

# Inside Evin Prison After the ‘Symbolic’ Israeli Attack that Killed 110 People

Tehran Times reports from aftermath of the tragedy featuring stories of survivors



© Tehran Times/ Ali Haddadi Asl

► Page 3

A building inside Evin Prison, once a space for inmates to receive visitors, lies in ruins after an Israeli missile attack on June 23, 2025.

## Path to diplomacy narrow, but still open with serious commitments: Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said that while the path to diplomacy remains open, any resumption of nuclear negotiations hinges on serious commitments from the United States, including compensation for the recent joint U.S.-Israeli aggression and firm guarantees against future attacks during talks.

In an interview with the Financial Times published on Thursday, Araghchi stated that the Islamic Republic cannot return to the negotiating table under the current circumstances, describing last month's attacks as a deliberate and coordinated effort to undermine diplomatic progress. ► Page 2

## Pezeshkian inaugurates over 8,600 national housing units in one-day visit to Zanjan

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visited the northwestern province of Zanjan on Thursday, meeting with teachers, intellectuals, and artists as part of a one-day tour that also marked the inauguration of key housing and healthcare projects.

During the trip, Pezeshkian officially opened 8,661 housing units under Iran's National Housing Movement scheme and launched a new glassware production facility.

The housing units, located in both urban and rural areas, were developed at a cost of 125 trillion rials (around \$250 million). ► Page 4

## Renewed aggression against Iran will change region's geography of war: IRGC

TEHRAN – Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeini, deputy head of public relations and spokesperson for the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), has warned that any future aggression against Iran will provoke a response “far more devastating” than previous operations—one that will fundamentally alter the geography of conflict across the region.

“Any renewed attack will be met with a more destructive retaliation, and the battlefield geography will no longer remain the same,” Naeini declared during a ceremony honoring IRGC martyrs. ► Page 2

## Is Lebanon witnessing repeat of May 2008 anti-Resistance strife?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — On the eve of Tuesday's ministerial referendum on the resistance's weapons, Lebanon appears to be revisiting the events of May 5, 2008—when Fouad Siniora's government moved to dismantle the resistance's communications network, a key factor in its victory during the July 2006 war.

The provocative decision forced the resistance to use its force against the Saudi and U.S. embassies' mercenaries and their seditious projects, which primarily aimed to provoke a direct confrontation between the resistance and the Lebanese army.

It was claimed that the telephone communications network established by Hezbollah was “illegal and constitutes an assault on the state's sovereignty and public funds.”

Siniora's government then decided to launch “criminal prosecutions against all individuals, bodies, companies, parties, and entities proven responsible for extending this network,” pointing to an alleged “Iranian role in this regard.”

## Resistance targets Israeli occupation forces

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Palestinian resistance in Gaza announces several operations against Israeli occupation forces and releases footage documenting some of them.

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, targeted a gathering of Israeli occupation soldiers and military vehicles with a number of mortar shells. The attack took place in the eastern part of the al-Tuffah neighborhood, northeast of Gaza City.

In a joint operation, the al-Qassam Brigades and the al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, targeted the Israeli occupation regime's command and control center in the “Morag” axis, south of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, using mortar fire.

The al-Qassam Brigades reported the latest operations carried out by their resistance fighters.

These included the sniper killing of a soldier with Israeli occupation forces (IOF) positioned atop a Merkava tank. The soldier was shot using the locally-made “Ghoul” sniper rifle. That same operation included mortar fire aimed at the surrounding area.

## Little lives lost: The heartbreaking toll of Israel's assault on Gaza's children

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Nothing is more emblematic of war crimes and crimes against humanity than the deliberate killing of children. Since launching its assault on the Gaza Strip in October 2023, Israel has faced mounting accusations of systematically targeting civilians, particularly minors, in what many international experts are calling one of the deadliest conflicts for children in recent history.

According to Gaza's Health Ministry, Israel has killed more than 60,000 Palestinians during the war, including at least 18,592 children. Many of the victims, officials say, were newborns or infants — some dying just hours after birth as Israeli airstrikes hit maternity wards, hospitals, and residential homes.

On July 30, The Washington Post published the names and ages of 18,500 Palestinian children killed in Gaza since the beginning of the conflict. Their analysis showed that 915 of the children were killed before reaching their first birthday.

► Page 5

## Engelab Square mural depicting Rostam's battle with dragon symbolizing U.S.

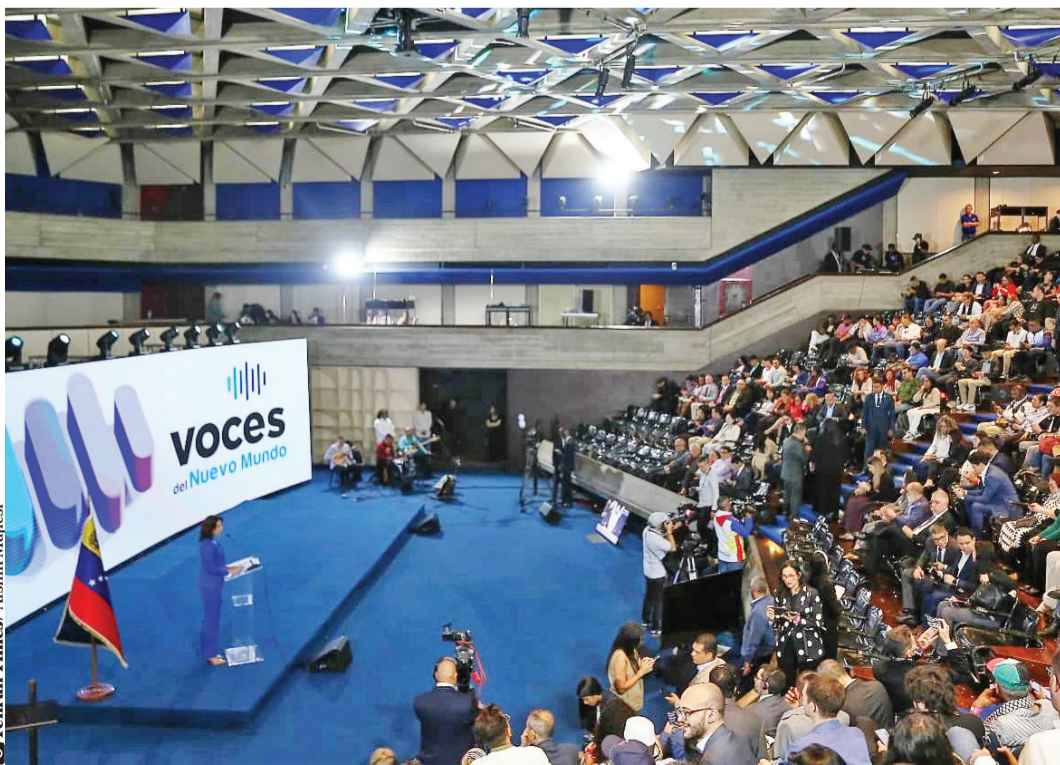
TEHRAN – The new mural in Tehran's Engelab Square features a design showing Rostam in combat with a multi-headed dragon symbolizing the United States.

A verse is inscribed on the mural: “As the end of this final quest brings cheer, Sing the name of Iran, the foe-slayer,” Mehr reported.

This verse is written in a style and tone reminiscent of Ferdowsi's poetry in the Shahnameh (The Book of Kings).

Inspired by Ferdowsi's epic style, it is crafted for the mural to align with the image of Rostam and the nationalistic atmosphere.

Rostam is the legendary hero of Persian mythology, the central figure in Shahnameh—the Persian national epic composed by Ferdowsi in the 10th–11th century CE. Rostam embodies values like courage, loyalty, and national strength, often depicted in mythical battles against powerful foes such as demons (divs), traitors, and dragons. ► Page 8



© Tehran Times/ Afshin Majlesi

## Voices of new world: Journalists from 50 nations unite for multipolar media landscape

By Afshin Majlesi

CARACAS – In a landmark gathering held on July 30–31, more than 200 journalists, communicators, researchers, and influencers from nearly 50 countries convened in Caracas for the “Voices of the New World” forum. Participants pledged to form a global alliance aimed at challenging the dominance of Western narratives in international media. ► Page 5

## Strategic solidarity: President Pezeshkian's visit underscores Iran–Pakistan alliance

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — The official two-day visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Pakistan underscores the deepening and friendly relations between the two neighboring nations, bound by shared history, faith, and mutual strategic interests.

President Pezeshkian is set to arrive in Pakistan on Saturday at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. During his first official visit to the country, he will hold high-level talks with PM Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari, and senior political and military officials. ► Page 2

## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## Who won the war?

Kayhan examined Iran's success in the 12-day war initiated by the Israeli regime in June. It said Israel launched a surprise attack with specific military objectives, none of which were achieved. Over the years, Zionist enemy had invested heavily in weapons, ammunition, and trained spies, aiming to destabilize Iran through coordinated terrorist operations and incite public unrest and riots. The ultimate goal was to overthrow the ruling system and fragment the country. The 12-day war, described as a clear confrontation between justice and aggression, garnered widespread support for Iran from freedom-seeking nations around the world. Many people raised Iran's flag and displayed images of its leadership in solidarity. This wave of support disrupted the dominance of Western media narratives, exposed misinformation, and allowed the Islamic Republic's perspective to be more broadly represented.

## Iran: A test of commitment and ability

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the upcoming trip of Pezeshkian to Islamabad upon the official invitation of Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and wrote: The atmosphere after the 12-day war has raised geopolitical tensions in the Middle East to a new and complex level. Therefore, the necessity of designing and implementing a common security model on the eastern borders of Iran and Pakistan has imposed itself on the officials of the two countries more than ever before. The necessity of security and intelligence cooperation to ensure stability in the borders and contain the chain of threats has become more evident than ever before. In such an environment, the looming trip of Pezeshkian to Islamabad is not merely ceremonial, but a test to measure the level of commitment and ability of the two countries to enter the operational phase of strategic cooperation, a cooperation that, if properly planned and pursued, will not only enhance border security, but also serve as a model for sustainable convergence in the region.

## Khorasan: Iran needs to change its military doctrine

In an article, Khorasan discussed the need for Iran to define a new military doctrine. It said: The 12-day war between Iran and two nuclear-armed powers—the United States and Israel—marked the first time the threat shifted from a theoretical concern to a tangible reality. Naturally, this transformation should have profound effects on the understanding of Iran's national security and defense strategy, because governments are trying to maintain their survival in an anarchic environment. Before the attack, Tehran analyzed threats in a traditional, controllable, and symbolic framework. However, the experience of direct war, with two nuclear powers, should lead to a change in the perception and even the country's "security identity." This means that after the attack, Iran needs to redefine a new security identity for itself with a

perception that resistance alone will no longer guarantee national security. Rather, perhaps it is time for Iran's security-military doctrine to transform into a symmetrical-unconventional one. Iran must now understand that the threat can be short-term, severe, and existential, and therefore it seriously needs to redesign its deterrent power. Security is not merely military, but technological, cyber, social, and even psychological. Survival requires building a new, multi-layered defense structure.

