

French Noise

Iranian UN envoy dismisses French FM's allegations as 'politically motivated'



France's President Emmanuel Macron, left, talks with French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot during international conference for Lebanon in Paris, Thursday, Oct.24, 2024.

Iran's top security official in Brazil for high-level BRICS talks

TEHRAN – Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Ali Akbar Ahmadian, has arrived in Brazil to participate in key discussions with fellow BRICS member states, as the group of emerging economies moves to deepen political, economic, and security cooperation.

According to Iran's state news agency IRNA, Ahmadian is set to hold a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings in Rio de Janeiro with officials from other BRICS countries. The talks will focus on strategic issues, including regional developments in West Asia and the enhancement of security frameworks within the expanding BRICS alliance.

The visit comes as Brazil prepares to assume the rotating BRICS presidency in 2025 and take on a central role in hosting upcoming organizational meetings. ▶ Page 2

On the threshold

By Jafar Yaghoubi

TEHRAN – Depending on political leanings, one may view the ongoing Iran-U.S. engagement differently.

On the positive side, it is optimistically viewed as a potentially new chapter in Iran-U.S. "affairs" (for lack of a better word), putting both countries on the threshold of a new era.

There is also a darker side to this story, as well; one that depicts Iran on the threshold of a nuclear bomb and the US on the brink of pulling the trigger. It is therefore essential to move beyond the direct/indirect dichotomy, which has recently afflicted the reporting on the talks and see through the real essence of this engagement.

The next round of talks will soon kick off, and to say that the stakes have never been higher for both nations has become a tired refrain—yet, in this moment, the gravity of their choices is undeniable. ▶ Page 3

Persian Gulf National Day: a celebration of history, culture, and nature

By Afshin Majlesi

Each year, on the 10th of Ordibehesht in the Iranian calendar, Iran observes Persian Gulf National Day — a moment to reflect on the historical, cultural, and geopolitical importance of this strategic body of water in West Asia.

The occasion, observed on April 30 this year, also commemorates the historic 1622 victory in which the combined forces of Iran's Safavid Empire and the British East India Company expelled Portuguese troops from the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

Bordering the southwestern stretch of Iran's southern coast, the Persian Gulf is more than a body of water; it is a cradle of ancient civilizations, a vibrant cultural crossroads, and a natural wonder teeming with life. ▶ Page 6

High-profile Mossad agent linked to terrorist operations in Iran executed: Judiciary

TEHRAN – Iran's Judiciary has announced the execution of Mohsen Langameshin, a Mossad-linked agent who had an important role in orchestrating terrorist operations on Iranian soil.

According to a statement from the Iranian Judiciary's media center on Wednesday, Langameshin played a role in providing logistical support for several attacks, including the 2022 assassination of Martyr Hassan Sayyad-Khodaie, a member of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC). ▶ Page 3

Yemen's resilience: How Ansarallah outmaneuvers US military might

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- For nearly a decade, Yemen has been embroiled in a devastating conflict, with Ansarallah emerging as a formidable force against both the Saudi-led coalition and, more recently, the United States. Despite relentless airstrikes and a crippling blockade, Ansarallah has not only maintained control over significant portions of the country but have demonstrated an increasing ability to strike back, reshaping regional dynamics.

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia, leading a coalition of nine countries, launched a military intervention in Yemen with the primary objective of reversing the Ansarallah takeover of Sana'a and restoring the government of President Hadi. Codenamed "Operation Decisive Storm," the intervention initially consisted of airstrikes on Ansarallah and a full blockade. Despite claims of achieving its initial goals, the Saudi-led coalition's intervention unequivocally failed to dislodge Ansarallah from power.

What lies behind the Lebanese Forces' bitter hatred of Iran?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — On April 26, 2025, a massive and deadly explosion happened at Iran's Shahid Rajaei Port in Bandar Abbas. Various countries rushed to express sympathy and offer help, except the Lebanese government, specifically its Foreign Ministry run by the Lebanese Forces' Youssef Rajai.

The Lebanese government's deliberate silence on the tragic incident is shameful, given Tehran's role in supporting Lebanon against Israeli terrorism since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

During the September-November U.S.-led Israeli aggression on Lebanon, Iran provided tons of relief aid, including medicine and food, in addition to massive financial donations.

For his part, and in line with his general policy of subordinating Lebanon to U.S.-Saudi influence, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam decided to ignore the painful incident, even though Riyadh itself had declared its solidarity with Iran.

Yemen issues warning to Britain

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Britain pounds Yemen, marking the first joint attack with the U.S. under the Trump administration.

In response, the government in Sanaa warned that the "British enemy must reckon with the consequences of its entanglement," condemning the UK's involvement in the U.S.-led campaign against Yemen.

This warning follows Britain's announcement of a joint airstrike with the U.S. south of Sanaa, the Yemeni capital.

According to an official statement from Sanaa, the attack is "part of the ongoing efforts by the American and British enemies to support the Israeli enemy."

The aim, it underlined, is to suppress Yemen's support for Palestine and allow "the Zionist regime" to intensify its massacres in Gaza.

The statement declared that Sanaa would "confront the evil trio, the U.S., Britain, and the Zionist regime, along with their allies, with all its might," vowing that such attacks would not shake Yemen's commitment to its core causes, particularly the Palestinians in Gaza. ▶ Page 5

20 new satellites under development as Iran ramps up private sector role in space program

TEHRAN – Iran is currently developing around 20 new satellites through joint public-private partnerships, marking a major shift in the country's space strategy toward private sector leadership, according to the head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA).

Speaking on Wednesday, during a visit to the 2025 INOTEX Exhibition at the Iran International Innovation Zone, ISA chief Hassan Salarieh said the development of these satellites—including the key "Shahid Soleimani" satellite constellation—is being carried out by consortia made up of state institutions and private firms.

In a move to support Iran's space-based economy and advance remote sensing capabilities, Salarieh announced a guaranteed purchase program for ▶ Page 2



Tehran, Astana sign investment MOU for port terminal in Bandar Abbas

TEHRAN – Iran and Kazakhstan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to invest in and develop a dedicated terminal and logistics center at Shahid Rajaei Port, the country's largest commercial port on the Persian Gulf.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Kazakhstan's ambassador to Iran, senior officials from Kazakhstan's Export Development Fund, and Saeed Rasouli, acting head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), along with members of the organization's executive board. ▶ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Cooperation with IAEA is a step toward building trust with Europe

In a note, Shargh addressed Iran's proposal to hold a meeting with the European troika in Rome and said: The presence of the International Atomic Energy Agency's technical team in Tehran, which was announced with Iran's proposal for negotiations with Europe, shows Tehran's determination to answer the Agency's technical questions and control the tension with the European troika (France, Britain and Germany). Inviting the Agency's technical team could help clear up ambiguities about nuclear activities, such as undeclared materials, and prevent the issuance of a resolution against Iran at the Board of Governors. Iran's proposal to negotiate with the European troika and cooperate with the Agency is part of a balanced strategy in nuclear diplomacy. Tehran, which is conducting indirect negotiations with the United States in Oman, is simultaneously seeking to reduce tensions with Europe and strengthen cooperation with the Agency to prevent the escalation of international pressure. This multilateral approach, although complex, demonstrates Iran's understanding of the time and political limitations ahead. Negotiations with the U.S., held recently in Muscat with Oman's mediation, have shown some progress, but still face obstacles such as disagreements over long-term guarantees.

Jam-e-Jam: Affecting the Caucasus developments through constructive interaction with Baku

Jam-e-Jam analyzed President Pezeshkian's one-day visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan and wrote: This visit should be considered more than a typical diplomatic event. This visit can be considered a clear message from Tehran to reconsider its regional policies, especially towards the South Caucasus region. In recent years, the Caucasus has become one of the most important centers of geopolitical developments in the world, a region where the competition between great powers, from Russia and Turkey to Europe and the United States, can be clearly seen in the changing new world order. Expanding Tehran-Baku relations in various fields will allow Iran to influence Baku's regional policies, diminish the role of third parties, and further reduce security and political challenges in the region. Also, strengthening and improving relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan will provide Tehran with an opportunity to act as a mediator in the conflicts between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan. This, in turn, can pre-

vent the presence of extra-regional countries in the South Caucasus and ensure the interests and national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ettelaat: Israel is major obstacle to Iran-US agreement

Ettelaat spoke with Ahmad Naghibzadeh, a political science professor, about the progress in Iran-U.S. negotiations. He said: Apparently, our negotiations with the Americans are proceeding slowly and there have been many analyses about the positivity of the talks between the two sides. It must be admitted that both Iran and the U.S. have red lines that they don't compromise under any circumstances. Therefore, the idea of understanding and reaching a common ground seems far-fetched. Despite the efforts made by both sides and even Donald Trump commenting on the negotiations, the weapons that the U.S. has brought to the region are not for nothing. We also cannot be indifferent to Israel's moves against an agreement. In any case, any cooperation between Tehran and Washington is 100% in conflict with what is important to Israel, and for this reason, they are the main obstacle to realizing an agreement. Given the depth of the differences between Iran and the U.S., it should be said that the start of talks between the parties can be a sign of the serious will of both sides to end or reduce the differences, but reaching an agreement is very difficult.

Sobh-e-No: Aliyev should learn from Zelensky's fate

The unfortunate truth is that in recent years, instead of focusing on regional relations, Baku has become a backyard of Washington and Tel Aviv. Even spy agencies affiliated with the U.S. and the Zionist regime have started planning security conspiracies in this context. In fact, Aliyev preferred that the security of the Republic of Azerbaijan be ensured under the political, military, and security plan of the U.S. and Israel, but now is the time to take a different approach after observing the fate of Zelensky. Baku, in the vicinity of an independent and strong neighbor like Tehran and with the goodwill of the Islamic Republic, can make the best use of the opportunities and capacities available by welcoming the strengthening of bilateral interactions. On this basis, Aliyev can choose the desired path for Baku's future at a fateful crossroads: political independence and improving relations with neighbors, or continuing to move along the goals of the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

Iranian VP, Sudanese minister pledge enhanced cooperation against regional challenges



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref meeting Sudan's Industry Minister Mahasen Ali Yaqoub in Tehran on April 30, 2025

TEHRAN – Iran's First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref hailed the reactivation of Iranian and Sudanese embassies as a "promising start" to deepening bilateral cooperation during a meeting with Sudan's Industry Minister Mahasen Ali Yaqoub in Tehran on Wednesday.

"The resumption of embassy activities over the past year heralds stronger relations," Aref stated, emphasizing Iran's readiness to assist in Sudan's industrial modernization.

He thanked Sudan for its solidarity following the deadly Shahid Rajaei Port explosion, calling it a testament to the "profound emotional bonds" between the two nations. He underscored Tehran's "strategic priority" of fostering ties with Africa since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, noting that political relations with Khartoum remain "favorable."

While stressing Iran's willingness to collaborate across sectors, he urged clear definitions of "cooperation frameworks and needs," adding that joint commissions and private-sector engagement are vital for economic progress.

Despite "four decades of unjust sanctions," Aref asserted Iran has achieved self-reliance through domestic expertise—a model he claimed "belongs to the entire Islamic world."

Sudan's Industry Minister Mahasen Ali Yaqoub detailed her country's plight amid ongoing conflict, stating, "Our infrastructure has been bombed, and our people slaughtered, but we hope to overcome these challenges with Iran's support."

She praised the Iran-Africa cooperation conference for enabling "preliminary contracts" with Iranian businesses and vowed to advance joint projects through embassies.

The Sudanese minister is currently in Tehran for the third Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Conference—a pivotal event that has attracted over 700 delegates from 38 African nations.

Iran and Sudan have strengthened their ties in recent years with renewed high-level meetings and reopened embassies, leading to vibrant economic and technical collaborations—a promising step toward mutual growth and stability.

