

Leader at a ceremony attended by families of Israeli war's victims:

Iran Will Not Cede Its Religion and Knowledge

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‘21st-century Nazis’ must be stopped, says Iran parliament speaker at Geneva conference

TEHRAN — Speaking at the 6th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva, Iran’s Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf condemned Israel’s actions in Gaza as genocide, warning that the world is witnessing the rise of “21st-century Nazis” who must be stopped before humanity is engulfed by a tide of injustice.

Addressing the session titled “Upholding International Law and the UN Charter to Ensure Global Peace and Security,” Qalibaf declared:

“What is happening in Gaza is not a regional issue—it is a global alarm. We are witnessing a genocide, carried out by an apartheid regime with chilling precision. This modern-day Nazism must be stopped.”

Citing a detailed account of destruction and suffering in Gaza, Qalibaf compared the atrocities to the darkest moments of 20th-century history and emphasized that the root causes of the crisis must be urgently addressed by the international community. ► Page 3

Araghchi warns Iran will make sure Trump can’t censor consequences of a new war

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi declared Monday that Tehran would render future retaliation “impossible to cover up” if the United States repeats military aggression, while simultaneously affirming Iran’s openness to a negotiated nuclear deal.

The warning came in response to Donald Trump’s threat hours earlier in Scotland to “wipe out” Iran’s nuclear capabilities “faster than you can wave your finger.”

“If aggression is repeated, we will not hesitate to react in a more decisive manner and in a way that will be IMPOSSIBLE to cover up,” Araghchi stated on X, referencing Iran’s precision strike on the U.S. military’s Al-Udeid Air Base during the 12-Day War.

Iran’s June 23 “Glad Tidings of Victory” strike breached Patriot defenses to launch 14 missiles at the largest U.S. base in West Asia.

Despite Trump claiming that 13 were intercepted and one fell “harmlessly,” Ali Larjani, an advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, reported six direct hits. Satellite images released weeks later confirmed the destruction of a \$19.7 million radar dome by Iranian missiles. ► Page 2

Exclusive: Activist says Global Sumud Flotilla unites 40 nations in renewed push against Gaza blockade

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – As the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza deepens and the international community continues to grapple with the fallout of Israel’s months-long siege, seasoned activist Greta Berlin remains resolute: the ships will keep sailing.

Berlin, co-founder of the Free Gaza Movement and a leading voice in global civil resistance to Israel’s blockade of Gaza, spoke with the Tehran Times on the eve of the 17th anniversary of the first successful flotilla to Gaza, which took place on August 23, 2008. That voyage marked the first civilian sea passage to the besieged enclave in over four decades.

Her remarks come amid new tensions following the recent interception of the Handala, a humanitarian aid vessel bound for Gaza,

Trump acknowledges Gaza starvation as death toll tops 60,000

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — Israel’s relentless slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza—including desperate civilians seeking food—exposes the sham of its so-called humanitarian claims. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s administration has shown a ruthless contempt for Palestinian lives, wielding starvation and indiscriminate violence as weapons of collective punishment.

Over the weekend, Israel announced a daily “tactical pause” in military activity in three areas of Gaza, purportedly to allow humanitarian aid to enter. This move was framed as a rebuttal to “false claims of deliberate starvation.” Yet the killings have continued unabated. On Tuesday alone, dozens more Palestinians—including those seeking aid—were killed by Israeli forces.

Salam’s sterile government tasked with implementing World Bank’s directives

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—Five months have passed since the formation of Nawaf Salam’s government; however, his promises are merely ink on paper. Salam’s ministerial statement, issued on February 26, regarding “accelerating the reconstruction of what was destroyed by the Israeli aggression and eliminating the damage” has not been implemented.

In contrast, Nawaf Salam’s government unrelentingly comply with the World Bank’s conditions.

According to its website, the World Bank has 10 active projects in Lebanon, worth \$4.4 billion, of which \$2.46 billion has been disbursed so far, and \$1.34 billion has been cancelled. The interest rate of these loans amounts to \$786 million (equivalent to 3% of GDP).

During the current year, under the pretext of emergency reconstruction assistance, the World Bank loaned Lebanon \$250 million. It also loaned \$257.8 million to provide water to the Greater Beirut area.

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Iran’s renewable capacity to reach 10,000 MW by Mar. 2026

TEHRAN – Iran is on track to expand its renewable energy capacity to 10,000 megawatts by the end of the current Iranian calendar year in March 2026, as part of a nationwide push to close its electricity supply gap and accelerate the energy transition, a senior official said.

Jafar Mohammadnejad, Deputy for Investment at Iran’s Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), said the country aims to install 5,500 megawatts of new solar power capacity this year alone.

“This level of capacity can significantly offset the electricity imbalance, especially during peak consumption periods,” he said in a live interview with IRIB.

He added that the Ministry of Energy has coordinated with support agencies to accelerate the rollout of low-interest loans for households installing rooftop solar systems. ► Page 4



Iranian students bag 4 medals at IEO 2025

TEHRAN – Iran won two silver medals and two bronze medals at the Eighth International Economics Olympiad (IEO) 2025, which was held from July 20 to 29, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

IEO is an annual competition for high school students around the world in the areas of Economics and Finance.

It aims to stimulate creative problem-solving skills among high school students with an interest in Economics, Business, and Finance, and enhance education systems by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices on school curricula and teaching methodologies worldwide. ► Page 7

What the Iran strike revealed about West’s use of diplomacy

By Peiman Salehi

TEHRAN – In June 2025, while indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States were still underway, Israeli forces, soon followed by the U.S., launched a coordinated military strike on Iranian territory. This act of aggression occurred not in the absence of diplomacy but at its very height. Communication channels were open. Sanction relief was reportedly on the table. And yet, bombs fell.

This episode shattered more than the momentum of talks. It undermined the very assumption that diplomacy with the West is possible, let alone meaningful. ► Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Serious doubts about E3 sincerity

In an analysis, the Shargh newspaper analyzed the new round of negotiations between Iran and the European troika (Britain, France, and Germany) in Istanbul on Friday, July 25, and wrote: This round of negotiations was an opportunity to revive diplomacy and remove obstacles to a (possible new) nuclear agreement. However, the threatening statement of the European troika and the statements of the French Foreign Minister Barrot, just two days after these negotiations, indicate a lack of goodwill. This timing conveys a pre-planned message that Europe, instead of focusing on the progress of the negotiations, seeks to increase pressure on Iran. The threat of the European troika to activate the snapback mechanism is a pressure tool that will restore UN sanctions if an agreement is not reached by the end of the summer. This threat is made at a time that indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States has been suspended due to attacks by the Zionist regime on Iran with the U.S. support. Iran has emphasized that the continuation of the negotiations requires guarantees for security and the non-repetition of hostile actions. However, instead of removing these obstacles, Europe is making the atmosphere more tense by making unrealistic demands and threatening sanctions. This approach not only undermines Iran's confidence in the negotiations but could also push Tehran towards countermeasures, such as limiting its nuclear commitments further.

Siasat-e-Rooz: A powerful response to the enemy

In a note, Siasat-e-Rooz outlined a strategy for how Iran should respond to any act of aggression from adversaries. It stated that Iran's stance toward Western countries—those seeking to impose political and economic pressure—should be conveyed in strong, sharp, and revolutionary language. The note emphasized the importance of relying on the unmatched capabilities of the Iranian armed forces, which were demonstrated during Israel's 12-day intensive war with the Islamic Republic. Iran's military response ultimately compelled the enemy to accept a ceasefire, highlighting the nation's defensive strength. The armed forces, it said, will defend Iran and its people to the last breath. Therefore, Iranian officials should place greater trust in the military and, during discussions with Western representatives, make clear that Iran's forces are prepared to act. At the slightest sign of threat or aggression, a torrent of missiles and drones would rain down on any enemy that initiates hostilities.

‘The accusations are politically motivated’: Iran says it’s not involved in Gaza talks

TEHRAN – Iran has firmly rejected recent accusations by the U.S. President Donald Trump claiming Tehran interfered in ongoing ceasefire negotiations over Gaza, describing the allegations as “completely unfounded” and politically motivated.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei made the remarks in response to a question from IRNA following Trump's statements during a joint press conference with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday. Speaking after their meeting, Trump accused Iran of inserting itself into the Qatar-hosted ceasefire talks, claiming Tehran was “sending signals and orders” to the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

Reacting to the claims, Baghaei emphasized that Iran, along with the majority of the international community, unequivocally condemns the ongoing genocide in Gaza and supports any initiative that could end the bloodshed and alleviate the suffering of civilians.

“Hamas negotiators are entirely capable of making independent decisions in the best interests of the people of Gaza,” he said, dismissing suggestions of Iranian influence as “utterly baseless.”

Baghaei went on to condemn the accusa-



tions as a political ploy aimed at deflecting attention from Washington's own role in the crisis. “These claims are designed to distract from the U.S. government's clear complicity in the Israeli regime's atrocities against the Palestinian people,” he said.

He highlighted the Israeli military's widespread destruction in Gaza, including the killing of over 60,000 civilians—many of them women and children—the intensification of the blockade, the systematic obstruction of humanitarian aid, and the killing of starving civilians at so-called aid distribution points operated by a U.S. company.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Officials declare Iran ready: Countermeasures primed for potential snapback activation

TEHRAN – Senior Iranian officials declared on Monday the Islamic Republic's unequivocal readiness to confront the re-imposition of United Nations sanctions, emphasizing strategic resilience against Western pressure.

President Masoud Pezeshkian and Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad spearheaded the stance as European powers threaten to activate the JCPOA's snapback mechanism.

Addressing the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Parliament, President Pezeshkian outlined Iran's doctrine for nullifying sanctions: “If we strengthen neighborly relations, sanctions will be rendered ineffective.”

He described regional integration as a cornerstone of Iran's resistance economy, enabling trade circumvention despite comprehensive Western embargoes.

Oil Minister Paknejad confirmed operational readiness, stating: “Iran's oil exports continue as before. We certainly are not without a plan” when questioned about contingency measures.

His remarks reflect confidence in sustaining Iran's vital oil sector, a lifeline for the economy, despite external pressures.

Despite extensive international sanctions, Iran's crude oil shipments have consistently remained robust, frequently exceeding 1.5 million barrels per day in recent periods, according to analyses from leading independent energy intelligence firms like Vortexa and Kpler.

These numbers should be viewed as approximations, since Tehran does not typically publish official, granular data on its oil exports.

This sustained capacity to export oil, developed over decades of navigating various international limitations, highlights Tehran's remarkable adaptability in countering economic pressure.

This preparedness is rooted

No trust in US or Israel, full readiness to repel any aggression: military chief

TEHRAN – Iran's top military commander has reiterated the Islamic Republic's total lack of trust in the United States and the Israeli regime, affirming that the country remains fully prepared to respond decisively to any renewed acts of aggression.

In a telephone conversation with Tajikistan's Minister of Defense, Lieutenant General Emomali Abdur Rahim Sobirzoda, Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi expressed appreciation for Dushanbe's steadfast support during Israel's recent 12-day war against Iran.

General Mousavi paid tribute to Major General Mohammad Baqeri, who was martyred during the Israeli offensive, noting that he had consistently prioritized defense cooperation with Tajikistan. He emphasized the importance of deepening military ties between the two nations.

“Positive and effective steps have already been taken, and I will continue along this same path,” he stated.

Referring to the recent escalation, Mousavi said the enemy's unlawful actions failed to achieve their objectives. “Despite 12 days of relentless and illegal attacks, the United States and the Zionist regime suffered significant blows and were ultimately forced to call for a ceasefire to preserve the occupying entity,” he remarked.