## Arman-e-Melli: The U.S.-China struggle over Iranian oil sale

In a note, Arman-e-Melli analyzed China's willingness to buy oil from Iran despite U.S. threats. It wrote: Despite the continuation of unilateral U.S. sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, China remains one of the main buyers of Iranian crude oil. In recent years, despite Washington's political and economic pressure, energy relations between Tehran and Beijing have strengthened, and a significant portion of Iran's oil exports have been sent to China, especially through informal methods and circumventing the global financial system. During the recent tensions and the outbreak of war between Iran and the Israeli regime, statistics and field analyses have indicated an increase in China's oil imports from Iran. The U.S. Treasury Secretary has threatened China that it will face more sanctions if it purchases oil from Iran. However, Beijing has stated that they are an independent country that no one can decide for it what to do and what not to do. This shows that not only buying Iranian oil is economically profitable for the Chinese, but also is of great strategic and diplomatic importance to them.

## Sharq: Will directives cause a change in cropping pattern?

Amid the ongoing drought and critically low precipitation levels across Iran, Shaq newspaper warns that without substantial reforms and decisive action, reducing water consumption in the agricultural sector will remain unattainable. The paper writes:

"Each time the government issues a directive to implement agricultural reform, it rekindles memories of decades of failure and unproductive efforts among agricultural experts and stakeholders. These directives, while outwardly promising change and improved organization, often end up reproducing the same flawed, outdated, and repetitive cycle of the past."

The recent order by President Pezeshkian to implement a national cropping pattern plan cannot resolve the crisis on its own. Without an effective and coordinated executive framework, such initiatives are unlikely to succeed. Ultimately, even the strongest political will and highest-level decisions cannot break the cycle of repeated failures unless they are supported by robust institutional, managerial, and operational infrastructure.

## Renewed aggression against Iran will change region's geography of war: IRGC

From page 1 ► Naeini underscored that the Operation True Promise III was launched in response to the Zionist regime's unprovoked aggression starting on June 13.

"Despite facing the combined military pressure of Western powers, Iran stood its ground alone. This was not just a war between Iran and Israel—it was Iran versus a Western alliance masquerading behind Tel Aviv's frontlines," Naeini said.

The true scale of destruction inside the occupied territories during Iran's unprecedented missile and drone retaliation was severely underreported by the Israeli regime. A wave of military censorship, imposed by Tel Aviv and amplified by Western media silence, attempted to conceal the collapse of Israel's strategic deterrence.

According to the U.S.-based CTP-ISW consortium, a joint initiative of the neoconservative Institute for the Study of War and the Critical Threats Project, Iran launched 543 ballistic missiles and over 1,000 drones during the operation—marking the largest Iranian strike in history.

Even the Israeli regime's own military con-



firmed 500–550 ballistic missiles, distributed over 43 distinct attack waves—effectively aligning with Iran's reported scale.

The IRGC, while not disclosing the precise number of ballistic missiles launched, stated that over 3,000 projectiles were used in the operation, including drones and cruise missiles.

Despite public claims of success by Israeli and U.S. officials, post-conflict data confirms the Israeli regime's defenses were overwhelmed:

Fox News confirmed a direct Iranian missile strike on the Kirya military headquarters in Tel Aviv—a core nerve center of Israeli command.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](https://tehrantimes.com))

## Tehran condemns new US sanctions, says they reveal “chronic addiction to unilateralism”

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry has vehemently condemned new U.S. sanctions targeting the country's energy sector as an “illegal and hostile assault on the dignity and rights of the Iranian people.”

In a statement issued Thursday, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baqaei denounced the measures, which designate over 115 individuals, entities, and vessels that Washington claims are linked to Iran's petroleum industry, calling them “clear evidence of American authorities' enmity toward our nation.”

On Wednesday, the U.S. Treasury Department announced the sanctions, which it claimed were the “largest Iran-related action since 2018.”

In a statement, the Treasury claimed the measures dismantle a “vast shipping empire” that generates “tens of billions of dollars” for Tehran's oil exports, which Secretary Scott Bessent asserted “threatens U.S. safety.”

Baqaei dismissed these allegations as pretexts for economic warfare: “The true aim of these aggressor sanctions is to paralyze Iran's development, incite internal unrest, and undermine the livelihoods of ordinary citizens.”

He emphasized that such measures violate international law, human rights principles, and the right to free trade between sovereign nations, adding that unilateral U.S. actions “mock the foundational principles of international law, including



File photo shows an Iranian oil tanker belonging to the National Iranian Tanker Company

respect for state sovereignty.”

Baqaei underscored Iran's resolve: “The Iranian people, aware of the malicious intent behind these sanctions, will stand firm with all their might to safeguard their dignity and interests.” He cited seven decades of U.S. aggression—from coups to economic terrorism—as proof that “threats cannot shake Iran's determination to protect its sovereignty.”

The Foreign Ministry called for international accountability mechanisms to address U.S. violations, describing the sanctions as “crimes against humanity” that demand legal consequences.

The sanctions follow a joint U.S.-Israeli campaign of aggression against Iran in June, which struck key energy and defense infrastructure and caused the martyrdom of over 1,065 Iranians.

Washington reinstated its “maximum pressure” campaign in February via a National Security Pres-

idential Memorandum, aiming to “reduce Iran's oil exports to zero.”

Even as indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States were underway, the U.S. continued to issue new sanctions targeting Tehran.

Despite decades of extensive sanctions imposed primarily by the United States and its European allies, Iran's economy has shown signs of resilience.

These sanctions have frozen billions of dollars in assets, restricted oil exports, and limited access to global financial systems. Many in Iran describe these actions as “economic terrorism,” since they directly harm civilians, including the sick and elderly, and especially patients with rare diseases, risking delays in treatment and lack of access to critical medicines and specialized medical care.

Experts say Iran has adapted by cultivating self-sufficiency,

increasing non-oil exports, and strengthening economic ties with countries such as China and Russia, as well as regional neighbors and nations across the Global South.

Analysts note that, despite decades of sanctions, Iran has made notable progress in its domestic industries, including energy and agriculture, which some argue has helped sustain economic growth.

Even the ultra-Zionist Neoconservative think-tank The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), known for its hawkish stance on Iran, has acknowledged the limited impact of recent sanctions.

“Despite several rounds of U.S. sanctions against Iran and the costly 12-Day War with Israel in June, Iranian oil exports surged in the first half of 2025,” the FDD claimed. “Tehran exported nearly 1.7 million barrels per day in June, resulting in an estimated total revenue of \$3.7 billion.”

“In February, Bessent vowed to slash Iran's oil exports to 100,000 barrels per day. Since then, Iran has exported an average of 16 times that daily amount,” An FDD analyst wrote, adding that Washington's efforts “won't change that.”

These figures should be taken with caution, since Tehran does not typically release official, granular data on its oil exports. Nonetheless, many observers argue that the numbers – however imprecise – highlight Iran's ability to navigate and withstand sustained economic pressure.

## Strategic solidarity: President Pezeshkian's visit underscores Iran–Pakistan alliance

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — The official two-day visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Pakistan underscores the deepening and friendly relations between the two neighboring nations, bound by shared history, faith, and mutual strategic interests.

President Pezeshkian is set to arrive in Pakistan on Saturday at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. During his first official visit to the country, he will hold high-level talks with PM Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari, and senior political and military officials.

Accompanying him is a high-profile delegation, including Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and key cabinet members, reflecting Tehran's commitment to elevating bilateral engagement on all fronts.

According to Pakistan's Foreign Office, the visit aims to further cement the “brotherly relations” between the two countries, which span political, economic, religious, and cultural dimensions.

Mehdi Sanaei, the Iranian president's political adviser, confirmed that the visit would also include meetings with Pakistan's “cultural and commercial elites,” focusing on enhancing border cooperation and increasing bilateral trade from the current \$3 billion.

## Path to diplomacy narrow, but still open with serious commitments: Iran FM

From page 1 ► “We cannot accept a return to business as usual,” Araghchi stressed. “They must explain why they attacked us in the middle of negotiations and give assurances that such aggression will not happen again. Moreover, they must compensate for the damage they have inflicted.”

The foreign minister was referring to the 12-day conflict that began on June 13, when the Israeli regime launched a surprise and unprovoked war against Iran, targeting high-ranking commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians.

More than a week into the aggression, the United States joined the hostilities by bombing three Iranian nuclear facilities—a move Tehran has denounced as a gross violation of international law, the United Nations Charter, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In retaliation, Iranian Armed Forces carried out precision strikes

on strategic targets across the occupied Palestinian territories and the American-run al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, which serves as the largest U.S. military installation in West Asia.

These decisive operations, carried out on June 24, forced Tel Aviv to request a ceasefire, effectively halting the illegal offensive and underscoring Iran's deterrent capabilities.

## ‘Negotiations possible only with guarantees and reparations’

While reaffirming Iran's openness to diplomacy, Araghchi made clear that any future talks must be accompanied by tangible confidence-building measures, including guarantees of non-aggression and financial compensation.

“The road to negotiations is narrow, but not closed,” Araghchi said. “I must convince my superiors that the other side is approaching the talks with genuine political will for a win-win outcome.”



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) speaks during an interview with the Financial Times published on July 31, 2025.

He noted that U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff had continued to exchange messages with him during and after the war, proposing the resumption of talks. However, Araghchi underlined that Iran cannot move forward without clear commitments from Washington.

“We need to see real changes on their side. The war has only intensified our distrust—especially toward President Trump, who already tore up the JCPOA once before.”

According to Araghchi, the Iranian public remains deeply skeptical of any renewed negotiations with Washington, given the record of betrayal and military hostility.

“People are telling me not to waste time and not to be deceived again,” he said. “There is a strong belief that if the U.S. comes back to the negotiating table, it will be merely a smokescreen for other hostile actions.”

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](https://tehrantimes.com))

# Inside Evin Prison after the ‘symbolic’ Israeli attack that killed 110 people

*Tehran Times reports from aftermath of the tragedy featuring stories of survivors*

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – During my visit to Evin Prison in Tehran, alongside around 15 other journalists, I toured three heavily damaged buildings.

Each structure held its own story, but the emotions sticking out in the background were all the same: grief, disbelief, and anger.

Evin Prison was struck by eleven Israeli missiles on June 23, a day before the war between Iran and Israel came to a halt. Israel termed the act – a war crime under international law – a “symbolic attack” and a form of liberation (whatever that’s supposed to mean).

The attack proved to be the deadliest strike on Iran during the war, leaving 110 dead, hundreds physically injured, and countless others grappling with psychological trauma.

Our first stop on that hot, sunny day was the prison’s visiting area. One of the workers accompanying us mentioned that the area had been “cleaned up,” a comment that hung in the air as we stared at collapsed walls, heaps of rubble, and faint hints of what was once likely a source of joy for those confined within the prison walls.

“The attack hit around noon, prime visiting time, packed with families,” the worker recalled with a heavy voice. He had told the story several times, but it appeared it hadn’t become easier for him.



“I remember one inmate asking for flowers; his wife and young daughter were coming. There were hopes that he would be released and attend his court sessions for finance-related crime from home.”

