



Key Elements Iran Needs in a Potential Agreement

Abbas Araqchi at the fourth round of indirect Iran-US talks in Muscat, Sunday, May 11, 2025

‘Politically motivated and unbalanced.’ Iran slams IAEA report fueled by ‘Israeli fabrications’

TEHRAN – Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) issued a forceful joint statement on Saturday, condemning the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) latest report on Iran’s nuclear program as a politically motivated distortion of facts. ▶ Page 2

Qalibaf to lead Iranian parliamentary delegation on Latin America tour

TEHRAN – In a move aimed at strengthening parliamentary and economic ties, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf is set to lead a high-level delegation on a multi-country tour of Latin America, with planned stops in Venezuela, Cuba, and Brazil. Abolfazl Amouei, Special Assistant to the Speaker for International Affairs, announced the upcoming visit, which will begin on Sunday. The tour includes official meetings with senior government and parliamentary officials in each country and will culminate in Iran’s participation in the BRICS Parliamentary Forum in Brazil. ▶ Page 3

Hamas shows restraint

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- The recent response by Hamas to the U.S.-proposed ceasefire in Gaza marks a significant yet cautious development in a protracted and devastating conflict. According to the latest reports, Hamas has replied to the American initiative calling for a 60-day pause in hostilities, the release of approximately 33 Israeli hostages, and the facilitation of humanitarian aid into Gaza. However, this response should not be misconstrued as full acceptance. Hamas remains skeptical and is carefully weighing the offer, insisting on a comprehensive ceasefire and Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip as non-negotiable conditions. Hamas’s stance shows rare pragmatism amid ongoing violence but highlights deep mistrust of the Israeli side. While Hamas is willing to engage with the ceasefire proposal, Israel, led by Prime Minister Netanyahu, accepts it only with conditions Hamas rejects,

What threat does Starlink’s information dish pose to Lebanon?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — A delegation from Elon Musk’s Starlink met with President Joseph Aoun, Minister of Telecommunications Charles Hajj (Lebanese Forces Minister), and a number of ministers to discuss granting the company a license, not as an internet distributor, but as a service provider. Since 2009, Lebanon has been receiving internet access via two submarine cables: Cadmus and IMEWE. The latter is responsible for the primary load of internet service provision, while the former serves as a backup. The Starlink system consists of thousands of satellites positioned in low Earth orbit, which is not provided by the traditional internet service system.

Syrian villagers drive out Israeli unit

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Residents in southern Syria compelled the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) to retreat from a village. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that residents of Ruwayhina village in Syria’s Quneitra province forced out an Israeli patrol after it entered the area. This incident comes amid repeated incursions and a sharp escalation by the IOF, met with no response from Syria’s new government. Villagers in central Quneitra countryside confronted the IOF after they entered the village and harassed civilians. Angered by the intrusion, residents hurled stones at the military vehicles and set fire to an Israeli flag after tearing it down from one of the vehicles.

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Iran, Tajikistan sign railway transit deal, launch new chapter in bilateral co-op

TEHRAN – Iran and Tajikistan have signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance bilateral rail transport, enabling the use of Iranian freight wagons on Tajikistan’s railway network, Iran’s railway authority announced. The agreement was signed by Jabar Ali Zakeri, deputy transport minister and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, and Mirzoali Komil Jumakhon, head of Tajikistan’s State Unitary Railway Enterprise. Aimed at optimizing existing capacities and boosting international freight movement, the deal also allows Iranian wagons to transit beyond Tajikistan to other regional railway networks. Three more co-op documents exchanged in Iranian VP’s visit to Dushanbe During the official visit of Iran’s First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref to Tajikistan, four cooperation documents were exchanged in the presence of Aref and Tajikistan’s prime minister. ▶ Page 4

Tehran, Seoul deepen strategic engagement during high-level consultations

TEHRAN – Senior diplomats from Iran and South Korea concluded the seventh round of political consultations in Seoul on Friday, highlighting mutual commitment to expand bilateral cooperation across strategic sectors. Assistant to Iran’s Foreign Minister and Director-General of Asia-Pacific Affairs Ali-Asghar Mohammadi led the Islamic Republic’s delegation, while South Korea’s Director-General for African and Middle Eastern [West Asian] Affairs Chang Kwang-Yeon headed the host delegation. The comprehensive dialogue featured substantive exchanges on enhancing political coordination, economic collaboration, cultural exchanges, and scientific-educational partnerships. Both delegations also addressed regional developments and coordination within international forums. “The continuation of political consultations at senior levels remains essential,” read a statement from the Iranian foreign ministry, emphasizing the need to “vigorously implement existing agreements to energize bilateral relations.” ▶ Page 2

Optimistic outlook: Japanese envoy outlines bright prospects for relations with Iran

Exclusive

By Maryam Amirshabani

TEHRAN – In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times newspaper, Ambassador of Japan to Iran His Excellency Mr. Tamaki Tsukada reflected on the longstanding friendship between Iran and Japan, emphasizing mutual respect, shared strategic interests, and the potential for expanded cooperation in a variety of fields—from energy and infrastructure to culture and tourism.

How would you characterize the current state of relations between Japan and Iran?

The relationship between Iran and Japan is very warm, and I think there is a very deep sense of respect for each other’s culture, civilization. These basic understandings and feelings define the very good and warm relationship between Iran and Japan.

What are Japan’s primary interests in maintaining a relationship with Iran?

First of all, Iran is situated in the Middle East region, and for Japan, Middle East is a key region where we depend upon for our energy needs. So, energy security is the fundamental factor that defines our relationship with this region, including Iran. Also, Maritime security, which ensures the very smooth flow of energy between Middle East and Japan, is also a vital interest for Japan. So, energy security and maritime security—these are the key factors which we consider to be of vital interest. And for that purpose, Iran is a very important country. ▶ Page 2



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Role of the economy in reinforcing Iran-Oman ties

In a note, Arman-e-Emrooz discussed the relations between Oman and Iran and wrote: The relations between Iran and Oman are not limited to the political and diplomatic arenas, but have also expanded to the economic field. An implementation of the proposed projects, especially the gas pipeline project that extends from the southern coast of Iran to the port of Sohar in Oman, would solidify ties between the two coastal neighbors. This project presents a rare opportunity to transform the Kingdom of Oman into a regional hub for gas exports, leveraging its advanced infrastructure and strategic geographical location. Also, considering the export restrictions due to international sanctions on Iran, this plan provides Iran with a growing economic outlet and opens new horizons for the injection of Iranian gas into global markets. The Iranian gas pipeline to Oman will even provide the possibility of expanding the network to other regional destinations and India in the future. The importance of Oman as a trading partner for Iran is very significant, not only because of its access to the Persian Gulf and African markets but also because of the friendly business environment and the supportive policies of the Omani government.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Emphasis on red lines

Iran's position was expressed openly as Foreign Minister Araghchi emphasized Iran's red lines at the beginning of the indirect talks between Iran and the United States: "The lifting of all sanctions and the recognition of Iran's right to nuclear enrichment", two key issues that Tehran has always pursued in negotiations, and until these two rights are realized, it is impossible to comment on the agreement or its timing. Therefore, in a situation where the American side has not yet revised its position on stopping enrichment in Iran, the discussion that an agreement is imminent is irrelevant. Accordingly, the Foreign Minister clarified that Iran is not yet sure that it is at the point of "an imminent agreement" with the Americans. It seems that the Americans' rush to announce the imminent agreement is a propaganda in line with psychological warfare, to affect public opinion in Iran. Accordingly, the approach being followed by Western media and American officials may suggest that America is seeking an agreement with Iran, although Iranian officials are in no hurry to reach this agreement. Given the experience of the JCPOA and the United States' unilateral withdrawal from it, coupled with the non-commitment of other Western parties to it, this time Iran is pursuing negotiations without haste, and does not intend to be a victim of propaganda.

Qalibaf to lead Iranian parliamentary delegation on Latin America tour

From page 1 ► According to Amouei, the visit reflects Iran's intention to deepen bilateral cooperation with Latin American nations, particularly in the areas of trade and the economy. "Latin America offers valuable opportunities for the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand commercial and economic partnerships," he said.

The first leg of the trip will take the Iranian delegation to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, where talks are expected to focus on enhancing parliamentary relations and addressing obstacles to bilateral economic cooperation.

In Cuba, Speaker Qalibaf and his delegation will meet with top Cuban officials. Amouei described Cuba as "a focal point for justice-oriented approaches in Latin America," highlighting its symbolic significance in Iran's foreign policy toward the region.

The delegation will conclude its trip in Brazil, where it will attend the BRICS Parliamentary Forum—an important platform for dialogue among emerging economies. Iran has shown

Javan: The need to use experiences in the past talks

In a commentary, Javan discussed the principles that should be taken seriously during the current negotiations and said: During the current negotiations, which are in their final moments, five key principles should be taken seriously based on the past experiences and current realities: avoiding politicization, independence of the economy from negotiations, adopting an active narration, rebuilding the image of Iran's authority, and synergy with domestic currents. The indirect talks between Iran and the United States in 2025 are in a different context than in 2013. Changes in the geography of power, including the decline of American influence, the emergence of new blocs, and the economic crises in Europe, along with internal changes in Iran, convergence in decision-making, and social maturity, have provided new opportunities for Iranian diplomacy. The success of negotiations does not lie in signing a formal agreement, but in following a comprehensive strategy to strengthen domestic power and leverage global opportunities. In this endeavor, preserving the three principles of "honor, wisdom, and expediency" as the core of Iran's revolutionary diplomacy is an undeniable necessity.

Shargh: The sixth round of Iran-U.S. negotiations?!

In an analysis, Shargh examined the pressure from Western media outlets on the eve of the sixth round of negotiations and stated: Although some Western media outlets are speculating and reporting vaguely about the proximity to an agreement or the existence of a framework known as the "Muscat Framework," Iranian and American officials have denied announcing the time and place of the sixth round of talks and emphasized that a final agreement has not yet been reached. Fundamental differences regarding the preservation of Iran's nuclear rights and the complete lifting of sanctions still persist, and any definitive decision on continuing the negotiations depends on actual progress at the negotiating table. In sum, it should be emphasized that given the official positions of the parties, the existence of the option of simultaneous threats and negotiations on the table, and the imposition of new U.S. sanctions against Iran, no definitive decision has yet been made regarding the time and place of the sixth round of negotiations, and all news published in this regard remains speculative. The negotiation process must continue in a diplomatic atmosphere and without media attention to enable a lasting agreement.



increasing interest in expanding ties with BRICS countries as part of its broader strategy to strengthen multilateral diplomacy and reduce dependency on Western economic systems.

"The development of economic cooperation is the main objective of this Latin America tour," Amouei emphasized, underlining the strategic nature of the visit amid shifting global alliances.

‘Politically motivated and unbalanced:’ Iran slams IAEA report fueled by ‘Israeli fabrications’

From page 1 ► The statement, responding to IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's document (GOV/2025/25) dated May 31, 2025, asserts that Western powers have been exploiting the nuclear agency to advance their anti-Iran agenda while reaffirming Tehran's unwavering cooperation with the IAEA.

It directly charges the United Kingdom, France, Germany (E3), and the United States with "repeatedly violating their commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and UN Security Council Resolution 2231."

