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Masoumeh Chahe's sister displays photo of the deceased MEK hostage during Tehran Times interview

## US boycott of UN meeting on Palestinian statehood not unexpected

#### Bv Bahram Moradi

TEHRAN - While dozens of countries held a three-day conference at the United Nations in New York to urge the world to work towards a two-state solution between Israelis and the Palestinians within the 1967 borders, the United States and Israel boycotted the event.

The 193-member UN General Assembly decided in September last year that such a conference would be held in 2025. The conference was hosted by France and Saudi Arabia, but it was postponed in June after Israel attacked Iran.

The refusal by the U.S. and Israel to attend the conference was not unexpected. It is crystal clear that Israel does not want a Palestinian state. The U.S. also does not want a Palestinian state.

Israel wants the entire Palestinian land. It is working hard to drive out Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. If some had any shed of doubt about Israel's motives in this regard,

## Lebanese cabinet to convene next week on arms monopoly

#### By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT— The Lebanese cabinet is scheduled to convene next Tuesday in response to US envoy Thomas Barrack's recent threat on X that says: "As long as Hezbollah retains its weapons, words will not suffice. The government and Hezbollah must fully engage and act now."

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump's nominee for ambassador to Lebanon, Michel Issa, announced before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee that if his appointment is confirmed, he will work to ensure the full restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty in a way that "disarming Hezbollah is not optional, but necessary, and the time to act is now."

In response to questions from US senators, Issa likened Hezbollah to "a wounded bear that can still hurt."

He added, "Hezbollah is trying to buy time because parliamentary elections will be held next year, and it fears losing these elections if it gives up its weapons. Secondly, because Hezbollah is not the one who makes the decisions, but Iran is. Its loyalty is never to Lebanon, but always to Iran, and Iran does not care what happens to the Lebanese people."

# EU lawmakers call for sanctions as Gaza starvation deepens: Will Europe follow through?

#### By staff writer

TEHRAN- The continuing humanitarian disaster in Gaza has sparked a considerable political response from European Union (EU) legislators, however the overall EU and Western response is still disjointed, late, and terribly weak.

According to a report from Euronews on July 29, a group of 40 cross-party MEPs have called for EU sanctions on Israel, particularly suspension on the EU-Israel trade agreement and more sanctions for the "atrocities" and severe humanitarian crimes committed in Gaza.

#### Condemnation of Israel and calls for accountability

This coalition condemns Israel for "blatantly breaching the Geneva Convention and international humanitarian law," while urging Hamas to release Israeli captives. They warn, "Future generations will judge today's leaders on their response, or lack thereof, to the atrocities in Gaza.

▶ Page **5** 

# International Day of Friendship: 'your wellbeing matters to me too'

TEHRAN - In a time when the noise of division grows louder — fueled by wars, conflicts, inequality, and fear — friendship feels almost radical in its simplicity. It doesn't arrive with fanfare or policy; it doesn't need speeches or signatures. It begins with something quieter: a conversation, a shared moment, a willingness to see one another not as strangers but as fellow travelers through the human experience.

July 30 was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2011 as the International Day of Friendship, with the idea that friendship between people, countries, cultures, and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities. Page 7



# Marking the memory of child martyrs of Iran and Gaza

TEHRAN -A silent protest gathering in memory of child martyrs from Iran and Gaza, titled "From Iran's Karbala to Gaza's Karbala," was held on Wednesday afternoon (July 30, 2025). It coincided with the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hazrat Raqayya (SA), in response to recent crimes committed by the Zionist regime against children. The event was attended by university faculty, academics, students, and medical staff from the University of Medical Sciences at Imam Khomeini Hospital.

# 'Strategic priority', Iran says committed to broadening ties with Tajikistan

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has highlighted Tehran's commitment to expanding relations with Dushanbe, emphasizing that Iran views cooperation with Tajikistan as a strategic priority.

Araghchi made the remarks in a meeting with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon at the Palace of Nations in Dushanbe on Wednesday.

He pointed to the shared linguistic, cultural, and historical ties between the two nations as a solid foundation for deepening cooperation in key areas, including trade, diplomacy, education, and cultural exchange.

During the meeting, the Iranian diplomat conveyed the official greetings of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Masoud Pezeshkian to the Tajik president and people. Page 2

## 'We defended our land with resolve:' Qalibaf takes Iran's case to Geneva forum

TEHRAN – Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf delivered a searing critique of Western-backed Israeli aggression and the regime's Gaza genocide at the 6th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (WCSP), while simultaneously showcasing Iran's diplomatic resilience through strategic bilateral engagements.

Addressing global parliamentary leaders on Wednesday, Qalibaf condemned the deliberate erosion of multilateralism, linking it to institutional paralysis over Gaza and recent attacks on Iran.

He declared that the Israeli regime's military aggression against Iran – conducted with U.S. complicity – resulted in over a thousand Iranian martyrs, stressing: "This aggression happened not because diplomacy failed, Page 3

## IMF doubles Iran's 2025 economic growth forecast despite 12-day war with Israel

TEHRAN - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has doubled its forecast for Iran's economic growth in 2025 to 0.6 percent, up from 0.3 percent in its previous report, despite the economic and geopolitical fallout from a 12-day war between Iran and Israel earlier this year.

According to the latest IMF report, Iran's economy is expected to grow by 0.6 percent this year, marking a modest but notable revision upward.

The update comes just three months after the Fund had projected a 0.3 percent expansion.

The upward revision signals increased resilience in Iran's economy despite ongoing sanctions, regional instability, and the recent brief military conflict with Israel.

The IMF projects global economic growth at 3.0 percent in 2025, down from 3.3 percent last year.

It also warns of slowing momentum in major economies, including the United States and China.

The U.S. economy, which grew by 2.8 percent last year, is expected to expand by only 1.9 percent this year. The IMF attributes the slowdown in part to former President Donald Trump's tariff policies, which the Fund says are hurting U.S. economic performance in his new term.

China's growth is also projected to cool slightly—from 5.0 percent in the previous year to 4.8 percent—reflecting ongoing structural challenges and weak global demand.

# POLITICS

Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES** 

# -TEHRAN PAPERS-

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

#### Giving opportunity to Europe is a mistake

In an interview with the Jam-e-Jam newspaper, former diplomat Alireza Sheikh Attar address Europe's hostility toward Iran, believing that negotiating with them is fruitless. He said: Europe's current stance toward Iran starting from setting the stage for aggression via resolutions in the IAEA Board of Governors, to Germany's explicit approval of (the Israeli act of) aggression against Iran, and ultimately repeatedly threatening to activate the snapback mechanism that would reinstate UN Security Council sanctions prove that the three European countries (Britain, France and Germany) have little interest to cooperate with Iran. Their recent behavior in the past few rounds of talks, including the latest held in Istanbul, reveals a reluctance rooted in their growing awareness of Iran's capabilities to resist sanctions and respond militarily, especially given their understanding of Israel's recent attack and Iran's response. Giving diplomatic opportunity to the Europeans is a grave error. None of the European nations is trustworthy. Europe has lost its previous economic power. And, given the global competition, it no longer qualifies as an influential actor in comparison to America, China, and BRICS. At most, it serves as a mere implementer of American and Israeli strategies.

#### Sobh-e-No: Iran strongly backs stability in the Caucasus

While the United States and its allies attempt to stoke unrest in the Caucasus, the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted a logical and responsible position. Tehran is not only pursuing regional stability, but also advocating peaceful conflict resolution through regional dialogue free from foreign intervention. Recent military drills by Iran's army in the northwest of the country underscore that Tehran will not allow the Caucasus to become a staging ground for anti-Iran operations. The Republic of Azerbaijan now faces a strategic decision: Either maintain political independence and refrain from joining seditious coalitions and take steps with neighboring states toward shared development, or, by repeating Ukraine's path, become a puppet of the United States and global Zionism and face domestic turmoil, security threats, and regional isolation. Iran, without a doubt, stands prepared to support peace and stability in the Caucasus as it has in the past, but it will not allow its national security to be compromised by Western greed. History may be repeating itself, but learning from its lessons remains the only path to over-

coming future challenges.

#### Etemad: Diplomacy or war?

In a note, Etemad discussed the revival of diplomacy with Europe and wrote: Europe is very interested in lifting sanctions on Iran and normalizing the situation to revive its traditional trade with the rich Middle East, and Iran, by pursuing the path of restoring diplomacy, should take advantage of this opportunity. In this regard, the European troika, while seeking to activate the snapback mechanism, is trying to play an effective role in managing the crises. The European troika believes that the current (secondary) sanctions on Iran were imposed by the United States and that European banks and companies have abided them reluctantly. However, it is believed that Europe considers a future lifting of sanctions on Iran dependent on the type of practical steps that Iran will take in the future. Europe and the U.S. (along with Iran, China and Russia) were involved in drafting the JCPOA, and the snapback mechanism was an important knot because they did not want to give Iran immunity from the return of condemnatory resolutions if Tehran violates the JCPOA. But in the new circumstances, they consider it up to Iran to decide how much it can prevent its activation in the remaining short time and making meaningful concessions, securing an agreement, and building trust!

#### Ettelaat: Eyes are on Tehran

In a commentary, Ettelaat addressed the visit of Ron Dermer, Israel's Minister of Strategic Affairs, and Tzachi Hanegbi, the regime's National Security Advisor, to the U.S. It wrote: The recent visit of Israeli officials to the U.S. shows that although the attack on Iran has ended, the Iranian is still open. The security map of the region has changed, and Israel and Iran have gone beyond the limits of warning and threat and have tested the power of unity in a military conflict. The U.S. is also fluctuating between the two approaches of pressure and negotiation. In the meantime, all eyes are on Tehran to see what direction it will take in its ongoing interactions with Europe and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The important point is that after the recent war, Iran has also shown signs of returning to the negotiating table. The different and relatively mild statements by Pezeshkian and Araghchi about negotiations should not be ignored. However, Tehran is simultaneously sending the message that a military response will be inevitable if an attack is repeated. It is obvious that no decision about the future of the region will be made without considering Iran's position, military capabilities, and foreign policy approach.

# 'Delusional' and 'ridiculous': Iran rejects claim of kidnapping plot against Belgian politician



A view of the Iranian Embassy in the Belgian capital of Brussels

TEHRAN - Iran's mission to the EU in Brussels has labeled as "delusional" the allegations made by a human rights activist and Belgian parliamentarian, Darya Safai, concerning an alleged Iranian plot to abduct her through Turkey.

Safai, of Iranian descent, claimed Belgian police alerted her to a supposed Tehran scheme to "kidnap" her "via Turkey" due to her support for designating the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a "terrorist group." This accusation surfaced shortly after she posted a selfie with Reza Pahlavi, the son of the overthrown Shah, who was ousted in the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Reza Pahlavi backed Israel during the regime's deadly war against Iran lasting for 12 days in June.

Responding to Safai's claims, Rabat Jazi of Iran's EU mission posted on X, mocking what he called "a new cheap & stylish way of playing grandiose & pleasing your genocidal apartheid boss: just act delusional and hallucinate that you were going to be abducted by a phantom enemy," adding, "No matter how ridiculous it might appear."

Moreover, even anti-Iran and monarchist figures have derided Safai's claim, suggesting it was a self-aggrandizing attempt to gain attention. Safai had previously advocated for a resolution in the Belgian House of Representatives to include the IRGC on the European terrorist list.

