

Desperate and defiant: Netanyahu's Gaza war deepens Israel's isolation, domestic division

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — Nearly two years into its war on Gaza, Israel is facing growing internal divisions and mounting international isolation, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's administration struggles to achieve its objectives.

Despite relentless military operations since October 2023, the Israeli army has failed to eliminate Hamas or secure the release of the remaining captives held in Gaza.

Nevertheless, Netanyahu plans to fully occupy the Gaza Strip, claiming it is the only way to defeat Hamas and bring home the captives. This strategy, however, has already come at an enormous cost.

Over the course of 22 months, Israeli military assaults have killed more than 61,000 Palestinians—including up to 19,000 children—and wounded more than 150,000 others. ► Page 5

Hezbollah warns against transforming the Israel problem into internal sedition

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — The Lebanese government convened at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday in response to U.S. pressure to adopt a resolution on “arms exclusivity” within a defined timeframe. The meeting, attended by Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, was led by President Joseph Aoun.

No Lebanese or non-Lebanese observer is naive enough to believe that a government decision can extinguish the flames of resistance that emerged spontaneously to repel an imperialist occupation project. The Israeli occupation entity and its supporters also firmly believe about the spontaneity of resistance.

Undoubtedly, a government that considers the weapons of resistance a violation of the constitution will allow certain countries, especially Washington and Riyadh, to criminalize any Lebanese party that cooperates, negotiates, or allies with Hezbollah on the eve of the upcoming parliamentary elections. ► Page 5

Israeli military vehicles go up in flames

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Palestinian resistance forces wage coordinated attacks across Gaza against the Israeli occupation's military vehicles inflicting casualties on them.

The al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, announced that its fighters successfully destroyed an Israeli occupation regime's military vehicle using a pre-planted “Thaqib” explosive device. The ambush took place in the Abu Hudaf area, north-east of Khan Younis in southern Gaza.

In a brief statement, the al-Quds Brigades addressed the Israeli regime declaring: “Your vehicles are now wreckage,” referring to the occupation regime's military campaign dubbed “Gideon's Chariots” launched months earlier. That operation aimed to gain full control over Gaza, dismantle resistance groups, and displace its population, but, according to Israeli regime officials themselves, it failed to achieve its objectives.

Meanwhile, the Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades, the armed wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, reported that they had destroyed an occupation regime's armored personnel carrier in a joint operation with the al-Quds Brigades. ► Page 5

Aubergine Phobia

Iranian missiles aren't the only things unnerving the West. Our vegetables are apparently scary too

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – In a world where Palestinian children starve to death under accusations of terrorism, Israel's prime minister receives standing ovations and unwavering support in Western political circles for upholding “democracy” despite being a war criminal, and the U.S. President floats the idea of turning sovereign nations into American states—perhaps it's no surprise that Iranians are criminalized for selling tomatoes, potatoes, and aubergines.

A recent Economist article frames Iran's legal fruit and vegetable imports to the UAE as “smuggling”, blames the Iranian government for the UAE's supposed failure to support its own farmers, and alleges that Iran repackages food exports—which are not under sanctions—to circumvent the broader impact of Western trade restrictions, a move that even if proven to be true, would be neither illegal nor unethical, given that Iran is simply ensuring the economic survival of its 90 million people.

Analysts believe that the article labeling Iranian fruits and vegetables as “forbidden” and claiming their entry into neighboring Persian Gulf nations is somehow “corrupting” represents yet another coordinated effort to stifle Iran's revenue streams. Traditionally reliant on oil—a sector already affected by heavy U.S. sanctions—Iran has managed to significantly increase its non-oil exports in recent years. But even for a nation that has endured over four decades of sanctions and adapted to countless restrictions, this latest propaganda campaign marks a new low.

So far, neither Iranian officials nor UAE authorities have bothered to respond to the article. But inside Iran the reaction has been explosive – a mix of raw anger, bitter laughter, and utter disbelief has been flooding social media.

Last week, a Western-funded news channel became the first Persian-language broadcaster to platform The Economist's controversial report. In a viral clip circulating on X, the anchor says Iran's agricultural exports “threaten regional food security” before asking her remote guest how to “disrupt” what is essentially legitimate cross-border trade.

The London-based outlet has faced intense backlash since the Iran-Israel war, when it openly endorsed the Israeli regime's strikes on Iranian soil. “First you applaud bombs falling on our cities, now you want to starve us? I know Israelis and Westerners sign your checks, but have you forgotten where you come from?” said one user on X. Her profile simply says: “26. Accountant. Tehran. Trying to survive.”

Other responses dripped with sarcasm. “Is breathing Iranian air going to be outlawed next?” said one user. Another mocked, “I'll enjoy Iranian melons with my family tonight—I hope the West and Israel don't find that illegal too.” ► Page 3

Why President Pezeshkian's Pakistan visit matters

By Hassan Nourian

Former Consul General of Iran in Karachi

TEHRAN – We are well aware that Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan's independence in 1947 and open its embassy in Karachi, which was then the capital of Pakistan. Likewise, Pakistanis were the first to officially recognize the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979.

The people of both countries share cultural, linguistic, historical, and religious ties, and have supported each other in both bitter and sweet moments throughout history. The cultural commonalities between the two nations are such that citizens of either country do not feel estranged or alien when traveling to the neighboring country. ► Page 2



Veteran statesman Larijani takes helm of Iran's Security Council following U.S.-Israeli aggression ► Page 2



Illegitimate geopolitical projects in Caucasus will face Iran's firm response: Leader's aide

TEHRAN – Ali Akbar Velayati, senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution on international affairs, has warned regional and international players against attempts to revive the controversial Zangezur Corridor project, stressing that Iran will not remain silent in the face of any threat to its national or regional interests.

In a post on social media, Velayati reacted to renewed efforts to promote the so-called corridor plan, cautioning that any move to impose illegitimate geopolitical changes in the South Caucasus would trigger a strong Iranian response.

“Iran is not indifferent to its own interests or to the stability of the region,” he said. “Any government—whether from the region or beyond—that seeks to repeat past failed experiments will be met with a firm reaction from the Islamic Republic.”

The idea of a “Zangezur corridor,” a term originating with Azerbaijan and Turkey, envisions a pathway through Armenia's Syunik province. This area has historically bordered Iran for centuries. However, the Zangezur corridor, if established, would not function as a standard transport route. It would necessitate Armenia relinquishing control of the passage to Baku and its main patron Ankara.

The project emerged following the most recent war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Iran has consistently expressed its disapproval of the plan, underscoring its dedication to upholding the integrity of its historical boundaries and safeguarding geopolitical balance in the surrounding area

‘Tomorrow will be too late,’ Iran VP urges swift collective effort to break Gaza siege

TEHRAN – Iran's First Vice President, Mohammad Reza Aref, has issued a stark warning about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, warning: “Tomorrow will be too late.”

He made the remarks at the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Turkmenistan on Tuesday, calling for immediate and collective international action to lift the blockade.

“For nearly two years, the people of Gaza have suffered unimaginable crimes. The weaponization of starvation and thirst has failed to break their spirit.”

He urged the global community and human rights advocates to take responsibility and end the suffering before it escalates further. ► Page 3

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

A plan for non-nuclear security

The Shargh newspaper examines ways to guarantee national security by adopting various strategies and approaches, such as entanglement with the international trade. It wrote: In a situation in which the military nuclear path severely endangers national security, a non-nuclear path to ensure national security can provide deterrence, regional influence, and strengthen national defense. In military dimension, this path will include a comprehensive strategy, including conventional defense, missile and drone programs, cyber defense capabilities, strengthening counterintelligence capabilities, and defense alliances with state and non-state actors. In diplomatic dimension, it will include moving toward regional convergence, adopting confidence-building measures and a collective security structure in the Persian Gulf, rebuilding relations with Europe and Eastern allies, moving toward easing tensions with the United States and developing soft power to reduce suspicion. In the third dimension, this comprehensive strategy should emphasize lifting sanctions, strengthening domestic economic resilience, developing foreign economic relations, being involved in international production chain, playing a role in corridor diplomacy, and diversifying the economy. In the fourth and most important dimension, strengthening the relationship between the people and the political system should be the center of attention.

Sobh-e-No: Iran and Pakistan friends of difficult days

In a note, Sobh-e-No discussed Pakistan’s position in Israel’s 12-day war against Iran in June. It wrote: Pakistan’s support for Iran in the 12-day war, as well as the sharp response by Ayatollah Sayyed Hafez Riaz Hussain Najafi – chief of the Shia Educational Alliance of Pakistan – to Trump’s derogatory remarks against the Leader

of the Islamic Revolution showed the extent to which the axis of resistance and Islamic unity has a place among the Pakistani people and officials, and how they consider insult to the Iranian Leader as an insult to themselves. The resolute support of such figures for Iran is a valuable capacity for the Islamic world. This trip has become a turning point in deepening unity and fraternity between the two neighboring Muslim countries. Iran and Pakistan showed that in critical moments, they do not abandon each other and consider the common concern of the Islamic world as their own. This unity and fraternity are a precious asset for both countries that can be used to secure mutual benefits and strengthen solidarity in the Islamic world. The recent visit of our President to Islamabad opened new doors for comprehensive cooperation and reminded us once again that “if we join hands, we can remove obstacles and bring honor and pride to our nations and the Islamic community.”

Etemad: Tense and difficult days in negotiations

Etemad examined the recent positions of Tehran and Washington regarding Tehran’s nuclear program in an interview with Abdolreza Farajirad, a professor of geopolitics. Farajirad said: Iranian officials have taken a position against the actions of the West, and this position shows that Tehran has adopted a more decisive approach than the past and is in no hurry to resume negotiations unless Tehran’s conditions are accepted by Washington. In such circumstances, the atmosphere naturally shifts towards applying more pressure. On the other hand, Trump thinks that he can use the leverage of the Europeans to pressure Iran to come to the negotiating table even before activating the snapback mechanism.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Veteran statesman Larijani takes helm of Iran’s Security Council following U.S.-Israeli aggression

TEHRAN – In a move to recast Iran’s national security architecture, President Masoud Pezeshkian appointed seasoned statesman Ali Larijani as Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) on Tuesday.

The decision comes in the aftermath of the U.S.-Israeli 12-day war on Iran in June and marks Larijani’s return to a post he previously held from 2005 to 2007.

President Pezeshkian’s decree, invoking Article 176 of Iran’s Constitution, tasked Larijani with “monitoring the execution of affairs, prioritizing national security risks—especially emergent technological threats—and safeguarding the Islamic Revolution, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity.”

The president emphasized centralized decision-making, declaring, “All matters pertaining to national security must be examined and decided solely through the SNSC Secretariat.” The decree also acknowledged outgoing secretary Ali Akbar Ahmadian’s “sincere services.”

Unverified reports from Tasnim News Agency suggest Larijani may soon replace Ahmadian as Ayatollah Khamenei’s second representative on the SNSC—a move that would grant him voting rights. Tasnim also claims Ahmadian will



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (L) speaks as then-parliament speaker Ali Larijani listens, during a ceremony in Tehran in 2018

lead a “new special-missions deputy unit” in President Pezeshkian’s administration.

Larijani’s appointment coincides with the establishment of a new wartime-focused Defense Council, approved by the SNSC and endorsed by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Formed following the recent U.S.-Israeli campaign of aggression targeting Iran’s nuclear and civilian infrastructure, this body will centralize military command and enhance combat readiness. Unlike the broader SNSC, which handles political-strategic affairs, the Defense Council specializes in “command-

ing potential wars and defending national sovereignty.”