The statement also points to their imposition of "illegal unilateral sanctions" and pressures inconsistent with international law.

Highlighting the November 2024 IAEA Board of Governors meeting, Iran notes that these countries pushed a resolution against it despite the constructive outcomes of Grossi's visit to Tehran.

"This political and unjustified action failed to garner support from many IAEA members, exposing the destructive approach of its sponsors," the statement declares.

Iran underscores its extensive cooperation with the IAEA, including hosting Grossi twice and the Deputy Director General for Safeguards twice in recent months.

Yet, it laments that the report fails to reflect this reality, instead relying on "fabricated documents provided by the Zionist regime" to recycle "baseless and malicious accusations" about past activities.

"Iran has repeatedly stated that it has no undeclared nuclear locations or activities," the statement asserts, emphasizing that Tehran has granted access to alleged sites, allowed sampling, and provided detailed explanations.



The statement also defends Iran's sovereign rights, such as revoking designations for a handful of IAEA inspectors—a move it deems "entirely consistent" with the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

It points out that the report has misrepresented voluntary JCPOA commitments as binding obligations, a distortion unsupported by the IAEA's foundational documents.

Reiterating Iran's immutable position, the statement underscored that nuclear weapons "have no place in Iran's defense doctrine," as enshrined in a fatwa of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

They affirmed Iran's "inalienable right to peaceful nuclear technology," including enrichment fully monitored under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

In a stern warning, Iran cautions that if its cooperation is misused for political ends, "the Islamic Republic will take appropriate actions to safeguard its rights and interests, with responsibility falling on those countries."

This rebuttal follows the IAEA's confidential report, portions of which were leaked to Western media, claiming Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched to 60% purity reached 408.6 kilograms—a 50%

increase since February.

The report labeled Iran the only non-nuclear-weapon state producing such material, calling it a "technical step" from weapons-grade uranium.

Iranian officials, however, have stressed that 60% enrichment supports civilian needs, like medical radioisotopes and research reactors, and remains far below the 90% militarization threshold. Nuclear experts echo this, dismissing Western alarmism as unfounded.

The IAEA report also dredged up old allegations of "undeclared activities" at Lavisan-Shian, Varamin, and Turqzabad, claiming they indicate a "structured nuclear program" until the early 2000s.

Tehran has long rejected these as fabricated intelligence from hostile states, resolved years ago, with the IAEA itself confirming no diversion of nuclear material for military purposes—a testament to Iran's transparency under one of the agency's strictest inspection regimes.

The report's timing raises suspicions, coinciding with Reuters' revelation that Western powers are poised to push the IAEA to declare Iran in breach of its obligations—a step unseen in nearly 20 years.

This comes amid indirect Iran-U.S. talks to revive the nuclear deal,

suggesting a coordinated effort to derail diplomacy.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pounced on the report, claiming it "confirms" Iran's nuclear intent and urging global action—a predictable escalation in Tel Aviv's campaign against Tehran.

The report also hints at possible coordination between the IAEA and anti-Iran elements, particularly given that IAEA Director Rafael Grossi's well-known ambition to secure the position of UN Secretary-General appears to align with a broader geopolitical agenda.

According to a Tehran Times report from April, frustrated by their exclusion from the indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the U.S., the E3 has eyed the prospect of snapback sanctions as leverage against Iran.

London, Berlin, and Paris have reportedly backed Grossi's bid for the UN top job, effectively trading their support for his cooperation in advancing their anti-Iran agenda.

Earlier on Saturday, Al Mayadeen quoted Iranian sources as saying that the E3 has ramped up pressure on the IAEA for a negative assessment, undeterred by Tehran's goodwill gestures.

This campaign, predating recent U.S.-Iran talks, aims to justify snapback sanctions under the 2015 deal. During Istanbul negotiations, Tehran warned E3 representatives that IAEA escalation would trigger swift consequences for nuclear diplomacy.

"If the E3 proceeds with the snapback option, everything will change. Iran's nuclear policy would shift entirely," a source cautioned.

Despite this, Iran insists diplomacy remains viable if Europe abandons its "irresponsible pressure tactics."

Optimistic outlook: Japanese envoy outlines bright prospects for relations with Iran

From page 1 ► TEHRAN – In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times newspaper, Ambassador of Japan to Iran His Excellency Mr. Tamaki Tsukada reflected on the longstanding friendship between Iran and Japan, emphasizing mutual respect, shared strategic interests, and the potential for expanded cooperation in a variety of fields—from energy and infrastructure to culture and tourism.

Below is the full transcript of the interview:

► How would you characterize the current state of relations between Japan and Iran?

The relationship between Iran and Japan is very warm, and I think there is a very deep sense of respect for each other's culture, civilization. These basic understandings and feelings define the very good and warm relationship between Iran and Japan.

► What are Japan's primary interests in maintaining a relationship with Iran?

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So, energy security is the fundamental factor that defines our relationship with this region, including Iran. Also, Maritime security, which ensures the very smooth flow of energy between Middle East and Japan, is also a vital interest for Japan. So, energy security and maritime security—these are the key factors which we consider to be of vital interest. And for that purpose, Iran is a very important country.

► What is Japan's official stance on the imposition of unilateral sanctions against Iran?

Well, first of all, international sanctions are the result of a long debate about countries' behavior and its compliance with international rules and regulations.



In terms of sanctions surrounding Iran, of course, I do not need to repeat the long history. There is a debate about the value or the rationale of Iran's nuclear development or nuclear program—the purpose, the intent of Iran developing civil nuclear activity.

Each country has the sovereign right to pursue peaceful nuclear program. But the reason the international sanctions were imposed on Iran is because Iran has not been able to convincingly demonstrate to the international community that Iranian nuclear program or activities are purely for peaceful purposes. So, I think there is still room that Iran can improve its accountability. At the same time, Japan and the international community are prepared to work with Iran to ensure that Iran can live in a prosperous and peaceful environment. We hope that Iran will be able to prove to the international community that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes so that the sanctions will be lifted.

► Are there any specific sectors, like for example, technology or infrastructure, where Japan is especially interested in expanding its economic cooperation with Iran?

Well, first of all, in order to restore our eco-

nomics relationship to its full height or full potential, the external environment will have to be improved—i.e., the sanctions removed. On that basis, I think there are many areas Japanese businesses would be very interested in exploring. For example, the rehabilitation of infrastructure, especially petrochemical plants or utility infrastructure such as power generation and water.

In trade, there is a big market and a strong demand for Japanese automobiles, and we are ready to export if the conditions allow. There is also interest in the decarbonization of the economy and industry in general.

These include areas such as energy efficiency or the hydrogen industry. These are just some examples. Of course, there are many lucrative sectors.

As far as Japanese businesses are concerned, these are the areas they are preparing to enter when conditions permit.

► Are there any active cultural exchange programs between Japan and Iran? And if so, could you provide some examples?

Generally speaking, in the area of culture—especially popular culture—it should be privately driven or business-driven, I would say. There is very little room for government intervention. So, there are already a lot of exchanges happening. For example, anime, games, literature, and cinema. In terms of pop culture and contemporary culture, I think people are already exposed to each other's traditions. So, I have no concern about such exchanges continuing.

If there is a role for the government to play in encouraging cultural exchange, it would be in the area of preserving historical heritage. Archaeology would be one such example.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran, Seoul deepen strategic engagement during high-level consultations

From page 1 ► Mohammadi's diplomatic engagements extended beyond formal talks, including separate meetings with South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Jang Byeong-wan.

The Iranian envoy further exchanged perspectives with prominent Korean policy experts on evolving regional dynamics.

Tehran and Seoul have enjoyed a robust, six-decade partnership underpinned by complementary economic interests and mutual regional significance, with diplomatic ties dating back to October 1962.

This enduring relationship has evolved through key milestones—from the inaugural economic and technical commission in 1975 to high-level vis-

its—underscoring both nations' commitment to transforming historical ties into a forward-looking alliance.

South Korea's expertise in technology and manufacturing dovetails with Iran's strategic energy resources and domestic manufacturing capabilities, fostering increased trade, investment, and cultural exchange.

Key elements Iran needs in a potential agreement

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – As diplomatic efforts to revive the nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers gather momentum once again, much of the international focus continues to center on what Iran must do—its nuclear obligations, inspection regimes, enrichment limits, and regional behavior.

What is conspicuously absent from many of these discussions, however, is an equally rigorous conversation about what the United States is obligated to deliver in return.

The failure of the United States to uphold its own commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal—most notably the unilateral withdrawal from the agreement in 2018 by Donald Trump in his first term as president, has had far-reaching consequences. It not only undermined the deal itself but also eroded the trust necessary for any future agreement to be meaningful or sustainable.

If a new nuclear deal is to be reached, Iran's expectations must be addressed not as secondary conditions, but as core components of the agreement. At the heart of Iran's position lies one non-negotiable demand: an effective, verifiable, and irreversible lifting of sanctions. Without this, there can be no genuine agreement.

Sanctions relief: The core of Iran's demands

Iran's nuclear program has always been linked to the question of sanctions, arguably more than to the technical aspects of the program itself. For Iran, the JCPOA was not just a nuclear accord; it was an economic opening. The country agreed to limit its nuclear capabilities in exchange for relief from crippling U.S. and international sanctions. But that relief never fully materialized, even before the Trump administration's withdrawal.

One key lesson Iran has drawn from the JCPOA experience is that vague promises of sanctions relief are insufficient. Iranian banks and businesses continued to face serious obstacles due to the enduring presence of U.S. secondary sanctions. Worse still, the Trump administration's decision to walk away from the deal demonstrated how easily such commitments could be reversed at virtually no cost.

This time around, Iran is demanding more than paper guarantees.

According to Majid Shakeri, an Iranian economic expert, the current discussions overwhelmingly focus on what the United States expects—namely the limitation of Iran's nuclear program—while completely neglecting what Iran should gain in return.

“There's been plenty of debate around how a relatively stable or logical arrangement between



Iran and the U.S. might look. But almost all of it focuses on the American side's expected gains, such as limiting Iran's nuclear activities under various names like temporary suspension or international consortia,” Shakeri tells the Tehran Times. “Yet nothing is said about what Iran should gain.”



Omani FM in Tehran, delivers US proposals

Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi announced on Saturday that his Omani counterpart, Badr Al-Busaidi, paid a brief visit to Tehran to deliver proposals put forward by the United States.

Araghchi stated that the contents of the message will be reviewed and responded to in accordance with Iran's established principles, national interests, and the rights of its people. He emphasized that any response to the U.S. proposals would be guided by Tehran's commitment to sovereignty and justice.

He argues that simply avoiding military conflict is not a sufficient gain for Iran. “If Washington really wanted to use military campaigns to curtail Iran's program, it wouldn't wait a second,” the economic expert asserted. “So, common sense dictates that a sustainable agreement must include measurable economic returns for Iran.”

From sanctions relief to tangible economic benefit

Shakeri contends that Iran must shift the focus from mere “sanctions relief” to economic benefit—or as he calls it, “measurable profit.” He explains:

“Sanctions are just one of many tools used to pressure Iran. The U.S. also employs tariffs, patent

then Iran should seek verifiable economic benefits overseen by its own institutions like the Central Bank and Ministry of Economy.”

