

Iran, US will look into Omani proposals after ‘professional’ and ‘logical’ fifth round

Nuclear Talks Get One More Chance



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FM Abbas Araghchi (L) consulting with his Omani counterpart during the fifth round of indirect nuclear talks with the U.S. held in Rome on May 23, 2025.

Trump’s war on Harvard

By Sahar Ddajoo

TEHRAN – Since the beginning of his second term, President Trump has stepped up his war against elite American universities, claiming that they foster antisemitism and leaning toward certain ideologies.

His administration has warned it will use its authority to slash or freeze billions in federal funding to institutions like Columbia, Northwestern, Cornell and Harvard if they don’t overturn what it claims as anti-Israel and antisemitism-friendly diversity or admissions policies, and limit their academic freedom.

This broader effort aims to exert political control over higher education through executive orders and regulatory pressure.

Against this backdrop, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem’s recent revocation of Harvard’s certification to enroll international students marks a sharp escalation.

This unprecedented action forces nearly 7,000 foreign students to transfer or risk losing their legal status, weaponizing immigration policy against Harvard in response to the university’s dissent from government policy.

Municipal elections in southern Lebanon on birthday of Resistance and Liberation

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON — After sporadic attacks over the past two weeks, the Israeli occupation regime launched a series of violent raids on Lebanese regions on Thursday.

The escalation of the aggression was expected ahead of the fourth and final round of municipal and mayoral elections in the South Governorate and Nabatieh Governorate, which will take place on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the Resistance and Liberation.

Despite the enemy’s threat that it would not allow popular gatherings in the border region, people reacted fervently. They demonstrated their enthusiasm for massive participation in the election scheduled for Saturday (May 24) in defiance of the U.S.-led Israeli ongoing attacks.

Yemen targets Ben Gurion Airport, sends millions into hiding

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Yemeni forces persist in striking the Israeli regime with hypersonic missiles in response to its genocidal war on Gaza.

In a recent operation, the Yemeni Armed Forces launched a new strike on Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, prompting millions of Israelis to seek shelter and leading to a suspension of airport operations, according to an official statement by their spokesperson.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced that the Yemeni forces executed a “qualitative military operation” targeting Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv using a hypersonic ballistic missile. The attack successfully halted air traffic at the airport.

Saree confirmed that the operation achieved its intended goals, causing the suspension of air travel and sending millions of settlers into hiding.

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Julian Assange’s Gaza tribute shirt steals Cannes spotlight

At the Cannes Film Festival 2025, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange made a powerful statement by wearing a T-shirt printed with the names of 4,986 Palestinian children under the age of five who have tragically lost their lives since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas conflict in 2023, drawing global attention to the devastating human cost of the ongoing war.

Assange wore the T-shirt for “The Six Billion Dollar Man” photocall at the Cannes Film Festival. On the back of his T-shirt, “Stop Israel” was printed, Times Now News reported.

The 53-year-old former hacker has declined all interview requests, however, with his wife Stella Assange saying that “he’ll speak when he’s ready.” ► Page 8



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‘An army built on drones,’ top commander affirms as Iran unveils new UAV technologies

TEHRAN – The Iranian Army has unveiled three advanced, domestically developed drones designed to meet the demands of modern and future battlefields.

The new models—Homa, Dideban (Watchdog), and Shahin-1 (Falcon-1)—were showcased during a ceremony at the Army’s drone and air base in the southeastern city of Zahedan, underscoring Iran’s push to build a self-reliant, tech-driven military.

Equipped with vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capabilities, the drones can switch to fixed-wing flight for greater range and efficiency. Designed entirely by Iranian engineers, the aircraft combine agility, ► Page 2

Any threat will be met with decisive force: Iranian military

TEHRAN – As Iran commemorated the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, the Armed Forces General Staff issued a defiant statement, warning that any aggression against the Islamic Republic’s values or nuclear facilities would be met with a resolute and forceful response.

The message comes amid rising regional tensions and Israeli threats against Iranian nuclear sites.

The military’s statement, published on Friday, described the 1982 taking Khorramshahr back from Iraqi forces during the Iran-Iraq War as a turning point in the Islamic Republic’s history, symbolizing unity, resistance, and divine triumph. It praised the role of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), the Army, and the Basij under the leadership of the late Imam Khomeini, calling the victory a “radiant jewel” in the legacy of Iran’s Sacred Defense.

“The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic will decisively counter any threat or hostile act targeting the sacred values and strategic interests of the Revolution,” the statement read. “The history of the Iranian nation—from the Islamic Revolution to the Sacred Defense and recent operations—demonstrates a steadfast commitment to national sovereignty and resistance against global arrogance.” ► Page 2

The legitimacy of running the JCPOA dispute resolution mechanism

By Dr. Sasan Karimi

TEHRAN – The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed in 2015, incorporates a Dispute Resolution Mechanism (DRM), commonly referred to as the “snap-back mechanism,” to enforce compliance.

The European Trio is now threatening to trigger the snapback and, through that, return UN sanctions against Iran. However, in doing so, Europe is ignoring the current situation and the background of the deal’s implementation, which make the procedural ability to activate the mechanism invalid for France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

The JCPOA, signed on July 14, 2015, by Iran, the P5+1 (United States, Russia, China, France, United Kingdom, Germany), and the European Union, aimed to enhance transparency in Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. The DRM, or snap-back mechanism, enables the re-imposition of UN sanctions for significant non-compliance. While the E3 can procedurally trigger this mechanism under paragraph #37, doing so would be illegitimate. Iran’s nuclear advancements since 2018 were remedial responses to the U.S. withdrawal in May 2018 and the E3’s failure to fulfill commitments, consistent with Iran’s rights under paragraph #26. ► Page 3

Khorramshahr: The Liberation that defined a nation

By Faramarz Koupayeh

TEHRAN – The echoes of battle may have faded, but the significance of Khorramshahr’s liberation remains resonant. On Saturday, May 24th, Iran marks the 43rd anniversary of the city’s recapture from the foreign-backed Iraqi Baathist regime, a victory that continues to shape Iranian identity and national pride.

How did Khorramshahr fall to the enemy?

The former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was lured into initiating a war against Iran following the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He hoped to seize the rich oil-producing Iranian province of Khuzestan along the shared border by taking advantage of perceived chaos in the Iranian government in the months after the Islamic Revolution. Perhaps, he was drawn into the conflict by Western states, most notably the United States, who were angered at the Iranian uprising.

In September 1980, the Iraqi military took the Iranians by surprise and captured the Iranian port city of Khorramshahr after weeks of street fighting. To be precise, it took 34 days for the foreign-backed Saddam regime to occupy the city. ► Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Negotiations in line with the policy of engagement with neighbors

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the continuation of the Iran-U.S. negotiations and said: Rome once again hosted the fifth round of indirect talks between Iran and the United States mediated by Oman. The meeting took place while just a few days ago, a verbal dispute broke out between the officials of the two countries; a dispute whose origin was Washington's contradictory and sometimes provocative positions on Iran's right to enrich uranium. According to diplomatic sources, in the past four rounds of negotiations tangible and even innovative ideas were put forward. But now, instead of moving toward agreement, the path seems to be heading toward stagnation. Moreover, according to Araghchi, the importance of the position of neighbors in the foreign policy approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran is very high, and our neighbors are our priority in terms of politics, economics, and culture. Tehran will maintain the policy of engagement with neighbors as the main pillar of its diplomatic doctrine. This approach, especially in an environment where regional tensions are tied to multiple actors in multiple places, can play a key role in redefining the balance.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Denying nuclear technology is a violation of people's right

In a note, Siasat-e-Rooz addressed the inhuman nature of the international system and wrote: The fate of the negotiations between Iran and the United States on the nuclear issue and sanctions removal has degenerated into a state of great uncertainty. According to a report by Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the Negative Effects of Unilateral Coercive Measures in 2022, the effects of the sanctions on the Iranian people, contrary to the U.S. claim, have been extensive, in violation of human rights and all international laws and regulations. The U.S. call on Iran to fully eliminate its nuclear enrichment program is also inhumane, especially as nuclear technology is imperative in medical treatment, food supply, and other basic things, and, therefore, the U.S. call is a violation of this right. The behavior of the self-proclaimed human rights advocates, including Western countries, reflects the inhuman nature of the international system. Such an approach does not even adhere to its own human rights laws and claims, and prefers its interests over the lives of millions of people.

Jam-e-Jam: Regional ties progressing well

Jam-e-Jam discussed Iran's relations with its neighbors in an interview with Dr. Ali Bagheri, Secretary of the Strategic Council for Foreign

Relations. He said: Iran's relations with neighboring countries under the 13th government have entered a new chapter; the neighborhood policy has practically not allowed any gap to remain between Iran and these countries in the region so that enemies can create a distance between neighbors at the regional level. In this period, we are facing very new conditions, and this situation is very promising. This alignment and synergy between the countries in the region are progressing well.

The regional countries' acceptance of Iran's regional role should be considered a sign of the effectiveness of the neighborhood policy. However, our neighboring countries have different relations with countries outside the region, and some countries are simply pursuing their goals at the regional level, which, in certain cases, contradict the collective interests of the countries in the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran's approach to strengthening its neighborhood policy has led other countries to conclude that they must take a new look at regional relations; and strengthening regional ties can be a platform for securing and guaranteeing national interests.

Ettelaat: Don't expect economic solutions with this policy!

Ettelaat spoke with economist Kamran Nadri about the extent of the impact that the Palermo ratification could have on the foreign exchange market.

He said: The conditional ratification of Palermo will not have much impact on the foreign exchange market for now. The economic environment, especially the foreign exchange market, is 100 percent influenced by the foreign policy doctrine. Therefore, as long as we do not fully accept the FATF and do not have foreign investment and economic interaction with the world, we cannot expect economic solutions. As long as the fate of the sanctions is not determined and these limited trade exchanges are carried out by evading the sanctions, we cannot expect a breakthrough.

When macro-decisions and policies are made without considering economic conditions and constraints, the Central Bank or the Planning and Budget Organization cannot manage the market based on economic calculations. The country's economy is often a victim of political manipulation, and as long as economic development is not a top priority at the highest levels of governance, economic improvement cannot be expected.

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From page 1 ► The statement also criticized the United States' renewed attempts to destabilize the region under the guise of diplomacy and strategic partnerships.

The Armed Forces accused the U.S. president of sowing division among Islamic countries by reviving the failed narrative of "Iranophobia" in an effort to exploit regional wealth and distract from America's own domestic challenges.

"These calculations are not only misguided, but dangerous," the statement warned. "Just as in Vietnam and Afghanistan, any new mischief in the region will come at a heavy cost for the United States and its allies."

FM Araghchi holds U.S., Israel accountable for provocations in letter to UN

Meanwhile, in a separate development, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has formally appealed to the United Nations, warning of credible threats by Israel to launch strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Referencing a CNN report published on May 20 that cited U.S. officials, the letter stated that new intelligence suggests the Zionist regime is preparing military action targeting Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

Araghchi emphasized that Iran's nuclear program remains under full and transparent oversight by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), with no evidence of deviation



from its peaceful purpose.

"These threats represent a grave breach of international law, the UN Charter, and the very foundations of the IAEA," Araghchi wrote, citing multiple IAEA General Conference resolutions that condemn armed attacks or threats against safeguarded nuclear facilities. "Such actions also risk catastrophic consequences—political, environmental, and humanitarian—for the entire region."

The Foreign Minister called on the UN Security Council to fulfill its responsibility to uphold international peace and security and to prevent any such aggression.