Veteran statesman and security technocrat

At 68, Larijani represents a blend of steadfast commitment and pragmatic statecraft. He hails from a prominent political and religious family. His brother, Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani, has been chairman of the Expediency Discernment Council since 2018 and previously served as Iran’s chief justice from 2009 to 2019.

A former Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) commander (1988–1991), the newly appointed SNSC secretary served as Minister

of Culture (1991–1992), the director of national radio and television (IRIB) (1992–2004), parliamentary speaker (2008–2020), and, most critically, adviser to Ayatollah Khamenei.

His reappointment leverages deep institutional memory, particularly his prior SNSC tenure during Iran’s early nuclear negotiations, where he advocated firmness toward the West before recognizing diplomatic realities.

During and after the 12-day war on Iran, Larijani has stood as a key public voice. He revealed the Israeli regime’s plot to “topple the Islamic Republic within six days,” with Mossad agents issuing a personal threat: “Leave Tehran within 12 hours or face the fate of IRGC commanders.”

He credited Iran’s reversal of battlefield fortunes to “the nation’s resolve” and missile capabilities, noting that Israeli forces descended into chaos by the conflict’s sixth day.

Larijani’s recent diplomatic missions underscore his strategic role. On July 30, he met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow as Ayatollah Khamenei’s special envoy, discussing West Asian tensions and nuclear challenges days after U.S.-Israeli strikes hit Iran’s civilian nuclear sites and killed over 1000 people.

Why President Pezeshkian’s Pakistan visit matters

From page 1 ► In Tehran, prominent places such as Mohammad Ali Jinnah Highway and Pakistan Street exist. Likewise, in major Pakistani cities, including Karachi, street signs bearing names like Iran Avenue and streets named after Iranian poets like Ferdowsi, Saadi, Hafez, Khayyam, and others can be found.

Islamabad, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hosted His Excellency Dr. Pezeshkian, the honorable President of Iran, and his accompanying delegation

from August 2 to 3, 2025. This was, in fact, Dr. Pezeshkian’s first official visit to Pakistan since winning Iran’s 14th presidential election. It is worth noting that in April 2024, the martyred Ayatollah Raisi also made a three-day visit to Pakistan, including the cities of Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad, where he was warmly welcomed by the people and officials of that country. Following the helicopter crash and martyrdom of Ayatollah Raisi and his companions, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan, along with other officials, traveled to Tehran to pay their respects and attend the memorial ceremony.

In May of this year, Shehbaz Sharif once again visited Tehran to express his gratitude for Iran’s stance regarding the India-Pakistan war. Therefore, Dr. Pezeshkian’s recent visit was in response to Shehbaz Sharif’s invitation and, essentially, a reciprocation of his visit to Tehran.

Dr. Pezeshkian began his official visit in Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, by paying respects at the mausoleum of Allama Iqbal, the Pakistani philosopher and poet. It is said that over 8,000 verses of Iqbal’s poetry comprising 70% of his total works are written in Persian. During the continuation of the visit in Islamabad, the Iranian delegation met with the Prime Minister, President, Foreign Minister, Army Chief, Speakers of the Senate and National

Assembly, and Pakistani business community, seeking to implement the “Neighbor First” policy in practice.

The current volume of annual trade between the two countries is about \$3 billion, yet many economic and commercial potentials remain untapped. During this recent visit, 12 cooperation agreements were signed in areas such as transportation, science and technology, tourism, and free trade, which, if implemented, could significantly boost bilateral relations.

One indicator of strong political relations is the frequent travel of officials between countries. In less than two years, top officials from Iran and Pakistan have visited each other’s countries four times, not including the meetings held on the sidelines of key regional and international summits.

These frequent encounters highlight the close bond and significance of the relationship particularly now, when there is a growing need to expand cooperation. Over the past few decades, Iran-Pakistan relations have enjoyed relative stability, and mutual visits and exchanges between officials have been a regular occurrence. What gives special importance to the recent presidential visit to Pakistan is the unique political situation and the developments that have taken place in recent months in South and West Asia and even globally.

The four-day war between India and Pakistan in May 2025, as two nuclear powers, created a highly sensitive situation in the region. Although brief, the consequences of this conflict continue to affect both countries and the broader region and world. Additionally, the ongoing war and genocide in Gaza have significantly influenced global politics. In this context, the stances of Islamic countries such as Iran and Pakistan are of great importance.

Tehran and Islamabad have consistently adopted shared, firm positions and have emphasized full support for the Palestinian cause. The 12-day imposed war by the Zionist regime on Iran drastically altered the geopolitics of the region and the Islamic world. Pakistan’s positions as one of the largest and most influential Muslim nations and a nuclear power have been crucial, and the Iranian public and officials have always appreciated Pakistan’s brave and brotherly stance.

Islamabad’s officials have expressed their appreciation, in various ways, for Iran’s goodwill and initiative in offering to mediate between the two countries, and for the highly important visit of Iran’s Foreign Minister Dr. Araghchi to Pakistan and India to reduce the tensions.

A key factor linking Iran and Pakistan’s foreign policies is the sensitivity of public opinion in both nations toward the Palestinian issue and their mutual opposition to Zionist occupation and




crimes in Gaza. This shared stance is rooted in the principled policies laid down by the founding leaders of both nations, Imam Khomeini and Muhammad Ali Jinnah and continues today. Currently, there is deep concern over the joint illegal actions of the Zionist regime and the United States against Iran’s nuclear facilities, and the potential for similar scenarios to be repeated elsewhere.

The condemnation of the Zionist regime’s aggressive attack on Iran by Pakistan’s permanent representative at the UN Security Council, as a non-permanent member and rotating president, was well-received. Pakistan’s support for dialogue and negotiation and its affirmation of Iran’s right to nuclear knowledge were also reflected in the joint press conference held by Shehbaz Sharif and Dr. Pezeshkian.


Iranian and Pakistani officials have come to a shared understanding that the 900+ km border between the two nations should transition from being a security border to an economic one. The two sides have created joint mechanisms to improve coordination in the fight against terrorism. There exists an ocean of untapped potential in both countries, which requires serious political will to activate. The travel of hundreds of thousands of Pakistani pilgrims as part of religious tourism is one such opportunity. Currently, two land borders at Rimdan and Mirjaveh are operational, facilitating travel for tourists and traders. Strengthening infrastructure is essential for increasing travel between the two peoples. People-to-people ties and citizen interactions can play a critical role in raising awareness of each other’s capabilities.

Meeting mutual needs given that the two economies complement each other should be a top priority for private sectors and businesspeople in both nations. Much of what Iran imports from other countries is easily accessible in Pakistan, and Pakistan exports goods that Iranians also import from various sources. The reverse is also true. Pakistan can meet many of its needs through Iranian producers and benefit from the proximity and low logistics costs. In the writer’s view, the joint Iran-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce should be upgraded from a provincial to a national capacity to play a more significant role.

An Iranian proverb says: “A good neighbor is better than a distant relative.” Pakistan is both a good neighbor and a good relative and we Iranians are grateful for this valued neighbor.



INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER
Second Announcement
55/04/10105
06/08/2025



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, affiliated to Ministry of Agriculture-Jihad of I.R of Iran, is considering the purchase of the below 7 items of pesticides technical material, through one step international tender.

	Name	PACKING	Quantity/kg
1	Fipronil Technical min 95% based on dry technical form	25 or 50 kg waterproof cardboard drum	2,200
2	Cartap Technical min 98%	50 kg waterproof cardboard drum	40,000
3	Propargite Technical min 90%	200 kg drum	96,000
4	Deltamethrin Technical min 98.5 %	50 kg drum	3,700
5	Permethrin Technical min 95%	200 kg drum	10,500
6	Cypermethrin Technical min 90%	50 kg drum	59,000
7	Glyphosate Isopropylamine Salt Technical 62%	200 kg drum	78,000

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Tuesday** dated **5/8/2025** until **Wednesday** dated **13/8/2025** (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran). The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 3390397822635006500000000000008.

The bidders are requested to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Saturday** dated **13/9/2025** (to the end of official working hours) to our security office located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelops will be held on **Sunday** dated **14/9/2025** at **14:00** with the presence of bidder's representatives at our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, Fourth Alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

We would like to emphasize that the value of the bid bond amount must be only submitted by the bidders in bank guarantee as follows:

- 1- € **6652/8** for **Fipronil Technical min 95%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **5,424,626,592**.
- 2- € **32568/47** for **Cartap Technical min 98%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **26,556,001,920**.
- 3- € **39218** for **Propargite Technical min 90%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **31,977,886,464**.
- 4- € **8880** for **Deltamethrin Technical min 98.5%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **7,240,663,200**.
- 5- € **5103** for **Permethrin Technical min 95%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **4,160,935,170**.
- 6- € **31196/56** for **Cypermethrin Technical min 90%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **25,437,363,840**.
- 7- € **8638/72** for **Glyphosate Isopropylamine Salt Technical 62%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **7,043,924,160**.

- The bid bond value should be in Euro or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the exchange rate of Telegraphic Transfer on CBI's ETS website, [www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir](#), on **22/7/2025**.

-The bidders are also permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial.

- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website [www.assc.ir](#), and [http://iets.mporg.ir](#) or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)

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Aubergine phobia?

Iranian missiles aren't the only things unnerving the West. Our vegetables are apparently scary too

From Page 1 ▶ Quite a few furious and harsh responses could also be found on X. One male user said the sight of Western-based Iranian journalists now makes him “sick.” “I feel physically sick seeing these people on TV now,” he wrote. “I used to watch them, but their propaganda only poisons minds.” An Iranian-American whose posts showed he had taken part in rallies in the West calling for the toppling of the Islamic Republic responded to the post, saying that “if the Islamic Republic ex-

tradites these ‘journalists’ and puts them on trial,” he would support it. “Traitors deserve justice,” he added. The anchor who shared the video ended up blocking most of the critical accounts, as reported by the users.

Furthermore, the Economist article has spurred debate about why the West continues its relentless pressure on Iran across economic, military and diplomatic fronts. The topic is especially hot among the younger generations of Iranians, who

have been looking at politics from a different prism since the Iran-Israel war.

“I don’t really follow the news,” said a makeup influencer girl - just 19 years old - who posted on her Instagram story. “But ever since I was little, all I’ve heard is how our nuclear program and missiles are the problem. Now they’re making a big deal about our aubergines?” She shared the same aubergine photo that’s on today’s Tehran Times cover.

‘Tomorrow will be too late’, Iran VP urges swift collective effort to break Gaza siege



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref speaks at the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Turkmenistan on August 5, 2025.

From Page 1 ▶ Aref strongly condemned the systematic war crimes by the Zionist regime in the besieged territory, stating:

“Attacking starving civilians in search of food, water, or medicine is a blatant war crime and crime against humanity. The international community — especially those who claim to champion human rights — must be held accountable for the blood spilled in Gaza.”

Aref also sharply criticized the 12-day military assault on Iran by Israel — supported by the United States — which he said claimed 1,100 lives, including 45 children and 132 women, and wounded 5,750 others.

“With its support for the Zionist regime — and even direct involvement in attacks on Iran’s peaceful nuclear facilities — the United States has destroyed the negotiation table and once again confirmed global mistrust in its promises,” he said.

He underscored that Iran has never initiated war but will defend its sovereignty and pursue legal compensation for damages inflicted by Israeli and American assaults.

While noting that a new round of Iran-U.S. talks had been planned, Aref stated that U.S. complicity in the Israeli strike effectively killed prospects for diplomacy.