Shakeri believes a strategic pivot can benefit both sides. “Rather than exchanging strengths, Iran and the U.S. can engage in deals that compensate for each other's weaknesses.”

He notes that Iran needs capital goods for industrial growth, while the U.S., especially under a second Trump administration, will be seeking ways to maintain its energy dominance amid pressure from OPEC+ and increasing Russian and Saudi output.

“These complementary needs offer fertile ground for win-win solutions that don't necessarily involve political concessions or diplomatic humiliation,” he comments.

The expert also emphasizes that any durable arrangement must avoid linkage to regional countries and instead be direct, mutual, and centered on the parties' core needs.

Enrichment, independence, and the path forward

During a visit to Imam Khomeini's mausoleum on Saturday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reaffirmed that Iran's right to enrich uranium stems from a foundational principle: resistance to foreign domination.

“There is much to say about enrichment as one of the country's necessities, but more fundamentally, our guiding principle in these negotiations is rejecting domination,” he said.

After the fifth round of indirect U.S.-Iran talks in Rome, Araghchi called the session “one of the most professional rounds we have ever had,” and affirmed that Iran's “completely clear” positions were firmly conveyed.

Separately, nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami reiterated that Iran's nuclear trajectory is driven by national interests, not foreign dictates.

For Iran, any nuclear deal must be more than a diplomatic gesture—it must function as a binding economic agreement that delivers measurable and protected benefits. Iranian officials are united in their view that the nuclear program cannot be used as a bargaining chip without guaranteed, tangible gains.

And those gains must be insulated from the political whims of future U.S. administrations.

The road to a sustainable agreement runs not only through centrifuge halls and inspection checklists, but also through ports, banks, and economic frameworks. Only when both sides are bound—and benefited—can a nuclear agreement be truly viable.

controls, and financial risk ratings, none of which fall under the usual sanctions framework. So, focusing solely on ‘sanctions relief’ is misguided.”

Instead, he says, the Iranian negotiating team must demand quantifiable economic returns in exchange for the U.S.'s quantifiable nuclear demands. “If the Americans want verifiable limits with oversight by the IAEA and even direct U.S.-linked monitors,



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian hosted a joint meeting of the heads of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches at the Presidential Office in Tehran on May 31, 2025.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, along with deputy ministers and staff of the Foreign Ministry, attended a ceremony to reaffirm their commitment to the ideals of late founder of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini on May 31, 2025, ahead of the 36th anniversary of his passing.

Iran discover opponents at AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers

TEHRAN – The teams aspiring to vie for the title discovered their AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 Qualifiers opponents following the official draw at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Thursday.

A total of 44 teams were drawn into 11 groups for the Qualifiers, which will be contested on September 1-9, 2025.

The 11 group winners and four best best-ranked runners-up will join Saudi Arabia, who are hosting the tournament for the first time, in January's Finals.

Draw Result

Group A: Jordan (H), Turkmenistan, Chinese Taipei, Bhutan

Group B: Japan, Kuwait, Myanmar (H), Afghanistan

Group C: Vietnam (H), Yemen, Singapore, Bangladesh

Group D: Australia, China (H), Timor-Leste, Northern Mariana Islands

Group E: Uzbekistan, Palestine, Kyrgyzstan (H), Sri Lanka

Group F: Thailand (H), Malaysia, Lebanon, Mongolia

Group G: Iraq, Cambodia (H), Oman, Pakistan

Group H: Qatar (H), Bahrain, India, Brunei Darussalam

Group I: UAE (H), Iran, Hong Kong, China, Guam

Group J: Korea Republic, Indonesia (H), Laos, Macau

Group K: Tajikistan (H), Syria, Philippines, Nepal

Amirian seizes silver in 2025 Asian Championships

TEHRAN – Ali Amirian of Iran won a silver medal in the men's 800m of the 2025 Asian Athletics Championships on Saturday.

He crossed the line with a time of 1:44.97 minutes.

The gold medal went to Kuwait's Ebrahim Al-Zofairi with 1:44.59 minutes and Qatari runner Abubaker Haydar Abdalla claimed the bronze with a time of 1:45.20 minutes.

Amirian's medal was Iran's third medal in the event.

Reyhaneh Mobini in women's long jump and Mohammadreza Tayebi in men's shot put had won two gold medals.

The event was held in Gumi, South Korea.

Esteghlal lift Hazfi Cup, but challenges loom for Iranian giants

TEHRAN - Esteghlal ended a turbulent season on a high note by clinching the Hazfi Cup, Iran's knockout football competition.

A dramatic Rouzbeh Cheshmi goal in the 120th minute secured a thrilling victory over Malavan in the final match held at the Arak's Imam Khomeini Stadium. This triumph marks Esteghlal's record eighth Hazfi Cup title, solidifying their position as the competition's most decorated team. The win also guarantees them a spot in the 2025/26 AFC Champions League Two.

This late-season success comes as a welcome relief for the “Blues,” who endured one of their weakest Iranian Pro League campaigns, finishing a disappointing ninth after multiple coaching and management changes.

The turning point arrived with the appointment of club legend, Mojtaba Jabbari, as head coach in the final weeks of the league season. Jabbari, focusing solely on the Hazfi Cup, delivered on his promise, bringing a much-needed trophy to the club and providing a sweet ending to an otherwise tumultuous year.

While the Hazfi Cup victory is cause for celebration, it has also created a new dilemma for Esteghlal's management. For months, the club had pledged to hire a big-name international coach. However, Jabbari's recent success has significantly boosted his popularity among fans, putting pressure on the club to consider him for the permanent role. The choice between a foreign manager and the beloved Jabbari now presents a significant challenge for the club's leadership.

Adding another layer of complexity, Dutch legend Clarence Seedorf was recently named as an advisor to Esteghlal's CEO. However, Seedorf's role is not to identify coaching candidates, further highlighting the internal struggles over the team's future direction.

These unresolved issues have left Esteghlal stagnant in the summer transfer window, with no new signing so far. This contrasts sharply with rivals like Persepolis and Sepahan, who have already begun strengthening their squads. While the Hazfi Cup triumph was sweet, it appears significant challenges still lie ahead for Esteghlal, leaving their fans with genuine concerns as the new season approaches.

Ali Gholizadeh undergoes groin surgery

TEHRAN – Iran's national football team winger missed the recent matches against Qatar and North Korea in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers after undergoing groin surgery.

The Lech Poznań midfielder, who had been suffering groin pain for several weeks, traveled to Munich immediately after the conclusion of the Polish season and underwent surgery.

“It was worth it,” Gholizadeh shared on his Instagram account, emphasizing the importance of the procedure.

He is expected to be sidelined for approximately four weeks.

Iran volleyball beat Italy in friendly

TEHRAN – The Iran national volleyball team defeated Italy 3-2 (23-25, 25-18, 14-25, 25-21, 15-11) in a friendly match on Friday.

Team Melli will meet again Italy on Saturday.

These friendlies are part of Iran's preparations for the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL). Roberto Piazza's team will kick off the prestigious campaign against Brazil on June 11 in Rio de Janeiro.

Iran will also compete against the U.S., Slovenia, and Ukraine in subsequent matches in Week 1.

Iran men's national team roster

setters: Javad Karimi, Arshia Behnezhad

Opposites: Amin Esmaeilinezhad, Bardia Saadat, Pouya Ariakhah

Outside hitters: Morteza Sharifi, Amirhossein Esfandiar, Ehsan Daneshdoust, Poriya Hossein Khanzadeh, Ali Haghpourast

Middle blockers: Mohammad Valizadeh, Yousef Kazemi, Eisa Naseri, Matin Ahmadi

Liberos: Mohammadreza Hazratpour, Arman Salehi

2025 CAVA Men's Nations League: Iran ease past Uzbekistan

TEHRAN – Iran 'B' volleyball team defeated Uzbekistan in straight sets (25-11, 25-12, 25-19) in the 2025 CAVA Men's Nations League on Saturday.

Team Melli 'B' had defeated India 3-1 and Turkmenistan 3-1 in their previous matches in Pool A.

Iran booked their place in the next round as the first team.

Pool B features Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

The event began on May 29 and will run until June 4 in Fergana, Uzbekistan.

Government rapidly pursuing solar panels installation in organizations



TEHRAN- The government is rapidly pursuing the installation of solar panels in the organizations and executive agencies, especially in Tehran, the vice president announced.

Allaedin Rafizadeh said that all government agencies in Tehran will be equipped with solar power plants within the next month.

The government has parallel plans to optimize energy consumption, including the installation of solar power plants in executive agencies, the official emphasized.

Iran installed approximately 600 megawatts (MW) of solar power capacity in the past Iranian year (ending March 2025), marking a four-fold increase over the previous annual average of 150 MW, according to Alireza Parandeh Motlaq, deputy head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA).

In an appearance on the state TV, Parandeh Motlaq said the Energy Ministry has undertaken the development of several government-led solar power plants to help meet growing electricity demand from households and industry. Although initially state-funded, these plants are ultimately intended for transfer to the private sector.

SATBA's current roadmap includes a 5,000 MW expansion target. Given the urgency of the timeline set by authorities, some of the required equipment is being sourced internationally. Imported solar components are being shipped via rail and sea, with maritime routes taking about 35 days and rail deliveries requiring 15 days. As of now, three shipments of equipment have arrived, with two already dispatched to sites that were designated and designed last year.

Parandeh Motlaq noted that in the previous Iranian year (ended on March 20), the country achieved its highest-ever annual capacity

addition in renewable energy. Meanwhile, the Energy Ministry has received private-sector proposals for a total of 38,000 MW of renewable capacity. The government plans to build 5,000 MW of solar plants and procure 2,000 MW worth of equipment in the near term.

He added that per recent regulations, any industrial facility that generates part of its own electricity using renewable sources is exempt from mandatory load reduction measures—a policy that has been in effect since 2023.

He also stated that households can benefit from installing rooftop solar panels. If a family installs a 5-kilowatt system, the Energy Ministry will purchase the generated electricity at a rate of 3,700 toman (approximately \$0.074) per kilowatt-hour. However, those who exceed standard household consumption limits will still be subject to restrictions.

The head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) announced the launch of construction for 297 MW of renewable power capacity across five provinces.

Mohsen Tarzatab, who also serves as Deputy Energy Minister, made the announcement on Monday during a ceremony marking the beginning of equipment installation for the new solar projects.

Tarzatab said the projects are part of a larger government plan to build 3,000 MW of solar capacity through the development of modular 3-MW solar plants. Construction has already started at 856 sites across the country, including in seven provincial capitals.

The initial phase covers five regions: Golestan, Bushehr, Fars (specifically Shiraz County), East Azarbaijan, and Kish Island.

Tarzatab stated that the total investment for the current phase of development in these five provinces amounts to \$96 billion, fully financed by the government.

500 MW expansion in renewables under fourteenth government

Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi also announced a 500 MW boost in renewable power development under President Pezeshkian's administration, known as the fourteenth government.

Speaking at the launch of a solar equipment installation program, Aliabadi gave assurances that the new plants will be operational on schedule and support the national grid.

Over 6.5m tons of iron ore concentrate produced in a month

TEHRAN – Production of iron ore concentrate in Iran stood at 6.575 million tons in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year, Farvardin (March 21-April21), up 1.1 percent from the figure in the first month of the past year, which was 6.501 million tons.