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In a move to support Iran's space-based economy and advance remote sensing capabilities, Salarieh announced a guaranteed purchase program for satellite imagery produced by domestically built satellites. The initiative is being led by private companies with ISA backing.

"The private sector's role in



Hassan Salarieh, the head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), visits the 2025 INOTEX Exhibition in Tehran on April 30, 2025.

our space industry has expanded rapidly over the past three years," Salarieh noted.

"While space missions were once exclusively handled by government agencies, today private companies are delivering a substantial share of our operational projects."

Salarieh said the Iranian Space Agency is using INOTEX 2025 as

a platform to promote private sector capabilities and encourage new partnerships.

The space-focused pavilions at the exhibition are offering visitors a firsthand look at satellite technologies, data solutions, and other innovations developed by Iranian knowledge-based firms.

He stressed the urgency of accelerating space missions in

order to maintain Iran's position in the competitive global space landscape.

"Private sector participation is not just beneficial—it's a national necessity," Salarieh said, referring to Iran's Comprehensive Space Development Document.

The 13th edition of INOTEX, which runs through May 2 at Pardis Technology Park, has attracted more than 500 startups, innovation centers, and investors from Iran and abroad.

This year's exhibition features a wide range of events, including the "INOTEX Pitch" startup competition, keynote speeches, mentoring sessions, and a showcase of advanced technologies.

Artificial intelligence has taken a central role in the 2025 event, with several booths dedicated to AI-based solutions. Startups are presenting applications in medical AI, robotics, natural language processing, machine vision, and big data.

Fourth round of Iran-U.S. talks set for Rome after E3 meeting: Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi announced that the fourth round of indirect talks between Tehran and Washington on the Islamic Republic's nuclear program will take place in Rome this Saturday, with Oman once again mediating the negotiations.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Iranian cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Araghchi said that, as confirmed by Oman, the new round of discussions is scheduled to be held in the Italian capital, continuing a format aimed at reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and facilitating the lifting of U.S.-led sanctions.

The Rome meeting will be preceded by a separate round of consultations between Iran and the three European signatories to the 2015 nuclear accord — the UK,

France, and Germany — on Friday.

Araghchi acknowledged that the influence of the E3 has waned due to their alignment with Washington's pressure policies, but emphasized Tehran's willingness to keep the European parties engaged.

"Despite the Europeans' declining role in these negotiations because of their flawed strategies, we are not ready to exclude them," Araghchi said. "That's why we've agreed to meet with them again in Rome."

The foreign minister reaffirmed Iran's commitment to a diplomatic resolution through a "global understanding," noting that while indirect U.S.-Iran talks remain central, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will play a key role if a new agreement is reached.

Responding to questions on Iran's frozen assets abroad, Ara-

ghchi reiterated that the release of blocked Iranian funds remains a critical demand. "These funds are part of the sanctions regime that must be lifted," he stated.

He criticized the latest round of U.S. sanctions imposed during the negotiation process, warning that such moves cast doubt on Washington's sincerity.

"Actions like this send a negative signal. Of course, we're aware of the internal divisions in the U.S. and the influence of different lobbying groups," he said.

When asked whether Iran had communicated specific red lines — such as enrichment limits — to the American side, Araghchi said, "Our red lines are clear and have been fully conveyed to the United States."

He also dismissed the idea of an open-ended process, noting, "While

we haven't set a formal deadline, we're not interested in dragging out negotiations. We sense that the other side shares this view."

Since the United States' unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018, efforts to restore the deal have stalled.

Although the European signatories initially vowed to preserve the accord and persuade Washington to rejoin, they ultimately followed the U.S. lead in reimposing sanctions.

In recent months, however, Oman has facilitated three rounds of quiet diplomacy — two in Muscat and one in Rome — on April 12, 19, and 26, aimed at breaking the impasse. Both Iranian and American officials have characterized the talks so far as "positive" and "progressing."

Iran's top security official in Brazil for high-level BRICS talks

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The talks will focus on strategic issues, including regional developments in West Asia and the enhancement of security frameworks within the expanding BRICS alliance.

The visit comes as Brazil prepares to assume the rotating BRICS presidency in 2025 and take on a central role in hosting upcoming organizational meetings.

Founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the BRICS group has recent-

ly expanded to include Iran, Egypt, the UAE, Ethiopia, and Indonesia. In addition, nine other countries — including Cuba, Belarus, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Kazakhstan — have been designated as partner nations, providing them with access to BRICS-led initiatives and forums.

Several more countries, among them Turkey and Azerbaijan, have submitted formal applications for full membership, reflecting growing interest in the group's vision for a more balanced global order.

Since its formation, BRICS has positioned itself as a platform for promoting the interests of the Global South and reforming international institutions often dominated by Western powers.

With a combined population of 3.5 billion and an aggregate economy valued at over \$28.5 trillion — roughly 28% of global GDP — BRICS is increasingly seen as a counterweight to traditional geopolitical blocs.



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Ali Akbar Ahmadian (L), steps off an Iran Air airplane in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on April 29, 2025.

Ahmadian's visit underscores Iran's active engagement in this multilateral framework and highlights the bloc's rising significance amid calls from developing nations to reshape the current world order.

Top commander highlights naval advances, says IRGC builds missile boat with speed of 116 knots

TEHRAN – A top commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says that Iran now builds a missile boat capable of reaching speeds of 116 knots (215 km/h), marking a new milestone in the country's naval capabilities.

The announcement was made by IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri on Wednesday during a ceremony commemorating National Persian Gulf Day.

Tangsiri praised the speedboat as a testament to Iran's growing self-sufficiency in military technology, noting that it had successfully passed all technical and operational tests. "We've constructed this high-speed missile boat ourselves — it's fast, advanced, and fully operational," he said.

National Persian Gulf Day, observed annually on Ordibehesht 10 in Persian Calendar [April 30], marks the historic expulsion of Portuguese forces from the Strait of Hormuz in 1622. Tang-

siri used the occasion to highlight Iran's maritime progress since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, contrasting it with pre-revolutionary dependence on foreign contractors.

"Before the Revolution, we couldn't even build a fishing boat. Now, we've built the Shahid Soleimani warship with state-of-the-art technology, capable of sailing 5,000 nautical miles non-stop across oceans," he said.

The Persian Gulf, bordered by Iran to the north and linked to the Sea of Oman and the Indian Ocean via the Strait of Hormuz, is one of the world's most vital energy and trade corridors. Rear Admiral Tangsiri emphasized the region's strategic and economic weight, pointing out that over 60% of the region's oil and 40% of its gas exports transit through these waters.

He also asserted that Iran's side of the Persian Gulf contains the deepest coasts and most efficient maritime routes, reaffirming Tehran's

regional role in securing this crucial passage.

"We maintain daily security in the Strait of Hormuz, enabling over 80 ships to safely pass through these waters. That's a responsibility we take seriously," he said.

Reiterating Iran's long-standing message of regional cooperation, Tangsiri called for peace and brotherhood among neighboring states, while warning against the presence of foreign military forces.

"Insecurity in the Strait of Hormuz has global consequences, particularly for the economy. Foreign powers don't come here for peace — their goals are to entrench their illegitimate presence and push arms sales," he said. "Let there be no doubt: those who travel thousands of miles to be here aren't looking to protect this region — we are."

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot has accused Iran of being “on the cusp of developing nuclear weapons,” further threatening to reinstate sanctions lifted under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) if Iran’s nuclear activities threaten European security.

These unsubstantiated allegations were swiftly condemned by Iran’s Ambassador to the United Nations, Amir-Saeid Iravani, who dismissed them as “politically motivated” and baseless. Iravani reaffirmed Tehran’s commitment to a peaceful nuclear program, emphasizing its adherence to stringent IAEA inspections and a fatwa issued by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, which explicitly forbids the development of nuclear weapons.

Iravani accused France of hypocrisy, pointing out its own modernization of a nuclear arsenal estimated at 290 warheads and its silence on Israel’s undeclared nuclear stockpile, which remains outside the purview of the NPT. He also criticized the European trio’s failure to uphold their end of the JCPOA after the U.S. unilaterally withdrew in 2018 under Donald Trump, describing Paris’s threats of reimposing sanctions as a form of “economic blackmail.”

Tehran maintains that its gradual reduction in compliance with the JCPOA was lawful and proportional, rooted in Articles 26 and 36 of the agreement. More critically, the Iranian ambassador emphasized that diplomacy cannot be pursued under coercion, calling instead for “genuine diplomacy” grounded in mutual respect and sovereign equality.

But while Iran has been con-



French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said on Monday that his government along with Germany and Britain “will not hesitate for a single second to reapply all the sanctions” lifted a decade ago if European security is threatened by Iran’s nuclear activities.

sistent in voicing its readiness to reengage in talks, the European side appears mired in strategic confusion—exacerbated by years of playing second fiddle to Washington’s volatile West Asia policy. The erosion of Europe’s standing in the negotiations became most apparent when indirect U.S.–Iran talks resumed under the Trump administration, without significant European involvement.

Indeed, European frustration has grown palpably in diplomatic circles. Many EU leaders were central to brokering the original JCPOA and are now openly disappointed at their exclusion from the revived discussions. But the sidelining of Europe is not the result of Iranian neglect. On the contrary, Iran has made multiple overtures to reengage with the European trio.

In a press briefing after the cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi announced plans to hold a preparatory meeting in Rome with the E3—France, Germany, and Britain—before a broader discussion on the nuclear issue.

Acknowledging Europe’s declining role in the process due to “flawed policies,” the minister nonetheless emphasized that Tehran does not seek to exclude Europe and remains willing to cooperate. He reaffirmed Iran’s commitment to resolving the issue through “global understanding” and noted that negotiations with the U.S. and oversight by the IAEA will continue to play key roles.

Additionally, in a post on his X account published on April 24, Araghchi lamented that relations with the E3 have deteriorated into a “lose-lose” situation, largely due to the European side’s decision to choose confrontation over diplomacy. He recounted a meeting in New York in September with E3 foreign ministers where he offered a comprehensive dialogue—not limited to nuclear issues—but was rebuffed.

Araghchi’s offer still stands. Having consulted with counterparts in Moscow and Beijing, he expressed readiness to visit Paris, Berlin, and London to restart discussions, signaling Iran’s willingness to rebuild ties.

This call for European autonomy speaks to a broader criticism that Iran has long held: that Europe has consistently failed to operate independently in its foreign policy, particularly on Iran.

Iranian officials insist that for Europe to regain credibility and play a meaningful role in nuclear diplomacy, it must take bold steps toward independence. This could begin with a reassessment of its sanctions policy—especially its willingness to invoke the JCPOA’s controversial “snapback” mechanism, which would restore UN sanctions based on alleged Iranian violations.

From Tehran’s perspective, invoking the snapback is not only unjustified and illegal but politically reckless. It would place the E3 firmly in an aggressive posture toward Iran and sabotage any chance of diplomatic resolution. Instead of acting as mediators or bridge-builders, the Europeans risk becoming enablers of escalation, undermining both regional stability and their own credibility.

Iran also sees this moment as a test of Europe’s commitment to multilateralism. If Europe continues to mirror Washington’s sanctions regime, it cannot expect to be taken seriously as an independent actor. But if it were to demonstrate real independence—perhaps by rejecting further sanctions or embracing Iran’s offer of dialogue—Europe could chart a new course in West Asian diplomacy.

Ultimately, the Iranian message is clear: nuclear diplomacy is still possible, but not through threats or duplicity. Respect, sovereignty, and genuine engagement are the only viable paths forward—and it is up to Europe to decide whether it is ready to walk that path.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Iran coach Zamanpour hopeful for Division A promotion

TEHRAN – Azadeh Zamanzadeh, Iran’s women’s basketball coach, is optimistic about her team’s success in the 2025 FIBA Women’s Asia Cup Division B.

She played a significant role in the national women’s basketball team’s advancement to the Division B qualifiers, where Iran defeated Syria and Jordan in Amman.