Iranians unite in a show of patriotism at Tehran's Enghelab Square during the height of the 12-Day War, June 2025.

in decades of navigating stringent sanctions, which have targeted Iran's oil, banking, and trade sectors.

Iran has weathered an extensive sanctions regime imposed primarily by the United States and its European allies, which claim that these actions aim to constrain its “nuclear ambitions” and limit its “regional influence.”

These measures, described by many in Iran as “economic terrorism,” have frozen billions in assets, restricted oil exports, and limited access to global financial systems.

Yet, Iran has adapted by cultivating self-sufficiency, boosting non-oil exports, and forging economic partnerships with countries such as China and Russia, alongside its regional neighbors and numerous nations across the Global South.

Despite enduring decades of sanctions, Iran has demonstrated resilience through substantial advancements in key domestic industries such as energy and agriculture, facilitating continued economic growth.

The snapback mechanism, a provision within the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), allows for the swift reinstatement of UN sanctions if

Iran is deemed “non-compliant” with the nuclear deal.

Tehran considers this mechanism illegal, particularly after the 12-Day War in June, during which the UK, France, and Germany (the E3) aligned with the Israeli regime and the U.S. in their targeting of Iran's nuclear, military, and civilian sites.

Esmail Baghaei, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, dismissed the E3's attempts to revive UN sanctions during his Monday press briefing in Tehran.

“Such a right does not exist, and we oppose the very essence of this issue,” he asserted, emphasizing that Iran has formally communicated its position to the E3.

Baghaei argued that their support for the recent offensive undermines UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses the JCPOA, questioning their legitimacy as parties to the agreement.

He warned that Iran would implement “appropriate countermeasures” if the snapback is triggered.

Referring to threats by the United Kingdom, Germany, and France to activate the snapback mechanism, Lawmaker Alaeddin Boroujerdi recently said: “They have raised the stick. But

Araghchi warns Iran will make sure Trump can't censor consequences of a new war

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The warning came in response to Donald Trump's threat hours earlier in Scotland to “wipe out” Iran's nuclear capabilities “faster than you can wave your finger.”

“If aggression is repeated, we will not hesitate to react in a more decisive manner and in a way that will be IMPOSSIBLE to cover up,” Araghchi stated on X, referencing Iran's precision strike on the U.S. military's Al-Udeid Air Base during the 12-Day War.

Iran's June 23 “Glad Tidings of Victory” strike breached Patriot defenses to launch 14 missiles at the largest U.S. base in West Asia.

Despite Trump claiming that 13 were intercepted and one fell “harmlessly,” Ali Larijani, an advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, reported six direct hits. Satellite images released weeks later confirmed the destruction of a \$19.7 million radar dome by Iranian missiles.

Araghchi also described the country's stance through its millennia-old sovereignty in his statement, declaring: “Iran, a nation with a rich culture originating from 7000 years of civilization, will never respond to

members of the [Iranian Parliament's] National Security Commission believe that the road to cooperation in international relations is two-way. If they want to use this lever, our hands aren't tied either.”

The lawmaker warned that if the Europeans make “this mistake,” the Islamic Republic will no longer have any reason to remain in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson for the National Security Commission, announced that a plan to withdraw Tehran from the NPT is under review in response to the possible activation of the snapback mechanism.

Another representative, Manouchehr Mottaki, also stressed that parliament has “its finger on the trigger” and, if necessary, can approve a legislation for Iran to exit the NPT within 24 hours.

Recent talks in Istanbul between Iran and the E3, held on Friday, underscored Tehran's unyielding stance.

The Iranian foreign ministry described the discussions as “candid but firm,” stressing that Iran would not compromise its sovereignty or rights under international law.

the language of threat and intimidation.”

He condemned Trump's “bullying” demands that Iran abandon its nuclear program, emphasizing its peaceful humanitarian purpose: “More than a million Iranians need medical radioisotopes produced by the Tehran Research Reactor,” an American-supplied facility dependent on Iran's 20%-enriched uranium.

Araghchi addressed the limited impact of U.S.-Israeli strikes on nuclear facilities at Fordow and Natanz during June's hostilities, noting: “Bombings cannot destroy the technology and know-how that our formidable human resources have developed.”

His assertion echoed the statements of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran that the country's nuclear expertise is “indigenous and irreversible.”

Despite vowing Iran's defensive resilience, Araghchi left room for diplomacy, stating: “The recent unlawful bombing proved what we have always stated: there is no ‘military solution’ but a negotiated solution may work.”

This aligns with President Masoud Pezeshkian's statement on Monday that Tehran is “ready for dialogue and does not seek war,” but “its response to any potential repetition of aggression will be strong.”

Leader at a ceremony attended by families of Israeli war’s victims:

Iran will not cede its religion and knowledge

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says Iran will persist in its progress across multiple sectors and that Western pressure will not deter the nation from the independent course it established over 46 years ago.

The remarks were delivered at a Tuesday commemoration ceremony in Tehran, attended by the families of scientists, commanders, and civilians martyred during Israel’s 12-day war against Iran, as well as several officials.

During the ceremony, Ayatollah Khamenei described the recent imposed war as a manifestation of the will and strength of the Islamic Republic and a striking display of the extraordinary solidity of its foundations. Emphasizing that the main reason behind the enemies’ hostility is their opposition to the Iranian nation’s faith, knowledge, and unity, he stated: “The Iranian nation, by God’s grace, will neither abandon strengthening its religious faith, nor expanding its diverse fields of knowledge, and much to the enemy’s dismay, will succeed in elevating Iran to the peak of progress and the pinnacle of honor.”

Expressing his condolences once again to the families of the fall-



en commanders, scientists, and beloved people martyred in the recent war, Ayatollah Khamenei stated: “What happened for the Islamic Republic during these 12 days – in addition to the great honors achieved by the Iranian nation, which even people throughout the world are acknowledging today – was that the people of Iran showed their power, their determination and resolve, their steadfastness, and their ability to the world. They now saw the power of the Islamic Republic from up close.”

He also considered the clear manifestation of the Islamic Republic’s unparalleled strength as one of the key outcomes of the re-

cent imposed war, adding: “These events weren’t something that hadn’t been experienced by the Islamic Republic before. For more than 45 years, in addition to the 8-year Imposed War, there have been seditions, inciting weak-willed individuals against the nation, and various other plots; military, political, security-related plots, as well as coups and other similar actions. The Islamic Republic has overcome all of these.”

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the Islamic Republic is built upon two fundamental pillars: faith and knowledge. He stated: “The people’s religiosity and the knowledge of our youth have been able

to force the enemy to retreat in many different fields, and this will continue to be the same in the future.” He identified the root cause of Global Arrogance’s hostility — led by the criminal U.S. — toward the Islamic Republic as the Iranian nation’s faith, knowledge, and unity under the banner of the Quran and Islam, stating: “All their talk about nuclear issues, [uranium] enrichment, human rights, and such things are nothing but excuses. What upsets them is the fact that the Islamic Republic is able to produce new ideas in the various fields of science and knowledge – be it in the humanities, technical sciences, or religious sciences.”

Reaffirming that the Iranian nation will never forsake its faith or knowledge, Ayatollah Khamenei added: “We will take great strides in strengthening our religious faith and in expanding and deepening our diverse and wide-ranging fields of knowledge.”

The ceremony also featured Qur’anic recitations by several reciters, and Hujjat al-Islam Rafiei delivered remarks referencing Sermon 182 of Nahj al-Balagha, drawing parallels between the qualities of the martyrs of the Battle of Siffin and those martyred in the recent imposed war.

‘21st-century Nazis’ must be stopped, says Iran parliament speaker at Geneva conference

From Page 1 ▶ Qalibaf described Gaza as a “killing field,” saying the enclave no longer resembles a functioning society but rather a site of mass extermination. He referenced UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese’s report “The Anatomy of a Genocide” to support claims that Israel has adopted policies aimed at the total erasure of the Palestinian people.

“Over 70% of homes have been destroyed, hospitals and schools lie in ruins, and tens of thousands are buried under rubble,” he said. “These are not statistics—they are human lives and dreams extinguished.”

Qalibaf accused Israeli snipers of deliberately targeting children, and said hunger is being used as a weapon. “This is not war—it is the systematic use of terror against a besieged people.”

Citing the UN report “Beyond What Human Beings Can Endure,” Qalibaf highlighted widespread sexual violence as another weapon used against Palestinians. He said

such atrocities align with broader efforts to enact a “colonial eradication” and ethnic cleansing.

He also criticized international institutions for failing to act decisively. “The ICJ and ICC have issued rulings and warrants, yet these decisions remain symbolic,” he said, pointing to the continued impunity of Israeli leadership.

Qalibaf strongly criticized the U.S., UK, France, and Germany for what he described as their enabling silence. “When a senior Israeli official refers to Palestinians as ‘human animals’ and the world says nothing, it legitimizes genocide,” he said. “The West’s continued support—military, political, and media—is the oxygen that fuels this apartheid regime.”

Turning to Iran’s own experience, Qalibaf referenced the June 13 Israeli attack on Iranian territory, which he said was carried out with U.S. support. The strikes, he claimed, targeted peaceful nuclear facilities and civilian infrastructure, killing more than 1,100 people,



including 14 scientists and dozens of women and children.

“These attacks violated every principle of international law and UN Charter Article 2,” Qalibaf stated. “Even Evin Prison and hospitals were not spared.”

Iran’s response, he said, was a measured act of self-defense and forced the Israeli regime to request a ceasefire.

“We did not rely on hollow resolutions. We responded with

strength, and our deterrence worked,” he said. “It was a message to the world: only resistance can stop modern fascism.”

In closing, Qalibaf issued a stark warning: “The crimes in Gaza are not isolated—they are a global warning. If the Nazis of today are not stopped, their crimes will spread beyond Palestine.”

He called on the international community to act urgently before history delivers its judgment.

What the Iran strike revealed about West’s use of diplomacy

TEHRAN – In June 2025, while indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States were still underway, Israeli forces, soon followed by the U.S., launched a coordinated military strike on Iranian territory. This act of aggression occurred not in the absence of diplomacy but at its very height. Communication channels were open. Sanction relief was reportedly on the table. And yet, bombs fell.

This episode shattered more than the momentum of talks. It undermined the very assumption that diplomacy with the West is possible, let alone meaningful. The incident has dealt a fatal blow to structural trust, one that extends beyond Iran-West relations to a broader fracture between entire civilizational blocs. It renders the planned reactivation of the JCPOA’s snapback mechanism, scheduled for October, both redundant and cynical. Designed as a legal safeguard to enforce compliance, the mechanism has been preempted by unilateral violence, launched with no international mandate or justification. If negotiation culminates in bombardment, what remains of the so-called “rules-based order”?

Iran’s experience is not an isolated one. Libya dismantled its nuclear program and opened its doors to Western powers only to face regime change and assassination. Syria engaged diplomatically, yet endured sustained destabilization. In stark contrast, North Korea pursued nuclear deterrence and has thus far evaded military intervention. The message is grim but unambiguous: acquiescence invites vulnerability. In the current global order, cooperation does not guarantee safety; it may, in fact, invite subjugation.

Iran’s return to the negotiating table was not born of naïveté. It was a strategic move, aimed at stripping its adversaries of any pretext for aggression. Tehran’s willingness to engage was calculated to expose the asymmetries of global diplomacy and demonstrate responsible behavior. Even with full diplomatic engagement, however, Iran was targeted. This reveals not a failure of policy, but a crisis of paradigm.

