

Tehran acquires trove of Israeli nuclear secrets in unprecedented intelligence operation

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According to sources quoted by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), the classified operation delivered a major blow to Israeli intelligence and national security. The unnamed insiders described the breach as “one of the most damaging in the history of the occupying regime,” noting that the scale of the material recovered was unprecedented.

Though the operation took place some time ago, the sources said, Iranian authorities opted to keep it under wraps until the documents had been fully transferred to secure locations inside the country. The complex logistics of the mission, coupled with the large volume of files, images, and video materials, required strict confidentiality to ensure the safety of those involved and the success of the mission. ▶ Page 2

Tucker Carlson warns: Neoconservative push for Iran war risks ‘world war, US defeat’

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Prominent conservative commentator Tucker Carlson has issued a stark warning against escalating tensions with Iran, describing a potential conflict as a catastrophic betrayal of President Donald Trump's core supporters and a reckless gamble with global stability.

In a widely-discussed social media post on Thursday, Carlson, whose views are closely watched for their perceived influence on Trump and a significant segment of the conservative base in the U.S., articulated a forceful anti-interventionist position directly challenging influential neoconservative voices within the party.

The independent journalist asserted that support for a “regime change war in Iran” among Trump voters is virtually non-existent.

Carlson emphasized what he views as Trump's unique political positioning, stating, “Trump ran for president as a peace candidate. That's what made him different from conventional Republicans. It's why he won.” ▶ Page 2

This Guy Has No Will for a Deal

TEHRAN – Despite five rounds of indirect nuclear negotiations, U.S. President Donald Trump seems less interested in diplomacy with Iran and more invested in keeping tensions alive.

His latest threats, paired with fresh sanctions and zero-sum demands, suggest that he currently isn't looking for a deal.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Friday, Trump once again took a hardline stance on Iran's nuclear program. “If they enrich, then we're going to have to do it the other way, and I don't really want to do it the other way,” he said, adding, “There is not going to be enrichment [of uranium in Iran].”

He didn't explain what “the other way” meant, leaving his statement open to interpretation—possibly as a veiled threat of military action.

This blunt declaration directly challenges Iran's right under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes. Iranian officials have consistently stressed that their nuclear work is for peaceful purposes, and Leader of the Islamic Revolution

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei recently affirmed that uranium enrichment is vital for Iran's scientific advancement and autonomy.

Trump's dismissal of even basic enrichment rights—something Iran deems non-negotiable—indicates a lack of desire to reach a consensus. Instead of promoting conversation, these remarks generate skepticism and indicate to Tehran that Washington is not engaging in honest negotiations.

Sanctions amidst talks

Adding to the tension, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed a new round of sanctions on Friday, targeting 10 individuals and 27 entities across multiple countries. These sanctions, announced while negotiations are still ongoing, are seen by many as a sign that Washington prefers pressure over compromise.

Among the newly black-listed are firms based in the UAE and Hong Kong, accused of supporting Iran's state-owned petroleum shipping company. These sanctions freeze any U.S.-linked assets and ban American companies from doing business with them.



▶ Page 3

Iran seeks BRICS bank membership in talks with President Rousseff

TEHRAN – Iran's central bank governor, Mohammad Reza Farzin, met with Dilma Rousseff, president of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), in Shanghai on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)'s finance summit, reaffirming Tehran's intention to join the multilateral lender.

According to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the meeting followed Farzin's participation in a gathering of finance ministers and central bank governors of the SCO in Beijing.

In the meeting, both sides emphasized the role of the NDB in advancing the interests of developing and emerging economies.

Farzin highlighted Iran's active participation in global and regional financial institutions, including its membership on the IMF Executive Board and its leadership of a bloc of eight countries within the Fund.

He also pointed to Iran's recent economic performance and its strategic geographic, natural, and human resources, as well as strong bilateral ties with BRICS founding members—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. ▶ Page 4

Why are resistant people specifically targeted on eve of Eid al-Adha?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON — On the eve of Eid al-Adha, a terrorist attack targeting residents in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Hezbollah's stronghold, resulted in significant damage to buildings and institutions, as well as serious property destruction.

In an additional escalation, the Israeli army issued another warning statement calling for the evacuation of buildings in the southern town of Ain Qana in parallel with sending audio messages threatening a large number of villages and towns.

President Joseph Aoun issued a statement expressing his protest against the U.S. administration, which is covering up the aggression.

Aoun noted that “this blatant violation of an international agreement and the basic principles of international and humanitarian laws and resolutions—on the eve of a sacred religious occasion—is clear evidence of the perpetrator's [Israel's] rejection of the requirements of stability, settlement, and just peace in our region.”

The Lebanese President added that the perpetrator of these atrocities is sending a message “to the United States of America and its policies—and its initiatives first and foremost—from Beirut and through the blood of its innocents and civilians.”

Aoun concluded by emphasizing that “Lebanon will never submit.” ▶ Page 5



Shared will for peace and prosperity guides Iran, Kazakhstan ties: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – Iran and Kazakhstan have reiterated their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties across political, economic, and cultural sectors, with both nations calling for enhanced cooperation grounded in mutual respect, shared values, and regional stability.

In a meeting held in Tehran on Saturday morning, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met with Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Murat Nurtleu. The discussions were marked by a warm spirit of solidarity, with both sides expressing a clear desire to open a new chapter in their long-standing relations. ▶ Page 2



Sailing for justice

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – The Madleen Gaza flotilla, which sailed from Sicily on June 1, 2025, is the latest and most determined international campaign to challenge the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza and provide desperately needed humanitarian assistance in the context of an escalating crisis.

Named in honor of Madleen Kulab, Gaza's first and only fisherwoman, the boat is loaded with urgently needed supplies, including baby formula, flour, rice, glucose, diapers, women's sanitary products, water desalination filters, medical tools, crutches and prosthetics for children.

Twelve activists, including Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and Irish actor Liam Cunningham, are on board the mission, which is being organized by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC), an international civil society movement dedicated to lifting the blockade. ▶ Page 5

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

The wrong address that Westerners give about Iran

In a note, Hamshahri discussed why Iran is defending its right to enrichment and said: Uranium enrichment in Iran has become the focal point of indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States in a situation where, given the central importance of the “complete nuclear fuel cycle” in the nuclear industry, the opposing parties are trying to cut off the chain of this strategic industry in Iran. The Western parties are trying to deprive Iran of uranium enrichment, with false excuses and arguments such as Iran's access to oil and fossil fuels, while the heart of the nuclear industry, as a “mother industry”, beats with enrichment. In recent years, with the efforts of domestic experts, Iran has been able to master the complete nuclear fuel cycle and be among the few countries in the world that benefit from this capability. In such circumstances, showing Iran's nuclear program as a political-security issue is considered a “misguided” move, because today the nuclear industry has important and multifaceted impacts on people's lives in various fields, from energy and medicine to food security and industry.

Jam-e-Jam: Iran is not Ukraine

Jam-e-Jam discussed the new round of indirect nuclear negotiations in an interview with Abolfazl Zohrevand, a member of parliament. He said: The negotiations are scheduled to begin on Saturday. Trump was brazenly suggesting that Iran should come to talks and agree to the terms of the negotiations, otherwise, there will be war. He wants to create a process similar to the negotiations with Zelensky and see the agreement signed right now. He wants a letter of surrender in the negotiations, otherwise there will be war. However, Iran demonstrated that it is not Ukraine and proved that it has not been weakened, despite the developments in the region. Now, we need to assess how serious the U.S. is about resolving conflicts in the talks. They are not going to conclude these talks, and our goal is only to know their positions. This negotiation is like the JCPOA. Its achievement and outcome will be important for America.

Ham Mihan: Putin's upcoming trip to Tehran

In an analysis, Ham Mihan discussed Putin's upcoming trip to Tehran. It stated: Putin will hold high-level meetings in Tehran that could be

utilized for consultations on nuclear negotiations, initiatives, solutions to the current dilemmas, the nuclear consortium proposal, the right to uranium enrichment, or nuclear cooperation. It is important to note that public opinion and state media have a clear stance toward the United States; however, there is a significant effort to whitewash Russia in Iran, which contradicts historical realities. From another perspective, it is necessary to examine Russia's broken promises and violations of agreements in their historical context. Currently, there is a strategic cooperation agreement between the two countries, and it remains to be seen how the Russians will play their role. It is also important to note that the Russians currently have more significant conflicts with the U.S., and their bilateral relations are not in a positive state that would allow them to be effective on that front. Rather, their influence will likely be more pronounced in Tehran, and the American side likely expects this as well.

Siasat-e-Rooz: It's time to deal seriously with the West

Siasat-e-Rooz focused its headline on the hostile behavior of the West and the European troika in the Board of Governors. The paper stated: Experience has shown that any retreat in the face of Western exaggeration and pressure only leads to an increase in their actions. Today, the Americans are openly demanding the destruction of Iran's nuclear facilities, including its enrichment program. Although the Europeans are not directly involved in the negotiations, they are effectively acting as a lever for American sanctions pressure, bullying within the Agency, and making claims to trigger the snapback mechanism. As the Board of Governors meeting approaches, this role seems to be becoming more prominent. To confront future threats, it is necessary to adopt decisive measures such as installing new centrifuge machines, reducing cooperation with the IAEA, and suspending nuclear negotiations. The concurrent claims and pressures alongside American proposals to Iran indicate that the U.S. is seeking excessive demands from Iran, which include eliminating all of Iran's nuclear industry, including enrichment. However, many industries and medical activities depend on nuclear technology.

Tehran acquires trove of Israeli nuclear secrets in unprecedented intelligence operation



The photo shows a view of the Dimona nuclear power plant in the Negev desert in the southern part of the occupied territories.

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Though the operation took place some time ago, the sources said, Iranian authorities opted to keep it under wraps until the documents had been fully transferred to secure locations inside the country. The complex logistics of the mission, coupled with the large volume of files, images, and video materials, required strict confidentiality to ensure the safety of those involved and the success of the mission. “Just reviewing the contents has taken an

extraordinary amount of time due to the size and scope of the material obtained,” one source told IRIB. The disclosure comes more than two weeks after Israeli security services announced the arrest of two Israeli citizens suspected of working with Iranian intelligence.

In a joint statement on May 20, the Israel Police and the Shin Bet domestic intelligence agency said that Roy Mizrahi and Almog Atias, both 24, had been taken into custody in late April. The two were accused of gathering intelligence on behalf of Iran, including allegedly monitoring the movements of Israeli War Minister Israel Katz in the southern settlement of Kfar Ahim.

Sources told IRIB that their arrest, if it was connected to the case, occurred after the documents had been transported out of the occupied territories.

In March 2025, the Israeli regime announced the dissolution of its flagship military unit tasked with countering Iran. Hours after assuming command, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir declared the closure of the Strategy and Third-Circle Directorate, a body established to “neutralize” Iran's influence. Framed as a bureaucratic reshuffle to “improve effectiveness in addressing Iran, foreign relations, and strategy,” analysts argue the move instead highlighted Israel's inability to confront Iran's military and intelligence prowess—a reality underscored by Tehran's recent battlefield triumphs and penetration of the regime's defenses.

The directorate's collapse also mirrored the broader systemic failures within Israel's security apparatus. According to Shin Bet's 2024 annual report, espionage cases linked to Iran surged by 400%, with 27 settlers indicted and 13 alleged Iranian-led spy rings dismantled.

Shared will for peace and prosperity guides Iran, Kazakhstan ties: Pezeshkian



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) shakes hand with Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Murat Abugaliuly Nurtileu in Tehran on June 7, 2025.