According to the latest report by the World Steel Association (WSA), Iran's crude steel production reached 3.3 million tons in March, marking a 3.7 percent year-on-year increase. The rise coincided with a broader global uptick in steel output during the third month of 2025.

The association's monthly report, which analyzes global steel production trends, shows that worldwide crude steel output reached 166.1 million tons in March 2025—up 2.9 percent from March 2024. However, cumulative global production for the first quarter of 2025 fell slightly by 0.4 percent year-on-year to 468 million tons.

Despite the rebound in March, Iranian steelmakers saw their quarterly output drop by 12.8 percent compared to the same period in 2024, producing a total of 7.3 million tons in the first three months of this year. The March recovery helped break a consecutive decline recorded in January and February.

China, the world's largest steel producer, maintained its lead with 259.3 million tons in Q1, reflecting a modest 0.6 percent year-on-year rise. In March alone, China produced 92.8 million tons—up 4.6 percent from a year earlier—making it a key driver of the global surge.

Iran, along with Germany, registered the steepest quarterly declines in steel production among the top 10 global producers. Nonetheless, Iran retained its position as the world's 10th largest steelmaker.



The report highlights that Iran's January production fell by 24.1 percent year-on-year to 2.2 million tons, followed by a 21.8 percent drop in February. March's year-on-year gain trimmed the overall Q1 contraction to 12.8 percent.

In addition to Iran, Brazil and Japan also posted positive March figures. The year-on-year changes in output for Brazil, Iran, Japan, China, and India stood at 7, 4.6, 6.6, 3.7, and 0.2 percent, respectively.

India solidified its position as the second-largest producer, with a notable 7 percent rise in March output and a 6.8 percent increase over the quarter.

While China's steel output rose, the World Steel Association attributed the uptick to a recovery in new market demand despite ongoing weakness in the country's real estate sector. U.S. tariffs on Chinese steel exports in previous months had curbed production, but the latest growth suggests that China may have tapped into new export destinations—posing new challenges for Iranian exporters.

Among the world's top 10 steel producers, five countries recorded a decline in March output compared to the same month last year, according to data collected from 69 nations.

Iran, Tajikistan sign railway transit deal, launch new chapter in bilateral co-op

TEHRAN – Iran and Tajikistan have signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance bilateral rail transport, enabling the use of Iranian freight wagons on Tajikistan's railway network, Iran's railway authority announced.

The agreement was signed by Jabbar Ali Zakeri, deputy transport minister and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, and Mirzoali Komil Jumakhon, head of Tajikistan's State Unitary Railway Enterprise.

Aimed at optimizing existing capacities and boosting international freight movement, the deal also allows Iranian wagons to transit beyond Tajikistan to other regional railway networks.

Three more co-op documents exchanged in Iranian VP's visit to Dushanbe

During the official visit of Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref to Tajikistan, four cooperation documents were exchanged in the presence of Aref and Tajikistan's prime minister.

According to the Iranian presidency, the documents included:

- A memorandum of understanding between Iran's Institute of Labor and Social Security and Tajikistan's Research Institute on Labor, Migration, and Employment;

- An MOU to establish a joint Iran-Tajikistan Technology Center, signed between Iran's Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy and Tajikistan's Agency for Innovation and Digital Technology;

- A debt settlement agreement between Iran's Farab Company and Tajikistan's Ministry of Energy.

- A joint statement by the Iran's first vice president and the prime minister of Tajikistan was also signed.

Aref arrived in Dushanbe on May 29, at the head of a high-level delegation for bilateral talks and to attend the International Conference on Glacier Preservation.

Iranian President Masoud



Pezeshkian concluded his two-day official visit to Tajikistan in mid-January, marking a significant milestone in bilateral relations with the signing of 23 agreements across various fields.

The agreements, aimed at strengthening diplomatic ties, economic cooperation, and cultural exchanges, highlight the commitment of both nations to overcoming obstacles and expanding collaboration. During the visit, Pezeshkian emphasized the potential for trade to exceed \$500 million and announced plans for a joint economic commission meeting in the near future.

Key moments of the visit included bilateral talks with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, focusing on fast-tracking joint projects and removing trade barriers. The presidents hailed the agreements as a foundation for further cooperation in science, education, transportation, and agriculture.

Pezeshkian addressed Tajik academic circles, stressing Iran's commitment to global health and rejecting violence and conflict. The visit also featured discussions with top Tajik officials, including the prime minister and parliamentary leaders, to facilitate trade agreements, including a preferential trade pact.

The visit culminated in a shared vision for deepened partnerships, with both countries expressing readiness to remove remaining barriers to trade and investment.

Also, a high-ranking Iranian trade delegation, comprising members of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and led by Chamber Head Samad Hassanzadeh, departed Tehran for Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, on January 14.

The delegation was accompanied by Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri, underscoring the multi-faceted nature of the visit, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Upon arrival in Dushanbe, Iranian and Tajik economic leaders convened for a joint forum aimed at enhancing bilateral trade relations. In this gathering, Hassanzadeh emphasized the extensive cultural and historical ties between Iran and Tajikistan as a foundation for deepening economic cooperation. He highlighted key sectors such as petrochemicals, oil and gas, medical equipment, and tourism as areas ripe for collaboration.

“Beyond economic discussions, we can leverage our shared heritage in literature, science, and the arts to expand mutual ties. Tajikistan offers a strategic platform for Iranian investors and businesses seeking to access Central Asian and Eurasian markets,” Hassanzadeh stated.

The forum witnessed the signing of several memoranda of understanding between Iranian and Tajik companies, paving the way for increased joint ventures. Attendees also participated in one-on-one

discussions to explore potential partnerships. Hassanzadeh noted that Iranian businesses have the expertise to contribute to Tajikistan's industrial development, including projects in steel production, refineries, and advanced technologies.

Highlighting Iran's capabilities, the ICCIMA head remarked, “We possess competitive pricing and innovative solutions, making us a strong partner for Tajikistan in sectors like engineering services and exports of building materials, agricultural products, and pharmaceuticals.”

Ahead of the trip, Hassanzadeh described Tajikistan as a strategic destination for Iranian investors. “The stable political and social relations between our nations, combined with the trust shared by our presidents, provide a solid framework for expanding bilateral trade,” he told Iranian media. He highlighted Tajikistan's reliance on Iranian expertise and competitive exports as a key opportunity for growth in sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and industrial development.

With the Iranian delegation's visit marking a new chapter in economic diplomacy, both nations have reaffirmed their commitment to leveraging cultural affinities for stronger economic ties. Tajikistan remains a vital partner in Iran's efforts to enhance its presence in Central Asia and beyond.

Meanwhile, Iran and Tajikistan signed a roadmap in early May to implement a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on standardization, aiming to deepen bilateral cooperation in technical and quality assessment fields.

According to the National Standards Organization of Iran, the agreement was signed on the sidelines of the 17th meeting of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee by Mahmoud Reza Taheri, Deputy for Quality Assessment at Iran's National Standards Organization, and Deputy Head of the Tajikistan Standards Agency.

ICCIMA proposes Iran-Oman joint investment fund to boost industrial co-op

TEHRAN – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has proposed the creation of a joint investment fund between Iran and Oman to support industrial projects, as part of broader efforts to deepen bilateral trade and private-sector collaboration.

During a meeting in Muscat with Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh welcomed the growth in bilateral trade, which has surpassed \$2.0 billion. He emphasized that the trade volume could potentially reach between \$20 billion and \$30 billion, given the countries' untapped economic potential.

Hassanzadeh stressed the need for a clear financial framework to facilitate transactions between private enterprises in both countries. He proposed the establishment of licensed exchange houses under central bank supervision and the implementation of a barter mechanism to ease payment challenges.

The Iran Chamber head also advocated for re-exporting Iranian goods to African and East Asian markets through Oman; cooperation in supplying key industrial inputs to Iran; joint ventures in petrochemicals, hospitality, power generation, fisheries, and agriculture.

He further called for the formation of an industrial and investment committee involving the industry ministries and chambers of commerce from both countries. The aim would

be to evaluate and coordinate development projects, particularly those utilizing Iran's tech-savvy startups and industrial base.

Hassanzadeh also proposed joint investment in the International North–South Transit Corridor (INSTC) to enhance rail and road connectivity with Central Asia and Europe, as well as the Makran coast, specifically Jask and Chabahar ports, as strategic logistics hubs providing access to the Caucasus and Eurasian markets.

The visit was part of an Iranian business delegation mission to Oman, seeking to capitalize on growing economic ties and the imminent activation of the first interbank transfer mechanism between the two countries.

Also during an Iran-Oman Business Forum in Muscat on Wednesday (May 28), Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that the value of trade between Iran and Oman can reach \$20 billion–\$30 billion.

Emphasizing the position of Iran and Oman in connecting regional markets, the president said: “We can jointly establish strategic ties with important markets in the region and the world by using our geopolitical capacity.”

Referring to his talks with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq the previous day and the agreements reached in these talks, the president stated: “What is most important today is to create infrastructure to strengthen the connection of land, sea and air routes between the two

countries, because only in such a context can commercial, scientific, industrial and economic cooperation be deepened.”

Iran and Oman discussed ways to boost banking ties during a meeting between the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion.

According to Oman's state news agency, Qais bin Mohammed al-Yousef held talks on May 27 with Mohammadreza Farzin in Muscat. The meeting took place as part of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's official visit to Oman aimed at strengthening bilateral economic and financial relations.

The two sides reviewed measures to enhance cooperation in trade and investment, ease financial transactions, and streamline trade procedures between the two countries. Discussions also focused on initiatives to support joint economic projects, stimulate bilateral trade, and facilitate private sector exchanges.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to continued coordination and cooperation in areas of mutual interest, with a shared goal of strengthening bilateral relations and promoting sustainable economic growth.

The official visit to Oman marks a significant step in the Iranian government's ongoing efforts to strengthen regional ties and deepen bilateral relations with Muscat.

Car manufacturing up 3.6% in 2 months on year

TEHRAN – Manufacturing of vehicles in Iran increased by 3.6 percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to data published on the Codal system.

As reported, Iran's three major carmakers produced a total of 137,337 vehicles in the men-

tioned two-month period, while the figure was 132,497 in the same time span of the previous year.

The figures, reported by IRNA, show that Iran Khodro (IKCO) manufactured 82,611 vehicles, and SAIPA manufactured 11,709 vehicles during the first two months of the present year.



Israel Katz mocks France and Europe at large

By our staff writer

TEHRAN - Israel Katz said on Friday that Israel will build a “Jewish Israeli state” in the occupied West Bank. He made the declaration a day after the occupation regime announced the creation of 22 new settlements in the Palestinian territory.

“This is a decisive response to the terrorist organizations that are trying to harm and weaken our hold on this land -- and it is also a clear message to (French President Emmanuel) Macron and his associates: they will recognize a Palestinian state on paper -- but we will build the Jewish Israeli state here on the ground,” Katz was quoted as saying Friday in a statement from his office.

This statement by Katz clearly shows that Israel, facing an impotent world and international bodies, has no intention to allow a Palestinian state and that it wants the entire Palestine.