# 'Strategic priority', Iran says committed to broadening ties with Tajikistan

FM Araghchi received warmly by high-ranking officials in Dushanbe





Iran's Foreign Minister abbas Araghchi meets with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin in seperate meetings at Dushanbe on July 30, 2025.

From page **1** ▶ During the meeting, the Iranian diplomat conveyed the official greetings of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Masoud Pezeshkian to the Tajik president and

President Rahmon welcomed the visit and echoed the sentiment, describing Iran-Tajikistan ties as rooted in centuries-old friendship and mutual respect. He called for further efforts to boost cooperation in light of current regional challenges.

The two sides discussed the current state of bilateral relations and exchanged views on expanding collaboration. They also reviewed regional developments, including the evolving situations in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and West Asia, and shared their perspectives on mutual security concerns.

#### Araghchi meets Tajik FM to advance bilateral agenda

Later in the day, Araghchi held talks with his Tajik counterpart, Sirojiddin Muhriddin, focusing on a comprehensive agenda aimed at boosting cooperation in political, economic, commercial, academic, tourism, and consular affairs.

Both ministers agreed on the importance of facilitating closer interaction between the private sectors and civil societies of the two countries. They also discussed regional and international developments, including the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza and Afghanistan.

Araghchi thanked the Tajik government for its clear stance in condemning acts of military aggression against Iran. He criticized the Zionist regime's repeated violations of international law—particularly the ongoing war crimes and acts of genocide in occupied Palestine—and urged the international community and Islamic nations to take meaningful and coordinated action in defense of the Palestinian people.

Minister Muhriddin reaffirmed Tajikistan's willingness to strengthen ties with Iran, emphasizing the importance of economic and trade cooperation. He welcomed the shared political will between the two nations' leadership to deepen engagement across all sectors.

The ministers also agreed to expand coordination in international institutions, including the United Nations, with the aim of protecting shared civilizational, cultural, and linguistic heritage, and pledged continued mutual support on multilateral plat-

#### Iranian, Tajik officials discuss cultural cooperation

On the sidelines of the diplomatic visit, spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Esmaeil Baghaei met with Tajikistan's Minister of Culture, Matlubakhon Sattoriyon.

The meeting, also attended by Shahin Samadi, spokesperson for Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry, focused on enhancing cultural cooperation through Persian-language promotion, book publishing, and the exchange of cultural, artistic, and media delegations. The two sides also explored joint programming in cinema, music, and theater.

Both officials emphasized the significance of the upcoming Iran-Tajikistan Cultural Week scheduled for this autumn—as

a key opportunity to showcase shared cultural heritage and deepen people-to-people ties.

Minister Araghchi departed Tehran for Dushanbe early Wednesday morning, accompanied by Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran, Nizomiddin Zohidi, who officially saw him off at the airport.

Iran and Tajikistan share deep-rooted cultural, linguistic, and historical ties. In recent years, both nations have significantly revitalized their bilateral cooperation across various sectors. For example, on June 13, 2022, officials from Tajikistan and Iran convened a Tourism Forum to enhance tourism collaboration between the two countries.

Additionally, on June 21, 2022, a Joint Security Task Force meeting took place in Dushanbe, featuring representatives from the interior ministries of both nations. This collaborative security initiative aims to synchronize efforts against terrorism, organized crime, and drug trafficking, thereby addressing shared secu-

# Pezeshkian, Maduro vow strategic deepening as allies mark 75 years of solidarity

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolás Maduro solidified their nations' strategic alliance in a late Tuesday phone call, vowing to deepen cooperation across all sectors while condemning the recent Israeli campaign of aggression on Iranian sovereignty.

The leaders described their partnership as a critical bulwark against Western imperialism and hailed Iran's "crushing response" to Israeli aggression.

President Pezeshkian expressed gratitude for Venezuela's "principled, explicit, and courageous positions" in condemning Israel's violations of Iran's sovereignty.

He emphasized Tehran's commitment to diplomacy while delivering a stark warning: "The United States' irresponsible actions and betrayal of the diplomatic path paved the way for the Zionist regime's aggression—a clear violation of all international laws. The Islamic Republic exercised its legitimate right to self-defense with a decisive response, and any future adventurism by this criminal regime will meet with firm retaliation."

Backed by Washington, the Israeli regime launched a 12-day campaign of aggression against Iran on June 13, resulting in the martyrdom of more than 1,025 Iranians. This occurred despite ongoing indirect negotiations between Tehran and Washington, which led Iran to view the U.S.'s support and the bombing of its nuclear facilities as unlawful actions that "betrayed diplomacy."

Iran retaliated with hundreds of missiles and drones targeting military, security, and economic sites in occupied territories as well as the Al-Udeid U.S. base in



During the Tuesday call, Madu- nations." ro praised Iran's resilience during the war: "The noble, honorable, and heroic nation of Iran stood firm against aggressions and inscribed a golden page in history. Your decisive response has doubled the motivation of independent nations seeking justice."

He further said Iran's resistance "shattered the myth of Zionist invincibility," adding confidence that diplomatic efforts would yield "great agreements and lasting peace—the natural right of Iran and all West Asian

Maduro's condemnation aligns with his earlier global appeals urging China, Russia, Turkey, and Arab states in the Persian Gulf to "support Iran's legitimate pursuit of peace" and halt the Israeli regime's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "criminal attacks before it's too late."

Both leaders welcomed the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations as a springboard for enhanced cooperation in their phone call.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

#### Legal action against US-Israeli aggression underway: Iran deputy FM

TEHRAN — A senior Iranian official has reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's commitment to legally pursue the recent US-Israeli attacks on Iranian territory, calling them clear violations of international law and human rights.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, made the remarks during an interview with the official website of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. The comments came on the sidelines of a ceremony in Tehran marking the 40th day since the martyrdom of Iranians killed in last month's 12-day conflict.

Gharibabadi stressed that legal recourse is a central pillar of Iran's response to the aggression, describing the strikes as blatant breaches of the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

"The perpetrators have already received a firm

military response," he said. "Now, the focus is on legal accountability. Two comprehensive reports detailing legal violations—including the killing of children, women, and entire families-have been prepared and are in the final stages of documen-

He noted that the reports have been submitted to both the United Nations Security Council and other international bodies. "Although legal efforts are often hindered by political considerations on the global stage, this must not lead to inaction or despair," Gharibabadi added.

"The first step is to document and register these crimes, file formal complaints, and pursue them through every available channel. If these efforts succeed, it will be a major achievement. If not, we must continue regardless, and legal follow-up must remain a top priority for the Islamic

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked offensive against Iran, assassinating senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. Days later, the United States escalated the conflict by bombing three Iranian nuclear facilities, in what Tehran has condemned as a flagrant breach of the UN Charter and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Iran's Armed Forces responded by striking strategic sites within the occupied Palestinian territories as well as targeting the al-Udeid air base in Qatar—Washington's largest military installation in West Asia.

On June 24, Iran's coordinated retaliatory strikes forced an end to the hostilities. With Israeli defenses overwhelmed, the regime sought a ceasefire, effectively bringing the illegal assault to

# "The West's 'democratic alternative' tortured my sister to madness"



Photo shows Masoumeh Chaheh in a psychiatric facility years after she left the MEK

#### By Sheida Sabzehvari

TEHRAN – Masoumeh Chaheh was 24 when she showed up at her family's door in southern Tehran – bruised, scratched, and dishevelled. She couldn't form coherent sentences about where she had been the past few years. "We were all shocked. We kept asking her what had happened, but she couldn't explain anything. She just screamed, cried, and zoned out," said Leila, Masoumeh's younger sister, one of the first to find her in that state. "We didn't know what to do. She kept running away, and eventually, we lost contact with her again."

After fleeing home, Masoumeh was picked up by police while wandering Tehran's streets. She eventually ended up in a psychiatric facility, where her family was notified of her whereabouts. "When she was still home, she used to mumble an anthem. We later found out it belonged to the Mojahedin-e-Khalq (MEK)."

The MEK is a terrorist organization that has operated mostly from outside Iran. Currently based in Albania (and previously in Iraq), the group is responsible for killing over 24,000 Iranians – including at least six people, one of them an infant, in a recent MEK-linked terrorist attack in southeastern Iran. Media outlets affiliated with the MEK characterized the terror attack as an "armed rebellion by the youth" and praised the terrorists for their brutal crime

The MEK was listed as a terrorist organization in the U.S. and Europe for years, until its removal in the early-to-mid 2010s. The West has long used the group for espionage and attacks inside Iran. Most recently, during the Iran-Israel war, Western media and politicians attempted to rebrand the MEK, hailing it as a "reformed," female-led faction and even floating it as a potential alternative to Iran's government. One New York Times report wrote that the MEK now advocates for a "secular republic, gender equality, and a

non-nuclear Iran."

But for the MEK's victims – like Masoumeh – no PR campaign can erase their suffering. Like many others, she didn't join voluntarily, and leaving cost her everything: her sanity, and ultimately, her life.

"Masoumeh started taking care of us at just 8 years old, after our mother died. Our father was a construction worker and was usually away at work," Leila explained. "She always put us first and dreamed of a better life for her siblings. She cooked for us, cleaned after us, and took us outside to play." The family had seven children – two sisters, four brothers, and an older half-sister, Fatemeh, whose ties to the MEK would destroy Masoumeh's future.

Fatemeh had been an MEK member but left before Saddam Hussein's fall, when the group began to bar defections from its Iraqi camps. She moved to Finland and tried to bring over two financially struggling siblings – Masoumeh and her brother, Hamidreza – through an MEK contact she though could be trusted. "They were supposed to go to Turkey first, then Finland," Leila said. Instead, in 2001, the MEK member took them to the Ashraf Camp in Iraq.

of inmates. Masoumeh endured months of beatings, isolation, and psychological torment before Iraqi guards dumped her near Iran's border. She then walked for days – starving, traumatized – only to face more violence from roadside thugs. By the time she reached Tehran, her mind was shattered.

"The person who came back wasn't my sister," Leila said. "She'd slip into catatonic states. When she did regain awareness, the memories made her try to kill herself – over and over."

#### The final escape

For the next 20 years, Masoumeh cycled through psychiatric facilities, where she tried to take her life multiple times. Her last attempt, taking place in February of 2025, was successful. That day, Leila visited Masoumeh in the psychiatric hospital and then took her to a restaurant in Chaloos, a scenic route north of Tehran.

"Masoumeh used to love nature. So, I took her to a nice location to spend a few hours together. But as we sat on our table, she started recalling her past, so I tried distracting her. I looked away for seconds... and she was gone."



A photograph of the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq

The family lost contact immediately. Hamidreza resurfaced 14 years later, escaping during the MEK's chaotic relocation to Albania. Masoumeh reached out sooner by randomly visiting them after four years – but her ordeal had been far worse.

"After being taken to Iraq, they were separated at Ashraf Camp. Both resisted at first, but Hamidreza bided his time. Masoumeh kept fighting back – so the group decided to 'get rid of her," Leila said.

As previously documented by the Tehran Times, the MEK routinely sent defiant members to the infamous Abu Ghraib prison, which was well-known for the systematic torture Triggered by flashbacks of Abu Ghraib, Masoumeh had jumped into a nearby river. Her body was later found wedged against a tree trunk. "That was the end the MEK gave her – decades of torture, physical and mental, until she couldn't take it anymore," Leila said as tears began to rush down her face.

Masoumeh's story is not unique. Before the West attempts to promote a terrorist outfit as a "democratic group", similar to how it rebranded the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) terrorists in Syria, it must reckon with dozens like her. Future Tehran Times reports will ensure they are not forgotten.