He also urged the IAEA to take a clear stance, warning that failure to act would undermine the credibility and impartiality of the nuclear watchdog.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

'An army built on drones,' top commander affirms as Iran unveils new UAV technologies

TEHRAN – The Iranian Army has unveiled three advanced, domestically developed drones designed to meet the demands of modern and future battlefields.

The new models—Homa, Dideban (Watchdog), and Shahin-1 (Falcon-1)—were showcased during a ceremony at the Army's drone and air base in the southeastern city of Zahedan, underscoring Iran's push to build a self-reliant, tech-driven military.

Equipped with vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capabilities, the drones can switch to fixed-wing flight for greater range and efficiency.

Designed entirely by Iranian engineers, the aircraft combine agility, intelligence, and precision to perform a wide range of reconnaissance and offensive missions.

Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari, Commander of the Army Ground Force, emphasized that unmanned technologies now lie at the heart of Iran's military transformation.

"We've invested heavily in developing UAVs—from micro drones to large aerial platforms—because our vision is to build a force centered around these technologies," Heidari said.

"They allow us to meet the operational needs of tomorrow's battlefields with greater speed and power."

He added that these innovations will allow the Iranian Army to act with greater flexibility and



A new homegrown vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone on display during an unveiling ceremony at the Iranian Army's drone and air base in the city of Zahedan, southeastern Iran, on May 22, 2025.

effectiveness in modern combat scenarios.

The Homa drone can fly above 12,000 feet, is equipped with night vision, and doesn't require a runway—making it ideal for stealth reconnaissance in electronic warfare environments.

The Dideban is a compact, portable UAV with all-day visibility and multi-target monitoring capabilities. It's designed to fly in coordinated swarms, enhancing battlefield intelligence and precision.

The Shahin-1 is a fast, first-person view (FPV) suicide drone intended to eliminate fixed and mobile targets with high maneuverability and lethal accuracy. Military officials describe it as a key component of Iran's growing asymmetric warfare strategy.

The unveiling coincided with a

visit by Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, to the 88th Armored Division in Zahedan.

Accompanied by Heidari, Bagheri reviewed the Ground Force's latest technological advances and operational achievements.

"Our focus remains on building effective deterrence, strong defense, and lasting stability across the region," Bagheri said. "The Armed Forces, especially the Ground Force, have achieved breakthrough successes by accessing high-end systems and next-gen technology."

Bagheri also pointed to Iran's growing proficiency in micro drones, which he said enhance the military's ability to counter evolving aerial threats.

"Today, the production of micro UAVs has become an integral

part of our defense strategy," he noted.

Brigadier General Nozar Nemati, Deputy Commander of the Ground Force, said Iran's modernization drive is rooted in long-term planning, scientific research, and a commitment to domestic innovation.

"By investing in strategic areas like unmanned systems, micro aerial vehicles, and AI-based platforms, we've positioned the Ground Force as a leader in adopting next-generation military technologies," Nemati said.

Over the past decade, Iran has made substantial strides in building its own military hardware—ranging from drones and missile systems to electronic warfare platforms—enabling near-total self-sufficiency in key defense sectors.

Officials maintain that Iran's military buildup is strictly defensive and non-negotiable.

"We will never hesitate to enhance our defense capabilities," Iranian authorities have repeatedly stated.

"Our missile and drone programs are designed solely to protect our sovereignty and deter aggression."

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has long called for continuous strengthening of Iran's military, viewing defense readiness as essential to national independence and regional peace.

Khorramshahr: The Liberation that defined a nation



By Faramarz Koupayeh

TEHRAN – The echoes of battle may have faded, but the significance of Khorramshahr's liberation remains resonant. On Saturday, May 24th, Iran marks the 43rd anniversary of the city's recapture from the foreign-backed Iraqi Baathist regime, a victory that continues to shape Iranian identity and national pride.

How did Khorramshahr fall to the enemy?

The former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was lured into initiating a war against Iran following the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He hoped to seize the rich oil-producing Iranian province of Khuzestan along the shared border by taking advantage of perceived chaos in the Iranian government in the months after the Islamic Revolution. Perhaps, he was drawn into the conflict by Western states, most notably the United States, who were angered at the Iranian uprising.

In September 1980, the Iraqi military took the Iranians by surprise and captured the Iranian port city of Khorramshahr after weeks of street fighting. To be precise, it took 34 days for the foreign-backed Saddam regime to occupy the city.

The Ba'athist forces faced stiff resistance before they managed to capture the city. The well-equipped Iraqi military's troops outnumbered the much smaller Iranian troops and the defenders of the city.

Faced with the Iranians' heroic resistance, the Iraqis failed to advance to occupy the important oil-refining center of Abadan,

located just 12 km to the east of Khorramshahr.

Battle to liberate Khorramshahr

After the city was occupied by the invading Iraqi army on 26 October 1980, the Iranians started to take action to retake it and punish the aggressor. They became united under the leadership of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini.

An army of 70,000 comprising the regular army and the newly established Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), as well as the popular mobilization voluntary forces known as Basij began their counter-offensive in an operation code-named Operation Beit al-Moqaddas on April 30, 1982 to free the city and other occupied areas southwestern province of Khuzestan.

The Iranian forces first pounded the positions of the Iraqi occupying forces in Khorramshahr with artillery and then launched an all-out assault on the city and overran two Iraqi defensive lines in the Pol-e Now and Shalamchah region.

Next, the Iranians concentrated next to Arvand Rud (also known as Shatt al-Arab waterway in Iraq) and laid a siege on Khorramshahr. They constructed a pontoon bridge over the Karun River, which allowed them to cross into the city.

Then, during the last two days, the Iranian forces engaged in fierce street fighting to put an end to the 19-month occupation. They took over the last positions of the Saddam regime's troops in

the city after 24 days since the start of the heroic operation.

At 2 p.m. on May 24, 1982, the national Iranian TV and radio announced the liberation of Khorramshahr. The Iranian flags were again flown at the top of the Grand Mosque and the city's bridge. Iranian troops performed their prayers in the Grand Mosque to appreciate God the Almighty for the victory.

The news of the liberation of Khorramshahr soon reverberated across the country. People from all walks of life poured into the streets in celebration. They distributed sweets and beverages as they were jubilant after hearing the news. They also went to the rooftops of their homes to chant Allah Akbar as they do on February 11 each year on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution victory.

The Liberation of Khorramshahr is a victory that continues to shape Iranian identity and national pride

The aggressor suffers huge losses

During the operation to liberate the city, the Iranians captured approximately 19,000 soldiers from a now-demoralized Iraqi Army. Estimates show that some 6,000 Iraqi troops were killed and thousands of others were wounded in the operation.

The liberation of Khorramshahr is considered a turning point during the eight-year Iraqi-imposed war on Iran because it marked a strategic failure for the shattered Iraqi army. Saddam Hussein was reported to have been shocked and infuriated by the defeat and ordered the executions of many generals in his army afterwards.

Many observers say that the victory in Beit al-Moqaddas tilted the political and military balance in Iran's favor. Even though the

city had been reduced to rubble by the Iraqis, its liberation boosted the morale of the Iranian armed forces, who went on the offensive ever after.

The Saddam regime and its backers were frightened at the decisive victory. The aggressor Ba'athist regime and its regional and international backers immediately shifted their stance from military aggression to diplomacy and pleas for a ceasefire.

The city's liberation allowed Iranian forces to push deeper into Iraqi territory. Some estimates suggested at the time, the Baathist regime lost almost half of its military forces in the battle for Khorramshahr.

The resounding victory also raised further awareness among the Iranians about the power of devotion to faith and to a cause, revitalized the strength of the Iranian military, and proved the efficiency of Iran's military strategies.

In a historic message on the victory, Imam Khomeini said that it was God the Almighty who freed Khorramshahr despite all the support that world powers, including the U.S., U.K., Germany, France, and the Soviet Union, etc. gave to the Saddam regime.

Also, the current Leader of the Islamic Revolution, on different anniversary occasions of Iran's retaking of its city, has pointed to the role of the Iranian commanders' expertise and strategic skills, as well as the faith in Allah and reliance on him for defeating the coalition of the Saddam regime and its backers.

"Through this great operation, our military commanders displayed their praiseworthy knowledge, expertise, and competence to the world," Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said in a statement issued on May 24, 1999, to mark the liberation of the city.

"The second factor, which was even more significant than the first one, was the great faith and the resultant bravery and perseverance of our military forces," he added, according to his official website.

Nuclear talks get one more chance

Iran, US will look into Omani proposals after ‘professional’ and ‘logical’ fifth round

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Iran and the United States put an end to a fifth round of indirect nuclear talks in Rome on Friday, after a week of high tensions spurred skepticism among Iranians about the American side’s sincerity and commitment to reaching a genuine agreement.

Oman’s Foreign Minister, the mediator of the discussions, was the first to announce the conclusion of the fifth round, using X to state there had been “some” but not “conclusive” progress.

“We hope to clarify the remaining issues in the coming days, to allow us to proceed towards the common goal of reaching a sustainable and honorable agreement,” he added.

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi and U.S. Special Presidential Envoy Steve Witkoff led their respective negotiating teams, as in previous rounds. While Witkoff’s flight schedule required him to leave the Omani diplomatic premises before the others, a team of American experts remained to continue the negotiations, according to Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei speaking briefly to Iran’s national TV during the talks.

The sincerity of the U.S. commitment to constructive nuclear talks was called into question this past week after Witkoff and other American officials publicly



Italian police outside the Omani embassy in Rome where indirect nuclear talks between Iran and U.S. took place on May 23, 2025

demanding that Iran halt uranium enrichment and dismantle its most important nuclear facilities.

Some progress made on fifth round, but no breakthrough

These preconditions, which were met with widespread condemnation in Tehran, almost derailed Iranian participation in the latest round of negotiations. Iran’s negotiating team has said to the Tehran Times that uranium enrichment is a non-negotiable red line for Iran, a stance con-

sistently held not only in current negotiations but also in previous nuclear discussions during the 2010s and throughout the past two-and-a-half decades.

Before heading to Italy to participate in the fifth round of the indirect negotiations, Araghchi reiterated his country’s firm stance.

“Figuring out the path to a deal is not rocket science,” he posted on X before his flight. “Zero nuclear weapons = we DO have a deal. Zero enrichment = we do NOT have a deal.”

Following the fifth round’s conclusion on Friday, the top diplomat said discussions had entered a “logical” trajectory. “It seems that there is now a clearer and more precise understanding

of Iran’s positions on the American side. I can say that this round was one of the most professional negotiation stages we have experienced so far.”

Araghchi noted that Oman’s Foreign Minister had proposed initiatives to facilitate progress, which both sides would discuss separately back home, with “no obligations”.

He added that Oman’s suggestions had improved the prospects for a breakthrough, but cautioned that the process remained complex and would take longer than “two or three sessions.”

Analysts were of the same mind as Araghchi. Amir Ali Abolfath, an expert on North American affairs, said that despite the red lines asserted by both Iran and the U.S. in the past week, the fact that the latest round still yielded some progress indicates a deal is possible, though by no means easy.

“What is important is that Iran maintains its uranium enrichment capabilities. We may be able to get a deal fast by ceasing the enrichment of uranium, but we won’t be able to make sure the U.S. stays committed to it if enrichment is halted.”

The location and timing of a sixth round of talks will be confirmed in the future, according to Iran’s foreign ministry spokesman.

The legitimacy of running the JCPOA dispute resolution mechanism

An analysis of E3 compliance and Iran’s responsive measures

By Dr. Sasan Karimi

TEHRAN – The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed in 2015, incorporates a Dispute Resolution Mechanism (DRM), commonly referred to as the “snap-back mechanism,” to enforce compliance.

