa Peyvakht play in the film.

Kraken International Film Festival is an international seasonal and annual competition with an annual live screening in the heart of Milan, one of the world's most enchanting cities.

The festival aims not only to reward filmmakers' works with a certification made by industry

professionals, but also offers a monetary prize, a feature not common to all festivals.

The cash prize is the sweet icing on the cake, providing an opportunity to potentially gain income for the hard work, or perhaps to set funds for the next project.

The annual event will take place in early February, 2026.

Every seasonal winner will be automatically selected for the annual competition, where the final winners will win the monetary prizes.

Only a selection of winning films will be screened, which will be notified a month prior to the event.

KIFF is not just an event; it's a celebration of the undiscovered, a journey into the depths of storytelling that will leave the audience questioning reality.

The festival organizers believe in elevating cinematic treasures from the abyss, welcoming all genres that stir the audience on a profound level.

## Adaptation of "The Suicide Shop" on stage at Tehran theater

TEHRAN- A loose adaptation of French novelist Jean Teulé's book "The Suicide Shop" is currently on stage at Homa Theater Hall in Tehran.

Hossein Nasiri is the director of the play, which has been rendered into Persian by Ehsan Karamveisi.

Davoud Geravand, Mahtab Keyvanjou, Arezou Sarraf, Reza Hemati, Yeganeh Vaeqi and Mojdeh Mokhtari are the main members of the cast for the play, which will remain on stage until March 14.

"The Suicide Shop" (French: "Le Magasin des suicides") is a black comedy novel, published in 2006. Set in a near-apocalyptic city grappling with the severe consequences of climate change, the narrative unfolds in a world where pervasive sadness reigns, reflecting the grim atmosphere surrounding its characters.

At the core of this novel is the Tuvache family, whose name draws inspiration from three

renowned suicides: the father, nicknamed Mishima, pays homage to the Japanese author Yukio Mishima; the eldest son, Vincent Tuvache, takes his name from the troubled artist Vincent van Gogh; and their daughter, Marilyn Tuvache, mirrors the iconic actress Marilyn Monroe. Their younger son, Alain, named after the brilliant mathematician Alan Turing, stands out as the sole ray of hope in a family entrenched in despair.

The Tuvaches run a shop specializing in suicide paraphernalia, offering grim products and instructions to customers aiming to end their lives amid an environment characterized by hopelessness.

However, Alain is born with an unwelcome spark of optimism that disrupts the family's embrace of melancholy. His siblings, Vincent and Marilyn—each grappling with their own existential issues—struggle to thwart Alain's positivity.



Vincent is an emaciated figure, consumed by his creativity in designing the shop's morose inventory, while Marilyn battles obesity and loathing for her existence.

As the story unfolds, Alain's intrinsic joy gradually transforms the family dynamics, challenging the pervasive gloom that envelops them. The family's attempts to pull Alain back into their cynical worldview ultimately fail.

In a surprising twist, over time, the Suicide Shop evolves into a novelty store, shedding its morbid roots and finding unexpected vitality. Paradoxically, despite his uplifting influence on the family, Alain's journey culminates in tragedy; he decides to take his own life, recognizing that he provided a purpose for others to reject despair and embrace life.

The novel's unique premise also inspired an animated adaptation directed by Patrice Leconte. Critics have praised Teulé's work, noting its careful balance of humor and somber themes.

In a review for Le Figaro, Mohammed Aissaoui remarked on the author's deft touch, combining derision and imagination to address such a weighty subject matter.

The English translation of the novel is rendered by Sue Dyer, making this thought-provoking story accessible to a broader audience.