# 'We defended our land with resolve: Qalibaf takes Iran's case to Geneva forum



From Page 1 but right in the middle of political talks. Iran was at the negotiation table and committed to dialogue. Yet, the aggressors callously flipped the table, exposing their true contempt for peace and choosing the path of hostility. In response, we defended our land and people with resolve."

Qalibaf lambasted the international community's inaction, noting that while 120 nations condemned the Israeli regime's violations of the UN Charter, its "bullying supporters" shielded it from accountability.

"Institutions guarding peace remain silent. Justice mechanisms accuse victims and immunize aggressors," he declared.

In a visceral moment, he held aloft photos of two infants: Iranian martyr Ryan Ghasemian (2 months old) and a Gazan child, branding them symbols of "crimes by 21st-century Nazis."

He detailed Israel's use of starvation as a weapon, calling Gaza "a museum of crimes against humanity where living is punished by



Iran's Qalibaf and Russia's Valentina Matviyenko meet to deepen Tehran–Moscow parliamentary cooperation

bullets and famine," urging the international community to "stop the Nazis of our time before it's too late."

The context underscored his message: The summit opened amid the ongoing Gaza genocide, with Iran, the Palestinian Authority, and Yemen staging a walkout during the speech of the representative from the Israeli regime.

The 6th WCSP, convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) with UN support, is the premier international gathering for heads of legislatures.

Iranian officials have described the summit as a vital platform for parliamentary voices to challenge war-mongering, occupation, discrimination, and the erosion of sincere multilateralism.

Iranian sources, including aides traveling with Qalibaf, emphasized the strategic objectives of the visit: demonstrating Iran's "power and authority" following the recent 12-Day War initiated by the Israeli regime and effectively

communicating the scale of the Gaza catastro-

The introduction of the term "21st Century Nazism" to describe Israel's actions was highlighted as a significant Iranian discursive initiative that garnered widespread attention.

Mohammad-Saeed Ahdian, Qalibaf's political and media advisor, stated the visit proved Iran is "not isolated, but has a powerful position in the international arena," showcasing a nation that is "powerful, active, and vocal."

#### Key summit meetings

Qalibaf leveraged the summit for highstakes diplomacy, holding separate meetings on the sidelines and reinforcing alliances on Gaza and regional security:

- Russia: Talks with Valentina Matviyenko focused on parliamentary coordination, solidifying Tehran-Moscow ties.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Straight Truth
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SPORTS

#### Iran into 2025 FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship quarterfinals

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Belgium 3-1 (25-19, 17-25, 25-19, 25-20) on Wednesday to book their place in the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship quarterfinals.

Adel Gholami's boys will meet Finland on Friday.

Mohammadamin Rahimi and Amir Nader scored 14 points each for Iran and Belgium's Jannes Strobbe collected with 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 volleyball federation extends Lee Do-hee's contract

TEHRAN – The Iran Volleyball Federation has announced the extension of women's national team head coach Lee Do-hee's contract on Wednesday.

The deal has been renewed for an additional year

The 57-year-old Korean coach took over from Mitra Shabanian last year and has successfully met expectations during her tenure.

Under Lee Do-hee's leadership, Team Melli finished in sixth place at the 2025 AVC Women's Volleyball Nations Cup in June.

#### Iran learn rivals in FIBA U16 Asia Cup 2025

TEHRAN – Iran learned their opponents in the FIBA U16 Asia Cup 2025.

The FIBA Regional Office-Asia on Wednesday, July 30, confirmed the groupings and schedule of the Asia Cup to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Set on August 31-September 7, the groupings and schedule are as follows:

Group A: Australia, Lebanon, India, Bahrain Group B: New Zealand, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia

Group C: China, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia Group D: Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Saudi Araoia

The Group Phase tips off on August 31 and will be played until September 2. Each gameday will feature four games, to be simultaneously held at the MBank Arena and at the Buyant Ukhaa Sport Complex.

The Final and the Third-Place Game is on September 7.

# Golsapoosh to participate in Russia beach soccer tournament

TEHRAN – Golsapoosh beach soccer of Iran will participate in Moscow International Beach Soccer Cup.

The competition will be held in Moscow at the RZD Arena from July 31 to August 3.

The tournament will feature the Russian national team and seven clubs from Russia, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Iran.

Russian will face Strogino Moscow, Brazilian Corinthians and Golsapoosh in Group B.

Group A will feature TSOR (Belarus), Al Makhmal (Saudi Arabia), Malaisary (Kazakhstan) and Moscow Lokomotiv.

#### Manolopoulos names Iran's roster for 2025 FIBA Asia Cup

TEHRAN - Sotiris Manolopoulos has named his 12-man roster for the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup.

Iran are drawn in Group B along with Japan, Guam, and Syria.

The FIBA Asia Cup will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from Aug. 5 to 17.

Iran's squad:

Sina Vahedi, Mobin Sheikhi, Mohammad Amini, Navid Rezaeifar, Mohammadmahdi Heydari, Arman Zangeneh, Arslan Kazemi, Matin Aghajanpour, Mohammadmahdi Rahimi, Hassan Aliakbari, Salar Monji, Mehdi Jafari.

#### Christian Bassogog linked with Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Cameroonian winger Christian Bassogog has reportedly been linked with a transfer to the Esteghlal football team.

The 30-year-old player most recently played for Saudi side Al-Okhdood.  $\label{eq:condition} % \begin{center} \begin{center}$ 

Bassogog has been a member of the Cameroon national team since 2016.

According to media reports, he is expected to join Esteghlal on a two-year contract.

Esteghlal will represent Iran in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League.

# Taremi wants to regain Cristian Chivu's trust

TEHRAN - Mehdi Taremi and Yann Bisseck have not given up hope of regaining the trust of Inter Milan head coach Cristian Chivu.

According to La Repubblica via FCInter1908, they're working hard to convince the manager to take them off the market. Both players are keen to earn back Inter's trust. Meanwhile, the Serie A runner-up has put them up for sale alongside Albanian flop Kristjan Asllani.

However, the 23-year-old midfielder has already rejected a move to Real Betis to fight for a place at San Siro.

Following Asllani's example, Bisseck is keen to secure a lifeline in Lombardy. Despite Inter's intention to sell him, the German hopes to return to the club's good graces. The same applies to Taremi, who had a forgettable first season in Italy.

He arrived from Porto as one of Europe's most lethal goal-scorers, only to become a scapegoat at San Siro. Therefore, Inter is determined to cash in on the 33-year-old.

#### Siavash Hagh Nazari joins Istiklol

TEHRAN – Iranian midfielder Siavash Hagh Nazari joined Tajikistan's Istiklol football team.

He started his playing career in 2015 in Malavan and then joined to Ukrainian clubs Skala Stryi and Volyn Lutsk.

Hagh Nazari will wear No. 8 in Istiklol.

Istiklol compete in the Ligai Olii Tojikiston, the top flight of Tajik football league system. They were founded to commemorate the Independence of Tajikistan; Istiklol in Tajik Persian means 'independence'.

# **ECONOMY**

JULY 31, 2025
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

# Iran's small-scale power plant capacity surpasses 1,550 MW amid push for decentralized energy



TEHRAN - The combined generation capacity of Iran's small-scale power plants has exceeded 1,550 megawatts this year, according to Zahra Esmaeilzadeh, head of the distributed generation and renewables project at Tavanir, the state-run electricity company.

Esmaeilzadeh emphasized the critical role of small-scale thermal power plants in ensuring stable and localized electricity supply. Under Iran's Seventh National Development Plan, the government aims to add 200 MW of small-scale capacity annually—a target she said is being pursued based on grid demands, investment potential, licensing activity, and signed contracts.

"These projects are not just about building power plants—they require accurate demand forecasts, appropriate technology choices, resource optimization, and smart capital management," she noted. "The goal is to build a reliable, resilient, and economically viable power system."

Small-scale plants, usually located close to consumption centers, help reduce transmission losses, improve voltage quality, and strengthen grid stability. They also support passive defense strategies and enable participation by small investors—distinguishing them from centralized plants.

So far, more than 3,000 MW of priority capacity zones have been identified nationwide, particularly in industrial parks, densely populated urban areas lacking renewable space (such as Tehran), and low-insolation regions like Mazandaran, where attracting investment is ongoing.

The Energy Ministry has introduced several incentives to attract private investment in distributed generation. These include updated investment regulations, authorization to sell electricity via the energy exchange, exemptions from consumption management programs for buyers, and extended power purchase guarantees during fuel shortages. Electricity purchase tariffs in priority areas are now calculated based on monthly availability factors, and no distinction is made between new and used equipment. Up to 50 percent of the electricity generated can be sold through bilateral contracts or on the energy exchange.

Esmaeilzadeh said a capacity certificate trading system has also been launched to help settle payments owed to plant operators. Revenue from this process will be allocated exclusively to small-scale power plants. Coordination between the Ministries of Energy and Industry has also improved, with simplified approval processes for plant equipment now in place at regional power utilities.

To protect investors during fuel outages, power purchase guarantees are extended to cover periods of gas cuts. Esmaeilzadeh said this measure provides confidence and stability for investors in the sector.

# TEDPIX drops 52,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 52,000 points to 2.681 million on Wednesday, which is the fifth day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

On July 27, the head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) said that the capital market has entered a phase of stabilizing equilibrium

"We were able to manage the market after the imposed 12-day war, Hojatollah Seyedi noted, adding: "Now the stage of balancing the capital market has ended and we have entered the stage of stabilizing the balance."

"When the imposed war began, we were surprised at the stock market, but we didn't say what to do now, and we finalized our plan at the same day when the first attacks occurred", the official highlighted

He recalled that in certain circumstances, the most important concern of stock exchanges in the world is to preserve shareholder assets, and stated: "During the days of war, shareholders were concerned about preserving their capital, and for this reason, stock trading was suspended; the next stage was liquidity because companies wanted to pay their employees."

The SEO head further emphasized that there is no place for the market to be 100 percent green, and that a market with 50 percent green and red is balanced, adding: "In the post-war situation, publishers helped, the Central Bank intervened, and investment funds contributed greatly to the market balance. Now, the fourth stage, which is stabilization, is underway, and we will soon enter the fifth stage of the market, which is the boom stage."

On July 7, the TSE head said that Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization is rolling out a revamped stabilization package aimed at improving liquidity and investor confidence following recent market volatility.

Mahamoud Goudarzi said a series of coordination meetings between regulators, stakeholders, and capital market institutions have paved the way for a gradual market recovery. The updated plan includes continued direct support for listed stocks, enhanced fund and portfolio management, the use of derivatives such as put options



and futures, and regulatory reforms.

"This package is part of our efforts to shift the market from volatility toward a phase of equilibrium and ultimately growth," Goudarzi told IRNA, adding that in recent sessions, the market showed signs of stabilization after a turbulent 12-day period marked by geopolitical tensions.

Goudarzi explained that the market's priorities have evolved from asset protection during the crisis to enhancing liquidity last week, and now to reinforcing price stability.

"Over the past four days, consistent engagement among regulators, market operators, and experts has laid the groundwork for restoring balance and improving tradability," he said. "If this trend continues, the market will soon be positioned to enter a phase of sustainable recovery."

Meanwhile, Hamid Mirmoayeni, a capital markets analyst, said that while government agencies and large listed firms have fulfilled their support roles effectively, long-term investor sentionment hinges on broader political developments.