He continued, “When the missiles rained down, I rushed some of the inmates to the basement. That prisoner, clutching those flowers, wouldn’t stop crying. After the dust settled, he searched for his family, and eventually found their burned bodies. His daughter’s doll lay amidst the wreckage until just a few days ago,” he said, pointing to a heap of debris that marked what was once the building’s entrance.

The worker requested that a guard, who was standing with construction workers a short distance away, join the group and share his experience of the attack.

The guard initially hesitated,



Aftermath of Israeli attack on Evin Prison’s visiting area

but ultimately agreed to speak after journalists persisted. “I haven’t slept well since that day. Every time I close my eyes, I see the face of the soldier who was under my command.”

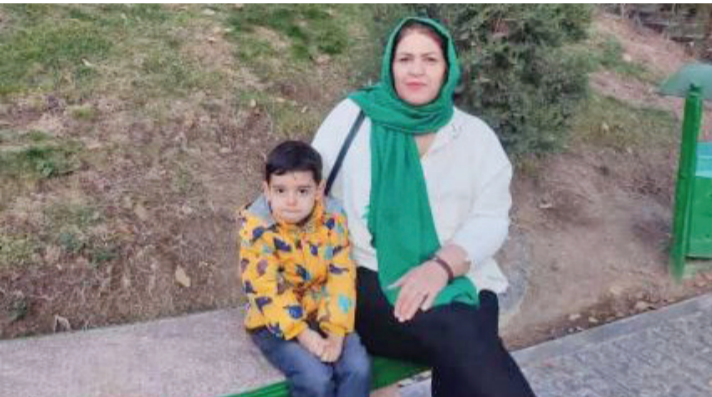
The soldier he referred to was Alireza Vafayi, a young man in his early twenties fulfilling his mandatory military service after earning his bachelor’s degree. He was to join the workforce and start a family with the girl he liked after completing his service.

“Alireza was very close to one of the impact zones. I was in a different section of the prison that day. When I went to check on his guard tower, I only found his head hanging from the remaining wall.

His body had been thrown into that apartment unit,” the guard stated, gesturing towards two large buildings with shattered windows.

The buildings were located at the bottom of a hill, at least 500 meters from the prison. The

He had been waiting for us near the site. “One of my colleagues had brought her five-year-old son to work that day; I believe he was sick, and she wanted to keep an eye on him,” the man recounted. The social



Social worker Zahra Ebadi and her son

worker he referred to, Zahra Ebadi, was well-regarded in her field, known for her tireless efforts to secure prisoners’ release and help them reintegrate into life after their sentences.

“After the attack, a large crowd gathered outside the complex. I was standing with the crowd, trying to calm them, when my slain colleague’s sister recognized me and approached. She kept asking about her sister and nephew.

I knew they were dead, but I couldn’t bring myself to tell her.” Zahra and her son’s bodies were recovered from the rubble two days after the attack.

Her husband identified her by her wedding ring. Her son was found in the arms of another female colleague.

The third location we visited was the prison’s hospital. It was



The Israeli attack impacted cars parked nearby

as severely damaged as the other sites, but here we also saw bloody handprints on the walls, left by those fleeing the building after the attacks.

By the time we arrived at this final location, I was exhausted and despondent. I wanted to end the tour and process my thoughts after some time to recover.

However, the story I heard there made me realize that despite this tragedy, and all the others Iranians have endured for thousands of years, we continue to persevere as a firm nation.

Once again, a worker described the strikes and the atmosphere to us. His account was horrifying, but also, to some extent, inspiring. “When the regime struck the hospital, it was full of doctors, nurses, and prisoners. The scene here was chaotic. Body parts and blood were everywhere,” he recounted.

He then expressed his opinion that the Israeli regime was “stupid.” “I think Israel attacked Evin Prison to incite social unrest. What they didn’t expect was that even the prisoners here wouldn’t react the way they wanted. We are all Iranian, and when our country is under attack, Iran becomes the only thing that matters.”

Prison staff spoke about the assistance prisoners provided to guards and aid workers in the aftermath of the attacks. “Israel probably thought prisoners would flee. But only a very small number did, mostly out of fear. Most of the prisoners stayed and helped us move bodies. I remember one female doctor whose hand was severed; prisoners found her hand and began assembling an ice bucket to preserve it.” The doctor was un-

able to save her hand. However, she later shared on social media how the prisoners had saved her life and how the country stands united against its enemies.

## Iran mobilizes full consular support for Arbæen pilgrimage

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi praised the devotion of Arbæen pilgrims and detailed extensive consular preparations to safeguard their journey, emphasizing that Iran’s diplomatic missions in Iraq are operating “in a state of full readiness” to assist travelers who lose passports or face emergencies.

In an interview with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) aired Friday, Araghchi underscored that hosting millions of Iranian pilgrims requires “precise coordination” with Iraqi authorities to ensure secure border crossings and orderly

movement.

Araghchi reaffirmed Iran’s collaboration with Pakistan and Afghanistan to streamline visa issuance, transportation, and security for their pilgrims transiting through Iran.

He characterized Arbæen as “both a spiritual exercise and a grand political, ideological, and social mobilization for Shiites,” adding that every Iranian pilgrim embodies “an ambassador of the Islamic Republic.”

With millions of faithful from diverse nations converging in Iraq, he stressed that the pilgrimage projects a global image of “Shiite wis-

dom, unity, and dignity.

Arbæen—the world’s largest annual gathering—officially commenced on July 15 from Iraq’s southernmost point, Al-Faw, with pilgrims walking over 600 km in 50°C heat. Iraq expects over 10 million foreign pilgrims, including millions of Iranians.

New maritime routes launched Friday between Khorramshahr (Iran) and Basra (Iraq) may expand to four daily round trips to meet demand. Iran also increased weekly flights to Iraq and Pakistan to ease travel.

Special committees in Najaf and

Karbala now operate 24/7 to address cases of missing persons, medical crises, and other urgent needs.

This year’s Arbæen coincides with heightened regional solidarity against Israeli aggression against Iran and Palestine.

At a recent Tehran summit, interior ministers of Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan signed a joint security protocol, with Iran’s Eskandar Momeni declaring the partnership “strategic” and praising Pakistan’s support during Israel’s “war of aggression” against Iran.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Iranian women to mark their spirit in AFC Women’s Asian Cup

TEHRAN – The participation of Iran’s national women’s football team in the AFC Women’s Asian Cup once again underscored the prominent role and elevated status of women in contemporary Iranian society on the global stage.

As an Iranian woman—representing both the passionate young female footballers of Iran and the Benevolent Iranian Women Association in Australia—attending the official final draw ceremony for the competing teams was a deeply proud and memorable occasion.

During the event, the representative of the Women’s Football Federation eloquently traced the history of Iranian women’s involvement in the Asian Cup and highlighted the team’s remarkable achievement in qualifying for the final stage for a second consecutive time.

Notably, among the twelve qualified teams, there were no representatives from certain regional countries often perceived as progressive—further amplifying the significance of Iranian women’s presence and its pioneering spirit.

The composition of the tournament’s teams served as both compelling evidence and a resounding message to forward-thinking communities across the world: Iranian women have consistently been pioneers, high achievers, and enduring sources of national pride.

With optimism and anticipation, we look forward to witnessing the continued brilliance of Iran’s lionesses as they take to the field in the 2026 AFC Women’s Asian Cup, to be held in Australia this coming March.

The official draw ceremony for the 2026 AFC Women’s Asian Cup was held in Sydney, Australia.

Members of Sydney’s Iranian community organizations—including the Benevolent Iranian Women Association, and the Australia-Iran Friendship Association—along with the honorable Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran and his family, attended the event as representatives of Iran’s national women’s football team.

The 2026 AFC Women’s Asian Cup is scheduled to take place in Australia in March 2026.

Team Melli are drawn in Group A along with Australia, Korea Republic, and the Philippines.

## Iran, Philippines showdown is crucial: AFC

TEHRAN – The AFC Women’s Asian Cup Australia 2026 Official Draw has left fans in anticipation as the three groups are set for some thrilling battles.

With the top two sides from each group and two best third-placed teams to advance to the knockout stage, the 12 teams have no room for error when the action kicks off on March 1.

With Australia and Korea Republic – on paper – expected to dominate, Iran and Philippines showdown will be crucial if the group goes according to form, the-afc.com reported.

Victory for either side could well see them advancing as one of the two best third-placed sides, setting the stage for a fiery encounter.

## Iran names flag bearers in 2025 World Games

TEHRAN – Female karate athlete Sara Bahmanyar and snooker player Ali Gharagozlou will lead Iran’s delegation as the flag bearers in the opening ceremony of the upcoming World Games in Chengdu, China.

The Games will be held from Aug. 7 to 17.

The Iranian delegation will participate in this edition with over 30 athletes across nine different sports.

Bahmanyar is a female karate practitioner and has won four bronze medals in the Asian Championships as well as a bronze medal in the

2018 World Karate Championship.

Gharagozlou won the gold medal at the 2024 Asian Men’s Snooker Championship in Doha, Qatar.

## Taremi set to return to Inter Milan training

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taremi is to return to Inter Milan’s preseason training despite strong links away this summer.

According to Rome-based newspaper Corriere dello Sport, the Iranian forward was not among the players to return to Inter Milan’s preseason training last weekend.

The reason was that Inter had granted the 33-year-old a few extra days of vacation.

This after Taremi had to go through the stressful ordeal of being unable to leave his home country of Iran amid Israeli airstrikes in June.

However, the Corriere dello Sport report, Taremi’s vacation will come to an end imminently.

The newspaper report that the former Porto striker will join up with Inter’s preseason training camp. Nevertheless, the Corriere report, Taremi still has little place in the Nerazzurri’s plans for next season.

It is expected that the Iranian international will leave Inter this summer. Furthermore, the player himself is reportedly ready to accept a move away.

Therefore, Taremi’s stay at Inter will likely only be temporary. He will keep fit in preseason training, in anticipation of a move away in August.

## Esteghlal eye Karim Ansarifard: report

TEHRAN – The Esteghlal football team have reportedly set their sights on signing Karim Ansarifard.

Last week, Esteghlal completed the signing of Persepolis forward Issa Alekasir but was compelled to cancel the deal due to fans’ objections.

Now, media reports suggest that Esteghlal are planning to sign Aris forward Ansarifard.

The 35-year-old striker represented Iran from 2009 to 2024, scoring 30 goals in 104 appearances.

## Persepolis complete signing of Serge Aurier

TEHRAN – Serge Aurier has officially joined Persepolis football club on Thursday.

Ex-Tottenham and Paris-Saint Germain defender Aurier has signed a one-year deal, marking a new chapter in his career after being without a club since his contract with Galatasaray expired in July 2024. The Ivorian full-back arrive in Tehran with Persepolis from Turkey’s training.

Aurier’s move to Iran is unexpected, especially considering his past in top European leagues. He previously played for PSG, Tottenham, Villarreal, Nottingham Forest and Galatasaray, and now adds the Persian Gulf Pro League to his resume. His signing comes at a time when fellow former Ligue 1 stars Steven Nzonzi and Wissam Ben Yedder have left the Iranian league.