“Our team managed to secure a spot in Division B of Asia after winning the two matches against Syria and Jordan. Now, we are preparing to book a place in Division A in the competition, which will be held in Shenzhen, China.”

Discussing their two matches, Zamanzadeh said, “Before our departure, we went on a trip to Lebanon where we played two friendly matches against two Lebanese clubs. In these matches, we aimed for specific goals, including coordinating our players with Roksana Bahrami, the Iranian-American player, which fortunately proved effective. Roksana quickly harmonized with the team and executed the coaches’ objectives on the court.”

“Currently, our team are very strong, and we have added some excellent young players. Mahsa Karani, who is 18 years old, and Ghazal Zamani, who is 17, are among them. Additionally, we have other young players like Farnaz Khodamradi, who joined us two years ago, and Mahla Abedi, who is 20 years old and has been very influential.”

In conclusion, the women’s basketball coach expressed, “I hope that with the programs set by the federation and Ms. Eleni Kapogianni, our head coach, in the coming months, we will be able to prepare fully for the Division B competition. With a bit of luck, we can secure a place in Division A. While this is quite challenging, we have faith in our team members.”

Oman 8-1 in the final - to lift their fourth Asian title.

Going into their ninth FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, Iran will be confident they have what it takes to win the competition for the first time, having finished third in the 2017 and 2024 editions, the-afc.com reported.

Keeping faith with his supremely talented squad from Thailand 2025, Hossein has plenty of options at his disposal for the global showpiece.

Ali Mirshekari, who bagged the Top Scorer and Most Valuable Player awards at Thailand 2025, will be the one to look out for but Iran have a wonderfully balanced squad capable of challenging the best at the World Cup.

Mohammadali Mokhtari, Movahed Mohammadpour and Mohammadali Nazarzadeh are all on equal standing with Mirshekari, further strengthening Iran’s armour.

With a multi-talented squad, Hossein is not deflecting expectations and fully expects his team to go all the way.

“In the previous FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, we finished third,” said Hossein.

“We are focused on our team and we want to qualify for the final this time. We will try hard to make it happen.”

Iran will kickstart their Group B campaign against African champions Mauritania on May 1, with Portugal and Paraguay their other opponents.

Persepolis reach agreement with Swiss Hadergjonaj

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Persepolis have reportedly agreed to sign Swiss right-back Florent Hadergjonaj.

Currently, the 30-year-old plays for Turkish club Alanyaspor.

Persepolis plan to bring Hadergjonaj on board as a replacement for Moroccan defender Ayoub El Amloud. Born in Switzerland, Hadergjonaj previously represented Switzerland at both youth and senior levels before switching to play for the Kosovo national team.

In addition, Persepolis are also close to signing Esteghlal Khuzestan winger Thievy Bifouma.

Under head coach ?small Kartal, the Iranian club have struggled to meet expectations in the 2024/25 Iran Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL).

Iranian boxers win medals in Asian U15 Boxing

TEHRAN – Iranian boxers ended four medals at the Asian U15 Boxing Championships held in Amman, Jordan.

Morteza Rahimi in 49kg seized a silver medal in the competition.

Aref Zivdar in 46kg, Mohammad Reza Zare Atabaki in 52kg and Mohammad Taha Najafi in 55kg won three bronzes in the competition.

India topped the Asian Under-15 Boxing Championships medal tally with 25 medals, 11 golds.

Mojallali handed four-year ban for doping

TEHRAN – Iranian rower Adel Mojallali has been banned for four years by the Iran National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) after a positive test for meldonium.

The Iranian canoeist is ineligible to compete until July 2028.

Mojallali has won two bronze medals in the 2014 Asian Games (C-1 200m) and 2022 Asian Games (C2 500m).

He has also claimed a bronze medal in the 2017 World Championships (C-1 200m) in Račice, Czech Republic.

Developed in Latvia, meldonium was only added to the WADA banned list on Jan. 1, 2016.

It was moved from the monitored to the prohibited list by WADA due to “evidence of its use by athletes with the intention of enhancing performance”.

Hazfi Cup final to be held on May 29

TEHRAN – The final match of the 2024-25 Iran Hazfi Cup is scheduled for May 29.

The host city for the final has not yet been announced.

On May 23, Gol Gohar will host Malavan in Sirjan, followed by Esteghlal facing Sanat Naft in Tehran on May 24.

Esteghlal are the most successful team in Hazfi Cup history, having won the title seven times.

Esteghlal, Masoud Joma part ways

TEHRAN – Masoud Juma is set to end his stay with his Iranian outfit, Esteghlal, at the end of the season.

The Kenya international joined the Iranian club in November 2024 on a six-month contract that expires on Monday, 30 June, with the club having an option to extend it for another year.

The 29-year-old had been without a club for about five months before moving to Iran after ending his one-year stay with his previous club, Al-Jabalain, in July 2024.

He has had a difficult stay at Esteghlal, grappling with injuries and match fitness that have seen him make only 12 appearances.

The club is highly unlikely to activate the one-year extension option on his current stay, terming it as “close to zero per cent” due to his “not so bright appearance history.”

Iran focus on reaching 2025 Beach Soccer World Cup final

TEHRAN – Fresh from lifting the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025 in March, Iran will shift their focus towards the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Seychelles 2025 that kicks off on Thursday.

Ali Naderi’s side were unstoppable in Pattaya, defeating all before them - including beating

High-profile Mossad agent linked to terrorist operations in Iran executed: Judiciary



Mohsen Langameshin, a convicted and executed Mossad-linked agent implicated by Iran’s Judiciary in orchestrating terrorist operations in the country.

From Page 1 ▶ Further investigation revealed that Langameshin collaborated with the Tel Aviv’s Mossad—an intelligence agency notorious for its covert operations, targeted killings, and espionage, and frequently accused of violating international law.

In rare admissions to Hebrew and English media, the Israeli regime’s officials tacitly acknowledged Mossad’s responsibility for Khodaei’s assassination—a development widely attributed to Israel and consistent with its campaign targeting

Iranian scientists and security personnel, such as the 2020 murder of nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh.

“He was arrested, tried, and sentenced for Moharebeh (enmity against God) and Efsad-Fil-Arz (corruption on Earth) after irrefutable evidence proved his direct involvement in Mossad-linked sabotage, espionage, and terrorism,” the Judiciary’s statement noted.

It emphasized that his sentence was carried out “following the full completion of legal procedures and confirmation by the Supreme Court.”

Langameshin, recruited by Mossad in September 2020, underwent extensive training before conducting his first mission for the spy agency in December 2020.

Over two years, he engaged in “close operational cooperation with senior Zionist intelligence officers,” the Judiciary stated, facilitating terrorist attacks, procuring communication tools, and renting safe houses across multiple provinces.

One of his most egregious crimes, per the Judiciary, was his role in the May 2022 assassination of Martyr Khodaei, who was gunned down outside his Tehran home by Mossad-linked terrorists.

Langameshin “purchased a motorcycle under Mossad’s orders to surveil Martyr Khodaei, pro-

vided real-time updates on his location to the assassins, and fled the scene immediately after the attack.”

The Judiciary revealed that Langameshin’s crimes included logistical support for a Mossad-backed attack on a Defense Ministry-affiliated industrial site in Isfahan, equipping operational teams with vehicles and secure communication devices, and transferring funds from Mossad officers to agents inside Iran.

His use of the “Red Windows” secure communication system—a tool reportedly reserved for Mossad’s clandestine operations—further confirmed his active collaboration with the notorious intelligence agency.

Langameshin confessed “explicitly” during interrogations and court proceedings, admitting to meetings with senior Mossad officers in Georgia and Nepal to receive operational directives, the Iranian Judiciary said.

He also acquired anonymous SIM cards, mobile phones, and internet modems to connect Mossad agents within Iran.

“The criminal’s high-level operational training made him a professional in executing missions, but he was ultimately identified and apprehended by Iran’s vigilant security forces,” the Judiciary’s statement concluded.

On the threshold

By Jafar Yaghoubi

Negotiators on both sides must remain keenly aware of the pitfalls and unexpected twists that could upend the delicate process.

There is an immense, structurally vested interest in the failure of the current diplomatic engagement. Such actors—principally in thrall to Israel—and interest groups would rather have Iran on the table than seated at it!

The mere idea of Iran-U.S. engagement, irrespective of the final result, embitters them into a mad frenzy, as it unravels years of portraying Iran as a monolithic villain, devoid of agency, stripped of sovereignty, and an axis of evil!

Let us not be naïve, though. These entities and interest groups are not merely disgruntled voices; they are meticulously organized, deeply entrenched, and abundantly resourced.

With extensive leverage in media platforms, they deftly craft and disseminate narratives engineered to distort any discourse surrounding Iran and its dealings.

What is peculiarly interesting is the merry union of good old democrats with neocons and Iran hawks! By any stretch of the imagination, one would not have expected John Kerry, who concluded the JCPOA on a literally broken limb, to go out on a limb

and call the deal “so flawed”.

It appears the war lobby is recruiting disgruntled democrats, possibly luring them with relevance and redemption! In this twisted dance, what’s good for Joe is apparently bad for Donald, —a partisan cacophony of cynicism.

The irony is almost poetic: the very notion of diplomacy reduced to a pawn in the war lobby’s relentless game, where Iran is cast as the eternal villain, and engagement is heresy.

Iran-U.S. affairs in the past five decades have been tumultuous; nobody denies that. As historian John Ghazvinian aptly observes, the Iran-U.S. story is one that al-

ways seems to begin at the very end.

The end of this engagement will certainly give way to a new era. Senior officials of both countries have indicated a willingness to turn a new page.

To close on a hopeful note, I turn to the words of Ronald Reagan: “Between American and Iranian basic national interests, there need be no permanent conflict.”

Perhaps those shaping policy in Washington will reflect on history and reconsider their past decisions toward Iran, fostering a more constructive and forward-looking approach.

ICCIMA proposes joint working committee with UAE to boost re-export of Iranian goods



TEHRAN - Iran has proposed the formation of a joint working committee between its Chamber of Commerce and the UAE Chambers Confederation to capitalize on the re-export potential of Iranian products through the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking at the Iran Expo 2025 event, Ghadir Ghiafeh, deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said the initiative would help streamline trade and improve alignment with global standards. "To fully benefit from the UAE's logistics and re-export infrastructure, a formal committee should be created between our chambers," he told the Secretary General of the UAE Chambers Federation.

Ghiafeh also announced plans to establish the ICCIMA's first overseas Trade and Investment Development Agency office in the UAE, with the aim of attracting foreign investment and enhancing joint cooperation. He added that similar offices would be set up in other countries over time.

Highlighting the need to improve Iranian traders' access to UAE business networks, he called for the official introduction of a UAE Chamber representative in Iran and reiterated Iran's interest in opening an ICCIMA office in the Emirates. "We have already formed a joint Iran-UAE chamber in Iran, but its counterpart in the UAE is essential for advancing private sector collaboration," he said.

Ghiafeh also emphasized the potential of B2B meetings between Iranian trade delegations—many of whom travel to the UAE annually—and their Emirati counterparts, urging the UAE Chamber to facilitate such events.

He further called for the implementation of existing trade agreements through coordinated action between the two chambers, and said the proposed working committee could help ensure Iranian goods meet international standards with UAE support. "There is ample room for joint investment, and we should actively tap into it," he added.

Hamid Mohammed bin Salem, Secretary General of the UAE Chambers Federation, welcomed the proposal and confirmed he would convey Iran's request to establish a chamber office in the Emirates. "We are ready to facilitate B2B events and support the development of bilateral trade relations," he said.

He noted that private sector players in both countries are highly capable but require structured support through their respective chambers to maximize potential. Bin Salem added that there is significant room for cooperation in sectors such as logistics, customs, transport, and food products.

He concluded by expressing readiness to share the UAE's private sector experience with Iran and emphasized that re-exporting Iranian goods through the UAE is a viable opportunity—provided Iranian traders adhere to international standards.