"The flow of capital back into the stock market depends less on technical factors and more on easing political tensions," he told the Securities and Exchange News Agency (SENA). "Recent interventions by the Central Bank, the Securities and Exchange Organization, and major state-owned companies have stabilized concerns around liquidity, particularly for large-cap stocks."

Mirmoayeni said there is no need for a new round of measures at this stage, as the existing support framework has been well received by investors. "The authorities have done what's needed. Now, with reduced geopolitical uncertainty, we could see a revival in investment flows," he added.

# Chinese Liberation Army's 98th anniversary celebrated in Tehran

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN - The Chinese embassy in Iran celebrated the 98th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, as well as the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, at the place of the embassy in Tehran on Tuesday night.

The ceremony was attended by a number of senior officials and diplomats from Iran, China, and some other countries as well as military attachés.

Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Mr. Cong Peiwu and Defense Attaché Mr. Hu Xiao, as well as Brigadier-General Mohammad Ahadi, Chief of Defense Diplomacy and International Relations of the Iranian Armed Forces, delivered speeches at the ceremony.

## Here is the text of Mr. Ambassador's speech:

General Ahadi, Excellencies Ambassadors, Military Attachés, and Friends,

Good evening! Welcome to the Chinese Embassy in Iran. It gives me great pleasure to see so many friends, old and new, in the Embassy. Thank you for taking time to join us this evening.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, as well as the 98th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

President Xi Jinping has pointed out that China has always been a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, and a defender of international order, and the Chinese military has always been a firm force in maintaining world peace. In recent years, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, China's comprehensive national strength and military strength have been steadily enhanced, and its international status and influence have been continuously improved. At the same time, China adheres to the path of peaceful development, firmly opposes hegemonism and power politics, and has always been a just force in maintaining world peace.

Advocating harmony and loving peace are important elements of China's traditional culture. China, with its 5000 year plus splendid civilization history has accumulated a long-standing culture of harmony. China was once one of the most powerful countries in the world for a long time, but it has no record of colonial aggression against other countries. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China 76 years ago, China has never taken the initiative to provoke a war or occupied an inch of other countries' territory.

Learning from history and cherishing peace are the historical inspirations of the World Anti-Fascist War. Eighty years ago, China, together with the just forces around the world, fought heroically with one heart and one mind and jointly defeated the fascist forces. Under the banner of the anti-Japanese nation-



Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Mr. Cong Peiwu

al united front advocated and established by the Communist Party of China, Chinese people at home and abroad were unprecedentedly united. The Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression started the earliest and lasted the longest. With a national sacrifice of more than 35 million casualties, China fought against the main forces of Japanese militarism and made great historical contributions to the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. We commemorate the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War not to continue hatred, but to learn from history, face the future, cherish peace, and avoid war, so that the people of all countries in the world can enjoy peace and tranquility forever.

Upholding justice and maintaining peace are the mission and responsibility of China as a responsible major country. President Xi Jinping has pointed out that "peace can be hoped for only when everyone cherishes and safeguards peace, and only when everyone learns the painful lessons of war". At present, transformation of a scale not seen in a century is accelerating across the world, the international situation is complex, geopolitical conflicts are lingering and escalating, and the peace deficit is increasing. President Xi Jinping has put forward the concept of building a community with a shared future for huamnity, as well as the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative. Emphasizing that Chinese modernization is a modernization path of peaceful development, it is to fulfill the responsibility of a major country and maintain peace and stability. United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has said that "China's peaceful development is a lofty cause in human history, which is conducive to the peace and progress of all mankind".

Deepening cooperation and promoting peace are the core essence of the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership. In recent years, China and Iran have deepened political mutual trust and tightened the bond of interests, playing an important role in enhancing the well-being of the two peoples and maintaining regional peace and stability. China will continue to support Iran in safeguarding national sovereignty and national dignity, support Iran in playing a constructive role in multilateral platforms such as the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS.

Thank you all!

the two countries has been stepping forward steadily. With the strong support from Iranian military, the cooperation in the field of bilateral visits, joint exercises, personnel training have been deepening continuously. We will continue to strengthen the contact with Iranian military, acting as a better bridge and messenger to improve the cooperation between China and Iran to a new level.

Thirdly, the unwavering resolves from me in developing friendship with colleagues from the Iranian military and MAAT. Since my arrival in October 2023, the officials from Iranian MOD, Chief of General Staff, office of protocol, etc, have been arranging meetings with me to push forward the bilateral coop-



Defense Attaché Mr. Hu Xiao

#### Following is the text of Defense Attaché Mr. Hu Xiao's speech:

On the occasion of the 98th Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to your presence. At this moment, I want to use three expressions starting with "Unwavering Resolves" to conclude my feelings.

Firstly, the unwavering resolves from the Chinese PLA in making contributions to the peace of the world. Today the world is not peaceful, armed conflicts happen here and there. As an army of might, an army of civilization and an army of peace, the Chinese PLA always acts as an important power of maintaining the peace of the world, not only firmly protecting the sovereignty, safety and integrity of our homeland, but also by contributing to a safer world. China is the largest troop contributor to UN peacekeeping operations among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Over the past 35 years, the Chinese military has undertaken 25 UN peacekeeping missions, dispatching over 50,000 peacekeepers in total. The Chinese navy has dispatched 47 batches of escort fleets to the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia, providing protection for more than 1600 Chinese and foreign ships. The Chinese Navy's hospital ship "Peace Ark" has provided medical service to more than 370 thousand foreign civilians around the world.

Secondly, the unwavering resolves from Chinese Military attaché office in pushing forward the friendly relations between China and Iran. During the recent years, under the guidance of the leaders from both sides, the strategic partnership of

eration. During the past two years, I have visited 30 provinces of Iran on business or leisure travel. The ancient civilization, the scenic view, the delicious food and the hardworking people of Iran have deeply impressed me. During the twelveday war between Iran and Israel, I continued to work at Chinese Embassy. I empathize with my Iranian friends over the brutal war that caused thousands of casualties in Iran. What I want to say in particular is that all the MAAT colleagues from different countries have helped me a lot. I will continue my effort to improve the communications and cooperation with you all.

Finally, I sincerely wish all the guests a smooth work and a happy life in the future.

Thank you very much!

Addressing the same ceremony, Brigadier-General Mohammad Ahadi congratulated the Chinese People's Army Day and wish the people and armed forces of this country the best on the path of growth, progress, and excellence.

He said; "Without a doubt, the growth and prosperity of independent countries like China, which do not have an arrogant approach and propose and pursue initiatives for global peace and security, including President Xi Jinping's Global Peace Initiative, are beneficial to global peace and security, and these actions are commendable."

Meanwhile, the "Photo Exhibition of Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World anti-Fascist War" was held on the sidelines of the ceremony.

#### ICCIMA urges regulator to enforce ruling against postal monopoly

TEHRAN - In the 97th meeting of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Business Support Committee, officials criticized what they described as a monopolistic environment created by the state-run National Post Company, urging the Communications Regulatory Authority to comply with a Competition Council ruling that opposes the current restrictions on private postal firms.

The session, attended by Vice President for Legal Affairs Majid Ansari and ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh, focused on revising a 2022 Cabinet decree that private courier firms argue has effectively shut them out of the market.

The issue dates back to 2016, when regulations governing private postal operators were introduced. Article 3 of the regulation limited the number of operators to just two, and Article 11 granted those companies a three-year market exclusivity period.

The Tehran Courier Association challenged these rules, prompting the Competition Council to rule against what it deemed anti-competitive measures. Despite this, the Communications Regulatory Authority, citing the Cabinet decree, held a tender that ultimately awarded licenses to two companies—Tipax and Pishgaman—excluding other firms from the market. Following complaints, a one-year extension was granted to some of the excluded operators.

The regulator later introduced new rules further raising entry barriers by increasing setup costs, license fees, penalties, and service classification requirements. The Tehran Courier Association once again took the case to the Competition Council, which again ruled in its favor. However, both the Communications Regulatory Authority and the Ministry of Communications have refused to implement the decision.

Mohammad Bagher Olfat, the Judiciary's repre-

sentative in the committee, said the private courier sector continues to operate in a monopolistic environment and called for more competitive conditions

A representative from the Communications Regulatory Authority defended the agency's position, saying it is legally responsible for issuing and revoking postal licenses. He added that over 20 companies have already received licenses at four different operational levels and that the current fee structure—comprising a one percent revenue share and a one-billion-toman license fee (approximately \$20,000 at the open market rate)—does not constitute a major barrier to entry.

Ebrahim Shahrokhian, Deputy Finance Chief at the Judiciary, stressed that Iran's policy aims to prevent monopolies and promote private sector participation. "The Competition Council is the legal authority in this matter," he said. "The refusal to implement its ruling must be explained."

# US boycott of UN meeting on Palestinian statehood not unexpected

From page 1 ▶ the genocidal war and intentional starvation in Gaza coupled with forced expulsion of Palestinians from their homes and farms in the West Bank have erased any remaining uncertainty.

Extremist factions within Israel continue to reject the prospect of a Palestinian state, bolstered by the belief that the United States will offer unwavering support in resisting international calls for Palestinian sovereignty.

Jeffry Sachs, Columbia University Professor and Special Advisor to the United Nations Jeffrey Sachs, says, "Israel is dead set against" a Palestinian

"The entire Israeli political governance now is set dead against that. Hundreds of thousands of illegal settlers in the West Bank are dead set against that. Smotrich, Ben-Gvir, Gallant. Netanyahu are dead set against that."

He says only the United States is against the creation of a Palestinian state.

"There is one country that stands in the way of imposing this (establishing the Palestinian State in line with international law). Not Iran, not the Saudis, not Egypt, not Russia, not China not any country in the European Union. One country and one country alone and that's because of the United States of America."

Israel is now referring to the West Bank as "Judea and Samaria". Even in February 2025, U.S. House Foreign Committee Chair Brian Mast ordered staff to use Hebrew name Judea and Samaria for the West Bank



The old Palestinian wound would have been resolved if the United States had pressured Israel to respect the rights of the Palestinians for a homeland in accordance with international

If a Palestinian state had been established there would have been no October 7 attack. Now, ultra-Orthodox figures like Heritage Minister Amichay Eliyahu see the October 7 attack as a gift to Israel.

"The government is racing ahead for Gaza to be wiped out...Thank God, we are wiping out this evil. We are pushing this population that has been educated on 'Mein Kampf," Eliyahu said recently while rejoicing shocking starvation of the Gazan people.

Singled out internationally, Israel and the U.S. invented pretexts for boycotting the UN

Danny Danon, Israel's UN ambassador, said on Monday: "This conference does not promote a solution, but rather deepens the illusion. Instead of demanding the release of the hostages and

working to dismantle Hamas's reign of terror, the conference

organizers are engaging in dis-

cussions and plenaries that are

disconnected from reality."

A U.S. State Department spokesperson also described the event as "a gift to Hamas, which continues to reject ceasefire proposals accepted by Israel that would lead to the release of hostages and bring calm in Gaza."

The State Department spokesperson added that Washington voted against the General Assembly last year calling for the conference and would "not support actions that jeopardize the prospect for a long-term, peaceful resolution to the conflict."

Both the Israeli ambassador and U.S. State Department spokesperson are openly falsifying the facts.

This is a disinformation campaign that Hamas rejected ceasefire proposal. Hamas was calling for an end to the war, but the Israeli side just wanted its captives released and after a while resume war on Gaza, as it

Contrary to the claims of Ambassador Danon and the State Department spokesperson, it is the apartheid against the Palestinians and the occupation of their lands that have laid the ground for all these calamities.