The European Trio is now threatening to trigger the snap-back and, through that, return UN sanctions against Iran. However, in doing so, Europe is ignoring the current situation and the background of the deal’s implementation, which make the procedural ability to activate the mechanism invalid for France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

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The DRM, or snap-back mechanism, enables the re-imposition of UN sanctions for significant non-compliance. While the E3 can procedurally trigger this mechanism under paragraph #37, doing so would be illegitimate.

Iran’s nuclear advancements since 2018 were remedial responses to the U.S. withdrawal in May 2018 and the E3’s failure to fulfill commitments, consistent with Iran’s rights under paragraph #26.

The concept of abuse of rights

The principle of abuse of rights in international law prohibits states from exercising rights in ways that undermine others’ rights or breach good faith. The ICJ’s Namibia Advisory Opinion (1971) established that South Africa’s illegal presence in Namibia stripped it of the legitimacy to assert legal rights.

Similarly, the E3’s non-compliance with JCPOA obligations—failing to deliver Iran’s economic benefits and aligning with U.S. sanctions—undermines their

standing to invoke the snap-back mechanism. Such an action would constitute an abuse of rights, violating “ex injuria jus non oritur” (no right arises from a wrong).

Background of the JCPOA

The JCPOA emerged from decades of mistrust. Iran’s nuclear program, initiated in the 1950s, became a flashpoint in the 2000s, leading to UN sanctions (2006–2010) and U.S./EU measures that affected Iran’s economy. Negotiations from 2003 to 2013 saw slow progress until President Rouhani’s election and U.S. policy shifts under President Obama facilitated the 2015 agreement. The JCPOA restricted Iran’s nuclear activities, such as uranium enrichment, while offering sanctions relief in trade, finance, and energy. The DRM addressed mutual distrust, but the U.S. withdrawal in 2018 under President Trump’s “maximum pressure” campaign shifted the burden to the E3.

The JCPOA’s Reciprocity Structure

The JCPOA is built on reciprocity, with the DRM (paragraph #37) allowing participants to reinstate UN sanctions for non-compliance. This mechanism deters violations by threatening to reverse sanctions relief. Its validity depends on the invoking party’s compliance. The U.S. withdrawal in May 2018 and sanctions re-imposition marked the initial breach. Iran maintained full compliance for a year, as confirmed by IAEA reports, before initiating remedial measures in May 2019, such as enriching uranium to 20%.

These align with the JCPOA’s retaliatory provisions and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969), which permits proportionate responses to material breaches.

Paragraph #26 of the JCPOA permits Iran to step back from implementing its limitations under the deal. Iran’s measures from May 2019—expanding



centrifuge operations, increasing uranium enrichment levels etc.—were gradual, reversible, and proportionate, signaling adherence to the JCPOA’s framework. After the U.S. withdrawal, the E3, China, Russia, and the EU were tasked with upholding the agreement. Unlike the U.S.’s abandonment, Iran’s calibrated responses reflect good faith and commitment to the JCPOA’s legal structure.

The E3’s Breach of Obligations

The E3’s failure to deliver economic benefits violates the JCPOA, undermining its legitimacy to invoke the snap-back mechanism. The JCPOA’s Preamble and Annex II mandate sanctions relief in trade, finance, and energy. However, the E3’s over-compliance with U.S. secondary sanctions blocked Iran’s economic opportunities, with European banks refusing transactions with Iranian entities.

The Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) was largely ineffective, processing only one transaction by 2020. The E3’s support for U.S. pressure, including renegotiation discussions, breached paragraphs #28 and #29. Iran’s DRM invocations (e.g., August 2018, November 2018) were ignored, prompting its remedial measures. Iran’s letters (2016–2021) detail the E3’s failure to enable banking, trade, and INSTEX, confirming their non-compliance.

The E3’s breaches render their potential use of the snap-back mechanism invalid. Iran’s nuclear

advancements were retaliatory measures under paragraph #26, responding to the U.S. withdrawal and E3 inaction. No participant has formally declared Iran non-compliant, reinforcing its status as a retaliating party. Invoking the DRM would misuse a legal tool to penalize Iran’s contractual rights, breaching “pacta sunt servanda”. Realist theory explains the E3’s deference to U.S. sanctions as prioritizing strategic interests, undermining the JCPOA’s multilateral framework. Iran’s adherence to retaliatory provisions reflects legalism, exposing the E3’s failure to uphold reciprocity.

The E3 can procedurally activate the JCPOA’s snap-back mechanism, but such action lacks legitimacy. Iran’s post-2018 nuclear advancements were remedial and reversible responses to U.S. and E3 breaches, permitted under paragraph #26.

The E3’s failure to provide economic benefits, complicity with U.S. sanctions, and neglect of the DRM undermine their authority. Using the snap-back would misuse a legal instrument, jeopardizing the JCPOA and multilateral diplomacy. To salvage the agreement, the E3 must operationalize economic mechanisms and counter U.S. sanctions.

The saga over the activation of the snapback mechanism underscores challenges of enforcing international agreements under hegemonic pressures and emphasizes the need for reciprocity and accountability in nuclear diplomacy.

Fasihi absent in 2025 Asian Athletics Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian woman sprinter Farzaneh Fasihi will be absent in the 2025 Asian Athletics Championships.

Fasihi suffered a hamstring rupture several months ago and has not fully recovered.

She has represented Iran at the 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games.

The competition will be held in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

A total of 15 man and women athletes will represent Iran in the event

Iran learn fate in 2025 IHF Women’s World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran are drawn in Pool B of the 2025 International Handball Federation (IHF) Women’s World Championship.

32 teams learnt their fate on Thursday as they embark on the journey for the 2025 IHF Women’s World Championship.

In a star-studded ceremony, the draw for the preliminary round of the world handball flagship competition took place in the historic halls of the Noordbrabants Museum in ‘s-Hertogenbosch, one of the five hosts cities of the competition.

The 27th edition of the IHF Women’s World Championship will take place in five cities – ‘s-Hertogenbosch and Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Stuttgart, Dortmund and Trier in Germany – between 26 November and 14 December 2025.

2025 IHF Women’s World Championship – preliminary round draw results

Group A (in Rotterdam, Netherlands): Denmark, Romania, Japan, Croatia

Group B (in ‘s-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands): Hungary, Switzerland, Senegal, Iran

Group C (in Stuttgart, Germany): Germany, Serbia, Iceland, Uruguay

Group D (in Trier, Germany): Montenegro, Spain, Faroe Islands, Paraguay

Group E (in Rotterdam, Netherlands): Netherlands, Austria, Argentina, Egypt

Group F (in ‘s-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands): France, Poland, Tunisia, China

Group G (in Stuttgart, Germany): Sweden, Brazil, Czechia, Cuba

Group H (in Trier, Germany): Norway, Angola, Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan

Iran’s fixtures in FIBA Asia Cup 2025 announced

TEHRAN – The schedule for the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 has been announced, with Iran scheduled to face Guam in its opening match.

Team Melli will play Guam in Group B on August 6, followed by matches against Japan on August 8 and Syria on August 10.

The FIBA Asia Cup is FIBA’s premier tournament for men’s national teams in Asia. Held once every four years, it features the top 16 teams from Asia and Oceania. Since its inception in 1960, the tournament has grown in stature and is regarded as the pinnacle of men’s basketball in the region.

The 16 teams qualify through a series of qualifiers played over three windows across a year and a half, in a home-and-away format. These teams also participate in the FIBA World Cup Qualifiers for the Asia-Oceania region.

Daghighi close to Iran’s U23 hotseat

TEHRAN – Former Kheybar football team head coach Saeid Daghighi is a strong candidate to lead Iran’s U-23 football team.

Havadar football team head coach Omid Ravankhah is also a candidate for the job.

Mojtaba Hosseini, the head coach of Aluminum, is another contender. The 50-year-old coach was previously linked to the position but opted to lead a club in the Iranian football league instead.

The Iran U23 football team are currently without a coach after parting ways with Reza Enayati due to disappointing results in the 2022 Asian Games.

Sardar Azmoun doubt for Qatar, N. Korea matches

TEHRAN – Iran football forward Sardar Azmoun will likely miss the match against Qatar and North Korea in the third round of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification (AFC).

The Shabab Al Ahli Dubai striker sustained an injury in the match against Dibba Al-Hisn

Team Melli is scheduled to face Qatar at Lusail Stadium in Doha on June 5.

Iran will also host North Korea on June 10 in Mashhad.

Iran have already secured its place in the 2026 World Cup.

Japan ambassador to Tehran visits Iran’s NOC

TEHRAN – Japan’s Ambassador to Tehran Tami Tsukada was welcomed by President of Iran’s National Olympic Committee (NOC) Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa at the NOC headquarters.

Expressing his happiness for hosting the Japanese official, Khosravi Vafa said, “We are systematically in contact with the 2026 Asian Games Organizing Committee in Nagoya, but experience has shown that effective coordination and communication with the ambassadors of the host country will lead to better results.”

Tsukada thanked Iran’s NOC for the warm welcome and hospitality and said, “I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the NOC and National Sports Museum and learned about the history and antiquity of sports in this country. I would like to have more bilateral cooperation with Iran in the field of sports. Although the responsibility for this lies with our National Olympic Committee, personally I want to pursue this work.”

Iran discover fate at 2025 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zonal

TEHRAN – Iran discovered their rivals at the 2025 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zonal Championships (PVAO).

Team Melli Banovan have been drawn in Pool B along with Australia, Japan, and Mongolia.

Pool A consists of China, Thailand, and South Korea.

The competition will be held in Hangzhou, China from June 9 to 19.

Iranian teams discover opponents at Asian University 3x3 Basketball

TEHRAN – Iranian men and women teams learned their rivals at the 7th Asian University 3x3 Basketball Championship.

From May 23rd to 25th, the Putuo Sports Center will become the ultimate battleground where top university teams from across Asia go head-to-head in a showdown.

Iran’s women Payam-e Noor team have been drawn in Pool A along with China, Sri Lanka and Macau.

Iran’s men Payam-e Noor are also pitted against Mongolia, Singapore and the Philippines in Pool D.

The two-day competition will be held in Putuo, Zhoushan, China.

Tehran urges ECO members to share water efficiency expertise to tackle regional crises



TEHRAN - Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezjelch has called on member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to exchange experiences and strategies to boost water resource efficiency amid growing regional challenges such as climate change and water scarcity.

According to IRIB, Nouri made the remarks during a meeting in Tehran with ECO's newly appointed Secretary General Asad Majid Khan. He said the organization, as an established regional cooperation body, is well-positioned to help address shared crises through multilateral engagement.

"Today, countries across our region are seeking joint solutions to collective challenges like climate change and water shortages," Nouri stated. "ECO can play a significant role in facilitating this dialogue and action."

Nouri underscored the importance of continued agricultural and food cooperation among ECO members, noting that food security has become a global concern. "The use of food as a pressure tool, as seen in Gaza through inhumane practices by the Zionist regime, highlights the critical importance of food security," he said.

Given the geographic proximity of ECO members, Nouri stressed the value of sharing practical, efficient experiences to address mutual problems. He also announced that Iran will host the 2025 ECO Agriculture Ministers' Summit, which will focus on food security mechanisms and easing the exchange and production of agricultural goods.

ECO Secretary General Asad Majid Khan described Iran as an "inseparable member and host" of the organization and thanked Tehran for its consistent support.

"Agriculture is one of ECO's key priorities," Khan said. "While our member states have vast agricultural potential, they also face serious climate and water-related challenges. Food security remains a top concern across the region."

He cited Iran's regional engagement as a model and emphasized ECO's role in coordi-

nating efforts among neighbors. "President [Masoud] Pezeshkian has made it clear that Iran is eager to cooperate with its neighbors, and ECO can serve as a vital platform for this regional collaboration," Khan said.