From page 1 ▶ President Pezeshkian, extending his heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, described the festival and the annual Hajj pilgrimage as powerful symbols of unity within the Islamic world. He stressed that these sacred occasions serve as a reminder of submission to the divine will and the importance of setting aside personal interests for the greater good.

“The result of this great religious congregation must be a renewed collective determination to deepen friendship and solidarity among Muslim nations,” Pezeshkian said, “and to join hands in elevating the dignity of Islam and the Islamic Ummah.”

He emphasized the Islamic Republic's view of Muslim nations as brothers, reiterating Iran's openness to sharing its knowledge, experience, and resources with fellow Islamic countries. “Our readiness to engage with Kazakhstan—and all Muslim nations—is rooted in the spiritual teachings of Islam,” he added. “Together, we can pave the way toward sustainable development, prosperity, and a more equitable global order.”

Highlighting the cultural and historical ties between Iran and

Kazakhstan, Pezeshkian stated that both nations share not only a geographic neighborhood but also a common outlook on peace, progress, and regional cooperation. “We are fully prepared to expand our relationship with Kazakhstan in every field,” he asserted. “The future of our bilateral relations hinges on a joint will to build a world based on peace, security, and shared prosperity.”

The Iranian president also emphasized the vital role foreign ministers play in shaping international relations, calling on diplomatic leaders to act as facilitators in unlocking opportunities between governments. “Foreign ministers hold the key to state-to-state engagement,” he told Nurtileu. “Turn the key, unlock the doors, and open a path to comprehensive cooperation.”

'Iran's nuclear activities have always been transparent'

Turning to international affairs, President Pezeshkian addressed the ongoing indirect talks between Iran and the United States, rejecting Western accusations concerning Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

“We have clearly and repeatedly stated—both in words and in action—that Iran has never pursued

nuclear weapons or any form of weapons of mass destruction,” he said, noting that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has confirmed the transparency of Iran's nuclear activities multiple times.

Kazakhstan hails Iran as key regional partner

In response, Deputy Prime Minister Nurtileu praised the opportunity to meet with Iranian leadership and conveyed greetings from Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. He congratulated the Iranian government and people on Eid al-Adha and reaffirmed his country's firm commitment to expanding ties with Iran.

“We consider Iran a nation of deep cultural and historical significance,” Nurtileu stated. “We fully support your legitimate right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and we have great confidence that your government's reform efforts will

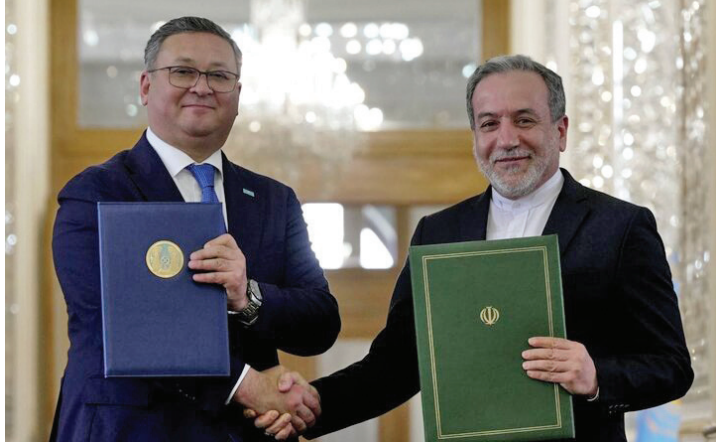
in bilateral cooperation. He noted that Kazakhstan is keen to work with Iran in diverse sectors and sees the current momentum as an opportunity to lay the foundation for broader strategic collaboration.

In the lead-up to Eid al-Adha, President Pezeshkian and President Tokayev held a telephone conversation on Thursday, exchanging holiday greetings and reaffirming the brotherly ties between their nations.

Foreign ministers ink new cooperation agreement

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance bilateral engagement, Foreign Minister Murat Nurtileu met with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, in Tehran. The two ministers signed a new memorandum of understanding to strengthen institutional cooperation between the two foreign ministries.

The agreement, signed at the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Saturday,



Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Murat Abugaliuly Nurtileu (L) and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi ink a new MoU in Tehran on June 7, 2025.

bear fruit in advancing the well-being of the Iranian people.”

Nurtileu also handed over a formal written message from President Tokayev to President Pezeshkian, expressing hope that it would mark the beginning of a new era

covers expanded collaboration in areas ranging from diplomacy and trade to cultural exchange and regional stability. It is expected to create new frameworks for mutual consultation and coordination in multilateral forums.

Tucker Carlson warns: Neoconservative push for Iran war risks ‘world war, US defeat’



From page 1 ▶ He argued that initiating such a conflict would constitute “a profound betrayal of his supporters” and predicted it would “end his presidency,” suggesting this explains “why so many of Trump's enemies are advocating for it.”

Carlson's intervention comes at a crucial juncture, as Iran-U.S. indirect negotiations mediated by Oman remain underway.

The Trump administration's demand for “zero-level” uranium enrichment threatens to derail diplomatic progress, while top Iranian officials firmly assert that uranium enrichment is the backbone of Iran's nuclear industry and is non-negotiable.

'Thousands of dead Americans in the first week of war'

Furthermore, in his post, Carlson outlined the severe immediate risks of a potential conflict between Tehran and Washington.

Highlighting Iran's conventional military strength, Carlson noted the country possesses “a fearsome arsenal of ballistic missiles, many of which are aimed at U.S. military installations in the [Persian] Gulf, as well as at our allies and at critical energy infrastructure.”

The commentator warned that “the first week of a war with Iran could easily kill thousands of Americans” and trigger economic collapse due to surging oil prices, starkly asking readers to “Consider the effects of \$30 gasoline.”

Carlson further cautioned that the conflict's scope could rapidly escalate beyond initial predictions. “Iran isn't Iraq or Libya, or even North Korea,” he wrote, pointing to Tehran's integration within the BRICS bloc, which he described as representing “the majority of the world's landmass, population, economy and military power.”

Citing Iran's “extensive military ties with Russia” and its key economic ties to China, Carlson concluded that “An attack on Iran could

very easily become a world war. We'd lose.”

He stressed these assessments align with Pentagon estimates and are not “far-fetched predictions.”

Central to Carlson's critique was the role of pro-Israel figures like Mark Levin, a member of the Trump Administration's Homeland Security Advisory Council and a Fox News host.

Carlson portrayed Levin as emblematic of a faction actively sabotaging diplomacy. “People like Mark Levin don't seem to care about” the potential for massive American casualties, Carlson asserted, labeling them “scary people” with “no limits” who will “say or do whatever it takes.”

He asserted that Levin and his allies have deliberately set impossible conditions – specifically demanding Iran abandon all uranium enrichment regardless of purpose – knowing Tehran would reject them, thereby aiming to “box the Trump administration into a regime change war in Iran.”

The media figure argued that Iran's leaders learned crucial lessons from Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, who “wound up sodomized with a bayonet” after disarming under Western pressure.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran FM discusses regional security and Islamic unity in calls with Egypt and Pakistan

TEHRAN – In a series of diplomatic engagements coinciding with the Eid al-Adha celebrations, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held telephone conversations with his counterparts from Egypt and Pakistan on Saturday, underscoring regional solidarity and addressing pressing geopolitical challenges.

During a call with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, both leaders extended mutual congratulations on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, a gesture reflecting enduring cultural and religious ties between the two nations.

The discussion then turned to regional developments, particularly the perpetuation of the Israeli regime's genocidal war on Gaza,

with both parties emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts to alleviate humanitarian suffering and advance stability in West Asia.

Separately, Araghchi spoke with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who conveyed festive greetings and expressed hopes for Iran's continued prosperity.

The officials jointly condemned recent Tel Aviv's military actions against Lebanon and Syria, labeling them “provocative and destabilizing.”

They also reiterated the imperative of Islamic unity to counter regional turbulence, with Qureshi stating, “The ummah must stand

united to safeguard its interests and ensure global peace.”

Both conversations highlighted Iran's proactive diplomatic outreach amid heightened regional tensions.

Araghchi reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to fostering dialogue among Muslim-majority nations, stressing that “solidarity and collective action remain paramount to confronting shared challenges.”

Officials from both Egypt and Pakistan acknowledged the importance of sustained communication to deepen bilateral ties and coordinate responses to emerging security threats.

This guy has no will for a deal

From Page 1 ► Making matters worse, Trump also expanded his controversial travel ban to include citizens from twelve countries, including Iran. Tehran's Foreign Ministry condemned the move as evidence of a "supremacist and racist mindset" driving U.S. foreign policy—further damaging the already fragile atmosphere surrounding the talks.

Compounding the Trump administration's hardline stance is mounting pressure from Congress. A bipartisan group of 16 lawmakers recently urged the administration to make Iran's complete dismantling of its uranium enrichment capabilities a precondition for any deal. In a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, the group insisted that Iran must not retain any capacity to enrich uranium or continue developing its nuclear infrastructure.

Such maximalist demands leave little room for negotiation and virtually guarantee failure. They also ignore the significant concessions Iran made under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which included strict limits on enrichment levels and unprecedented international inspections. To demand more



now, without offering greater incentives or guarantees, only reinforces the view in Tehran that the U.S. cannot be trusted.

Iran's response: firm but cautious

Despite Washington's aggressive posture, Iranian officials have responded with relative restraint. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who heads Iran's negotiating team, confirmed that a U.S. proposal had been delivered through Oman's Foreign Minister during a recent visit to Tehran. He said Iran would respond to the proposal based on "principles, national interests, and the rights of the Iranian people."

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei echoed that sentiment, stating that any U.S.

offer must be carefully evaluated and that Tehran's response would be grounded in national priorities. Iran's message is clear: it remains open to dialogue, but not at the cost of its sovereign rights or dignity.

The 'snapback' issue

Adding to the urgency is the pending expiration of the UN Security Council's snapback mechanism, which allows for the reimposition of global sanctions on Iran if it violates the nuclear agreement. The E3—the UK, France, and Germany—are reportedly preparing to submit a draft resolution at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting on June 9. Their goal is to trigger the snapback before it expires in October.

Tehran has already warned that activating the mechanism would trigger a strong response. Iranian officials view such moves as an attempt to pressure them into accepting a one-sided deal. While European leaders argue they must act quickly before losing this diplomatic tool, their actions risk complicating talks further rather than facilitating a solution.

No clear path to diplomacy

Donald Trump's strategy regarding Iran's nuclear program is characterized not by a sincere intent to achieve a fair and enduring agreement, but by maneuvers focused on enforcing unilateral conditions.

From ambiguous threats and fresh sanctions to no-enrichment demands and travel restrictions, his approach appears focused more on pressuring Iran than fostering peace via negotiations.

Iran, even amid economic strain, maintains its stance on rights and has demonstrated readiness to participate—if the conditions are equitable. However, as Washington persists in ramping up pressure and insisting on just concessions, the opportunity for diplomacy is swiftly diminishing.

Iran football need to learn lesson from Qatar's defeat

TEHRAN – Team Melli's recent defeat to Qatar in the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26 wasn't just another loss; it was a tactical revelation, offering a glimpse into a national team in transition. While qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup is secured, Thursday's encounter in Doha unveiled a markedly different Iranian side, one grappling with absences and experimenting with new blood on the international stage.

The absence of key European-based players like Sardar Azmoun, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, and Ali Gholizadeh due to injury significantly altered Iran's dynamic.

This forced Amir Ghalenoei to select a starting eleven that saw only Mehdi Taremi and Saeid Ezzatollahi representing the usual foreign contingent.

Such a domestic-heavy lineup is a rarity.

This "least international" version of Team Melli underscores a deliberate, or perhaps forced, shift in personnel.