## Iran basketball arrive in Jeddah

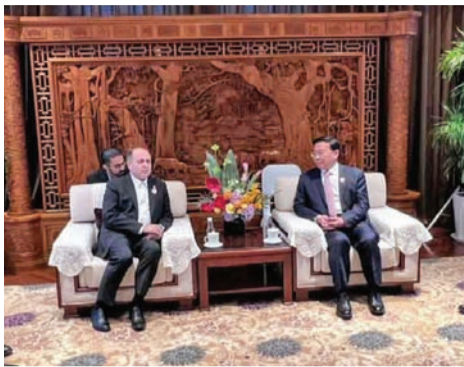
TEHRAN – Iran basketball tea, arrived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

Iran, headed by Sotiris Manolopoulos, 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 Amiri, Navid Rezaeifar, Mohammadmahdi Heydari, Arman Zangeneh, Arslan Kazemi, Matin Aghajpour, Mohammadmahdi Rahimi, Hassan Aliakbari, Salar Monji, Mehdi Jafari.

## Tehran, Beijing explore expansion of agricultural co-op in high-level talks



TEHRAN – Iran and China discussed ways to deepen agricultural cooperation during a meeting between Iranian Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Qezelgeh and his Chinese counterpart Han Jun.

According to the Iranian government's official news service, Nouri Qezelgeh highlighted the strong commitment of President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration to strengthening bilateral ties with China, particularly in the agricultural sector.

The Iranian minister identified key priority areas for collaboration and called for the expedited issuance of remaining health and safety certifications to facilitate the export of certain Iranian agricultural products to the Chinese market.

Chinese Agriculture Minister Han Jun, in turn, praised Iran's active participation in the recent meeting of agriculture ministers from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states.

He welcomed the proposals and positions put forward by Iran, particularly those aimed at removing barriers to trade.

Han affirmed that China is ready to increase imports of a wide range of agricultural products from Iran.

The two ministers also exchanged views on broader aspects of bilateral cooperation across various agricultural domains. Given the wide scope of issues on the agenda, both sides agreed to continue technical discussions at the deputy minister level.

It was also agreed that the third session of the Iran-China Joint Agricultural Cooperation Committee will be held soon in Tehran.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of non-oil trade between Iran and China stood at \$6.939 billion during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21).

Foroud Asgari said that China was Iran's top non-oil export destination in the mentioned three-month period, importing \$3.511 billion of goods from Iran.

Exporting commodities valued at \$3.428 billion to Iran, China was Iran's second source of non-oil import in the first quarter, the IRI-CA head added.

According to the data recently released by China's customs, Iranian exports to China reached \$266 million in May 2025, marking a nine percent increase compared to the same month last year, despite an overall decline in bilateral trade during the first five months of the year.

Total trade between the two countries from January through May stood at \$3.676 billion. China exported \$3.22 billion worth of goods to Iran in this period, down 21 percent from a year earlier, while its imports from Iran amounted to \$1.456 billion, showing an 18 percent decrease.

In May alone, bilateral trade grew by three percent year-on-year to \$873 million. Chinese exports to Iran reached \$607 million, up one percent from May 2024, while imports from Iran rose by nine percent, climbing from \$245 million to \$266 million.

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of IRICA for planning and international affairs, the value of non-oil trade between Iran and China stood at \$34.1 billion in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025.

He said that importing non-oil goods worth \$14.8 billion from Iran, China was the first destination of Iranian products in the past year.

He also announced that by exporting non-oil products valued at \$19.3 billion to Iran, China was the second source of import for

Iran in that year.

On May 4, Iran-China Business Development Forum convened at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), with the participation of China's ambassador to Iran, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, and senior officials from the Tehran Chamber.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also speaking at the forum, Ruhollah Nejabat, chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, said Iran's non-oil exports to China surpassed \$14.8 billion last year, making China the largest destination for Iranian goods and accounting for about one-quarter of Iran's total non-oil exports. Imports from China reached approximately \$19.3 billion, or 27 percent of Iran's total imports, making China Iran's second-largest import partner after the United Arab Emirates.

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

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

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

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

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

## Pezeshkian inaugurates over 8,600 national housing units in one-day visit to Zanjan

From Page 1 ► Speaking at a meeting with the province's economic operators, Pezeshkian emphasized the need for decentralization, saying provinces can—and must—take the lead in driving regional and national development by fostering innovation and attracting public and private sector participation.

He added that the delegation of power to governors will be aligned with the country's overarching development policies and national legislation.

The Zanjan housing units are part of a broader four-year initiative set to conclude by March 10, 2027, aiming to deliver 68,112 homes across the province. These include 27,062 government-sup-



ported units, 12,010 privately funded units, 9,021 units under urban regeneration programs, and 20,000 rural housing units.

So far, construction has begun on 61,192 homes, including 28,000 supported units, 7,474 private ownership units, 2,718 urban renewal units, and 23,000

rural units.

Pezeshkian also visited the ongoing construction sites of additional housing projects under the same national program.

In a separate development, the president inaugurated two healthcare projects via video link. Among them was the expansion of Zanjan's Shahid Beheshti Hospital, a philanthropic project named after benefactor Rajabali Moghadam.

The five-story facility, which spans 6,445 square meters and includes a basement, has been designed to meet modern clinical and educational standards, with a focus on specialized medical services.

## Iran's non-oil exports hit \$16.5b in 4 months

TEHRAN – Iran exported \$16.55 billion worth of non-oil goods in the first four months of the current Iranian year, according to data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Between March 20 and July 22, Iran exported 48.81 million tons of non-oil goods, marking a 1.46 percent increase in volume compared to the same period last year. However, the export value declined by 5.51 percent year-on-year.

Petrochemical products remained Iran's

largest export category, with 17.4 million tons shipped abroad, worth \$6.89 billion. The segment saw an 8.30 percent drop in volume and a 10.22 percent decline in value.

Natural gas, liquefied propane, methanol, liquefied butane, and petroleum bitumen ranked as the top five non-oil export items.

China, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Oman were the main destinations for Iranian exports.

Overall, Iran's non-oil trade during the four-

month period totaled 61.02 million tons valued at \$34.17 billion.

Imports accounted for 12.21 million tons, worth \$17.63 billion—a 3.23 percent decrease in volume and a 14.20 percent decline in value from the year before.

Key imported goods included raw gold, corn for animal feed, rice, sunflower seed oil, and soybeans. The top import sources were the UAE, China, Turkey, India, Germany, Russia, and the Netherlands.

## Tajik minister reiterates his country's support for Iran



TEHRAN- Tajikistan's Agriculture Minister Qurban Hakimzoda praised the steadfastness of the Iranian people during the imposed war and reiterated his country's support for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Tajik official made the remarks during a meeting with Iranian Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Qezelgeh.

In the meeting, the Iranian minister referred to the emphasis of the Iranian president on the comprehensive development of relations with friendly and neighboring countries.

He stated: "The expansion of agricultural cooperation between the two countries is one of the practical examples of implementing the principled policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding neighbors and the region."

Emphasizing the importance of food security for both countries and the region, he announced Iran's readiness for further cooperation and the implementation of joint projects in various fields of the agricultural sector.

Hakimzoda, for his part, referred to the signing of the memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation between the two countries, and expressed satisfaction with the successful holding of the first meeting of the Joint Agricultural Cooperation Committee last year and assessed the progress in implementing the agreements under this MoU as satisfactory.

During the meeting, the agriculture ministers of both countries discussed investment strategies in processing industries, cooperation in mechanization development, livestock farming, aquaculture, and other agricultural sectors.

Furthermore, it was agreed that the second meeting of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Agricultural Cooperation Committee will be convened in the near future.

During a meeting between Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Moham-

mad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi and Tajikistan's Minister of Industry and New Technologies Sher Ali Kabi, in early June, the two sides emphasized the necessity to expand and facilitate trade cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, the TPO head expressed hope that serious cooperation will increase trade relations between the two countries to several times the current level; and that the forward trend of cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries will be further deepened and expanded.

He further emphasized the strengthening and expansion of exchanges in the fields of trade and economy, tourism, culture, technical and engineering services, etc.

The meeting between the TPO head and the Tajik minister took place on the sidelines of the visit of Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref to Tajikistan to participate in the International Conference on Glacier Protection.

During the official visit of Aref to Tajikistan, on May 29, four cooperation documents were exchanged in the presence of Aref and Tajikistan's prime minister.

According to the Iranian presidency, the documents included:

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

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

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

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

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

During the mentioned trip, Iran and Tajikistan also signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance bilateral rail trans-

port, enabling the use of Iranian freight wagons on Tajikistan's railway network.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also, a high-ranking Iranian trade delegation, comprising members of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and led by Chamber Head Samad Hassanzadeh, departed Tehran for Du-

shanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, on January 14.

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

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

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

The forum witnessed the signing of several memoranda of understanding between Iranian and Tajik companies, paving the way for increased joint ventures. Attendees also participated in one-on-one discussions to explore potential partnerships. Hassanzadeh noted that Iranian businesses have the expertise to contribute to Tajikistan's industrial development, including projects in steel production, refineries, and advanced technologies.

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

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

# Voices of new world: Journalists from 50 nations unite for multipolar media landscape



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro grants the Simon Bolivar National Journalism Award to Iranian TV anchor Sahar Emami, who has emerged as a heroine as she continued live broadcast just moments after an Israeli airstrike targeted the Iranian TV on June 16.

From page 1 ► Held under the auspices of Venezuela's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the event sought to establish a new international information order grounded in "truth, cultural sovereignty, and solidarity", in particular, among nations of the Global South.

As mentioned by organists, the initiative aims to counterbalance what delegates described as the "hegemonic narratives imposed by Western media conglomerates".

The forum's central message was clear: in the face of an intensified global media war that distorts the struggles and realities of the Global South, unity is essential.

"Faced with the media blockade, one of the most brutal weapons of the multidimensional war on the peoples of the Global South, unity becomes our trench," the organizers emphasized.

The final declaration described the new alliance as a permanent space for action where communicators could collaborate to defend informational sovereignty, promote cultural diversity, and articulate the vision of a multipolar world.

Delegates also affirmed the importance of truth as a fundamental right, to live it, to tell it, and to know it.

The forum addressed a broad array of topics: from media manipulation and disinformation to digital sovereignty and the role of alternative platforms.

Panels and micro-workshops tackled freedom of speech, conflict reporting, algorithmic bias, and the strategic use of digital networks.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yván Gil, in his opening remarks, called for stronger, louder voices

to counter the rising tide of "media imperialism."

"Our voices have to be increasingly stronger, more intense," he said. "We must create an alliance among platforms to make our truth heard in the world."

Prominent Venezuelan communicator and lawmaker Gustavo Villapol warned about the psychological effects of algorithm-driven platforms. Russian media specialist Daria Yuryeva echoed these concerns, urging communicators to study and adapt to the algorithmic landscape.

She proposed building new digital platforms with democratic usage policies to escape the restrictions imposed by dominant tech powers.

Brazilian political scientist Fernando Horta called for technological independence in the Global South, emphasizing that without its own social technologies, the region would remain vulnerable to manipulation.