Katz also ridicules France and some other European countries that have said they will recognize a Palestinian state, saying this recognition will only be on “paper”.

For long years, the West, particularly the U.S., has been enabling Israel in its illegal acts against the Palestinians. Even in its current war on Gaza, which began in October 2023, the Western European countries, including France,

have been providing arms to Israel in its genocidal campaigns against the Palestinians in Gaza. Though in comparison, France has provided less weapons than Germany and Italy, it is still at fault for emboldening Israel and is partly complicit in the war crimes against the Gazans.

If it had not been for unwavering Western support for Israel and the impotent world and international bodies at large, Israel

would not have been able to go to such an extreme against the Palestinians and openly announce that it will establish the “Jewish state” on what is left of Palestine.

Just saying that building houses on the Palestinian lands in the West Bank is illegal under “international law” doesn’t solve anything.

For Israel, international law is comical. They have become so arrogant and emboldened, thanks to the West’s decades-long unwavering and relentless diplomatic and military support, that they even ridicule France and other European allies.

The West was naive to understand that Israel would one day turn against them. The spoiled child that they brought up is now turning into a bone in their throat and humiliating them.

So far, it was mocking international law, but now it is ridiculing its naive backers.

What threat does Starlink’s information dish pose to Lebanon?

From page 1 ► It was created to connect remote areas and war zones to the internet. For example, in the UAE, the wealthy use Starlink because they want to spend time on their yachts at sea without the internet.

Providing internet service to customers directly via satellite completely eliminates the oversight of Lebanese security agencies and will further facilitate security breaches.

Previously, Starlink system has operated illegally; for its part, the U.S. surveillance den (the embassy) in Beirut has exerted massive pressure on successive telecommunications ministries to grant Starlink such a concession (n.b. this requires parliamentary approval under Article 15 of the Telecommunications Law).

The issue is not just related to security concerns; it is directly linked to the seismic repercussions for the Ministry of Telecommunications. Once Starlink is allowed to provide internet service, it will seize all rights that are exclusively granted to MTC, Alfa, and Ogero (local telecommunications).

Further, Starlink will become the largest competitor to the public telecommunications sector.

Speaking to Tehran Times, an expert wondered: “What will the public treasury gain from licensing Starlink? Nothing. According to the logic of privatization, this company will be able, without question, to acquire rare frequencies that were supposed to be sold for billions of dollars, paving the way for Starlink’s takeover of the data services market in Lebanon.”

MP Ibrahim al-Moussawi, a member of Hezbollah’s parliamentary bloc, had already urged the Minister of Telecommunications to defer before granting the license to Starlink.

Expressing his concern over this hazardous move, al-Moussawi warned, “We want the highest level of efficiency in the telecommunications sector, but with security considerations in mind. This is the responsibility of all security agencies, which are required to show the highest level of suspicion and doubt.”

The Hezbollah MP, in his capacity as head of the Parliamentary Media and Telecommunications Committee, asked: “Will these external pressures impose a new reality on Lebanon regarding telecommunications?”

Al Moussawi reiterated that exclusivity “should not be granted to a single company to ensure the government obtains a higher return,” urging the Minister of Telecommunications to defer.

The tele-expert told Tehran Times that the global telecommunications market has become centered around data, not mobile or fixed-line services. Therefore, selling frequencies exclusively to Elon Musk’s Starlink will not generate significant revenues for the public

treasury, but will push it closer to bankruptcy and unemployment in the sector.

The expert estimated that Starlink could be deprived of approximately 25% of its customers by internet companies, in addition to the inevitable transfer of its profits abroad.

Privatization is not just a threat to the Lebanese telecommunications sector. Minister of Public Works Fayez Rasamni (minister of the Progressive Socialist Party – Walid Jumblatt) had also submitted a proposal to the government aimed at privatizing airports and seaports through build-operate-transfer (BOT) contracts, under the pretext of the state’s “bankruptcy”

Lebanon has previously experienced the results of privatization and found it to be ineffective!

On the contrary, privatization would entail the state relinquishing all aspects of its sovereignty, having abandoned reconstruction of the areas demolished during the ongoing U.S.-led Israeli aggression, paying end-of-service compensation to public sector employees, paying social security benefits, returning deposits smuggled abroad by the political oligarchy, etc.

Are these the NEW LEBANON’s promised “reforms” that would further make its future and data subject to Elon Musk’s investments?

Syrian villagers drive out Israeli unit

From page 1 ► The event reflects continued grassroots resistance to the Israeli occupation of southern Syria, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

It follows a series of similar Israeli invasions in both Quneitra and the neighboring Daraa province in southwestern Syria.

Local sources said the Israeli patrol provoked villagers by harassing passersby, which led to an immediate reaction from the residents.

The episode underscores growing community unrest in response to the expanding Israeli military occupation in Syria.

In a separate case, a unit of six IOF vehicles entered the Yarmouk Basin region in western Daraa.

The convoy briefly stationed itself along the road between two villages before retreating shortly afterward. No further information was available about the motive or outcome of that incursion, according to the Syrian Observatory.

Just days earlier, two Israeli tanks and two military vehicles moved from a former Syrian army base toward a village in the Quneitra countryside.

Since the collapse of the previous government in December 2024, Syria has experienced repeated Israeli attacks, including ground raids and unprecedented airstrikes in several regions, including the capital.

The new government in Damascus has yet to respond to the escalating and illegal Israeli occupation and aggression.

patation and aggression.

Israeli strikes targeted Syria’s coastal cities of Latakia and Tartous, killing one person, the Syrian state news agency reported on Friday, despite recent talks between Israel and Syria’s interim government.

The Israeli military confirmed shortly after it struck what it called as weapon storage facilities containing missiles that “posed a threat to international and Israeli maritime freedom of navigation” in Latakia.

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Israel blocks Ramallah meeting with Arab ministers

Israel will not allow a planned meeting in the Palestinian administrative capital of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank to go ahead, an Israeli official says, after media reported that Arab ministers planning to attend had been stopped from coming.

The delegation included ministers from Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, Palestinian Authority officials said. The ministers would require Israeli consent to travel to the West Bank from Jordan, Al Jazeera reported.

An Israeli official told Reuters news agency the ministers intended to take part in “a provocative meeting” to discuss promoting the establishment of a Palestinian state.

“Such a state would undoubtedly become a terrorist state in the heart of the land of Israel,” the official said. “Israel will not cooperate with such moves aimed at harming it and its security.”

A Palestinian Authority official said the issue of whether the meeting in Ramallah would be able to go ahead was under discussion.

Supreme Court gives Trump green light to strip legal status of 500,000 migrants

The Supreme Court on Friday again cleared the way for the Trump administration to strip temporary legal protections from hundreds of thousands of immigrants for now, pushing the total number of people who could be newly exposed to deportation to nearly 1 million.

The justices lifted a lower-court order that kept humanitarian parole protections in place for more than 500,000 migrants from four countries: Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela. The court has also allowed the administration to revoke temporary legal status from about 350,000 Venezuelan migrants in another case.

Republican President Donald Trump promised on the campaign trail to deport millions of people, and in office has sought to dismantle Biden administration’s policies that created ways for migrants to live legally in the U.S. Trump amplified false rumors that Haitian immigrants in Ohio, including those with legal status under the humanitarian parole program, were abducting and eating pets during a debate with then-President Joe Biden, according to court documents.

His administration filed an emergency appeal to the Supreme Court after a federal judge in Boston blocked the administration’s push to end the program.

Gaza food delivery group ‘not humanitarian aid’: UN

UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food Michael Fakhri says the UN is ready to send its convoys, but that Israel is still denying aid following its 80-day blockade of Gaza.

Fakhri described the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a shadowy organization which Israel has authorized to distribute food, as “bait to corral people” which “violates every principle of international law”.

“This is aid being used ... to push people out from the north into militarized zones ... and it’s about humiliating people, and it’s about controlling the population. This has nothing to do with stopping starvation.”

An Israeli ban has prevented the UN’s refugee agency from delivering aid to the displaced and hungry people fleeing relentless strikes.

Fakhri emphasized that Israel’s plan, announced in early April, was criticized by every major humanitarian organization and the secretary-general of the UN.

UN Arab Group accuses Israel of weaponizing starvation, 2 food seekers killed



Arab states are accusing Israel of weaponizing hunger in Gaza, rejecting its new aid system as illegal, Al Jazeera reported.

“Starvation is being used as a weapon of war,” said UAE envoy Mohamed Abushahab, speaking on behalf of 22 Arab League members at the UN.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has said Gaza is the “hungeriest place on Earth” and the enclave’s entire 2.3 million people face “catastrophic hunger”.

Israeli forces have fired on a group of people trying to reach an aid center near Rafah, killing at least two, the Wafa news agency reported.

The scene mirrors events from Friday, when Israeli troops also fired on Palestinians trying to access newly established aid centers, wounding at least 20.

Cambridge students relaunch anti-war encampment

Students at the UK’s University of Cambridge have relaunched a protest encampment outside Trinity College, one of its largest and wealthiest colleges, calling on the institution to disclose and divest from companies complicit in Israel’s war on Gaza.

The group behind the protest, Cambridge for Palestine (C4P), is demanding the University “take urgent steps” to end what it calls its “moral and material complicity in Israel’s genocide of Palestinians.”

C4P says Trinity College holds investments in companies such as Elbit Systems, Caterpillar, L3Harris Technologies, and Barclays - despite the university’s previous commitment to review its “responsible investment” policy following a similar months-long encampment last year.

In a statement, C4P said the renewed protest came after “months of student, faculty, and community frustration” over the university’s failure to honor those pledges.

The group outlined four core demands, including full disclosure of financial ties to companies implicated in Israeli violations of international law, full divestment from them, and reinvestment in Palestinian communities.

Turkey arrests dozens including opposition party members

Turkish authorities have ordered the arrests of dozens of people facing corruption allegations, including opposition party members, in Istanbul and the city of Adana, BBC reported.

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office issued detention orders for 47 people and detained 30. Others detained included local municipal mayors and Istanbul officials.

The operation is the fifth wave of arrests against the government’s political opponents, starting with the jailing of Istanbul’s mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, regarded as President Tayyip Erdogan’s main rival in March.

Turkey’s government has rejected claims of political interference, insisting the judiciary is independent.

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- The recent response by Hamas to the U.S.-proposed ceasefire in Gaza marks a significant yet cautious development in a protracted and devastating conflict.

According to the latest reports, Hamas has replied to the American initiative calling for a 60-day pause in hostilities, the release of approximately 33 Israeli hostages, and the facilitation of humanitarian aid into Gaza. However, this response should not be misconstrued as full acceptance. Hamas remains skeptical and is carefully weighing the offer, insisting on a comprehensive ceasefire and Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip as non-negotiable conditions.

Hamas’s stance shows rare pragmatism amid ongoing violence but highlights deep mistrust of the Israeli side. While Hamas is willing to engage with the ceasefire proposal, Israel, led by Prime Minister Netanyahu, accepts it only with conditions Hamas rejects,

especially disarmament. Netanyahu’s reluctance to end the war is tied to his political survival, as ending the conflict could weaken his power. Thus, prolonging the war serves both domestic political interests and his vicious goals.