On April 18, 2024, the United States effectively stopped the United Nations from recognizing a Palestinian state by casting a veto in the Security Council to deny Palestinians full membership of the world body.

It vetoed a draft resolution that recommended to the 193-member UN General Assembly that "the State of Palestine be admitted to membership" of the UN.

To mislead the world, Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the UN Robert Wood told the council, "The United States continues to strongly support a two-state solution. This vote does not reflect opposition to Palestinian statehood, but instead is an acknowledgment that it will only come from direct negotiations between the parties."

It is open to all that Israelis will not sit with the Palestinians to discuss the creation of a Palestinian state, and this is something that the United States is fully aware of. Israeli leaders, especially hardliners, don't recognize Palestinians to negotiate with.

Given Washinton's approach to the decades-long Palestinian wound, the U.S. remains an accomplice for the tragedies that Palestinians have been facing, which has reached its unbelievable stage this time: The Gaza genocide and famine.

INTERNATIONAL

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

# Lebanese cabinet to convene next week on arms monopoly

bollah is aware that if it does not abandon its weapons there will be consequences. "Hezbollah knows that if it does not surrender its weapons, something will happen. I do not know what will happen, but something must happen."

The cabinet session will address "the implementation of the ministerial statement," according to Prime Minister Nawaf Salam who has sought to convene the session since his return from Paris and meeting with President Macron.

Salam tried to convince President Joseph Aoun of the need to convene the session quickly before he leaves for Algeria, but the latter "still believes that the conditions are not yet ripe for holding the session," according to sources.

In parallel, Lebanese officials were informed through various diplomatic channels that Israel refused to cease hostilities and that US presidential envoy Thomas Barrack would not be returning soon, according to Reuters.

Reportedly, Washington and Tel Aviv are hinting that the next war may not be against Hezbollah alone, and that the state may not be neutral if the authorities fail to take the necessary decisions and measures, and seriously address the resistance movement's weapons.

In turn, Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea warned against delay in disarming Hezbollah. He stated that "Lebanon faces two options: the first is a government decision to dissolve the military and security organizations, or face a hot summer, or at best, a bad summer."

In an interview with Al-Jumhuriya, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri approached

The nominee for ambassador said Hez- the negotiations with Barrack cautiously and realistically, not concealing his deep annoyance with those who deliberately exaggerate the possibility of a large-scale war against Lebanon, saying, "It is surprising and contradicts the spirit of national responsibility.

> Berri praised Aoun's approach to the negotiations and weapons issue, noting "the way he is handling this issue is good.'

> Salam told Aoun, "Macron said frankly that Israel will not wait long and that Lebanon must now take practical steps to address the situation, and that Paris is also pressing for a government session."

> According to sources, Paris is pressuring Lebanon to comply with American demands under the pretext of addressing "urgent needs," such as UNIFIL's operations in the south, where Israel is demanding fundamental changes to its operational mechanisms, imposing complete freedom to operate without coordination with the Lebanese Army, and conducting its own inspections to prevent the presence of weapons or militants.

> Israeli threats against Lebanon are being promoted by the Hebrew press and the IDF (or better say IOF) spokesperson with the aim of perpetuating the narrative of a breach of the ceasefire agreement.

> Maariv published a report that serves the same narrative (and even justifies a new aggression against Lebanon), citing officers in the IOF's Northern Command who stated that "Hezbollah has not been defeated, but is merely licking its wounds. Without organization or deterrence, it may recover and return stronger and more dangerous.'

> > (See full text at tehrantimes.com)

## EU lawmakers call for sanctions as Gaza starvation deepens: Will Europe follow through?

From page 1 ▶ Failing to act now will be remembered as a moral stain on humanity," continuing that "The time for moral cowardice is over, and action must be swift" and that "mere words of condemnation are inadequate".

However, this sharp political statement contrasts starkly with the institutional inertia and division visible within the EU. As of July 30, 2025, EU member states have failed to reach a consensus on suspending Israel's access to the Horizon Europe research program, a move proposed by the European Commission as a first step towards sanctioning Israel for its role in creating famine-like conditions through its blockade of Gaza

Some countries, notably Germany, Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic, have blocked or delayed decisive action on sus-



that undermine a unified response. Such half-measures underline the EU's reluctance to exert full political and economic pressure despite mounting evidence of mass starvation and civilian deaths.

Dire humanitarian realities behind litical hesitation

The humanitarian reality is dire. UNbacked organizations report that over pension, reflecting deep political fault lines 1,060 Palestinians have been killed try-

ing to access food aid between late May and July, and child malnutrition rates have nearly quadrupled in Gaza's besieged population. The UN and humanitarian agencies have repeatedly described the starvation and lack of medical supplies as catastrophic, warning that without immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access, famine will deepen and death tolls will soar.

The European Commission's limited proposal targets restricting Israeli startups' access to accelerator grants in Horizon Europe-an action widely recognized as symbolic and insufficient—failing to address trade relations or more impactful economic ties. Meanwhile, the EU continues to uphold preferential trading status and limited cooperation agreements with Israel despite clear violations of Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement concerning human rights.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

## Starvation kills more Gazans amid Israeli siege

The Health Ministry in Gaza said on Wednesday that seven more Palestinians died from starvation in the enclave amid a choking Israeli blockade

"Hospitals recorded seven fatalities in Gaza in the past 24 hours as a result of famine and malnutrition," the ministry said in a statement, Anadolu reported.

The new deaths brought the death toll from starvation since October 2023 to 154, including 89 children.

Last week, the UN World Food Program (WFP) warned that one-third of Gaza's population had gone without food for several consecutive days due to the Israeli siege.

According to WFP estimates, one in four Palestinians in Gaza faces famine-like conditions, and 100,000 women and children are suffering from acute malnutrition.

Israel has maintained a blockade on Gaza

for 18 years, and since March 2 has sealed all border crossings, blocking the entry of humanitarian aid and worsening already dire conditions in the enclave.

Palestinian officials say that a minimum of 500 aid trucks are needed per day to meet the needs of the territory's 2.4 million

The Israeli army has pursued a brutal offensive on Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023, killing over 60,000 Palestinians. The relentless bombardment has devastated the enclave and led to food shortages.

On Monday, Israeli rights groups B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza, citing the systematic destruction of Palestinian society and the deliberate dismantling of the territory's healthcare sys-

# Yemen targets Ben Gurion Airport

#### By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Yemeni forces have used a hypersonic ballistic missile to target Tel Aviv in solidarity with Gaza.

The Yemeni Armed Forces announced they had successfully targeted Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv with a hypersonic ballistic missile named "Palestine 2."

According to a statement from the military spokesperson, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, the missile strike was a special military operation carried out by Yemen's missile forces, hitting the regime's main commercial and military airport.

Saree confirmed that the operation had achieved its objectives, resulting in millions of Israeli settlers rushing to bomb shelters and halting airport operations.

He emphasized that the attack was a response to the ongoing genocide committed by Israeli occupation forces in the

Gaza Strip and was carried out in solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian people and their re-

Saree affirmed that Yemeni military operations will continue until the siege is lifted and the U.S.-backed genocide ends.

Saree also stressed that Yemen, its people, leadership, and army, remain steadfast in supporting the oppressed and starving Palestinians.

He affirmed Yemen's unwavering backing for the Palestinian resistance against the Israeli occupation regime, stating that Yemen stands in solidarity with a people facing siege and aggression under the eyes of the world.

Addressing the Palestinian people, the military spokesman said: "Your brothers, your people, and your siblings in Yemen are with you and by your side. We will do everything in our power to fulfill our duty toward you."

The Israeli military detected a ballistic missile launched from Yemen toward the occupied Palestinian territories, triggering air raid sirens in Tel Aviv, occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem), and the Ashdod area.

Israeli Channel 12 reported that flight operations at Ben Gurion Airport were suspended following the missile launch.

Below is the full statement issued by the Yemeni Armed

"In support of the oppressed Palestinian people and their honorable fighters, and in response to the genocide being committed by the Zionist enemy against our brothers in the Gaza Strip the missile force of the Yemeni Armed Forces carried out a qualitative military operation targeting Lod (Ben Gurion) Airport in the occupied area of Jaffa (Tel Aviv) with a hypersonic ballistic missile of the type Palestine 2. The operation successfully hit its target, by the

grace of Allah, causing millions of Zionist usurpers to flee to shelters and halting all airport activity.

Yemen, with its people, leadership, and army, continues its operations in support of the oppressed and besieged people of our Palestinian brothers, in solidarity with their noble resistance, and in support of their steadfastness, as they face this siege and aggression alone, with no support or backing.

Your brothers In Yemen, your people in Yemen, your kin in Yemen stand with you and by your side. We will do everything within our power to fulfill our duty toward you: the duty of faith, the duty of Arabhood, and the duty of humanity.

We place our full trust in Allah's help, victory, and support.

Our operations will continue until the siege is lifted and the aggression against Gaza comes to an end.

# France, 14 other nations urge recognition of Palestine

France and 14 other Western nations called on countries worldwide to move to recognize a Palestinian state, France's top diplomat said Wednesday, AFP reported.

The foreign ministers of 15 countries late Tuesday issued a joint statement following a conference in New York, co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, aimed at reviving a two-state solution between Israelis and the Palestinians

"In New York, together with 14 other countries, France is issuing a collective appeal: we express our desire to recognize the State of Palestine and invite those who have not yet done so to join us," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot wrote on X.

The statement was signed by the foreign ministers of Andorra, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia and Spain.

President Emmanuel Macron announced last week he would formally recognize Palestinian statehood in September, provoking strong opposition from Israel and the United States.

France is hoping to build a momentum around the formal recognition of a Pales-

On Tuesday, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced the UK will formally recognize the State of Palestine in September unless Israel takes various "substantive steps", including agreeing to a ceasefire in Gaza.

Starmer's move, paired with Paris, would make the two European allies the first G7

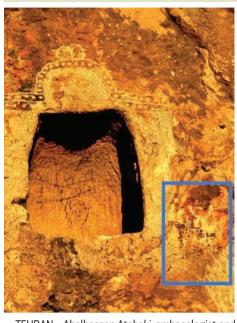
In the statement, the 15 nations affirmed their "unwavering commitment to the vision of the two-state solution".

Nine of the signatories which have not yet recognized the Palestinian state expressed "the willingness or the positive consideration of their countries" to do so, including Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

# **TOURISM**

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

## Fourth burial inscription identified in Naqsh-e Rostam



TEHRAN—Abolhassan Atabaki, archaeologist and researcher, gave news of discovery of the fourth burial inscription in the area of Nagsh-e Rostam in Marvdasht, Fars province, saying that the inscription is related to an ossuary, a container or repository for the bones of the dead, from the late Sassanid era and has very beautiful decorations.

He told Shabestan news agency that the transformation of burial rituals and methods with the spread of Zoroastrianism in the Iranian plateau had been accompanied by different practices. "Today, archaeological sources provide us with a wide range of these transformations."

A huge number of ossuaries and other burial structures pertaining to the Sassanid era have been launched near Istakhr city, Takht-e Jamshid, Naqsh-e Rostam and in the birthplace of the Sassanid kings, some of which have inscriptions that pertain to the late Sassanid era.

He explained: "Today, various types of burial

methods of Sassanid era have become obvious for us with the help of burial inscriptions."

Also, Najmeh Ebrahimi, a senior expert of history explained: "Archaeological studies and explorations have changed our approach toward burial methods of Sassanid era."