Ayanda Hollow of South Africa similarly stressed the importance of digital sovereignty, stating that true media independence requires local ownership of platforms and content distribution.

Another South African delegate, Nonkululeko Patricia Mantula, advocated for a new era of journalism free from colonial narratives.

She criticized the global media's tendency to misrepresent countries like South Africa, reducing them to images of poverty and instability.

She called for collaborative media networks that transcend language barriers and are rooted in local realities.

In a recorded address, Jiang Yan, Director-General of China's Xinhua

News Agency's Latin America Bureau, described the fight against disinformation as a shared struggle.

"Unity is the fundamental tool to face current challenges," he emphasized.

The alliance will serve as a content-sharing network, a space for joint training, and a mechanism to defend journalists under attack. It also aims to confront censorship and algorithmic control by promoting "sovereign digital tools" that enable liberating communication.

In addition, delegates repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of media cooperation within the BRICS countries and beyond.

Special focus was given to enhancing collaboration across Latin America, Africa, and Asia, creating platforms capable of disrupting dominant Western narratives and supporting locally anchored stories.

**Iranian journalist honored for exemplary work**

As part of the event, Sahar Emami, an Iranian television anchor and journalist, was honored as a special guest and recognized as an exemplary journalist.

Her presence at the event underscored both the significance of solidarity among Global South nations and Iran's influential role in shaping a unified media front against dominant Western narratives.

In her remarks, Emami emphasized the urgent need for the emergence of unified global voices, stating that defending the truth and standing up for justice require collective effort and shared commitment.

"Only through unity and a com-

mon voice," she noted, "we can strike a blow against the structures of colonialism." Emami also responded to questions from several attending journalists.

Emami drew global attention when she continued broadcasting live just moments after an Israeli airstrike targeted the Iranian state broadcasting headquarters. Her solid stance made her a symbol of resistance for Iran and its allies, earning her widespread recognition and respect.

**A bold stance on Palestine and global injustices**

The forum concluded with a powerful message of solidarity for oppressed peoples, particularly the Palestinian cause. Venezuelan National Assembly President Jorge Rodríguez condemned the genocide in Gaza.

"The worst crime perpetrated on humanity in the 21st century is the extermination and genocide of Gaza," Rodríguez declared.

He further accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of crimes against humanity, referring to him as a "cynic" and "genocidaire (who commit acts of genocide)". Rodríguez also reiterated Venezuela's stance against "North American imperialism," calling it a serious threat to global peace.

In the words of the final declaration: "To respect and defend the truth, freedom of expression, and the sovereign and independent development of our peoples is a duty for those of us who dedicate ourselves to journalism and communication with honesty."

**Cultural celebration and local engagement**

Beyond its intellectual debates, the forum featured cultural events and local outreach. Delegates visited productive and tourist sites in Venezuela's Aragua state.

A symbolic highlight was the gala concert "The Birth of a World," held at Caracas' historic Municipal Theater.

The performance, which celebrated the spiritual and rebellious roots of "Our America," featured dancers and musicians from Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil. Special guests included the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra System and Viengsay Valdés, director of Cuba's National Ballet.

With hundreds participating both in person and virtually, the Voices of the New World forum has laid the foundation for a fresh global media movement that seeks equity, truth, and the right of all nations to tell their own stories.

information about the threat of an Israeli escalation unless the government makes a decisive decision to disarm Hezbollah in conjunction with internal political incitement.

An informed source told Tehran Times that the Amal-Hezbollah alliance may withdraw from the government if it takes actions that alienate their popular base.

Such a move, the source warned, would significantly erode the government's legitimacy, as it would be seen as a betrayal of a major sectarian constituency—namely, the Shiite community.

This community harbors deep concerns about the potential for sectarian violence similar to the massacres witnessed in Syria.

While Lebanon and the region are experiencing a delicate situation that cannot be tolerated, Tuesday's cabinet session is not the only threat, for there are others that reveal Washington and Riyadh's relentless efforts to sabotage Lebanon's internal security.

## Little lives lost: The heartbreaking toll of Israel's assault on Gaza's children



From page 1 ► Citing UNICEF, the report stated: "Some were killed in their beds. Others, while playing. Many were buried before they learned to walk. Gaza is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child."

In 2024, the United Nations added the Israeli military to its annual "List of Shame", a global blacklist of forces and armed groups responsible for grave violations against children. Other entities on the list include ISIS, al-Qaeda, and Boko Haram.

Despite repeated condemnation from the international community, Israel has continued to bomb civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, homes, and displacement camps. Israel has justified its actions by alleging that Hamas uses civilian areas for military operations, yet has failed to provide verifiable evidence to support many of these claims.

Multiple human rights organizations and international bodies — including the United Nations, European governments, and legal experts — have stated that Hamas's presence in civilian areas does not justify the indiscriminate scale of attacks that have left tens of thousands of civilians, including children, dead.

The devastation in Gaza extends beyond the airstrikes. Israel's ongoing blockade of the territory has created catastrophic shortages of food, water, and medicine. According to the UN Human Rights Office, 1,373 Palestinians have been killed while waiting for humanitarian aid since May, many of them children and women suffering from starva-

tion and dehydration.

On July 29, the Israeli rights groups B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights released a joint statement accusing Israel of committing genocide in Gaza, pointing to the systematic destruction of Palestinian society and the deliberate dismantling of the healthcare system. Israel is also the subject of an active genocide case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Under international humanitarian law, the intentional killing of civilians — especially children — constitutes a war crime. When carried out on a widespread or systematic basis, such acts may also amount to crimes against humanity. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) explicitly prohibits the targeting of civilians, particularly when attacks are not directed at military objectives.

The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols mandate the protection of civilians in times of conflict, granting children special protection due to their inherent vulnerability. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) guarantees every child the right to life, survival, and protection from violence, even in times of war.

Additionally, UN Security Council resolutions and customary international law identify the killing or maiming of children as one of six grave violations during armed conflict. These legal frameworks are binding on all parties, regardless of whether a conflict is international or domestic.

## Resistance targets Israeli occupation forces

*Israel's objective of dismantling the Palestinian resistance appears to be elusive*

From page 1 ► The Al-Qassam Brigades destroyed a Merkava tank using a powerful roadside bomb, north of the Jabalia refugee camp. IOF military helicopters were later observed landing for evacuation operations.

Additionally, al-Qassam resistance fighters detonated a heavy explosive device targeting an IOF D9 military bulldozer near the Omari Mosque in Jabalia. After returning from the front lines, al-Qassam fighters confirmed that they had also targeted an IOF military excavator with a tandem warhead projectile.

Al-Qassam snipers shot and directly hit two IOF soldiers occupying an area adjacent to the Nasser School on Baghdad Street in the Shujaiya neighborhood, eastern Gaza City.

These operations come on top of another attack where al-Qassam resistance forces launched

mortar shells at a concentration of IOF soldiers and vehicles near al-Qarara, east of Khan Younis.

Separately, the Omar al-Qassem Forces, the armed wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, released footage showing their seizure of an IOF quadcopter drone in western Beit Lahia, northern Gaza.

The footage also documented a joint operation carried out in collaboration with the al-Nasser Salah al-Din Brigades (the armed wing of the Popular Resistance Committees) and the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. This operation targeted IOF troop concentrations in Jabalia using mortar shells.

As the U.S.-backed genocidal war on Gaza approaches nearly two years, the occupation regime's stated objective of dismantling the Palestinian resistance increasingly appears to be an elusive and unattainable ambition.



On August 1, 2025, Yemenis once again filled the streets of Sana'a in a massive weekly rally, standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people amid the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza.

## Is Lebanon witnessing repeat of May 2008 anti-Resistance strife?



From page 1 ► In 2020, Druze leader Walid Jumblatt admitted his responsibility for igniting this strife through the media, politics, and military channels.

A source close to President Joseph Aoun confirmed that he continues to emphasize civil peace and the necessity of dialogue, and that he believes Lebanon has the right to seek guarantees in exchange for disarming the resistance.

Meanwhile, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich stated that "the Israeli army will not withdraw from the five points in

southern Lebanon," saying that "the residents of the north will no longer see Hezbollah on the fence."

During the so-called "Strengthening the North" Israeli conference, held in the northern occupied Palestinian territories, Smotrich claimed that the ceasefire agreement with Lebanon "granted Israel full legitimacy to weaken Hezbollah and practically prevent it from rehabilitating itself on the border."

He threatened that "the agreement includes all of Lebanon even in the heart of Beirut's southern

suburb. If necessary, we will demolish buildings in broad daylight. There is no safe zone."

Regarding the massive destruction resulting from the Israeli aggression on the south, the Israeli minister said, "The Shiite villages destroyed by the Israeli army in southern Lebanon will not be rebuilt."

While President Aoun is keen to maintain internal stability, political sources revealed that a meeting that brought together Jumblatt, Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea, and other parties in power, decided to proceed with the government's decision to disarm the resistance according to a specific timetable to win the favor of Washington and Riyadh.

During his recent visit to Beirut, U.S. envoy Thomas Barrack urged these parties to do "whatever is necessary internally to pressure Hezbollah" with the same goal of pitting the Lebanese army against the resistance.

At the same time, anti-Resistance media continues to leak

## Uzbekistan’s Persian language professors visit Ferdowsi Mausoleum

TEHRAN—Uzbekistan's Persian language professors, while paying tribute to the great Iranian poet Hakim Abolqasem Ferdowsi, visited various parts of the Tus Cultural and Historical Complex in Khorasan Razavi province.

According to IRIB, the director of the Ferdowsi Cultural and Historical Complex said: The Persian language is the cultural common ground and the link between Iran and Uzbekistan, and it can play a significant role in cultural diplomacy between the two countries.

Referring to the visit of Uzbekistan's Persian language professors to the Mausoleum of Hakim Abolqasem Ferdowsi, Reza Yousefi added that the visit was held in cooperation with Imam Reza International University and in line with cultural and scientific cooperation, with the aim of expanding and deepening literary and linguistic ties between the two nations

He also said that Ferdowsi, as the guardian of the Persian language, is one of the symbols that unite Tajikistan and Iran.

Ferdowsi was born in the village of Pazh, a part of the Tus region, in 940 CE. His childhood and youth were spent in the Samanid era, which was a dynasty that was friendly to Iran.

Before composing his masterpiece



Shahnameh, Abu Mansur Muhammad ibn Abdol-Razzaq ordered the collection of scattered stories from the Shahnameh that were popular among the people and turned them into prose, which became known as the Shahnameh of Mansuri.

The Shahnameh of Mansuri was a suitable source and resource for others. At first, the poet Daqiqi took up the task of composing the Shahnameh. However, his early death did not allow him to compose more than 1,000 verses, and after him, Ferdowsi took up this task and completed the Shahnameh after 30 years of composing it.

Shahnameh is a narrative account of Iranian history and is still considered one of our most authoritative historical sources.

## Step into history: a journey to Tehran’s Time Museum

TEHRAN--The historical museum of Tamashagah Zaman, also known as the Time Museum, is the first Iranian time museum that takes you on a journey through past times.