According to an official with the Islamic Re-

public of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$7.2 billion to the United Arab Emirates in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025.

Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of IRICA for planning and international affairs, said that the UAE was Iran's third top export destination in the previous year.

Exporting commodities valued at \$21.9 billion to Iran, the United Arab Emirates was Iran's top source of non-oil import in the said time span, the official further added.

Iran and the United Arab Emirates signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for expanding economic cooperation in a variety of areas at the end of the two countries' third Joint Economic Committee meeting in May 1, 2024.

The MOU was signed by former Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash and UAE's Economy Minister Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, who co-chaired the joint meeting.

During the mentioned committee meeting, the two sides stressed the need for further expansion of economic cooperation between Tehran and Abu Dhabi.

Speaking at the end of the meeting, Bazrpash said: "We have held the joint committee between the two countries after 10 years, which is an opportunity to develop the commercial and economic relations between the two countries."

"The UAE, as Iran's second biggest trade partner, has great strategic importance for us," the minister said.

Referring to the location of Iran and the UAE in the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), Bazarpash said: "Access to the markets of the north and south can create an opportunity for the two countries to cooperate."

In the end, the minister emphasized solving the banking and monetary problems between the two countries to facilitate bilateral trade relations.

Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri for his part underlined the importance of the meeting, saying: "Holding today's meeting shows the development and expansion of economic relations between the two countries. After China, the UAE has the largest amount of trade relations with Iran. The trade value of the two countries has reached 27 billion dollars and many Iranian companies are established in the UAE."

"Creating new opportunities for transportation and banking cooperation is one of the achievements of this commission," the official said.

Referring to the performance of the UAE government in the field of investment, the official said: "The approval of the law on the formation of foreign companies and the government's support for companies that operate in the field of new energies has created a good opportunity for business with the UAE."

The 3rd Iran-UAE Joint Economic Committee meeting was held in Abu Dhabi from April 30 until May 1, 2024.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely UAE, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

Nouri Ghezleji emphasized the need to establish a joint committee between Iran and Afghanistan, based in Kabul, to advance bilateral relations. "We must seriously pursue the expansion of ties between the two countries, particularly in agriculture," he said, adding that cooperation agreements should be drafted and signed within the framework of the joint committee.

The Iranian minister stressed the importance of expanding economic and agricultural relations with Afghanistan, citing the sector's broad potential. He said forming the committee and signing memorandums of understanding would help strengthen mutual cooperation.

Tehran, Astana sign investment MOU for port terminal in Bandar Abbas

TEHRAN - Iran and Kazakhstan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to invest in and develop a dedicated terminal and logistics center at Shahid Rajaei Port, the country's largest commercial port on the Persian Gulf.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Kazakhstan's ambassador to Iran, senior officials from Kazakhstan's Export Development Fund, and Saeed Rasouli, acting head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), along with members of the organization's executive board.

Rasouli stated that Iran is prepared to review Kazakhstan's business plan within a month of receiving it and will finalize a model contract following approval. Under the terms of the MOU, the Kazakh government is expected to submit its investment plan within three months.

"Iran serves as Kazakhstan's gateway to open waters," Rasouli said, emphasizing Iran's support for foreign investment, including Kazakhstan's, as part of efforts to enhance trade and transit cooperation between the two countries. He noted that with 1,800 kilometers of coastline and access to international waters, Iran has substantial potential for logistics and transit development with neighboring nations.

He also reassured stakeholders that despite a recent fire incident at Shahid Rajaei Port in Hormozgan Province, port operations continue at full capacity. "Currently, 35 vessels carrying oil, mineral, and containerized cargo are docked and being serviced without disruption," Rasouli said, assuring shipping companies and traders of uninterrupted access to maritime and port services.

Hormozgan Governor Mohammad Ashouri echoed the government's commitment to expanding and equipping Iran's commercial ports and said the Kazakh investment would directly enhance bilateral trade and economic relations between Tehran and Astana.

Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Iran, Ontalap Onalbayev, expressed condolences over the recent incident at the port and described the investment as a strategic opportunity for Kazakhstan. He thanked Iranian au-



thorities for their cooperation in facilitating the joint project and said the development of a logistics hub in Bandar Abbas would strengthen bilateral ties.

Kazakhstan's Export Development Fund chairman Mohammad Kaldybayev called Shahid Rajaei Port a key gateway for Kazakh exports and imports and praised Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization for its support.

Iran signals readiness to export engineering services to Kazakhstan

In a related development, Iran's Vice President and head of the Planning and Budget Organization Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi met with Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister Galymjan Koishibaev on the sidelines of the first ECO Sustainable Development Forum in Arkadag, Turkmenistan.

Pourmohammadi conveyed Iranian firms' readiness to export technical and engineering services to Kazakhstan. He proposed establishing a barter settlement system for goods and services and recommended that the Kazakh ambassador in Tehran be tasked with deepening bilateral relations.

"I propose that one Iranian and one Kazakh company be designated to open new avenues of cooperation between the two countries," he said.

Koishibaev confirmed that strengthening ties with Iran is a priority of Kazakhstan's foreign policy and said Kazakhstan is interested in importing dates, fruits, and vegetables from Iran. He also stressed the need to enhance transport links, revive trade corridors, develop port infrastructure, and strengthen railway connectivity between the two

countries.

Iran's non-oil export to Kazakhstan increases 38.5% in a year

The value of Iran's non-oil export to Kazakhstan increased by 38.5 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year, Trend News Agency reported.

As reported, Iran exported about 360,000 tons of non-oil goods worth \$203 million to Kazakhstan in the previous year, indicating also two percent growth in terms of weight, year on year.

Iran had exported 353,000 tons of non-oil commodities valued at \$146 million to Kazakhstan in the Iranian year 1402.

Iran-Kazakhstan non-oil trade stood at 470,000 tons worth \$244 million in the previous Iranian year.

Agricultural products and foodstuffs, tobacco products and petrochemicals were the major non-oil goods exported from Iran to Kazakhstan in the past year.

The growth in export volume reflects the expansion of economic cooperation between the two countries and the increasing interest of the Kazakh market in Iranian products.

In mid-February, Iran and Kazakhstan reaffirmed their commitment to expanding economic and trade relations, with both countries aiming to increase bilateral trade to \$3.0 billion.

During a business forum in Tehran attended by Iranian Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji and Kazakh Trade and Integration Minister Arman Shakkaliyev, officials and private sector representatives discussed economic cooperation.

Iranian, Iraqi railways to form joint technical committee to accelerate cross-border projects

TEHRAN - Iran and Iraq are set to establish a joint technical committee to expedite shared railway projects and overcome operational barriers, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways said in a meeting with the strategic advisor to the Iraqi prime minister.

According to the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development's news outlet, Jabbar-Ali Zakeri, who also serves as deputy transport minister, proposed the formation of the committee during talks with the Iraqi official. The initiative aims to fast-track efforts on the Shalamchah-Basra rail project and improve rail connectivity between the two countries.

"Our main goal is to launch the Tehran-Karbala train as a fully rail-based route to offer pilgrims a safe and convenient journey to the holy sites," Zakeri said.

He highlighted Iran's extensive experience in rehabilitating and upgrading its rail infrastructure, noting that many domestic railway lines have been renovated in recent years. Iranian railway companies, he added, are well-equipped to assist Iraq in similar efforts.

"Given Iraq's need to refurbish its existing rail lines, we are ready to cooperate by forming a joint technical task force for sharing expertise and consulting," Zakeri said.

Welcoming the proposal to deepen rail cooperation, the Iranian official noted that Iran and Iraq can potentially connect through three border crossings—Shalamchah, Khosravi, and Mehran—strengthening regional transport integration.

Iran and Iraq have agreed to accelerate ef-

orts to complete the long-delayed Shalamchah-Basra railway and establish joint free trade zones and border markets, Iranian officials said following high-level talks in Tehran.

In a meeting between Seyed Rahmatollah Akrami, Iran's Acting Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, and Hazem Majid Najj al-Khalidi, advisor to the Iraqi prime minister, both sides stressed the importance of enhancing bilateral cooperation by implementing previously agreed projects.

According to Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs, the two sides also agreed to follow up on issues such as the settlement of Iranian financial claims and the recognition of Iranian bank guarantees for exporters and investors operating in Iraq.

Iran, Niger sign joint cooperation agreement

TEHRAN - Iran and Niger signed a joint cooperation agreement during the third meeting of their Joint Economic Committee, held on the sidelines of the Iran Expo 2025.

According to Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the event took place at the Persian Gulf Pearl Hall in Tehran and was attended by Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak, Trade Promotion Organization chief Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, and Nigerien Petroleum Minister Sahabi Oumarou.

"This committee has resumed after a 13-year hiatus, and we hope the joint cooperation agreement will help elevate the level of economic relations between the two countries," Atabak said at the opening of the meeting.

He pointed to the currently low volume of trade between Iran and Niger, stressing that the Trade Promotion Organization is responsible for following up on and implementing the provisions of the agreement. He also called on Niger to assign a designated organization to oversee the execution of the accord.

Dehghan Dehnavi said experts from both sides had held extensive talks over the past two days to finalize the agreement. "Various aspects of cooperation were reviewed and discussed, and the experts agreed to continue bilateral ties across multiple sectors," he noted.

He added that the agreement covers mining, energy, industry, and technology transfer. "A joint task force will follow up on the specific topics outlined in the agreement," he said.

The deputy minister also emphasized that the agreement

Nouri emphasized that while Iran and Kazakhstan have made continuous efforts to enhance political, economic, and cultural ties, their collaboration still falls short of its full potential.

He highlighted the importance of bilateral trade in sectors such as agriculture, mining, tourism, and industry, noting that Iran's strategic position in West Asia and Kazakhstan's role in Central Asia create exceptional opportunities for businesses.

He also stressed the need for stronger trade infrastructure, enhanced transport links, and supportive policies to facilitate sustainable economic growth.

Nouri pointed to the roadmap agreement signed between the two governments, which sets a \$3.0 billion trade target, as a sign of their serious commitment to expanding ties.

He also underscored the importance of addressing banking and trade regulations, resolving quarantine issues related to livestock and plant products, and fostering mutual trust to support commercial exchanges.

Also during the forum, Shahpour Alaei-Moghaddam, Iran's deputy minister of agriculture, described the growing trade between Iran and Kazakhstan as a reflection of Tehran's broader regional engagement strategy.

He noted that bilateral trade reached \$302 million in the first 11 months of 2024, marking an 8.1 percent increase compared to the previous year.

He also pointed to the formation of joint agricultural committees, trade agreements, and research collaborations as key tools in strengthening economic ties.

During his visit to Tehran, Shakkaliyev also met with Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Mohammad Atabak in which Atabak also reiterated that that Tehran and Astana aim to increase their economic and trade exchanges to \$3.0 billion, in line with agreements reached by the leaders of both countries.

He emphasized that the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) trade agreement would facilitate interbank transactions between Iranian and Kazakh traders.

Iran offers agricultural technical services to Afghanistan

TEHRAN - Iran is ready to export technical and engineering services in agriculture to Afghanistan, the country's agriculture minister said during talks with officials from the Taliban-led government.

According to IRIB News, Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji told Afghanistan's deputy agriculture minister in a meeting that the necessary infrastructure and capacity exist to transfer agricultural expertise and know-how to Afghan professionals. He noted that Iran and Afghanistan share deep-rooted cultural and historical ties and continue to seek closer cooperation in various fields.

Yemen's resilience: How Ansarallah outmaneuvers US military might

From page 1 ▶ The intervention, marred by strategic miscalculations and structural weaknesses, exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, leading to widespread civilian casualties and infrastructure destruction. Ansarallah, adept at asymmetric warfare, exploited Saudi missteps, expanding their reach and launching attacks deep into Saudi territory. The conflict devolved into a military stalemate, draining Saudi resources and exposing vulnerabilities in the kingdom's military capabilities.