The war against Iran showed alignment with Western frameworks offers neither partnership nor protection

The implications extend far beyond Iran. For nations across the Global South, the incident confirms a growing suspicion: that alignment with Western frameworks offers neither partnership nor protection. That diplomacy, when filtered through hierarchical systems, becomes a trap rather than a tool. If snapback sanctions are imposed in the aftermath of military aggression, it would only deepen the loss of legitimacy suffered by Western institutions. It would validate the emerging consensus that the architecture of global governance is designed not for balance, but for dominance.

In this context, platforms like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are gaining new strategic relevance. They are no longer

peripheral; they are imperative. The Iran strike has become a galvanizing moment for developing nations seeking to construct alternatives to Western-defined systems of power. What is now unfolding is not merely a reaction to one incident, but a broader movement toward strategic autonomy.

Despite the obvious asymmetry of power, Iran’s twelve-day response demonstrated an evolving doctrine of deterrence marked by discipline, coordination, and strategic depth. While many Western outlets attempted to downplay the scale and precision of this response, regional observers and Iran’s Eastern partners paid close attention. Symbolic support from states like China and Russia may not alter battlefield dynamics, but it signals a shifting geopolitical posture. Iran is not isolated, and its narrative of resistance is increasingly echoed in regions weary of coercion.

This episode has triggered a deeper awakening within the Global South. It is now clear that trust in the West is not a diplomatic asset, but a strategic liability. Participation in institutions rooted in inequity rarely leads to prosperity or peace. Instead, it breeds dependency, manipulation, or worse destruction. The West may still command media and legal mechanisms, but narrative control is slipping. The hard truth remains: power, in the Western doctrine, overrides all principle.

The question today is no longer whether Iran will return to negotiations. It is whether the world can afford to trust powers that punish both resistance and cooperation alike.

Negin Zandi reflects on a historic win

TEHRAN – In a pivotal moment for Iranian women’s football, Negin Zandi’s decisive goal secured the national team’s qualification for the AFC Women’s Asian Cup, marking a significant breakthrough after years of struggle and limited recognition.

In her interview following this historic achievement, Zandi shared candid reflections on the journey, challenges, and future hopes for women’s football in Iran.

Zandi, wearing the famous number 11 jersey, said scoring against Jordan was the result of hard work and passion. “I remember when the ball went into the net — it wasn’t just a goal; it meant so much more,” she said. “After everything I’d been through, the happy tears came on their own.”

Her path to this achievement was far from easy. From early resistance within her family to countless hours playing street football, Zandi’s dedication never wavered. “I used to play from morning till night in the alleys,” she recalled. “Despite the obstacles, I am proud to stand here today.”

The challenges facing Iranian female footballers extend beyond personal hardships. Zandi highlighted systemic issues, including inadequate training facilities and the persistent disparity between men’s and women’s football.

“Most injuries happen because we play on poor-quality artificial turf,” she explained. “We dream of playing at the Azadi Stadium, yet that dream remains unfulfilled.”

Zandi expressed optimism about the future. With the team’s qualification, there is hope that matches will finally be broadcast live, an essential step toward greater visibility and support. “If men’s sports earn TV coverage, shouldn’t ours receive the same?” she questioned, emphasizing the role of media exposure in the growth of women’s football.

Although Zandi has previously received offers to play abroad, family and contractual reasons kept her in Iran. “Lifting my game internationally is still a goal,” she stated. Meanwhile, she is focused on helping her club, Khatoon FC, advance further in the AFC Women’s Champions League.

Regarding the wider development of women’s football, Zandi noted improvements in player contracts and administrative support but called for sustained commitment.

Zandi urged young Iranian girls to persevere. “We have opened the door for Iranian women’s football. It’s up to the next generation to walk through it and take the sport to new heights.”

Iran defeat Jordan in WABA Qualifiers U16 Girls

TEHRAN – Iran basketball team defeated Jordan 69-41 in the WABA Qualifiers U16 Girls on Monday.

The Persian girls are scheduled to meet Syria in their second match on Tuesday.

The competition has brought Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, and Syria together in Beirut.

The winners will secure its spot in 2025 FIBA U-16 Women’s Asia Cup to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Iran discover fate in AFC Women’s Asian Cup Australia 2026

TEHRAN – Iran learned their rivals at the AFC Women’s Asian Cup Australia 2026 following the Official Draw on Tuesday.

The 12 teams were drawn into three groups during a glittering ceremony at the Sydney Town Hall with the continental showpiece to run from March 1 to 21, 2026.

Hosts Australia, seeking to lift the coveted trophy for a second time, were drawn in Group A alongside Korea Republic, Iran and the Philippines.

Three-time winners DPR Korea will face defending champions China, debutants Bangladesh and Uzbekistan in Group B.

Japan, aiming for a third title, are the top seeded team in Group C with Vietnam, India and Chinese Taipei their challengers.

The top two teams from each group and the two best third-placed sides will advance to the quarter-finals. The four semi-finalists will book their tickets to the FIFA Women’s World Cup Brazil 2027, while the losing sides from the quarter-finals will advance to the playoffs, where two more spots at the global showpiece will be at stake.

Friendly: Igdir beat Persepolis

TEHRAN – Turkish side Igdir defeated Persepolis 2-0 in a friendly match on Monday.

Igdir FK and Persepolis played a special preparatory match at the Erzurum High Altitude Training Center.

Iran’s Persepolis was held to a goalless draw by Süper Lig Side Trabzonspor and defeated Alanyaspor 2-1 in its first friendly matches in Turkey.

Persepolis, headed by Vahid Hashemian, will open the 2025-26 Iran Professional League with a match against Fajr Sepasi.

Tractor lose to Pyramids in friendly

TEHRAN – Tractor football team lost to Egyptian side Pyramids 2-1 in a friendly match on Monday.

Igor Postonjski put Tractor ahead just two minutes into the second half but Tractor defender scored an own goal in the 58th minute.

Pyramids scored the winner in the final moments of the match.

It was Tractor’s last friendly in the Turkey’s training camp.

Defending champions Tractor will meet Esteghlal in its first match in the 2025-26 Iran Professional League.

Persepolis eye former Man Utd defender Bailly

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Persepolis have reportedly set their sights on signing former Manchester United defender Eric Bailly.

According to media reports, negotiations with the 31-year-old player are already underway.

Bailly previously played for La Liga side Villarreal from 2023 to 2025.

Additionally, Serge Aurier, the former Paris Saint-Germain right-back, is also close to joining Persepolis.

Iran to play Pakistan in 2025 FIVB U19 World Round of 16

TEHRAN – Iran were defeated by Italy 3-1 (25-16, 26-28, 26-24, 25-17) in Pool C of the 2025 FIVB Boys’ U19 World Championship on Tuesday but secured their place in Round of 16.

Mohammadamin Rahimi led Iran with 19 points, while Italy’s Manuel Hristov Zlatanov earned 15 points.

Uzbekistan hosts the Championship from 24 July to 3 August in Tashkent, with preparations supported by the FIVB Volleyball Empowerment program through 12 months of coaching support, event equipment, and three knowledge transfer programs.

The 24 participating teams compete in four round-robin pools, with the top four teams from each group advancing to the knockout stage. All teams play through to the end of the tournament, with final rankings determined across three additional rounds to decide positions from first to 24th.

The World Championship marks an important moment for Uzbekistan volleyball. The Empowerment program provides the foundation for the country’s efforts to develop talent and strengthen its presence in international competition.

Iran's renewable capacity to reach 10,000 MW by Mar. 2026



TEHRAN – Iran is on track to expand its renewable energy capacity to 10,000 megawatts by the end of the current Iranian calendar year in March 2026, as part of a nationwide push to close its electricity supply gap and accelerate the energy transition, a senior official said.

Jafar Mohammadnejad, Deputy for Investment at Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), said the country aims to install 5,500 megawatts of new solar power capacity this year alone.

"This level of capacity can significantly offset the electricity imbalance, especially during peak consumption periods," he said in a live interview with IRIB.

He added that the Ministry of Energy has coordinated with support agencies to accelerate the rollout of low-interest loans for households installing rooftop solar systems.

Unlike large fossil fuel plants, renewable installations are typically built at the point of consumption, reducing transmission losses and minimizing environmental impacts. "This decentralized model is critical for both energy security and climate goals," Mohammadnejad said.

He noted that Iran has already developed the groundwork to support over 10,000 megawatts of renewable energy capacity, with comprehensive plans in place to reach 30,000 megawatts in the coming years.

The program includes guaranteed power pur-

chase agreements with attractive feed-in tariffs. Under the scheme, the Energy Ministry will buy excess electricity at a rate of 4,600 toman per kilowatt-hour—roughly \$0.09 using an exchange rate of 500,000 irals to the dollar.

A new online platform has also been launched to streamline participation. Over 220 qualified companies have been approved to supply and install solar equipment.

SATBA's goal is to roll out 550,000 solar systems, mostly in residential homes with suitable rooftop or yard space.

In the latest development, electricity on Iran's green energy trading board was priced at around 60,000 rials per kilowatt-hour, reflecting growing market interest in clean power.

Officials have emphasized that solar energy, given Iran's high solar irradiation levels, is poised to play a central role in the country's long-term energy strategy. Solar plants typically have a standard lifespan of 20 to 25 years, providing both environmental and economic benefits over time.

On Monday, the officials said that Iran's Supreme Economic Council has approved a \$3.2 billion investment from the National Development Fund (NDF) to support the construction of 7,000 megawatts of solar power capacity, with a focus on rooftop units.

The decision, based on a directive issued by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution allowing the NDF to invest in the energy sector, was announced by Vice President Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, who also heads the Planning and Budget Organization. The authorization has been formally communicated to the Energy Ministry and the NDF.

The investment will prioritize solar systems that feed electricity directly into local distribution networks, particularly small-scale rooftop units installed by households or private entities. These decentralized systems are expected to enhance grid stability and reduce pressure on traditional power plants.

Monthly inflation rate stands at 35.3%

TEHRAN — Iran's inflation rate stood at 35.3 percent in the twelve-month period ended at the end of the fourth Iranian month of Tir (July 22), marking a 0.8 percent increase from the previous month, according to data released by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 41.2 percent in the fourth month, which means families have paid an average of 41.2 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The point-to-point inflation rate rose 1.8 percent in the mentioned month from the previous month.

The Statistical Center of Iran has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period that ended on March 20, 2025, which marks the end of the past Iranian calendar year 1403, at 32.5 percent.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 37.1 percent in the last month of the previous year, rising 1.8 percent from the previous month.

Non-oil products worth \$52m exported from Sistan-Baluchestan in Q1

TEHRAN – Non-oil products worth \$52.374 million were exported from Sistan-Baluchestan province, in the southeast of Iran, during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–June 21), according to a provincial official.

Qorban Karimi, an official with Sistan-Baluchestan province's Customs Department, put the weight of exported products at 567,925 tons, and said that the quarterly export indicates 22 percent rise in weight, and 20 percent drop in value, year on year.

The official further announced that 657,751 tons of non-oil goods valued at \$533.939 million were imported to the province in the first quarter of the current year, showing 18 percent rise in value, and 61 percent growth in weight, as compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

As previously announced by Faroud Asgari, deputy economy minister and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported \$11.655 billion worth of non-oil goods in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year.

The volume of non-oil exports stood at 34.476 million tons, representing a 9.3 percent decrease in weight and a 14.4 percent drop in value compared to the same period last year.

The average customs value of exported goods was \$338 per ton, down 5.6 percent year-on-year.

Petrochemical exports during the quarter totaled 11.133 million tons, valued at \$4.684 billion,

which marks a 28.7 percent decline in weight and a 24.5 percent decrease in value from the year before.