The formation of this type of burials was in line with religious teachings, the geography of the environment, government laws and the financial ability of individuals and gradually encompassed a wide range of public culture, she added.

She continued: "Not only the statements of Nezam al-Molk, the Seljuk minister, about the tomb of the city of Rey, but also the epitaph of the daughter of Gabr in Eqlid is evidence of this issue that the amount of 12,000 dirhams was spent on building a stone pit tomb, which was a very high figure at the time. Undoubtedly, erecting a tomb also involved a huge cost that could only be afforded by wealthy people and the upper classes of society."

She emphasized: "Based on our studies in Marvdasht, the number of ossuaries created in the Sassanid and early Islamic eras is very small compared to the mortar and stone tombs (belonging to ordinary people), which indicates that rare individuals built ossuaries and other luxurious tombs; some of these tombs contain inscriptions about the deceased and prayer sentences that were written by local scribes at the behest of the deceased (before death) or by the survivors."

Regarding the recently identified inscription, Atabaki said this ossuary includes burial inscription and has beautiful decorations.

The dome-shaped decorations with graphic motifs above it, which are less visible in Sassanid ossuaries, are reminiscent of ascension to the upper world and a view of Sassanid architecture.

The researcher said that the ossuary is written in five lines in Pahlavi script and in a reclining (vertical) form, which is translated as follows: This is the grave of the son of Nikdad. Go to the heaven.

# **Zanjan Day commemorated**

#### Land of great philosopher Shahabeddin Sohrevardi

TEHRAN--The birth anniversary of Sheikh Shahabeddin Sohrevardi, Iranian philosopher and founder of the Iranian school of Illuminationism, has been named as Zanjan Day (July 30) in the Iranian calendar. It is considered day of cultural and scientific activities in gnosis and philosophy fields.

Shahabeddin Yahya ibn Habash Sohrevardi (1154-1191) was a Persian philosopher and founder of the Iranian school of Illuminationism, an important school in Islamic philosophy. The light in his "Philosophy of Illumination" is the source of knowledge, Mehr news agency

He is referred to by the honorific title Shaikh al-Ishraq "Master of Illumination". Mulla Sadra, the Persian sage of the Safavid era described Sohrevardi as the "Reviver of the Traces of the Pahlavi (Iranian) Sages", and Sohrevardi, in his magnum opus "The Philosophy of Illumination", thought of himself as a reviver or resuscitator of the ancient tradition of Persian wisdom. Sohrevardi provided a new Platonic critique of the peripatetic school of Avicenna that was dominant at his times, and that critique involved the fields of Logic, Physics, Epistemology, Psychology, and Meta-

His life spanned a period of less than 40 years during which he produced a series of works that established him as the founder of a new school of philosophy, called "Illuminism" (hikmat al-Ishrag). According to Henry Corbin, Sohrevardi "came later to be called the Master of Illumination (Shaikh-i-Ishraq) because his great aim was the renaissance of ancient Iranian wisdom". In 1186, at the age of 32, he completed his magnum opus, "The Philosophy of Illumination".

Sohrevardi was a strong defender of Peripatetic philosophy, until he was influenced by those whom he described as those who "have traveled the path of God", like - as noted by Sohrevardi - Plato from the Greek tradition, Hermes (Thoth) from Egypt, and Pythagoras the Phoenician, and also figures in the Persian tradition. His philosophical project aims to revive the lost hikmat of east and west.

Sohrevardi taught a complex and profound emanationist cosmology, in which all creation is a successive outflow from the original Supreme Light of Lights (Nur al-Anwar). The fundamental of his philosophy is pure immaterial light, where nothing is manifest, and which unfolds from the Light of Lights in a descending order of ever-diminishing intensity and, through complex interaction, gives rise to a horizontal array of lights, similar in conception to Platonic forms, that governs mundane reality. In other words, the universe and all levels of

existence are but varying degrees of Light—light and darkness. In his division of bodies, he categorizes objects in terms of their reception or non-reception of light.

Sohrevardi considers a previous existence for every soul in the angelic realm before its descent to the realm of the body. The soul is divided into two parts, one remains in heaven and the other descends into the dungeon of the body. The human soul is always sad because it has been divorced from its other half. Therefore, it aspires to become reunited with it. The soul can only reach felicity again when it is united with its celestial part, which has remained in heaven. He holds that the soul should seek felicity by detaching itself from its tenebrous body and worldly matters and access the world of immaterial lights. The souls of the gnostics and saints, after leaving the body, ascend even above the angelic world to enjoy proximity to the Supreme Light, which is the only absolute

Sohrevardi elaborated the neoplatonic idea of an independent intermediary world, the imaginal world. His views have exerted a powerful influence down to this day, particularly through Mulla Sadra's combined peripatetic and illuminationist description of reality.

Sohrevardi's Illuminationist project had a strong influence on subsequent esoteric Iranian thought and the idea of "Decisive Necessity" is believed to be one of the most important innovations in the history of logical philosophical speculation, stressed by the majority of Muslim logicians and philosophers.

Sohrevardi was born in 1154 in Sohrevard, a village located between the towns of Zanjan and Bijar Garrus in Iran.

#### Introduction to Zanjan

Located on the Commercial Silk Road and on Iran-Europe transitway, Zanjan province is 338 kilometers from Tehran and it is a ing central parts, the west, and northwest of Iran together.

Zanjan is a mountainous province whose climate is character-

mountains and a moderate climate in the plains in wintertime. In the summers, the weather is warm.

#### World city of filigree work

Being designated as "world city of filigree" by the World Crafts Council, Zanjan is well known for its noble craftsmanship of filigree

Filigree consists of curling, twisting, or plaiting fine, pliable metal threads (especially silver) and soldering them at their points of contact with each other with a metal groundwork.

#### Handmade knives

Having fine patterns on their handle and lining, the stainless handmade knives of Zanjan are famous in Iran due to their cutting power, sharpness, high quality, durability, and plating style.

#### Coppersmith

The outstanding coppersmith craft has a long and shining history in Zanjan which is characterized by its specific motifs carved on a wide variety of copper products. The history of copper handicrafts in Zanjan dates back to more than a thousand years ago and to the Sassanid era.

#### Soltanieh Dome

Dating back to 700 years ago, Soltanieh Dome is one of the most exceptional and famous Islamic sites of the province that was built commissioned by Sultan Mohammad Khodabandeh (Oljaytu) in the old Soltanieh city of Zanjan, the capital of the Ilkhanid dynasty from 1302 to 1312.

The historical and magnificent edifice of the Dome of Soltanieh is the largest brick dome in the world and the world's third tallest dome which has been registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list in

#### Colorful mountains of

While traveling to the western parts of Zanjan, the rare colorful strategic city in terms of connect- mountains and clay hills in red, brown, green, orange, yellow, and white catch everyone's eyes.

The breathtaking scenery of these mountains is a good choice ized by cold snowy weather in the for photographers and mountain

Located in the Mahneshan county of Zanjan, these amazing mountains are called "Ala Dagh Lar" by local people.

#### Zanjan Anthropological Museum

The historical building of Zanjan Wash House, locally dubbed as Rakhtshooy Khaneh lies at the historical texture of the Zanjan city which was built in nearly the 20th century in the Qajar Era.

Since there was no washing machine in ancient times, most people in Zanjan used to go to the river to wash their clothes and dishes. Therefore, a laundry house was built for women to wash their household clothing in a closed space during the harsh winters of that time for free.

Currently, Rakhtshooy Khaneh has changed into an anthropological museum where you can find the sculptures of the people of Zanjan in ancient times. These sculptures are holding their washing equipment and they have dressed up in the local clothes of Zanjan people in old times.

#### Salt Men Museum

#### (Zolfaghari Mansion)

Six mummies were found in Chehrabad Salt Mine in southern Zanjan in 1993. Salt cured mummies (dated back to Achaemenid and Sassanid eras) were in fact ancient corpses killed or crushed in the cave and mummified by the extreme conditions and their hair, flesh, and bone were all preserved by the dry salinity of the cave, and even internal organs such as stomachs and colons have been found

One of the mentioned salt men has been transferred to the National Museum of Iran in Tehran (all can be seen by the public), the final salt man remains in-situ, half stuck in a mountain of salt.

The other four salt-cured mummies are kept in the Zanjan Archaeology Museum, known as Zolfaghari Mansion, in the center of Zanjan city along the northern side of Sabzeh Meydan square.

#### Historical Bazaar of Zanjan

The traditional bazaar of Zanjan is the longest covered market in Iran which was founded in 1784 under the command of Aqa Mohmmad Khan Qajar and was complet-

The bazaar consists of two parts, namely Bazaar-e Bala (upper bazaar) and Bazaar-e Paieen (lower bazaar), which are divided into different sections by professions and commodities.

Two mosques, namely Aqa Sheikh Fayyaz Mosque and Mirza Mosque, two caravansaries of Serai Malek, and Serai Golshan as well two public baths also exist in this

# Kerman, a museum illustrating various periods of history

TEHRAN--Being home to seven UNESCO World Heritage sites, eye-catching gardens, and ancient monuments, Kerman city can be considered as a perfect museum illustrating various periods in Iranian history.

Located in the southeast of Iran, Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Lut Desert, Mehr news agency wrote.

Kerman Province, with an area exceeding vastest provinces. It enjoys a variety of climates including warm, semi-dry, extremely dry, moderate, and cold.

Here in Kerman, the inhabitants fight the glowering face of desert difficulties, with patient smiles. Each monument in Kerman indicates some historical dimensions of the people's life. This makes Kerman a standing museum of various periods in Iranian history.

Many different kinds of stone and pottery works that belong to the 5th millennium BC have been dug up from the hills and plains of this land that indicate the antiquity of its civ-

Kerman is home to myriad historical sites, gardens, and scenic landscapes such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Vakil Bath, Fath Abad Garden, Shahzadeh Garden, Kaluts of Lut Desert and Bam citadel.

Kerman's magnificent 'Sartasari' ('end-toend') Bazaar is one of the oldest and most memorable trading centers in Iran (after the UNESCO listed Bazaar in Tabriz).

Within are several museums, bathhouses and religious structures, while the vivacity of the whole experience is enough in itself to keep visitors interested for at least an hour or two, especially in the morning and late afternoon.

Bathhouses have had great importance during ancient times and because of this, many of them were built in downtown and central

Vakil Bath in Kerman is located in the middle of Vakil Bazaar which was built 170 years ago, during the Qajar period, modeled on Ganjali Khan bath.



It is believed that this bath was constructed 180,000 square kilometers is one of Iran's upon the order of the Kerman ruler during that time according to an inscription inside the Vakil Bath in Kerman.

> Artistic architects of Kerman used fantastic tile and ceramic works to decorate this place and also amaze the next generations.

This historic bath is now a traditional teahouse and is open to tourists.

Shazdeh Garden (Prince Garden) is a green oasis lying in the heart of the desert. Located near Mahan in the province of Kerman, Shazdeh Garden is one of the historical Persian gardens with a rectangular plan.

The first attempt of constructing the Shazdeh Garden dates back to the thirteenth century at the end years of the Qajar dynasty by the order of the ruler of Kerman and Sistan.

Similar to other great Persian gardens such as Eram Garden or Dowlatabad Garden, it is also inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List.

What is very amazing about Shazdeh Garden is that it is located in the desert where nothing exists but dry plains. However, the entrance of the garden welcomes tourists to the earthly

Putting a step inside Shazdeh Garden, one can see the pools streaming along with the garden, the trees offering shade to the pathway, and the flowers spreading perfume everywhere.