U.S. involvement and strategic failure

In March 2025, under President Donald Trump's second term, the U.S. launched Operation Rough Rider, a major campaign of air and naval strikes targeting Ansarallah's radar systems, air defenses, and launch sites. The goal was to counter Ansarallah, which has been targeting ships to and from Israel in response to its genocidal acts against the people in the Palestinian coastal strip of Gaza. However, the U.S. has claimed it wants to secure Red Sea shipping lanes and degrade Ansarallah's capabilities. Despite claims of tactical successes, the overall impact of the operation remains questionable.

The Trump administration's policy failed for several reasons: it underestimated Ansarallah's resilience, relied heavily on military force, and neglected the political and social complexities of the conflict. The heavy civilian toll from U.S. airstrikes further fueled resentment and undermined the legitimacy of American involvement. By escalating military action without a political strategy,



Washington risked drawing the region into broader instability.

Ansarallah using asymmetry and adaptability as a strategy

Ansarallah's success stems from its strategic use of asymmetric warfare, including guerrilla tactics and drone attacks, which have helped offset the superior firepower of its adversaries. Their deep knowledge of Yemen's rugged terrain, especially in the north, and their ability to exploit internal divisions within the anti-Ansarallah coalition have further strengthened their position. These factors have enabled them to not only survive but also expand their influence.

The cost of endless war

The financial cost of the campaign has been staggering: nearly \$1 billion spent in just over three weeks, not including the ongoing expenses of Operation Prosperity Guardian, which costs an estimated \$600 million per month. The deployment of expensive assets, such as B-2 bombers and aircraft carriers, and the loss of high-value drones highlight the

unsustainable nature of the air raid campaign. Meanwhile, Ansarallah has adapted, using fortified bunkers and underground stockpiles to withstand strikes and continue attacks, even targeting U.S. warships.

Strategic parallels with Iraq and Afghanistan

The failures in Yemen bear a striking resemblance to past U.S. engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan. In both cases, the U.S. prioritized military solutions over political negotiation, underestimated local insurgencies, and ignored complex socio-political realities. The result was prolonged conflict, rising anti-American sentiment, and weakened U.S. credibility abroad.

In a debate called Democracy in Exile, Yemeni analyst Afrah Nasser put it, "Yemenis are in desperate need of a durable, just, comprehensive peace." She warns that the lack of a clear path to peace could mean "another 10 years of this vicious circle of violence."

According to dawnmena.org, Fatima Abo Alasrar echoed this concern,

arguing that efforts to "annihilate" Ansarallah mirror the flawed thinking behind U.S. failures in Afghanistan—where military solutions masked a lack of understanding about local power structures and political legitimacy.

"(It)... looked like as if Trump and his inner circle were playing some kind of video game. It showed how there is no seriousness in dealing with the Yemen question, or really with Yemen in general. We saw that with the Saudi-led coalition, too. When they entered Yemen, they thought that in six weeks they could finish the job and leave. And now we see an unrealistic approach in dealing with such a huge geopolitical issue, with the Houthis just being discussed this way on a group chat. It was really a testimony to the recklessness and disregard of the significance of the situation in Yemen. Without a political solution to what's happening in Yemen and the Red Sea, without a political solution based on a negotiation, a military solution alone is futile. It will not work. I hope Yemen will not be another Afghanistan stuck in a war with the U.S. for decades or more," Afrah Nasser remarked.

The conflict in Yemen represents not only a humanitarian catastrophe but also a critical test of America's global military posture. As in Afghanistan, the U.S. risks entrenching itself in a costly, unwinnable conflict that fails to achieve strategic goals. Unless Washington embraces a Yemeni-led political solution that prioritizes diplomacy over bombs, Yemen may become another symbol of American overreach and miscalculation.

Yemen issues warning to Britain

From page 1 ▶ The British military said it had joined the U.S. Air Force in targeting what it claimed was "a military facility used by the Yemenis to manufacture drones used in attacks on ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden."

According to the UK Ministry of Defense, the nighttime strike was carried out by Royal Air Force Typhoon jets, hitting a site about 25 kilometers south of Sanaa.

This operation marks the first coordinated U.S.-British attack on Yemen since the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump started

intensified airstrikes in mid-March.

The American-led campaign has resulted in numerous civilian casualties and was launched in response to Yemen's renewed military support front in solidarity with Gaza after the Israeli regime unilaterally ended a ceasefire with Hamas and resumed its genocidal campaign in the blockaded enclave.

The recent airstrikes also come against the backdrop of Yemeni missiles targeting the U.S. aircraft carrier Harry Truman.

The carrier was forced to make a sharp evasive maneuver, causing an F-18 fighter jet to slip off the deck and sink into the Red Sea.

Yemeni forces ended a blockade on Israeli and Israeli-affiliated vessels transiting the Red Sea. They also stopped hypersonic ballistic missile attacks on "vital Israeli targets" as soon as a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza came into effect.

Meanwhile, critics in the U.S. have raised concerns about the high cost of the strikes on Yemen and questioned their effectiveness in weakening the country's military capabilities.

What lies behind the Lebanese Forces' bitter hatred of Iran?



From page 1 ▶ However, the Iranian ambassador to Beirut, Mojtaba Amani, was summoned to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry by Youssef Raja to "object" to his post on X in which he, in a highly diplomatically manner, warned about the trap of Youssef Rajain about the trap of Youssef Raja without mentioning Lebanon at all.

Iranian ambassadors have a long history of dealing with the Lebanese Forces' unwavering

hostility!

On July 4, 1982, the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires, Sayyed Mohsen al-Moussawi —accompanied by the military attaché, Sayyed Ahmad Motevasselian, journalist Kazem Akhavan, and driver Taqi Rastakal Moghaddam — was traveling from Damascus to the Iranian embassy in Beirut, coming from Tripoli via the northern coastline.

When they arrived at the Jisr al-Madfoun area, where the Lebanese Forces militia had set up a security checkpoint, known as the "Barbara Checkpoint", the checkpoint personnel expelled the accompanying Lebanese police forces and abducted the Iranian diplomats.

They transferred them to the headquarters of the Lebanese Forces Party in the Karantina neighborhood of Beirut on the orders of former President Bashir Gemayel, the former commander of the Lebanese Forces.

Reportedly, the four Iranian diplomats were handed over to Israel, based on the testimonies of some prisoners released from Israeli prisons.

The Israeli side has neither denied nor confirmed the presence of the Iranian diplomats, and has long manipulated the issue as a bargaining chip to uncover the fate of its pilot, Ron Arad, who went missing in Lebanon in 1986.

Before the victory of the Islamic revolution in February 1979, Iran, under the leadership of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was aligned with the American-Israeli project and maintained the closest relations with the Zionist entity.

Right from the beginning of his movement against the Shah in 1963, Imam Khomeini (ra) supported the Palestinian cause and denounced the Zionist entity.

During the Iranian people's struggle against the Shah, martyr Sayyed Musa al-Sadr (ra), the founding father of Lebanon's contemporary resistance, protected dozens of Iranian activists.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel, Gaza, and the starvation weapon

By Boyd Van Dijk

In early March, as its cease-fire with Hamas began to unravel, Israel again turned to a tactic it had used earlier in the war in Gaza: imposing a total blockade on the territory, including a cutoff of all deliveries of food, medicine, fuel, and electricity. The aim, according to Israeli cabinet officials, was to make life unbearable for Gaza's two million citizens to force Hamas to accept Israeli demands in talks on a cease-fire extension. On social media, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, echoing state-

ments by National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, defended the government's decision to "completely halt" the flow of humanitarian aid, calling it a way to open the "gates of hell... as quickly and deadly as possible." This was not an isolated remark; Smotrich had previously suggested that blocking aid to Gaza was justified even at the cost of mass civilian starvation. Seven weeks into the new siege, as the UN World Food Program announced that border closings had caused all of its food stocks in Gaza to run out, Moshe Saada, a Knesset member from

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party, told Israel's Channel 14 TV that that was the intention: "Yes, I will starve the residents of Gaza, yes, this is our obligation," Saada said.

Amid a war in which tens of thousands of civilians have been killed by more direct means, Israel's serial blockades of Gaza may at first appear a secondary issue. But the tactic—and the justifications Israeli officials have offered for using it—has become a major test for international law. This week, the International Court of

Justice (ICJ) is holding hearings on the issue, following a UN General Assembly request to investigate whether Israel violated the UN Charter by blocking UNRWA, the principal UN aid agency in Gaza. And in November, the International Criminal Court (ICC) already issued international arrest warrants not only for the leaders of Hamas but also for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

US tells ICJ that law allows Israel to attack UN agencies

A U.S. official addressing the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Wednesday defended Israel's attacks on United Nations agencies in Gaza as potentially lawful, as Israel's full ban on humanitarian aid to the enclave nears two months. Opposing the arguments delivered by the UN's top legal official on Monday and by 12 states that have also spoken to the court this week, the U.S. official claimed that international law "does not impose any unqualified obligations on an occupying power" with respect to humanitarian assistance provided by the UN, international organizations and third states.

"In the law of occupation, military and humanitarian interests converge," said Joshua Simmons, the senior bureau official of the office of the legal adviser at the U.S. Department of State.

Simmons referred to Article 59 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which concerns the humanitarian obligations of an occupying power, claiming the provision does not impose an absolute duty to permit relief to the population under its control.

When it comes to third states, the article states that relief schemes "may be undertaken either by states or by impartial humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross".

Reflecting Israel's view, Simmons questioned the impartiality of UNRWA as a relief provider.

Israel has detained 49 Palestinian journalists since October 7

Israeli forces have detained 49 Palestinian journalists since 7 October 2023, following Tuesday's arrest of Ali Al-Samoudi from Jenin.

The advocacy group the Palestinian Prisoners Club notes these arrests form part of broader attempts to suppress Palestinian media coverage of the conflict, with journalists facing particularly harsh treatment in detention, Middle East Eye reported.

Massive wildfires near al-Quds



Dark plumes of smoke billowed above highways near Jerusalem al-Quds on Wednesday as rapidly spreading wildfires caused several injuries and prompted military minister Israel Katz to declare the situation a "national emergency".

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue agency reported that hundreds of civilians were at risk from the worst brushfires in years, as Katz ordered troops to deploy to support firefighters.

MDA said it had provided treatment to around 22 people, with 12 taken to hospital, the majority suffering from smoke inhalation. It added the

alert level had been raised to the highest level.

"We are facing a national emergency, and all available forces must be mobilized to save lives and bring the fires under control," Katz said in a statement from his ministry.

Police closed the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway and evacuated residents along the route as brushfires broke out in an area ravaged by blazes a week ago.

US dismisses all authors of National Climate Assessment

President Donald Trump's administration has dismissed all contributors to the U.S. government's signature study that informs federal and local governments on how to prepare for climate change impacts, according to an email sent to them on Monday.

The dismissal of nearly 400 contributors to the sixth National Climate Assessment, which is mandated by Congress, leaves the future of the report in doubt since the multi-year, peer-reviewed analysis is due for publication in 2028.

"At this time, the scope of the NCA6 is being evaluated in accordance with the Global Change Research Act of 1990," the email, seen by Reuters, said, referring to the legislation that kick-started the assessments that was signed by Republican President George H.W. Bush.

The climate assessment had been overseen by the Global Change Research Program, which the Trump administration dismissed earlier this month, and had coordinated input from 14 federal agencies and hundreds of external scientists.

Ukraine poised to sign minerals deal with US

Ukraine is poised to sign a much-anticipated minerals deal with the United States, Prime Minister Denys Shmygal has said, as both sides finalized details.

The agreement would see Washington and Kyiv jointly develop Ukraine's mineral resources, an arrangement U.S. President Donald Trump has called "money back" for the wartime aid it has received from the United States.

"This is truly a good, equal and beneficial international agreement on joint investments in the development and recovery of Ukraine," Shmygal said on national TV on Wednesday.