“Iran will seek justice through international legal mechanisms for the human and material toll imposed by this unlawful aggression.”

‘Iran’s importance as a regional logistics and transit hub is growing’

Aref emphasized Iran’s growing importance as a regional logistics and transit hub, especially for landlocked countries. He noted that eight LLDCs — Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan — rely on Iran’s direct or multilateral transit routes.

“Iran plays a vital role in connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe,” Aref said, emphasizing that this infrastructure is open to both domestic and foreign investment.

He credited recent digitization, customs cooperation, and trade facilitation reforms with helping Iran hit a record 20 million tons in cargo transit in 2024, thanks largely to regional partnerships.

Iran, he added, is drafting roadmaps for deeper transit collaboration with LLDCs.

Aref praised Turkmenistan’s policy of neutrality and emphasized its partnership with Iran in fostering regional peace and sustainable development.

Iran, with its access to the Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman, and Indian Ocean, and Turkmenistan, as a gateway to Central Asia and the Caucasus, form a natural transit bridge for LLDCs. He pointed to ports like Chabahar and Bandar Abbas, which serve as global market access points for regional states.

He also highlighted Iran’s active participation in multilateral mechanisms like the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Ashgabat Agreement, the Eurasian Economic Union, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

“Our approach to regional connectivity is based on cooperation, not competition — in line with the spirit of the Vienna and Avaza Programs of Action.”

Aref arrived Monday evening at Turkmenbashi International Airport, where he was received by Turkmenistan’s Vice President.

The LLDCs conference officially opened Tuesday with speeches from Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and UN Secretary-General Guterres.

‘Iran’s nuclear activities are compliant with international law’

In talks with Guterres on the sidelines of the conference, Aref reiterated that Iran’s nuclear activities are peaceful and compliant with international law, asserting that the U.S. and Israel’s recent attack violated all legal norms.

“Iran accepted a ceasefire for

humanitarian reasons, despite continued threats,” Aref said.

Guterres condemned the Israeli-American strike as a violation of international law and stressed the UN’s commitment to peace, diplomacy, and humanitarian relief in Gaza.

‘Iranian firms ready to participate in Armenian development projects’

In another meeting with President of the Republic of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan, Aref reaffirmed Iran’s special relationship with Armenia, emphasizing opportunities for expanded cooperation in energy, agriculture, technology, education, and infrastructure.

He also welcomed Armenia’s potential membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and hailed the Iran-EAEU free trade deal as a platform to boost trade.

“Iranian firms with expertise in dam construction and AI are ready to participate in Armenian development projects,” Aref said.

President Khachaturyan expressed strong support for Iran and looked forward to President Pezeshkian’s upcoming visit to Yerevan, calling it a “golden opportunity” to deepen bilateral ties.

‘Iran rejects foreign interference in Libya’s political process’

In a separate meeting with Libya’s Presidential Council Head, Mohammad al-Menfi, Aref voiced Iran’s backing for a “Libyan-led” political process, rejecting any foreign interference. He emphasized Iran’s readiness to share technology, knowledge, and experience with Libya, especially given both nations’ struggles under sanctions.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Pakistan embassy in Tehran hosts Youm-e-Istehsal to spotlight Kashmir cause



Iranian scholars, and media representatives.

Iranian scholars Qasim Safi and Ms. Samaneh Khalafzadeh spoke, detailing the decades-long struggle of Kashmiri Muslims and their right to self-determination. Deputy Head of Pakistan’s Mission, H.E. Ms. Ismat Hassan Sial, highlighted Iran’s unwavering solidarity.

She noted that Iran’s leadership, including Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has urged the international community to address human rights violations in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir.

She also thanked the Iranian media for amplifying the voices of Kashmiris and documenting alleged abuses.

A short documentary was screened, showing scenes of mass detentions and alleged demographic engineering in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Organizers said the film aimed to reaffirm international obligations under the UN Charter and Security Council resolutions.

Messages from Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari were read aloud, which underscored



New Delhi’s “unilateral actions” and reiterated Islamabad’s commitment to providing moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people.

The Kashmir conflict dates back to the 1947 partition of British India, when princely states were given the choice to join India or Pakistan.

Muslim-majority Kashmir was split into regions administered by both countries. UN-mediated ceasefires and resolutions have called for a plebiscite, but the dispute remains unresolved amid recurring tensions and armed skirmishes.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali

Khamenei, has long supported oppressed Muslim communities worldwide, including Kashmir. In April 2018, he declared, “We hope that the Iranian nation, the Syrian nation, the Iraqi nation, the oppressed nation of Palestine, the people of Kashmir and Myanmar achieve victory in the not-too-distant future.”

During a visit to Islamabad this past May, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stressed the necessity of restraint between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. He also reaffirmed Tehran’s offer to facilitate dialogue toward a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in line with international law.

IRAN IN FOCUS

AUGUST 6, 2025

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Iran to compete at World Games under banner of Delegation of Consensus

TEHRAN - Iran is prepared to make a remarkable presence at the upcoming 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China. The Iranian delegation, proudly titled “Delegation of Consensus,” symbolizes national unity and collective effort as athletes from Iran compete on the international stage.

This participation underscores Iran’s commitment to excellence in sports and to fostering a spirit of solidarity and teamwork among its athletes.

The motto guiding Iran’s team at these prestigious Games is “Strong Iran, Strong Sports,” reflecting the nation’s dedication to strength, resilience, and achieving sporting greatness. This motto encapsulates Iran’s ambitions to showcase its athletic talent and determination on the global stage.

Sara Bahmanyar and Ali Gharahgozlou will lead Iran’s delegation as the flag bearers in the opening ceremony of the upcoming World Games in Chengdu, China.

Leading the Iranian delegation is Fariba Mohammadian, who has been appointed as the chef de mission. She is the Deputy Sports Minister and a prominent figure in Iran’s sports administration. Her leadership and experience are expected to inspire and guide the team towards successful performances across all sports disciplines.

Iran has sent a team of 30 athletes competing across nine different sports. The diverse representation emphasizes Iran’s wide-ranging athletic capabilities and its focus on excelling in multiple disciplines at the World Games.

As the 2025 World Games in Chengdu approach, the nation’s athletes are eager to demonstrate their talents, foster international relations, and promote the ideals of sportsmanship and unity through their performances.

Iran’s “Delegation of Consensus” looks forward to making a positive impact at the Games, rooted in the spirit of resilience and national pride embodied by the motto “Strong Iran, Strong Sports.”

The 12th edition of The World Games will be held from Aug. 7-17, 2025. This multi-sport event features sports and disciplines not typically included in the Olympic Games. The Chengdu Games will mark the first time the event is held on mainland China and will feature 34 sports, 60 disciplines, and 256 events.

Esteghlal midfielder Masharipov to miss 2025 Super Cup

TEHRAN - Esteghlal midfielder Jaloliddin Masharipov is expected to miss the upcoming match against Tractor in Iran’s Super Cup due to an injury.

The Uzbek midfielder sustained a foot injury during Esteghlal’s training camp in Turkey, which may prevent him from participating in the fixture.

The Super Cup is scheduled for August 11. This high-profile match will see Tractor, the reigning champion of the Iran Professional League, face off against Esteghlal, the Hazfi Cup winner.

Historically, Persepolis is the most successful team in Super Cup, having won the title five times.

Tractor secured their spot as league champions, while Esteghlal clinched the Hazfi Cup title, setting the stage for an exciting showdown.

Their impressive record highlights the competitive nature of the tournament and the prestige associated with lifting the Super Cup trophy.

The Iran Football League Organization offi-

cially announced the date for the 2025 Super Cup, marking an eagerly anticipated event in Iran’s football calendar.

Iran drop two spots in FIBA Asia Cup 2025

TEHRAN - With the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 fast approaching, Iran have dropped two places in the latest Asia Cup Power Rankings.

Team Melli have dropped to seventh place.

Australia and Japan continue to top the rankings and no. 1 and no. 2, respectively. New Zealand and China sit third and fourth. Meanwhile, Lebanon also improved from 6th to 5th, while the Philippines are sixth.

Iran are drawn in Group B of the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup, facing Japan, Syria, and Guam in the preliminary stage.

The competition will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from Aug. 5 to 17.

Iran to face Guam in FIBA Asia Cup 2025 opener

TEHRAN - Group B appears to be one interesting cluster given the measure of unpredictability that the four teams could bring in the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 that finally commences this Tuesday.

With contenders Iran and Japan, plus a West Asian force in Syria and the up-and-coming Guam in the mix, many are particularly curious as to how the standings would look once the dust settles.

For a quick refresher, the team that finishes no. 1 in the pool would head straight to the Quarter-Finals, while the second and third-ranked squads would have to go through the Qualification to Quarter-Finals.

Team Melli and AKATSUKI JAPAN, among observers, are coming in as the favorites in the group, given the rich track records these teams possess not only in this competition but in the global scene as well.

The Iranians, for one, have always been a revered competitor since winning three Asia Cup titles from 2007 to 2013. Add to that their pair of appearances in the Summer Olympic Games in 2008 and in 2021.

Its most recent medal in the continental conclave came in 2017, where it settled for silver behind the current reigning two-time titlist Australia before a Quarter-Final finish in the 2022 edition.

Thus, the excitement surrounding their August 8 meeting set at 14:10 local time as both Japan and Iran have built a basketball rivalry of sorts, for it would be the 11th time they’ll face each other in the FIBA stage.

Iran ready to meet Malaysia in AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup qualifier: coach

TEHRAN - Iran will start the qualification for the AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup Thailand 2026 on Wednesday, facing hosts Malaysia.

Iran are drawn in Group F along with Japan, Guam, and Malaysia.

The Group F competition will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from Aug. 6 to 10.

“For us, every match is like a final; all games are equally important. Malaysia benefits from home advantage and has its own unique conditions. Japan is the top team in Asia, and we should not underestimate Guam,” Iran head coach Niloofar Ardalan said.

“Our real goal is to build a cohesive team — one that enters competitions with strong mental and technical preparedness. Our training goes beyond physical fitness; it also emphasizes decision-making under match conditions and understanding various tactical situations,” she added.

Liquefied propane, Iran's major non-oil product exported in 4 months



TEHRAN- As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), liquefied propane was the major non-oil products Iran exported in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–July 22).

Foroud Asgari mentioned natural gas, liquefied propane, methanol, liquefied butane, and petroleum bitumen as the top five non-oil export items during the four-month period.

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

17 strategic fishery projects underway as officials push for more funding

TEHRAN - Iran has begun implementing 17 high-priority fishery research projects aimed at improving productivity, reducing dependency, and advancing domestic aquaculture technologies, the country's top fishery research official said.

Mohammad Sedigh Mortazavi, head of the Iranian Fishery Science Research Institute, announced the launch of the projects during a meeting of the Strategic Council for Fishery Research.

He emphasized that securing financial resources is essential to sustaining progress.

Despite past administrative disruptions, Mortazavi said coordination between research institutions and Iran's Fishery Organization (IFO) is being rebuilt.

The council, established in March 2023, includes representatives from the Fishery Organization, affiliated research institutes under the Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension Organization (AREEO), as well as biotechnology, engineering, vaccine, and agricultural training institutes.

Out of 345 research proposals submitted by member bodies, 61 were identified as core mis-

Iran exported \$16.55 billion worth of non-oil goods in the first four months of the current Iranian year, according to the IRICA head.

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.

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.

sions of the Fisheries Research Institute, and 17 of those have now entered the implementation phase.