Calling for broader inter-ministerial participation beyond foreign ministries, Khan stressed the need for all relevant government bodies to engage in ECO's cooperative agenda.

He welcomed Iran's hosting of the 2025 summit and urged that unresolved issues—including veterinary standards, seed agreements, agricultural insurance frameworks, and meteorological cooperation—be finalized. He also proposed that the use of artificial intelligence for disaster forecasting and management be added to the summit's agenda.

Founded as the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) in 1964 by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye, the Forum was rechristened as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in 1985.

The ECO Region shelters more than 460 million inhabitants and expands over 8 million square kilometers of land, connecting the north to south, south and east to the west, Asia to Europe and Eurasia to the Arab World. Composed of some Caucasus, South, West and Central Asian countries, ECO is one of the oldest intergovernmental organizations.

The founding and fundamental goal of the Organization is to create amenable and conducive conditions for the continued promotion of sustainable economic development in the region, aiming at joint welfare and well-being of the Member States.

The ECO stretched the fabric of its cooperative partnership in the early 1990s, welcoming the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as five Central Asian nations, including the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan, as its members.

Over the past few decades, the Organization has relentlessly emerged as an effective forum of economic diplomacy and activism. The ECO Member States, bearing their shared cultural and historic affinities in mind, appear to be always ready, receptive and forthcoming to complement each other, intensifying their collaboration with action and result oriented motives to achieve the perceived target of greater connectivity and integration in the region.

Iran, Russia advance free trade as Eurasian union finalizes roadmap with Iran



TEHRAN - The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has finalized a roadmap to implement its newly effective free trade agreement with Iran, aimed at boosting direct business engagement and resolving regulatory hurdles.

As IRNA reported, EAEU Trade Minister Andrey Slepnev made the announcement on Thursday during a meeting in Moscow with Samad Hassanzadeh, head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), and his delegation.

Slepnev said the roadmap outlines measures to deepen cooperation between Iranian businesses and their counterparts in the five EAEU member states. It also includes thematic seminars to clarify the trade rules and operational details for both sides.

"The free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran, which came into force on May 14, 2025, creates unique conditions for busi-

ness access to each other's markets," Slepnev said. "It also establishes the mechanisms and platforms needed to facilitate interaction, resolve commercial and economic challenges swiftly, and foster mutual understanding of trade laws and implementation procedures."

The agreement is expected to significantly enhance trade flows and economic integration between Iran and the bloc, which includes Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia.

According to the figures released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran's exports to member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) rose by 20 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), reaching over \$2.0 billion.

The volume of exports to EAEU countries totaled 5,059 million metric tons—up 21 percent compared to the previous year.

Breakdown of exports includes \$1.121 billion to Russia, \$505 million to Armenia, \$278 million to Kazakhstan, \$111 million to Kyrgyzstan, and \$21 million to Belarus.

Iran also imported 2.174 million metric tons of goods worth \$1.51 billion from EAEU member states in the same period. This marks a 39 percent decline in import volume and a 20 percent drop in value compared to the previous year.

Iran's acting economy minister meets Islamic Development Bank president in Algiers

TEHRAN - Seyed Rahmatollah Akrami, Iran's acting Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, met with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) President Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, expressing Tehran's commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation in pursuit of shared development goals.

According to IRIB, Akrami is in Algiers to attend the IsDB's 2025 Annual Meeting. During his meeting with Al Jasser, both sides stressed the importance of strengthening the bank's engagement with Iran.

Akrami reaffirmed Iran's determination to fulfill its obligations to the bank, describing the Iranian government's approach as "a re-



sponsible commitment."

He also called for the formation of a joint task force to establish structured and goal-oriented cooperation between the two parties.

Al Jasser, for his part, acknowledged Iran's role as a founding member and major shareholder of the IsDB, and welcomed the beginning of what he described as a "new chapter" in the bank's future collaboration with Tehran.

He also announced plans to visit the Iranian capital in the near future and voiced hope that bilateral engagements would continue to expand in line with mutual development objectives.

Tehran, Beijing to deepen agricultural knowledge exchange, co-op

TEHRAN - Iran and China are set to expand their exchange of agricultural expertise, with both countries highlighting the potential for collaboration in a wide range of sub-sectors, Iran's agriculture minister said.

According to Mehr News Agency, Iran's Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri Ghezjelch, met with China's Ambassador to Tehran Zhong Peiwu, to discuss strengthening bilateral agricultural ties—particularly in the transfer of knowledge, experience, and technology. "Iran and China possess valuable expertise in various agricultural sub-sectors that can be mutually shared," Nouri Ghezjelch said.

He noted Iran's active participation in agricultural programs under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and affirmed the country's readiness to help organize a successful SCO agriculture ministers' summit, scheduled for August in Beijing. Nouri also extended an invitation to his Chinese counterpart to visit Tehran for the third meeting of the Iran-China Joint Committee on Agricultural Cooperation.

Ambassador Zhong Peiwu emphasized the robust state of agricultural relations between the two capitals, pointing out that Beijing remains one of the primary destinations for Iranian agricultural exports.

He also expressed China's readiness to broaden technical and economic cooperation with Iran across multiple areas of the agricultural sector.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021.

The document was signed between Iran's former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Back in December 2022, Iran and China finalized 16 MOUs under the framework of the two countries' strategic 25-year agreement.

The MOUs were signed in an Iran-China comprehensive cooperation program summit which was held in Tehran on December 13 in the presence of Iran's former First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

The summit was focused on four areas explored by four committees between the two countries with the aim of paving the way for the implementation of the 25-year agreement.

Iran and China also signed 20 memoranda of understanding in the presence of the presidents of the two countries in Beijing in mid-February, 2023.

Earlier this month, the Iran-China Business Development Forum convened at the Tehran

Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), with the participation of China's ambassador to Iran, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, and senior officials from the Tehran Chamber.

A large number of business leaders from both countries attended the event, where state, legislative, and private-sector strategies for deepening bilateral trade ties were outlined, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Opening the event, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi Arab welcomed Chinese delegates who traveled to Iran for the Iran Expo. He expressed gratitude for the Chinese ambassador's continued efforts to expand economic ties between the two nations.

Najafi Arab said Iran and China share thousands of years of cultural and commercial relations, which have entered a new phase in recent decades, marked by growing partnerships across multiple sectors. He said the two countries could serve as a model for sustainable cooperation based on mutual respect in today's increasingly interdependent world.

Chinese ambassador emphasized robust state of agricultural relations between China and Iran.

He also highlighted recent visits of Iranian private sector delegations to various Chinese provinces and exhibitions, emphasizing the need to identify investment opportunities and facilitate financial exchanges. The Chamber, with over 140 years of history, is prepared to host expert meetings, present economic opportunities, support joint ventures, and activate professional networks between Iranian and Chinese businesses, he said.

China's Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu, thanked Iranian participants and the Tehran Chamber for organizing the event. He expressed hope that the forum would help strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Referencing the recent meeting between the two presidents at the BRICS summit in Russia, Cong said China is fully committed to enhancing cooperation across all sectors in ways that benefit both peoples.

Also speaking at the forum, Ruhollah Nejabat, chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, said Iran's non-oil exports to China surpassed \$14.8 billion last year, making China the largest destination

for Iranian goods and accounting for about one-quarter of Iran's total non-oil exports. Imports from China reached approximately \$19.3 billion, or 27 percent of Iran's total imports, making China Iran's second-largest import partner after the United Arab Emirates.

These figures, he said, demonstrate the resilience and strategic importance of Iran-China trade, even amid global economic slowdown, with both countries supplying a significant portion of each other's needs.

Nejabat noted that Iran's Seventh National Development Plan emphasizes industrial modernization and attracting foreign capital and technology. He said Iran aims to upgrade its industries—from automotive and textiles to pharmaceuticals and medical equipment—and that this will be achieved more quickly with partners like China, now a global industrial superpower.

He added that technology transfer and joint investment are two strategic priorities for Iran. Chinese firms, he said, could take advantage of Iran's market size and skilled labor to establish production lines and access broader regional markets.

Conversely, Iran could supply intermediary goods and industrial components needed by Chinese industries. Nejabat said Iran will offer special incentives for foreign industrial investment and provide a secure legal environment for Chinese companies. Infrastructure development—including rail networks, highways, and ports—is also a priority, and many of these projects will require Chinese expertise and participation.

He also pointed to Iran's largely untapped mining sector, including vast reserves of iron, copper, aluminum, and rare earth elements, as an area ripe for development and export growth.

Speaking at the forum, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), outlined four key strategies for expanding trade with China. The first is technology transfer. He said Chinese companies have made major investments in research and development, much of which has not yet been fully commercialized. Iran, as a long-time partner, seeks deeper collaboration in these cutting-edge sectors.

The second strategy, he said, is increasing trade in high value-added goods. Currently, much of the bilateral trade consists of raw or semi-processed materials. The average value of Iran's exports stands at less than \$400 per ton. "We want to change that," he said, calling on Chinese importers to prioritize Iranian products with higher added value. He welcomed the Chinese ambassador's praise for the competitiveness of Iranian nanotechnology and biotechnology products.

Iran eyes strategic coffee trade ties with Vietnam amid surging domestic demand

TEHRAN - Mostafa Mousavi, head of the Iran-Vietnam Joint Chamber of Commerce, has called for the establishment of strategic mechanisms to boost trade ties with Vietnam, citing a sharp rise in coffee consumption across Iran.

According to the Chamber's public relations office, Mousavi said a growing interest among young people, the spread of café culture, and evolving lifestyles have made coffee a staple in the consumption patterns of urban households in Iran. "Despite the increasing demand, the lack of sufficient domestic production and reliance on imports necessitate a serious review of trade policies in this sector," he said.

Mousavi noted that Vietnam, the world's second-largest coffee exporter, generated more than \$5.4 billion in export revenue in 2024, even as export volumes declined.

He highlighted Vietnam's variety of coffee strains, competitive pricing, and robust export experience as key advantages, positioning the Southeast Asian country as a strategic supplier of both raw and processed coffee for Iran.

He proposed that Iran's Trade Promotion Organization adopt a strategic framework to develop a "Vietnam-special product basket," encompassing items like coffee, tea, and other high-potential agricultural goods. Such a plan, he said, would facilitate targeted im-

ports, strengthen supply chain security, and open up re-export opportunities.

"Iran's domestic market is increasingly leaning toward instant and processed coffee products with diverse branding," Mousavi added. "Partnering with countries like Vietnam, which possess the necessary infrastructure and expertise, can significantly boost Iran's competitive edge in the regional market."

Mousavi also stressed the need for supportive policies, streamlined trade relations, and the creation of enabling environments for private sector engagement. "These measures can shape a smart and sustainable future for Iran's coffee trade," he concluded.

Trump’s war on Harvard

Trump targets academic freedom, civil discourse and viewpoint diversity

From page 1 ► The action underscores the administration’s willingness to use federal power to suppress dissent, control political expression and compel ideological uniformity in higher education, for which it would set a dangerous precedent, jeopardizing the free exchange of ideas at American colleges and universities.

The crackdown: What happened?

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has revoked Harvard University’s certification under the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), which authorizes U.S. colleges to enroll international students and issue visa documentation. This revocation means Harvard can no longer admit new international students, and approximately 6,800 currently enrolled—27% of its student body—must transfer to other certified institutions or risk losing their legal status in the U.S.

The administration justified this unprecedented action by accusing Harvard of fostering an unsafe campus environment marked by violence, antisemitism, and collaboration with the Chinese Communist Party.

Secretary Kristi Noem stated that Harvard had ample opportunity to comply with demands for extensive student records, including disciplinary files and surveillance data on protests, but refused. She framed international student enrollment as a “privilege,” alleging Harvard exploited these students for tuition and endowment gains.