The top non-oil export items were liquefied propane at \$874 million, liquefied butane at \$611 million, methanol at \$576 million, petroleum bitumen at \$574 million, and natural gas at \$456 million.

China was Iran's largest export destination with purchases totaling \$3.511 billion. It was followed by Iraq at \$1.905 billion, the United Arab Emirates at \$1.592 billion, Turkey at \$937 million, Afghanistan at \$510 million, Oman at \$437 million, and Pakistan at \$420 million.

Iran's total non-oil trade during the quarter reached 43.489 million tons, valued at \$24.684 billion.

Imports accounted for 9.013 million tons of that volume, worth \$13.029 billion—down 4.35 percent in weight and 11.73 percent in value year-on-year.

The average value of imported goods was \$1,446 per ton, reflecting a 7.7 percent decline.

Key import items included unrefined gold at \$965 million, animal feed corn at \$883 million, rice at \$500 million, sunflower seed oil at \$493 million, and mobile phones at \$372 million.

The UAE was Iran's leading import partner with \$3.886 billion in shipments, followed by China at \$3.428 billion, Turkey at \$1.986 billion, India at \$514 million, Germany at \$454 million, Russia at \$354 million, and the Netherlands at \$340 million.

IRENEX sees 26% growth in trade volume over 4-month period

TEHRAN – Trade volume on Iran's Energy Exchange (IRENEX) grew by 26 percent in the first four months of the current Iranian year (March 21 – July 20), reaching a total value of 1.25 quadrillion rials (\$2.5 billion), the exchange's head said on Tuesday.

Mohammad Nazifi told reporters that the majority of trades—about 840 trillion rials (\$1.68 billion)—were in hydrocarbon products. He added that despite temporary declines during the recent 12-day conflict, the market quickly rebounded.

Nazifi said 60 percent of transactions now occur on the exchange's international ring, with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) accounting for the largest share, valued at 500 trillion rials (\$1.0 billion).

He noted that last year's total trading volume stood at 3.3 quadrillion rials, with 2.8 quadrillion



rials tied to hydrocarbon markets.

While IRENEX plays a significant legal and regulatory role in Iran's energy sector, Nazifi acknowledged it is still underutilized in the public and policy spheres.

"Market mechanisms are the only sustainable way to correct inefficiencies, especially in the electricity and water sectors," he

said.

The exchange is also expanding operations in electricity, water, and energy efficiency certificates. Green power, standard power, and regulated electricity are traded on separate boards, with notable price surges during periods of peak demand.

Nazifi said 1,400 foreign in-

vestor codes are now active on IRENEX, mostly from neighboring countries and China.

Energy exports are being conducted through the international trading platform to over 20 destinations. Currency settlement options have also been made available to facilitate foreign transactions.

He added that new instruments are under development, including diesel saving certificates and expanded trading of premium gasoline and aviation fuel. In the water sector, physical water trades and water-saving certificates are gaining traction, with Iran Water and Wastewater Company expected to facilitate industrial participation.

"Public engagement in consumption decisions, through market pricing and transparent mechanisms, is central to our strategy," Nazifi said.

NPC to add 10m tons to petrochemical output by March 2026



TEHRAN – Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) will bring 19 petrochemical projects online by the end of the current Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2026), adding 10 million tons to its annual production capacity, a senior official said.

Ahmad Jalilianfar, Director of Projects at NPC, said the new projects include both production units and feedstock supply developments.

Several projects such as Apadana Petrochemical, Dehloran Petro-Refinery, Kimia Dalahoo, and the flare gas recovery unit at East Karoun are already producing commercially, though not officially inaugurated.

"These projects are aligned with efforts to complete the value chain and enhance feedstock security. Only one of them—Apadana Petrochemical—is based on natural gas feedstock," he said in an interview with Shana.

Among the key projects nearing or entering commercial operation are the first phase of the East Karoun flare gas recovery plan, Dehloran petro-refinery, Kimia Petro-Entekhab Isfahan and Kimia Dalahoo polystyrene units, and Apadana Petrochemical.

He noted that other key projects include the Kangan Olefins complex, Bushehr Petrochemical's MEG unit, the Sadaf Asaluyeh synthetic rubber plant, and the Salman Farsi PDH project.

Two new gas turbines with a total capacity of 366 megawatts are also scheduled to come online by mid-September in Makran and Asaluyeh. A water desalination unit using reverse osmosis technology is being phased in, with full operation expected by October.

Iran exported petrochemical products valued at \$4.684 billion during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–June 21), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Foroud Asgari said that 11.133 million tons of petrochemicals was exported during the

three-month period, showing 28.7 percent fall in terms of weight, and 24.5 percent drop in terms of value, year on year.

As stated by the head of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), Iran's annual export of the petrochemicals is anticipated to reach about 34.8 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 2026).

Hassan Abbaszadeh also said that the country's nominal production capacity of petrochemicals is expected to hit 105 million tons in this year.

The official has previously emphasized the importance of institutionalizing unity and synergy across the sector to achieve sustainable development, noting that agile, dynamic organizations require efficient and skilled human resources to enhance productivity.

The deputy oil minister added that one of the key roles of development-oriented firms is to facilitate private sector investment in petrochemicals. He said the National Petrochemical Company stands ready to support investors in this regard.

He called on company managers to actively back the industry during the Year of "Investment for Production" by taking practical steps to address the challenges faced by petrochemical firms.

Highlighting the need to accelerate development projects through enhanced financing, Abbaszadeh said that collaboration with petrochemical holding companies could drive production growth this year.

He acknowledged last year's challenges in securing feedstock due to energy imbalances but expressed confidence that proper planning and measures could improve the sector's performance in 2025.

Abbaszadeh also credited parliamentary and government support for motivating industry players to pursue expansion strategies and focus on completing the value chain as a key priority.

Production in the petrochemical sector increased in the last Iranian year (ended on March 2025) compared to the year before, despite energy imbalances and feedstock shortages, he said, noting that most petrochemical plants achieved their production targets.

The National Petrochemical Company's chief underscored the need to attract new investments and boost production in line with this year's national motto.

Abbaszadeh reiterated the company's readiness to facilitate private investment and stressed the importance of management's sup-

port for the industry in tackling structural challenges.

He said the completion and operation of development projects could be accelerated through improved financial flows, and added that despite last year's feedstock-related difficulties, coordinated efforts this year could drive better results in the high-value petrochemical sector.

The official concluded that strong backing from the Iranian parliament and government has empowered the industry to move forward with determination, focusing on value chain completion as a strategic imperative.

In early June, the NPC head had said that under the country's Seventh National Development Plan, Iran aims to increase its petrochemical production capacity to 131 million tons, adding that this expansion is being pursued across various value chains, with a focus on creating balance between downstream and upstream development.

He emphasized that the lack of such balance in recent years has led to feedstock supply issues for several complexes. "Stable feedstock supply is a central pillar of the Seventh Plan, and our goal is to develop production capacity and feedstock sources in parallel," he added.

To address the shortfall, NPC plans to source feedstock from multiple channels, including the recovery of flare gas — a short-term strategy that also benefits the environment.

Abbaszadeh identified the key flare gas recovery zones as West Karoun, East Karoun, Dehloran, and Ilam, which together account for about 75 percent of Iran's flared gas. Projects in these areas are underway, including NGL 3100, which is expected to be operational in the coming months.

The expansion of the Bidboland Persian Gulf Gas Refinery under the Persian Gulf Holding is also in progress. It aims to eliminate around 55 gas flares, with 14 slated to be extinguished this year. In addition, Phase 2 of the Hoveyze Persian Gulf Gas Refinery (NGL 3200) is being developed, and by the end of next year, roughly 80 percent of associated flare gas is expected to be recovered and redirected to the petrochemical sector.

Abbaszadeh reiterated that securing feedstock remains NPC's top priority. "With coordinated efforts across various agencies and implementation of targeted programs, we aim to minimize idle capacity and elevate Iran's petrochemical industry to a strategic position in line with our long-term development goals," he said.

TPO urges trade envoys to expand market share for domestic goods abroad

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has called on the country's trade attachés to focus on increasing the market share of Iranian goods in target export destinations, emphasizing the importance of proactive market analysis and presence at key international events.

Speaking at a strategy session with Iran's commercial counselors stationed abroad, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi said the country possesses significant potential in foreign trade and must capitalize on it by closely monitoring markets and adapting its export strategy accordingly.

"The impact of our trade policies and programs is measured by tangible outcomes," Dehnavi said. "Market development is only meaningful if it leads to new trade channels and sustainable growth in exports."

The meeting, held at the TPO headquarters, was attended by senior officials including Morteza Salehi, the organization's executive deputy,

and other department heads. Participants reviewed the main duties of commercial attachés and discussed strategic plans to strengthen Iran's position in export markets.

Dehnavi, who also serves as Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, stressed the importance of aligning Iran's presence with key events and exhibitions in host countries, facilitating the participation of Iranian producers and businesses.

"Trade envoys must play a leading role in removing obstacles and finding innovative paths to enhance Iran's commercial presence abroad," he said, adding that diplomats should actively forge new trade opportunities and identify fresh avenues for business cooperation.

The push comes as Iran aims to diversify its export portfolio and reduce dependency on oil revenues by promoting non-oil exports, especially to neighboring and emerging markets across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Exclusive: Activist says Global Sumud Flotilla unites 40 nations in renewed push against Gaza blockade

Greta Berlin says the upcoming mass maritime effort represents the world's growing refusal to stay silent on the Gaza blockade

From page 1 ► by Israeli forces in international waters. Passengers were reportedly detained and the ship seized—an incident echoing a familiar pattern of obstruction met by previous flotilla missions.

In this exclusive interview, Berlin discusses the evolving role of civil society, the symbolic power of flotilla activism, and her unwavering belief that international grassroots pressure can—and must—break what she calls Israel's "illegal siege" on Gaza.

The following is the text of the interview:

Can you describe the latest events surrounding the interception of the Handala ship by Israeli forces?

The Free Gaza movement sailed into Gaza five times in 2008, the only initiative to do so to date. Since 2009 when Israel began attacking our boats, we and the Freedom Flotilla Coalition have continued to send more than 40 boats to break Israel's illegal siege on Gaza. We're not surprised that Israeli pirates have illegally boarded the Handala in international waters, kidnapped passengers and towed the boat into Israel.

The Israeli government then arrests the passengers, throws them into prison and charges them with illegally entering Israel, the last place any of us ever want to be. Israel's manhandling of passengers hasn't changed for 16 years, yet boats will continue to sail to the imprisoned territory of Gaza to hold Israel accountable for imprisoning over two million Palestinians.

Reports indicate that Gaza is facing a severe food crisis with millions at risk of starvation. How critical is the role of flotilla missions like Handala in addressing this humanitarian emergency?

Our missions have always been about global civil society working with Palestinian civil society to break Israel's illegal siege. It is not about delivering supplies but bringing to the attention to the world that Israel has been holding Palestinians in a concentration camp since 2005. Yes, we can take token supplies in, but our goal is to keep telling the world that Gaza is the only territory on the Mediterranean that has no access to its own waters. Gaza has been occupied since 1967 with every year that has passed seeing Israel clamping down on Palestinian movement.

How has the recent resumption of limited humanitarian aid deliveries affected conditions in Gaza, and where do significant gaps still remain?

This question is difficult for us to answer, because we are not politicians who are part of the US/Israeli attempts to starve the people in Gaza. But anyone watching Palestinian children die of starvation should be appalled at Israel's actions and the US acquiescence. It's clear that Netanyahu and his gang of settler thugs have the permission of the US government to, as Trump just said, "Finish the job".