Nestled in the serene Zaferanieh neighborhood of northern Tehran, the Time offers a captivating exploration of horological history. Housed in the historic Hossein Khodadad House, the museum showcases a remarkable collection of time-measuring instruments, from ancient sundials to intricate mechanical clocks, Mehr news agency wrote.

The Time Museum of Tehran is a magnificent mansion in the north of the capital of Iran, which is located on Zaferanieh Street.

The construction of this mansion back to the time of Mohammad Shah and Naser al-Din Shah Qajar. The mansion is in fact a historical house which is also known as the House of Hossain Khodadad, Clock Museum, and Time Museum.

The building of Time Museum has been erected in an area of five hectares and the built-up area of the building is 700 square meters. Currently, it includes two stories, although it was a one-floor building at the time of its construction. The building was bought by a person, named Hossain Khodadad, in 1963, who was a craftsman and entrepreneur.

The museum's timing tools are displayed in a number of sections, including clocks, mechanical watches pocket watches (pocket and wrist), and time-measuring tools.

You can have a different journey in history at the Time Museum. This different journey begins exactly when you take a step into the Time Museum Garden.

The museum is in a garden that gives you an interesting space. Before entering the museum building, you can see the following objects Sundial Clocks, Oil Clocks, Rope Clocks, Dragon Boat, Water Clocks.

Take a step into the large first-floor lounge and take a look at the clocks made from the 17th to the 20th century. Here you will find mechanical weight clocks, and you will find examples such as pendulum, desktop, wall, and standing clocks.

Worthy of mention is that the building is registered as one of the great national masterpieces of Iranian architecture. The building's façade and plasterwork are a mixture of Iranian and European styles.

The clocks have been artfully decorated, indicating the importance of clock decorations in the past.

Some of these clocks were gifts received



by political men during their travels to other countries, and others were personal belongings.

Moreover, in the museum, there are many clocks and watches which are collected from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. Besides Iran, some of these clocks also collected from countries like England, France, Switzerland, and Germany.

Another interesting thing of this part is a bronze clock made in France that has gold cover. This clock is a type of shelf or desktop clock and belongs to the 5th century.

A figure of Homer--the epic poet of the Greek--is on this clock and is adorned in the style of Louis XVI.

Of course, not everything ends in clocks; when you raise your head a little and look at the ceiling, you will be obsessed with its design and forget about the time.

Hossein Khodadad's love for Iranian art did not end with artistic plaster. He chose a special room in the building and asked the masters to design it differently from other parts of the building.

There is a kind of plaster in this room in which deep shapes are created in the shape of plaster containers. It is inspired by the music room of Ali Qapu Palace of Isfahan and other Safavid monuments.

The ceiling of this room is also adorned by the design of the Isfahan carpet and the masters have used brick designs to make the roof.

One of the fascinating parts of the museum is the collection of watches of celebrities who have been donated to the museum by themselves.

In this section, you will find donations from people such as Jamshid Mashayekhi, Mohammad Ali Keshavarz, Ehteram Boroumand, Davoud Rashidi, Aminollah Rashidi, Mostafa Rahmandoust, Mahmoud Hessabi, Parviz Kordavani, Morteza Avini, and Mehdi Bakeri.

Address: Parzin Baghdadi Crossroads, Shahid Fallahi (Zaferanieh) Street, Valiasr Avenue, Tehran, Iran

# “Martyrs of Power Memorial” tourism rally held in Tehran

TEHRAN--The “Martyrs of Power Memorial” family tourism rally was held in Tehran on Thursday, with participation of the families of the martyrs, veterans, and self-sacrificing veterans of 12-day Israeli war against Iran.

The event was supported by Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Committee for Martyrs and War Veterans' Family Affairs and cooperation of Tehran's Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs. It was attended by 160 participants who competed in a friendly competition with 48 cars, Mehr news agency reported.

The start of this family rally was near the Tomb of the Unknown Martyrs of the province, in the northeast of Tehran, and the destination of this spiritual tour was the Martyrs' Section in Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery, south of Tehran.



The closing ceremony of this program was held in the presence of the TACI directors and Director General of Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs Abbasali Rezaei, in the Nodbeh Hall of Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery, and the best of this rally tour were introduced after the points were re-

viewed by the judging panel.

Finally, the participants renewed their commitment to the martyrs and the ideals of the Islamic Revolution by presenting flowers at the tomb of the martyrs of the authority and the 12-day imposed war of the Zionist regime against Iran at Behesht-e Zahra's

Section 42.

It is worth noting that this rally, like other family tour rallies, did not have a competitive aspect on the basis of speed. In these types of rallies, judging is based on compliance with traffic laws, safety principles, accuracy in routing, team discipline, and traffic discipline.

The Martyrs of Authority Memorial Rally, while creating social enthusiasm and maintaining public empathy and cohesion in society, was an opportunity to honor the memory of the martyrs of the homeland's authority and the culture of sacrifice and martyrdom, and a step towards promoting the values of the Sacred Defense, honoring the high status of the martyrs, and a platform for strengthening family ties in a spiritual and cultural atmosphere.

## Budget allocated for Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars province

TEHRAN—Out of 4,300 billion rials (\$4.7 million) credit allocated by the Oil Ministry for Fars province's heritage, 3,700 billion rials (\$4.1 million) has been earmarked for Sassanid-era sites.

According to Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Sadeq Zare', the budget has been allocated to the several projects, some of which have been implemented and the rest are in the tender and contractor selection stage, IRNA reported.

Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars province which was inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage List, includes eight monuments and petroglyphs and embossed patterns which are located in east of the province in three counties of Sarvestan, Kazeroun, and Firuzabad. It is a precious treasure for boosting the regional tourism.

The Dezh Dokhtar, Palace of Ardashir Papakan and Shahr-e-Gur in Firuzabad County, the Sassanid Palace in Sarvestan and the historical city of Bishapur, the Tang Chogan reliefs and Shapur Cave in Kazeroun County are the world heritage sites left by the Sassanids in Fars.

This Sassanid heritage, which is now under the management of the Sassanid Landscape World Heritage Site Unit, had been deprived of significant funds for restoration and strengthening of the site for several years, but with the approval of the budges, valuable conservation,

restoration and tourism measures have begun in this landscape.

Zare' explained that out of the whole budget, 1,500 billion rials has been allocated to Firuzabad Axis, 1,500 billion rials to Bishapur and the Tang Chogan, and 700 billion rials to Sarvestan.

He added that flooring has been completed in Tang Chogan, and part of the access road has been completed in the Bishapur complex.

The tender for the restoration and improvement of the architectural remains of the palaces of the ancient city of Bishapur has been concluded in the form of four contracts and will soon enter the implementation phase, he mentioned.

Regarding the latest status of the restoration and conservation of the Sarvestan Palace, he stated that the contractor for the strengthening and conservation projects of the Sarvestan Palace has been selected through a tender, and these workshops will soon be handed over to the contractors to begin the work.

He added that the implementation of the access road to facilitate visiting this ancient palace has also been completed, and other tourism infrastructure for this axis is also being planned.

Zare stated that a plan has been prepared to construct several sanitary fountains in the Sarvestan Palace complex, and the tender and contractor selection stages for this project will

also be held soon.

The Sassanid epoch is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under the Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as some palaces located in Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanid historical cities in southern Iran — titled “Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region” -- to its World Heritage list. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and Roman art that later made a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

## Glimpses of Iranian cities registered by World Crafts Council

TEHRAN – A total of 11 Iranian cities and three villages have been designated as global handicrafts hubs by the World Crafts Council, accounting for 24 percent of the 59 such designations worldwide.

According to IRNA, one of the most important advantages of global registration of cities is opportunities for local people and double motivation for learning and promoting handicrafts. The global registration will also make these crafts famous. In addition to numerous economic and social benefits for the local population, it leads to the development of tourism.

### Shiraz

Shiraz in Fars province was introduced by UNESCO as world city of handicrafts in 2019. It was officially known as world city of handicrafts by World Crafts Council due to its numerous arts such as khatamkari, woodcarving, tile making, kilim and rugs, traditional glassmaking, and pottery and ceramic handicrafts.

### Malayer

Malayer in Hamedan province achieved to gain the title of world city of carved furniture in December 2019. Malayer annually hosts many tourists and customers in this regard. Malayer's carved furniture industry applied advertising properly via TV, billboards, and social media. The city managed to sell 9,500 billion rials (\$10.5 million) worth of carved furniture in March 2025.

### Isfahan

Isfahan is the first Iranian city which has been registered as

world city of handicrafts. It is the cradle of Iran's handicrafts. About 602 handicrafts fields have been identified worldwide, of which 299 pertain to Iran, out of which 200 pertain to Isfahan province. Woodcarving, painting, tile making, carpet weaving, enameling, potteries and ceramics are the most famous arts of Isfahan.

### Mashhad

Mashhad in Khorasan Razavi province was selected by World Crafts Council as world city of gemstones in 2016. A gemstone, also called a precious or semi-precious stone, is a cut piece of mineral crystal that is used as jewelry or ornaments.

### Zanjan

Malileh (filigree) in Zanjan is a delicate and original art that is still alive in this land with the patience of artists. This art in Zanjan is indebted to artists who have created valuable works with very basic tools. In 2019, this city was registered on World Crafts Council list as the World City for Filigree. There are over 45 fields of handicrafts in Zanjan province like filigree, knife making, coppersmith, kilim weaving, and givhe weaving. Close to 230 artisans are involved in malileh art in 50 workshops across Zanjan province.

### Tabriz

The United Nations selected Tabriz in East Azarbaijan province as World City for Carpet in 2014. This city is considered one of the main carpet weaving centers across the world. The skilled Tabrizi weavers

have recently been involved in producing delicate silk flower carpets with row counts of 50 and 60 on a large scale.

Tabriz carpets in the last 100 years have often been woven with designs of vases, trees, altars, lamps, animals, hunting grounds, Herati, branches and foliage, flowers, brickwork or frame-by-frame weaving, landscape weaving, Quranic frames, and geometric patterns from the smallest to the largest possible sizes.

### Lalejin

Lalejin as World City for Pottery is one of the most known tourist attractions of Hamedan province. Over 1,200 pottery workshops are active in Lalejin.

### Abadeh

The World Crafts Council registered Abadeh in Fars province as World City for Woodcarving in 2018. According to the available historical documents, Abadeh is considered the origin of traditional woodcarving.

### Meybod

Meybod was registered by World City Council as World City for Zilou in 2018. This city is famous worldwide due to its zilou weaving art which dates back to 800 years ago.

### Marivan

Marivan was registered as the World Craft City for Kalash, a kind of givhe which is used by Kurdish people, in 2017.

### Sirjan

Sirjan has been designated as

World City for Kilim. This city is famous worldwide due to weaving needlepoint kilim which is used for production of bags, tableaus, the chair cover, etc. For years, it has constituted part of the country's non-oil exports.

### Khorashad village

Khorashad village in southeast of Birjand, South Khorasan province, was registered as World City for Tow-Bafi (towelmaking) in 2018. In fact, due to the softness and delicacy of the tow-bafi fabrics and their high absorbency of moisture, this craft is also called Howleh-bafi or towelmaking.