Harvard’s response: Unlawful and retaliatory

Harvard swiftly condemned the decision as unlawful and retaliatory, emphasizing its commitment to supporting international students and scholars from over 140 countries who enrich both the university



and the nation. University spokesperson Jason Newton described the move as “a serious threat to the Harvard community and our nation,” undermining the university’s academic and research missions.

The administration has already been sued by the university for other punitive actions, such as attempting to change its admissions, hiring, and curriculum policies. As Harvard battles to regain its ability to admit international students, this most recent action is anticipated to spark additional legal challenges.

Politically motivated attack on academic freedom

The crackdown is not an isolated incident but part of a broader pattern of political retaliation by the Trump administration against Harvard, which has been a visible institutional target due to its refusal to bow to demands to censor protests against Israel’s war on Gaza, eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and submit to intrusive government oversight.

The administration’s allegations of antisemitism and “racist” DEI

policies appear to be a pretext to justify a punitive campaign aimed at controlling the university’s autonomy and ideological direction.

The administration’s use of immigration law and regulatory power as a weapon is compromising academic freedom, which is the fundamental right of universities to self-govern and promote an open, diverse, and political-free exchange of ideas.

Legal and political fallout

The Trump administration’s revocation of Harvard’s certification under the SEVP sends a chilling warning to universities nationwide: failure to comply with politically motivated government demands may lead to severe consequences.

Legally, the administration’s authority is constrained by due process and administrative law, and courts have recently blocked similar executive overreach. Harvard has condemned the revocation as unlawful and plans to challenge it in court. Politically, the move weaponizes immigration enforcement to impose ideological conformity,

deepening polarization and threatening democratic norms and academic independence.

Threat to higher education’s global standing

Broader implications for U.S. higher education are severe. The crackdown risks deterring international students, who are vital to intellectual diversity, innovation, and America’s global competitiveness in science, technology, and culture. This politicization of immigration and education policies disrupts thousands of lives and damages the reputation of U.S. universities worldwide.

The international student body at Harvard is crucial to promoting innovation and academic excellence. The administration’s punitive measures are a risky overreach that threatens democratic principles and educational autonomy. The fight to preserve Harvard is not just about defending the university; it is also about defending academic freedom and the United States’ position as a beacon.

Yemen targets Ben Gurion Airport, sends millions into hiding

From page 1 ► He warned, “Remaining silent about the daily massacres in Gaza will bring shame and disgrace upon this nation, leaving it more vulnerable to its enemies than ever, unless it acts to fulfill its religious, moral, and humanitarian obligations toward the oppressed Palestinian people.”

General Saree further stated that the Yemeni Armed Forces will continue and intensify their operations until the Israeli genocide in Gaza ends and the blockade is lifted.

Following the missile launch from Yemen, air raid sirens were activated in Tel Aviv and throughout large areas across Israel.

The Israeli occupation army confirmed, “Air defenses are dealing with a ballistic missile launched from Yemen.”

Israeli media also reported the suspension of flights to and from Ben Gurion Airport as a result of the attack, highlighting the disruption caused to Israeli air traffic.

The Yemeni Armed Forces have issued warnings of an aerial blockade on the Israeli regime, marked by repeated strikes on Ben Gurion Airport.

“In light of the developments in Gaza and the enemy’s escalating crimes against our steadfast and oppressed people, the Yemeni Armed Forces are working to double their capabilities to expand support operations and intensify military action,” Saree stated.

“This includes maintaining the ban on air traffic at Lod Airport (Ben Gurion), a maritime blockade at Haifa Port, and a restriction on Israeli navigation in the Red and Arabian Seas.”

A previous strike near the airport in early May, reportedly hitting a car park, also led to the suspension of air traffic and cancellation of several international flights.

Following these developments, international airlines began canceling flights to and from Ben Gurion Airport, causing a notable decline in passenger traffic. Israeli Channel 12 reported that this was due to the Yemeni Armed Forces’ declaration of a comprehensive no-fly zone over Israeli airspace.

On May 6, the United States reached a ceasefire agreement with the Yemeni government. The near-daily strikes had failed to deter Yemeni retaliation.

Trump stated the ceasefire was “effective im-



mediately” after the U.S. acknowledged that its warships in the Red Sea had been subjected to repeated attacks.

Analysts believe that the U.S. military campaign in Yemen, widely viewed as a measure to protect the Israeli regime, became too costly to sustain.

In under six weeks, Yemeni forces shot down seven American MQ-9 Reaper drones over their airspace, causing losses totaling approximately \$200 million.

Additionally, the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman has returned home after losing three fighter jets in the Red Sea.

portant messages.

Although the election is primarily developmental, it is an opportunity to gauge the pulse of the post-war South, based on an objective democratic mechanism, not political interpretations, so that decisions can be made accordingly.

Undoubtedly, the anti-Resistance team is actively seeking to create a loophole(s) in the southern municipalities to exploit it/them in the May 2026 parliamentary elections. Even by withdrawing a single Shiite seat, it would be sufficient to strip the Shiite duo of the fateful position of the speaker of the House of Representatives.

Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem has already sent a message to the people of

southern Lebanon, calling on them to participate massively in the municipal and mayoral elections, calling participation part of their steadfastness and confrontation with the Israeli occupation.

For his part, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, in his capacity as leader of the Amal Movement, also urged southern voters to participate massively.

Meanwhile, the Shiite duo succeeded in forming approximately 100 municipalities by acclamation, reflecting widespread popular support for the resistance option, particularly in the villages located on the front line with occupied Palestine, despite all the malicious incitement campaigns and attempts to prevent reconstruction.



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Republican congressman calls for ‘nuking’ Gaza in response to embassy staff shooting



In response to the killing of two Israeli embassy staff members in Washington, DC, Republican Congressman Randy Fine suggested on Fox News that Gaza should be “nuked” like Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II, Middle East Eye reported.

Fine was asked whether the fatal shooting of two Israeli embassy staff members in Washington should impact Gaza ceasefire talks, and he implied the enclave should be totally eliminated in response to the shooting, like the Japanese cities during WWII.

“That needs to be the same here,” Fine said.

Microsoft bans use of ‘Gaza, Palestine’ in internal emails

Microsoft has implemented a policy blocking employee emails containing the words “Palestine,” “Gaza,” or “genocide” on its internal Exchange servers, Drop Site News reported.

According to No Azure for Apartheid, a group of pro-Palestine Microsoft employees, an automated filter silently prevents such emails from reaching recipients.

The filter became effective on Wednesday following Microsoft’s Build developer conference, which faced repeated disruptions by the activist group, Drop Site added.

Microsoft has faced internal dissent from employees upset over the company’s collaboration with the Israeli military in its ongoing war on Palestinians in Gaza, which scholars widely consider genocide.

Employees have protested the company’s provision of cloud services and other critical infrastructure used by the Israeli military.

Microsoft has provided technology to the Israeli army, “offering them tailored proposals and significant discounts on cloud and AI services.

These deals, negotiated and escalated over months, positioned Microsoft as a key technology provider during Israeli military operations in Gaza,” Drop Site wrote, based on a review of internal company documents.

Finland summons Israeli ambassador for questioning

The Finnish Foreign Ministry has summoned the Israeli ambassador for questioning about the Israeli army’s use of fire on Wednesday, Yle News reported. The Israeli army opened fire while diplomats were visiting the occupied West Bank. The delegation included Finns.

Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen (NCP) said that Finland demands an explanation from Israel for this “serious, reprehensible incident”.

According to the ministry, it has also raised Finland’s concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza with the ambassador.

Several other European countries on Thursday condemned the incident, with Italy and France also summoning Israeli

ambassadors to explain what happened, Reuters reported.

Ukraine and Russia exchange hundreds of prisoners

Russia and Ukraine have completed the first phase of what is expected to be the biggest prisoner exchange since the start of the war, with almost 800 people released on Friday.

The swap started on Friday and will continue on Saturday and Sunday, with Kyiv and Moscow expected to swap 2,000 people – 1,000 from each side, CNN reported.

The agreement to release 1,000 prisoners on each side was the only significant outcome of the meeting between Kyiv and Moscow in Istanbul last week, which marked the first time the two sides have met directly since soon after Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Trump threatens a 50% tariff on the EU

President Donald Trump on Friday threatened a 50% tariff on goods from the European Union, citing a lack of progress in current trade negotiations.

“Their powerful Trade Barriers, Vat Taxes, ridiculous Corporate Penalties, Non-Monetary Trade Barriers, Monetary Manipulations, unfair and unjustified lawsuits against Americans Companies, and more, have led to a Trade Deficit with the U.S. of more than \$250,000,000 a year, a number which is totally unacceptable,” he wrote in a Truth Social post Friday morning.

“Our discussions with them are going nowhere!” Trump wrote, according to CNN.

“Therefore, I am recommending a straight 50% Tariff on the European Union, starting on June 1, 2025.”

Review of EU’s ties with Israel welcome but devastatingly late

Reacting to the EU’s decision to initiate a review of Israel’s compliance with its obligations under international law under the EU-Israel Association Agreement, Eve Geddie the Director of Amnesty International’s European Institutions Office said:

“While this is a welcome first step, it also comes devastatingly late. The extent of human suffering in Gaza for the past 19 months has been unimaginable. Israel is committing genocide in Gaza with chilling impunity.

“Emboldened by EU inaction – and even backed by some EU states– Israeli leaders have flaunted their genocidal aims. The EU’s unofficial policy of appeasement towards Israel is contrary to its member states’ obligations and will forever be judged in the annals of history.

“There is no time to lose, every delay costs human lives in Gaza. The EU and its member states must ban trade and investment that could contribute to the commission of genocide and other grave violations of international law.

“The EU must suspend all trade with Israeli settlements, while the member states that transfer arms to Israel must suspend such transfers. This is critical if EU member states are to meet their responsibility to prevent genocide and avoid complicity in it.

“The stakes are too high.

If the EU fails to live up to these obligations as a bloc, and seeks to shield itself from its clear legal obligations, its member states must unilaterally suspend all forms of cooperation that may contribute to violations of international law.

Amnesty International will now push for a meaningful review which takes evidence and international standards into account.”

Municipal elections in southern Lebanon on birthday of Resistance and Liberation

From page 1 ► This final phase of the municipal and mayoral elections holds exceptional strategic importance, especially given that this region is located in direct contact with the occupied Palestine that a portion of which remains under occupation after the Israeli regime refused to withdraw from it in violation of the ceasefire agreement and UN Resolution 1701.

The primary challenge facing the Lebanese government is protecting the security of the election, as experience proves Israel feels no limit to its aggressive and unlawful behaviors.

Weeks ago, official Lebanese contacts were made with the U.S. side in an attempt to ensure the holding of elections in the south (particularly those located along the border strip),

and the government was in the process of distributing prefabricated houses for use as polling stations, but the U.S. side offered no assurances.

Approximately 90 hours before the polls opened, the enemy carried out four assassinations in various areas, followed by the targeting of the city of Nabatieh, one of the largest election centers in the south and home to exceptional polling stations designated for residents of border villages adjacent to occupied Palestine.

It is worth noting that the two southern governorates are a key stronghold for the Shiite duo, Hezbollah and the Amal Movement, and represent the vital core of the resistance movement. Hence, the turnout resulting from the ballot boxes will send im-

Name of Persepolis recorded in world’s scientific memory alongside newly discovered lichen

TEHRAN—A newly discovered lichen namely as *Circinaria persepolitana*, has been identified in 42 spots of Takht-e Jamshid (Persepolis): from the Hall of Hundred Columns to the Palaces of Ardashir, in southern province of Fars. This lichen species has been identified following a joint research project between Iranian and International scientists, ILNA reported.