The match further highlighted an intriguing domestic influence. Tractor, the reigning Iranian champions, remarkably supplied four players to the starting lineup – Alireza Beiranvand, Shoja Khalilzadeh, Aref Aghasi, and Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh. This dominance by a single club in the national team's starting eleven is a phenomenon not seen since Persepolis's golden era nine years ago, when they also contributed four players to a World Cup qualifier against South Korea.

Beyond the players changes, the game was marred by a familiar and concerning pattern: a red card. Milad Mohammadi's swift dismissal in the 35th minute, receiving two yellow cards in quick succession, proved decisive. This incident marks the third time Iran has been reduced to ten men against Qatar in official matches, with all three instances resulting in defeat. This worrying trend extends beyond Qatar; Iran have now seen three red cards in their last nine qualifying matches and a striking six in last 28 games overall – a number equivalent to the total red cards received in the 236 matches preceding this recent run.

This alarming frequency of dismissals raises questions about tactical discipline and composure under pressure, especially in a competitive environment.

While the sting of defeat is undeniable, this match serves as a crucial learning experience. With World Cup qualification secured, the remaining qualifier against Korea DPR offer a valuable opportunity for Ghalenoei to assess new talents and forge a cohesive unit. However, the recurring issue of disciplinary lapses and the vulnerability to numerical disadvantage are pressing concerns that demand immediate attention if Team Melli are to truly compete at the highest level in 2026.

Yazdani into ITF Turkey M15 quarterfinals

TEHRAN – Ali Yazdani of Iran advanced to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Turkey M15 on Friday.

He first defeated Peter Alam from English 2-0 (6-4, 7-6) on Thursday.

Yazdani then beat Arda Azkara from Turkey 2-0 (7-6, 7-5).

The Iranian tennis player also defeated Englishman James Beaven 2-1 (6-7, 6-2, 6-2) to book his place in quarterfinals

The 2025 ITF Men's World Tennis Tour is the 2025 edition of the second-tier tour for men's professional tennis. It is organized by the International Tennis Federation and is a tier below the ATP Challenger Tour. The ITF Men's World Tennis Tour includes tournaments with prize money ranging from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Fábio Carille: the latest candidate for Esteghlal's hot seat

TEHRAN – Brazilian coach Fábio Carille has reportedly emerged as the latest candidate linked with Esteghlal football club.

The 51-year-old manager recently served as head coach of Brazilian club Vasco da Gama.

Esteghlal are seeking to appoint a foreign coach as a replacement for Mojtaba Jabbari. Under Jabbari's leadership, Esteghlal won the 2024-25 Iran Hazfi Cup.

Among the other candidates is Portuguese head coach Ricardo Sa Pinto.

Iran beat Indonesia in 2025 AVC Women's Volleyball Nations Cup

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Indonesia 3-2 (23-25, 25-23, 16-25, 25-19, 15-12) in their opening match of the 2025 AVC Women's Volleyball Nations Cup on Saturday.

Team Melli are placed in Pool B alongside the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Indonesia, and New Zealand.

Iran are scheduled to play New Zealand on Sunday.

Pool A includes Vietnam, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, and India.

The tournament will feature a round-robin preliminary stage from June 7-12, with a rest day scheduled for June 10. Each day will see five matches, and the top two teams from each pool after the preliminaries will advance to the cross semifinals on June 13.

The winners of the semifinals will meet in the final showdown on June 14, while classification matches will determine final standings. Notably, the fifth-ranked team in Pool A will play the sixth-ranked team in Pool B for 10th-11th place, while the third- and fourth-placed teams from both pools will compete for their respective rankings.

The Nations Cup is being held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from June 7 to June 14.

Iran's Fixtures:

June 7: Iran vs Indonesia

June 8: Iran vs New Zealand

June 9: Iran vs the Philippines

June 11: Iran vs Kazakhstan

June 12: Iran vs Mongolia

Siahi takes bronze in 2025 Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships

TEHRAN – Siavash Siahi Kolankouh of Iran claimed a bronze medal in the 12th Men's Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships on Saturday.

Siahi Kolankouh rounded out the podium on rings with a 14.133 for bronze at the Jecheon Gymnasium in South Korea.

China's Lan Xingyu and Yang Haonan dominated the event, taking gold and silver with 14.933 and 14.233, respectively.

Iran has sent five gymnasts to the event.

Iran's Meshkatolzahra Safi claims gold at ITF Turkey M15

TEHRAN – Meshkatolzahra Safi of Iran claimed a gold medal in the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Turkey M15 on Saturday.

She and her English teammate Jasmine Conway defeated Jamilah Snells and Duru Soke 2-6 6-4 [10-3] in the Tennis Women's Doubles final.

Iran's Yazdani has also qualified for the Men's Singles final.

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Tehran reaffirms peaceful nature of nuclear program in response to IAEA report

TEHRAN – Iran has reiterated that the Islamic Republic's atomic activities remain strictly peaceful, in response to a recent confidential report issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) stated that the IAEA's latest assessment contains no credible evidence pointing to any military dimension of the country's nuclear program.

In an official explanatory note released Saturday, the AEOI addressed the findings outlined in IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's report, titled "NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran," which was submitted to the agency's Board of Governors on May 31.

While the IAEA report expressed concerns over Iran's failure to declare certain nuclear activities at three locations and the accumulation of uranium enriched up to 60% purity, it notably refrained from suggesting any diversion of nuclear material toward weaponization.

"Once again, the absence of evidence indicating any military diversion underlines the fundamentally peaceful character of Iran's nuclear program," the AEOI declared. "The unresolved issues do not pose a credible proliferation risk."

The AEOI emphasized that Iran remains committed to its obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and continues to engage

with the IAEA in routine safeguards implementation.

"Iran has allowed extensive and continuous verification activities, in line with the scope of its nuclear fuel cycle and operations," the note read.

Iran's nuclear agency also raised concerns about the IAEA's methodology, urging the UN watchdog to maintain objectivity and professionalism in its evaluations.

The AEOI warned against the use of unverified data or intelligence provided by third parties, which could compromise the credibility and impartiality of the agency's work.

"It is a well-established expectation that agency assessments be grounded exclusively in verified, credible, and undisputed sources," the organization stated.

"The inclusion of open-source information or intelligence from third parties known to the Secretariat undermines the agency's neutrality and professionalism."

The AEOI also took issue with the unnecessary inclusion of certain topics in the report, asserting that they fall outside the scope of the agency's technical mandate.

It reiterated that Iran's uranium enrichment activities, including enrichment up to 60% purity, are not prohibited under the NPT and remain



The flag of Iran is seen in front of the International Atomic Energy Agency headquarters.

under full monitoring by the IAEA.

"All nuclear materials and activities within Iran are fully declared and have been verified by the agency," the AEOI stressed.

Iranian officials have consistently criticized the politically charged narratives surrounding the country's nuclear file. They warn that continued politicization of the issue could damage Tehran's ongoing cooperation with the IAEA.

Despite recurring allegations over the years, the IAEA has, on multiple occasions, acknowledged the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities in its own official reports — a point Iranian authorities are once again highlighting as negotiations and diplomatic efforts over Iran's nuclear dossier remain under international scrutiny.

Iran's path to active membership in NAM after the Islamic Revolution



Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei took part at the 8th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Harare, Zimbabwe in September 1986 as the President of Iran.

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – Iran officially became a member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in 1961. However, it was only after the Islamic Revolution of 1979 that the country emerged as an independent and active participant in the movement.

Although Iran had joined NAM during the reign of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, its membership was largely symbolic.

The Shah's regime, widely viewed as aligned with Western colonial powers—particularly

the United States and the United Kingdom—failed to adhere to the non-aligned principles in practice.

As a key member of the Baghdad Pact—later renamed the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO)—Iran under the Shah distanced itself from NAM. In fact, it was unable to attend NAM's first summit in Belgrade in 1961 due to its involvement in this Western-led military alliance.

In the early 1950s, the United States spearheaded efforts to form a regional alliance in the Middle East aimed at curbing

Soviet influence during the Cold War.

Yet, ideological divides in the region, such as the Arab-Israeli conflict and rising anti-colonial sentiment led by Egypt, made it difficult to create a unified bloc that included both Israel and Western colonial powers.

Although Iran was the last to join CENTO—after Turkey, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and Iraq—it played an increasingly pivotal role in the alliance.

The Shah's government prioritized CENTO as a key aspect of its foreign policy, effectively sidelining NAM. As a result, Iran's NAM membership during this period remained superficial and largely performative.

A turning point: The Islamic Revolution and Iran's shift in foreign policy

CENTO proved ineffective in curbing Soviet influence across the region. By the 1970s, the USSR had deployed over 20,000 troops to Egypt and established naval bases in Syria, South Yemen, and Somalia.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's monthly GDP grows 0.9%, driven by non-oil sectors



TEHRAN - Iran's economy grew by 0.9 percent in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year Farvardin (March 21 – April 21), according to a new report from the Iranian Parliament's Research Center.

As reported by Mehr News Agency, the center released its latest estimate of monthly GDP growth in the absence of timely official data from the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

The estimates are based on national monthly data and calculated using a continuous growth method aligned with national accounts.

As reported, the country's GDP grew by 0.8 percent in the mentioned month excluding oil.

The agriculture sector saw a 7.0 percent year-on-year decline in value added, mainly driven by lower production of crops, fruits, and livestock.

The Ministry of Agriculture attributes this drop to reduced rainfall and ongoing drought condi-

Non-oil goods worth \$4.2m exported from North Khorasan province in a month

TEHRAN- Non-oil commodities worth \$4.208 million were exported from North Khorasan province in the northeast of Iran during the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (March 21-April 21, 2025), the director-general of the province announced.

Hojjat Amani said that over 10,000 tons of non-oil goods were exported from the province in the mentioned month.

The export indicates 24 percent fall in value, and 33 percent drop in weight, as compared to the first month of the previous year, the official noted.

He named petrochemical products (urea fertilizer), steel products, and sodium hydroxide as the major exported items, and Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey, and Uzbekistan as the main export destinations.

The official further announced that 500 tons of non-oil products worth \$500,000 were imported to the province during the first month of the present year, with 30 percent fall in value, and 63 percent rise in weight, as compared to the first month of the past year.

He named rice and vanilla as the main imported items in the first month of this year.

As previously announced by Mohammad Karamianfar, who was the acting head of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of the province, the value of non-oil export from North Khorasan province increased by 41 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20).

He said that non-oil commodities worth \$316 million were exported from the province in the previous year.

According to the official, most of the province's export goods last year included petrochemical products (urea, ammonia, melamine), steel products, cement, petroleum bitumen, agricultural products, polystyrene foam, and polystyrene tools.

He mentioned Iraq, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Libya, and Somalia, as some of the countries to which the products were exported.

The official further announced that 16 countries were added to the province's export target countries last year, including Madagascar, Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Kuwait, Colombia, Djibouti, Kenya, the British Indian Ocean Territory, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tajikistan, Germany, Laos, Thailand and Bangladesh.

Karamianfar stated: "Also, during this period, seven export target countries were lost, including Jordan, South Africa, Italy, Tanzania, Taiwan, Serbia and Nigeria."

He further announced that non-oil commodities valued at \$40.4 million were imported to the

tions in April.

The sector's negative contribution to overall economic growth was estimated at minus 0.85 percentage points.

According to the figures previously published by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI), the country's economy grew by three percent in the last Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20, 2025), driven primarily by gains in the industry and mining sector.