"I hope that the agreement will be signed in the near future, within the next 24 hours, and we will take the first step," he added.

There was no immediate comment from Washington.

Turkey to allow Netanyahu's plane to use its airspace

Turkey will allow the use of its airspace for the plane of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who will visit Azerbaijan on May 7, Report News Agency said.

"Benjamin Netanyahu's Kanaf Zion plane will arrive in Azerbaijan in the evening hours of May 7," the Azerbaijan-Israeli Alliance (AIA) stated, according to Report.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Times of Israel said the Israeli prime minister will arrive in Baku on May 7.



Powerful dust storm hits makeshift tent camps in Khan Younis

Chogan, the horse-riding game of Persian heritage, to be revived in Naqsh-e Jahan Square

TEHRAN—Isfahan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department and Isfahan Municipality are preparing plans to hold Chogan, a traditional horse-riding game accompanied by music and storytelling, in Naqsh-e Jahan Square, said director general of the department.

Amir Karamzadeh explained that the northern part of Naqsh-e Jahan Square has been allocated to be the venue of Chogan game, CHTN reported.

Chogan game will be held in this historical square with a specific schedule and calendar provided that the structure and visual identity of the square is preserved, and proper infrastructure is prepared, he added.

Chogan has been inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The game is commonly known around the world as polo. The word "polo" comes from the Tibetan word for the willow root from which polo balls were made, which is "Pulu".

Today, over 77 countries hold Chogan competitions.

Chogan, which is a traditional horse-riding game accompanied by music and storytelling, has a history of over 2,000 years in Iran and has mostly been played in royal courts and urban fields.

Chogan is believed to be the world's first



Chogan is believed to be the world's first team sport and the world's first ball game.

team sport, the world's first ball game, and today is recognized as the world's fastest team sport and ball game. The first recorded game took place in 600 BC, in Ancient Persia.

From time immemorial, it was considered an aristocratic game and held in a separate field, on specially trained horses. Nowadays, Chogan is played in Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan.

In Chogan, two riding teams compete and the aim is to pass the ball through the opposing team's goalposts using a wooden stick. Chogan includes the main game, a corresponding musical performance, and storytelling. Bearers include three primary groups: the players, the storytellers, and the musicians.

Geographical atlas of Persian Gulf unveiled in Tehran

TEHRAN - The first-ever geographical atlas of the Persian Gulf was officially unveiled on Wednesday at a ceremony hosted by the Mostazafan Foundation, marking a significant scholarly milestone in documenting the maritime heritage of the region.

Hamidreza Soleimani, CEO of the Dafeeneh Museums Institute, described the atlas as representing the "oldest maritime culture in the world." He noted that the volume includes 35 historical maps created by European geographers over the past four centuries.

Addressing the gathering, Soleimani emphasized the scholarly accuracy behind the project, stating, "This book serves as a critical academic reference and has been printed for the first time in book form. Given the sensitivity and historical weight of the subject, all maps included were carefully verified with relevant authorities and institutions."

The atlas was compiled and published through collaboration with several key bodies, including the Iranian Parliament's Research Center, the Armed Forces Geographical Organization, and departments within the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Soleimani also announced future plans for expanding the project, revealing that additional volumes will be published based on available historical sources.



Furthermore, 50 historical maps of the Persian Gulf and the three disputed islands will soon be on public display at the Dafeeneh Museum, he added.

The unveiling event also included condolences for a recent incident in Shahid Rajaei Port, southern Iran, reflecting a moment of somber solidarity amid the cultural celebration.

The unveiling ceremony was concurrent with the Persian Gulf National Day, which is observed annually on the 10th day of Ordibehesht in the Iranian calendar (April 30 this year).

The occasion commemorates the region's history, name, and significance. It also marks the historic 1622 victory when combined forces of the Safavid Empire and the British East India Company expelled Portuguese forces from the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Shiraz citizen donates prehistorical relics to cultural heritage department

TEHRAN—Samad Rohaninejad, a citizen from Shiraz, Fars province, donated an exquisite collection including 176 ancient objects to Fars Cultural Heritage Department and took a great step in preserving the cultural heritage of the province.

The artifacts, which date back to the pre-historic era and ancient civilizations of Iran, are now available to museums and secure cultural heritage repositories, IRNA reported.

The culture-lover citizen had gathered the collection for years, which included 160 pottery and bronze objects from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian and Sassanid eras and 16 non-historical objects.

This treasure which is the result of his interest and pursuit for many years, is a sign of art and historical identity of this land.

Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi, director general of Fars Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and

Tourism Department said, "These relics are symbols of history and identity of Fars land and the result of art and genius of our ancestors. It is better to put them in museums and secure repositories for preserving them."

He also said that the good culture of donating ancient relics to the Cultural Heritage Department should be promoted.

Sabet-Eqlidi pointed out that Fars Cultural Heritage Protection Unit is ready to receive any information and news regarding the cultural heritage field to preserve the historical and cultural artifacts.

Donation of this ancient treasure shows public participation in preserving the national heritage and indicates the necessity of proper maintenance of these works more than before.

Such measure can be a pattern for inculcating the culture of preserving Iran's cultural treasures.

Persian Gulf National Day: a celebration of history, culture, and nature

By Afshin Majlesi

Each year, on the 10th of Ordibehesht in the Iranian calendar, Iran observes Persian Gulf National Day — a moment to reflect on the historical, cultural, and geopolitical importance of this strategic body of water in West Asia.

The occasion, observed on April 30 this year, also commemorates the historic 1622 victory in which the combined forces of Iran's Safavid Empire and the British East India Company expelled Portuguese troops from the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

Bordering the southwestern stretch of Iran's southern coast, the Persian Gulf is more than a body of water; it is a cradle of ancient civilizations, a vibrant cultural crossroads, and a natural wonder teeming with life.

From the bustling port city of Bandar Abbas to the tranquil shores of Qeshm and Hormuz islands, that body of water offers a fascinating contrast between tradition and modernity. These lands and waters are deeply connected to the lives of their inhabitants, who have for centuries depended on the sea for trade, sustenance, and cultural



A historical map of the Persian Gulf

exchange.

While the Persian Gulf is globally recognized for its gigantic reserves of oil and natural gas, it is also famed for having a stunning natural beauty, from preserved beaches to expansive mangrove forests, which makes it a hidden gem for eco-tourism and adventure. Travelers can dive into crystal-clear waters, explore coral reefs, or simply soak in the rich biodiversity of the coastline.

In addition, the Persian Gulf is a living museum of history. The islands in the Gulf have long served as critical trade outposts linking

the East and West, shaping the destinies of empires. From the Mesopotamian civilizations of the Sumerians and Akkadians to the powerful Persian Empires — Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanian — the region has been a strategic maritime crossroads for thousands of years.

These islands also flourished during the Islamic Golden Age, becoming centers of commerce, science, and learning. Their ports welcomed scholars, merchants, and travelers from distant lands, fostering a rich tapestry of cultural exchange and intellectual

achievement. Even today, one can witness this legacy in the local architecture, cuisine, music, and oral traditions passed down through generations.

Moreover, the Persian Gulf's islands remain a mosaic of ethnic and cultural diversity, home to Persians, Arabs, Baloch, and other groups. This cultural fusion, formed over centuries of migration and trade, creates a vibrant and unique social fabric that enriches Iran's national heritage.

In today's geopolitical landscape, the Persian Gulf continues to hold strategic significance. Its islands, located near some of the world's most crucial energy routes, play a key role in regional security and global commerce. At the same time, some of them had been at the heart of ongoing diplomatic conversations, underlining their enduring importance on the world stage.

Iran's celebration of the Persian Gulf National Day not only honors a geographic region but also recognizes a legacy of resilience, cooperation, and cultural wealth. For many Iranians, it stands as a symbol of national identity and pride — a testament to a region that has shaped, and continues to shape, the course of history.

Herding and hunting: National Museum study paints picture of Iron Age life

TEHRAN - A study by researchers from the National Museum of Iran has unveiled new insights into animal exploitation patterns during the Iron Age in Gilan province, which is bounded by the Caspian Sea, north of the country.

The findings, presented earlier this week at the Iran National Museum Seminar Series, provide crucial evidence about subsistence strategies and human-animal relationships in the western Alborz Mountains between 1500-550 BC.

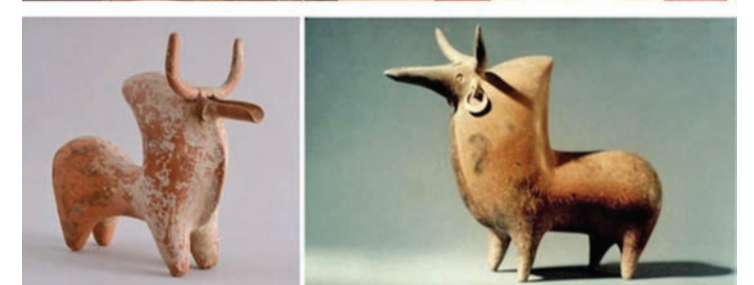
The research team, led by Dr. Marjan Mashkour and Dr. Hossein Davoudi from the Osteology Department of the National Museum of Iran, conducted a detailed analysis of animal bones from two significant Iron Age sites - Pila Qal'eh and Jalaliye in Rudbar County of Gilan. These archaeological sites, excavated in previous decades, offered a rare opportunity to study settlement remains from a period better known for its cemeteries.

According to the study, domesticated animals, including sheep, goats, and cattle, formed the foundation of the local econ-

omy at both sites. "The predominance of these species indicates a well-developed animal husbandry system," explained Dr. Davoudi during his presentation. The research also revealed the supplementary role of hunted species such as wild boar, red deer, and gazelle, suggesting a mixed subsistence strategy.

Notably, the team discovered interesting variations between the two sites. While they shared similar animal species, the proportions differed significantly. "These patterns likely reflect adaptations to local environmental conditions and changing herding practices over time," Dr. Davoudi noted. The presence of horses and donkeys at both ancient sites points to their use in transportation and daily labor.

The animal bones studied had been carefully preserved as part of the museum's long-term "Curation and Documentation of Osteological Collections" project initiated in 2011, directed by Dr. Marjan Mashkour. This latest research builds on that foundational work, applying modern analytical techniques to better understand ancient economic



systems.

Archaeologists emphasize the importance of such bioarchaeological studies for the Iron Age of Iran, where settlement sites remain understudied compared to cemeteries.

Looking ahead, the researchers plan to integrate their findings with ongoing studies of

plant remains and material culture to develop a more comprehensive picture of Iron Age life in the region. They hope their work will inspire similar investigations at other key sites across Iran.

The National Museum of Iran continues to host its Seminar Series, showcasing cutting-edge research on Iran's rich cultural heritage.

Baraghan eyes label of World Best Tourism Villages, holds culinary festivals

TEHRAN—Following measures for completing the dossier of Baraghan village in Alborz province as a nominee to be on the World Best Tourism Villages list, the villagers held a cuisine tourism festival with a focus on Baraghan plum and hosted tourists and culture lovers.

The festival was organized by Alborz Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department, local people, Baraghan Rural District, Baraghan Islamic Council, and Parseh Tourism Training Company, CHTN wrote.

Pointing to the impressive enthusiasm for the cuisine tourism festival, the caretaker of Alborz Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, called it an important measure to introduce this village to the world.

Holding a local cuisine and traditional dessert festival with a focus on Baraghan plum indicates high potential of this village in cuisine tourism and handicrafts sector, Nader Zeinali pointed out.

These events boost economic and cultural prosperity in the region and prepare the ground for introducing Baraghan as a rural tourism destination at national and international levels, he added.

A cultural heritage expert for pursuing the dossier of Baraghan to be nominated on the World



Best Tourism Villages list said Baraghan Village is on verge of globalization registration.

Tahereh Shahi added that holding cuisine tourism festival is considered an effective measure to introduce the capacities and customs of the village.