For those of us who are Americans, we're appalled that food has become a weapon of war.

Western governments and mainstream media have been criticized for muted or inconsistent coverage of Gaza's humanitarian crisis. From your perspective, how has this affected international response and public awareness?



I've been working for justice in Palestine for 58 years, for the past 25 years full time.

There is a sea change happening since October 7, 2003, thanks to social media and the young generation in the West (and elsewhere) that counts on getting their news from YouTube, TikTok, Reddit, and thousands of podcasts rather than mainstream media.

I'm very encouraged to see this change in public awareness. Just look at the massive demonstrations around the world for Palestinians and against the Israeli genocide. Mainstream media has begun to grudgingly report the truth about Israeli genocide. When cell phones tell the truth, and we see photos every day of Palestinians being slaughtered and now starved to death, it's harder and harder to cover up the war crimes of Israel.

Even the New York Times and the BBC have begun telling the truth, or part of the truth. And the Global South has stepped up way ahead of the West. Countries like Malaysia, South Africa, Iran, Yemen, Columbia, Venezuela have been advocating for justice in Palestine for years.

Could you comment on the role of independent activists and flotilla missions in challenging prevailing narratives and pressuring governments for humanitarian relief in Gaza?

The Free Gaza movement began a lot of the activism when we successfully sailed into Gaza five times in 2008. Because of our audacious sailings, activists began the Gaza Freedom March from Egypt in 2009. George Galloway headed up Viva Palestina overland convoys, which were humanitarian aid efforts that delivered supplies to Gaza also in 2009.

We were the pioneers in breaking the siege by sea, but there were others that were breaking the siege by land. For two years, until Israel attacked our Freedom Flotilla I, the Mavi Marmara, and murdered ten of the passengers, convoys by sea and land were continuously making their way to Gaza.

August 23rd marks the 17th anniversary of the Free Gaza Movement's first successful journey. Looking back, what do you believe are the most significant achievements and challenges since that inaugural voyage?

Here is how it all began. Mary Hughes Thompson and I were

sitting in the Knight's Palace in 2005 when Sharon pulled the illegal Israeli settlers out of Gaza. We watched with such joy as they were shoved, pushing and yelling, onto buses and forced to leave Gaza. Israel loudly proclaimed to the world that Gaza was free.

Within days, dozens of us who had volunteered for the International Solidarity Movement began coming up with ideas on how to get to Gaza.

Three of us, all graduates of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) direct-action decided we'd call their bluff and organized the first flotilla of boats...ok It was two boats...to sail to Gaza.

After all, Gaza was now free, and we didn't have to ask Israel for permission...and we didn't.

We succeeded because we had a tight-knit core who we already trusted as we'd worked with the ISM. In fact, the majority of passengers were graduates of the ISM.

Even the New York Times and the BBC have begun telling the truth, or part of the truth, about Israeli genocide.

We succeeded because we never lost sight that our objective was to sail to Gaza, in spite of infighting.

We succeeded because the three of us organizers were over 65, had run our own businesses and didn't need to be paid. And we were American. No matter how much I despise our government's actions toward Palestine, there is one thing to be said about us Americans.

We are the eternal optimists. This direct action never would have gotten off the ground in many other countries because their citizens are too realistic. We were not.

Our first trip was a resounding success. No one thought we'd do it, but we did. The Israelis didn't know what to do with us, because we called their bluff that Gaza was free. They called us 'aging hippies,' and sneered at our boats.

We took everything they said to us, put it in a press release and sent it out. The activist world

was entranced and the closer it got to our sailing, the more media finally paid attention.

We were doing something different. And that was the charm of the action. No international boat had sailed into Gaza in 41 years and we did.

And we went four more times before Israel attacked our boat in December 2009 during Operation Cast Lead. Since then, no boat has been able to land in Gaza. And that's our major challenge, to continue to sail to Gaza's shores knowing we will be intercepted, our boats confiscated, passengers arrested and deported, and our equipment stolen.

It's expensive to continue these voyages and that's another challenge. Sending one or two boats at a time is no longer a viable option. We need dozens to hundreds of boats.

And that's our hope, all of us who have participated in these sailings. There is a new initiative beginning by Malaysia and other countries. It's called the Global Sumud Flotilla, bringing together activists and organizers from over 40 countries with dozens of ships.

The mission is a response to the recent seizure of the Handala vessel by Israeli authorities. You can see, then, that the more Israel stops the flotillas, the more global attention they have had and the broader the response is becoming.

We activists are eagerly waiting for organizers to let us know what we can do and when the flotilla will sail to Gaza, because these boats are not going to stop sailing.

The 1000 Flotilla campaign has launched a global call to break Israel's siege on Gaza following the seizure of The Madleen, a humanitarian ship led by Greta Thunberg.

Named after a Palestinian girl whose bloodied image carrying the flag became a viral symbol of resistance, The Madleen was intercepted by Israeli forces in international waters despite carrying only humanitarian aid. The fate of the passengers, including Thunberg, remains unknown.

This act of aggression has intensified international outrage and galvanized support for the campaign. The 1000 Flotilla initiative aims to mobilize a thousand civilian ships from around the world — organized in phases from multiple global ports — to peacefully challenge the blockade under international maritime law.

Organizers call the siege a crime against humanity and vow to sail not with weapons, but with solidarity, demanding an end to collective punishment in Gaza.

Our initiatives have brought people together from around the world, from countries who may have their issues, but we don't. Our only issue has always been to sail into Gaza and break Israel's illegal siege.

Salam's sterile government tasked with implementing World Bank's directives

From page 1 ► In 2024, Lebanon was loaned \$250 million, allegedly to promote the alternative energy system, and \$29 million to help manage the financial situation.

These loans confirm the failure of Nawaf Salam's government and its ministers, most notably Joe Saddi, the Minister of Energy and Water from the Lebanese Forces party, who is striving to marginalize Electricité du Liban (EDL).

Hence, Lebanon —whose name has been associated for decades with electricity crises and recurring blackouts— appears to be facing a new "adventure" led by the Lebanese Forces party.

This involves extending an electrical under-sea cable from Cyprus to Beirut as a "promising" solution to the worsening electricity crisis, a distance of approximately 190 kilometers.

Obviously, no detailed official or technical studies have yet been presented to the Lebanese public, and neither the Lebanese nor Cypriot ministries of energy have issued any clear positions on the implementation mechanisms or the entity that will supervise the project. Leaks reveal a portion of the violations that impose choices that do not serve Lebanon's best interests.

Contracts with service providers—Murad, KVA, NEUC, and BUS—were renewed via email, at the direct order of the World Bank, allegedly "to ensure business continuity."

The World Bank claims that Electricité du Liban (EDL) is not ready to retake control of the



distribution and services sector and cannot ensure the continuity of billing, maintenance, or operation of several transformer stations.

Besides, the World Bank set specific deadlines for the recovery of Lebanon's electricity sector, which are no less than two years.

The World Bank, dubbed by the Argentine people as "The Devil's Fund", has been and continues to blackmail and drag countries into debt traps, which sucks up their wealth and exploits it to the fullest extent!

When Malaysia experienced the Asian Tigers crisis, Malaysia's former PM Mahathir Mohamad refused to accept any international loans, and successfully overcame it with minimal losses compared to other countries.

In an interview with Bloomberg, Mahathir Mohamad says, "When we borrow money from them, the condition they often impose is that they have a hand in the management of the economy of the country, including the finances."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Six Israeli soldiers injured in Gaza

TEHRAN – Another attack by Palestinian resistance forces has left more casualties among Israel's occupation troops.

According to the regime's media, six IOF soldiers were injured in what has been termed as another "security incident" in the Gaza Strip.

Hebrew media reported that one of the soldiers is in a critical condition.

The latest casualties come as the armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the al-Quds Brigades, announced that its resistance fighters bombed an occupation command and control center as well as a gathering of enemy soldiers and officers using 107 rockets, scoring direct hits.

The attack took place east of the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip.

Also, the al-Quds Brigades announced that its fighters successfully destroyed an IOF military vehicle in Jabalia by detonating a highly explosive "Thaqib" device during its attempted incursion on Hamdan Street in the Faluja area.

Furthermore, the al-Quds Brigades revealed that in coordination with the Ansar Brigades, resistance fighters shelled a gathering of IOF soldiers with standard 60mm mortar rounds near al-Muntar Hill, east of the Shujaiya neighborhood near Gaza City.

Trump acknowledges Gaza starvation as death toll tops 60,000

From page 1 ► According to Gaza's Health Ministry, over 60,000 Palestinians have been killed since Israel's military campaign began in October 2023, with more than 145,000 others injured. Among the dead are over 150 civilians who have died of hunger and malnutrition, as Israel continues to obstruct humanitarian aid.

The situation has deteriorated so severely that even a UN-backed food security monitor has declared that the "worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip." The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) reported that "widespread starvation, malnutrition, and disease are driving a rise in hunger-related deaths," and noted that famine thresholds have been breached across most of Gaza, including Gaza City.

Despite the mounting evidence, Israeli officials continue to deny responsibility. Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar dismissed accusations of obstructing aid as "lies," while Prime Minister Netanyahu absurdly insisted that "there is no starvation in Gaza." These statements fly in the face of international reports—and now, even remarks from President Donald Trump.

In a rare moment of candor, Trump publicly

contradicted Israel's narrative during a visit to the United Kingdom, stating: "We can save a lot of people, I mean some of those kids. That's real starvation; I see it and you can't fake that. So we're going to be even more involved."

Trump's unexpected acknowledgment of "real starvation" in Gaza not only exposes the falsehoods propagated by Israeli leaders, but also underscores the hypocrisy of Washington's unwavering support for Israel. The United States has armed, financed, and diplomatically shielded Israel throughout this campaign, even as evidence of war crimes, including deliberate starvation, mounts. Trump's words, albeit accidental in their honesty, inadvertently illuminate a deeper truth; that the US is not a passive bystander but a direct enabler of Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza.

In this context, the claims of humanitarian concern from both Tel Aviv and Washington ring hollow. The facts on the ground—mass death, famine, and a crippled health system—speak louder than any press release. If Trump, hardly a paragon of compassion, can recognize the horror unfolding in Gaza, it begs the question: How much longer will the international community tolerate this manufactured catastrophe?

International Academy of Restoration of Historical Monuments inaugurated



TEHRAN--The International Academy of Restoration of Historical Monuments was inaugurated in Dafineh Museum in Tehran with participation of Hamidreza Soleymani, CEO of the museum.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, he said the first educational academy was launched in Historical Automobile Museum in Tehran. Also, one academy has been launched in “Tar-o-Pud” (meaning “Warp and Weft”) Museum in Yazd, he added, Mehr news agency reported.

“Today, it is the third academy that we launch for restoration of historical relics with cooperation of International Council of Museums (ICOM). We hope that the good path will continue.”

He said: “This academy was the missing link that could be our implementation arm and in-

From Kashan to Kermanshah: a cheese lover’s guide to Iran

TEHRAN - From the sun-soaked plains of Kashan to the lush, rugged terrain of Kermanshah, each region whispers its own cheese story. And these aren't just tales of food—they're about family, geography, season, and soul.

When you think of Iran, your mind might wander to fragrant spice bazaars, intricate tilework, and ancient cities wrapped in tales of empire. But for the curious foodie—especially a cheese lover—Iran offers a lesser-known yet deeply satisfying delight: a living, breathing dairy culture that stretches across valleys, deserts, and mountain slopes, Mehr news agency reported.