The industry and mining sector recorded a 3.4 percent increase, with oil and gas extraction expanding by 6.2 percent. The GDP at constant 2021 prices reached 10.026 quadrillion rials, or around \$200.5 billion using an exchange rate of 500,000 rials per dollar, up from 9.73 quadrillion rials, or \$194.6 billion, a year earlier.

Excluding oil, the GDP reached 7.614 quadrillion rials, or \$152.3 billion, marking a 2.1 percent rise compared to 7.458 quadrillion rials, or \$149.2 billion, the previous year. Growth in the agriculture sector was reported at 3.2 percent. Other components of the industry and mining group included a 0.5 percent rise in other mining activities, 1.6 percent growth in manufacturing, 0.5 percent in gas distribution, 2.4 percent in water and electricity supply, and 0.5 percent in construction. The services sector expanded by 2.5 percent year-on-year.

The data points to a moderate economic recovery, with oil exports providing the strongest boost, while gains in non-oil sectors were more subdued.

province in the past year, falling 50 percent from the figure in the preceding year.

Most of the imported goods include rice and vanilla, which came from Pakistan and Mauritius, he added.

As previously announced by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran's non-oil foreign trade reached \$5.8 billion in the first Iranian calendar month, with raw gold topping the list of imports at \$583 million.

Iran traded 10.76 million tons of non-oil goods in the mentioned month, generating \$5.798 billion in total value. This marked a 12 percent decline in weight and a 3.0 percent drop in value compared to the same period last year.

According to IRICA, exports accounted for 8.96 million tons worth \$2.942 billion, while imports stood at 1.80 million tons valued at \$2.856 billion.

Exports saw an 8.3 percent decline in volume and an 8.0 percent drop in value. In contrast, imports decreased by 26.4 percent in volume but rose by 2.3 percent in value, year on year.

The average customs value of exported goods stood at \$328 per ton, a 0.47 percent increase from a year earlier. The average import value was \$1,587 per ton, up 39 percent year on year.

Petrochemical products accounted for 15 percent of the total export volume and 20.6 percent of the export value.

Top exported goods in Farvardin included liquefied propane (\$189 million), petroleum bitumen (\$182 million), liquefied butane (\$154 million), iron and steel billets (\$120 million), and methanol (\$110 million).

China was the leading destination for Iranian goods, importing \$997 million worth of products, followed by Iraq (\$401 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$395 million), Turkey (\$189 million), Afghanistan (\$143 million), Oman (\$140 million), and Pakistan (\$124 million).

These seven countries received 80 percent of Iran's non-oil export volume and accounted for 81 percent of its value.

Raw gold was the largest import item in the mentioned month at \$583 million, followed by animal feed corn (\$175 million), rice (\$91 million), soybean meal (\$75 million), and soybeans (\$66 million).

The UAE remained Iran's largest import partner with \$859 million in goods, followed by China (\$768 million), Turkey (\$538 million), Germany (\$87 million), the Netherlands (\$75 million), India (\$69 million), and Pakistan (\$43 million).

These seven countries supplied 83 percent of Iran's total import volume and 85 percent of its import value during the period.

Iran seeks BRICS bank membership in talks with President Rousseff

TEHRAN - Iran's central bank governor, Mohammad Reza Farzin, met with Dilma Rousseff, president of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), in Shanghai on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)'s finance summit, reaffirming Tehran's intention to join the multilateral lender.

According to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the meeting followed Farzin's participation in a gathering of finance ministers and central bank governors of the SCO in Beijing.

In the meeting, both sides emphasized the role of the NDB in advancing the interests of developing and emerging economies.

Farzin highlighted Iran's active participation in global and regional financial institutions, including its membership on the IMF Executive Board and its leadership of a bloc of eight countries within the Fund.

He also pointed to Iran's recent economic performance and



its strategic geographic, natural, and human resources, as well as strong bilateral ties with BRICS founding members—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

The Iranian official expressed

Tehran's readiness to deepen monetary and banking cooperation with BRICS members through the NDB framework.

Rousseff, the former president of Brazil, welcomed Iran's econom-

ic potential, noting that Tehran's entry would support the bank's development goals.

She confirmed her favorable stance on Iran's accession during BRICS decision-making sessions.

At the close of the meeting, Farzin invited Rousseff to attend the upcoming Asian Clearing Union summit scheduled to be held in Tehran.

The BRICS New Development Bank was established in 2014 by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects in member countries. Iran, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Ethiopia officially joined BRICS in 2024, while other nations, including Turkey and Syria, have expressed interest in membership.

Together, BRICS countries account for 40 percent of global financial reserves, 25 percent of world trade, and 35.6 percent of global GDP, according to World Bank data.

Over 1,200 government offices equipped with solar panels

TEHRAN - Iran has equipped 1,239 government offices with solar panels as part of a nationwide energy-saving initiative, an official from the state-run Power Generation, Distribution and Transmission Company (Tavanir) said.

According to Reza Kafili, Director General of Engineering and Network Operations at Tavanir, the solar installations have so far added around 26 megawatts to the renewable energy capacity of public institutions.

The government aims to expand this capacity to 1,645 megawatts.

"There are about 100,000 administrative and public service buildings across the country, all now equipped with smart meters that allow remote monitoring of their electricity consumption," Kafili told IRIB.

A directive issued last year mandates public offices to cut their electricity use by 30 percent during working hours—from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.—compared to the previous year, and by 60 percent after working hours.

"Non-compliance will result in power restrictions or disconnections," he warned.

The official added that Tavanir is using artificial intelligence-based platforms to monitor cooling systems and ensure indoor temperatures in public offices do not fall below 27°C, defined as the thermal comfort threshold.

In collaboration with the National Engineering Organization, a new agreement now re-

quires that energy optimization and the integration of solar power be incorporated into the design of all new government buildings.

Kafili also said a new initiative mobilizes volunteer units in public offices to help enforce energy-saving measures. Monitoring teams have also been formed under local electricity departments to conduct on-site inspections not only at government offices but also at high-consumption households and businesses.

"All government offices are required to supply 20 percent of their electricity demand through solar panels, and this plan is being implemented with urgency," he emphasized.

In late May, the vice president had announced that the government is rapidly pursuing the installation of solar panels in the organizations and executive agencies, especially in Tehran.

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 fourfold 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).

Overhaul of phases 17, 18 offshore platforms at South Pars completed

TEHRAN - The overhaul of the offshore platforms in phases 17 and 18 of Iran's South Pars gas field has been successfully completed after carrying out more than 1,300 operational tasks, according to the head of South Pars gas platform maintenance.

Ali Tale', cited by Pars Oil and Gas Company via Shana, said the annual maintenance operations

began in late April, with platforms 17A and 17B taken offline simultaneously on May 21 for scheduled repairs.

He noted that platform 17A underwent 350 tasks over 3,760 man-hours, while 17B saw 372 tasks completed over 3,512 man-hours. The maintenance work was concluded after a week of intensive efforts by repair teams.

Iron ore concentrate export up 153% in a month on year

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's iron ore concentrate export increased by 153 percent in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year, Farvardin (March 21-April21), as compared to the first month in the past year, the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) reported.

According to the ISPA report, the country exported 1.176 million tons of iron ore concentrate worth \$92 million in the first month of this year, with 145 percent rise in weight, as compared to the figure in the same month of the previous year.

As previously reported, production of iron ore concentrate in Iran stood at 6.575 million tons in the first month of the current year, 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

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf water, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial

waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

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.

Sailing for justice

The Madleen Flotilla's role in shaping the Gaza blockade discourse

From page 1 ► **Historical context and continuity**

The Madleen's journey is part of a decades-long history of flotillas seeking to break Gaza's blockade, notably bringing to mind the 2010 Gaza Freedom Flotilla. That mission came to a violent conclusion when Israeli commandos stormed the Mavi Marmara in international waters, killing nine activists.

The Madleen steams in the wake of that incident, and more recent attacks like the drone strike in May 2025 that left another FFC ship, the Conscience, heavily damaged near Malta.

These recurrent attempts and interceptions demonstrate the ongoing dangers to relief efforts opposing the blockade and the persistence of nonviolent, civilian-led resistance to the siege of Gaza.

Humanitarian crisis and symbolism

Gaza is experiencing a serious humanitarian crisis. More than 90 percent of its 2.3 million people are struggling to get enough food, with the UN warning that the whole population might face famine because an Israeli blockade has stopped most aid since March 2025.

Hospitals are overwhelmed, clean water is hard to find, and basic supplies are almost gone. The Madleen, a ship carrying vital supplies, aims to help with these shortages. It represents the strength and determination of Pal-



estinians in the face of long-standing challenges.

Challenging Israel's blockade policies

The Madleen flotilla opposes Israel's blockade in a number of ways. By sailing straight to the coast of Gaza, it physically tries to break through the naval blockade and directly challenges Israel's maritime restrictions.

By bringing the blockade's terrible humanitarian effects to the attention of the world, the mission puts pressure on Israel and the international community to reevaluate the legitimacy of the policy. The flotilla mobilizes public opinion and global solidarity against the blockade by enlisting well-known activists and live-streaming its journey.

The Madleen challenges the legal and moral basis for the blockade, which violates international law by punishing the civilian population as a whole. It argues that

its mission is non-violent civil resistance. The flotilla highlights the danger of military confrontation, having now pressured Israel to consider the consequences of intercepting a peaceful humanitarian ship in the face of heightened world attention.

Symbolizing peaceful resistance

In addition to providing aid, the Madleen represents nonviolent resistance to the Gaza siege, Palestinian tenacity, and the refusal to accept isolation and starvation as normal circumstances. The flotilla's nonviolent civil disobedience asserts a moral right to humanitarian access and challenges military restrictions without using force. By seeking to establish a maritime humanitarian corridor, it offers hope for breaking the siege and restoring lifelines to Gaza. The mission highlights international solidarity, bringing international activists and public attention to Gaza's predicament, and it continues a legacy of maritime resistance that started more than ten years ago.

ment, and it continues a legacy of maritime resistance that started more than ten years ago.

Described as a "lighthouse in a very dark time," the flotilla calls on the global conscience to act against injustice and uphold human dignity.

Activism and global solidarity

The involvement of well-known activists like Greta Thunberg has contributed to the Madleen mission's considerable international attention. By saving four Libyan migrants who had jumped into the sea to escape being apprehended by Libyan authorities while traveling to Gaza, the flotilla also showed its humanitarian solidarity.

This action demonstrates the flotilla's wider commitment to protecting vulnerable populations and the interconnectedness of the humanitarian crises in the Mediterranean. The flotilla has become a focal point for advocacy against the blockade. It has awakened public opinion against injustice.

The Madleen flotilla is a symbol of peaceful resistance and international solidarity with Gaza's besieged population, challenging the legality and morality of Israel's blockade while amplifying the plight of Gaza's civilians and calling for justice. Whether the Madleen is intercepted or succeeds in delivering aid, its mission has already succeeded in breaking the silence surrounding Gaza's suffering and drawing attention to the urgent need for peace, dignity, and humanitarian access.

Israeli strikes on southern suburb a 'dangerous development,' UNIFIL warns

The spokesperson for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Andrea Tenenti, described Thursday night's Israeli airstrikes on Beirut's southern suburb as a "dangerous development," coming more than six months after the cease-fire agreement of Nov. 27, 2024.

After issuing evacuation orders, the Israeli army carried out eight strikes on the suburb, claiming it had "targeted terrorist objectives belonging to Hezbollah's Air Unit 127."

In an interview with the daily Asharq al-Awsat, Tenenti stressed that the attacks "not only constitute a violation of Lebanese sovereignty and Resolution 1701, but also pose a serious threat to the fragile stability in this contested area following the cessation of hostilities." He added, "This not only heightens tensions, but could also create a very dangerous situation in a region already suffering from 15 months of conflict."