She also said that Baraghan with three national intangible heritages including plum processing method, Goleh Ice-cream processing method and Baraghan Samanoo (a traditional Iranian sweet paste made entirely from mashed germinated wheat) boasts huge potentials in cuisine tourism.

Meanwhile, Manager of Pars Cooking and Pastry School Hossein Rahimi said the first cuisine tourism festival with focus on Baraghan plum was held in the village with 40 participants from various

villages of Alborz province. Rahimi, who was also organizer of the event, said locals accounted for the highest number of participants in the festival.

Close to 40 tables including various foods and desserts in which plum had been used were prepared for the event, he said.

In addition, 15 handicrafts pavilions were launched, run by local artists, he mentioned.

He expressed the hope that the festival would be a turning point for holding larger events and promoting Baraghan's food culture and handicrafts.

At end, 35 were praised and cash prizes were awarded to first to third winners.

Baraghan and Salehieh, situated in Iran's Alborz province, were included in the national list of top tourist villages in 2024.

Alborz, located just 10 kilometers west of Tehran, has undertaken initiatives to promote rural tourism.

Among these efforts was the selection of 50 villages as potential destinations for rural tourism development.

From this list, Baraghan and Salehieh have emerged as the standout choices for their unique charm and cultural significance.

Ministry of Interior, UNICEF promote co-op on refugees

TEHRAN – The head of the National Organization for Migration, Nader Yar-Ahmadi, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) ad interim Representative in Iran, Monika Oledzka Nielsen, have discussed ways for enhancing collaborations in different sectors including health, education, nutrition, and natural hazards to improve living conditions of refugees.

The two officials met on Monday in Tehran. Lauding Iran's efforts in hosting refugees over the past forty years, Nielsen announced UNICEF's readiness to cooperate with the Ministry of Interior, highlighting the organization's numerous experiences in providing education, health, and nutrition services in countries like India and Afghanistan, the Ministry of Interior reported.

Referring to the two-year work plan signed by the two sides in December 2024, Nielsen said cooperation on refugees will be an important part of the signed MOU.

The official also announced a new UNICEF-supported education program for female Afghan students deprived of schooling due to political and social problems. To facilitate the access of this group of students to education, UNICEF is willing to boost cooperation with the Ministry of Interior as well as educational institutions in Iran.

For his turn, Yar-Ahmadi, underscoring the importance of education for foreign students,



particularly Afghans, said some 700,000 Afghan students are studying in Iran. However, the lack of enough educational space in the country requires international organizations' support to improve educational infrastructure.

Referring to unauthorized [foreign] students in the country, the official said that the Ministry of Interior is developing an educational online platform to facilitate their education. Moreover, those who are returning to their own home country will be able to benefit from virtual educational platforms. The official also stressed that the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the private sector, will issue a permit to provide a school for these refugee students.

During the meeting, the officials also discussed ways to re-

duce the impacts of natural disasters in hazard-prone areas.

Two-year work plan

In December 2024, in a step towards addressing critical challenges facing children and their families in Iran, UNICEF and the Ministry of Interior signed a two-year work plan aimed at reducing poverty, mitigating disaster risks, and enhancing humanitarian support for refugees and host communities. Nielsen and Mehdi Javaheri, Advisor to the Minister and Head of the International Affairs, signed the two-year work plan.

This collaboration is set to strengthen community resilience and improve outcomes for vulnerable children across the country, UNICEF website announced in a press release on December 8, 2024.

By enhancing disaster awareness and risk mitigation at the community level, the work plan will help protect children from the devastating impacts of natural and man-made disasters.

Additionally, it seeks to streamline identification and support processes for vulnerable households, providing critical assistance under the poverty alleviation pillar of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

The partnership also paves the way for expanded ties for collaboration with Ministry of Interior-affiliated entities, such as the Social Affairs Organization, National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO), and CAFIA (Center for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs), as well as national NGOs. This networked approach is expected to amplify the reach and impact of UNICEF's programmes, ensuring no child is left behind.

Implementation of the work plan will commence immediately, focusing on high-priority areas identified through months of collaboration. The partnership's outcomes will be reviewed at the end of 2025 to assess progress and determine further steps to strengthen the impact of these initiatives.

This partnership underscores UNICEF's dedication to supporting Iran's children and communities by collaborating with national partners to build a resilient and inclusive society,

Vitamin A supplementation program targeting two million kids

TEHRAN – Supported by the United Nations Children's Fund, mega-dose vitamin A supplementation program, being implemented across the country for four years, has reached two million children under the age of 5 so far.

Vitamin A deficiency is the leading cause of preventable childhood blindness and increases the risk of death from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea. Periodic, high-dose vitamin A supplementation is a proven, low-cost intervention and is an essential program in supporting efforts to reduce health issues and child mortality.

The program kicked off in 2020 to improve the health of children aged 2 – 5 years old. So far, two million children have benefited from the program.

A national study on the nutritional patterns of Iranian households during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 indicated a significant decrease in the intake of vitamin A in urban (31 percent) and rural (24 percent) households.

Data from the Food and Nutrition Surveil-



lance in eight provinces of the country have also confirmed vitamin A deficiency in children below 5 years of age.

This health ministry is implementing the program in collaboration with 43 universities of medical sciences in the country; and children who visited the centers received one soft gel capsule containing 200,000 IU every six months. This supplement is well absorbed in the body and stored in the liver to be used over time.

A 2017 Cochrane systematic review of in-

ternational studies (including 47 studies from 17 countries) as well as meta-analyses conducted in 1992 and 2011 showed that mega-dose vitamin A supplementation can reduce mortality from infectious diseases in children by 24 percent.

According to food and nutrition surveillance system, the main goals of the program include improving children's nutrition and boosting their immune system against common childhood illnesses like Covid-19, raising health workers' awareness of the crucial role of vitamin A in children's health, improving parents' nutritional literacy about the importance of vitamin A consumption, and reducing the mortality rate among children due to preventable diseases.

Four years into the implementation of the program, the health ministry is evaluating the effectiveness of the program, and the results will be published by the end of the current Iranian year, which started on March 20.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iranian students snatch 4 medals at IOI 2018

Iranian students secured 4 colorful medals at the 30th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2018) which was held in Tsukuba, Japan, on September 1 to 8.

Iran's team finished in eleventh place claiming one gold medal, two silver medals, and one bronze medal, Mehdi Safarnejad, head of the Iranian delegation said.

This year, 341 students from 87 countries participated in the event.

Mohammad Mahdavi grabbed the gold medal, Keivan Rezaei and Mehrdad Saberi were the silver medal winners, and Seyed Mahdi Sadeh Shobeiri claimed the bronze medal, Fars reported on Saturday.

Iran first participated the IOI in 1992, and have claimed some 22 gold medals, 54 silver medals and 25 bronze medals, over the past 26 years.

کسب ۴ مدال توسط تیم دانش آموزی ایران در المپیاد جهانی کامپیوتر

تیم چهار نفره دانش آموزان ایران موفق به کسب چهار مدال رنگارنگ در سی امین المپیاد جهانی کامپیوتر در ژاپن شد.

مهدی صفرنژاد سرپرست تیم اعزامی دانش آموزان المپیاد کشورمان به ژاپن، با اعلام این مطلب، افزود: تیم ایران از نظر کسب مدال، رتبه یازدهم این دوره از المپیاد را با کسب یک مدال طلا، ۲ نقره و یک برنز، تصاحب کرد.

در این مسابقات که از دهم شهریور ماه با حضور ۳۴۱ شرکت کننده از ۸۷ کشور در شهر سوکوبای ژاپن برگزار شد، محمدمهدوی به مدال طلا، کیوان رضایی نقره، مهرداد صابری نقره و سیدمهدی صادق شبیری به مدال برنز این مسابقات دست یافتند.

به گزارش فارس، تاریخچه حضور ایران در این مسابقات به سال ۱۹۹۲ بر می گردد و طی سال های گذشته در مجموع، ۲۲ مدال طلا، ۵۴ مدال نقره و ۲۵ مدال برنز حاصل تلاش کاروان ایران بوده است؛ ایران امسال برای بیست و پنجمین بار در این مسابقات حضور یافت.

Turkmenistan seeks to boost co-op with Iran in fight against drugs

TEHRAN –The minister of internal affairs of Turkmenistan, Muhammet Hydyrow, has announced the country's readiness to expand cooperation with the Iranian anti-narcotics police in combating drugs.

During a meeting held on Wednesday with Iran's anti-narcotics police chief, Iraj Kakavand, the two sides explored the potential for fostering ties, ILNA reported.

"Cooperation between the two countries can be centered around exchanging information to implement counter-narcotics operations, holding annual meetings of anti-narcotics police chiefs, as well as sharing expertise in operational, intelligence, and laboratory fields, and conducting joint research," ILNA quoted Kakavand, as saying.

Iran's substantial efforts in fight against drug trafficking

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has always lauded the Iranian government for its substantial efforts and steadfast commitment to tackling drug trafficking.

Due to its geographic proximity to Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran serves as both a destination and a transit route for illicit drug trafficking, especially opioids and,

recently, methamphetamine produced in Afghanistan.

On December 8, 2024, Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Iran Country Representative, attended a high-level meeting held at the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) on the occasion of the successful seizure of 2,400 kilograms of methamphetamine in Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

During the meeting, Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi, Commander of the Iranian Border Guard, shared details of a major drug seizure in Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

On September 10, 2024, Iranian forces successfully seized 2,400 kilograms of methamphetamine. This operation underscored the relentless commitment of Iran's border forces, who are at the forefront of combating the production and trafficking of drugs, particularly those originating in Afghanistan.

Fedulov, for his part, expressed his gratitude to Iranian authorities for their invaluable contributions to this global challenge.

Fedulov stressed the importance of strengthened regional cooperation, and emphasized the need for further international support to bolster collective efforts in combating drug trafficking across West Asia.

ICRC ready to offer relief services to families of Shahid Rajaei Port incident victims

TEHRAN – Vincent Cassard, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran, has announced readiness to provide relief services to those injured during the massive explosion that occurred at Shahid Rajaei Port on Saturday.

In a letter to the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Pir-hossein Kolivand, Cassard condoled with the bereaved families of the victims of the tragic incident.

To date, 70 persons have been announced dead and about 1,200 injured in the inferno.

"We were greatly grieved to hear about the huge blast in Bandar Abbas, causing casualties and destruction in the area. On behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, I extend my deep condolences to the families of the victims and the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

We recognize and commend the society's quick response and efforts in this hard situation; We are fully ready to support you in providing help to those affected. If needed, we are prepared to support the Iranian Red Crescent Society in any possible way," the letter reads.

The strategically important port lies around 15 kilometers southwest of the port of Bandar Abbas on the northern shore of the Strait of Hormuz.

Initial studies show that "negligence" in observing "safety standards" is the cause of the Saturday huge inferno at Shahid Rajaei Port, the committee tasked to investigate the incident said in a press release on Monday night.

"Negligence in observing safety standards and passive defense measures has been confirmed," the committee explained.

It added, "There have also been instances of false statements, and security and judicial authorities are actively working to identify those responsible."

However, the committee added, "A conclusive investigation into the cause of the incident entails a thorough review of all aspects, which, due to technical and expert considerations, involves specific technical and laboratory processes."

Can data science solve the world's food crisis?

By Soroush Saki

TEHRAN - The world stands at a critical crossroads in the battle against hunger, with climate change, population growth, and resource scarcity threatening global food security.

In this complex challenge, an unlikely hero has emerged from the digital revolution: data science. Across continents, from sprawling industrial farms to small family plots, a quiet transformation is taking root as farmers harness the power of information to grow food more intelligently.

Advanced sensors buried in soil measure moisture and nutrient levels with precision, while satellites orbiting overhead capture detailed images of crop health, creating a living digital map of our planet's agricultural heartbeat.

Artificial intelligence processes this constant stream of data, offering farmers real-time insights that were unimaginable just a decade ago, predicting pest outbreaks before they happen, calculating the exact moment when crops will reach peak ripeness, and even suggesting which varieties will thrive as weather patterns shift.