From the sun-soaked plains of Kashan to the lush, rugged terrain of Kermanshah, each region whispers its own cheese story. And these aren't just tales of food—they're about family, geography, season, and soul.

Located at the edge of Iran's central desert, Kashan may seem an unlikely place for dairy traditions to thrive.

But behind the city's historic windcatchers and rose gardens lies a surprising passion for cheese-making.

In villages surrounding Kashan, small farms use traditional techniques to produce a type of semi-soft white cheese that has a distinct earthy note, thanks to the unique herbs the local sheep graze on.

These cheeses are often stored in brine inside clay pots and sold fresh in morning markets. Locals enjoy them crumbled into flatbread with fresh mint and slices of tomato--a simple meal that perfectly captures the essence of the region: honest, hearty, and unforgettable.

Traveling slightly southwest, we enter the cultural capital of Isfahan. Famous for its architecture and fine arts, this city also holds a soft spot for balanced, flavorful dairy.

Isfahani cheeses are milder in salt compared to their northern counterparts, making them perfect for pairing with walnuts or honey.

Some producers even age their cheeses slightly longer, giving them a firmer texture ideal for grating over stews or warm dishes.

Cheese here is more than just an ingredient—it's a supporting actor in a grand culinary symphony. Whether enjoyed for breakfast with tea or as part of a formal dinner spread, cheese in Isfahan reflects the city's sense of refinement and moderation.

West of Isfahan lies Lorestan, a region known for its cascading waterfalls, dense oak forests, and proud nomadic traditions. The Lor people have long relied on sheep and goats not only for meat and wool but also for producing rich, tangy cheeses that are packed with the flavor of the mountains.

A signature preparation here involves wrapping soft cheese in wild herbs like oregano or thyme and aging it in sheepskin bags. The result is a cheese with a pungent aroma and a complex, layered taste--sour, salty, and

clude public services. This academy should have a specialized and specific function.”

The Sardar Asemami Cultural Museum Campus started its activity as Dafineh Museum in 1995. Later, after different strategic changes and the integration of Iran Money Museum, Iran Historical Car Museum and Time Museum, it continued work as Tehran Cultural Museum Complex in 2017.

As a result of the expansion policy of the institution's museums in 2020, two other museums, in addition to the Money Museum, were added to the Sardar Asemami Cultural Museum Campus. Currently, this campus includes 3 museums: World Art and Islamic Art, Antique Gems and Jewelry and Iran Money.



slightly spicy.

These traditional methods of preservation are gaining attention among modern dairy cooperatives as well.

Some of the larger names in the industry, including those affiliated with Iran Dairy Industries Company, have begun to highlight such regional specialties in their product development strategies, helping preserve heritage while offering new experiences to the urban palate.

As you reach the western edge of Iran, you arrive in Kermanshah--a region famous for its golden butter, but also a hidden gem for cheese connoisseurs.

Here, traditional cheese-making leans heavily on yogurt-based methods. One of the most cherished local varieties is a semi-hard, crumbly cheese made from fermented yogurt, strained and pressed by hand.

The aging process takes place in cool mountain caves or earthen containers that give the cheese a unique depth.

This cheese is often served with koloocheh, a type of local biscuit, and black tea--a pairing so beloved that it has found its way into the morning rituals of thousands of Kermanshahi households.

Moreover, as interest in regional dairy products grows, new ventures have emerged--often in collaboration with experienced producers or under the umbrella of national cooperatives--to refine, package, and share Kermanshah's dairy treasures with a broader audience, both inside and beyond Iran.

One of the most remarkable things about Iran's dairy landscape is that it's still very much alive. Unlike many countries where traditional cheese-making has become purely artisanal or even obsolete, in Iran, it's part of daily life. From local farmers markets to metropolitan supermarkets, you'll find an impressive variety of cheeses, each with its own origin story.

More recently, there's been a quiet revolution in how these traditional products are shared. Companies with decades of experience in the Iranian dairy scene--some even part of longstanding institutions like Iran Dairy Industries Company--are now working alongside rural producers to bring authentic tastes to a new generation of consumers. These efforts help ensure that the knowledge, skill, and flavor of Iran's cheese culture aren't lost to time.

Last year’s handicrafts fair reached sales of \$1.1m: deputy minister

TEHRAN--Deputy Minister of Handicrafts Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi announced sales of one trillion rials (\$1.1 million) worth of handicrafts at the 37th National Handicrafts Exhibition which was held at Tehran's Permanent Fairgrounds during November 13-16, 2024.

Speaking at the policy-making council meeting of the 38th National Handicrafts Exhibition, which was held with the presence of Cultural Heritage Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri, the general managers of this ministry, representatives of organizations and private sector activists, she said that with the presence of more than 1,000 activists in handicrafts field, 80,000 visitors, and the conclusion of international contracts, the last year exhibition became a turning point in the history of artistic events in the country, IRNA reported.

She pointed out that last year exhibition, with the wisdom of the minister and the synergy of all the elements, underwent a structural and content transformation and became a model for the future of this national event. “We witnessed a real transformation in this exhibition; an exhibition that became not only a sales arena, but also a platform for showcasing Iran's cultural power.”

Explaining the statistical details of last year event, she added: “The exhibition was held from November 13 to 16, and during this period, we were able to obtain a 50 percent discount on the cost of the pavilions through effective consultation and



interaction. Also, with the aim of promoting cultural justice, free accommodation was provided for 259 artists from less privileged areas of the country.”

She continued that based on the artists' self-declaration, the total sales made at this exhibition reached a remarkable one trillion rials. In addition, 150 billion rials (\$166,666) worth of contracts with government agencies and a \$50 million Memorandum of Understanding with a trade delegation from a regional country were also registered, which demonstrates the high capacity of handicrafts in the country's economic and cultural diplomacy, she added.

At end, Jalali-Dehkordi expressed her gratitude for the tireless efforts of all the trustees and expressed the hope that by taking advantage

of last year's successful experiences and focusing on national branding of handicrafts, the 38th Exhibition will be a platform for a new leap for the art economy, the prosperity of the domestic market, and the development of the country's cultural exports.

Iranian handicrafts are a vibrant expression of the country's rich cultural heritage, showcasing centuries of artistry and craftsmanship. From intricate Persian carpets, celebrated for their elaborate designs and vivid colors, to exquisite miniature paintings and calligraphy, Iranian artisans create works that blend tradition with unmatched skill.

Pottery and ceramics, often adorned with geometric or floral patterns, reflect the country's historic connection to the Silk Road. Metalwork, including engraved copper and

brass, highlights the precision of Iranian craftsmen, while turquoise inlaying, or Firoozeh-kubi, transforms jewelry and decorative items into cultural treasures.

Woodworking traditions such as Khatamkari, which is a form of marquetry, combine delicate inlaid pieces to create mesmerizing designs. Handwoven textiles, such as Pateh embroidery or Gabbeh rugs, represent regional identities and local stories.

Experts say that each Iranian handicraft is more than a product; it's a narrative of history, artistry, and cultural pride, passed down through generations of dedicated artisans.

Currently, a selection of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as “world cities of handicrafts”.

Prosperity of eco-tourism sites tied to government’s supervision of licensing process

TEHRAN—Managing Director of the Professional Association of Eco-Tourism Accommodations in Fars Province Omid Behrouzi considered the prosperity of eco-tourism sites is tied to the government's strict supervision of the licensing process.

He added that the government can promote tourism and eco-tourism by creating interaction in small workshops, providing insurance support, and removing tax obstacles, ILNA reported.

Pointing to situation of eco-lodges following the 12-day Israeli war against Iran, he said that people will certainly return to this sector of tourism. although the 12-day war has had its impact on tourists, but let's remember that eco-tourism promotes local culture and traditions, and people are always attracted to such things, he added.

He called eco-tourism resorts as unique potential for cultural narratives, authentic traditional experiences, and the connection between tourists and the natural and traditional environment, and stated: “If the government and the private sector keep pace with the tourism industry with targeted advertising at such times, we will undoubtedly have the greatest efficiency in attracting domestic tourists at the lowest cost.”

“Due to its diverse climate, Fars province is affordable for the activities of such guilds (eco-tourism) and a safe province for investment in the field of tourism. We will certainly face a huge influx of tourists after the war crisis passes and witness a revival of eco-tour-

ism sites.”

In response to the question of whether the situation will return to the previous routine with the current conditions in the field of foreign tourism and attracting tourists in Fars province, he stated that the tourism industry in Fars will definitely return to prosperity, because Fars province is the source of cultural heritage and historical identity of Iran, and with its unique historical attractions, indigenous textures in rural areas, and traditional rituals, it has always been an attractive and real destination for foreign tourists, and until the situation returns to a favorable state, Fars province will certainly be the first choice for foreign tourists, ILNA reported.

Referring to internet restrictions as a serious challenge for eco-tourism, Behrouzi continued that in today's world, social media is the first choice. Ecotourism that is connected to social media can clearly attract tourists, but internet restrictions in a war situation had a significant impact on attracting tourists, he added.

Pointing to the concentration of the majority of eco-tourism in the cities of Fars province, he said that all of these eco-tourism sites usually have the internet or use it less. “These accommodations mostly host tours that are taken to the desired areas by tour leaders or tour guides.

Internet restrictions generally did not affect them, but the war situation in the country has had a direct impact on the state of tourism and the tourism industry in general.”

Ovan Lake: hidden alpine gem of Qazvin you need to visit

TEHRAN - Nestled in the Alamut valley of Qazvin province, Iran's Ovan Lake is a breathtaking, crystal-clear alpine lake that remains one of the country's most underrated natural wonders.

Tucked away in the heart of Iran's Alborz Mountains, in the legendary land of Alamut, lies a breathtaking natural treasure that still remains a well-kept secret, even among locals. Ovan Lake, a pristine alpine lake, is a true gem for those seeking raw beauty, peace, and adventure far from the crowds, Mehr news agency wrote.

Surrounded by majestic mountains and lush greenery, this serene lake offers a magical escape for nature lovers, photographers, and adventurers alike.

Ovan Lake is one of Qazvin's most stunning natural attractions, drawing numerous both domestic and international visitors thanks to its breathtaking and awe-inspiring landscapes.

This beautiful lake is encircled by four vil-

lages: Evan, Vein, Zavardasht, and Zarabad.

As one of Iran's natural lakes, Ovan Lake is renowned for its remarkable scenery. Easy access via a well-maintained road and the availability of facilities along the lake's edge make it an ideal spot for family outings.

Additionally, the nearby campground offers a great retreat for nature lovers.

During the autumn and winter months, Ovan Lake freezes over and serves as a sanctuary for migratory birds, including swans, geese, and ducks.

Situated at an altitude of 1,815 meters, the lake experiences cold winters that freeze its surface, providing opportunities for ice skating and skiing.

Conversely, in the warmer summer months, the weather is perfect for activities such as fishing, swimming, and boating.

Unlike many other tourist hotspots in Iran, Ovan Lake remains relatively untouched. Its secluded location and lesser-known status make it ideal for travelers seeking a quiet es-



cape into nature.

From sunrise to twilight, Ovan Lake changes its colors and moods. Whether you're capturing the misty morning light or the vivid orange sunsets, the landscape around the lake provides endless creative opportunities for photographers and content creators.

Ovan Lake is also an excellent base for exploring nearby Alamut Castle and the picturesque mountain landscapes that make this region one of Iran's hidden travel treasures.

Iran among top ten countries in publishing nano-tech articles

TEHRAN – Having published a total of 4,615 articles in top 25 percent of journals (Q1 journals) in 2024, Iran is placed among top ten countries in publishing nano-technology articles, ranking 12 in h-index for nano-articles in the world.

China, the U.S., and India, with 86,924, 14,473, and 11,194 articles, respectively, are the top three countries. Iran is atop England (4,360), Japan (4,022), and Spain (3,830) in the ranking, ISNA reported. The

Q1 journal index is used to categorize scientific journals based on their impact; it is most commonly used in databases like Scimago Journal Rank (SJR) and Journal Citation Reports (JCR).

Q1 journal ranking is based on Impact factors, SJR, H-index, and the number of citations, ISNA reported.

Introduced by physicist Jorge Hirsch, the h-index is an important metric for measuring the scientific impact of a researcher, journal, or university. It was introduced by physicist Jorge Hirsch.

It measures the number of scientific publications (many articles), scientific impact (high number of citations), and a combination of quantity and quality of research.

Although from 2011 on, the country has undergone a downward trend in patenting nano-technology, it is placed among the top 30 countries in patenting nano-technology, ranking 27th in 2024.



It is worth noting that the percentage of granted patents increased from 19 percent in 2023 to 25 percent in 2024. Similarly, the number of published and granted patents slightly rose from 17 percent in 2023 to 19 percent in 2024.

By the end of 2024, Iran had published 364 nanotechnology-related patents in the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). 25 percent of Iran's USPTO-registered patents fall within the nanotechnology sector.

Iranian nanotech journals among world's most cited

The Journal Citation Report (JCR) Impact Factor 2024 has cited 161 Iranian journals, naming five among the world's most cited in the nanotechnology sector.

Journal of Nanostructure in Chemistry (JNSC) affiliated to Islamic Azad University with an

impact factor of 7.9 is placed among the top 25 percent of journals in JCR published by Clarivate Analytics in three categories including Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, ranking 34 among 147 top journals; Chemistry, Multidisciplinary, ranking 41 among 239 journals; and Material Science, Multidisciplinary, ranking 88 among 460 top journals.

Journals of International Nano Letters affiliated to Kermanshah Islamic Azad University, Nano-medicine Journal affiliated to Mashhad Medical Science University, Journal of Nanostructures affiliated to Kashan University, and International Journal of Nano Dimension affiliated to Tonekabon Islamic Azad University received an impact factor of 4.0, 1.7, 1.3, and 1.1, respectively, IRNA reported.

So far, ten out of the 12 specialized nanotechnology journals in the country have been indexed in the international Scopus database, of which five have received an impact factor.

The JCR 2024 included data from over 21,000 journals from 113 countries across 254 research categories.

JCR is most commonly a database that provides impact factors and rankings for scholarly journals in science, technology, and social sciences, based on citation data. JCR is a widely used resource for evaluating and comparing journals within the research community.

The most well-known metric provided by JCR is the Journal Impact Factor (JIF).

The JIF is a measure of how frequently, on average, articles published in a particular journal are cited in a specific year.

JCR data is drawn from the Web of Science Core Collection, a comprehensive citation index.

Only journals that have met the rigorous quality standards for inclusion in the Web of Science Core Collection are featured within the Journal Citation Reports, which ensures users can confidently rely on the information and descriptive data provided.

The annual reports provide a rich array of publisher-neutral data, metrics, and analysis to enhance user understanding of journal performance, including the widely recognized JIF and the Journal Citation Indicator.

SOCIETY

JULY 30, 2025

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

Iran determined to eradicate hepatitis C by March 2027

TEHRAN –The health ministry has set goals to eliminate hepatitis C in the country by the Iranian year 1405 (March 2026–March 2027) through precise planning and broad participation of different sectors, the deputy health minister Alireza Raeisi has said.

The country will continue to implement diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive policies to be able to achieve international bronze, silver, and ultimately gold medals for the eradication of hepatitis C, IRNA quoted Raeisi as saying.

The official made the remarks while addressing the World Hepatitis Day 2025 global webinar held on July 28 in the presence of representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international agencies.

Iran has been significantly successful in managing diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis despite sharing borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan, where infectious diseases have the highest prevalence, the official noted.

Fortunately, the country has been successful in implementing vaccination programs, injection safety, blood screening, and mother-to-child transmission prevention, Raeisi added.

In the first step, to win the bronze medal, the health ministry plans to identify some 60 percent of infected cases with hepatitis and treat forty percent of them by next Iranian year, March 2026.

Some 13,000 to 21,000 people are diagnosed per year, he stressed.

Silver medal will be received in the next stage, where 70 percent of individuals with the disease are diagnosed, and sixty percent of them are cured. In the final phase, gold medal, the health



ministry will have treated 70–80 percent of people with hepatitis, Raeisi noted.

Underscoring that the elimination of hepatitis is not a motto, but a national commitment, Raeisi said the national hepatitis elimination program centers around active case finding (among high-risk groups like addicts, prisoners, patients with rare diseases, and refugees), their free treatment, and public insurance coverage.

Referring to sanctions, Raeisi urged the WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to further provide support to the country in achieving its goals, while lauding their efforts in supplying needed equipment, sharing knowledge, and lowering harms in high-risk groups.

Hepatitis is caused by a variety of infectious viruses and noninfectious agents, leading to a range of health problems, some of which can be fatal.

Low coverage of testing and treatment is the most important gap to be addressed in order to achieve the global elimination goals by 2030.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Over 15 cities in Iran become age-friendly

TEHRAN –So far, 16 cities in the country have taken necessary measures to develop age-friendly communities, the head of the Welfare Organization has said.

These cities are located in Tehran, Gilan, Yazd, Isfahan, East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Lorestan, Hamedan, Khuzestan, and Bushehr provinces, IRNA quoted Seyed Javad Hosseini as saying.

Age-friendly communities are places where age is not a barrier to living well and where the environment, activities, and services support and enable older people to have opportunities to enjoy life and feel well.

Highlighting the fact that the country is aging, the official elaborated on the services provided to the elderly.

“Some 6.5 million elderly people are benefiting from various services offered by the organization.

The Welfare Organization provides some 22 different kinds of services in rehabilitation, social services, and empowerment sectors, including home care, counseling, day and overnight care, and social supports.”

In October 2024, Mojgan Rezazadeh, the

head of the secretariat of the National Council of the Elderly, said that the national document for creating age-friendly environments across the country has taken effect.

“The world's population, especially in developing countries, is growing old, and Iran is no exception.

The percentage of the elderly population in the country has increased from five percent in 1976 to about 10.5 percent, reaching around 9 million people,” IRNA quoted Rezazadeh as saying.

The document works towards improving physical and social environments to become better places for the elderly.

It is compiled in three parts: Principles of indicators and criteria of the strategic plan of an age-friendly city, holding workshops on how to prepare a strategic document for an age-friendly city, and planning indicators for an age-friendly city.

In addition to its eight main domains, traveling and tours for the elderly are going to be added to the plan.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian students bag 4 medals at IEO 2025

From page 1 ► This year, 68 countries participated in the IEO.

Mohsen Payandeh-Peyman, and Abolfazl Modir-Roosta won silver medals, while Parsa Sedaqat and Alireza Ahmadi secured bronze medals, IRNA reported.

Recent achievements

Four Iranian students clinched three gold medals and a silver medal at the 36th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2025), ranking second among 81 countries, up from third in 2024.

Siavash Pezeshpour, Ali Soleimanzadeh Kalahroudi, and Ali-Akbar Nourollahi won the gold medals, while Radin Bayani secured the silver medal at the competition, which was held from July 19 to 27 in Quezon City, Philippines, PANA reported.

Five Iranian students secured silver medals at the 55th International Physics Olympiad, ranking 11th globally.

Held from July 18 to 24 in Paris, the IPHO 2025 brought together 440 candidates from over 90 countries.

Mohammad-Hassan Sadeqinejad Simaki, Arya Zarabi, Ilya Qashae, Mohammah-Hasan Golabdar, and Milad Mohammadi won sil-

ver medals, IRIB reported.

Iran grabbed two gold medals, three silver medals, and a bronze medal at the 66th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO 2025), held from July 10–20 in Australia.

Hosted by the Australian Maths Trust, the event attracted more than 600 high school students from 112 countries.

The competition represents the culmination of many years of mathematical endeavour and hundreds of attempts at solving problems.

Bardia Khosh-Eqbal and Mehdi Aqajanloo grabbed gold medals, Mohammad-Reza Attaranzadeh, Mohammad-Sajad Memari, and Amir-Hossein Zarei secured silver medals, while Parsa Tajallaei won a bronze.

The team had ranked second in the 3rd International Mathematics Summer Camp (IMSC) held in Beijing, China, from June 20 to July 12, 2025.

Bardia Khosh-Eqbal grabbed a gold medal, Mehdi Aqajanloo, Parsa Tajallaei, Mohammad-Reza Attaranzadeh, and Mohammad-Sajad Memari won silver medals, and Amir-Hossein Zarei won a bronze medal, IRIB reported.

Attending the second International Mathematics Olympiad for high school students in Turkmenistan, Iranian students managed to win seven bronze medals.

Hosted by Ashgabat Specialised General Education School, the event was held from April 21 to 26.

More than 230 talented students from 15 countries, including Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Iran, Armenia, Bulgaria, Nepal, China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Vietnam, Qatar, and Turkmenistan, took part in the competition.

Thirty-one students from North Khorasan represented Iran in the second Olympiad. Mohammad-Javad Kamali Kalati, Arya Mohammadi Razi, Mahsa Abron, Sajjad Azizi, Mahyar Forooghifar, Yalda Mesrzadeh, and Setayesh Rahimi won bronze medals, Tasnim news agency reported.

Iranian students won two silver and two bronze medals, ranking fourth at the Turkic International Mathematics Olympiad (TIMO) held from April 17 to 22, in Antalya.

Parnian Heydarian and Anusha Abdi grabbed silver medals and won the World Star Awards, while Fatemeh Mazini and Ava Dejagah won bronze medals.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Excessive use of renewable water in Kerman ‘worrisome’

Excessive withdrawal of renewable water, equaling 123 percent of the current volume, in the southeastern province of Kerman, has raised great concerns while posing a serious threat to the life of residents and region's biodiversity.

“Currently, there are 5.5 billion cubic meters of renewable water in Kerman province, but 6.8 billion cubic meters equivalent to 123 percent of renewable water resources is being used,” IRNA quoted Reza Jazinizadeh, the head of Kerman province's department of environment, as saying.

In the [13]40s (falling on 1960s), renewable water resources measured at 90 million cubic meters, and some 50 million cubic meters out of this amount was withdrawn.

برداشت آبهای تجدیدپذیر در کرمان نگران کننده است

مدیرکل حفاظت محیط زیست استان کرمان گفت: برداشت ۱۲۳ درصد از آبهای تجدیدپذیر در این استان که حیات انسانی و جانوری را با تهدید جدی مواجه کرده، نگران کننده است.

رضا جزینی زاده تصریح کرد: در حال حاضر در استان کرمان ۵.۵ میلیارد متر مکعب آب تجدیدپذیر داریم که ۶.۸ میلیارد مترمکعب معادل ۱۲۳ درصد آبهای تجدید پذیر برداشت و مورد استفاده قرار می گیرد.

در دهه ۱۳۴۰ میزان برداشت آب از سفره های زیرزمینی مورد بررسی قرار گرفت و مشخص شد که در کشور ۹۰ میلیون مترمکعب آب تجدید پذیر وجود دارد و از این میزان ۵۰ میلیون مترمکعب برداشت می شود.



IRCS sends medical teams to Iraq for Arbreen

On July 26, the Iranian Red Crescent Society dispatched medical emergency vehicles, including ambulances, to provide immediate medical care and transportation during the Arbreen pilgrimage.