Nearly 50 Palestinians killed, as Israel continues attacks on Gaza on 2nd day of Eid

Nearly 50 Palestinians were killed and around 100 more injured on the second day of Eid al-Adha in Israeli forces' airstrikes and gunfire in several areas of the Gaza Strip that began early Saturday morning, according to Anadolu Agency.

Medical sources told Anadolu that at least 15 Palestinians, including six children, were killed and over 50 others injured when Israeli warplanes struck a residential home with two missiles in the Sabra neighborhood in Gaza City.

Rescue teams on the ground fear that the death toll will rise to more than 30, as many people are still missing and possibly trapped under the rubble.

Twelve people, including four members of a single family, were killed and over 40 others wounded in Israeli shelling that targeted tents sheltering displaced Palestinians west of Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Seven more Palestinians were killed in an Israeli airstrike that targeted a house sheltering displaced people west of Gaza City.

Two Palestinians were killed when Israeli artillery targeted a group of civilians in the Al-Saftawi neighborhood of northern Gaza.

Three others were killed in an airstrike targeting a civilian gathering in the Abu Shrehk area, west of the Jabalia refugee camp.

Another three Palestinians, including a child, were killed in a separate strike on a house near the Al-Mujayda station in the same area.

Separately, six Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli forces near an aid distribution center west of Rafah. Several others were injured.

The total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli gunfire while trying to access humanitarian aid since May 27 has risen to 115, with more than 580 wounded and nine still missing, according to a tally by Anadolu based on Palestinian sources.

Majority of British people support arms embargo on Israel

A majority of British people support a full arms embargo on Israel, according to a new poll commissioned by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Middle East Eye reported.

The poll, conducted by Opinion Research between 30 May and 2 June, found that 57 percent of people think the UK should impose a full arms embargo, with only 13 percent opposed.

The poll also found 53 percent of people think Israel should be expelled from the United Nations, while 50 percent said Israeli products in supermarkets should be boycotted.

Fifty-four percent backed sanctioning far-

right Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who has been a staunch supporter of Israel's total blockade of the Gaza Strip that has left over 93 percent of the population suffering from acute food insecurity.

Increasing numbers of public figures in the UK are speaking out against Israel's war on Gaza, which has killed at least 54,607 Palestinians and wounded 125,341 since 7 October 2023.

Undercover investigators surveilling Michigan University students protesting Gaza war

The University of Michigan in the U.S. is using undercover investigators to follow pro-Palestinian student protesters, according to a report released Friday.

Students said the private investigators were hired by the university located in the city of Ann Arbor in the state of Michigan, 45 miles (72.4 kilometers) west of the city of Detroit, and have been following them both on and off campus, recording them on video and eavesdropping on their conversations.

According to the British daily The Guardian, student protesters also said the surveillance appears to be largely a harassment and intimidation tactic.

The undercover investigators have cursed at them, threatened them, and in one case, one of them allegedly drove a car at a student who had to jump out of the vehicle's way, they added.

Students said they have identified dozens of undercover investigators, often working in teams, and confronted them. Just like in the movies, the teams have been discovered sitting at nearby tables at cafes and bars, tracking the students whenever they meet. In one case, which was recorded on video, a man who had been trailing the student faked disabilities and falsely accused the student of attempting to rob him.

The surveillance has been increasing in the wake of recent raids on students authorized by Democratic Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel and the FBI, students told the Guardian.

The University of Michigan did not deny the surveillance and told the newspaper that it had not received any complaints about the investigators.

"Any security measures in place are solely focused on maintaining a safe and secure campus environment and are never directed at individuals or groups based on their beliefs or affiliations," the university said in a statement.

Dutch university freezes collaborations with 3 Israeli universities

Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) in the Netherlands has announced that it has frozen institution-wide collaborations with three Israeli universities, Middle East Monitor reported.

"Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) is immediately freezing its collaborations with Bar-Ilan University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the University of Haifa," it said in a statement.

Depending on the advice of the independent Advisory Committee on Sensitive Collaborations (ACGS), the decision will suspend existing programs and will not allow new research collaborations to be initiated.

"Our international collaborations are based on academic freedom and scientific diplomacy. But that freedom has limits when fundamental human rights are at stake. Based on the committee's investigation, we consider the risk of indirect involvement in human rights violations too high," Annelien Bredenoord, president of the executive board, noted.

The collaborations with the three universities were suspended due to Bar-Ilan's "significant risk" of being involved in human rights violations and the other two schools' relationships with the Israeli occupation military (IOF), based on the committee's investigation.

Why are resistant people specifically targeted on eve of Eid al-Adha?

Lebanon continues to offer sacrifices amid the ongoing U.S.-led Israeli aggression

From page 1 ► For his part, Israel's Minister of War, Yisrael Katz, threatened to continue the aggression against Lebanon "if the authorities do not disarm Hezbollah."

He added, "There will be no peace in Beirut, no order, no stability in Lebanon, without the security of the State of Israel."

"Israel will continue to implement the cease-fire rules without any concessions, and will not allow any party to threaten the residents of the north [Palestinian occupied territories]," Katz said, placing the Lebanese government "directly responsible for preventing violations of the cease-fire and all terrorist activities."

Upon the release of the Israeli threatening statements, the Lebanese army asked for time to deal with any possible violations.

But the enemy launched warning raids to prevent its units from leaving the targeted locations as confirmed by the American side participating in the ceasefire monitoring committee (headed by American General Michael J. Linney), who conveyed to Lebanon the enemy's insistence on targeting the buildings.

Consultations between the Lebanese side

and the supervision committee have shown that the targets of the enemy in the southern suburbs are only residential bases that do not contain any military facilities, as claimed.

The Lebanese army condemned the Israeli attacks, which came "on the eve of the holidays, in a clear attempt by the enemy to hinder the progress of our country and its recovery", stressing that the enemy "does not care about the cease-fire mechanism and the committee's efforts."

In turn, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nabih Berri, emphasized that "our position is consistent with the position of His Excellency the President of the Republic, General Joseph Aoun, in all aspects."

"We are grateful for all sacrifices. We offer sacrifices in defense of Lebanon and its sovereignty," Berri stated.

MP Ali Ammar, a member of the Hezbollah parliamentary bloc, pointed out that "the Israeli aggression reveals the malicious and hidden intentions of the enemy."

"The responsibility for this unlimited Israeli arrogance lies with the countries sponsoring

the agreement, first and foremost the U.S., which has never been an honest mediator, but rather a key partner in all Israeli attacks and crimes against Lebanon's land, sovereignty, and people.

It does not content itself with financing the Israeli killing machine with the most brutal internationally prohibited weapons, but rather directs it, justifies it, and prevents it from being held accountable in international forums, and even stands in the way of any international resolution condemning and halting its aggression by using its veto," Ammar said.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Special Coordinator of the United Nations in Lebanon has called for "the cessation of any acts that are considered to undermine the understanding of the cessation of hostilities and the implementation of Resolution 1701".

In light of the increasing Israeli violations and the continued occupation of Lebanese lands, in addition to the almost daily assassinations of Lebanese citizens, it seems the only mission of the oversight committee is to submit to Israeli orders.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

IOF losses offer "glimpse of what awaits"



By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The armed wing of Hamas issues a stark warning to the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) in Gaza.

Abu Ubaida, spokesperson for the armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, stated that the losses sustained by the IOF in Khan Younis and Jabalia represent a model of the resistance's ongoing special operations.

In a post on the social media platform, Telegram, Abu Ubaida said: "What happened is a glimpse of what awaits the occupation forces wherever they are present."

He emphasized that resistance fighters

continue to demonstrate the triumph of the oppressed and faithful over a cruel and arrogant enemy.

He added, "The fighters, inheritors of the prophets, are launching the stones of David at Gideon's Chariots, striking at the arrogance of the Israeli occupation."

"Gideon's Chariots" is the codename used by the Israeli regime when it resumed its genocidal war on Gaza.

Abu Ubaida warned that the Israeli public has only two choices: "pressure their leadership to halt the genocidal war or prepare to receive more of their children in coffins."

Israeli media reported that Hamas was well-prepared for the current ground invasion, having studied the IOF's procedures and begun booby-trapping buildings in anticipation.

The Israeli military acknowledged the deaths of four soldiers, including members of its elite Maglan Unit and the Yahalom engineering unit in a deadly ambush carried out by the Palestinian resistance inside a booby-trapped building in Khan Younis, southern Gaza.

According to Israeli Army Radio, the Maglan Unit entered a building in Khan Younis, accompanied by engineering teams from Yahalom. Five minutes after they entered, an explosive

device detonated, causing the building to collapse on top of the soldiers.

The explosion and subsequent collapse killed four soldiers and severely injured five others, according to the IOF.

An initial investigation revealed that recovering the bodies from beneath the rubble took nearly six hours, amid heavy Israeli artillery fire and aerial cover provided by fighter jets.

Earlier reports from Israeli media indicated that five soldiers were killed and at least a dozen wounded in a similar explosion in Khan Younis, where they had been sheltering inside a fortified structure.

Israeli media noted that this week has been the IOF's deadliest since December, with eight soldiers killed in just three days.

Another complex ambush in the northern region of Jabalia led to further casualties among the IOF.

On Saturday, Hebrew media reported that an IOF member sustained injuries in a mortar shell attack in Shejaiya, northern Gaza.

Meanwhile, fierce battles are ongoing in Khan Younis alongside intense Israeli artillery shelling and intermittent clashes in Jabalia and other parts of Gaza, as the Palestinian resistance movement maintains its operations across various fronts.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Over 52,000 travels to Mashhad, Najaf registered in one week

TEHRAN—Over 52,000 pilgrimage trips have been registered for Mashhad in Iran’s Khorasan Razavi province and Najaf in Iraq during the last week, based on data obtained from an online ticket sales and distribution platform.

According to Mehr news agency, Mashhad was the origin or destination of 25% of all trips recorded in Iran last week. Over 50 percent of the trips were conducted via train, 30 percent by bus, and 20 percent via airplane.

This data indicates that during high season, the passengers are better able to plan their trips by using a diverse fleet of transportation options, including trains, buses, and planes. The dispersion of user choices suggests that diversity in fleet type and cost plays an important role in travelers’ decisions.

A comparative study of the number of tickets issued for overseas pilgrimage trips in the week leading up to the Khordad holidays compared to normal periods shows double number of traveling to Najaf and Mehran border. Also, over 1,000 tickets have been registered for traveling to holy Najaf and Mehran border during the same period.

This growth is in line with pattern of pilgrimage trips on religious days. It shows concentration of pilgrims on presence in pilgrimage sites during the day of Arafah.

The Day of Arafah is an Islamic holiday that

falls on the ninth day of Dhu al-Hijjah of the lunar Islamic calendar. It is the second day of the Hajj pilgrimage and is followed by the holiday of Eid al-Adha. At dawn of this day, Muslim pilgrims will make their way from Mina to a nearby hillside and plain called Mount Arafat and the Plain of Arafat in Saudi Arabia. It was from this site that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave one of his last sermons in the final year of his life. Some Muslims hold that part of the Quranic verse announcing that the religion of Islam had been perfected was revealed on this day.

Studies on the pilgrimage route of visitors show that the highest number of pilgrimage trips has been conducted from provinces of Tehran, Qom, and Isfahan. These provinces had the largest share among pilgrims for pilgrimage purposes inside and outside the country.

Choosing pilgrimage trips in Khordad holiday indicates that coincidence with religious occasions, especially the Day of Arafah, has played a significant role in increasing the volume of travel. Meanwhile, the increased use of online ticketing platforms shows that users are using these platforms more than ever to plan pilgrimage trips.

With the approaching month of Muharram and the arrival of Arbaeen, it is expected that the role of these platforms in facilitating the upcoming high-volume pilgrimage trips will be more prominent than in the past.

Sarein’s horse show festival finds a place in national tourism calendar

TEHRAN – An annual equestrian event, which is annually held in Sarein, Ardabil province, to compete and introduce thoroughbred horses and top riders, has recently been registered on Iran’s National Tourism Calendar.

According to IRNA, the Sarein Governorate noted that the certificate of registration of the Sarein Horse Show Festival in the country’s tourism events calendar has recently been issued by the Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Based on the certificate, in order to organize and professionalize the aforementioned event in accordance with the strategy of organizing and introducing new tourism routes and destinations in the People’s Government Development Document, the Sarein Horse Show Festival is held during June 19–20 each year.

The festival has been registered in provincial level under the number 20403506 on Islamic Republic of Iran’s Natural Tourism Calendar.

This certificate states that the continued registration of the above event as a national tourism event is subject to the event continuing to comply with the provisions of the country’s event registration guidelines, issued by the relevant ministry.

It is noteworthy to say that Horse Show Festival is annually held with participation of horse riders from tens of provinces in Sarein city.

And for this year, the nationwide meeting for this festival was held a while ago by the Ardabil Equestrian Board and the Provincial Sports and Youth Directorate.

Echoes of the past: Plaster Bust of Shapur II



This 50 cm plaster bust depicts Shapur II of the Sassanian dynasty. It was recovered during excavations at the Hajjiabad manor complex near Darab, in Fars province, southern Iran.”

The site—accidentally discovered in 1977 but significantly damaged by local farmers using bulldozers—was investigated by the late Massoud Azarnoush in 1978, with follow-up campaigns in 1998 and 1999.

Azarnoush identified the complex as a Sassanian-era manor house contemporary with Shapur II’s reign (307–379 CE). Its unique layout comprises distinct sections: ceremonial spaces, religious quarters, living areas, guest accommodations, and unidentified divisions. While characteristic Sassanian elements (ayvans, courtyards, domes) are present, the spatial organization differs fundamentally

from other known period monuments.

The abundant stucco decoration (both figural and geometric) and painted murals provide critical evidence for Sassanian dating: Murals concentrate in the ceremonial section, Stucco work (exclusively figural/geometric) appears only in the religious area, Figural stucco includes statues/busts of clothed/nude male/female figures and animals, Nude female figures are interpreted as representations of Anahita, suggesting the owner’s devotion to her cult, Multiple stucco busts depict a royal personage, proposed by Azarnoush to be the building’s owner.

Among these, one distinctive bust is convincingly identified as Shapur II—providing the primary basis for dating the site. This fragmentary yet masterfully crafted bust (likely wall-mounted) exemplifies mid-Sassanian sculptural innovation, enabling facial recognition beyond coins and reliefs. The ceremonial and religious zones demonstrate exceptional decorative investment, confirming their status as architectural focal points. Shapur II (309–379 CE), known as Shapur the Great, the tenth Sassanian Shahanshah whose 70-year reign marks the longest in Iranian history. His rule catalyzed a military resurgence and territorial expansion, initiating the first Sassanian golden age and cementing his legacy among the empire’s most illustrious monarchs.

Registered as National Heritage No. 25 in 2015, the bust remains an icon of Sassanian royal portraiture despite the site’s initial disturbance.

Iran sets target to attract two million medical tourists over five years

TEHRAN – The Iranian tourism minister has announced plans to significantly boost the country’s medical tourism sector, setting a target of attracting two million medical tourists annually within the next five years.

Speaking at a recent press conference, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri highlighted the “advanced health-care infrastructure” of the country, skilled medical professionals, and competitive treatment costs as key assets that make the country a strategic destination for medical travelers.

“Iran, with its network of well-equipped hospitals and specialized medical staff, offers affordable yet high-quality healthcare services. These strengths place us in a strong position to become one of the region’s leading destinations for health tourism,” the minister stated.

According to Salehi-Amiri, the Islamic Republic welcomed 1.2 million health tourists last year, generating more than \$2 billion in



Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, in an undated photo.

revenue.

Available data suggest that the majority of these travelers came from neighboring countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Oman, Bahrain, Armenia, and Tajikistan — drawn by the combination of affordability and medical expertise.

Also, the minister emphasized that the plan aligns with broader goals outlined in Iran’s Seventh National Development Plan, and that the health tourism industry is viewed as a pillar of the country’s economic and cultural diplomacy.

The minister also acknowl-

Safavid Bridge in Khorramabad to be converted into pedestrian walkway



thority prohibiting motor traffic across the bridge.

To manage traffic flow in the area, the plan includes the construction of two new bridges on either side of the Safavid Bridge. These will absorb the displaced vehicle traffic and allow the historic structure to be repurposed as a pedestrian thoroughfare, complete with stone paving.

Esfahak, one of Best Tourism Villages in world, to host special festival

TEHRAN – Esfahak, recently recognized as one of the world’s Best Tourism Villages by UN Tourism, is set to host a special rural festival from June 12 to 14, according to the head of the Tabas Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department.

According to Miras Arya (CHTN), Mohammad Arab stated that the event named “Dastineh festival” is dedicated to children aged five to eight, aiming to celebrate local culture, traditions, and crafts while offering visitors a unique insight into rural life in this acclaimed desert village.

It will be held with cooperation of Tabas Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, IvarArc group, and 3-Goosheh group, the official added.

He also said that the three-day event aims to familiarize children with the cultural heritage and handicrafts of Esfahak village, promote creative skills, know local culture, strengthen their sense of tourism and culture in an entertaining and scientific environment.

Arab continued that some of the programs include training cultural heritage and handicrafts concepts in easy language, promoting movement and artistic capabilities of children in various fields, promoting local games and traditional music, strengthening a sense of belonging and respect for culture, creating artistic items such as painting, potteries, and local dolls, rural tourism and getting to know the landscapes, houses, and culture of the village, describing and introducing the cultural heritage and handicrafts in child-friendly language, water play and free outdoor games. A certificate of attendance will be issued to participants at the end of the course, he added.

Arab mentioned promoting culture and art among the younger generation, creating a sense of self-confidence and creativity in children, and developing an effective connection between cultural heritage and the child’s community as among the benefits and long-term goals of this project, which is scheduled to be held continuously in this beautiful village.

He also said: Attracting families and developing cultural tourism in the village, visiting attractive places, houses, traditional uses, telling local stories, introducing simple handicrafts and trying to create what is engraved in the minds of children, painting village landscapes and handicrafts, creating collages or village paintings, group games, sewing dolls with fabric and thread, making simple shapes with dough and clay, showing films related to cultural heritage, getting to know the culture of waste separation and environmental protection, holding an exhibition of created works, and public visits to the exhibition are other programs planned.

He recalled that Esfahak was introduced and registered as the Second Best Tourism Village of UN Tourism in November 2024. “By implementing scientific and training programs, we plan to turn this beautiful village to a base for scientific tourists.”

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 Arab in May 2025, 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, researchers, faculty, and students working together in a specialized area of study.

Arab emphasized that Esfahak’s

edged challenges such as policy fragmentation and lack of institutional coordination but noted that ongoing dialogue and structured inter-agency collaboration are helping to address these issues.

Salehi-Amiri additionally highlighted the upcoming Third International Health Tourism Conference and Exhibition of ECO Member Countries, scheduled to take place in Hamedan from June 11 to 13. He said the event underscores Iran’s growing role in promoting regional cooperation in the health tourism sector.

“Hamedan, with its rich historical and natural attractions, has the potential to become a major hub for health tourism,” he added.

Experts say Iran’s medical tourism sector presents a win-win scenario: patients benefit from accessible, quality care, while the country earns valuable foreign currency and enhances its international reputation.

“The transformation of the bridge into a pedestrian walkway will not only protect this historical asset but also enhance the urban aesthetic of the city,” the governor-general added.

Shahrokhi expressed hope that the project will serve as a successful example of harmonizing urban development with the preservation of historical heritage through cross-agency cooperation.

Constructed during the reign of Shah Soltan Hossein of the Safavid dynasty, the Pol-e Safavi spans more than 350 meters across the Khorramrud River, linking the western and eastern parts of Khorramabad.

Originally made of brick, lime, and gypsum, the bridge is architecturally similar to the iconic Khaju Bridge in Isfahan and once featured a royal alcove, which was destroyed in a flood.

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.

Round University Ranking 2025 includes 36 Iranian universities

TEHRAN – The Round University Ranking (RUR) 2025 has placed 36 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world, up from 32 universities in 2024.

RUR Ranking evaluates the performance of over 1200 leading world universities from 85 countries by 20 indicators within the framework of 4 key objectives: teaching, research, international diversity, and financial sustainability.

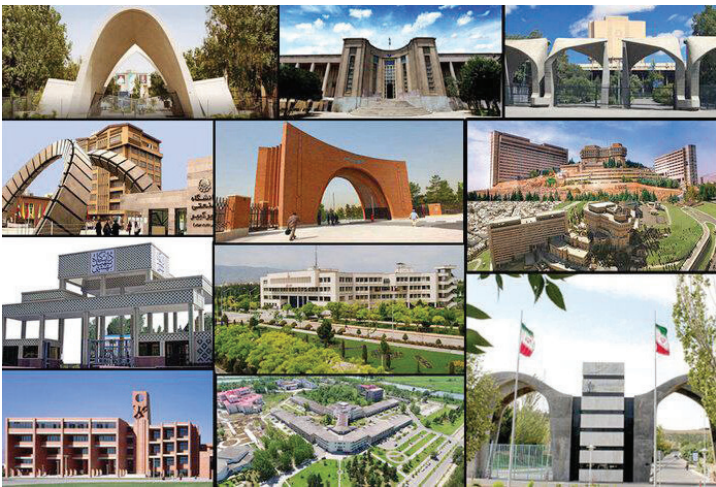
All raw data for RUR Rankings is provided by Thomson Reuters. RUR Rankings cover the period from 2010 to the present. RUR Rankings is designed as an evaluation system aimed to provide sufficient information about university performance to address stakeholders' personal tasks: students, academic community, university management, and policy makers.

Islamic Azad University, with a global ranking of 93, is placed first in the country.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (125), University of Tehran (202), Iran University of Science and Technology (355), Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (371), Sharif University of Technology (389), University of Tabriz (422), Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences (440), Qazvin University of Medical Sciences (445), and Shahid Beheshti University (454) ranked second to tenth.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Islamic Azad University are ranked third and fourth globally in terms of Teaching Ranking index, they are placed first and second in the country. Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (with a global ranking of 69) is placed third.

Based on the Research Ranking index, University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 138), Sharif University of Technology (252), Islamic Azad University (259) are placed



first to third in the country, respectively.

Islamic Azad University (414), Graduate University of Advanced Technology (542), and Imam Hossein University (572) are ranked first to third in terms of the International Diversity Ranking index.

Based on the Financial Sustainability index, Imam Hossein University (155), Baqir al-Olum University (212), and Iran University of Science and Technology (245) are the top three universities in the country.

Harvard University, Stanford University, and California Institute of Technology rank first to third, respectively.

Recent ranking

The Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2025 has placed 85 Iranian universities among the top Asian institutions, compared to 75 universities in 2024.

Sharif University of Technology is ranked first in the country, with a global ranking of 69.

Amirkabir university of Technology (70), Iran University of Science and Technology (77), University of Tehran (97), Tehran University of Medical Science (109), Isfahan University of Technology (115), Kermanshah University of Medical

Sciences (121), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (154), and Shiraz University of Technology (155) are placed second to tenth in the country.