Later, the façade of an old pavilion appears from behind the fountains and the stairs lead the visitors toward the pavilion.

The perfect plan of Shazdeh Garden, the architecture of the pavilion, and its interior design and decorations all reflect the Iranians' art, culture, and lifestyle.

### Ownership documents issued for 36 historical houses in Fars province

TEHRAN—Caretaker of Fars Cultural Heritage Department gave news of issuance of ownership documents for 36 historical houses across

Speaking on the sidelines of the presentation of these ownership documents in Shiraz on Wednesday, Mohsen Ziaei emphasized the importance of registering the ownership of these houses and said: "These monuments are located in historical texture of Shiraz particularly in Sang Siah District", ISNA reported.

He explained that with the efforts and effective cooperation between the Fars Cultural Heritage Department, the Civil Registration Organization, and other relevant institutions, the ownership documents of these valuable houses have been issued.

Some of the registered houses include Manteginejad, Afshari, Qalamfarsa, Kolahi, Kazemi, Agaei, Mohammadi, Towhidi, Mogtaderi, Bargi, Abbasi, Ganjizadeh, Basir-ol-Molk, Qazi, Mohammadali Rava, Assadollahi, Soleymani, Tavallaei, Abedi, Khoshvaqt, Qorban Zare', Jafar Samzadeh, Salehi, Nasir-ol-Molk, Forugh-ol-Molk, Davoud Zare' Reza Qoli Ardakani, Khalifeh Kadivar, and Shourideh.

He said that registration of the legal ownership of these houses is an effective step towards the protection, restoration, and cultural and tourism exploitation of these monuments, adding that this trend will continue during the current Iranian year and other significant monuments of the province are also gradually being documented.

Ziaei emphasized that issuing ownership certificates for historical monuments, in addition to establishing the government's ownership rights, provides the necessary basis for conservation, restoration, and planning measures in

He concluded by saying that the measure was taken to preserve the valuable cultural heritage of Fars and pass it on to the future generations, and it demonstrates the serious determination of the responsible institutions to preserve the historical identity of cities such as Shiraz.

Known as the heartland of Persian culture, Shiraz has a rich history stretching back over 2,000 years. This city is synonymous with poetry, education, and the arts, and has been a hub for creativity and intellectual pursuits. Once the capital of Iran during the Zand dynasty, Shiraz is home to some of the most iconic landmarks in the country, in-



cluding the Eram Garden, the Tomb of Hafez, and the ancient ruins of Persepolis.

Shiraz's historical gardens, like Bagh-e Narenjestan and Eram Garden, are masterpieces of Persian landscaping and a top draw for tourists. The city's enduring connection to Persian culture, coupled with its majestic architecture and natural beauty, continues to make it a prime destination for both domestic and international

Together, Isfahan, Yazd, and Shiraz represent a "Golden Triangle" of Iranian tourism, each offering a unique glimpse into Iran's rich cultural, architectural, and historical heritage.

# **APDIM** puts preserving Zagros forests on agenda

TEHRAN -Following Iran's proposal on the protection of Zagros forests from wildfires, the Asia-Pacific Center for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) has placed the issue on the agenda.

Zagros forests are among the most important natural resources of Iran, as they constitute 40 percent of the country's forests, and play an important role in the production of a large part of the country's freshwater.

This achievement is the result of the country's cooperation with APDIM in combating sand and dust storms, IRNA reported.

The proposal was approved at the eighty-first annual session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), held from April 21 to 25 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.

APDIM, in coordination with the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) and the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization, has developed a series of comprehensive plans for collaborative efforts to preserve Zagros forests. The plans are designed to improve the region's preparedness and capabilities to combat widespread forest fires.

Iran has proposed APDIM plans to encompass other issues, such as the management of pest and forest diseases, in addition to the preser-



hectares of the forests in the country

are inscribed in the UNESCO World

Heritage list, IRNA quoted Ali Tey-

mouri, the head of the Natural Re-

sources and Watershed Management

The official made the remarks

"Due to their geographical location,

these forests have a high diversity of

flora and fauna. Zagros forests are

home to more than 2,500 plant and

animal species that are not found in

other parts of the country or even the

world, which indicates their rich bio-

These forests play vital economic

and social functions, and contribute

to local communities' livelihood.

However, they are threatened by

different factors such as climate

change, frequent wildfires, and ille-

while addressing the international

conference on the sustainable man-

Organization, as saying.

agement of Zagros forests.

logical diversity.

vation of forests against wildfires.

Once approved, the environmental challenges of the forests will be addressed more comprehensively at the regional and global levels.

Iran has always highlighted the significance of regional participation in dealing with environmental crises by playing a key role in fostering regional synergies.

The country is positive that AP-DIM and other related institutions' assistance would result in improved management of natural crises and disaster risk reduction at the regional and international levels.

#### Preserving Zagros forests requires global co-op

In June, Iran called on international institutions and other countries to help preserve Zagros forests through a comprehensive cooperation program.

Iran is famous for having one of the

gal exploitation," he added

To address environmental challenges and improve sustainability indicators, Iran needs to develop international collaborations that focus on providing technical support, exchanging experience, financing, as well as regional and scientific cooperation, Teymouri said.

The official went on to say that Iran is willing to benefit from other countries' expertise in designing and implementing sustainable management projects for the forests. As environmental challenges are universal the country seeks to utilize global environmental structures and facilities to restore the

The forest area in Iran amounts to approximately 14 million hectares, which constitutes 7.5 percent of the country's total land area. The forests are scattered in different regions across the country. The current per capita forest area is around 1700 square meters, while the country's per capita forest area in the world is 5600 square meters, Teymouri said.

The sustainable management of the Zagros forests through participatory management or social forestry, incorporating economic, social, and environmental sustainability indicators, and involving local communities, government bodies, and private sectors, is on the agenda of the Natural Resources Organization of the country, the official further noted.

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

## International Day of Friendship: 'your well-being matters to me too'

From page **1** ▶ In this year's observance of the International Day of Friendship, we're reminded that real peace is forged not only in negotiation halls or by writing into treaties — it's built, thread by thread, in the trust we extend to one another in daily life.

Friendship, especially among young people, holds a special kind of power. It can cross languages, faiths, and histories that might otherwise divide us.

It invites us to listen before we judge, to stay when it's easier to walk away.

And when nurtured across cultures and communities, friendship becomes more than a bond—it becomes a blueprint for reconcil-

It teaches us that understanding isn't a grand achievement; it's a habit, a practice, a way of moving through the world that says 'your well-being matters to me too'.

This year, as the world faces profound ruptures — between nations, within societies, even within families — the call to friendship is not sentimental.

It's essential. It's about reaching across what breaks us and daring to believe in something better.

It is a call to imagine a future where difference doesn't mean distance, where trust is stronger than fear.

Through friendship, we don't just cope with the world as it is — we begin to shape the world as it could be.

The resolution places emphasis on involving young people, as future leaders, in community activities that include different cultures and promote international understanding and respect for diversity.

To mark the International Day of Friend-



ship, the UN encourages governments, international organizations, and civil society groups to hold events, activities, and initiatives that contribute to the efforts of the international community towards promoting a dialogue among civilizations, solidarity, mutual understanding, and reconciliation.

The International Day of Friendship is an initiative that follows the proposal made by UNESCO, defining the Culture of Peace as a set of values, attitudes, and behaviors that reject violence and endeavor to prevent conflicts by addressing their root causes with a view to solving problems.

It was then adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1997.

## Iran's persistence in combating hepatitis is commendable: WHO

TEHRAN -Jaffar Hussain, World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to Iran, has lauded Iranian health experts and officials, as well as people, in addressing hepatitis B and C, underlining that the country's determination in eliminating hepatitis is praiseworthy.

Viral hepatitis is still one of the leading causes of death worldwide, although it is preventable and curable. Highlighting the significance of raising public awareness, renewing commitment, and accelerating measures in fighting hepatitis, the official said eliminating hepatitis requires collective measures and broad participation, IRNA reported.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day, which is observed annually on July 2.

Referring to Iran's remarkable accomplishments in managing hepatitis B through vaccination, Hussain elaborated on existing challenges, particularly among vulnerable groups, in the case of hepatitis C.

"We need to focus on health quality and programs such as peer support, harm reduction services, and the expansion of tests and treatments." the official said.

Referring to the WHO policy of Integrating HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) with Primary Health Care (PHC), Hussain said the integration of hepatitis services with PHC will lead to improved access to services, enhanced service delivery, stronger community engagement, improved health outcomes, and sustainable financing.

The official went on to call for investing in stigma-free and people-centered care and the integration of hepatitis services with PHC, emphasizing that the eradication of hepatitis is not merely a health objective, but a step towards justice, human dignity, and equality.

#### Iran determined to eradicate hepatitis C

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 WHO and other international

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-tochild transmission prevention, Raeisi added.

**ENGLISH IN USE** 

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

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

# Iranian delegation to attend Indonesia Health Expo 2025



TEHRAN - The Iranian House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) in Indonesia is planning to set up pavilions of Iranian knowledge-based companies in the health sector at the 37th Indonesia Health Expo 2025, which will be held from September 25 to 28.

As the largest medical exhibition in South East Asia, the exhibition will display the latest advancements in medical, pharmaceutical, clinical laboratory equipment, and medicine.

The event will serve as a great opportunity for Iranian knowledge-based firms and manufacturers to showcase their capabilities and products in the strategic South East Asian market and lay the ground for the expansion of international cooperation with industry leaders, and healthcare professionals from around the world.

#### Self-sufficiency in medicine, medical equipment is a priority

The issue of medicine and medical equipment production and self-sufficiency in these areas is one of the government's priorities, Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafargandi has said.

Medicine and medical equipment are two important areas related to people's health, he said, adding: "We are trying to reach self-sufficiency for the supply of medicine and medical equipment," IRNA reported

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment, such as anesthesia machines and other equipment, are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

In May, the World Health Organization's (WHO) director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) said Iran is a leading country in expanding its healthcare system and providing access to universal health coverage.

Lauding the country's achievements in recent years, Hanan Balkhi said expanding primary health care services, increasing access to health coverage in rural areas, maintaining high vaccination rates, and reducing maternal and newborn mortality, Iran has managed to become a successful role model in the region, the health ministry's website reported.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafargandi. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly

WHO EMRO is working closely with the Iranian regulatory institutions to achieve regulatory maturity level 3 in the pharmaceutical regulatory system to pave the way for broader exports of Iranian health-oriented products to global markets; it will also contribute to promoting global health security, Balkhi added.

# **LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION**

### Iran exports medical equipment to 55 countries

Some 105 medical equipment produced by 23 Iranian companies are exported to 55 countries across the world, Reza Masaeli, an advisor to the health minister has said.

"Currently, a total of 280,000 medical equipment is produced in the country. In recent years, the production of medical equipment in Iran has increased by 9 percent," he added.

Iran exports medical equipment to Russia, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Croatia.

# تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی به ۵۵ کشور دنیا

مشاور وزیر بهداشت گفت: در حال حاضر ۱۰۵ محصول تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی که توسط ۲۳ ُشرکت ایرانی تولید می شود، به ۵۵ کشور جهان صادر می شود. رضا مسائلی، اظهار داشت: در کشور بیش از ۲۸۰ هزار قلم تجهیزات پزشکی در کشور وجود دارد و در سال های اخیر، تولیدات تجهیزات . پزشکی در جمهوری اسلامی ایران، ۹ درصد افزایش داشته است. وی افزود: در حال حاضر تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی به روسیه، آلمان، ایتالیا، بلژیک، هلند و کرواسی صادر می شود.