The impact is already measurable in places

like drought-stricken regions of Africa, where mobile apps deliver personalized farming advice to smartphones, helping subsistence farmers protect their livelihoods against increasingly erratic rains.

Meanwhile, in food distribution networks, machine learning algorithms are quietly revolutionizing how we move food from fields to tables, reducing the heartbreaking waste that sees nearly a third of global food production never reach hungry mouths. Yet for all its promise, this technological revolution faces sobering realities; the digital divide leaves many smallholder farmers behind, and no algorithm can magically create water in parched soil or instantly restore degraded farmland.

The true potential lies not in replacing traditional farming wisdom but in combining generations of agricultural knowledge with cutting-edge insights.

As researchers work to democratize these tools and policymakers grapple with questions of data ownership and equity, one truth becomes clear: while data science alone won't solve world hunger, it may provide the smartest tools humanity has ever had to cultivate a more food-secure future for all.



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MAY 1, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If someone's deeds lower his position, his pedigree cannot elevate it.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:10 Dawn: 3:38 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:11 (tomorrow)

“The Thing Around Your Neck” presented in audio format for Persian audience

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TEHRAN- The audio version of the Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's book "The Thing Around Your Neck" has recently become available for Persian listeners.

Narrated by Bahman Vakhshour, the audiobook has been crafted at Avaye Chirok, a major Iranian institute that produces audiobooks.

Translated by Solmaz Dolatzadeh, the audiobook features the voices of Yas Jafari, Houra Emadi, Ainaz Khosrozadeh, Khadijeh Mirkhani, Leli Naderi, Sepideh Goudarzi, Saba Seraj and Zeinab Afkhami. The Persian print edition of "The Thing Around Your Neck" has been published by Aftabkaran Publications in Tehran.

"The Thing Around Your Neck" is a collection of short stories, first published in 2009. Through these narratives, Adichie explores themes of identity, displacement, cultural conflict, and the intricate human connections that transcend borders.

The collection opens with "Cell One," a story set in Nigeria that follows a spoiled young man imprisoned in the notorious Cell One, highlighting issues of justice and societal corruption. In "Imitation," set in Philadelphia, Nkem, a young mother, grapples with betrayal when she discovers her art-dealer husband's affair and his lover living in their Lagos home. "A Private Experience" shifts to a tense yet tender encounter between two women from different religious backgrounds during a riot, emphasizing shared humanity beyond religious and ethnic divisions.

"Ghosts" reflects on a retired professor's mem-

ories, offering introspection on life and history. "On Monday of Last Week" portrays Kamara, a Nigerian woman in America, who becomes obsessed with her employer's family, revealing the complexities faced by immigrants adjusting to new environments. "Jumping Monkey Hill," arguably the most autobiographical, takes place at a writers' retreat in Cape Town, illustrating the creative struggles and conflicts among African authors.

The titular story, "The Thing Around Your Neck," follows Akunna, who emigrates to the U.S., only to face exploitation and cultural displacement—from her uncle's abuse to her work as a waitress in Connecticut—and her tumultuous romantic relationship. "The American Embassy" explores a woman's decision to abandon her asylum application after witnessing her son's murder, exposing the harsh realities of seeking refuge.

Other stories delve into personal loss and resilience: "The Shivering" depicts a Nigerian woman at Princeton finding solace in prayer; "The Arrangers of Marriage" portrays a woman struggling to reconcile her Nigerian roots with her life in New York; and "Tomorrow Is Too Far" reveals a young woman confronting her brother's tragic death. Lastly, "The Headstrong Historian" traces a woman's fight to reclaim her family's inheritance and preserve her heritage, emphasizing the importance of cultural roots.

Adichie's storytelling is praised for its lyrical clarity and emotional depth, making this collection a vivid exploration of the Nigerian diaspora and universal human experiences.

Cartoon of Day



Orphanhood

Cartoonist: José Alberto Rodríguez Avila from Cuba

Conductor Rahbari to perform “Persia, Concerto for Two Tars” again in Saint Petersburg

TEHRAN-Renowned Iranian composer and conductor Ali (Alexander) Rahbari will perform "Persia, Concerto for Two Tars" for a second time at the world-famous Mariinsky Opera and Concert Hall in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in June.

In the performance, composed and conducted by Rahbari, Iranian tar soloists Aidin Olyanassab and Mahsa Kharatian will accompany the Mariinsky Orchestra.

They will perform symphonic poem No. 8 from "My Mother Persia" album composed by Rahbari, on June 19, IRNA reported.

"Persia, Concerto for Two Tars" was first staged on March 21 at the same venue and was warmly welcomed by the audience.

Rahbari's "My Mother Persia" is a cycle of symphonic poems suffused with the rich melodies, rhythms and improvisations of Persian traditional music in which he is profoundly versed both as composer and conductor.

In July 2022, Rahbari made his debut at the Mariinsky Theater and since then, he has been a regular on the Mariinsky stage.

Aidin Olyanassab, 49, began his musical journey at age 9 by taking up the tar. He received his foundational training under esteemed mentors such as Jamal Samavati, Zeydollah Tolu'i, Arshad Tahmasbi, Hossein Alizadeh, and Dariush Talai, mastering both the preliminary and advanced traditional repertoire.

In 1999, following the release of his tar technique album "Dar Gozar..." (In Passing...), he expanded his musical expertise by studying classical piano at the Tehran Conservatory of Music with Katrin Arefy, Tengiz Shavlokhshvili and Haynoush Makarian. His musical education continued under the guidance of Sophia Mikayelyan and Sergey Sarajian at the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan.

After returning to Iran, Olyanassab contributed to music education at the Art Universi-



ty of Tehran and the University of Guilan, teaching specialized courses in tar, piano, orchestration and ensemble performance. His creative output includes tar technique albums - "Dar Gozar..." (1999), "Sargashteh" (Confused) (2013) and "Rad-e Pa" (Footprint) (2018) as well as a collection of vocal and orchestral works.

Since 2014, he has led the Uranus group, performing his works in Iran and internationally, and in 2019 he founded Uranus Specialized Music Academy, furthering his commitment to the development and dissemination of traditional Persian music.

Mahsa Kharatian, 24, is an accomplished tar player who bridges the rich heritage of Persian classical music and contemporary innovation. A graduate of the Tehran Conservatory of Music, she is currently furthering her studies at the Iran University of Art in Tehran.

Under the mentorship of Aidin Olyanassab and Hamid Khabbazi and inspired by maestro Rahbari, she has developed a distinctive and expressive approach to the tar.

Rahbari, 76, embarked on his musical journey at the age of five, learning to play the violin. He graduated from the Vienna Academy of Music and Performing Arts in 1971, specializing in composition under the tutelage of Gottfried von Einem, and completed his conducting studies in 1974, guided by Hans Swarovsky. He is a laureate of international conducting competitions, securing the gold medal in Besançon, France (1977), and the silver medal in Geneva (1978).

He has conducted over 120 orchestras worldwide, including Orchestra della Svizzera Romanda, Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, French Chamber Orchestra, Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig, Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, and Prague Symphony Orchestra.

Rahbari has served as the principal guest conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, receiving the Dvořák Medal in 1985 for his collaboration with the ensemble, and also led the Belgrade Philharmonic Sympho-

ny Orchestra, Belgian Radio and Television Orchestra (later becoming its principal conductor from 1988 to 1996).

He was the principal conductor of the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and the Virtuosi di Praga chamber orchestra. From 2000 to 2004 he was the chief conductor and musical director of the Malaga Symphony Orchestra, Spain.

In 1997, Rahbari formed the Persian International Philharmonic Orchestra in Bregenz, Austria, by bringing together 60 Iranian musicians from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S. With this ensemble, he recorded Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade," Khachaturian's "Violin Concerto," and his own violin concerto, "Nohe Khan," and was later awarded by the Vienna Academy of Music and Performing Arts.

He has released over 250 compact discs, with his recordings of operas by Verdi and Puccini under his direction gaining particular popularity.

Imam Reza graphic festival highlights resistance and solidarity with Palestine

TEHRAN- The primary focus of the judging process of the works participated at the 9th edition of Imam Reza graphic festival is on themes of fighting oppression, confronting imperialism, and defending the oppressed—particularly the people of Gaza, one of the organizers has announced.

In previous editions, the themes revolved mainly around the kindness of Imam Reza (AS), but in the ninth edition, attention has shifted toward other aspects of his legacy, notably resistance against injustice, opposition to imperialism, and defending the oppressed, Seyyed Masoud Shojai Tabatabaib said.

One aspect often overlooked in visual arts and graphic design in this festival is the dimension of struggle and advocacy present

in Imam Reza's life, which can be analyzed through multiple lenses, he noted.

He added that the festival's policy-making council placed significant emphasis on the themes of Gaza, defending the oppressed, and fighting oppression, aligning with the goal of depicting the righteousness of the Palestinian and Gazan peoples.

Israel's portrayal as a despised, racist regime has gained worldwide recognition, even being condemned in unexpected places like Harvard University and various parts of the world, he mentioned.

This global consensus underscores the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause and has made defending Palestinians a priority in the festival's artistic discourse, he explained.

Innovation, novelty, and creativity in the

themes of resistance and fighting injustice are highly valued in this edition, he concluded.

The festival aims to foster artworks that not only convey powerful messages but also demonstrate originality and artistic ingenuity in addressing contemporary struggles against oppression.

The Imam Reza (AS) International Festival is held annually in various provinces of the country as well as in several other countries.

This festival encompasses various fields such as articles, plays or screenplays, produced shows, stories, visual arts, books, literary texts, poetry, press and digital works, and radio and television productions.

The festival will come to an end in Mashhad on May 9 that marks the birthday of Imam Reza (AS).

IAF to screen 1926 silent fantasy film “Faust”

TEHRAN-The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will show the restored version of the 1926 silent fantasy film "Faust" directed by Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau on Friday.

The screening of the 107-minute film will start at 6 p.m. at the Nasserli Hall of the IAF, ILNA reported.

Murnau's film draws on older traditions of the legendary tale of Faust as well as on Goethe's classic 1808 version.

In this classic of silent cinema, the demon Mephisto makes a bet with an archangel that a good man's soul can be corrupted. Mephisto sets his sights on the

thoughtful old alchemist Faust, who is desperately trying to save his village from a plague. He is able to help the villagers, thanks to Mephisto, but further dealings with the devil lead Faust on a decadent downward spiral. Can he redeem his soul before it's too late?

The movie stars Gösta Ekman as Faust, Emil Jannings as Mephisto, Camilla Horn as Gretchen/Marguerite, Frida Richard as her mother, Wilhelm Dieterle as her brother, and Yvette Guilbert as Marthe Schwerdtlein, her aunt.

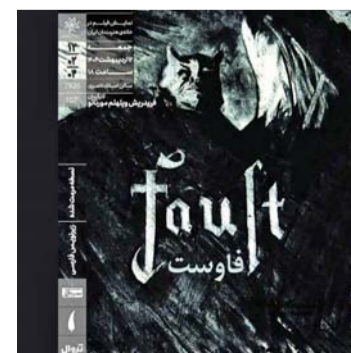
"Faust" was Murnau's last German film, and directly afterward he moved to the United States. The film has been praised for its

special effects and is regarded as an example of German Expressionist film.

Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau (1888-1931) was a German film director, producer, and screenwriter. He is regarded as one of cinema's most influential filmmakers for his work in the silent era.

An erudite child with an early interest in film, Murnau eventually studied philology and art before director Max Reinhardt recruited him to his acting school.

Murnau's first directorial work premiered in 1919, but he did not attain international recognition until the 1922 film "Nosferatu,"



an adaptation of Bram Stoker's 1897 novel "Dracula". Although not a commercial success owing to copyright issues with author Stoker's estate, the film is considered a masterpiece of German Expressionist cinema and an early cult film.