The 15th edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2025 has included 17 Iranian universities in 21 subject entries, compared to 17 Iranian universities in 17 subject entries in 2024.

Iranian universities are ranked among the top institutions in three faculty areas, including Engineering and Technology; Life sciences and Medicine; and Natural sciences, Mehr news agency reported.

In Engineering and Technology subject area, University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 280, is placed first in the country. In Petroleum Engineering, University of Tehran ranks 22 globally, progressing from 32 in 2024 to 22 this year. In Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Sharif University of Technology and University of Tehran rank 151-200 and 201-250, respectively.

In the Life Sciences and Medicine broad subject, Tehran University of Medical Sciences is ranked first nationally; its ranking elevated from 358 in 2024 to 309 this year. In Ag-

ricultural and Forestry, University of Tehran ranks 101-150, and University of Tabriz ranks 251-300.

In Anatomy and Physiology, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, and Tehran University of Medical Sciences rank 51-100 and 101-170, respectively.

In Nursing, Iran University of Medical Sciences and Tehran University of Medical Sciences rank 151-225, jointly. In Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Tehran University of Medical Sciences is ranked 201-250.

In Chemistry, University of Tehran ranks 301-350, and Sharif University of Technology 351-400. In Mathematics, Sharif University of Technology and University of Tehran rank 301-350. In Material Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, and University of Tehran rank 251-300.

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings (WUR) by international outlook 2025 has ranked 85 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world. Sharif University of Technology (with a global ranking of 301- 350) tops the universities of the country.

THE World University Rankings 2025 has placed 81 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 10 out of 11 subject areas, compared to 73 universities in 2024.

Iran's best rankings are in Computer Science, and Engineering.

Sharif University of Technology (151-175), University of Tehran (201-250), Amirkabir University of Technology (251-300) are placed first to third in Computer Science, respectively.

Sharif University of Technology (151-175), University of Tehran (201-250), and Iran University of Science and Technology (251-300) are ranked first to third in Engineering, respectively.

World Food Safety Day underlines ‘Science in Action’



TEHRAN – Observed annually on June 7, the World Food Safety Day 2025 is themed ‘Food safety: science in action’, highlighting that science is at the heart of food safety.

Science plays a vital role in protecting public health. It helps us understand what makes food unsafe and guides us on how to prevent foodborne diseases. It draws attention to the use of scientific knowledge as key to reducing illness, cutting costs, and saving lives.

Food safety is a cornerstone of public health and sustainable development; access to safe, healthy and nutritious food is not only a fundamental right, but also a shared responsibility and collective commitment.

Foodborne illnesses are a growing global challenge, threatening the health of millions of people.

They are usually infectious or toxic in nature and often invisible to the plain eye, caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, or chemical substances entering the body through contaminated food or water.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an estimated 600 million people fall ill each year after eating contaminated food, and more than 420,000 die every year. Sadly, children under 5 years of age carry 40 percent of the foodborne disease burden, the official noted.

Rainfall drops by over 40% in current water year

TEHRAN – From the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2024) till June 2, precipitations across the country amounted to 131.5 mm, indicating a 40.4 percent decrease from the long-term average of 220.7 mm, recorded in the same period, according to the Meteorological Organization.

From May 27 to June 2, some 0.1 mm of rainfall was recorded in the country, showing a 90.2 percent reduction compared to the long-term figure of 1.4 mm, ISNA reported.

Also, from May 22 to June 2, the precipitation was equal to almost 0.7 mm. In comparison to the long-term amount of 3 mm, the country has experienced a 78.5 percent decrease in rainfall.

According to the Meteorological Organization, rainfall in all provinces has been less than the long-term average; Hormozgan province has recorded the lowest amount of rainfall, receiving 75.7 percent less rain than normal in the current water year.

Tehran province is also among the provinces that have faced a significant decline in precipitation. While Tehran's long-term average rainfall stands at 255.5 mm, in the current water year, it has received 130.9 mm of rain, which indicates a

Unhealthy food consumption creates a cycle of disease, malnutrition, and health inequalities that disproportionately affects vulnerable groups such as infants, the elderly, and the sick.

Meanwhile, increased global food trade, changing consumption patterns, widespread tourism, climate change, microbial resistance, and even bioterrorism threats have added new complexities to food safety.

Food contamination may occur at any stage of the supply chain from production to consumption and is influenced by factors such as water and soil contamination, air pollution, and improper food preparation practices and storage.

Data, evidence, and documentation are the foundations of effective food safety policy-making and actions. From safety standard development and monitoring systems to disease outbreak analysis and evidence-based education, science is effective when it leads to action.

Food safety can only be achieved through collective responsibility. Every single individual, at every level from producer to consumer, from decision-maker to implementer, from family to government, must act as a risk manager. The decisions we make every day about what to eat, how to prepare it, and how to store it affect the health of ourselves, our families, and our communities.

The World Food Safety Day aims to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism, and sustainable development.

Ensuring food safety is a shared effort; by relying on science and taking action, we can make a safer food cycle, a healthier society, and a brighter future.

Knowledge-based firms to attend NanoKorea 2025

TEHRAN – Supported by the Organization for Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, Iranian knowledge-based companies will participate in the 23rd International Nano Technology Exhibition, NanoKorea 2025, which will be held from July 2 to 4, in Goyang-si, South Korea.

The exhibition's main theme is ‘Nanotechnology for a Better Life’ and will cover five main subject areas including Nanomaterials (Nanopowders, bulk materials, composite materials and new materials made by applying nanotechnology), Nano-devices (Semiconductor memories, chips and sensors made using nanotechnology), Nanofabrication (Microfabrication, dispersion and manufacturing equipment to produce nano-powders), Nano measurement and analysis (Nanoscale measurement and performance analysis technologies and equipment), and Nano convergence and applied products (Nanotechnology convergence products and technologies by industry field).

Bringing together exhibitors, research institutes, universities, and technology centres from all over the world, the event provides a great opportunity for participants to share expertise and showcase their capabilities, as well as achievements.

Notable growth in knowledge-based companies

The significant and fast-paced growth in the number of knowledge-based companies with over 200 percent increase in their number just over the Iranian year that ended in March 2024, shows the solid foundation, dynamism, and growth of the country in innovation and technology and the productive atmosphere which have been made available in line with the goal of boosting domestic production with public participation.

The current administration underscores the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge-based companies. The number of companies, which was around 5,000 in August

2021, has now reached 10,000 with a total value of two billion dollars.

The high number of knowledge-based companies active in the capital market proves they have fully grown. Currently, there are 108 companies in the capital market, which were anticipated to grow by 100 percent by the end of the past year that ended in March 2025.

Iran's knowledge-based companies exported over 3.6 million tons of products, valued at \$2.506 billion, in the Iranian calendar year that ended in March 2024, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Based on the IRICA data, some 1.158 million tons of goods, valued at \$5.141 billion, were also imported by knowledge-based companies into the country from March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024.

About 85 percent of the goods imported by the knowledge-based companies came from China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Germany, and India, IRNA reported.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Special plan prepared to attract overseas Iranian researchers

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has prepared a special plan to attract scientists and researchers living abroad, IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The project aims to promote “supporting technological activities and startups”, “postdoctoral facilities”, “supporting employment in innovation centers and accelerators as a trainer and consultant”, “providing facilities for opportunity studies”, “providing housing facilities”, “supporting employment in reputable domestic companies”, “support for lectures and specialized workshops” and “support for cooperation as invited and appointed professors”.

طرح ویژه برای جذب پژوهشگران ایرانی مقیم خارج

جذب محققان و پژوهشگران خارج از کشور یکی از اولویتهای کشور محسوب می‌شود و در این راستا معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری طرحی ویژه پیشنهاد کرده است.

به گزارش ایرنا، معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری، این طرح شامل «حمایت از فعالیتهای فناورانه و ایجاد شرکتهای نوپا»، «تسهیلات پسا دکتری»، «حمایت از اشتغال در مراکز نوآوری و شتابدهندها به عنوان مربی و مشاور»، «تسهیلات دوره فرصت مطالعاتی»، «تسهیلات مسکن»، «حمایت از اشتغال در شرکتهای معتبر داخلی»، «حمایت از برگزاری سخنرانی و کارگاههای تخصصی» و «حمایت از همکاری به عنوان اساتید مدعو و معین» است.

FAO welcomes new regional representative for Asia and the Pacific

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, has appointed Alue Dohong as Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, with effect from 15 May 2025.

Prior to joining FAO, Mr Dohong, a national of Indonesia, served as Senior Advisor to the Minister for Environment and Head of the Environmental Control Agency of the Republic of Indonesia since December 2024. He previously served as Vice-Minister in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia from 2019 to 2024.

Mr Dohong began his career in 1994 as a Lecturer Staff at the University of Palangka Raya, Indonesia, specializing in peatland restoration, environmental management, and sustainable development within the Master's Programme in

Natural Resources and Environment.

He also served as Kalimantan Site Coordinator for the Wetlands International-Indonesia Programme in Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan, a role he held from 2003 to 2011. He then worked as an Expert with the Central Kalimantan REDD+ Liaison Office from 2011 to 2013. He later served as Deputy Head for Construction, Operation, and Maintenance (COM) at the Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG) in Indonesia, from 2016 until 2019.

Mr Dohong holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Management from the University of Queensland, Australia, a Master of Science in Environmental Management from the School of Geography at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, and a Bachelor of Science in Economic Development from Palangka Raya University, Indonesia.



JUNE 8, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Be not like the hypocrite who, when he talks, tells lies; when he gives a promise, he breaks it; and when he is trusted, he proves dishonest.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:03 Evening: 19:40 Dawn: 3:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

Persian edition of “The Wheel on the School” republished

TEHRAN – The 12th edition of the Persian translation of Dutch-American writer Meindert DeJong’s 1954 novel “The Wheel on the School” has recently been published.

Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon in Tehran is the publisher of the book translated by Bahereh Anvar. The publisher released the first edition in 1974.

“The Wheel on the School” is a beloved children’s novel, which received the Newbery Medal in 1955 and the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis in 1957. The book was beautifully illustrated by Maurice Sendak, renowned for his distinctive artistic style. In his book “The Promise of Happiness: Value and Meaning in Children’s Fiction”, Fred Inglis notes that DeJong’s story evokes the old-world values and pieties, making them “imaginable in the new,” thereby bridging tradition and modernity.

Set in the small fishing village of Shora in Friesland, the story follows six schoolchildren—Lina, Jella, Auka, Eelka, and the inseparable twins Pier and Dirk—as they embark on a quest to bring storks back to their village. When Lina writes an essay questioning why storks are absent, their teacher encourages them to find out for themselves.

The children discover that the steeply pitched roofs of their homes prevent the storks from nesting, and they decide to place wagon wheels on the rooftops to give the birds a nesting space. Their search for wheels proves challenging due to the village’s tiny size, and along the way, they encounter various interesting local characters, including their teachers, fishermen’s families, and villagers.

The narrative emphasizes the power of curiosity, wonder, and perseverance, illustrating that through thinking and questioning, dreams can be realized. The story highlights



themes of community effort, ingenuity, and hope.

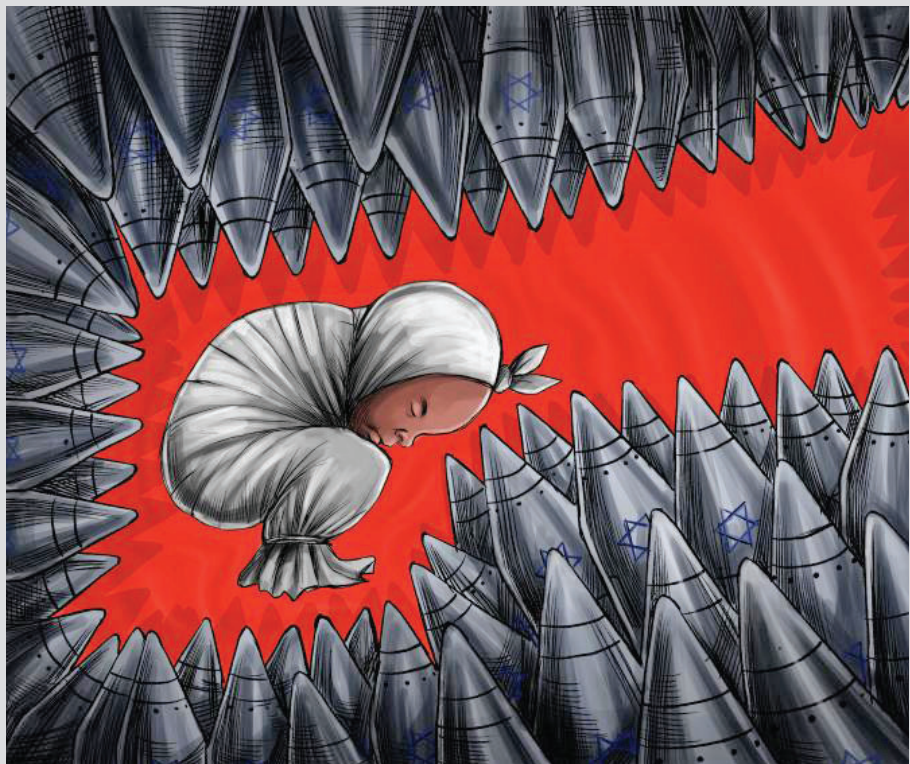
The children are supported by figures like Grandmother Sibble III, legless Janus, old Douwa, and the ‘tin man,’ enriching the tale with a sense of warmth and tradition. The novel’s dedication reads: “To my nieces, Shirley and Beverly, and their flying fingers,” reflecting DeJong’s affection and inspiration from his family.

“The Wheel on the School” is a simple yet profound story that celebrates youthful curiosity and the collective pursuit of a shared dream, making it a timeless classic in children’s literature.

Meindert DeJong (1906–1991) was a Dutch-born American children’s author who received the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award in 1962, the first American to do so. Born in Wierum, Friesland, he emigrated to the U.S. in 1914 and studied in Michigan and Chicago.

DeJong began writing children’s books during the Great Depression, with his first published work in 1938. His notable titles include “The Wheel on the School” and “The House of Sixty Fathers”. Many of his books, including six illustrated by Maurice Sendak, received numerous awards and recognitions, cementing his legacy as a significant contributor to children’s literature.

Cartoon of Day



Target Children

Cartoonist: Muzaffar Yulchiboev from Uzbekistan

Iranian short film “Damji” wins at Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia



A scene from “Damji”

TEHRAN – The Iranian short film “Damji” directed by Nazanin Chitsaz has won an award at the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), which is underway in Tokyo, Japan.

SSFF & ASIA, one of Asia’s largest international short film festivals accredited by the U.S. Academy Awards, announced on Thursday that the Save the Earth! the Minister of the Environment Award went to “Damji,” which focuses on global warming, ILNA reported.

The award is given to the film that best conveys a message on environmental issues among all the films selected for the competition.

A production of 2024, the drama is about a child who, unbeknownst to the others, collects drops of wastewater and carries them to a distant location. The film will be available at the festival’s online venue from June 12.

In the drought-stricken lands of Iran, children naturally adopt water-saving habits in their daily lives, and their actions gradually spread to others. This beautifully illustrates the concept of the

“butterfly effect,” where small individual efforts lead to significant change and hope. The film effectively conveys environmental awareness through the genuine behavior of the children, all within just two minutes — a point that is highly commendable.

“This film appears to depict a world of water depletion and the disappearance of a lake in connection with global warming. It strongly conveys the magnitude of the impact caused by climate change and prompts us to reconsider the value of water that is often wasted in our daily lives without much thought. The way individual actions gradually spread aligns with the Ministry of the Environment’s nationwide campaign for a decarbonized lifestyle, known as “Deco-Katsu.” The Ministry views climate change as a critical challenge that must be addressed through international cooperation, and it hopes that each viewer who receives the message through this film will be inspired to take action on the issue of climate change,” the Minister of the Environment commented on the movie.

Born in Isfahan, Nazanin Chitsaz, 31, holds a master’s degree in dramatic literature from Tehran Azad University. She has directed five short fiction films since 2016.

On winning the award, she said: “I’m deeply honored to receive the Save the Earth! Minister’s Award from Japan’s Ministry of the Environment at the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia. ‘Damji’ tells the story of a critical environmental issue—the drying of lakes, including Lake Urmia in Iran—through the eyes of children. These children, as symbols of hope for a better future, remind us that even the smallest actions can lead to meaningful change. We all have a role to play in protecting the Earth”.

“This special award means a great deal to me. It encourages me to continue telling important stories and to use cinema as a powerful tool to raise awareness about the environment. I sincerely hope that one day we can all live on a green, safe, and peaceful Earth,” she added.

SSFF & ASIA established the “Stop Global Warming Competition” in 2008 in collaboration with

the national campaign “Challenge 25 Campaign” to prevent global warming. In 2013 it was reborn as “Save the Planet!”. Since 2020, the festival has expanded the “Save the Planet!” awards to include more diverse global issues, with the aim of communicating the diversity of environmental issues to the entire planet.

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia is an Academy Award® Qualifying Festival where the winner of the Best Short awards in the Live-action Competition, Animation Competition well as the Non-Fiction Competition, will be eligible for nomination in the short film categories of the Academy Awards® the following year.

The festival was founded in 1999 as The Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF), and since 2004, SSFF acquired a program specialized in Asian short films and established Short Shorts Film Festival Asia with the support of the Governor of Tokyo. Now, the combination of the two festivals take place annually in Tokyo as Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, one of the largest short film festivals in Asia.

Wieniawski night held at Tehran’s Rudaki Hall

TEHRAN – An evening dedicated to the legendary Polish violinist and composer Henryk Wieniawski took place at Tehran’s Rudaki Hall on Friday.

Titled “Henryk Wieniawski Night,” the concert offered a rich exploration of the Romantic era’s violin and piano repertoire, IRNA reported.

The event featured Iranian violinist Ali Salehipour, who was accompanied by pianist Mehdi Mousavi Natanzi. Together, they delivered a compelling performance of works by Wieniawski and French composer and organist Camille Saint-Saëns.

The program included selections from Wieniawski’s renowned compositions, notably from his Violin Concerto No. 2, Opus 22, along with the pieces “Legend” and “Scherzo Tarantelle.” These compositions are celebrated for their lyrical melodies and virtuosic passages, exemplifying the spirit of Romanticism in violin music.

Complementing Wieniawski’s pieces, the concert also featured Camille Saint-Saëns’

“Preludio and Rondo Capriccioso,” a lively, expressive work known for its energetic rhythms and technical demands.

Henryk Wieniawski (1835-1880) was a celebrated Polish violinist, composer, and teacher, renowned for his virtuosity and influential works in the violin repertoire.

Born in Lublin, Poland, he displayed exceptional talent early on and studied at the Paris Conservatoire from the age of eight. Wieniawski toured extensively, performing across Europe, Russia, and the United States, and taught many students, including in Brussels.

His compositions, notably his two violin concertos, remain central to the classical violin repertoire, with the second in D minor (1862) being particularly popular. Despite declining health in later years, Wieniawski’s legacy endures through his innovative playing techniques and compositions.

His influence is commemorated through various honors, including a dedicated violin competition held in Warsaw since 1935. His family also made significant contributions to

music, with his daughter Poldowski becoming a noted composer.

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921) was a renowned French composer, organist, conductor, and pianist of the Romantic era. A musical prodigy, he debuted publicly at age ten and studied at the Paris Conservatoire.

Saint-Saëns held prominent church organist positions before establishing a successful career as a freelance performer and composer. His notable works include the “Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso,” his Second Piano Concerto, the opera “Samson and Delilah”, and the famous “Carnival of the Animals”.

Known for his mastery of orchestration and classical structure, he admired the masters of the past and often favored clear, well-constructed melodies. Despite his conservative stance and occasional clashes with modernist trends, Saint-Saëns greatly influenced French music and mentored figures like Fauré and Ravel. His legacy endures through his compositions, recordings, and the prestigious international violin competition named after him.

IAF to show Tornatore’s documentary about Ennio Morricone

TEHRAN – The 2021 documentary “Ennio: The Maestro” directed by Giuseppe Tornatore will be screened at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran on Sunday.

Also known as “The Glance of Music,” the 150-minute film will be shown at the Nasserli Hall of the IAF at 6 p.m. and will be followed by a review session in the presence of the movie critic Nima Abasur, Honaronline reported.

The documentary film celebrates the life and legacy of the Italian composer Ennio Morricone, who died in 2020. It won the Nastro d’Argento 2022 for Best Documentary Film.

It consists of interviews with directors, screenwriters, musicians, songwriters, critics and collaborators who have worked with him or who have enjoyed him throughout his long career.

Giuseppe Tornatore, Oscar-winning director, pays trib-

ute to his friend and collaborator Ennio Morricone, retracing the life and works of the Italian composer, from his debut with Sergio Leone to the Oscar Award for “The Hateful Eight” in 2016.

The film comprises interviews with renowned directors and musicians, recordings of some of the maestro’s acclaimed world tours, clips from some iconic films set to music by Morricone and exclusive footage of the scenes and places that defined Morricone’s life.

A number of artists appearing in the film include Clint Eastwood, Quentin Tarantino, Oliver Stone, Hans Zimmer, Barry Levinson, Dario Argento, Bernardo Bertolucci, Bruce Springsteen, Roland Joffé, John Williams, James Hetfield, and Wong Kar-wai among others.

Ennio Morricone (1928-2020) was an Italian composer, orches-

trator, conductor, trumpeter, and pianist who wrote music in a wide range of styles.

With more than 400 scores for cinema and television, as well as more than 100 classical works, Morricone is widely considered one of the most prolific and greatest film composers of all time. He received numerous accolades including two Academy Awards, three Grammy Awards, three Golden Globes, six BAFTAs, 10 David di Donatello, 11 Nastro d’Argento, two European Film Awards, the Golden Lion Honorary Award, and the Polar Music Prize.

His filmography includes more than 70 award-winning films, all of Sergio Leone’s films since “A Fistful of Dollars,” all of Giuseppe Tornatore’s films since “Cinema Paradiso,” as well as “The Battle of Algiers” (1966), “1900” (1976), “Le Professionnel” (1981), “The

Thing” (1982).

He received the Academy Award for Best Original Score nominations for “Days of Heaven” (1978), “The Mission” (1986), “The Untouchables” (1987), “Bugsy” (1991), “Malèna” (2000) and “The Hateful Eight” (2015), winning for the last. He won the Academy Honorary Award in 2007. His score to “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” (1966) is regarded as one of the most recognizable and influential soundtracks in history.

Morricone composed for Hollywood directors such as Don Siegel, Mike Nichols, Brian De Palma, Barry Levinson, William Friedkin, Oliver Stone, Warren Beatty, John Carpenter, and Quentin Tarantino. He has also worked with directors such as Bernardo Bertolucci, Roland Joffé, Wolfgang Petersen, Roman Polanski, and Pier Paolo Pasolini.