Currently, the name of Persepolis has been recorded in the world's scientific memory alongside this newly discovered lichen.

Researchers believe that this is the first time in the history that a lichen is identified from the stone structures of Persepolis and is given an international name in honor of this global monument.

Mohammad Sohrabi, lichenologist and caretaker of the project, believes that the widespread distribution of lichen namely as *Circinaria persepolitana* is seen in spots such as Gate of All Nations, Apadana Palace, and Hall of Hundred Columns.

According to him, this lichen is one of the most prevalent and harmful species in the region. “Wherever you see gray patches on rocks, you’re likely to encounter this species. This lichen grows best in areas exposed to direct sunlight, wind, and rain.”

Over 125 lichen species have been identified in Persepolis, but the newly discovered one has drawn the attention of researchers and lichenologists due to its scatteredness and special characteristics.



He continued that after finding *Circinaria persepolitana*, researchers face a serious challenge for controlling this lichen: priority should be given to preserving cultural heritage or protecting biodiversity.

Sohrabi warned: “Hasty and imprecise dealing with this species can harm both areas. We are also responsible for global biodiversity. Lichens are the result of millions of years of evolution. Their thoughtless elimination is irreparable.”

He urged for closer cooperation between Department of Environment and Ministry of Cultural Heritage.

He said lichens are part of the Earth's biological memory: species that are the result of millions of years of evolution.

In many countries, billions of dollars are spent on both protecting biodiversity and protecting global historical monuments, he added.

“In our country, just as we spend billions to save the Iranian cheetah and report to the presidency on the project’s progress annually, we should also spend money to control the lichens of Persepolis and look at it with the same perspective.”

Iran holds first national celebration of ecolodges to promote sustainable tourism

By Afshin Majlesi

KERMAN — The city of Kerman hosted Iran's first-ever National Celebration of Ecolodges on May 21 (Ordibehesht 31), highlighting the country's growing commitment to sustainable and community-based tourism.

Over 600 ecolodge managers from across the country attended the gathering that served both as a celebration and a platform for promoting networking, experience-sharing, and sustainable tourism practices.

Speaking at the ceremony, the tourism minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, voiced strong government support for the development of ecolodges, saying “This is a land of dignity and Iranian identity.” “Iran is beautiful and full of vibrant colors. Every corner of this land is a story waiting to be told — from the majestic Arg-e Bam to the mesmerizing Shazdeh Garden in the heart of the desert.”

Emphasizing the cultural and economic value of ecolodges, the minister said, “We need to transform ecolodges into spaces of calm storytelling. Three thousand ecolodges are not enough. These lodges are now central to the missions of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts. They are destinations in their



own right — created by and for the people.”

Salehi-Amiri reaffirmed that support for ecolodges is a shared priority at the highest levels of government. “Every member of the government, including the president, believes in strengthening this sector,” he stated. “I have recently met with hotel owners and travel agencies, and I will be meeting with representatives of ecolodges as well. I'm fully aware of their challenges, and the government is ready to listen.”

Salehi-Amiri's deputy for tourism, Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpey, for his part, emphasized the widespread and grassroots nature of Iran's ecolodges, calling them one of

the most significant and people-oriented tourism infrastructures in the country. He noted recent initiatives in restoring historical houses and caravanserais, and stressed that the festival aims to raise awareness, build networks, and support the transmission of experience among ecolodge operators.

Mohammad-Ali Talebi, the governor-general of Kerman province, highlighted the province's rich cultural and geographical diversity — from deserts to mountains and from ancient heritage to vibrant rural traditions. He noted that Kerman is home to thousands of years of civilization and possesses significant tourism potential, with hundreds of registered ecolodges, UNES-

CO-listed heritage sites, and diverse eco-climates. Talebi said Kerman aims to become a hub for experience-based and health tourism.

“Each ecolodge is a center of wealth creation, cultural preservation, and community resilience,” he added, stating that the province's tourism development strategy focuses on smart tourism, streamlined licensing, professional training, and the branding of local and nomadic ecotourism experiences.

Kerman's Mayor, Abbas Toiserkani, also addressed the event, outlining collaborative projects with the Department of Cultural Heritage to revitalize the city's historical fabric, including the restoration and stone paving of old alleyways.

Yavari Abiri, President of the National Ecolodge Association, announced that managers had traveled from as far as Maku, Chabahar, Khuzestan, Bushehr, and Khorasan for the celebration. He presented the National Ecolodge Festival emblem to the event's organizers in recognition of their efforts.

The celebration coincided with the UN-designated World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, emphasizing the role of ecolodges in fostering intercultural understanding and sustainable development.

Heyran Tourism Village holds borage festival

TEHRAN—Astara's herbal plants festival with focus on borage, known as Gol-e Gavzaban in Persian language, was held at Heyran Tourism Village in Astara border city, northwest of Gilan province on Thursday.

Numerous medicinal plants such as nettle, wild oregano, borage, angelica, thyme, mint, yarrow, chamomile, marshmallow, raspberry, and dozens of other species have been identified in plain and mountainous areas and are used by people. The borage, as the most widely used natural plant with the widest habitat, is considered part of the vegetation identity of

Astara city.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Seyyed Saeed Mirqorbani, central governor of Astara, told ISNA that Astara is a region full of tourism attractions in ecotourism and cultural fields.

On visit of domestic and foreign tourists to Astara, he said Heyran heights boasts tens of species of herbal plants which should be introduced to tourists visiting Astara.

He also said that the festival seeks to introduce the potential cultural capacities and climatic diversity of the region and take steps in promoting tourism of Astara.

Ilam, land of old treasures

TEHRAN—Ilam province, with a civilization history of 11,000 years old, is land of endless treasures of culture and art.

Three outstanding treasures of Ilam province including Vali Castle, Darrehshahr Archaeology Museum and Agriculture Museum of Falahati Palace are symbols of the glory of the civilization and customs of this ancient land, IRNA reported.

Vali Castle

Anthropology Museum of Vali Castle in Ilam dates back to 120 years ago.Built in 1908 upon the order of Gholamrezakhan Vali (Abouqaddareh), it was constructed on the historical mound of Chaqamirag in Ilam province.

Covering an area of 6487/17m, the castle has a trapezium façade. The castle has three entrances of which the major one is built of bricks in an octagonal style. The middle part of the southern angel of the castle opens to the street through several successive stairs.

The stairs show that the level of the building was higher than the area around the castle. There are two vestibules at the end of the doors providing light for the rooms. The vestibules are decorated with several brick decorations and beautiful arches.

Made of mortar and brick, the ceilings of all the rooms are decorated with beautiful arches in the Roman style accompanied with colorful tiles. The castle holds 22 rooms and six basements. It is estimated the basements were used for rest in spring and summer and in older times as prison.

The royal chamber of the edifice has also large wooden windows with unique plasterworks and patterns of flowers and a little stone pond in the middle.

Colorful glass is used in decoration of the wooden doors and windows. The main patterns on the walls belong to the pictures of the rulers and their spouses. There are also two spaces at the end of the edifice leading to shallow hallways into the yard and the towers.

The castle has turned into anthropology museum after several phases of renovation. The renovation process started in 2006. Currently, it is a cultural place for representation of customs and traditions, local attires and lifestyles of Ilam people.

Historical professions such as agriculture, felt making, kilim weaving, Jajim weaving and carpet weaving as well as living in black tents and special customs such as wedding ceremonies of Ilam people have been put on display. In addition, introduction of prominent personalities of the province is an attractive part of the museum.The museum hosts handicraft fairs and stalls for local souvenirs during Nowruz holidays.

It is a symbol of cultural and social identity of the Ilam people.

Darrehshahr Archaeological Museum

Darrehshahr Archaeological Museum is the first specialized archaeological museum of Ilam province which was inaugurated

in 2005 in Darrehshahr city.

The museum is a precious collection of ancient items and historical relics particularly pertaining to Sassanid era and ancient city of Darrehshahr.

Darrehshahr is considered the first city of Sassanid era. It boasts a large part of 9,000-year-old history of Ilam province. It has turned into a special destination for those interested in Iran's history and civilization.

Darrehshahr plays an important role in introducing the region's history and civilization given its numerous monuments such as ancient city of Seymareh (Madaktu).

Head of Darrehshahr Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department Seyyed Mojtaba Farhadi said Darrehshahr Archaeological Museum has 220 ancient items pertaining to different eras.The ancient items including the relics identified during 10 excavation seasons in Madaktu city pertain to Sassanid and Achaemenid era.

He said Darrehshahr Archaeological Museum witnessed over 500,000 visits during Nowruz 1404 holidays and last Iranian year, indicating the importance and attractiveness of this cultural site for domestic and foreign tourists.

The museum also has ancient objects from other cities which indicate the glory of Ilam ancient civilization, architecture of ancient cities and art of ancestors. They reveal many truths about culture, religion and livelihood of local people.

Agriculture Museum of Falahati Palace:

The Agriculture Museum of Falahati Palace with four display sections, introduces traditional agricultural practices and tools used in the past.

In the first section, stone tools from Alikesh Hill, dating back more than 8,000 years BC, including blades, microblades, and flint scrapers, are exhibited.

In the second section, traditional agricultural steps including planting, tending, and harvesting are depicted using traditional methods in the last century.

The third section is dedicated to herbal plants and an introduction to their properties.

And in the fourth section, documents related to old agricultural lands and traditional agricultural tools such as the threshing sickle can be seen.

Based on archaeological data, Ilam is considered the oldest province of Iran. As an important part of the Elamite civilization, which was located in the Mesopotamian region of Iraq, it has an ancient history of 11,000 years.

Ilam boasts 1,500 ancient, natural and tourism attractions, of which 774 have been registered on the National Heritage List. Out of them, 737 are spiritual attractions, six are natural attractions and seven pertain to Sacred Defense sites.

Second Announcement



Iran Tobacco Company

International One-stage Public Tender Notice for the Procurement of Selected Foreign non-

Tobacco Raw Material -Iran Tobacco Company
Reference Code Of the Tender Notice in the National Tender Platform:53/193/043

Iran Tobacco Company intends to supply some of the required items for its production lines as described in the following table through a one-stage international public tender. Therefore, all qualified applicants are invited from the date of 21st May 2025 until the end of the office hours 3th June 2025 after depositing the amount of 2 million Rials to account number 47000701336609 in the name of Iran Tobacco Company at Parsian Bank, Azadi branch, at the address of Tehran- Qazvin St.- Iran Tobacco Company- Education Department - 1st Floor - Office The Secretariat of the Trading Commission can receive the tender documents or free after visiting or registering in the national tender information database at the address <https://iets.mporg.ir>.

Description of bidding items

Item	Description of non Tobacco	Unit	Quantity
1	Cigarette paper 27mm x 6000 m light	Bobin	5,504
2	Cigarette paper Double 27mm x 6000 m Ultra-light	Bobin	2,944
3	Cigarette paper 54mm x 6000 m 40 Cu	Bobin	3,625
4	Cigarette paper Double 22mm	Bobin	2,600
5	Plug wrap 26.5mm x 6000 m	Bobin	9,511
6	Plug wrap 19mm x 6000 m	Bobin	8,628
7	Acetate cellulose tow 3y-35000-(3y-30000)	Kg	178,829
8	Acetate cellulose tow 4y-35000	Kg	91,934
9	Acetate cellulose tow 5y-30000	Kg	91,715
10	Acetate cellulose tow 6y-17000	Kg	26,892
11	Acetate cellulose tow 8y-15000	Kg	81,409
12	short size filter rod mm66	Rod	79,882,061
13	Medium size Filter rod 126 mm	Rod	35,001,720
14	king size (Gilan) filter rod mm126	Rod	31,239,000
15	king size Tehran filter rod 126 mm	Rod	4,914,000
16	Bahman ultra-light filter rod mm108	Rod	43,233,750
17	Bahman Nano & T4 filter rod mm108	Rod	250,545,678
18	Bahman super slim filter rod mm120	Rod	265,828,000
19	adhesive Max Glue Tipping	Kg	33,457
20	seaming adhesive Side (SE Glue)	Kg	14,803

All applicants who do not have approved samples/goods in the rows requested for tenders from Iran Tobacco Company in the last year should apply from 21st May 2025 to 21th June 2025 regarding sending the sample in standard and resistant packaging along with the technical specifications sheet (data sheet), product storage conditions (safety data sheet) according to the values in the table and to The address of this company is located in Tehran, Qazvin Square, Qazvin St., Shahid Golchin Building, 1st Floor, Administration of Security Central Office. Complete and accurate details of the seller must be included on the samples.

- The deadline for submission of proposals and deliver of documents and envelopes to the secretariat of the central security office located in the Shahid Golchin building, first floor, is until the last administrative deadline dated 23th July 2025 .
- The date and place of the opening of the offer packets, at 10:00 a.m. on 27th July 2025, located in Tehran: Qazvin Square - Qazvin Street - Iran Tobacco Company - Hall The gatherings of Imam Ali (a.s.).
- Applicants participating in each row of tender items can apply for the guarantee of participation in the tender of the same row and submit the price offer in the same row based on the table in the conditions sheet In addition All price comparisons will be made on a CFR(cost and freight) Bandar Abbas basis.

- In case the submitted sample does not match the announced technical specifications, the bidder shall be allowed to modify and resubmit the sample within the initial submission period to the Security Department at the head Office.
(If you need help, call 51261651-51261920)

Communications and International Affairs Management, Iran Tobacco Company

Tehran, Ashgabat to expand ties on data transit, artificial intelligence

TEHRAN – The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister, Sattar Hashemi, and the director general of Turkmenistan's Agency for Transport and Communications, Chakyeve Mammethan Berdimyradovich, have discussed ways to broaden ties between the two countries in digital economy, artificial intelligence, space technologies, and data transit.

The officials have also highlighted preparing a memorandum of understanding to broaden joint regional technological cooperation, Mehr news agency reported.

During a meeting held on Thursday in Tehran, Berdimyradovich said Turkmenistan is interested in fostering cooperation with Iran through sharing expertise and training experts in the AI sector.

Lauding Iran's technological advancement, the official announced readiness to actively participate in Iran's international programs, particularly AI, and benefit from the country's knowledge and experiences.

The two countries can also promote ties by conducting joint projects in advanced technologies and utilizing satellites in different industries such as agriculture, oil, and gas, he said.

"We are also interested in developing ties with Iran in other fields like training human resources, interacting with Iranian manufacturers, and expanding postal exchanges."

For his part, Hashemi highlighted technology diplomacy as one of the key priorities of the



ICT Ministry. "We are interested in developing collaborations, preferably with regional countries, on digital economy, which is one of the key strategic plans of the country, and artificial intelligence to bring about shared achievements for regional nations and governments."

The official noted that the two countries can cooperate to prepare a joint regional AI document and develop satellite systems to strengthen communications in inaccessible areas.

Highlighting the capacities of the ICT technology park, Hashemi said Payam Airport is a specialized mail airport which can be used to launch direct flights between Iran and Turkmenistan.

The official proposed deepening ties in data transit through establishing north-south and east-west corridors.

The proposal was well received by the Turkmen official, who voiced his country's readiness to implement the plan.

The ICT minister also suggested developing a joint platform

to showcase the two countries' products. A working group will be formed to prepare a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of the achieved agreements.

In November 2024, Iranian and Turkmen officials explored the potential for expanding joint efforts in information and communication technology (ICT).

During the meeting, the CEO of the Telecommunication Infrastructure Company (TIC), Behzad Safari, and Berdimyradovich, discussed ways for developing digital infrastructure, turning the two countries into an East-West telecommunication transit route, IRIB reported.

Iran committed to fostering regional AI cooperation

The combination of talent, data, and innovation makes Iran a key player in the regional Artificial Intelligence (AI) value chain, capable of driving meaningful cooperation and development. Iran is committed to fostering regional cooperation and building a future where AI drives

prosperity and unity, Hashemi said in February.

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNESCO invites Iran to attend 5th World Congress on Biosphere Reserves

TEHRAN – The head of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Tehran Office, Ieng Srong, has invited the country to participate in the 5th World Congress on Biosphere Reserves (WCBR), which is scheduled to be held from Sept. 22-26, in Hangzhou, China.

Addressing a workshop on "sustainable alternative livelihoods in Iranian biosphere reserves" and a preparatory meeting for the China 2025 WCBR in Shahroud, Semnan province, the official said it is essential to boost cooperation to protect the Earth and promote the well-being of humans. Holding meetings is important for achieving the goal, ILNA quoted Srong as saying.

The workshop was held on Thursday to commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity, with heads of thirteen biosphere reserves, professors, as well as experts attending the event.

Iran is a pioneer in protecting the environment. However, the country is facing several challenges, such as climate change, water scarcity, and drought, which pose serious threats to the country's environment, the official said.



"Biodiversity and sustainable development strengthen the relationship between humans and the environment. Hence, these three points are of great significance: using natural resources wisely, improving local economies, and maintaining the health of the ecosystems," Srong added.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated every May 22. The day highlights the inherent connections between people and the natural world through the theme, "Harmony with nature and sustainable development".

It underscores the need to achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets to halt and reverse biodi-

versity loss – interlinked with achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNESCO programs in Iran to include environmental education

Environmental education is placed among the list of major programs of UNESCO in Iran, aiming to develop sustainable solutions and international cooperation to address environmental challenges.

From UNESCO's perspective, environmental education is a learning process that raises public awareness about the environment and its challenges; it equips individuals with knowledge, skills, values, experiences, and goals to tackle these environmental issues, IRNA quoted Hassan Fartosi, the Secretary General of the UNESCO National Commission in Iran, as saying.

The educational programs include the international hydrology program, the international geoscience and geoparks program, the intergovernmental oceanography program, and the international basic sciences program. Greening education partnership is one of the most important initiatives adopted by UNESCO to support countries in tackling climate change, he said.

WHO ready to support Iran in providing healthcare to refugees

TEHRAN – Recognizing the heavy burden imposed by Afghan refugees on Iran's health system, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), has announced readiness to support the country despite the organization's limited budget.

Adhanom Ghebreyesus commended Iran's measures in the health sector, as well as the country's efforts in providing health services to refugees, underscoring Iran's achievements in the primary healthcare system as a role model in the region, Mehr news agency reported.

The official made the remarks in a meeting held on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA), with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi.

Zafarqandi, for his part, elaborated on the country's health indicators. Referring to over 4.5 million refugees residing in Iran, the official underscored the significance of boosting cooperation with the WHO.

An Iranian delegation headed by Zafarqandi is participating in the 78th WHA, which is being held from May 19 to June 27 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Focusing on the 2025 theme 'One World for Health', WHA78 has brought together high-level country representatives to address health challenges. This year's gathering comes at a pivotal moment for global health, as Member States confront emerging threats and major shifts in the landscape for global health and international development.

This year's theme underscores the World Health Organization's (WHO) enduring commitment to solidarity and equity, highlighting that even in unprecedented times, everyone, everywhere, should have an equal chance to



live a healthy life.

During the meeting, participants will discuss and reflect on current and future priorities and challenges facing global health as per related documents, as well as the member states will declare their ideas about each document, IRNA quoted Alireza Biglari, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

Zafarqandi will present a statement on 35 specific documents related to the country's health system; these include 29 documents on general health activities, and six focus on the activities of different departments, and international cooperation, the official noted.

Moreover, other topics such as the budget and financial issues, the membership status of the member states, auditing, and issues raised in the executive board session of the WHO will be reviewed by specialized committees.

In the 78th WHA, a total of 56 topics will be discussed in the form of documents, Biglari stated.

On the sidelines of the WHA, the health minister plans to hold meetings with his counterparts from Switzerland, Italy, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, India, Cuba, and the WHO director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO).

Iran, Russia underline development of environmental ties

TEHRAN – The head of the Department of Environment, Shina Ansari, and the deputy chairmen of the Federation Council of Russia, Konstantin Kosachev, have explored the potential of enhancing joint efforts in environmental fields.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 11th Nevsky International Ecological Congress.

Highlighting that the two chambers of the Russian parliament (the State Duma and the Russian Federation) are willing to expand ties with Iran, Kosachev voiced Russia's readiness to promote environmental cooperation with Iran, IRNA reported.

The official went on to emphasize the expansion of parliamentary collaboration between the two nations, saying that the Russia-Iran parliamentary friendship group within the Federation Council is one of the most active groups which reflects significance of relation between Russia and Iran.

Referring to the comprehensive strategic partnership treaty with Russia, Ansari, for her part, expressed optimism for the implementation of environmental agreements achieved under the treaty.

Referring to the Caspian Sea as a shared environmental challenge, the official called on Russia to further boost cooperation with the country in addressing the Sea's problems, including a decline in water level and the preservation of biodiversity.

Also, she highlighted the exchange of experiences between legislative institutions of Iran and Russia, and the two parliaments play a critical role in preserving the environment.

Attending the 11th Congress, Iranian officials used the opportunity to raise and discuss the Caspian Sea's major environmental and ecological challenges, such as water level reduction, pollution, fishing, and fisheries, IRNA reported.

Participation in the meeting of Environment Ministers of the Caspian Sea, as well as the BRICS panel, was among other programs of the Iranian delegation.

Nevsky Int. Ecological Congress

The 11th Nevsky International Ecological Congress was held from May 22 to 23 in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Ministers of environment from more than 40 countries, including Iran, Azerbaijan, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Belarus, Serbia, Indonesia, Jordan, Cambodia, and Kenya, attended the Congress.

The main goal of the Nevsky International Ecological Congress is to create effective sustainable development mechanisms to preserve the environment in a changing climate.

The Congress 2025 once again hosted interstate, intersectoral dialogue on important environmental issues, with representatives from international organizations, government authorities, and business, scientific, and expert communities from across the globe already having confirmed their intention to attend the event.

The 11th Nevsky International Ecological Congress kicked off on May 22 with a Youth Programme, which became an important part of the business agenda.

Participants were treated to open dialogues and thematic sessions on youth engagement in the resolution of climate issues, the promotion of environmental awareness, the development of a culture of environmental volunteering, the inclusion of children in the 'green' agenda, and the role of youth climate initiatives in a more sustainable future.

The roundtables and sessions on May 22 focused on food security and climate risks, sustainable ecotourism, how artificial intelligence and digital solutions can be applied to benefit the environment, international cooperation within BRICS, conditions in the Caspian region, the development of the circular economy, the role of women in promoting eco-initiatives, green investment, the management of mineral resources, and low-carbon technologies.

On May 23, regional heads, mayors, and experts discussed the modern sustainable development practices of megacities, the process of making transport more environmentally friendly, the preservation of green areas, and new approaches to health preservation.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran pioneer in cancer research among Islamic countries

Iran has the most research and innovation in the field of cancer both in the region and among Islamic countries, deputy health minister Reza Malekzadeh has stated.

Referring to the great progress in cancer research, he said that "We have been able to play a role in this area globally."

He added that one of the hopes for early detection of cancer is the use of urine and blood tests for people who are susceptible to cancer.

ایران پیشتاز تحقیقات در زمینه سرطان بین کشورهای اسلامی است

معاون تحقیقات و فناوری وزیر بهداشت، درمان و آموزش پزشکی گفت: ایران هم در منطقه و هم بین کشورهای اسلامی بیشترین میزان تحقیقات و نوآوری ها در حوزه سرطان را داشته است. دکتر رضا ملک زاده روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا با اشاره به اینکه ما در زمینه تحقیقات سرطان پیشرفت های خیلی خوبی داشتیم، گفت: ما در سطح جهانی هم توانستیم در این حوزه نقش آفرین باشیم. وی افزود: یکی از امیدهای خیلی روشن برای تشخیص زودرس سرطان، استفاده از آزمایش ادرار و خون برای افرادی است که استعداد سرطان را دارند.



MAY 24, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There is no price for your soul but heaven; so, beware of selling it for anything else.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:30 Dawn: 3:11 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:53 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* A collection of paintings by Ali Akbar Sadeqi is on view in an exhibition at Iranshahr Gallery.

The exhibit named "Holy Demons" will run until June 10 at the gallery that can be found at 69 Sepand St., off Karim Khan Ave.

* An exhibition of paintings by Farshid Parsikia is currently on view in an exhibition at Dena Gallery.

The exhibition titled "Filicide" will run until June 13 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.



* Sharif Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Saran.

The exhibit entitled "Remembrance of Absence" will be running until June 13 at the gallery that can be found at 11 Mahruzadeh Alley, Shariati Ave. near Quds Square.



* Paintings by a group of artists including Nami Potgar, Mohammad Ehsai, Sadeq Tabrizi Reza Alizadeh, Ali Golestane, and several others are currently on view in an exhibition at Liam Gallery.

The exhibit named "Spring Show" runs until June 2 at the gallery located at No. 118, Fathi Shaghaqi St. near Salmas Square.



* White Line Gallery is displaying paintings by Hassan-Ali Jahanshahi Afshar in an exhibition named "Birth".

The exhibit will be running until June 2 at the gallery located at 22 Parvin Alley, off Jame Jam St. off Vali-e Asr Ave.



* Paintings by Sara Goudarzi are on display in an exhibition at Idea Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until May 28 at the gallery located at 26, 18th St. off Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Shamis Gallery is showcasing paintings by Rana Shakeri and Mohammad Javad Shiri in an exhibition.

The exhibit named "The Things We Keep" will run until June 6 at the gallery located at 8 Daniali St., Andarzgu Blvd. in the Farmanieh neighborhood.



* Nian Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Mahmoud Kazemian.

The exhibition entitled "In the Midst of Being" will be running until June 6 at the gallery located at 5 Abhari Alley, Vafai St. off Tur St. off South Mofatteh St.



* An exhibition of paintings by Hamideh Momenzadeh is underway at Seyhoun Gallery.

The exhibit named "Mantra" will run until June 4 at the gallery located at No. 11, 4th St., Vozara Ave.

* Asr Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Gholamreza Samavi.

The exhibit entitled "Futility" will run until June 2 at the gallery located at 18 Delaviz St. off North Mirzaye Shirazi St.



23rd Tehran Auction realizes \$2.2 million



The highest-grossing works of the auction from left: "Andam" (Body) by Hossein Zenderoudi, Masoud Arabshahi's untitled piece, and "The Hidden Side" by Sahand Hesamian

TEHRAN - The 23rd Tehran Auction, titled "Modern and Contemporary Iranian Art," was held on Thursday at the Parsian Azadi Hotel in Tehran, realizing 1.75 trillion rials (approximately \$2.2 million).

The auction featured 100 works by 97 artists, including paintings, calligraphic paintings, sculptures, and photographs, with Shahryar Rabbani as the auctioneer, ISNA reported.

The 23rd Tehran Auction was attended by collectors, buyers, and members of the media. Of the total 100 items presented, 97 works were sold.

Unlike previous editions that featured established figures such as

Sohrab Sepehri or Bahman Mohasses, this edition placed more emphasis on contemporary Iranian art, and works by younger and emerging artists were also well received by collectors.

The highest sale of the event was the painting "Andam" (Body) by Hossein Zenderoudi, which sold for 143 billion rials (\$178,750). Following it was an untitled piece by Masoud Arabshahi, which sold for 116.6 billion rials (\$145,750), making it the second-highest sale.

The sculpture "The Hidden Side" by the young artist Sahand Hesamian sold for 101.2 billion rials (\$126,500), securing third place. The "Mirror

Ball" by Monir Farmanfarmaian fetched 792 billion rials (\$99,000), and an untitled work by Kourosh Shishegaran sold for 748 billion rials (\$935,000), ranking fourth and fifth, respectively.

The 23rd Tehran Auction also included works by prominent artists such as Alireza Astaneh, Aydin Aghdashloo, Mohammad Ehsai, Shirin Ettehadieh, Farah Abolghassem, Nasrollah Afjehei, Nasser Ovissi, Sadegh Tabrizi, Parviz Tanavoli, Ane-Mohammad Tatari, Kazem Chalipa, Kambiz Derambakhsh, Hassan Rouholamin, Mahmoud Zenderoudi, Ahmadreza Ahmadi, Gizzella Varga Sinai, Jalal Shabahangi, Masoud Arabshahi, Mansour Ghan-

driz, Parviz Kalantari, Reza Kianian, Sirak Melkonian, Manouchehr Niazi, Manouchehr Yekta, and Arman Yaghoubpour. The exhibited works were on display at the Parsian Azadi Hotel on May 20 and 21, ahead of the auction.

The first of its kind in Iran, the Tehran Auction was launched in 2012 as an independent and private initiative to introduce the best in Iranian art, ranging from established and emerging Iranian artists to art collectors and the global audience.

It aims to address the increasing interest in modern and contemporary Iranian art and facilitate the acquisition of quality works in reliable ways.

Renowned Armenian author's work celebrated in Tehran session with prominent cultural figures

TEHRAN - The unveiling and analysis of the Persian translation of the book "The Great Silence" ("Mec Irutyune" in Armenian) by the renowned Armenian author Perch Zeytuntsyan was held at Tehran's City Theater Complex on Wednesday.

The unveiling ceremony of the book was held at the Mashahir Hall of the complex, with the presence of prominent Iranian playwrights, dramatists, and theater directors.

Translated from Armenian by prominent Iranian translator Andranik Khechumian, the book has recently been published by Ayas Publications in Tehran.

Speaking at the ceremony, Qotbeddin Sadeqi, a distinguished playwright, scholar, and theater director, analyzed all three plays included in the book and addressed the issue of identity reflected in these works. Sadeqi described Zeytuntsyan as a great playwright who has remained conscious of his nation's history.

Following him, the eminent composer and conductor Maestro Loris Tjeknavorian highlighted the historical ties between Iran and Armenia, emphasizing the longstanding friendship between the two nations rooted in their shared history.

For his part, Andranik Simonyan, a linguistic scholar and researcher, discussed the emergence of Pan-Turkism and highlighted how effectively and documentation-wise the Armenian genocide is addressed within these plays.

Mahmoud Reza Rahimi, a university professor and Iranian director, emphasized the importance of reflecting historical events in theatrical works and elaborated extensively on the necessity of



Iranian translator Andranik Khechumian speaks at the unveiling ceremony of the Persian translation of the book "The Great Silence" at Tehran's City Theater Complex on May 21, 2025.

this practice. He praised Zeytuntsyan's efforts in this regard.

All speakers praised Khechumian's smooth and fluent translation. Additionally, Andranik Simonyan composed the poetry for the play in Persian.

In his turn, Andranik Khechumian expressed his gratitude for the presence of all attendees. The session was moderated by Javad Atefeh, a playwright and theater director.

Perch Zeytuntsyan (1938-2017) was a prominent Armenian playwright and screenwriter, renowned for his contributions to Armenian literature and culture. Zeytuntsyan studied at the Aghayan School in Yerevan, where he published his first short story, "Nvere" (The Gift), in 1953. His

early literary works, including the acclaimed collection "Nra arajin enkere" (His First Companion), established him as a significant literary voice. Over the years, he authored numerous novels and novellas, many translated into Russian, Czech, Bulgarian, Hungarian, and Baltic languages.

Zeytuntsyan's theatrical career began with the 1974 tragedy-comedy "Amenatkhur marde" (The Saddest Man). He wrote ten plays, such as "The Legend of the Ruined City" and "The Great Silence," often exploring themes of Armenian history, identity, and the impact of authority.

A recurring motif in his work is the Armenian genocide, a reflection of rising nationalism during the late Soviet era. His films and screenplays, including "Chronicle of Yerevan Days," further showcased his versatility. He served as Armenia's Minister of Culture from 1990 to 1991, leaving an indelible mark on the nation's cultural landscape and earning numerous accolades, including the State Prize of Armenia.

The Armenian Genocide was a systematic mass extermination of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire during World War I, primarily between 1915 and 1917. An estimated 1.5 million Armenians were killed through mass shootings, forced deportations, starvation, and brutal violence. The Ottoman government aimed to eliminate the Armenian population, accusing them of supporting the Russian enemy and portraying them as a threat to the empire's stability. Armenians were forcibly removed from their ancestral homeland, many dying along treacherous marches through the Syrian desert. The genocide is widely recognized as one of the first modern genocides.

Julian Assange's Gaza tribute shirt steals Cannes spotlight

At the Cannes Film Festival 2025, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange made a powerful statement by wearing a T-shirt printed with the names of 4,986 Palestinian children under the age of five who have tragically lost their lives since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas conflict in 2023, drawing global attention to the devastating human cost of the ongoing war.

Assange wore the T-shirt for "The Six Billion Dollar Man" photocall at the Cannes Film Festival. On the back of his T-shirt, "Stop Israel" was printed, Times Now News reported.

The 53-year-old former hacker has declined all interview requests, however, with his wife Stella Assange saying that "he'll speak when he's ready."

Assange was released from a high-security British prison last June after a plea bargain with the US government over Wikileaks's work publishing top-secret military and diplomatic information.

He spent five years behind bars fighting extradition from Britain and another seven holed up in the Ecuador embassy in London where he claimed political asylum.

This year's Cannes Film Festival has not just been about the power of cinema. It has also had its moments highlighting the chaos and destruction unfolding around the world.

Actor Robert De Niro, during his acceptance speech for a lifetime achievement award, blasted Donald Trump, calling him "America's Philistine president," and said, "It's time for everyone who cares about liberty to organize, to protest, and when there are elections, vote. Tonight, and for the next 11 days, we show our strength and commitment by celebrating art in this glorious festival."

French actress Juliette Binoche addressed the crisis in Gaza. She said, "War, misery, climate change, primitive misogyny — the demons of our barbarities leave us no outlet."

Not just this year, but historically, the Cannes Film Festival red carpet has been used by celebrities to make powerful statements. Last year, in 2024, Cate Blanchett wore a Haider Ackermann x Jean Paul Gaultier dress for the premiere of The Apprentice. The black and white gown, with an emerald green panel lining the back, created a subtle but striking homage to the Palestinian flag.

The death toll of Palestinians killed in Israeli

attacks in Gaza since October 2023 has reached 53,762, the Palestinian Ministry of Health announced on Thursday.

It added that another 122,197 people have been wounded, as air strikes and ground attacks continue to devastate neighborhoods across the Strip.

For 11 weeks, since March 2, Israeli authorities imposed a full blockade on Gaza, entailing a ban on the entry of any supplies, including food, medicine and fuel. On May 18, the Israeli authorities allowed the UN to temporarily resume delivery of limited aid into Gaza. However, significant challenges in loading and dispatching goods remain due to insecurity, the risk of looting, delays in coordination approvals and inappropriate routes being provided by Israeli forces that are not viable for the movement of cargo.

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.