Meanwhile, the United States, despite its professed role as a mediator, continues to demonstrate a clear bias toward Israel. Although Washington possesses the political and military leverage to end the devastating conflict and alleviate the immense suffering of Gaza’s civilian population, it consistently gives priority to Israel’s evil demands. The U.S. proposal, while framed as a peace initiative, effectively supports Israel’s conditions without adequately addressing the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza.

Israel’s acceptance of the ceasefire proposal is seen purely as tactical, with Netanyahu using the war to strengthen his political position. Ending the conflict could weaken his

power, suggesting Israel may prolong the war despite civilian suffering and global pressure.

Conversely, Hamas shows rare pragmatism by engaging with the U.S. proposal, demanding full Israeli withdrawal and a lasting ceasefire. However, Hamas remains skeptical about the proposal’s sincerity and its chances of being fully implemented.

The U.S., as the supposed initiator of peace talks, continues to act as an unquestioning ally of Israel, facilitating policies that allow for the continuation of occupation and suffering in Gaza.

Hamas has made a small attempt in the direction of negotiating a ceasefire, while Israel is unwilling to end the war. Part of this unwillingness is driven by Netanyahu’s political survival.

The world looks on as Gaza suffers ceaselessly. Hoping for a resolution may be unrealistic given the current political situation.

Kazakhstan ready to deepen cultural and tourism cooperation with Iran

TEHRAN — Kazakhstan’s Ambassador to Iran, Ontalap Onalbayev, has commended Iran’s civilizational heritage and its diverse cultural, historical, and natural attractions, saying his country is ready to deepen cultural and tourism cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

Onalbayev on Friday declared his government’s readiness to promote all-out cooperation in the cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts sectors.

He told Miras Arya (CHTN) that given the deep cultural and historical commonalities between the two nations, Iran is “an unparalleled treasure of human civilization”. The ambassador said Iran boasts unique cultural, historical, and natural attractions and is considered one of the most important civilizational destinations across the region and the world.

Kazakhstan is interested in promoting its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts fields, he added.

Pointing to the seriousness of the Kazakh government for deepening cultural cooperation with Iran, he said, “We are ready to identify and introduce the joint cultural and historical monuments of the two countries at the first stage. I suggest that the production of joint cultural documentaries, holding specialized exhibitions, and establishing joint working groups are put on the agenda.”

Onalbayev emphasized that culture is the best bridge to bring nations closer together, adding that Kazakhstan believes that enhancing cultural diplomacy with Iran not only helps the sustainable development of both countries but also is a model for regional cooperation.

He appreciated the efforts of Iran’s Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in introducing the cultural and civilizational potentials of the country. The ambassador urged promoting direct ties between the cultural, artistic, and tourism institutes of both nations.

Cruise ship enters Mazandaran waters

TEHRAN – Entry of a newly purchased cruise ship by a private sector investor into Iranian territorial waters of Caspian Sea while it is approaching activity off the coast of Mazandaran province, has put the provincial tourism on the threshold of new season.Finally, waters of the greatest lake across the world saw cruise ship in Mazandaran region, IRNA reported. A tourism holding entered the purchased cruise ship to Iran’s water after several years of restless efforts.

This investor intends to complete the chain of accommodation, catering, entertainment, and recreation of their hotel group in northern Iran with this beautiful ship.

This foreign-purchased ship will soon be available for public use after being beautified and making changes in the interior design and residential furniture.

One of the most important capabilities of this ship is a 30-day stay in the open waters and is suitable for long-term trips. Also, there are several halls and restaurants in various floors of the cruise ship, making it possible to hold festivals and special ceremonies.

Cruise ship is a big ship which has been designed for recreational trips. They are equipped with numerous luxurious amenities to provide a pleasant and comfortable experience for their passengers.

Generally, cruise ships have cabins, several restaurants with different menus, swimming pools, gyms, shopping centers and cinemas. They have been designed in a way that all needs of passengers are met.Cruise ships are ideal for those who want to spend their vacations on sea and enjoy all the amenities.

Shaikha Al Nowais elected as secretary-general of UN Tourism

TEHRAN – In a landmark decision on Friday, the Executive Council of UN Tourism elected Shaikha Al Nowais of the United Arab Emirates as its next secretary-general for the 2026–2029 term.

Al Nowais becomes the first woman to lead the agency in its 50-year history, marking a significant milestone for gender representation in global tourism governance.

The vote, held in Madrid, saw Al Nowais secure a decisive victory, winning 24 votes in the second round, well above the minimum 18 required.

Her nearest rival, Greece’s Harry Theoharis, garnered 11 votes. The election outcome now awaits formal approval by the United Nations General Assembly before Al Nowais officially assumes office in January 2026.

Currently serving as Corporate Vice President at Rotana Hotels in Abu Dhabi, Al Nowais has been recognized for her leadership in hospitality and tourism development.

Following the vote, she outlined a five-pillar strategy aimed at transforming the sector: responsible tourism, capacity building, technology for good, innovative financing, and smart governance.

“As an Emirati woman, I’m honored to make history,” said Al Nowais. “This is not only a personal achievement but a commitment to advancing global tourism in a way that benefits our planet, empowers communities, and ensures inclusive growth.”

Her election comes at a time when UN Tourism faces considerable challenges, including declining membership and questions over its global relevance, especially following the withdrawal of major countries such as the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Al Nowais will be tasked with restoring trust, improving transparency, and steering the agency through a post-pandemic era of rapid change and innovation in the travel industry.

Echos of the past: Chopper tool from Kashafrud, northeast Iran



This chopper-shaped tool, made of quartz, was discovered near the Kashafrud River in Khorasan Razavi province, northeast Iran, and dates back to the Lower Paleolithic period.

Evidence of flaking and the removal of several flakes can be seen at one

end. The flakes detached from quartz typically have sharp edges, making them highly efficient for cutting various materials.

This chopper was found alongside more than 80 other stone tools during geological surveys conducted between 1974-1975 near the villages of Abravan, Chahak, and Baghbaghu in eastern Mashhad.

According to Claude Thibault, the gravel layer in which the tools were discovered lies atop a thick layer of sand, indicating the presence of vast, shallow lakes in the region that gradually dried up between 700,000 to 800,000 years ago.

Kashafrud is one of the oldest human settlements in Iran, likely dating back more than 700,000 years.

This tool, along with several other artifacts from Kashafrud, is on display in Showcase No. 1 in the Lower

and Middle Paleolithic Gallery of the Iran Bastan Museum (National Museum of Iran).

Apart from the Kashafrud showcase, three other displays in this gallery are dedicated to Lower Paleolithic artifacts, featuring stone tools, bones, and animal teeth from this period.

These artifacts were discovered in sites such as Gakia in Kermanshah, Darband-Rashi Cave in Gilan, Shiwa-too in Mahabad, Ladiz in Sistan-Baluchestan, and several other sites, dating from over one million years to around 200,000 years ago.

Early humans (Homo erectus and possibly Heidelbergensis) used these tools for breaking bones, cutting skin and meat, shaping wood, and crafting other tools.

Fossil specimens from this period, found in Darband-Rashi Cave, belong to an extinct species of cave bear, as well as deer and wild goat teeth.

Esfahak village gains UNESCO research chair for earth architecture



TEHRAN – The village of Esfahak in South Khorasan province has been awarded one of UNESCO’s 34 prestigious research chairs, marking an achievement for the local and national cultural heritage and scientific communities.

The announcement was made by Mohammad Arab, head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Office of Tabas county, who confirmed that Esfahak has secured a seat on UNESCO’s Research Commission.

The distinction was granted in recognition of the village’s innovative work in earth architecture and its scientific contributions through the Esfahak Mud Center (E.M.C.), led by architect and researcher Pouya Khazaeli.

Esfahak, one of UN Tourism’s Best Tourism Villages, has drawn international attention for its sustainable reconstruction and architectural preservation efforts.

The nomination dossier for global recognition included extensive scientific research conducted by the E.M.C., which played a key role in earning the UNESCO research seat.

“The awarding of this chair is not only a great honor for Esfahak and its people, but it also

highlights the village’s scientific and cultural potential on a global stage,” said Arab. “It reflects the dedication of the local community, especially its youth, and will help introduce Esfahak’s achievements to more specialized tourism audiences and researchers worldwide.”

UNESCO’s research chairs promote higher education and collaborative knowledge production across the globe in fields such as education, science, and culture.

Each chair is established within a university or research institution for a renewable four-year term and must include a distinguished academic leader, re-

searchers, faculty, and students working together in a specialized area of study.

Arab emphasized that Esfahak’s chair will focus on sustainable and traditional building practices, aiming to serve as a model for similar communities around the world while enhancing academic cooperation, knowledge sharing, and cultural tourism.

Last year, Esfahak was named one of the Best Tourism Villages for 2024 by UN Tourism. Moreover, the village won a TO-DO Award in 2020.

The award is annually presented by the German Institute for

Tourism and Development.

Severely damaged by the 1978 earthquake that struck Tabas, Esfahak was once deemed uninhabitable, with residents living in temporary tents. Later, they built makeshift wooden rooms, known as Otagh-e-Choobi (wooden rooms), as they began rebuilding their lives.

With a commitment to sustainability and cultural preservation, villagers re-established the community over the years, developing eco-lodges and restoring traditional homes using ancient adobe techniques.

Esfahak’s transformation into a cultural and eco-tourism destination has garnered attention for its unique architecture and sustainable practices, earning the village the prestigious Asia Architecture Award.

Today, it attracts tourists from across the world, drawn to its picturesque adobe structures and commitment to preserving local identity.

Since 2021, the Best Tourism Villages initiative has aimed to promote sustainable tourism in rural areas, focusing on preserving natural landscapes, cultural heritage, and indigenous lifestyles, including gastronomy and local values.

Launching direct flights between Iran and Tunisia a strategic step for promoting tourism

TEHRAN—Tunisia’s Ambassador in Iran Imad Al-Rahmuni emphasized on joint cultural capacities between the two countries and called promotion of tourism as one of the important elements of enhancing mutual ties. He called launching direct flights as an important step in this regard.

Al-Rahmuni told Miras Arya (CHTN) that Iran and Tunisia have joint cultural, civilizational and

historical commonalities which can pave the ground for sustainable cooperation in tourism sector.

He said tourist exchange not only leads to economic development, but also helps deepening mutual understanding of nations. He added that launching direct flight lines between two countries is one of the most important strategic measures to ease visit of tourists and promote

mutual tourism ties.

Pointing to successful experiences of regional countries in promoting tourism diplomacy, he added that today, tourism is one of the effective tools in enhancing cultural, social and even political ties between the countries.

Iran and Tunisia, given their unique capacities, can be a successful model in the field of regional tourism cooperation, he said.

First Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER IN TWO STEPS

No. :489212

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE
8,000 MT UHP Grade Graphite Electrode 600 mm with respective nipples

WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

Description: UHP Grade Graphite Electrode with respective nipples as per following specification

Bulk Density:	1.65 – 1.75 g/cm³
Real Density:	2.22 – 2.25 g/cm³
Porosity:	21 – 27 %
Ash Content:	0.2 % Max.
Specific Resistance:	4.5– 6.5 μΩm
Bending Strength:	110 -140 Kgf/Cm²
Young's Modules:	7.8 – 11.8 GPa
Co-efficient Of Thermal expansion:	0.3 – 1 10 ⁻⁶ /°C

Graphite Electrode Dimensions:

Electrode Diameter:	600 mm
Electrode Length:	2400 mm

Nipple Specification:

Nipple Diameter:	317.50 mm
Nipple Length:	457.20 mm
Socket Depth:	234.60 mm
Number of Thread:	4 Thread per Inch
Thread Type:	Tapered Thread

Note1: BIDDER SHALL SUBMIT WITH TENDER A BID BOND ISSUED BY AN IRANIAN BANK OR BY A EUROPEAN FIRST CLASS BANK , IN THE AMOUNT OF 265.000.000.000 Rials OR 335.550 EUR FOR 8,000 MT GRAPHITE ELECTRODE Dia.600mm AND MAY REDUSED IN PROPORTION WITH THE QUANTITY OF BIDDERS OFFER. ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR THE FINANCIAL BLOCK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TENDER:

- ACCOUNT No.0102513186002 AT "MELLI BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"
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Note2: ALL BIDS MUST BE INFORMED US WHICH PARTICIPATE IN OUR TENDER UP TO 09nd June, 2025. WHEN YOUR COMPANY IS CONFIRMED AND THE TENDER DOCUMENT IS SENT TO YOU, YOU MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE AFORESAID ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE 26th June,2025.THE OPENING DATE OF ENVELOPES WILL BE AT 10 AM ON THE 29th June,2025 IN THE BUYER'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF KSC AHWAZ-IRAN AND THE BIDDERS OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES CAN ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE TENDER.

Note 3: FOR MORE INFORMTION PLEASE CONTACT WITH FOLLOWING DETAILS:

Consumption Material & General Goods Purchasing Department
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P.O.BOX: 1378
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AHWAZ– IRAN

Tel No. : +98 61 3213 6145 / 3213 6190 Fax No. : +98 61 32908130
Mr.Mohsen Sajadi EMAIL: m.sajadipouya@ksc.ir OR VISIT:http://WWW.KSC.IR

DOE, Ministry of Education implementing joint project

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education is implementing an environmental project under the theme ‘education is the key to change’.

The main objectives of the project are to promote environmental literacy and promote a culture of environmental responsibility among students, Mehr news agency reported.

It also aims to share environmental knowledge of the students utilizing the peer educators’ capacities; change students’ attitude and promote social responsibilities; make students familiar with indigenous, climatic, and local features; as well as boost students’ participation as environmental ambassadors (or eco-friendly individuals) in raising environmental awareness at school, home, and other places.



In March, the head of the DOE, Shina Ansari, said environmental protection is a public duty, and national policy documents also emphasize the importance of environmental education, Mehr news agency.

Ansari underscored the significance of environmental education

at an early age, saying that “to get out of the current situation, we need to focus on the education sector.”

The DOE, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, is planning to train eco-friendly students across the country to change the students’ attitude toward the environment, the official said.

For his part, Education Minister Alireza Kazemi said the ministry is planning to integrate environmental awareness into formal and informal curricula.

“Today, the world is facing numerous threats. If we fail to address them, humans will be in great danger with nothing left for the future.

The environmental crisis is one of the most important and fundamental challenges that humanity is facing. Environmental degradation has irreparable consequences that necessitate thinking of a solution,” he noted.

The official went on to say that teaching students about the environment and raising environmental awareness, as well as promoting the culture of conserving the environment, are among the fundamental solutions.

Seven countries attend Iran’s nanotech achievements meeting



TEHRAN – During a meeting held in Tehran on Thursday, high-ranking delegations from Venezuela, Cuba, Russia, Serbia, Honduras, China, and Vietnam became more familiar with Iran’s accomplishments in the field of nanotechnology and its applications, particularly in the health sector.

The Venezuelan health minister, vice-president, and academic figures, the Cuban health minister, and the Russian ambassador in Tehran were among the participants.

Elaborating on the country’s road map for the further development of nanotechnology, Emad Ahmadvand, the secretary of the headquarters for the Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council, highlighted the increase in the number of scientific articles, theses, technological infrastructures, and knowledge-based companies in nanotechnology markets, IRNA reported.

Also, the meeting showcased some Iranian-made products and technologies utilized for the diagnosis and treatment of different illnesses.

Lauding the country’s advancement in nanotechnology, the officials underlined enhancing scientific collaborations, as well as exchanging knowledge and expertise.

Main buyers of Iranian nanotech products
Iran’s investment in nanotechnology research and development has led to the rise of the country as a global leader in nanotechnology, producing and exporting products to different countries across the world.

Access to domestic resources, competitive prices compared to Western countries, and high production of raw nano-materials, nano-catalysts, and advanced equipment, as well as geographical proximity to target markets in neighboring countries, reduced transportation costs, political and trade relations have made Iran a major manufacturer of nanotechnology products in the region and even some global markets.

Iran’s nanotechnology products in various industries are classified into 13 main categories including Civil engineering and construction; Optics, electronics, and photonics; Petroleum and petrochemicals; Pharmaceuticals, health, and well-being; home appliances; Power and energy; Raw materials; Chemicals; Textiles and clothing; Equipment; Automotive industry and transportation; Industrial machinery; Agriculture, animal husbandry, and

Water, according to data published by the vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

The construction and civil engineering sector is one of the leading industries in nanotechnology exports, with Iraq and Afghanistan being the two main destinations. Central Asian countries such as Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan also import these products.

In the ‘optics, electronics and photonics’ fields, Iraq and Syria are the top importing countries, mainly due to increased insecurities and crises in these countries in recent years.

Nano-scale products include night vision systems, thermal imaging cameras, high-resolution surveillance systems, as well as optoelectronic sensors.

Russia is the only export destination for oil and petrochemical products owing to the Russian oil industry’s dependence on up-to-date technologies, along with Western sanctions.

Syria, Ecuador, Afghanistan, and Turkey are among the main destinations for Iranian pharmaceutical, health, and well-being products. In addition, countries from Asia and Africa to South America also import these products. Iran’s nano-based medicines for the treatment of cancers have been exported to various countries so far. The list of new products, such as nano-supplements, shows that the opportunity for exports in the pharmaceutical and health sector is increasing.

Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, and countries located to the north of Iran, like Armenia and Azerbaijan, are the main importers of Iranian products in the home appliance sector, thanks to the high demand for their antimicrobial or high-resistance properties.

Iran’s nanotechnology products in the power and energy sector are exported to Azerbaijan and Turkey. Given the high capabilities of nanotechnology in improving energy efficiency, it is expected that exports in the field will rise with further investment.

India, Pakistan, the UAE, and South Africa are interested in purchasing Iran’s raw nano-materials. The export of nanoscale raw materials such as nanoparticles and nanotubes has an attractive market. India and Pakistan, with their extensive manufacturing industries, are important buyers. Due to the development of indigenous technology and access to domestic mineral resources, the cost of producing these materials in Iran is lower than in Western countries and even East Asia.

Neighboring countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan import a big portion of Iranian nanotechnology products because of the low cost of transportation, cultural affinity, and the need for these countries for mid-range technologies. However, some countries such as Syria, Venezuela, Ecuador, and African countries are also on the list of importers. Exports to these countries are likely carried out within the framework of enhancing cooperation.

Iran-China workshop on increasing climate change resilience underway



TEHRAN –Supported by the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), an Iranian-Chinese workshop is being held on Saturday and Sunday, focusing on emerging ways to boost climate change resilience.

The workshop titled ‘Emerging Technologies and Methods for Climate Resilience’ is organized by Sharif University of Technology and Chongqing University, China. It is being conducted both in person and online in the English language. The main objective of the workshop is to identify the most innovative ways to strengthen urban climate change resilience, IRNA reported.

The workshop is centered around climate-responsive urban design and technologies, climate risk management and new technologies to manage risks, urban energy transitioning,

climate resilience, water resilience and integrated system planning, smart governance and social adaptation to climate change, and climate system modeling to assess and predict climate change.

It also highlights using artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data in analyzing and adapting to climate change, sustainable infrastructure, resource management for climate-resilient cities, international cooperation, and the development of joint solutions to enhance urban resilience.

Affecting rainfall patterns, pollination, flowering, and even harvest time, climate change has greatly affected the agriculture sector and food security in many countries, most significantly in Iran, according to the country’s former permanent representative and ambassador to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In some parts of the country, the air temperature has increased by 2 degrees while the highest temperature set in the world amounts to 1.5 degrees, IRNA quoted Mohammad-Hossein Emadi as saying.

Studies have shown that for a degree increase in temperature on the planet, the amount of evaporation rises by 23 percent, which negatively affects the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors.

bandry sectors.

Climate change also alters plant growth patterns, disturbing the nutritional values of crops, he stressed.

In addition, unexpected effects of climate change like drought, flood, and landslide, have all affected food security.

INSF, NSFC to support implementation of 10 joint projects

According to a report released in January, Iran and China will support the implementation of 10 out of 136 research projects proposed subsequent to the fourth joint call by the INSF and NSFC.

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

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

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

Earthquakes in second month of spring rise by 16.8% yr/yr

TEHRAN – According to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran, a total of 617 earthquakes were recorded in the second month of spring (April 21–May 21), indicating a 16.8 percent increase compared to the number of earthquakes recorded over the same month last year.

In comparison to the first month of spring (March 21–April 20) and the monthly average recorded in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2024 – March 2025), the number of earthquakes increased by 10.5 and 7 percent,

respectively, IRNA reported.

Statistically, from April 21 to May 21, six earthquakes with a magnitude above 4 occurred in the country; one had a magnitude of 5.1 on the Richter scale, which occurred on May 1 in Roshtkhar, Khorasan Razavi province, IRNA reported.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi, with 84, experienced the highest number of earthquakes, followed by Semnan with 68, and Kerman with 64 earthquakes. During the same period, 16 earthquakes hit Tehran province, one had a magnitude of 2.2 on the Richter scale, recorded around Firuzkuh.

A total of 6,272 earthquakes were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2024 –March 2025) according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Out of registered earthquakes, 150 were more than 4 on the Richter scale; at least five earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 4.5 occurred monthly in the country.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran finds herbal medicines effective in COVID-19 treatment

The Food and Drug Administration has approved four domestically produced herbal medicine effective in the treatment of COVID-19 and has issued a production license for two of them.

Kianoush Jahanpour, the spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, told IRNA on Monday that the first herbal medicine in this collection is an oral spray containing six herbal essential oils, and according to the results of a clinical trial presented, if used, it helps to improve the pulmonary complications of coronavirus, including shortness of breath, cough, and arterial oxygenation, he explained.

تولید دو داروی گیاهی موثر در درمان کرونا در ایران

سازمان غذا و دارو ی ایران چهار فرآورده طبیعی تولید داخل با اجزای گیاهی برای بهبود علائم کووید ۱۹ را تایید کرده و مجوز تولید را برای دو مورد آنها صادر کرده است.

کیانوش جهانپور سخنگوی سازمان غذا و دارو روز دوشنبه در گفت وگو با ایرنا گفت: اولین داروی گیاهی از این مجموعه یک اسپری دهانی حاوی ۶ اسانس گیاهی است و با توجه به نتایج کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده در صورت مصرف به بهبود عوارض ریوی کووید ۱۹ شامل تنگی نفس، سرفه و اکسیژن رسانی شریانی کمک می کند.



Chamomile harvest in Isfahan

The chamomile harvest season in Isfahan Province is generally from late spring to early summer.

Chamomile has a long history of use in traditional medicine, particularly in Islamic and Iranian practices, for various ailments. It’s traditionally used to treat digestive issues, nervous disorders, respiratory problems, and skin conditions.



JUNE 1, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whoever warns you against sins and vices is like the one who gives you good tidings.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 19:35 Dawn: 3:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:50 (tomorrow)

“History of Colonization” collection unveiled in Kuala Lumpur in three languages

TEHRAN – The 12-volume collection titled “History of Colonization” was unveiled in Kuala Lumpur in three languages on Friday, coinciding with the Malaysia International Book Fair.

The unveiling ceremony of the translated editions of Mehdi Mirkia'i's “History of Colonization” took place at Iran's Cultural Attaché office in Kuala Lumpur, attended by a number of Iranian and Malaysian cultural officials and publishing representatives, ISNA reported on Saturday.

The ceremony was attended by Valiollah Mohammadi, Iranian ambassador to Malaysia, Habbib Reza Arzani, Cultural Attaché of Iran in Malaysia, Hossein Bahrami, director of Nakhle Sabz Publishing House, among others, the report added.

In his speech, Arzani emphasized the significance of understanding colonization and its historical evolution. He pointed out how the face of colonialism has transformed in the modern era, impacting new domains such as cyberspace. “Colonialism manifests with new faces daily, and recognizing colonization and its history is crucial, and this collection takes a significant step in that direction,” he stated.

“The unveiling of the ‘History of Colonization’ collection is an effective step in introducing Iran's independent narrative of colonial history and cultural resistance on the international stage,” he added.

“It offers a clear perspective rooted in the historical experience of oppressed nations,” he mentioned.

He further emphasized the importance of recounting history not from colonizers' perspectives but from the voices of nations that suffered under colonial rule. “This collection aims to restore the narrative to its rightful owners—those who experienced colonization—and to a generation that must be aware of its historical realities.”

For his part, Bahrami provided insights into the translation process, noting the scope of the

original collection. “The full collection comprises 15 volumes, but due to cultural and content considerations, only 12 volumes have been translated so far. These translations are available in three languages: English, Arabic, and Bahasa Malaysia.”

Bahrami highlighted that the collection offers a documentary, narrative, and educational account suitable for adolescent readers. “The 15-volume ‘History of Colonization’ is a research-based yet storytelling-oriented work designed with simple and engaging language for young audiences.”

It examines the emergence and expansion of colonialism from the 15th century to the 20th, providing a critical and factual overview of its development across different regions and periods, he added.

Each volume focuses on a specific area or era, aiming to present an authentic and comprehensible picture of colonization's harsh realities, he concluded.

“History of Colonization” is a compelling 15-volume collection that appeals to history enthusiasts, especially those interested in unraveling the dark and complex narratives of colonialism.

The series stands out as a comprehensive yet accessible resource that effectively combines factual accuracy with engaging storytelling. Its concise and vivid narrative approach makes it suitable for a wide audience, including young readers and those seeking a swift overview of colonial history from the 15th century onward.

The collection's ability to present complex historical developments through relatable anecdotes and well-structured content underscores its significance as an educational tool. It also represents an important contribution to understanding the historical narratives of colonization and resistance, resonating with readers across diverse age groups and backgrounds.

“Peter and the Wolf” album launched with attendance of cultural figures in Tehran

TEHRAN – On Friday, the unveiling ceremony of the “Peter and the Wolf” music album took place at the Nasseri Hall of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran.

The event was attended by prominent figures including celebrated composer and veteran orchestra conductor Shahdad Rohani, prominent musician and composer Shahin Farhat, CEO of the IAF Mohammad Mehdi Asgarpour, filmmaker Bijan Birang, author, translator, and researcher Sofia Mahmoudi, and a gathering of cultural officials and artists.

The album, based on the story of little Peter who, with the help of a small bird, captures the wolf intending to eat a duck, was produced and released by Javan Publishing House.

Composed and written by Russian composer and pianist Sergey Prokofiev, the work features translation by Negine Zakerzadeh and Reyhaneh Fakhri, conducted by Shahdad Rohani, and performed by the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, narrated by Iranian voice actor George Petrosi. The story is narrated in a musical storytelling style, with each character introduced through the voice of a specific instrument.

The performance involved musicians including Shahram Rokui (flute), Arian Keitasi (oboe), Minli Danelyan (clarinet), Alireza Motevaseli (bassoon), Farshad Sheikh, Siamak Mirdadian, Fati-meh Yousefi-Nejad, and Leila Bazeghi (horns), Mohammadreza Panahi-Nejad (timpani), and Kaveh Mirhosseini and Armin Kheir-dan (percussion).



Prominent Iranian composer and veteran orchestra conductor Shahdad Rohani at the unveiling ceremony of the “Peter and the Wolf” music album, held at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on May 30, 2025.

During the event, Shadad Rohani expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and emphasized the importance of artists and cultural practitioners in combating artistic vulgarity, calling on musicians, publishers, sculptors, filmmakers, and all creatives to produce meaningful works.

Rohani further highlighted that this album marks the first classical music production performed with the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, expressing hope for similar future projects that showcase the works of great Iranian and international composers.

Rouhani also extended his thanks to former Rudaki Foundation CEO Ali Akbar Safipour, the orchestra members, and all artists involved in the production, noting that all contributors were Iranian artists, which he finds very valuable.

able.

Shahin Farhat also shared his excitement about the audience's enthusiastic response, remarking, “Having lived in Iran for many years, I never imagined that music could be so popular here. It truly reflects the taste, passion, and deep feeling of the Iranian people.”

He discussed the value of classical music, stating, “Classical music, like all music, has its worth. It is rooted in the culture of the people; Iran is a land of poetry, and poetry is intertwined with music.

Despite living abroad, I have rarely seen people sing poetry, while in Iran, music and poetry are inseparable. I encourage musicians to study and understand music more deeply, as this increases their knowledge and appreciation. Iranian music possesses unique melo-

dic and rhythmic qualities that influence composers worldwide.”

Farhat further emphasized the importance of live music performances, criticizing the overuse of microphones in concerts, which diminish the authenticity of live sound.

He urged conductors, musicians, and performers to dedicate part of their programs to Iranian compositions, especially works by young Iranian composers, which often go unperformed and can inspire new generations.

The event concluded with a piano performance by Shadad Rohani. Additional segments included a motion graphic presentation and video clip about the creation of “Peter and the Wolf,” alongside performances by the Persian Gulf String Quartet led by Amin Ghaffari.

Iranian miniseries “At the End of the Night” to compete in Cinema Jove

TEHRAN – The 2024 Iranian drama romance television miniseries “At the End of the Night” directed by Ida Panahandeh will compete in the 40th Valencia International Film Festival – Cinema Jove, set to be held from June 19 to 28 in Spain.

It is the second international presence for the Iranian series, after participating in the Series Mania festival in France in March, ILNA reported.

Written and produced by the real-life creative couple Panahandeh and Arsalan Amiri, the nine-episode series delicately and skillfully dissects the separation of a couple shattered by the disillusionment of their social situation.

After a decade of economic austerity, a middle class couple has managed to buy an apartment on the outskirts of Tehran – but financial issues and the traps of married life catch them and they must now face the consequences of their separation: divorce, and everything that it implies.

A powerful and bitter reflection on the sacrifices of a life together, the Iranian miniseries stands out for its deeply authentic characters and the exceptional performances of its two lead actors, Parsa Pirouzfar and Hoda Zeinolabedin.

The other cast members include Rayan Sarlak, Alireza Davoudnezhad, Reza Behboudi, Ehteram Boroumand, Siamak Safari, Kazem Hajirazad, and Nahid Moslemi among others.



Ida Panahandeh, 46, was born in Tehran. She holds a master's degree in film direction from the Arts University of Tehran. In 2009 she took part in the Berlin Talent Campus.

Throughout her work, she has focused on women's rights. This she did with her debut fea-

ture film “Nahid” (2015), which won her worldwide acclaim. It was screened in the Un Certain Regard section at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival where it won a special prize (Prix DE l'Avenir) and was released in France by Memento Films. “Nahid” was also released in theatres in many European countries afterward.

Her second feature “Israfil” (2017) was screened at the BFI London Film Festival and won several awards at international festivals.

“The Nikaidos' Fall” (2018), her third feature is a co-production of Japan and Hong Kong with Naomi Kawase as the executive producer. The film debuted at the Nara International Film Festival and was released in Japan in January 2019, and then in a few East Asian countries.

“Tití” (2020) her fourth feature film premiered at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival. It won three awards at the national and international festivals in 2022.

The Valencia International Film Festival – Cinema Jove is a festival that takes place annually in Valencia in June. It is accredited by the FIAPF in the category of “Specialized Competitive Festivals”.

The festival is a forum for young international filmmakers to meet, and its vocation is to showcase the best international cinema directed by young people.

Over 300 British, academics artists urging Starmer to end UK arms sales to Israel

Nineteen months into the war on Gaza, more than 300 British artists, doctors, activists and academics have signed an open letter urging British Prime Minister Keir Starmer to end UK complicity in war crimes and broker an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

The prominent public figures have also demanded that the prime minister suspend all UK arms sales to Israel, Middle East Eye reported.

“We urge you to take immediate action to end the UK's complicity in the horrors in Gaza,” the letter starts. “Violence stamped with UK inaction – flown with parts shipped from British factories to Israel, could be obliterating families in seconds. Each arms shipment makes our country directly complicit in their deaths.”

Amongst the signatories are actors Benedict Cumberbatch, Brian Cox, Toby Jones and Andrea Riseborough; film director Danny Boyle; broadcaster Gary Lineker; singer-songwriter Dua Lipa

and Holocaust survivor Stephen Kapos.

The main demands outlined in the letter urge Starmer to suspend UK arms sales and licenses to Israel, ensure full humanitarian access across Gaza without military interference, broker an immediate ceasefire, and put an end to the starvation wrought on the besieged enclave.

“Over 15,000 children have already been killed – including at least 4,000 under the age of four. Bedrooms where children once slept, kitchens where families shared meals, schools where they learned – all reduced to rubble while Britain stands by,” the open letter read.

“History is written in moments of moral clarity. This is one. The world is watching and history will not forget. The children of Gaza cannot wait another minute. Prime Minister, what will you choose? Complicity in war crimes, or the courage to act?”

Since the start of the war on Gaza in October

2023, the Israeli military has killed more than 54,000 people, the majority of them children and women, and wounded more than 123,300 people.

The signatories have condemned the total Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip that has left the population facing acute hunger.

They stressed that the UK must ensure “full humanitarian access across Gaza for experienced aid organizations without military interference.”

“Right now, children in Gaza are starving while food and medicine sit just minutes away, blocked at the border. Words won't feed Palestinian children – we need action... Mothers, fathers, babies, grandparents – an entire people left to starve before the world's eyes,” the letter said.

“290,000 children are on the brink of death – starved by the Israeli government for more than 70 days.

Cartoon of Day



Pietà, Death and Suffering in Gaza
Cartoonist: Marilena Nardi from Italy