### Qasemabad village

Qasemabad village in Roudsar, Gilan province, is a vibrant gem recognized globally as the World Village of Chador-Shab Weaving by the World Handicrafts Council. Chador Shab is a vibrant, geometrically patterned fabric that represents both artistic heritage and daily life in northern Iran. Also called Chorchab or Lavan, is a fabric traditionally handwoven by women using a manual loom known locally as Pachal. This art dates back to 2,000 years ago.

### Kalpurgan village

Kalpurgan village in Sistan-Baluchestan province has been registered on National Heritage List under the number 6472 in 2002 in lights of its 7,000-year-old pottery art. The pottery in this village is made entirely by Baloch women by hand, without a potter's wheel. Kalpurgan has the world's sole Living Museum of Pottery.

# Iranian students crowned champion in Robocup Rescue Simulation League

TEHRAN –The Iranian team named Timrad, from Khatam University, secured the first place in Robocup 2025 Rescue Simulation League, leveraging their advanced scientific knowledge and technical expertise in artificial intelligence and robotics; the competition was held from July 15 to 21 in Salvador, Brazil.

Aichi Institute of Technology, Japan, and International Institute of Information Technology – Hyderabad, India, ranked second and third, respectively, IRNA reported.

The five-day competition brought together 2,000 participants from 40 countries. The event hosted six leagues including RoboCup Soccer, RoboCup Rescue, RoboCup Junior, RoboCup Industrial, RoboCup @ Home, RoboCup Flying Robots.

The RoboCup Rescue Simulation League is an educational and research project focused on disaster response; its core mission is to advance the field of disaster response through research and development.

The purpose of the RoboCup Rescue Simulation league is two-fold. First, it aims to develop simulators that form the infrastructure of the simulation system and emulate realistic phenomena predominant in disasters. Second, it aims to develop intelligent agents and robots that are given the capabilities of the main actors in a disaster response scenario.

RoboCup is an international initiative covering the areas of artificial intelligence and robotics, with the ultimate goal of developing a team of humanoid robots that is able to defeat the official human World Soc-



cer Champion team by 2050.

The initiative is a platform for testing technologies such as real-time decision-making, multi-agent collaboration, sensor data processing, and navigation in complex environments.

The event was first launched in 1997 and was inspired by the victory of a computer chess player against

the then world chess champion, Gary Kasparov.

RoboCup (Originally called Robot World Cup Initiative) is an international research and education initiative. It is an attempt to foster AI and intelligent robotics research by providing a standard problem where a wide range of technologies can be integrated and examined, as well

as being used for integrated project-oriented education.

The Iranian participants in RoboCup 2025 were the winners of the 19th edition of the RoboCup IranOpen competition, held from April 19 to 22.

IranOpen 2025 was composed of 25 specialized leagues, including soccer simulation, rescue and relief, flying robots, technological inventions, and artificial intelligence. Also, for the first time, a specific artificial intelligence league was added to the competitions, which has led to a 40 to 50 percent increase in the number of teams compared to last year.

## Recent achievements

Iranian students aged 7-17 won second place among seven countries in the Kazakhstan RoboLand 2025 which was held from March 27 to 29 in the city of Karaganda.

The event brought together over 750 young inventors from seven countries, Kazinform News Agency reports.

The international festival drew the participation of 362 teams from Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan to compete in 23 categories.

Over 2,000 children took part in elimination trials, and over 400 teams competed in the qualifying round to reach the RoboLand 2025 finals.

Roundtable discussions Digital transformation of education: Trends and prospects were held as part of the festival to focus on the digitization of the educational process and share best practices on STEM education development.

## Breastfeeding: today’s priority, tomorrow’s health

TEHRAN – Concurrent with the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW), the health ministry is observing the week across the country with the theme of ‘Breastfeeding: today’s priority, tomorrow’s health’ from August 1 to 7.

The week highlights breastfeeding as a powerful foundation for lifelong health, development, and equity. It aims to raise public awareness about the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding, support breastfeeding mothers, improve infant nutrition indicators, and strengthen the role of intersectoral partnership in promoting breastfeeding, IRNA reported.

The days of the week are centered around following themes.

Friday, August 1, ‘Make maximum use of media, cyberspace to educate mothers, and families’

Saturday, August 2, ‘Lactation counseling a priority in maintaining, supporting, and promoting breastfeeding’

Sunday, August 3, ‘Promoting breastfeeding, creating a healthy environment’

Monday, August 4, ‘Prioritizing breastfeeding, and family health’

Tuesday, August 5, ‘Supporting breastfeeding from managers’ perspectives’

Wednesday, August 6, ‘Health policy makers support breastfeeding’

Thursday, August 7, ‘Constant monitoring of companies producing powdered milk, and other

alternatives’

Breastfeeding will not only contribute to significant growth and safety of the infants, but will boosts national productivity and support the mental health of mothers. It will lower infant mortality rate, and health costs as it is associated with a lower incidence of chronic diseases in adulthood, such as type 1 and 2 diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease.

Since 1992, WBW has been celebrated annually, in the first week of August. In 2018, a World Health Assembly resolution endorsed WBW as an important breastfeeding promotion strategy. Championed by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Ministries of Health and civil society partners around the globe, WBW serves to remind the public and policy-makers that breastfeeding lays the foundation for lifelong health and development.

This year, under the banner “Invest in breastfeeding, invest in the future”, the campaign casts a spotlight on the ongoing support that women and babies need from the health care system throughout their breastfeeding journey.

Every mother should have access to the support and information she needs to breastfeed for as long as she wishes to do so by investing in skilled breastfeeding counselling, enforcing the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, and creating environments—at home, in healthcare, and at work—that support and empower women.

Efforts are needed to ensure that health systems offer skilled and sustained support from pregnancy through to early childhood. Policies, laws and programmes should prioritize women, babies and breastfeeding, and communities must uphold every woman and baby’s right to breastfeed.

Breastfeeding protects child health and improves survival, especially in the first months of life. In addition to essential nutrition, it provides antibodies that protect against common illnesses like diarrhoea, pneumonia and infections.

With the right investments, countries can significantly increase rates of exclusive breastfeeding. Around 10 percent more infants are exclusively breastfed at 6 months compared to 2013 – in some countries the figure reaches 20 percent – more can be done.

Countries can integrate breastfeeding into national health strategies and ensure accountability through legislation, regulation and monitoring the impact of breastfeeding programmes. Policies that protect breastfeeding and prevent commercial influence over what infants are fed need to be prioritized. Babies must be placed above corporate bottom lines. The International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes needs to be stringently enforced.

Breastfeeding delivers a hopeful future not only for children, but for societies. It boosts cognitive development, strengthens economies, and sets children up with healthy beginnings.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## ‘Only 15% of Tehran’s construction waste recycled’

While some 50,000 tons of construction and demolition waste is produced in Tehran daily, only 10 to 15 percent of which are recycled and the rest is dumped or disposed, Mohammad Hossein Bazgir, head of Tehran’s department of environment (DOE) has said.

“A good portion of construction wastes can still be usable with proper planning and their usage can be a solution itself to the burgeoning waste issues that the communities and the construction industry face,” Bazgir said.

He referred to a construction waste management unit opened in Abali in Damavand county last week, and stated that the unit is capable of recycling some 3,000 tons of construction waste, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

## تنها ۱۵ درصد نخاله های ساختمانی تولید شده در تهران بازیافت می شود

رئیس اداره محیط زیست شهر تهران با بیان اینکه در تهران روزانه ۵۰ هزار تن نخاله ساختمانی تولید می شود، گفت: متأسفانه تنها ۱۰ تا ۱۵ درصد این زباله ها بازیافت می شود و بیش از ۸۰ درصد آن دپو می شود. محمد حسین بازگیر در گفت و گو با ایسنا، اظهار کرد: بازیافت پسماندهای ساختمانی بخشی از فرایند مدیریت پسماند است که سبب می شود این نوع زباله ها دوباره به چرخه مصرف بازگردانده و بسیاری از مشکلاتی که که مردم و صنعت ساخت و ساز با آن روبرو هستند، برطرف شود.

ظرفیت این واحد بازیافت حدود ۳۰۰۰ تن است و می تواند این مقدار نخاله و آوار ساختمانی را بازیافت کند.

## Book City hosts workshop on promoting children’s rights

TEHRAN – Book City in cooperation with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has organized a workshop, titled ‘Children’s Rights and Business’, to increase staff knowledge of child rights, focusing on role of bookstores in promoting child rights.

The workshop was held at Book City’s central branch in Tehran; the event brought together sales staff from Book City’s children and young adult departments to raise awareness about children’s rights in the business and retail sector the UNICEF website announced in a press release on July 27.

The event was opened with remarks by Dorina Andreev-Jitaru, UNICEF Representative in Iran. She thanked Book City for organizing the event as part of its commitment to increasing staff knowledge of child rights. “We need to understand that children are not only customers for businesses—they are members of families, communities, and supply chains. They are affected by how businesses operate, where they invest, who they employ, and how they treat their workers,” said Ms. Andreev-Jitaru.

The workshop aimed to highlight the role of bookstores in promoting child rights and to explore practical ways to embed these principles in retail environments. This event is part of Book City’s renewed focus on children and youth, which emphasizes raising cultural and social standards in engaging with young audiences.

Ali Jafarabadi, CEO of Book City, also addressed the workshop. He expressed appreciation for UNICEF’s partnership and stressed the importance of adopting a responsible and respectful approach to children. “Childhood is an opportunity to understand and shape the future,” Jafarabadi said. “A children’s bookseller should know which words uplift a child’s dignity — and which words might harm it.”

As part of the opening session, he also announced the launch of a new adolescent-selected literary award titled “The Sand Fox Prize.” Officials from Book City and UNICEF Iran officially unveiled the poster for the award, which will recognize the most popular book as selected by adolescents aged 11 to 18. The prize is officially supported by UNICEF Iran and the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon).

In the main session, Vahid Hedayati, UNICEF Social Policy Expert, introduced the core principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, focusing on four key pillars: non-discrimination; the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival, and development; and the right to participation.

He stressed the importance of turning these principles into visible, respectful behaviors in

public spaces like bookstores. He also encouraged creating safe environments, showing respect for diversity, promoting active participation, and enabling informed choices as essential elements in implementing child rights. Hedayati offered practical suggestions for how retail environments can embody these values.

In the final session, Vida Montakhab, UNICEF’s Partnership Officer, presented the global framework for Children’s Rights and Business. She shared international best practices and underlined the importance of incorporating ethical, social, and environmental standards when designing child-friendly service spaces such as bookstores.

The workshop concluded with participants exchanging their own experiences and innovations in promoting child rights and encouraging youth participation in decision-making processed.

## Three-year agreement to promote children’s welfare, rights

In November 2024, the UNICEF and Book City Institute signed a three-year agreement to promote children’s welfare and rights across the country.

The three-year partnership agreement was signed by UNICEF ad interim Representative in Iran, Monika Oledzka Nielson, and CEO and President of the Board of the Book City Institute, Mehdi Firouzan, in a ceremony on November 18.