IRCS has also sent some 8,200 rescue and relief workers, physicians, and nurses to offer services to pilgrims.



JULY 30, 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:12:11 Evening: 19:30 Dawn: 3:34 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:12 (tomorrow)

“The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey” to be shown at IAF



TEHRAN - The 2012 epic fantasy adventure film “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey” directed by Peter Jackson will be shown at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran on Friday.

The film screening is set for 6 p.m. at the Nasseri Hall of the IAF. The 174-minute movie will be shown with Persian subtitles, Honaronline reported.

It is based on the 1937 novel “The Hobbit” by J. R. R. Tolkien. “The Hobbit” trilogy is the first installment in acting as a prequel to Jackson’s “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy.

The story is set in Middle-earth, 60 years before the main events of “The Lord of the Rings” and portions of the film are adapted from the appendices to Tolkien’s “The Return of the King”. “An Unexpected Journey” tells the tale of Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), who is convinced by the wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellen) to accompany thirteen Dwarves, led by Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage), on a quest to reclaim the Lonely Mountain from the dragon Smaug.

The ensemble cast also includes Ken Stott, Cate Blanchett, Ian Holm, Christopher Lee, Hugo Weaving, James Nesbitt, Elijah Wood, and Andy Serkis.

Screened almost nine years after the release of “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” the film received mixed reviews from critics and grossed \$1.017 billion at the box office, making it the fourth highest-grossing film of 2012. The film received numerous accolades; at the 85th Academy Awards, it was nominated for Best Produc-

tion Design, Best Makeup and Hairstyling, and Best Visual Effects.

Two sequels, “The Desolation of Smaug” and “The Battle of the Five Armies” followed in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

John R. R. Tolkien (1892-1973) was an English writer and philologist, known for his high fantasy works “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings”.

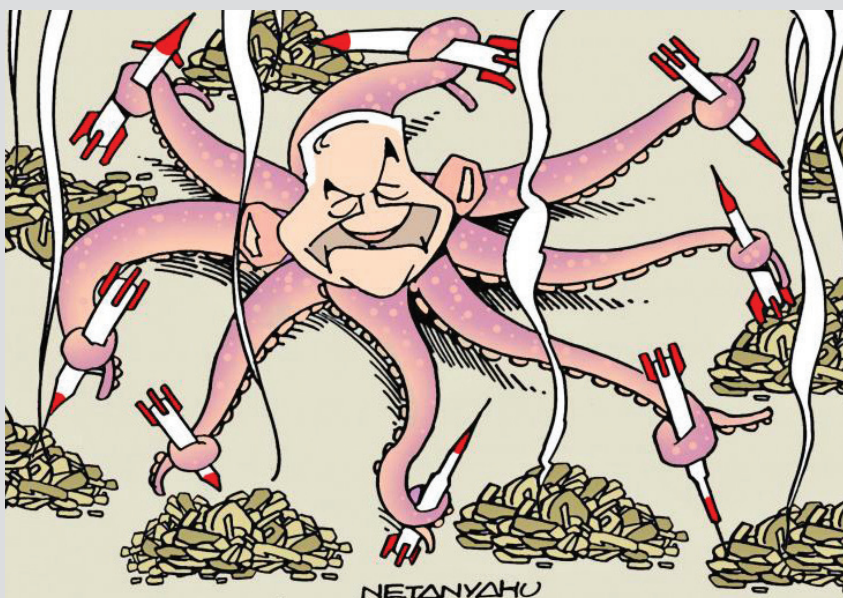
After Tolkien’s death, his son Christopher published a series of works based on his father’s extensive notes and unpublished manuscripts, including “The Silmarillion”. These, together with “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings,” form a connected body of tales, poems, fictional histories, invented languages, and literary essays about a fantasy world called Arda and, within it, Middle-earth. Between 1951 and 1955, Tolkien applied the term legendarium to the larger part of these writings.

While many other authors had published works of fantasy before Tolkien, the tremendous success of “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings” ignited a profound interest in the fantasy genre and ultimately precipitated an avalanche of new fantasy books and authors. As a result, he has been popularly identified as the “father” of modern fantasy literature and is widely regarded as one of the most influential authors of all time.

Sir Peter Jackson, 63, is a New Zealand filmmaker. He is best known as the director, writer, and producer of the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy (2001-2003) and the “Hobbit” trilogy (2012-2014). He is the fourth-highest-grossing film director of all-time, with his films having made over \$6.5 billion worldwide.

Jackson has been awarded three Academy Awards for “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” (2003), including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screenplay. His other awards include three BAFTAs, a Golden Globe, two Primetime Emmy Awards, and four Saturn Awards among others.

Cartoon of Day



War Octopus
Cartoonist: Amorim from Brazil

Marivan to host Intl. Street Theater Festival in October

TEHRAN- The 18th edition of Marivan International Street Theater Festival is scheduled to be held in October.

The festival aims to strengthen street theater and facilitate the exchange of innovative experiences among performing groups in producing and executing various outdoor theatrical genres, Honaronline reported on Tuesday.

The event seeks to foster hope, solidarity, increased social vitality and participation, and heightened attention to social issues. It emphasizes direct engagement with audiences and citizens for effective communication of contemporary themes and societal matters, the report added.

Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance’s Deputy for Artistic Affairs, the Department of Performing Arts, the Kordestan Province Cultural and Artistic Department, the Iran Performing Arts Association, and the Kordestan Performing Arts Association, the festival is further supported by the Kordestan Governorate, Marivan Municipality, and the City Council.

The festival encompasses diverse sections, including a street theater competition focusing on themes such as empathy, environmental protection, and the culture of sacrifice; other performance categories such as environmental theatre and perform-



ing arts; a children and youth section centered on educational messages; traditional and ceremonial segments; international categories; research projects; and workshops.

Marivan City is located in the west of Kordestan province, in the west of Iran. This city shares a 100 kilometers border with Iraqi Kurdistan.

Marivan International Street Theater Festival is one of the most important major artistic events in the field of performing arts in the country. Since 1994, the city of Marivan has been included in the list of cities with independent theater festivals in the country by holding the first memorial of the Marivan theater.

The year 2001 should be considered as the starting point for the performance of street shows in Marivan because the sixth anniversary of the Marivan Regional Theater was held that year. The first national festival of Marivan street theater was held in 2004.

Street theater is a form of theatrical performance and presentation in outdoor public spaces without a specific paying audience. These spaces can be anywhere, including shopping centers, car parks, recreational reserves, college or university campuses, and street corners. They are especially seen in outdoor spaces where there are large numbers of people.

The actors who perform street

theater range from buskers to organized theater companies or groups that want to experiment with performance spaces, or to promote their mainstream work. It was a source of providing information to people when there were no sources of providing information like television, radio, etc. Nowadays, sometimes performers are commissioned, especially for street festivals, children’s shows, or parades.

Street theater is a way to make traditional theater accessible for those who may not be able to otherwise attend or afford tickets. The audience typically consists of anyone and everyone who wants to watch and for most performances is free public entertainment.

Adaptation of Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein” on stage at Tehran theater

TEHRAN – A loose adaptation of English novelist Mary Shelley’s novel “Frankenstein” is currently on stage at Tehran’s Medea Theater Hall.

Written by Ali Asadvand, Mahyar Sadeqzadeh is the director of the play, which has been renamed “Franklif Cemetery”.

Iman Soleimani, Shahriar Askari, Yasin Mirzai, Fafa Vakili and Sepideh Palangi are the main members of the cast for the play, which will remain on stage until August 6.

In Mary Shelley’s classic novel, “Frankenstein”, Victor Frankenstein, a young and ambitious scientist, becomes obsessed with the idea of creating life from death. Through his experiments, he succeeds in bringing a creature to life, but is horrified by its grotesque appearance and rejects it. The creature, feeling abandoned and rejected, sets out to seek revenge against its creator.

As the story unfolds, Frankenstein’s creature begins to learn and adapt at an alarming rate, eventually becoming intelligent and articulate. However, its appearance and mannerisms are repulsive to the humans it encounters, leading to a series of tragic events. The creature’s desire for human connection and understanding drives it to seek out its creator, demanding answers about its existence and the reason for its rejection.

Meanwhile, Frankenstein’s family is plagued by a series of mysterious deaths, which the creature is accused of committing. As the truth begins to unravel, Frankenstein’s loved ones are torn apart by his own guilt and the fear of the monster. The creature’s desire for revenge ultimately leads to a catastrophic confrontation between the two, resulting in a devastating loss that changes Frankenstein’s life forever.

Throughout the novel, Shelley



explores themes of ambition, loneliness, and the dangers of playing God. Frankenstein’s creation is a powerful critique of scientific hubris and the consequences of unchecked progress. The novel also raises questions about what it means to be human, as the creature struggles to understand its own identity and place in the world.

The story has captivated readers for centuries with its timeless themes and haunting characters. Frankenstein’s tale has been retold and reimagined in countless adaptations, but Shelley’s original novel remains a masterpiece of Gothic horror and a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked ambition.

Exhibition of Gaza children’s art from genocide

A powerful travelling exhibition of artwork created by children in Gaza is on display at Spark: York in England this week, offering visitors a rare glimpse into the lived experiences of young people growing up amid conflict – and the creativity they harness to process it.

Running from July 28 to August 3, the exhibition is brought to the city of York through a collaboration between York Palestine Assembly and Spark. It features 45 pieces of art created by children in Gaza, curated through The Artist’s Tent, an initiative founded by café owner Mohammed Timraz in Gaza, and Irish architect Féile Butler, Yorkshire Bylines reported.

Originally launched in July 2024, the project began as a partnership aimed at giving voice to Gaza’s youngest residents through visual storytelling. Since then, digital reproductions of the children’s work have travelled to cities such as Chicago, Rome, London, and Berlin – and now York joins the list.

Each piece in the exhibition is accompanied by a statement from the child artist, offering insight into their inner world. From abstract dreams to stark reflections of reality, the artworks explore themes of hope, fear, memory, and loss.

One of the young artists, Jory Abu Harb, reflects on how her relationship with art has been



“Gaza has become a ghost city” by Qamar Timraz

transformed by war: “I have always loved art and drawing. Colors and paintings took me to other worlds full of beauty and creativity. I saw a story in every painting, and a feeling in every color. But the war came and changed everything. Colors no longer filled my life, and paintings no longer expressed my dreams”.

“Now, the brush is heavy in my hand, and the colors are faded in my eyes. The war stole my passion and left me searching for hope in the midst of destruction.”

Another child artist, Qamar Timraz, depicts

both her dreams of a horse and the ruined landscape of her hometown, writing: “Gaza has become a ghost city.”

Visitors to the exhibition also has the opportunity to write messages to the children and their communities – messages which will be delivered directly by Timraz.

A special finale event will be held at the same location on August 2. The day will be divided into two sessions: a family-focused afternoon with craft and poetry workshops, followed by an evening gathering for adults, featuring conversation, reflection, and an interfaith vigil.

Baked goods, art materials, and poetry will accompany the events, and organizers hope that Mohammed Timraz will be able to join via video call during the evening session.

The exhibition is supported by York Palestine Assembly, a coalition of groups including Health Workers 4 Palestine and Palestine Solidarity Campaign who raise awareness and solidarity for the people of Palestine. Spark: York, a local community interest company, provides a creative and inclusive venue for events that engage the public in meaningful social issues.

Organizers hope the exhibition will not only spotlight the resilience and humanity of Gaza’s children, but also serve as a call to empathy and connection in a world too often divided.