The total estimated cost for the 17 active projects is 1.23 trillion rials (approximately \$2.46 million), including 725 billion rials for aquaculture, 270 billion rials for fisheries and genetic conservation, and over 10 billion rials for processing and biotechnology initiatives.

Introducing new aquatic species and expanding offshore cage farming are among the most strategic yet costly programs, Mortazavi noted, underscoring the need for timely budget allocations.

Only 25 percent of the initial budget has been secured so far. To bridge the funding gap, Mortazavi called on state-run companies, banks, and government-affiliated institutions to allocate at least 60 percent of their research budgets to fishery, citing Article 4 of the national budget law.

Highlighting the sector's significant financial turnover, he also proposed dedicating 0.5 percent of the value added from fisheries exports and processing—equivalent to one trillion toman (\$20 million)—to support strategic research through a targeted tariff.

situation, publishers helped, the Central Bank intervened, and investment funds contributed greatly to the market balance. Now, the fourth stage, which is stabilization, is underway, and we will soon enter the fifth stage of the market, which is the boom stage.”

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

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

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

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

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

NTDC launches private-led urban projects worth \$332m in 9 new towns

TEHRAN - Iran's New Towns Development Company (NTDC) is overseeing the implementation of 189 projects valued at 166.3 trillion rials (about \$332 million) across nine new towns, according to the company's head.

Shahram Maleki, head of the state-run company, said 103 contracts have been signed with private investors to carry out the projects in Pardis, Parand, Andisheh, Mahestan, Sadra, Sahand, Baharestan, Fooladshahr and Golbahar. The developments include 24,599 residential and commercial units.

Maleki added that more than 150 investment packages have been prepared and updated by



19 new towns across the country, offering an estimated 3.5 quadrillion rials (around \$7.0 billion) in diverse and attractive invest-

ment opportunities.

Among the key projects, Maleki said the coastal town of Tis will

TCCIMA to dispatch trade delegation to Almaty in early September

TEHRAN- Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) will send a trade delegation to Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, in early September.

Hesameddin Hallaj, Deputy for International Affairs and Trade Development at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, announced the dispatch of a trade delegation to Kazakhstan, coinciding with the KazBuild International Construction Exhibition from September 3–5, 2025.

The Tehran Chamber of Commerce, in line with expanding economic relations with target countries, will send a trade delegation to Almaty in collaboration with the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber of Commerce.

The Deputy for International Affairs and Trade Development stated that this trade mission will take place alongside the KazBuild International Construction Exhibition from September 3–5, 2025.

According to the Tehran Chamber's Public Relations Department, Hesameddin Hallaj emphasized the importance of the event, stating: “Kazakhstan has been selected as one of the eight target countries in the Tehran Chamber's strategic plan for non-oil export development. Given the significance of exporting technical and engineering services as well as construction products, this exhibition is directly linked to the value chains prioritized by the Chamber. Accordingly, the exhibition has been approved by the Tehran Chamber's Strategic Council for Non-Oil Export Promotion as one of the events warranting a dedicated national pavilion.”

He added: “KazBuild is one of the most prestigious regional events in the construction industry, covering various sectors such as building materials, machinery and equipment, window and façade technology, ceramics and stone, interior design, lighting and electrical systems, security systems, and smart homes.”

The 20th session of the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Economic Committee was held in Astana, in mid-June, with the participation of Gholamreza Nouri Ghezeli, Iran's Minister of Agriculture and head of the Iranian delegation.

Nouri thanked the Kazakh government, particularly Trade and Integration Minister Arman Shakkaliyev, for hosting the meeting, and expressed hope that the session would help advance the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Referring to the committee's previous 19 sessions, Nouri said the continued meetings reflect both sides' firm commitment to expanding bilateral ties.

Nouri announced that Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is expected to visit Astana soon at the official invitation of his Kazakh counterpart.

Documents finalized during the committee's latest session will be prepared for signing during the visit.

ICT exports seen as strategic lifeline for tech-driven economic growth

TEHRAN - Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), called for prioritizing information and communication technology (ICT) exports as a strategic solution to overcome economic constraints and accelerate knowledge-based growth.

Speaking at the “ICT Export Conference” held at the ICCIMA

headquarters on Tuesday, Hassanzadeh emphasized that Iran's economic resilience cannot rely on raw materials and traditional exports.

“ICT exports are a strategic necessity to bypass economic bottlenecks and enter a new era of knowledge-driven prosperity,” he said.

He highlighted Iran's advantages in this sector, including a

large pool of young, skilled, and creative talent, as well as knowledge-based and startup companies with export potential. “With lower production costs compared to regional countries, we are well positioned to offer competitive products and services in global markets,” Hassanzadeh noted.

He rejected the notion that only advanced economies dominate ICT exports, saying regional

see the construction of a beach club, water park and amusement park. In Parand, plans include the Etemadieh Township and a construction industry marketplace. Sahand will feature a commercial complex, the Ofogh Hotel and the Velayat Complex, while Baharestan is set to host a large-scale Iranian-Islamic market developed in four phases.

He emphasized that active private sector participation is the driving force behind sustainable and balanced development in Iran's new cities, adding that the government is facilitating this process by creating necessary infrastructure and offering appealing investment packages.

expressed readiness to expand collaboration and achieve positive results with Iran.

Iran and Kazakhstan pledged deeper cooperation in agriculture to ensure sustainable development and food security, Iran's agriculture minister said during the opening ceremony of the Central Asia Products Expo (Expo Goods) in Astana, on June 10.

Speaking at the event, Nouri Ghezeli emphasized the growing importance of food security amid climate change and environmental crises.

“In today's world, the need for food security is more pressing than ever, particularly as we face escalating climate disruptions and ecological challenges,” he said.

Nouri stressed that sustainable development must be viewed not only from an economic lens but also through its social and environmental dimensions. He called on regional countries to enhance multilateral cooperation and improve resource efficiency to meet these challenges.

Highlighting Iran's agricultural potential, Nouri said the country produces more than 130 million tons of agricultural products annually, thanks to its fertile lands and diverse climate. “We've also made significant strides in developing agricultural processing and value-added industries,” he added.

Of that output, over 10 million tons are exported to various countries. Nouri said Iran, with its population of nearly 90 million and a dynamic economy, also imports agricultural products and inputs—a trade flow that presents opportunities for both bilateral and multilateral commercial expansion.

He pointed to Iran's deep-rooted cultural, religious, and economic ties with neighboring countries, particularly Kazakhstan and Pakistan. As co-chair of the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Economic Committee alongside Kazakh Minister Almas Shakaliyev, Nouri underscored Tehran's commitment to strengthening comprehensive cooperation.

On ties with China, Nouri noted that under the framework of the Iran-China Joint Agricultural Committee, relations are expanding steadily, with current bilateral agricultural trade valued at around \$1.5 billion.

He said Iran's government policies have paved the way for robust and growing partnerships with Central Asian and Eurasian nations, based on shared interests and cooperation across both public and private sectors.

Expressing gratitude for Kazakhstan's hospitality, the minister said he hoped the expo would serve as a platform for substantial regional economic progress.

Nouri concluded by highlighting Iran's strategic position and its shared interests with neighbors like Kazakhstan, along with China's economic capacity. “This creates fertile ground for long-term, mutually beneficial cooperation, particularly along key trade corridors stretching from East to West and North to South.”

markets are increasingly demanding services like software and artificial intelligence. “We can become the technology partners of neighboring countries,” he asserted.

Hassanzadeh said the Iran Chamber is committed to supporting ICT firms' access to international markets, recognizing that the future belongs to digital technologies and AI.

Hezbollah leader warns Israel against rekindling war

Hezbollah Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem on Tuesday warned Israel against re-starting a broader war on Lebanon, Al Jazeera reported.

The leader of the Lebanese resistance movement said if the regime does so, rockets will fall in Israeli territory.

“If Israel decides to wage a large-scale war, missiles will rain down on it again, and all the security they’ve been working on for eight months will collapse,” he made the remarks at a memorial event for General Saeed Izadi, a commander in Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), who was assassinated in an Israeli air



strike in June.

Qassem addressed the cease-fire with Israel, stating that while

Hezbollah had fully honored it, Israel had violated it “thousands of times.”

He also criticized the latest version of a roadmap pushed by US envoy Thomas Barrack for Hezbollah to disarm. Qassem noted that it did not come with sufficient guarantees that Israel would halt its attacks. “If we surrender our weapons, the aggression will not stop, and this is what Israeli officials are saying.”

The leader of the Lebanese resistance movement added that Hezbollah could not agree to the latest proposed timetable.

To improve stability in Lebanon, Qassem called for cooperation “within a framework of national unity” that is not beholden to “American or other tutelage.”

Desperate and defiant: Netanyahu’s Gaza war deepens Israel’s isolation, domestic division



From page 1 ▶ Israel has also imposed a near-total siege on Gaza, leading to mass starvation across the enclave. According to Gaza’s Health Ministry, approximately 190 people, nearly half of them children, have died from hunger and malnutrition.

Additionally, Israeli forces have reportedly shot dead more than 1,300 Palestinians who were seeking humanitarian aid.

The international community has increasingly condemned Israel’s starvation policy. In a recent interview with The Guardian, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Michael Fakhri, stated: “Israel has built the most efficient starvation machine you can imagine... Israel is starving Gaza. It’s genocide.”

It’s a crime against humanity. It’s a war crime.” Fakhri first warned in February 2024 that Israel was orchestrating a campaign of deliberate mass starvation—an accusation that adds to existing genocide charges filed against Israel at the International Court of Justice.

Last week, two prominent Israeli human rights groups—B’Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights Israel—publicly accused Israel of committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

As global outrage intensifies, some of Israel’s staunchest Western allies are shifting their stance. Several governments have signaled plans to recognize a Palestinian state—moves widely interpreted as efforts to obscure their own complicity in enabling Israel’s

war.

In the United States, a growing number of Democratic lawmakers is advocating for Palestinian statehood, as part of a charm offensive aimed at disillusioned voters.

According to a recent CNN report, Democratic Party leaders are increasingly distancing themselves from Netanyahu, fearing that unwavering support for him could alienate voters ahead of the 2026 midterm elections and the 2028 presidential race.

“Fearing Zionism could die among Democrats,” the report noted, “Many party leaders are explicitly breaking with Netanyahu to try to stop anti-Israel attitudes from becoming a litmus test for next year’s midterms and the 2028 presidential primaries.”

Domestically, Netanyahu is under growing pressure. Nearly 600 retired Israeli security officials—including former Mossad chief Tamir Pardo, former Shin Bet head Ami Ayalon, and former deputy army chief Matan Vilnai—have signed a letter to President Donald Trump, urging him to intervene and press Israel to end the war.

The signatories argue that continuing the war is severely damaging Israel’s global credibility. Israeli Army Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir has also reportedly favored putting an

end to the Gaza conflict.

Meanwhile, protests within Israel have become a regular occurrence, as citizens express frustration over the Netanyahu administration’s failure to secure the release of captives and bring the war to a close.

Despite this widespread criticism, Netanyahu remains defiant. Yet, even Israel’s allies now acknowledge the military campaign has failed to achieve its goals. Western governments, particularly the United States, appear increas-

Army Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir, along with hundreds of retired Israeli security officials, is calling for an end to the war in Gaza due to failures of the Israeli military

ingly eager to end the war—but not without first making Netanyahu the scapegoat.

This strategy is designed to deflect attention from their own roles in enabling the genocide in Gaza.

Israeli military vehicles go up in flames

From page 1 ▶ The attack, carried out with an anti-armor explosive device, took place on Montad Street, east of the Shujaiya neighborhood in northern Gaza City.

Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades confirmed that the blast resulted in the death or injury of several occupation regime’s crew members. They emphasized that the operation was part of an ongoing retaliation against the criminal regime’s daily war crimes against starving Palestinian civilians.

These attacks are part of the broader efforts by Palestinian resistance groups to confront U.S.-backed Israeli military incursions

into Gaza and respond to the ongoing genocide and blockade, inflicting significant losses on occupation forces.

As Palestinian resistance fighters intensify attacks against occupation forces, the Israeli military continues to kill children in what experts describe as a failed strategy to pressure Gazans into submission, the resistance fighters to disarm and accept a long-term occupation, annexation, and ethnic cleansing.

In a speech, Hamas leader Osama Hamdan noted the “enemy has been carrying out a genocide and starvation war against the Gaza Strip for 670 days.”

The genocide has killed over 60,830 Palestinians, most of them women and children, and injured more than 149,580 with full American backing.

“The enemy has turned Gaza into a Nazi concentration camp and is committing full-scale genocide — it’s time for the world to stop it and prosecute the perpetrators,” Hamdan said.

He added, “96% of families in Gaza are now suffering from food insecurity whilst 22,000 aid trucks are stuck at the crossings as Gazans endure immense suffering.”

experienced and humanitarian actors from the UN and civil society alike to take back the reins of managing and distributing life-saving aid.”

They concluded with demands for UN member states to impose a complete arms embargo on Israel “due to its multiple violations of international law” and end trade agreements that could harm Palestinians.

Last week, US President Donald Trump’s Middle East envoy to Gaza, toured a controversial GHF aid distribution site in Gaza. Steve Witkoff, was accompanied by US ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee and Israeli military officials.

Washington and Tel Aviv portray GHF as a lifeline for civilians. But According to United Nations data, Israeli forces have shot and killed nearly 900 Palestinians

near GHF distribution points.

In addition, over 500 Gazans have been killed along UN aid convoy routes.

Human Rights Watch has described the GHF-run sites as “death traps” that have become the scenes of regular “bloodbaths.”

Earlier this month, a retired US special forces officer who worked at GHF centers said he witnessed Israeli troops and US contractors shooting at crowds of Palestinians near the sites where he worked.

Lt. Col. Anthony Aguilar, a special forces veteran of the US Army’s Green Berets, told the BBC he had never seen such a level of “brutality and use of indiscriminate and unnecessary force against a civilian population—an unarmed, starving population” in his entire career.

Hezbollah warns against transforming the Israel problem into internal sedition



From page 1 ▶ The truth is that the challenges of deterring Israeli aggression, freeing Lebanese prisoners, and launching the reconstruction process compel every rational person to be wary of the Zionist-American deceit and deception.

Meanwhile, Ali al-Maqdad, a member of the Hezbollah parliamentary bloc, criticized “the media and political hype that portrayed the session as pivotal or historic.”

Al-Maqdad explained in an interview with Sputnik Radio that “the first and most important thing is to hold pivotal sessions to discuss crucial issues such as the occupied territories, prisoners, and reconstruction.”

The Hezbollah MP asked, “Is this session necessary for Lebanon, or for the Israeli and American enemy?” He criticized “identification with the Israeli and American rhetoric.”

For his part, another Hezbollah MP Ali Fayyad noted that a cohesive Lebanese position will put an end to external pressure. However, he warned, “The worst scenario we must beware of is transforming the problem from a Lebanese-Israeli one to a Lebanese-Lebanese one.”

Fayyad made the remarks after meeting the head of the Free Patriotic Movement, Gebran Bassil.

He stated that a united Lebanese position

that would oblige Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory, halt its attacks, and free the prisoners would “serve as an entry point for an exit strategy from the difficult situation the country is experiencing.” He warned that “the looming dangers are not limited to one group or one region over another.”

Besides, Fayyad emphasized the difficulty of the situation the country is experiencing, emphasizing that Lebanon will not accept compromising its interests.

The Hezbollah MP called for a unified official position that would give priority to Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese lands, release of prisoners and end of hostilities, especially since “the country is now exposed to major strategic sovereignty risks,” even existential ones.

Fayyad also noted that Hezbollah and the Free Patriotic Movement agree that “the opportunity is ripe for building a state, but the obstacle to the issue is the Israeli occupation, which has obstructed the path to recovery and state-building.”

He explained that the movement’s reading is not far from Hezbollah’s, even regarding “the national strategy, which constitutes an approach to the issue of weapons.”

Furthermore, Fayyad stressed the importance of holding parliamentary elections on time without any postponement.

Hamas backs initiative calling for access to Gaza for foreign journalists

A senior Hamas official, Izzat al-Risheq, has said the resistance group “appreciates the ‘Freedom to Report’ initiative launched by 200 prominent journalists from around the world, in which they demanded immediate and uncensored access for foreign journalists to the Gaza Strip.”

The initiative started by photographer Andre Liohn has started a petition, in which it states that what is happening in Gaza is “not just a humanitarian blackout, it is an information blackout that undermines the public’s right to know and journalism’s democratic function to hold power accountable,” Al Jazeera reported.

It calls Israel’s strategy in Gaza as coming from the “very playbook of authoritarianism:

Control the narrative, silence independent voices, and sever the link between reality and public understanding”.

In a statement published on Telegram, al-Risheq said Hamas “affirms that the occupation’s policy of preventing foreign journalists from entering Gaza represents a clear violation of press freedom and a prevention of conveying the truth to international public opinion. It reveals its fear of exposing its aggression and terrorism.”

The Israeli military has killed more than 200 reporters and media workers since its bombardment of Gaza began, including several Al Jazeera journalists and their relatives.

Jewish-American group organizes rally in New York against starvation in Gaza



[Mostafa Bassim/Anadolu]

Protesters gathered outside the Trump International Hotel in New York on Monday to protest Israel’s starvation policy in Gaza.

The protest, organized by Jewish-American anti-occupation group IfNotNow, drew hundreds to Columbus Circle under the banner “Trump: Jews Say No More,” calling for an end to the war in Gaza and greater access for

much-needed humanitarian aid.

Protesters also held signs reading “Stop ethnic cleansing,” “Never again is now,” “Stop starving Gaza,” and “Not in our name,” The Guardian reported.

“Let’s not mince words, the Israeli government’s blockade of Gaza is a policy of ethnic cleansing by way of forced mass starvation,” said Morriah Kaplan, IfNotNow’s interim executive director, in a speech.

She added that the US government needs to “use its considerable leverage to end these horrors.”

The New York Police Department intervened in the protest, arresting more than 40 people, Anadolu reported.

Rejecting international calls for a ceasefire, the Israeli army has pursued a brutal offensive on Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023, killing more than 61,000 Palestinians, almost half of them women and children. The military campaign has devastated the enclave and brought it to the verge of famine.



The UN says Israeli forces have killed over 1,000 aid-seekers in Gaza since May

UN experts have slammed the Israeli and US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), which has been previously criticized for its militarized aid distribution mechanism.

The experts described the organization as an “utterly disturbing example of how humanitarian

relief can be exploited for covert military and geopolitical agendas in serious breach of international law,” Middle East Eye reported.

“The credibility and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance must be restored by dismantling the GHF, holding it and its executives accountable, and allowing

Kashan’s historical mosques registered on National Heritage List



TEHRAN—Isfahan Cultural Heritage Department gave news of registration of two historical mosques of Kashan county on National Heritage List.

According to IRIB, Amir Karamzadeh said that in light of the National Council for the Registration of Immovable Historical and Cultural Monuments in Kashan, today, in the continuation of this meeting, the registration file of the Qamsar Grand Mosque, located in Kashan county, was discussed.

After review, this historic grand mosque was registered in the list of national monuments, he added.

He also said that the registration file of the historic Kalehar Mosque (Sadeqieh Mosque) was also discussed in this meeting. After review, this historic mosque was also regis-

tered in the list of national monuments, he added.

Located on the edge of the central deserts of Iran in Isfahan province, Kashan is one of the main destinations for tourists.

Kashan is known for manufacturing carpets, silk, and other textiles. Today, the city houses most of Iran’s mechanized carpet-weaving factories and has an active marble and copper mining industry. Kashan and its suburbs have a population of 400,000,

Many travelers opt to bypass Kashan on their journeys between Tehran, Isfahan, and Yazd, but this delightful oasis city on the edge of the Dasht-e Kavir is one of Iran’s most alluring destinations. The city not only boasts a cluster of architectural wonders and a UNESCO-recognized garden, but it also offers some of central Iran’s best traditional hotels.

During the Seljuk period (1051-1220) Kashan became famous for its textiles, pottery and tiles, reaching high levels of accomplishment in each of these cottage industries. Today, it is more widely known as a major center for the production of rose water, which is sold at outlets around the main tourist attractions and dedicated stores in the bazaar.

Tajrish historical bazaar in Tehran



TEHRAN—Tajrish historical bazaar is one of the most beautiful attractions in the Tajrish district, Tehran. It is a large and historical bazaar that starts from the courtyard of Imamzadeh Saleh. Its corridors and rows continue to Quds Square and include collections of shops and stalls.

Tajrish is one of the oldest districts of Tehran; created one of the most evocative and unique places in Tehran, where you can still see narrow alleys and historic houses full of trees.

People sell religious items such as rosaries, seals, rugs, and prayer tents, wheat for pigeons, candles, and salt for vows in this bazaar, like most of the bazaars next to religious places.

The large part of the bazaar has long been the place of supply for the people who live in Tajrish and Dezashib which is still one of the most popular shopping centers for the people in these areas and one of the most prosperous markets in Tehran, where many

Turkey, fastest-growing tourism market for Chinese tourists

Turkey has become the fastest-growing tourism market for Chinese tourists with more than 400,000 visitors last year, according to China’s ambassador to the country.

Speaking at a Monday event in the tourist hub of Cappadocia organized by the Chinese Embassy in Ankara, Jiang Xuebin said Turkey, with its deep-rooted history, rich culture, and touristic attractions, in recent years has become a world-renowned tourism destination, www.aa.com.tr reported.

“Turkey attracts Chinese tourists. There has been a significant increase in the number of Chinese tourists visiting Turkey, especially in the post-pandemic period,” he said, adding that more than 409,000 Chinese tourists came to Turkey in 2024.

Compared to the previous year, Turkey has become the fastest-growing market among international visitors, with a 65.1% increase, he added.

Stressing that in his six months on the

job he has witnessed the magnificent ancient civilizations of Anatolia, Jiang said ties between the two countries will strengthen over time, which will have a positive impact on tourism.

Jiang said Cappadocia, a popular tourist including incomparable fairy chimneys and stunning natural scenery, along with many other tourist destinations in Turkey, is among the must-see destinations for Chinese tourists.

He said: “Rich and remarkable results have been achieved in the cultural and tourism cooperation between China and Turkey.

“Last year, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries on tourism cooperation, and effective cooperation has been achieved in areas such as facilitating tourist infrastructure, increasing flight services, establishing online promotional platforms, and organizing cultural performances.”

Tazieh Mourning Ritual to be performed in Kheyrabad village and Damghan

TEHRAN—The Second Cultural-Artistic Tazieh Mourning Ritual will be held in Kheyrabad village in Semnan county, Semnan province, announced the tourism chief of the province.

Samaneh Soltanipour added that the event will be held in form of creating works in various fields of handicrafts, ISNA reported.

She stated that those interested in participating in this event can send their works until August 14.

Soltanipour added that August 17 is the deadline for receiving the original works and final review of the works by the Secretariat of the Symposium on the Story of the Passion of Love to the address of Semnan City, Kheyrabad village, Imam Square, Kheyrabad Handicraft House and final review of the works.

According to the Public Relations Department of Semnan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, she said the works in this event will be judged by Professor Seyyed Mahmoud Eftekhari, Dr. Mehdi Emraei and Dr. Ehsan Arman.

She reminded that the closing ceremony of this mourning event will be held at the Handicrafts House in Kheyrabad Village on August 20.

Meanwhile, Head of Damghan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and



Handicrafts Department announced the holding of the traditional Tazieh ritual on the nights of Safar with the enthusiastic presence of the people and lovers of the Ahl al-Bayt (AS).

Mojtaba Akbarpour said that Tazieh mourning ceremony, with the performance of Tazieh ceremonies for the martyrdom of Hazrat Ali Akbar (AS), Hazrat Abbas (AS) and Imam Hussein (AS), was held in the public spaces of Damghan on the nights of Safar with the enthusiastic reception of the noble people of Damghan.

He added that this traditional and artistic ritual is an important step towards the revival and introduction of the precious art of Tazieh, which has been registered as Iran’s Spiritual Heritage on the UNESCO World Heritage List and has always had a special place in the ritual culture of Damghan.

Referring to the enthusiastic attendance of the people at the ceremony, he stated that the extraordinary reception of the people to the mourning ceremony shows their deep love for the Ahlul Bayt (AS), and this widespread attendance doubles the responsibility of the organizers to plan more carefully and perform this ritual more magnificently in the coming years.

Akbarpour considered the interaction and empathy of the various Tazieh performing groups in Damghan county to be among the important achievements of this mourning ceremony and stated that this valuable cooperation plays an effective role in introducing Tazieh to the younger generation and promoting the ritual style of Tazieh of Damghan among those interested in this noble art.

Referring to the factors behind

the event, he said the mourning ceremony and traditional Tazieh ritual were held in Damghan by the Damghan Tazieh Center and with the support and cooperation of the Damghan Municipality and Islamic Council, and Semnan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department.

Tazieh in Iran designates a traditional religious theatrical genre, essentially commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hossein (AS) and the passions of the Ahlulbeyt (members of the family of the Prophet of Islam). In this theatrical genre, the recitation of the lyrics, which are almost always in verse, takes precedence over the directing and the action.

Registered on UNESCO’s List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010, Tazieh is a kind of drama that recounts the brave war and martyrdom of the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and other incidents that occurred on Ashura, the day Imam Hussein (AS) and his 72 companions were martyred by the oppressive Umayyad dynasty in 680 CE. Tazieh performance began during the Safavid era (1501-1736) and flourished during the Qajar era (1794-1925).

Tazieh presents religious events, historical and mythical stories and folk tales. Each performance has four components of poetry, music, song and motion.

Akhlamad, the most tourist-friendly village of Khorasan Razavi province

TEHRAN—Akhlamad as one of the most touristic villages ok Khorasan Razavi province, annually host many domestic and foreign tourists, said a tourism chief of the province.

Speaking on the sidelines of the training workshop which was held for local businessmen and tourism activists in Chenaran, Khorasan Razavi province, on Tuesday, Mohammad Rokni said that creating residential units and tourism infrastructures is of high importance for rendering better services to tourists who visit Akhlamad village, ISNA reported.

He said 12 eco-lodges and traditional residences are active in Chenaran country, adding that Akhlamad village has only three eco-lodges.

“Over five million visitors from Arab nations visit Akhlamad village per year. In practice, with this volume of travelers, the number of permitted accommodation units in Akhlamad does not meet this volume of tourists, and we are facing a shortage of accommodation units in this village.”

Pointing out that efforts are being made to compensate for these deficiencies with the cooperation of Akhlamad residents, he continued that one of the most important concerns for any country that has abundant natural and historical attractions is attracting tourists.

Rokni added: “The best ideas for attracting tourists must be identified among all the baseless and purely theoretical solutions; having only natural and historical potential is not enough, and to introduce attractions and understand the audience, we need simple and operational solutions that will help attract more tourists.”

He stated that the presence of natural potentials such as waterfalls, mountains, and permanent rivers in the village of Akhlamad, along with holding festivals and

preserving past customs and traditions, are among the prominent features of this tourist village that must be properly introduced.

Also, Ali-Akbar Ahmadzadeh, another tourism chief of Khorasan Razavi province, said that Akhlamad tourist region is one of the popular sites for tourists across the province and even the country.

He considered the host’s behavior as one of the main pillars in accepting and attracting tourists, adding: “If hosts treat tourists with appropriate behavior and respect, this will increase tourists’ enthusiasm for choosing that destination and help develop tourism in that region.”

Stating that tourists’ satisfaction with the host community’s behavior has a direct impact on their mental image of the destination, Ahmadzadeh said that a positive mental image of the destination, which results from the good

behavior of the hosts, can convince tourists to travel to that destination and even cause them to recommend it to other tourists.

Emphasizing that creating a positive experience for tourists not only helps attract more tourists, but can also lead to their retention, he noted that when tourists are satisfied with the behavior of the hosts, their likelihood of returning to the destination increases, and this can become a positive cycle for the development of tourism in the region.

He pointed to the importance of training local hosts, saying that holding training courses for the local community can help them acquire the necessary skills to interact effectively with tourists. This training should include how to deal with tourists, provide appropriate services, and become familiar with the culture and needs of tourists, he added.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

First Announcement

IMI DRO

IRANIAN MINES AND MINING INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION ORGANIZATION

سازمان توسعه و نوسازی معادن و صنایع معدنی ایران

Iran Alumina

Iran Alumina Company (IAC) intends to recycle or sell approximately five million tons of existing red mud through qualified investors, by one of the following two methods:

- 1) Direct sale of five million tons of red mud with the available specifications and analysis, in bulk.**
- 2) Extraction of any economically valuable products, including caustic soda, alumina, iron, and other valuable elements, through investment, processing and conversion of red mud, and delivering a percentage of the recovered products to Iran Alumina Company.**

General requirements for applicants:

- 1. For direct purchase:**
 - a) Submission of financial and credit documents demonstrating the company’s capability and readiness to enter into a red mud sales contract.**
 - b) The required tonnage of purchase in metric ton.**
- 2. For recycling investment:**
 - a) Proven track record in recycling, industrial or chemical/mineral processing (either operational or research-based).**
 - b) Technical and engineering capacity to design and implement an industrial pilot plant.**
 - c) Submission of an initial proposal including the suggested technology, team structure, target products, and an implementation timeline.**

Deadline for submission:
All required documents must be submitted by the end of official working hours on 20th-Aug-2025
To the following Address:
Postal code 9441111137 , 7th km of Sankhast Road – Alumina Production Complex, – Jajarm City, North Khorasan Province, IRAN
Phone number +98-058-32604414 and fax +98-058-32273041.

شرکت آلومینای ایران در نظر دارد نسبت به بازیافت یا فروش پنج میلیون تن گل قرمز موجود به یکی از دو روش زیر از طریق سرمایه گذاران واجد شرایط اقدام نماید.

1- فروش پنج میلیون تن گل قرمز با مشخصات و آنالیز موجود بصورت فله.

*متقاضیان در صورت نیاز به آنالیز و مشخصات گل قرمز موجود ، می توانند درخواست خود را به صورت رسمی به شماره فکس 058-32273041 یا نشانی ایمیل info@iranalumina.ir ارسال نمایند.

2- استحصال هر گونه محصول اقتصادی از جمله سود کاستیک ، آلومینا، آهن و سایر عناصر با ارزش به روش سرمایه گذاری و تبدیل گل قرمز و تحویل درصدی از محصولات بازیافت شده به شرکت آلومینای ایران.

شرایط عمومی برای متقاضیان:

- 1- برای خرید مستقیم:

الف: مستندات مالی و اعتباری شرکت در صورت آمادگی برای انعقاد قرارداد فروش گل قرمز.

ب: میزان تقاضا برای خرید به مقیاس متریک تن.

- 2- در صورت سرمایه گذاری برای بازیافت گل قرمز مدارک زیر ارائه شود.

الف- سابقه اجرایی یا تحقیقاتی در حوزه بازیافت، فرآوری صنعتی یا شیمیایی / معدنی

ب- توان فنی و مهندسی برای طراحی و اجرای پایلوت صنعتی.

ج- ارائه طرح اولیه شامل فن آوری پیشنهادی، ساختار تیم، محصولات هدف و زمانبندی اجرایی.

متقاضیان می توانند پیشنهادات خود را با رعایت موارد فوق حداکثر تا تاریخ 1404/05/29 به آدرس استان خراسان شمالی - شهرستان جاجرم - کیلومتر 7 جاده ستخواست، دبیرخانه شرکت آلومینای ایران، ارسال نمایند.

اطلاعات تماس و آدرس دستگاه:

اطلاعات تماس جهت دریافت اطلاعات بیشتر در خصوص فراخوان:

استان خراسان شمالی- شهرستان جاجرم- کیلومتر 7 جاده ستخواست -مجمع تولید آلومینا، کد پستی 9441111137 و به شماره تلفن 32604414 - 058 و فکس 32273041-058

By Mehdi Garshasbi

TEHRAN – Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment, says that promoting environmental diplomacy has been put atop the agenda over the past year, and activities in this regard are progressing with strength.

“During the past year, I had four foreign trips, but I tried my best to make the most of these trips. The speeches we gave on specialized panels, the bilateral meetings held with countries, in which various cross-border issues and demands were raised, all strengthened the country’s environmental diplomacy,” Ansari said in a press conference held in Tehran on Tuesday.

There was also news that the Ramsar Convention regional center might be relocated from Iran to another country. But fortunately, the West Asia regional center certificate was extended for three years, she added.

“The membership of the Is-



lamic Republic of Iran as the representative of West Asia in the Steering Committee and Co-Chair of the Convention’s Strategic Program and receiving Wetland City certification for Gandoman [in southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province], Kiashahr [in northern Gilan province], and Babol [in northern Mazandaran province] have also been other successes in the field of environmental diplomacy.”

She went on to say that cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in implementing a waste management project continues, with a focus on empowering local communities.

“The issue of reducing the level of the Caspian Sea is also on our agenda. Given that this week, Thursday, is International Caspian Day, one of our plans and those of other countries border-

ing the Caspian Sea is the issue of reducing the water level of this sea. Iran has been selected as the host of the event, and God willing, we will have special programs in this regard.”

The new Standing Committee of the Convention on Wetlands has elected Iran as the Vice-Chair for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which is taking place from July 23 to 31 July in Victoria Falls City, Zimbabwe.

The meeting is being held under the theme “Protecting Wetlands for our Common Future.” This COP aims to adopt 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.

Iranian woman appointed as RPC chairman for Eastern Mediterranean

TEHRAN – Farah Babaei, the head of the Midwifery Department of the health ministry, has been appointed by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) as the new Chair of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Professional Committee (RPC).

The Eastern Mediterranean RPC is one of the regional structures of the ICM, which is responsible for directing, organizing, and coordinating professional activities in the regional countries.

Babaei has over 35 years of professional experience in midwifery, including 17 years in leadership of the Midwifery Department, IRNA reported.

Since 1922, ICM has brought together professional organisations of midwives across the world to unite and uplift each other to achieve ICM’s vision and mission.

ICM provides member associations (Mas) with exclusive benefits, including professional development, networking, leadership, and governance support. It helps Mas advocate for improvements to midwifery education, regulation, and service provision. ICM also connects Mas in humanitarian situations to donors and support organisations.

RPC is part of ICM’s broader effort to strengthen midwifery associations and enhance midwifery practice across its six regions.

The ICM divides the world into six regions to better address the specific needs and challenges of midwives in different parts of the globe.

The committees also help communicate and implement ICM’s work plans related to strengthening midwifery education, regulation, research, and practice within their regions.

Iranian women’s share in science

The status of Iranian women in various fields has improved after the Islamic Revolution, and women, as half of the country’s

population, have been leading in many fields.

After the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, women were given equal rights to shape their futures. The Islamic Revolution provided them a chance to build their distinct identity, and they have been tremendously successful in doing that.

There were extensive changes in the fields of science, education, economy, employment, and the presence in management positions for women. Now, a large part of activists in various fields of academia, business, and management are made up of capable Iranian women.

Education as a social value for women is seen as real freedom for them. Illiteracy among women and girls has been nearly eradicated as the literacy rate reached 99.3 percent, and the ratio of female to male students has increased by 28 percent.

According to the latest data, nearly 60 percent of all university students are female today. The percentage of women in higher education has increased nearly 21 times since the Revolution.

The notable presence of women in the education sector has had a remarkable impact on the job market of the country as well, with women taking more jobs in both the public and private sectors.

The country has always underscored the economic, cultural, social, and political empowerment of women as a key element in policy-making, legislation, and national planning.

Currently, more than 70 women are acting as vice president, minister, spokesperson, and other key positions in the government, and four women hold top managerial positions in the cabinet, namely transport and urban development minister, Farzaneh Sadeg, government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani, Department of Environment head, Shina Ansari, and vice president for women

and family affairs, Zahra Behrouz-azar.

Also, female scholars constitute 665 out of 4,818 most-cited researchers in the country, more than 13 percent of the total.

In the past Iranian calendar year (March 2023 – March 2024), women accounted for 12.75 percent of the most-cited researchers. With a 29.57 percent share, the Ministry of Health has the highest number of the most-cited female researchers.

According to the recent report of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC), a total of 177 Iranian female researchers have been recognized in the areas of Agricultural Sciences, Clinical Medicine, Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Neuroscience and Psychology, Engineering, Material Science, Psychiatry/Psychology, Computer Science, Physics, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Social Sciences, Generalities, Physics, Plant and Animal Sciences, Immunology, and some have obtained the necessary points even in several fields.

In Iran, women account for more than 24 percent of inventions in the country, compared to the global average of 17 percent.

Having made great strides in manufacturing high-tech products and growing the knowledge-based economy, Iranian women are conveying to the world the message that they have the potential to shine in the field of ‘technology’, the same as in other fields. They have managed to shine brilliantly in different global events, showcasing Iranian women’s abilities to the world.

The percentage of female CEOs and chairpersons of the board of directors of knowledge-based companies has increased noticeably over the past three years. The number of female managers has almost doubled, rising from 1,092 in the Iranian calendar year 1400 (2021-2022) to 2,250 by the end of the first nine months of the current Iranian year that started on March 20, 2024.

AUGUST 6, 2025

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

FAO seeks to foster co-op with Razi Institute under One Health Initiative

TEHRAN – The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has explored the potential for promoting ties with Razi Vaccine and Serum Production Research Institute, focusing on the One Health Initiative.

FAO representative to Iran, Farrukh Toirov, held a meeting with Razi Institute’s director general, Ali Es’haqi, in Tehran, during which Toirov commended Razi’s longstanding expertise in vaccine development, emphasizing its vital role in safeguarding the food production cycle, the FAO website announced in a press release on August 5.

“The institute’s in-house scientific capacity and rich legacy in vaccine production are unique assets not only for Iran but for the entire region,” the official stated.

Highlighting the interconnectedness of animal and human health, he underlined the importance of the One Health approach, a joint priority of FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO).

In this regard, Toirov noted that FAO is actively working to promote the One Health initiative through a joint proposal within the framework of the One UN approach.

This initiative brings together UN agencies such as FAO, WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA, alongside national stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, the Ministry of Health, and the Department of Environment, to foster coordinated efforts in tackling shared health threats at the human-animal-environment interface.

Welcoming the proposals discussed during the meeting, Toirov expressed FAO’s readiness to explore areas of collaboration, including the design of specialized training and capacity development programmes. He also expressed FAO’s interest in strengthening cooperation with scientific institutions like Razi within the framework of FAO’s mandate.

The meeting also touched on the broader vision of international collaboration to combat hunger and enhance global food security through science and innovation.

FAO lauds Razi Institute’s achievements

On the occasion of Razi Vaccine and Serum Production Research Institute’s 100th-year anniversary, honoring a century of excellence in



veterinary science and research, Dr Thanawat Tiensin, FAO Assistant Director-General and Director of Animal Production and Health Division, in a video message, highlighted the institute’s enduring contributions to combating livestock diseases and advancing animal health worldwide.

Tiensin commended the Razi Institute’s pivotal role in addressing critical challenges in animal health since its establishment in 1924. “The Institute has been instrumental in combating livestock diseases, beginning with the outbreak of Rinderpest in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1925 and contributing to the eventual global eradication of this disease in 2011, achieved through close collaboration with FAO and other international organizations, such as the World Organisation for Animal Health,” he remarked.

Over the years, the Razi Institute has significantly enhanced its research and production capabilities, establishing itself as a leader in science and technical collaboration. Its achievements include hosting international and regional webinars and meetings to address pressing animal health issues, such as holding in partnership with FAO and the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, the event focused on FMD control strategies.

The Razi Institute’s active participation in global events further underscores its dedication to advancing veterinary science. In September 2024, the institute represented Iran at the FAO-hosted Global Conference on Animal Health Innovation, Reference Centers, and Vaccines in Rome, showcasing its contributions to sustainable livestock transformation.

IRCS to host 2nd intl. rehabilitation conference

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), in cooperation with the University of Münster, Germany, will hold the second international rehabilitation conference on Wednesday, an official with the IRCS has said.

The event, which is scheduled to be held virtually, aims to enhance the effectiveness of rehabilitation services and treatment outcomes for patients with special needs, the IRCS website quoted Peyman Pishgahi as saying.

It will draw the participation of experts from universities of medical science, as well as the head of the Epilepsy Research Center at the University of Münster, Professor Ali Gorji, who is also a member of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee of the IRCS, Pishgahi noted.

Relying on the results of the first conference, the second conference will take steps to improve the situation by focusing on its challenges and complex treatment requirements, the official noted.

Establishing a secretariat for rehabilitation services

On February 16, IRCS and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) agreed on setting up a joint secretariat on rehabilitation services in Tehran.

Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the IRCS, said rehabilitation is an essential part of universal health coverage.

“Due to war and other accidents, rehabilitation services are greatly needed in the country. That’s why the Society started providing rehabilitation services and manufacturing prostheses and orthotics. Currently, 200 rehabilitation centers are operating in Iran, and the conference will focus on the activities of these centers,” he added.

This meeting should focus on modern initiatives and strategies, policy making, and macro planning in the rehabilitation sector.

Promoting public awareness of rehabilitation is also essential, Kolivand stressed, the IRCS website reported.

Utilizing artificial intelligence and new technologies in rehabilitation, fostering synergy and participation among national societies, developing new products, and global solidarity to provide rehabilitation services should be prioritized.

“We look forward to expanding international collaborations. It is essential to establish a secretariat to follow up on the issues. We will do our best to help those who need rehabilitation services,” Kolivand further noted.

François Friedel, the head of the ICRC physical rehabilitation, for his part, said, “Social and psychological aspects of rehabilitation are highly important. Undoubtedly, the establishment of the secretariat in Tehran can help address the problems and enhance cooperation among societies. The issue of rehabilitation is important for the International Red Cross Committee, and we are ready to cooperate with the Iranian Red Crescent Society in this field.”

In January, Vincent Cassard, the representative of the ICRC in Iran, in a meeting with Razieh Alishvandi, the director of the IRCS for international affairs, highlighted the need for expanding cooperation in humanitarian sectors, mainly rehabilitation and mental health.

“The cooperation in rehabilitation and mental health fields has progressed well so far, and we believe that it will provide suitable and effective platforms for enhanced collaborations between the two sides,” IRNA quoted Cassard as saying.

The official made the remarks during a meeting held on Monday in Tehran. “We are also ready to expand collaborations in family reunification; it is one of our key priorities, which can play an effective role in alleviating the pain of families affected by crises,” he added.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran will defeat COVID-19, we believe: Chinese envoy

Chinese Ambassador in Iran, Chang Hua, has said he believes that Iran would overcome the crisis of coronavirus outbreak.

“We believe that by sending humanitarian aid, Iran will overcome the crisis,” he said in a meeting with Mahmoud Reza Peyravi, secretary general of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, IRNA reported.

The envoy praised Iran’s Red Crescent Society as the first organization affiliated with the Red Cross and the Red Crescent societies which sent humanitarian shipments of aid to the Chinese people.

A delegation of Chinese medical experts arrived in Tehran on Saturday with a cargo of aid to help combat the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19.

سفیر چین: باور داریم ایران بر بحران کرونا غلبه خواهد کرد

سفیر جمهوری خلق چین در تهران ابراز امیدواری کرد ایران بر بحران شیوع ویروس کرونا غلبه خواهد کرد.

به گزارش ایرنا، چانگ هوا روز دوشنبه در حاشیه دیدار با محمودرضا پیروی دبیرکل جمعیت هلال احمر ایران گفت: ما باور داریم که با ارسال کمک های انساندوستانه از سوی دوستان دولت ایران از بحران این بیماری عبور خواهد کرد.

دیهلمات ارشد چین در ادامه ضمن قدردانی از جمعیت هلال احمر ایران به عنوان نخستین سازمان بشردوستانه عضو جمعیت های ملی صلیب سرخ و هلال احمر که محموله های کمک را برای مردم چین ارسال کرد، گفت: ما هم با شدت گرفتن ویروس کرونا در کنار ایران هستیم.



AUGUST 6, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:23 Dawn: 3:42 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:17 (tomorrow)

Woody Allen's "My Apology" on stage at Tehran Theater

TEHRAN – Tehran Theater is hosting a stage adaptation of Woody Allen's short story "My Apology" at its Medea Hall.

Morteza Mohammadian has directed the play and also performs in it along with Shahin Amraei, Mana Nasseri, Farhad Joudaki, Amirreza Jahani, Alireza Nazemzadeh, and Saman Mohammadian, Honaronline reported.

Originally published in 2010, "My Apology" is Allen's tale of a recurring fantasy/dream of his where he imagines himself in the sandals of Socrates during the philosopher's final days in prison.

Allen recounts a recurring dream that casts himself as one of history's greatest thinkers: the imprisoned and condemned philosopher Socrates. In the face of execution, Allen's version of Socrates is prepared for an ironic death, if not a noble one.

Socrates (470 – 399 BC) was a Greek philosopher from Athens who is credited as the founder of Western philosophy and as among the first moral philosophers of the ethical tradition of thought.

An enigmatic figure, Socrates authored no texts and is known mainly through the post-humorous accounts of classical writers, particularly his students Plato and Xenophon. These accounts are written as dialogues, in which Socrates and his interlocutors examine a subject in the style of question and answer; they gave rise to the Socratic dialogue literary genre.

Socrates was a polarizing figure in Athenian society. In 399 BC, he was accused of impiety and corrupting the youth. After a trial that lasted a day, he was sentenced to death. He spent his last day in prison, refusing offers to help him escape.

Plato's dialogues are among the most comprehensive accounts of Socrates to survive from antiquity. They demonstrate the Socratic approach to areas of philosophy including epistemology and ethics.

Socrates is known for proclaiming his total ignorance; he used to say that the only thing he was aware of was his ignorance, seeking to imply that the realization of one's ignorance is the first step in philosophizing.



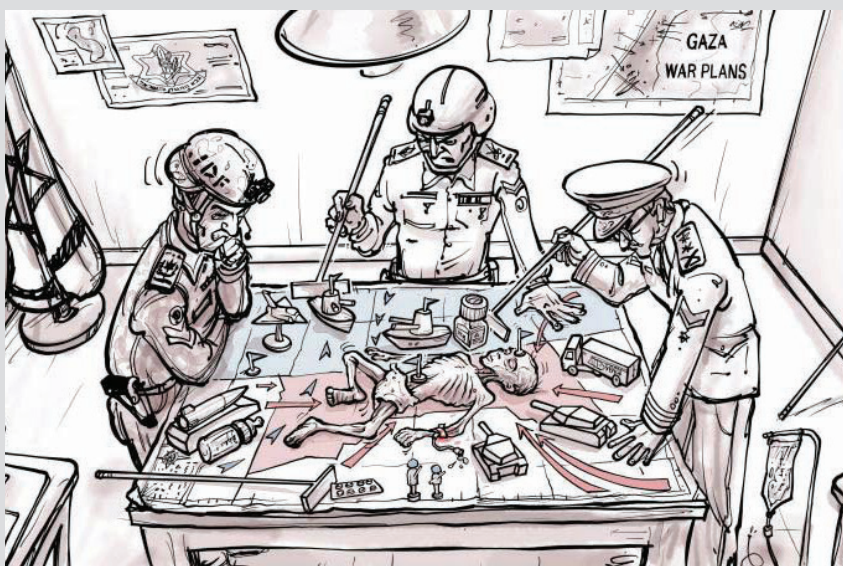
Socrates exerted a strong influence on philosophers in later antiquity and has continued to do so in the modern era. He was studied by medieval and Islamic scholars and played an important role in the thought of the Italian Renaissance, particularly within the humanist movement. Depictions of Socrates in art, literature, and popular culture have made him a widely known figure in the Western philosophical tradition.

Woody Allen, 89, is an American filmmaker, actor, and comedian whose career spans eight decades. Allen has received many accolades, including the most nominations (16) for the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.

He has won four Academy Awards, ten BAFTA Awards, two Golden Globe Awards and a Grammy Award, as well as nominations for an Emmy Award and a Tony Award.

His large body of work mixes satire, wit and humor in the most respected and prolific cerebral style in the modern era. For inspiration, Allen draws heavily on literature, philosophy, psychology, European cinema, and city of New York, where he lives. He explored the neuroses of the urban middle class in comedies of manners, such as "Annie Hall" (1977) and "Deconstructing Harry" (1997).

Cartoon of Day



Gaza War Plans

Cartoonist: Emad Hajjaj from Jordan

Children's puppet show to highlight Ashura's message during Arbæen pilgrimage

TEHRAN- The puppet performance "Zareer," authored, designed, and directed by Amir Mashhadi-Abbas, will be staged along the pilgrimage route from Najaf to Karbala, at an international mukab on Wednesday.

"Zareer" is a puppet show centered on the narration of the Day of Ashura, tailored for young audiences.

This initiative is part of a campaign emphasizing artistic performance, creative activities, and direct engagement with children, coinciding with Arbæen, taking place at an international mukab along the route.

The show is designed in Persian, with an Arabic version currently in preparation to facilitate bilingual performances if needed.

"Zareer" reflects a new approach aiming to promote cultural and artistic outreach with an international perspective, focusing on ongoing activities and expanding the audience of children and adolescents. The production offers a concise yet impactful narrative of the tragedy of Ashura, crafted by a team of professional children's theater artists.

Alongside the performance, children viewing the show participate in side activities such as painting, receiving puppets, writing wishes, and signing pledges. These activities are designed to deepen young viewers' conceptual understanding of



Ashura's message and provide an artistic and spiritual experience for young pilgrims.

"When it comes to conveying the profound human messages of Ashura to children, the potential of theater cannot be overlooked," Mashhadi-Abbas stated.

Regarding the show's name, Mashhadi-Abbas explained: "The name 'Zareer' is derived from an indigenous bird in Iraq. The story is about a bird that departs from Baghdad but loses its way and enters the plains of Karbala, witnessing the events of Ashura. The name 'Zareer' appears in historical lists of Iraqi birds and

fits the dramatic space of our work. The bird's appearance is adorable and unique, resembling a blend between Iraqi and Egyptian birds. We chose this name because these birds, when lost, fly tirelessly until they find their way back to their flock—a trait that inspired the name 'Zareer' for this performance."

The musical composition is by Amirhossein Ensafi, with poetry by Azadeh Farhadian and Amirhossein Ensafi. Voice actors include Amirhossein Ensafi and Aezou Sadri. Puppets are designed and built by Zahra Moridi and Sara Dabiri, with consultancy from Nazila Nouri-Shad.

The show will be performed daily in six to seven sessions until the day before Arbæen, aimed at children pilgrims from various countries along the route.

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqians embark on a journey to the Iraqi city of Karbala to observe the holy day of Arbæen at the holy shrines of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of the Shia, and his brother, Hazrat Abbas (AS).

Arbæen, which will be observed on August 14 this year, marks the end of the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of the Imam and his loyal companions on Ashura.

"In Praise of Life" art exhibition to commemorate Abbas Kiarostami

TEHRAN- A collective visual arts exhibition titled "In Praise of Life," commemorating the legendary filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, will open at Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) on Friday.

Featuring works across various mediums—including painting, sculpture, photography, installation, digital art, video art, and mixed media—this event brings together 161 artists from different generations, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

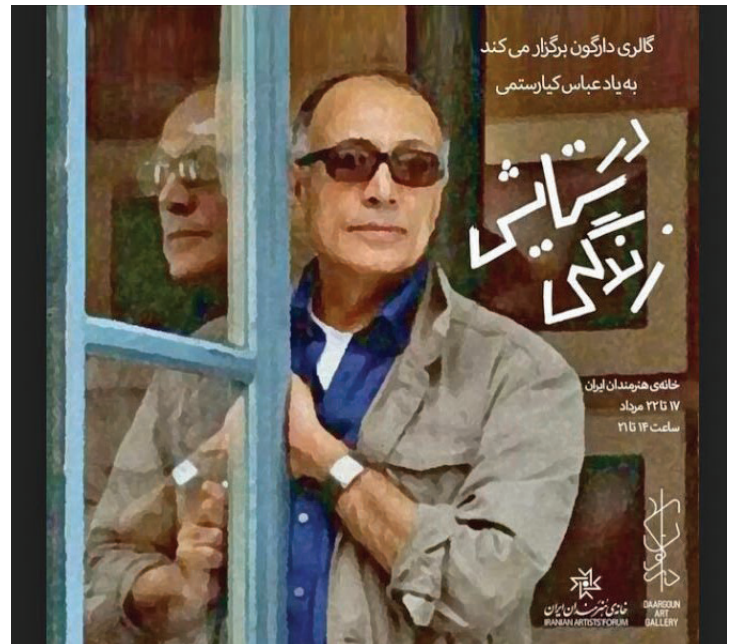
Curated by Arash Reisian, the exhibition aims to celebrate the enduring legacy of Kiarostami through contemporary artistic interpretations.

The exhibition will be open to the public until August 17.

Kiarostami was a film director, screenwriter, poet, photographer, and film producer. An active filmmaker from 1970, he was involved in the production of over 40 films,

including shorts and documentaries. He attained critical acclaim for directing "Close-Up" (1990), "The Wind Will Carry Us" (1999), and "Taste of Cherry" (1997). In later works, "Certified Copy" (2010) and "Like Someone in Love" (2012), he filmed for the first time outside Iran: in Italy and Japan, respectively.

He was part of a generation of filmmakers in the Iranian New Wave, a Persian cinema movement that started in the late 1960s and emphasized the use of poetic dialogue and allegorical storytelling dealing with philosophical issues. He is known for his use of Persian poetry in the dialogue, titles, and themes of his films. His films also contain a notable degree of ambiguity, an unusual mixture of simplicity and complexity, and often a mix of fictional and documentary elements. The concepts of change



and continuity, in addition to the themes of life and death, play a major role in Kiarostami's works.

Kiarostami, the winner of the

Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997 for his "Taste of Cherry," died of cancer on July 5, 2016 at the age of 76.

English singer Billy Bragg announces benefit concert for Palestine

Billy Bragg, renowned English singer-songwriter and activist, has revealed an upcoming benefit concert titled "Days Like These" aimed at supporting Palestine.

The event promises a unique blend of music, film, and spoken word, featuring fantastic artists such as Jamie Webster, Antony Szmierek, Reverend & The Makers, and Big Special, Architeg Prints reported.

The concert is scheduled to take place on September 20 at London's iconic O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire. Alongside the musical performances, actors Khalid Abdalla and Samuel West, as well as writers Ahmed Masoud and Ahmed Alnaouq, will also contribute. More names are expected to be unveiled soon, adding even more excitement to this event.

The proceeds from the event will benefit Amos Trust, an organization that provides essential aid in Palestine, including medical care, food supplies, and trauma support for women and children. It also supports young

Palestinian writers, nurturing their creative voices.

Billy Bragg expressed his motivation for the event in a heartfelt Instagram message: "The shocking images of starving families that are coming out of Gaza call on us to take action to help alleviate their plight. That these unarmed civilians are being targeted by the IDF while seeking aid makes the matter all the more urgent."

"By coming together in solidarity with the people of Palestine, we aim to raise funds for the crucial work that @Amos_Trust is doing to help end the ongoing genocide in Gaza," he added.

Billy Bragg is no stranger to activism. Earlier this year, he publicly supported Irish hip-hop group Kneecap, who are vocal advocates for Palestine. This came after a member of the group faced terrorism charges related to displaying a controversial flag. Bragg emphasized the importance of creative freedom while also calling for accountability and nuanced understanding around such sensitive issues.

"While I believe that being an artist doesn't absolve you from taking responsibility for your actions, I do not believe that creative expression should be subject to criminal charges," he stated.

This balance between supporting freedom of expression and advocating for justice has been a cornerstone of Bragg's recent work, reinforcing his commitment to human rights and artistic integrity.

The "Days Like These" benefit concert is shaping up to be a heartfelt occasion, bringing together artists and activists to support a critical humanitarian cause. Music has always been a powerful way to unite voices—this event is no exception.

Over 60,000 Palestinians have been killed in the 21-month Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Health Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said the death toll has climbed to 60,034, with another 145,870 people wounded since October 7, 2023. Women and children make up around half the dead.

Israel's offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced around 90% of the population and caused a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, with experts warning of famine.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said a trickle of aid into the Gaza Strip must become an ocean. "Food, water, medicine and fuel must flow in waves and without obstruction," he said, describing an alert by a global hunger monitor as confirming "what we have feared: Gaza is on the brink of famine." "This is not a warning. It is a reality unfolding before our eyes," he said in a statement.

Near-daily Israeli strikes have hit schools, shelters, hospitals and other civilian buildings, killing men, women, and children.

Israel's offensive and its blockade have also gutted Gaza's health system, with several hospitals having shut down and others only partially functioning as they receive waves of war-wounded. The hunger crisis has also taken a toll.