Book City is an Iranian network of bookstores with over 100 active -branches, where 1,500 employees introduce books and cultural products to their community.

This collaboration aims to leverage the unique strengths, networks, and expertise of both organizations to support the most vulnerable children in various provinces of the country, the UNICEF website announced in a press release.

As part of this partnership, the two partners will launch a series of advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives to foster a love for reading among children.

Key activities will include organizing book-reading leagues and clubs for vulnerable children, instituting cultural awards to honor children’s book authors and publishers, and mobilizing resources to support UNICEF’s critical programs in Iran.

“This partnership is a remarkable opportunity for UNICEF to leverage Book City’s vast capacity and reach to extend vital messages to children and the general public.

In Iran, the private sector holds immense potential to contribute resources, expertise, and innovations to support UNICEF in achieving meaningful results for the most vulnerable children. Today, UNICEF and Book City join hands to help Iran’s children live their dreams, with smiles lighting up their faces,” said Nielsen.

## Iran elected to represent south, west Asia region on Ramsar Convention Standing Committee

TEHRAN – Iran has been appointed to represent the south, west Asia region on the Ramsar Convention Standing Committee; the country will serve as the main representative for the region.

The election took place during the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, held from July 23 to 31 July in Victoria Falls City, Zimbabwe, IRNA reported.

It will contribute to strengthening the country’s regional role in international wetland, environmental decision-making.

The Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention, as the most important executive and supervisory body of this international convention, plays a key role in managing and guiding global wetland conservation efforts. This committee is responsible for steering, decision-making and monitoring the implementation of the Ramsar Convention’s resolutions between the Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings.

The committee includes representatives from 18 countries selected from different geographical regions of the world, the host country of the upcoming Convention meeting, as well as partner international organizations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Wetlands International.

The standing committee meets once a year for a week in Switzerland to make strategic decisions between two global summits of the COP.

Iran, as one of the three representatives of the Asia, will play a key role in intersessional decision-making, monitoring the performance of the

Ramsar Secretariat, managing financial resources, and developing draft resolutions for future meetings.

Iran was elected as the Vice-Chair for the COP15 by the Standing Committee of the Convention on Wetlands.

The meeting was held under the theme “Protecting Wetlands for our Common Future.” The COP adopted a new strategic plan for 2025–2034, the Convention’s fifth action plan.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was signed in the city of Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for international cooperation on wetland conservation. The convention officially came into force in 1975.

Since then, many countries have become Contracting Parties to the convention. Saudi Arabia is the 173rd one, ISNA reported.

The three Iranian cities, including Babol in northern Mazandaran province, Kiashtahr in northern Gilan province, and Gandoman in southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, received wetland city accreditation certificates on the first day of COP15 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

A city’s commitment to wetland conservation, awareness, active engagement in sustainable practices, and integration of wetland conservation into planning makes it a strong candidate for this recognition.

The list of 31 newly accredited Wetland Cities was formerly announced at the 64th meeting of the Standing Committee.



No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

AUGUST 2, 2025

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:27 Dawn: 3:38 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:14 (tomorrow)

## What's in Tehran art galleries



### Painting

\* Sharif Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Sayeh Mansour.

The exhibit entitled “Nature Not Found” will be running until August 15 at the gallery that can be found at 11 Mahruzadeh Alley, Shariati Ave. near Quds Square.

\* Negah Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists, including Ehsan Arjmand, Ramin Hafizi, Ahmad Moqaddasi, Mahsa Shemshian and Mehdi Rahemi.

The exhibit entitled “Each One on Its Own” will continue until August 10 at the gallery located at 64 Ghaffari St., Jam St., Motahhari Ave.



\* A collection of paintings by Somayyeh Gholami is currently on view in an exhibition at Baa Gallery.

The exhibit entitled “Where Letters Become Dreams” will run until August 15 at the gallery located at No. 1, Nastaran Alley, Nakhl St., Artesh Boulevard.

\* Elyas Qazi and Mahsa Hashemi are putting their latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until August 17 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.



\* Saleh Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Shah Maqsood Teimouri.

The exhibition will be running until August 17 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

\* A collection of paintings by a number of Iranian artists is on display in an exhibition at Sheis Gallery.

The exhibit titled “Without Borders” will be running until August 6 at the gallery located at Shirzad Alley, near Daneshju Park.



\* An exhibition of paintings by large group of artists is underway at Kavin Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until August 7 at the gallery located at No.24, Pesian St. Zaferanieh Neighborhood.

\* Paintings by Shirin Azadi, Reza Afsari, Bahareh Reisi and Jafar Sarbaz are currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled “Remnant of Time”, the exhibition runs until August 18 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.



### Calligraphy

\* A collection of calligraphy works by Hossein Gholami is on view in an exhibition at Adapa Gallery.

Titled “Poised in Silence”, the exhibition will run until August 25 at the gallery located at No. 5, Sumesara Alley, Sazesh St., Vali-e Asr Square.

# Enghelab Square mural depicting Rostam's battle with dragon symbolizing U.S.

TEHRAN - The new mural in Tehran's Enghelab Square features a design showing Rostam in combat with a multi-headed dragon symbolizing the United States.

A verse is inscribed on the mural: “As the end of this final quest brings cheer, Sing the name of Iran, the foe-slayer,” Mehr reported.

This verse is written in a style and tone reminiscent of Ferdowsi's poetry in the Shahnameh (The Book of Kings).

Inspired by Ferdowsi's epic style, it is crafted for the mural to align with the image of Rostam and the nationalistic atmosphere.

Rostam is the legendary hero of Persian mythology, the central figure in Shahnameh—the Persian national epic composed by Ferdowsi in the 10th–11th century CE. Rostam embodies values like courage, loyalty, and national strength, often depicted in mythical battles against powerful foes such as demons (divs), traitors, and dragons.

The Shahnameh by Ferdowsi is a cornerstone of Persian literature and identity, chronicling the mythical and historical past of Iran from the creation of the world until the Arab conquest in the 7th century. Through poetic storytelling, it promotes themes of justice, heroism, and resistance against oppression.

In this mural, the United States is portrayed as a dragon, a classic foe in Persian myth symbolizing chaos, destruction, and foreign threat. Rostam's confrontation with it is a metaphor for Iran's resistance against U.S. policies, es-



pecially in the context of ongoing political and ideological tensions. The imagery transforms a mythological battle into a modern political allegory, framing Iran (as embodied by Rostam) as heroic, noble, and defiant in the face of a powerful adversary.

The inclusion of Ferdowsi's verse reinforces the nationalistic tone, calling upon historical pride and the idea that Iran has always overcome its enemies.

Another sentence inscribed on the mural reads: “The Almighty God has guaranteed victory for the Iranian nation.”

This statement was made by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei,

two weeks ago during a meeting with officials of the Judiciary.

The portrayal of the United States as an enemy of Iran is deeply rooted in decades of geopolitical conflict, ideological opposition, and historical trauma.

The U.S. has imposed multiple rounds of economic sanctions on Iran—targeting banking, oil, trade, and even medicine. These sanctions are seen by many Iranians as acts of economic warfare, harming ordinary people and undermining national development. The Trump administration's withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) and the “maximum pressure” campaign intensified this perception of

hostility.

The U.S. military presence in the Middle East (especially in Iraq, Syria, and the Persian Gulf), its close alliance with Israel, and the targeted killing of General Qasem Soleimani in 2020 all reinforce the Iranian view of the U.S. as a direct and dangerous adversary.

Moreover, on June 22, the United States bombed Iranian nuclear facilities during the 12-day Iran-Israel war. From the Iranian leadership's perspective, these actions confirm that the U.S. and its allies will go to great lengths—even risking regional war—to block Iran's technological and geopolitical rise.

## TMoCA cinematheque to show documentaries about Iranian women artists



Iran Darroudi (L) and Mokarrameh Ghanbari

Art Center in Florida, Atrium Artist Gallery in Geneva, and Galerie 21 in Zurich.

In addition to her painting career, Darroudi wrote articles on the history of art and art criticism for the Iranian newspaper Kayhan.

In 1968, she created a 55-minute documentary about the Venice Biennial and was appointed an honorary professor at the Industrial University of Tehran, where she taught art history.

In 1976, Darroudi exhibited at the Mexican Museum of Art, where the Spanish painter Antonio Rodríguez Luna acclaimed her as one of the world's four greatest painters.

“Mokrrameh, Memories and Dreams” is a 48-minute documentary, which tells the story of Mokarrameh Ghanbari, a self-taught, rural woman from northern Iran, who began painting in the final years of her life without any formal artistic training.

Born in Dari Kandeh village in the northern Babol County, Mazandaran Province, Mokarrameh began painting at the age of 63 in 1991.

Despite her great talent, Mokarrameh never received any formal training in painting. She used bright, original colors inspired by the beautiful natural surroundings of her neighborhood as well as her memories

and dreams in her art.

She took on painting as a way to express her feelings when her children, concerned for her health, would no longer allow her the farm work and cow herding she enjoyed.

The widowed Mokarrameh, then in her early 60s, spent her time caring for the cows that she loved and doing farm work, until she became very ill and had to go to Tehran for medical care. While she was sick in bed, her children, who were concerned about her health, sold the cows to reduce her workload. But their well-meaning act sent her into a depression. Her first painting was a portrait of one of the cows she missed so much.

A friend gave her paper and colored pencils to express herself, and she immediately began to draw obsessively. For four years, she kept her art a secret out of fear of what her neighbors would think. She painted late at night and hid her work if anyone came into her home. But her creative spirit would not be suppressed. Her work found its way onto the walls of her home, her stove, and the back of discarded wallpaper. When he discovered her new passion, her son brought her 50 sheets of paper and she soon covered both sides of them all, making her own paint of natural dyes when she ran out of the

store-bought kind.

Within a few years, her works were being recognized by painters in Iran and overseas. For the first time in 1995, her paintings were exhibited at Tehran's Seyhun Gallery, with follow-on exhibits in 1996, 1997, 1998, and 2005.

Her works have been compared with the paintings of Russian-born French surrealist Marc Chagall (1887-1985). They have been exhibited at over 40 exhibitions in Iran and other countries including Bowers Museum in California.

In 2001, Ghanbari was awarded an honorary certificate at the Conference of the Foundation of Iranian Women's Studies in Stockholm and was named the year's exemplary woman. In addition, she was named the “Female Painter of 2001” by the Swedish National Museum.

She died at the age of 77 in 2005 and was buried in the courtyard of her house. After her death, her house was registered as a museum by the Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization to preserve her artworks.

The film screenings will take place every Sunday at 4 p.m. in the museum's cinema hall. The TMoCA is located on North Kargar Street, next to Laleh Park. Admission is free and open to the public.

Launched on July 23, “In Women's Words” exhibition is dedicated to showcasing 121 works by modern Iranian women artists.

Curated by Afsaneh Kamran, Toka Maleki, and Sajjad Baghban Maher, the exhibition displays works by artists such as Monir Farmanfarman, Behjat Sadr, Parvaneh Etemadi, Farideh Lashai, and Leyli Matin Daftari, among others.