# EHRAN TIMES



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JULY 31, 2025

#### **GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

He who constantly jests, exposes a part of his intelligence to destruction.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:29 Dawn: 3:35 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:12 (tomorrow)

### Israeli settler accused of killing Palestinian activist out on house arrest

A court in Israel has released to house arrest an life at a time." Israeli settler accused of fatally shooting a Palestinian activist in the occupied West Bank.

The suspect, identified as Yinon Levi, was placed under house arrest on Tuesday after a Magistrate Court in Jerusalem declined to keep him in custody, Al Jazeera reported.

Levi faced charges of manslaughter and unlawful firearm use in connection with the killing of 31-year-old Palestinian activist and English teacher Awdah Hathaleen, who was shot dead on Monday night in the village of Umm al-Kheir, south

Hathaleen was well known for his activism, including helping the creators of the Oscar-winning film "No Other Land," which documents Israeli settler and soldier attacks on the Palestinian community of Masafer Yatta.

Footage published by Israeli human rights group B'Tselem appears to show Levi opening fire on Hathaleen during a confrontation in the village.

Despite the visual evidence and prior sanctions imposed on Levi by both the European Union and the United States over past attacks on Palestinians, Israeli authorities released him to house arrest. U.S. President Trump removed the penalties against Levi and other settlers accused of extremist violence after assuming office in January.

Israeli journalist Yuval Abraham, one of the co-directors of "No Other Land." said that while Yinon was released on house arrest, Hathaleen's family were arrested.

"After killing Odeh, Yinon pointed at his family and instructed soldiers to arrest four of them," Abraham said in a post on X.

"They are still jailed while he was just released for house arrest. A system which punishes the victims (who are under military law) and rewards the shooter (who is under civilian law)," Abraham added.

Palestinian journalist Basel Adra, who co-directed "No Other Land," earlier wrote about his killing on social media.

"My dear friend Awdah was slaughtered this evening," Adra wrote. "He was standing in front of the community center in his village when a settler fired a bullet that pierced his chest and took his life," he said. "This is how Israel erases us — one

Co-director Abraham described Hathaleen as "a remarkable activist who helped us film 'No Other Land' in Masafer Yatta".

Abraham also posted a video of the incident and said that "residents identified Yinon Levi, sanctioned by the EU and U.S., as the shooter".

Israeli police acknowledged that they were investigating an "incident near Carmel [al-Karmil]", an illegal Israeli settlement neighboring Umm al-

"An Israeli citizen was detained at the scene and then arrested by police for questioning," a police statement said.

Israeli soldiers also arrested four Palestinians "in connection with the incident, along with two foreign tourists who were at the scene", the police said. "Following the incident, the death of a Palestinian was confirmed; his exact involvement in the incident is being verified," the police added.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that a second Palestinian was injured in the attack after being beaten by a settler. He was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Hathaleen was from Masafer Yatta, a string of Palestinian hamlets located on the hills south of Hebron, where residents have fought for decades to remain in their homes after Israel declared the area an Israeli military "firing" or training zone.

Their efforts to prevent Israeli forces from destroying their homes were the subject of "No Other Land," which won best documentary at the Oscars in March.

Hathaleen's killing comes as Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem released a report on Monday accusing Israel of committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

About three million Palestinians live in the occupied West Bank, alongside nearly half a million Israelis living in settlements, which are illegal under international law.

Israeli soldiers and settlers have killed more than 1,000 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since the start of Israel's war on Gaza in October 2023. More than 30 Israelis, including civilians and soldiers, have been killed in the occupied West Bank during the same period.

# Iranian documentary "Cutting Through Rocks" wins Gryphon Award at Giffoni Film Festival

TEHRAN - The Iranian documentary "Cutting Through Rocks" by Mohammadreza Eyni and Sara Khaki won an award at the 55th edition of the Giffoni Film Festival (GFF), which ran from July 17 to 26 in Salerno, Italy.

Competing in the Gex Doc documentary section, the movie grabbed the Gryphon Award. It was the only winner from among the three Iranian films shown at the festival, ISNA reported.

The documentary tells the story of Sara Shahverdi, the first elected councilwoman of her village, who aims to break long-held patriarchal traditions by training teenage girls to ride motorcycles and stopping child marriages. When accusations arise questioning Sara's intentions to empower the girls, her identity is put in turmoil.

A joint production of Iran, Germany, the U.S., Qatar, the Netherlands, Chile, and Canada, the 95-minute movie was the winner of the World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize at the World Cinema Documentary Competition of Sundance Film Festival earlier this

In "Cutting Through Rocks," Sara Khaki and Mohammadreza Eyni deliver a deeply intimate and quietly defiant portrait of resistance and resilience. Their debut feature documentary follows Sara Shahverdi, the first elected councilwoman in a rural Iranian village. as she attempts to dismantle deeply rooted patriarchal structures and empower young women to imagine a future of freedom, education, and autonomy.

At the heart of the film lies Shahverdi herself-a remarkable, trailblazing figure who drives a car through dusty village roads, teaches teenage girls how to ride motorbikes, and campaigns against the still-prevalent practice of child marriage. The camera, handheld and unvarnished, stays close to her, never interfering but always alert to the emotional and political weight of her daily struggles. It's this raw, observational approach that lends the film its guiet power and cumulative ten-

Sara's charisma and sheer willpower drive the narrative forward. As she pushes girls to stay in school, dream of careers in medicine, teaching, or engineering, and take control of their lives, her vision becomes a glimmer of hope in an otherwise suffocating social landscape. Yet her journey is far from smooth. Suspicion and resentment surround her. When allegations surface questioning her intentions with the young girls she mentors, Sara's own identity is scrutinized and eventually attacked.

The score, used sparingly and

than overwhelms the emotional arc. The cinematography, roughedged and organic, resists beautification, echoing the rawness of the terrain and the social tensions that run through it. Cutting Through Rocks begins with quiet observation, but builds into an emotional crescendo, culminating in a series of painful defeats and existential questions.

The film does not offer closure or easy hope, and therein lies its honesty. This is not a tale of triumphant change, but one of necessary resistance in the face of insurmountable odds.

Ultimately, the documentary stands as both a testament to individual courage and a sobering wake-up call.

The 55th Giffoni Film Festival was the last under the leadership of its founder Claudio Gubitosi. Involving upwards of 5,000 young jurists hailing from 30 different with subtlety, enhances rather countries, the event has once again confirmed itself as one of the most significant international gatherings dedicated to cinema for newer generations.

Selected from 2,500+ titles hailing from all corners of the globe, the winning films reflect the central themes of this year's festival: identity, inclusion, memory and freedom of expression.

They range between fiction films and documentaries, feature films and shorts, tackling frequently thorny topics with a language adapted for younger audiences and inspiring reflection and self-examination.

The Giffoni Film Festival was born in 1971 from Claudio Gubitosi's idea: promoting and developing cinema for young people, elevating it from the marginal position it had back in those days, and leading it where it belongs, a high-quality genre capable of "penetrating" the market.

## Conference emphasizes Persian's role in uniting Iran, preserving cultural heritage

TEHRAN- The seventh National Conference on "Languages and Dialects of Iran" brought together scholars and cultural figures at the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia in Tehran on Tuesday to underscore the vital role of the Persian language in fostering unity and solidarity among Iranians.

Highlighting the significance of Iran's linguistic heritage, experts emphasized that Iranian languages have historically served as a bridge connecting the diverse nations of the region, reinforcing cultural bonds and shared identity, IRNA

Seyyed Mohammad Kazem Mousavi Boinordi, President of the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia, highlighted the role of the Persian language as a fundamental element of unity and cohesion among the Iranian people. He emphasized that the extent of Iranian languages has historically served as a bridge linking the nations of

In his speech, he stated that Iranian languages and dialects embody the documents of their national, religious, and cultural identity. Therefore, research, preservation, and dissemination of these invaluable treasures are among the most vital duties of all lovers of Iran's civilization and culture.

"I would like to remind that. besides Persian, the widespread use of Turkish and Arabic among many of our compatriots enriches the cultural and scholarly fabric of Iranian languages and continually enhances their value."

"In essence, Persian, as the official language, is viewed as one of the key elements of unity among all Iranians. It possesses an immense cultural, literary, and scientific treasure trove that has historically united Iranians and has remained



can sever," he added.

"The aim of this conference is to familiarize participants with the latest research achievements in the field of Iranian languages and texts and to examine the scope of Iranian languages as a unifying factor among regional nations. Additionally, it seeks to inspire young researchers to undertake profound investigations in Iranian linguistics," he stated.

For her part, Jaleh Amouzegar, member of the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia, expressed: "Our shared concern is Iran itself, and these days we are more mindful of it. When Iran is mentioned, the Persian language appears, as we all communicate in one language. Together, we read and understand the Shahnameh and Golestan, and we pay homage to Ferdowsi and

"Discovering dialects is akin to uncovering an archaeological site; we must preserve dialects to prevent their disappearance," she explained.

"It is vital to respect dialects, and I pray that God preserves Iran and the Persian language, because we take pride in nothing more than our language. In Iran, we share a common love for it," she concluded.

Ali Ashraf Sadeqi, another mem-

CO emphasizes the importance of preserving endangered languages because each language reflects a unique worldview that must be safeguarded."

"Many Iranian dialects have vanished over centuries. For example, today we know little about the language of Hafez and Saadi in the 7th and 8th centuries, and the official language was Dari. Even before that, during the Sassanid era, Dari was the spoken language, and during the Middle Ages, court scribes like Mirza Mehdi Khan Estrabadi had complicated the language," he added.

"The language was simplified during the Constitutional Revolution, and the first Academy, established by Mohammad Ali Foroughi, refined word-formation practices that had been neglected for centuries. To this day, the Academy of Persian Language and Literature has coined about 80,000 scientific terms," he noted.

"All languages contain regional words, and the presence of borrowed words is not a flaw. We should not think that Arabic words are a burden on Persian; they have been part of our language for over a thousand years. All our scholars have written in this language, and reformers who aimed to purify the

language have failed," he explained.

"Even scientific terminology in Arabic is an Iranian mental construct. The Iranian spirit is embedded within Arabic, and if we cling to false notions of language purity or nationalism, we risk destroying our cultural continuity. We are proud to have preserved Persian, and it is our collective duty to strengthen it," he emphasized.

A Significant Portion of Persian Language Outside Iran's Political Borders

Mahmoud Jafari Dehaqi, Scientific Secretary of the conference, stated: "Iranian languages are a branch of the Indo-Iranian language family and belong to the Indo-European language group."

Persian as the official language remains a vital element of unity among Iranians. Its immense cultural, literary, and scientific heritage has connected Iranians across history, making separation impossible, he asserted.

"Today, we believe that Persian is not only Iran's heritage but a shared legacy of Middle Eastern nations. It belongs to Iran, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and many other peopleswho have cultivated and developed philosophical thought, emotions, and literary expressions through it over centuries."

"With the support of Iranian and global linguists and scholars, we can take new steps in introducing and safeguarding Iranian languages and dialects," he said.

Following the opening session, a series of scholarly presentations took place, including reports on various dialects, linguistic analyses, and regional language studies, culminating in the unveiling of the book "Collected Articles of the Sixth National Conference on Languages and Dialects of Iran."

#### Cartoon of Day



Starvation War in Gaza Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria