

Notable Progress in Cell Therapy



Iran has improved global rank to 8th from 12th last year

► Page 7

Iran joins slew of countries condemning Israel's plan to occupy Gaza City

TEHRAN – Iran has joined the growing list of countries sounding the alarm over Israel's planned occupation of Gaza City – part of the besieged enclave that has endured relentless Israeli bombardment over the past two years, leaving more than 61,000 Palestinians dead.

In a statement released on Sunday, Iran's foreign ministry said the Gaza occupation plan is part of a broader scheme by Israel to “complete the

genocide of Palestinians” and “erase the identity and existence of Palestine.”

“This decision constitutes a grave violation of international law and a deliberate attempt to expand occupation and impose new realities across the occupied Palestinian territories by force and military aggression. Undoubtedly, the renewed displacement of Palestinians is categorically condemned,” it added.

Israel's security cabinet approved a proposal by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to “defeat Hamas” last week. The proposal orders the Israeli military to prepare to take control of Gaza City, according to a statement by the convicted war criminal's office.

The Hamas Resistance group called Israel's expansionist plan a “war crime,” stressing that Palestinians would “resist any occupation or aggressive force.” ► Page 2

US push in South Caucasus raises alarm over stability and sovereignty

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – On Friday, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed an agreement at the White House, in the presence of U.S. President Donald Trump, granting Washington exclusive rights to develop a corridor through Armenia's southern Syunik province, which borders Iran.

The project is called the Trump Route for International Peace and

Prosperity (TRIPP), and aims to traverse Armenian land, establishing a direct link between Azerbaijan and its Nakhchivan exclave, and subsequently to Turkey.

For almost 40 years, Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a fierce conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The region, which was mainly inhabited by Armenians during the Soviet era but is situated within Azerbaijan's borders, has been the center of numerous

wars, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths and displacing many others. Attempts at international mediation, including those by the OSCE Minsk Group, have not succeeded in reaching a sustainable resolution.

Now, Trump's involvement, which comes amid his open pursuit of a legacy as a global peacemaker and perhaps a Nobel Peace Prize, may have deeper strategic implications rather than just a step toward regional peace. ► Page 3

Gaza sees surge in fatalities from failed aid airdrops

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The number of Palestinians killed due to misdirected airdrops of humanitarian aid has risen to 23, with 124 others injured.

The Government Media Office in Gaza made the announcement in a statement after collecting data from all airdrops of aid since the start of the Israeli genocidal war on the coastal strip.

The office emphasized that most of the aid drops have landed in areas controlled by Israeli occupation forces or in neighborhoods that have been forcibly emptied of residents, placing anyone who approaches them at risk of being directly targeted and killed.

Army mourns death of six soldiers in South Lebanon

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — The Lebanese Army Command announced the martyrdom of six members of a unit conducting field operations in the Majdal Zoun-Wadi Zebqin area in the Tyre district.

The Lebanese Army mourned the martyrs as follows: First class Abbas Fawzi Salhab; conscript Ahmed Fadi Fadel; conscript Ibrahim Khalil Mustafa; conscript Hadi Nasser Al-Bay; conscript Mohammad Ali Shaqir; and conscript Yamen Al-Hallaq.

The Army Command stated that “while an army unit was inspecting a weapons depot and dismantling its contents in Wadi Zebqin, Tyre, an explosion occurred inside, resulting in the martyrdom of six soldiers and the injury of others.”

Netanyahu's Gaza plan risks a quagmire with no exit

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to fully occupy Gaza City—and potentially the entire Gaza Strip—marks a stark escalation in the nearly two-year conflict with Hamas, revealing a deeply troubling disregard for military counsel, humanitarian norms, and regional stability.

The decision was ratified by the security cabinet despite sharp dissent inside the military and growing public unease—the move thus laid bare a hardened stance calculated more on ideological rigidity than practical strategy.

The plan and its contradictions

Netanyahu's plan, approved after protracted debate and intense cabinet pressure,

► Page 5

Solar power output jumps 71% in 4 months: SATBA

TEHRAN – Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) said that electricity generation from solar power plants rose by 71 percent in the first four months of the Iranian year starting March 20, compared to the same period last year.

SATBA Head Mohsen Tarzatabal said solar output increased from 357 million kilowatt-hours to 610 million kilowatt-hours, while wind power generation rose from 413 million kilowatt-hours to 432 million kilowatt-hours.

Iran's installed renewable capacity has reached 1,868 megawatts, up from 1,232 megawatts in late July last year, with 636 megawatts of new plants added over the past year.

Renewables now account for 1.9 percent of the country's total power generation.

Tarzatabal said the first phase of a 7,000-megawatt renewable energy development program, mostly solar, has been planned and finalized, aimed at reducing the country's power deficit.

He added that the share of renewables in Iran's power mix will exceed 5 percent by year-end, describing the country as “a vast construction site” for clean energy projects, with the effects of what he called a “major revolution” in the sector expected to emerge in the coming weeks. ► Page 4

Iranian students shine at YISF, WICO 2025

TEHRAN – Iranian students continued to showcase their excellence at international competitions by winning medals at the Yakutia International Science Fair (YISF) and the World Invention Creativity Olympics (WICO).

YISF was held in Yakutsk, Russia, from July 6 to 9. The event brought together 129 teams from 10 countries, participating in two different categories.

The first category included mathematics, computer science, and information technology, and the second one involved physics, astronomy, and engineering.

In the second category, Mehran Rajabi and Alireza Jafarnejad ranked first for their project titled ‘EcoNet Bin: AI-Driven Waste Segregation with IoT-Enabled’.

‘Protecting Curious Little Minds: A Smart Child Safety Solution with IoT and Image Processing’ was the name of the project presented by Moeid Rajabi and Helena Rajabi, who secured second place.

Artin Radmatin, Baran Bahman, Mohammad-Hossein Ezzati, Niki Abtahi, Sarina Nosrati, and Baran Derakhshandeh won third place for ‘Evaluation of the effect of using magnetic gear in improving the performance of process systems based on mechanical gear’. ► Page 7

Exclusive

German cognitive warfare expert Christian Wagner tells Tehran Times:

Germany's suspension of military exports to Israel is a media and PR strategy

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — The ongoing Israeli military campaign against the Gaza Strip, which has claimed the lives of more than 61,000 Palestinians, has sparked global anger and protests—including in German cities. Despite mounting international condemnation and allegations from UN experts and human rights groups—including some inside Israel—accusing the Israeli army of committing genocide in Gaza, the German government continues to emphasize what it calls Israel's “right to self-defense.”

Germany is the world's second-largest arms exporter to Israel, which adds complexity to its position.

To discuss Germany's role in the Gaza conflict, the Tehran Times interviewed Christian Wagner, a German academic and expert in cognitive warfare. Wagner has compared Israel's campaign against Gaza's population to fascism.

Here is the excerpt of the interview:

Israel stands accused of committing genocide in Gaza, yet Germany continues to back Israel. On Friday, Chancellor Friedrich Merz reaffirmed what he calls Israel's “right to defend itself.” How do you interpret this position in light of international law and the genocide allegations?

First, it must be made clear: What is our collective goal? The goal of humanity and the goal of international law? Is it to allow Israel to be hated by the world? Is it to allow the Palestinian population to suffer longer?

► Page 5



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran's interests and concerns over new corridor

In a note, Shargh discussed the Friday agreement between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Zangezur corridor under a new name. It wrote: From Iran's point of view, any transit route that can strengthen the North-South connection and create trade and transit opportunities is potentially positive. The Armenian Prime Minister has also explicitly emphasized the importance of a rail connection with Iran and has even mentioned the role of Iranian companies in Armenia's road and rail projects. This could, in an optimistic scenario, make Iran one of the main beneficiaries of the project. However, the involvement of the United States in the project has made Iran not to see it just as an opportunity. For Iran, this agreement represents a complex equation, offering economic opportunities while simultaneously posing security challenges. In such a situation, maintaining an analytical approach, strengthening an active diplomatic presence, and utilizing regional multilateral formats such as the "3+3" (3+3 refers to a proposed regional cooperation platform involving the three South Caucasian countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia - and their three larger neighbors Russia, Turkey, and Iran) could be the best path to defending national interests and preventing Tehran from being marginalized in the developments in the Caucasus.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Nobel of betrayal

In an analysis, Vatan-e-Emrooz condemned the online remarks by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi during a virtual appearance at a Hiroshima commemoration event organized by fellow laureate Nihon Hidankyo, describing her speech as treacherous and politically charged in the broader campaign against nuclear weapons. It wrote: Narges Mohammadi's speech at the annual conference of the Nobel Peace Center is a new example of the functioning of international institutions in the strategies of the United States and the West against Iran. Nearly 2 months after the U.S. and the Zionist regime attacked Iran, Narges Mohammadi spoke of the necessity of putting an end to Iran's peaceful nuclear program. That is what Trump and 3 European countries are now seeking. Her speech was exactly the voice that Trump and Netanyahu were expecting to hear from inside Iran, and she acted in line with the U.S. and Zionist regime's plan against Iran. Mohammadi's speech is a clear example of the betrayal of the homeland. Moreover, she has actually encouraged the enemy to attack Iran again. Iran is now in a state of war. One of the essential requirements of this situation is to clearly confront any internal betrayal. It seems that dealing with enemy elements and

agents is the people's highest demand and wish.

Etemad: Return to negotiations?!

In an interview with the Etemad newspaper, Rahman Ghahremanpour, an expert on international affairs, examined the purported reports by Western media Iran and the United States are planning to resume negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program after the 12-day war against Iran in June. He said: Based on information received from multiple sources, it seems that reports regarding the possibility of resuming negotiations between Iran and the United States are true, and it seems that Iran has decided to return to the negotiating table in order to maintain the diplomatic path and prevent the channels of dialogue from being closed. This decision was probably made in order to reduce tensions and create peace of mind in the country, especially given the concerns about the possibility of escalating tensions. However, it is still unclear whether the United States will agree to Iran's preconditions and proposals or not. Evidence suggests that negotiations will begin soon, but given the deep differences between the two sides and Iran's deepening distrust of Washington after the 12-day war, we cannot be optimistic about the success of the negotiations. The current conditions for reaching an agreement seem much more difficult, even compared to the period before the 12-day war.

Khorasan: The first test of the Supreme Defense Council; Caucasus and Lebanon

In an article, Khorasan dealt with the serious test of Iran's Supreme Defense Council regarding developments in Lebanon and the South Caucasus region. It wrote: A less-noted fact is the establishment of the Supreme Defense Council in Iran, an institution that is expected to play an analytical and guiding role amidst regional crises. The Zangezur issue in the Caucasus and the Hezbollah disarmament project have now become two serious tests for the council at the beginning of its work. Adopting the right strategy in these two cases can change the balance. If Iran can take the initiative from the Americans on both fronts, it will not only increase its authority in the region, but will also appear with full hands in the face of political and economic pressure from the West. Of course, decision-making in these areas is undoubtedly accompanied by great strategic risks and the possibility of security confrontations. "Analysts believe if U.S. influence is diminished in the Caucasus and Lebanon, the resulting shift could bolster Tehran's strategic security and offer it renewed leverage in both regional dynamics and international negotiations.

Pezeshkian: All foreign policy decisions aligned with Leader's guidance



TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has affirmed that his government will carry out all foreign policy decisions and negotiations in close coordination with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

"No policies concerning international relations or negotiations are pursued without the Leader's approval," Pezeshkian stated during a meeting with media leaders in Tehran on Sunday, marking Journalist's Day.

The president emphasized that this alignment is "not just a slogan" but a core principle of his administration. "From both a scientific and ideological standpoint, I firmly believe that

anything contradicting the Leader's views must be avoided," he added.

Pezeshkian described Ayatollah Khamenei as "the pillar and foundation of the Islamic Republic," stressing that all matters should align with his guidance.

On domestic policy, the president highlighted the importance of national unity, a key focus of his government. He cautioned that weakening national cohesion would harm the country.

"During the 12-day war, the enemy anticipated internal division and rebellion—and they continue to wait for it," Pezeshkian said. "The nation must overcome the enemy through unity and solidarity."

From Raisi to Pezeshkian, US has kept derailing diplomacy with Iran, says former negotiator

TEHRAN – Ali Bagheri Kani, Secretary of Iran's Council for Strategic Foreign Relations, has revealed Washington's deliberate sabotage of a comprehensive nuclear agreement finalized during the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi.

In a televised interview on Saturday, Bagheri Kani stated: "Under President Raisi's time in office [2021-2024], multiple negotiation rounds in Vienna, Tehran, and New York culminated in a complete draft agreement. The sole obstacle to its realization was the United States' refusal to commit."

Dismissing claims of internal obstruction, he emphasized Iran's negotiating team operated strictly "within the strategic framework of the system," rendering domestic interference impossible.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's Permanent Representative to Vienna-based international organizations, corroborated this assessment in a January interview with the Tehran Times.

He confirmed remaining JCPOA signatories were poised to revive the pact in 2022 when European powers abruptly abandoned negotiations "in coordination with Washington" – a move coinciding with Iran's domestic unrest.

Ulyanov stressed that salvaging the accord "depends entirely on U.S. actions," underscoring European subordination to American agendas.

Efforts to resume negotiations under President Masoud Pezesh-



Ali Bagheri Kani, then Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, pictured during a 2022 meeting in New York with the then-EU foreign policy chief's deputy

kian's government were violently shattered on June 13, 2025, when the Israeli regime launched air-strikes targeting Iran's nuclear facilities, military sites, and civilian infrastructure.

The U.S. escalated hostilities on June 22, deploying B-2 stealth bombers to strike nuclear sites at Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan.

This 12-day campaign of aggression martyred over 1,065 Iranians, including civilians, scientists, and military personnel.

Iranian officials condemned the assault as a "betrayal of diplomacy," revealing Washington's duplicity in advocating talks while enabling military aggression.

Iran's retaliatory Operation True Promise III inflicted unprecedented damage on the Israeli military and economic infrastructure, overwhelming U.S.-Israeli air defenses.

Crucially, Iranian forces struck

Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar – the Pentagon's critical regional command center – damaging its geodesic communications dome and exposing U.S. vulnerability.

The conflict came to a halt only after the Israeli regime, facing depleted missile stockpiles and the prospect of collapsing civil infrastructure, requested a ceasefire on June 24.

Despite the disruption, it appears that Tehran and Washington are weighing a return to indirect talks. According to a Friday report by the Tehran Times, Norway has emerged as a likely mediator for potential Iran-U.S. negotiations as early as this month, following rounds previously held in Muscat and Rome that were halted after the June 13 strikes.

Both sides are allegedly willing to restart, and that Tehran insists compensation for war damages be part of any new discussions alongside nuclear issues.

Iran joins slew of countries condemning Israel's plan to occupy Gaza City

From page 1 ► The decision has ignited fury not only among Palestinians and regional countries, but also among the regime's staunch Western supporters.

On Friday, foreign ministers from the UK, Germany, Italy, New Zealand and Australia released a joint statement rejecting the plan, saying it would "aggravate" the already "catastrophic" situation in Gaza. "Any attempts at annexation or of settlement extension violate international law," they added.

U.S. President Donald Trump, however, has said it is "up to Israel" whether to occupy Gaza

City. "As far as the rest of it, I really can't say. That's going to be pretty much up to Israel," the American president told reporters.

Inside Israel, the decision has erupted a furor among settlers, as well as military officials, who find it both meaningless and costly to maintain forces in Gaza. Despite the relentless bombing and killing of Palestinians in the past two years, Israel has not managed to fulfill Netanyahu's promise of "eradicating" Hamas, nor has it managed to free the prisoners Hamas brought into Gaza after a successful infiltration of the occupied territories on October 7, 2023.



Photo shows destroyed buildings in the Gaza Strip

Netanyahu and his entourage have so far shown little willingness to walk back the occupation plan. The regime's

War Minister Israel Katz has said countries that condemned Israel would "not weaken our resolve".

Three terrorists neutralized in failed attack on police station in SE Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian security forces successfully repelled a terrorist assault in the southeastern city of Saravan early Sunday morning, killing three armed assailants and capturing four others in a counterterror operation.

According to a statement released by the Sistan and Baluchestan Police Information Center, the attack occurred during routine patrols by law enforcement units in Saravan. The patrol was ambushed by armed militants in what the statement described as a "cowardly and premeditated" assault.

In the ensuing clash, police units responded decisively, neutralizing three attackers and pursuing the remaining elements.

Brigadier General Mohammadreza Eshaqi, commander of the provincial police force, confirmed the details of the operation.

"Following the armed confrontation in Saravan, security plans were immediately activated. Our forces eliminated three terrorists and confiscated a Kalashnikov rifle, a handgun with ammunition, and two vehicles used by the assailants," he said. Eshaqi also noted that four suspects were captured during follow-up operations.

Tragically, one officer—identified as Khodadad Baqeri—was martyred in the line of duty. Another was injured and transferred to a medical facility for treatment.

The attackers are believed to be affiliated with Jaish al-Adl (known in Iran as Jaish-al-Zulm), a terrorist group notorious for its violent operations in Iran's southeastern border regions.

As the successor to Jundullah—dismantled by Iranian security forces in 2010—Jaish al-Adl has been linked to numerous armed assaults across the region.

Operating primarily in Sistan and Baluchestan province, the organization has targeted both civilians and security personnel in dozens of deadly attacks. Over the past two decades, first as Jundullah and later under its rebranded identity, the group has claimed hundreds of Iranian lives.

Most recently, Jaish al-Adl claimed responsibility for the July 26 mortar and grenade assault on Zahedan's courthouse, which killed six civilians—including a mother and her infant—and injured 22 others.

Iranian officials have said that the group receives backing from foreign intelligence agencies, with particular emphasis on the Israeli regime's involvement in supporting its destabilizing activities.

The province of Sistan and Baluchestan remains a strategic and fragile region within Iran's national security landscape.

Its proximity to international drug trafficking routes and its exposure to terrorist infiltration make it a focal point for Tehran's counterterrorism efforts.

Despite these challenges, Iranian security forces have demonstrated resilience and tactical superiority, thwarting the majority of cross-border incursions and maintaining relative stability.



An IAEA official due in Tehran to discuss new cooperation framework

TEHRAN – The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will dispatch a deputy to Tehran to discuss a new framework for cooperation with Iran after the country suspended its previous cooperation agreement in June in response to the UN nuclear watchdog's failure to prevent and condemn U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting that the IAEA deputy will not be inspecting any nuclear sites. "He will only engage in discussions aimed to devise a new framework," he explained.

Pezeshkian’s aide warns of rising tensions as US eyes new foothold in Caucasus

TEHRAN – Mehdi Sanaei, an advisor to the Iranian president and former envoy to Russia, has become the second Iranian official to raise concerns over Washington's expanding footprint in the Caucasus, warning that the current situation could foreshadow heightened regional tensions in the future.

“Iran welcomes peace among its neighbors and does not oppose the removal of blockages from transportation routes,” Sanaei wrote on X. “However, it is sensitive to plans that would involve extra-regional powers and organizations in the security and geopolitical framework of the historical Caucasus region and warns against the potential for increased tensions through such means.”

Under a deal signed between Azerbaijan and Armenia in Washington on Friday, Armenia granted the U.S. exclusive rights to develop a corridor in its southern Syunik province—which borders Iran—linking Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan.

While the agreement is non-binding and must first be approved by the Armenian parliament before implementation can begin, it has already increased alarm inside Iran, which has long opposed the presence of foreign forces in the region. Iran has consistently maintained that any corridor linking mainland Azerbaijan to its landlocked



U.S. President Donald Trump hosted his Azeri counterpart Ilham Aliyev (L) and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan at the White House on August 8, 2025

exclave in the vicinity of Iran should not be placed under the control of a third country.

Analysts also warn that the alteration of Iran's historical borders with Armenia would change the geopolitical order of the Southern Caucasus and restrict Tehran's ability to use transport networks in the region. Security concerns also loom large, with fears that Washington could exploit the corridor as an espionage platform against Iran.

Previously, Ali Akbar Velayati, senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said Iran would block the establishment of a U.S.-controlled corridor in Armenia “with or without Russia”. Moscow, the traditional broker between Armenia and Azerbaijan, has been sidelined by Washington.

“The security in Southern Caucasus is at stake with the implementation of this plot ... and

Iran has emphasized that with or without Russia it would move to (preserve) stability in Southern Caucasus,” Velayati told the Tasnim news agency.

The former Iranian foreign minister added that the corridor would also lead to the increased presence of the U.S. and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the region. “We will not allow NATO to approach Iran's northern borders.”

US push in South Caucasus raises alarm over stability and sovereignty

From Page 1 ► The U.S. has a long history of reshaping foreign regions in ways that ultimately serve its own geopolitical objectives. From West to Central Asia, American “mediation” has too often been a prelude to fragmentation and conflict.

Washington's latest maneuver in the South Caucasus is all too similar to the interventions that shattered Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan. In each case, the U.S. posed as the stabilizing force and left behind wrecked states, ethnic divisions, and vacuums filled by the extremists.

In Iraq, the entire state structure was dismantled during the 2003 invasion, thus throwing the country into chaos and creating conditions for terrorism. The sectarian political system imposed by the United States heightened divisions, shattering Iraq, while it remained subject to endless cycles of violence.

Libya, once the richest country in Africa, was plunged into a decade of civil war following the 2011 NATO intervention. The ouster of Gaddafi, which the West hailed as a victory for democracy, instead created rival governments, re-established slavery, and set up jihadist strongholds.

In Syria, U.S. funding and arming of anti-Assad rebels under programs like Timber Sycamore ultimately bolstered extremist groups, deepened ethnic tensions, and left the country partitioned and shattered.

Even in Afghanistan, after two decades of occupation and \$2 trillion spent, the U.S. withdrawal in 2021 returned the Taliban to power in mere days. The U.S.-trained military collapsed almost instantly, highlighting the futility of trying to engineer nations through foreign designs.

The U.S. now seems set to replicate these patterns in the Caucasus. By pulling the strings behind the Armenia-Azerbaijan declaration and dissolving the OSCE Minsk Group, which is the only internationally recognized framework with decades of institutional memory, Washington



has removed the only established mechanisms for the resolution of conflicts concerning Armenia. This abrupt dismantling, reminiscent of institutional collapse in Iraq after 2003, has left unresolved issues such as border demarcation and minority rights without any credible multilateral forum.

The TRIPP corridor itself raises serious sovereignty concerns. The vague promise of “unimpeded connectivity” through Armenian territory risks undermining Armenia's control over its own land. The deliberate exclusion of Iran and Russia from discussions signals an attempt to redraw the region's economic geography in a way that sidelines traditional partners and favors U.S. influence.

At the same time, not only has Washington engaged more closely in providing security to Azerbaijan, which is about \$164 million in military assistance, but also it has rendered further ground for questioning whether or not Washington could be neutral enough to act as a mediator. The U.S. has begun giving one side military assistance and thereby risks tipping the balance in the region whereby one such tip would encourage Baku to assume more aggressive poses. As a result, Armenia might ask for new security guarantees from other powers, which in turn would further inflame tensions and instigate an arms race.

The U.S. economic vision for the region seems co-equal paral-

leled. Diversion of trade and energy flows toward Western markets while deliberately excluding Iran's North-South Transport Corridor has a potential of creating an economic fragmentation. This exclusionary approach undermines the interconnections for trade systems benefiting all regional players because it tends toward creating dependencies that could be used for political pressure- a technique Washington has used so effectively elsewhere.

Washington’s latest maneuver in the South Caucasus is all too similar to the interventions that shattered Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan

Iran has made clear its opposition to externally imposed corridors and unilateral agreements that disregard regional realities. On Saturday, Senior Adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution on International Affairs, Ali Akbar Velayati, stressed that the Islamic Republic will act decisively to safeguard the stability and security of the South Caucasus — “with or without Russia.”

“This corridor will not become a passage owned by Trump, but rather a graveyard for Trump's mercenaries,” Velayati declared.

Vahid Kazemi appointed as 2025 Super Cup referee

TEHRAN – Vahid Kazemi has been appointed as referee for the 2025 Super Cup between Esteghlal and Tractor football teams.

The match has been slated for August 11 in Isfahan's Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium.

This high-profile match will see Tractor, the reigning champions of the Iran Professional League, face off against Esteghlal, the Hazfi Cup winners.

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

Referees to end matches over racist chants, Taj says

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taj, head of the Iran Football Federation, says they will take racist chants in the 2025/26 Iran Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) seriously.

In recent years, some fans have directed racist chants at teams and players.

Taj announced that new rules have been issued allowing referees to end a match shortly after hearing racist chants.

“We've promised FIFA that we will fight the racist chants. A referee can end a match by blowing three whistles upon hearing racist chants. Once it is done, such chants will no longer occur,” Taj said.

He also noted that referees will not have the right to give interviews, and that only the Referees' Committee should speak.

Iranian duo to officiate at 2025 FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup

TEHRAN – Gelareh Nazemi and Zari Fathi have been chosen by FIFA to officiate at the 2025 FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup.

Nazemi and Fathi are no strangers to the big occasion, with both appointed to officiate in the AFC Women's Futsal Championship as well as the UEFA Women's Futsal Euro 2019 semi-final contest between Spain and Russia in Portugal.

Fathi was the first to carve her name in the history books after being appointed as the Second Referee of the FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021 Asian Playoff tie between Vietnam and Lebanon, with Nazemi selected for the same position in the return leg, which saw the Southeast Asians clinch their spot for the global futsal showpiece.

The 2025 FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup is the planned inaugural edition of the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup, an international futsal competition organized by FIFA.

The inaugural edition is to be hosted in the Philippines from Nov. 21 to Dec. 7.

Iran–Russia friendly match confirmed

TEHRAN – The friendly match between Russia and Iran, slated for October 10, will be held at the Volgograd Arena.

Iran will meet the Russian team as part of preparation for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Russia sits 35th in the FIFA rankings, while Iran is 20th in the latest world rankings.

Last week, the Iran basketball team traveled to Moscow to play two friendly matches with Russia in preparation for the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup.

Iran's futsal team is also scheduled to face its Russian counterpart in October.

Iran’s Azmoun wins UAE Pro League Golden Ball

TEHRAN – Iran international forward Sardar Azmoun won the UAE Pro League Golden Ball in

his first season.

The UAE Pro League held its annual awards ceremony for the 2024/25 season on Saturday evening at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi.

Attended by football stars, club representatives, and media professionals, the event saw Shabab Al Ahli, the reigning quadruple champions, take home four major awards.

Azmoun won the Golden Ball for Best Player, coach Paulo Sousa received the Captain's Award for Best Coach, goalkeeper Hamad Al Muqbali took the Golden Glove, and Guilherme Da Silva earned the Golden Boy Award for Best U-23 Player.

Azmoun helped Shabab Al Ahli achieve a treble, securing the league title, the President's Cup, and the UAE Super Cup.

Duckens Nazon joins Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Haitian forward Duckens Moise Nazon joined Esteghlal on Sunday.

The 31-year-old arrives from Süper Lig club Kayserispor on a three-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

Nazon has previously played for Coventry City and Oldham Athletic in England, Saint-Truiden in Belgium, St Mirren in Scotland, and Lokomotiv Sofia in Bulgaria.

He has been a member of the Haiti national team since 2014 and has scored 40 goals in 72 appearances for his country.

Japan too strong for Iran at 2026 AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup qualification

TEHRAN – Japan confirmed their ticket to the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand with an 11-0 win over Iran on Sunday.

The triumph meant six-time champions Japan topped Group F of the Qualifiers with nine points, scoring 32 goals and conceding none.

Japan took the lead after 12 minutes, Miki Kimura tapping the ball home after some lovely work by Mao Itamura down the left flank.

Mao played an instrumental role again in Japan's second goal, laying the ball nicely for Asako Furuta, who slipped past the Iranian defenders to slot home.

Japan's third was netted in the 24th minute, the impressive Mao nodding home Kimura's cross from the right.

The fourth came in the 34th minute, forward Satoko Fujisaki slamming the ball into the net from the top of the area after Iran hashed a clearance.

Japan refused to let up and Itamura further widened their lead in the 43rd minute, waltzing into the penalty area and tucking the ball home for her fifth goal of the Qualifiers.

Mao completed her second consecutive hat-trick of the Qualifiers in the 50th minute, knocking home after the ball bounced over advancing Iran keeper Atena Tofih.

Japan scored again from the kick-off, Satoko outrunning the chasing Iran defenders to slot home her second of the evening, with the forward becoming the second Japanese player with a hat-trick in the 58th minute after she slid to steer Asako's pass into the goalmouth.

Substitute Anon Tsuda scored Japan's ninth with her first touch of the ball in the 61st minute, knocking home Mihar Shinjo's corner.

Hikari Takahashi added her name to the score-sheet in the 74th minute, controlling Yuka Maki-guchi's lob with her chest before side-footing the ball into the net.

Hikari completed the emphatic win added in time, heading home Mihar's cross as Japan showed they will be title contenders at Thailand 2026, the-afc.com reported.

UAE, Iran's 3rd top non-oil export destination



TEHRAN – The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was Iran's third top non-oil export destination during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of IRICA for planning and international affairs, Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$7.2 billion to the United Arab Emirates in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025.

Akbarpour said that the UAE was Iran's third top export destination in the previous year.

Exporting commodities valued at \$21.9 billion to Iran, the United Arab Emirates was Iran's top source of non-oil import in the previous year, the official further added.

Iran and the United Arab Emirates signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for expanding economic cooperation in a variety of areas at the end of the two countries' third Joint Economic Committee meeting in May 1, 2024.

The MOU was signed by former Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehرداد Bazrpash and UAE's Economy Minister Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, who co-chaired the joint meeting. During the mentioned committee meeting, the two sides stressed the need for further expansion of economic cooperation between Tehran and Abu Dhabi.

Speaking at the end of the meeting, Bazrpash said: "We have held the joint committee between the two countries after 10 years, which is an opportunity to develop the commercial and economic relations between the two countries."

"The UAE, as Iran's second biggest trade partner, has great strategic importance for us," the minister said.

Referring to the location of Iran and the UAE in the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), Bazarpash said: "Access to the markets of the north and south can create an opportunity for the two countries to cooperate."

In the end, the minister emphasized solving the banking and monetary problems between the two countries to facilitate bilateral trade relations.

Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri for his part underlined the importance of the meeting, saying: "Holding today's meeting shows the development and expansion of economic relations between the two countries. After China, the UAE has the largest amount of trade relations with Iran. The trade value of the two countries has reached 27 billion dollars and many Iranian companies are established in the UAE."

"Creating new opportunities for transportation and banking cooperation is one of the achievements of this commission," the official said.

Referring to the performance of the UAE government in the field of investment, the official

said: "The approval of the law on the formation of foreign companies and the government's support for companies that operate in the field of new energies has created a good opportunity for business with the UAE."

The 3rd Iran-UAE Joint Economic Committee meeting was held in Abu Dhabi from April 30 until May 1, 2024.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran has proposed the formation of a joint working committee between its Chamber of Commerce and the UAE Chambers Confederation to capitalize on the re-export potential of Iranian products through the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking at the Iran Expo 2025 event, in late April, Ghadir Ghiafeh, deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said the initiative would help streamline trade and improve alignment with global standards. "To fully benefit from the UAE's logistics and re-export infrastructure, a formal committee should be created between our chambers," he told the Secretary General of the UAE Chambers Federation.

Ghiafeh also announced plans to establish the ICCIMA's first overseas Trade and Investment Development Agency office in the UAE, with the aim of attracting foreign investment and enhancing joint cooperation. He added that similar offices would be set up in other countries over time.

Highlighting the need to improve Iranian traders' access to UAE business networks, he called for the official introduction of a UAE Chamber representative in Iran and reiterated Iran's interest in opening an ICCIMA office in the Emirates. "We have already formed a joint Iran-UAE chamber in Iran, but its counterpart in the UAE is essential for advancing private sector collaboration," he said.

Ghiafeh also emphasized the potential of B2B meetings between Iranian trade delegations—many of whom travel to the UAE annually—and their Emirati counterparts, urging the UAE Chamber to facilitate such events.

He further called for the implementation of existing trade agreements through coordinated action between the two chambers, and said the proposed working committee could help ensure Iranian goods meet international standards with UAE support. "There is ample room for joint investment, and we should actively tap into it," he added.

Hamid Mohammed bin Salem, Secretary General of the UAE Chambers Federation, welcomed the proposal and confirmed he would convey Iran's request to establish a chamber office in the Emirates.

"We are ready to facilitate B2B events and support the development of bilateral trade relations," he said.

renewable energy applications, and emerging uses of geophysics.

The program will feature technical sessions, research paper presentations, keynote speeches by leading domestic and international experts, an exhibition of industrial and technical equipment, and training workshops for students and industry professionals.

Interested participants can register by September 10 via www.geooilconf.ir. All accepted papers will be indexed in the Civilica conference database and assigned a Civilica Object Identifier (COI). Selected papers will also be indexed in the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) free of charge.

Tehran to host applied geophysics conference on oil exploration in mid-Oct.

TEHRAN – Iran will hold the 7th Conference on Applied Geophysics in Oil Exploration on October 15, organized by the National Iranian Geophysics Society (NIGS) and the Exploration Directorate of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The event will focus on advanced geophysical methods for oil and gas exploration, the use of artificial intelligence and data mining in exploration geophysics, integrated exploration techniques, and technologies for acquiring and processing geophysical data.

Other topics include oil exploration in unconventional environments, new technologies for deepwater and deep-sea exploration, the role of geophysics in reducing exploration risks,

Solar power output jumps 71% in 4 months: SATBA

From Page 1 ► In recent months, SATBA has signed multiple agreements with domestic and foreign investors to accelerate renewable capacity expansion, including utility-scale solar farms in desert regions and hybrid systems combining solar with battery storage.

The government has also rolled out new feed-in tariffs to attract private-sector participation.

Energy officials have repeatedly said that boosting renewables is central to easing



summer blackouts, which have plagued industrial and residen-

tial users in recent years.

Alongside solar and wind

projects, Iran is pursuing geothermal and biomass initiatives, though these remain at early stages compared to its solar ambitions.

Iran's climate and geography offer high potential for renewable generation, with vast areas of high solar irradiance and strong seasonal winds in the north and southeast.

The latest figures underscore a rapid acceleration in clean power development after years of slower growth.

Iran Plast exhibit to drive downstream growth, non-oil exports: NPC head

TEHRAN – The managing director of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said on Sunday that the International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST) provides a platform for developing the domestic value chain and producing finished goods, which play a key role in increasing non-oil exports.

Hassan Abbaszadeh described Iran Plast as one of the country's most important specialized

exhibitions in the petrochemical industry, with a policy-oriented approach aimed at strengthening and empowering the downstream sector.

He said the event offers a valuable opportunity to showcase the diverse capacities of downstream industries, enhance interaction among players in the production chain, facilitate knowledge and experience transfer, and promote value-added production within the country.

According to Abbaszadeh, the exhibition creates synergies among producers, investors and petrochemical sector stakeholders, making a significant contribution to the development of domestic and international markets.

Iran Plast 2025 is scheduled to be held from September 8 to 11 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

Iran's polymer production capacity hits 9m tons

TEHRAN – Iran's polymer production capacity has reached about 9 million tons per year, the managing director of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said on Sunday.

Hassan Abbaszadeh made the remarks during

an interview about the 19th Iran Plast International Exhibition, calling it one of the country's most important specialized events in the petrochemical sector with a policy-oriented approach aimed at strengthening and empowering the downstream value chain.



Bushehr port study published in world's leading hydrographic journal

TEHRAN – A scientific study by the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran has been published in the International Hydrographic Review, a prestigious journal in the field of hydrography and marine geoscience.

The study highlights the accuracy and efficiency of multi-beam surveys at Bushehr Port in the Persian Gulf, the PMO news portal reported.

A comprehensive scientific study, conducted by experts from Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has been published in the International Hydrographic Review—the most prestigious global journal in the field of hydrography and marine geoscience.

The research, carried out at Bushehr Port along the Persian Gulf, presents a detailed comparison between multi-beam and single-beam echo-sounding technologies, confirming the reliability and efficiency of multi-beam systems, aligning with the highest international standards.

Published on May 1, 2025, and updated on June 10, 2025, the study represents a significant step forward in Iran's efforts to modernize its coastal hydrographic operations through advanced surveying technologies.

Study Validates Special Order Accuracy for MBES The research team concluded that multi-beam echo sounder (MBES) systems can deliver highly precise hydrographic data. A statistical analysis showed that the average depth difference between

MBES and traditional single-beam echo sounders (SBES) was just 0.03 meters.

The standard deviation was 0.08 meters with a 98% confidence interval, and the root mean square error was 0.21 meters. These results confirm that MBES surveys, when processed according to the IHO S-44 Standard (Edition 6.1.0), fully meet Special Order accuracy criteria.

This level of precision is essential for ensuring safe navigation and port operations, particularly in areas with intensive dredging activity and heavy marine traffic. Furthermore, the findings demonstrate that MBES systems can significantly reduce the time and cost of field operations while providing broader seabed coverage.

Objectives and Methodology

The primary objective of this study was to evaluate the accuracy of MBES data at Bushehr Port and its alignment with international hydrographic standards. Furthermore, the study compared the performance of MBES and SBES, evaluated the quality of the digital elevation models derived from each system, and developed a model to analyze the differences between them.

Another key goal was to calculate volumetric disparities between surfaces generated by each method and determine practical implications for port maintenance and dredging.

Depth measurements were collected from the 16-kilometer-long

internal access channel of Bushehr Port to conduct the analysis. Data processing was carried out using a numerical software, and all necessary corrections were applied for sound velocity, tidal variations, and system errors.

Depth points obtained via SBES were then interpolated onto the MBES-generated surfaces to allow for detailed statistical comparisons and volumetric analyses.

Conditions and Location of Study

Bushehr Port, located on Iran's southern coast along the Persian Gulf, was chosen as the study area because of its strategic maritime importance and ongoing dredging activities.

The region is characterized by a flat seabed and a hot, humid climate with an average annual precipitation of 206 mm and mean temperatures around 25°C.

The research focused on the internal section of the channel because this area is actively monitored and maintained for navigation.

The site's geographical coordinates range from 28° 57' 30" to 29° 01' 30" north and from 50° 44' 30" to 50° 51' 30" east. The study used the chart datum, which is closely aligned with the lowest astronomical tide, as the reference elevation surface.

A Milestone for Iran's Hydrographic Sector

The widespread use of MBES in Iran's coastal waters is a recent

development. Thus, this research marks a significant advancement in the country's hydrographic capabilities.

Historically, hydrographic surveying in Iran has relied heavily on SBES. By rigorously analyzing MBES performance and confirming its alignment with global standards, the study paves the way for the technology's broader adoption in national projects.

The study's findings provide valuable technical guidance for Iran's maritime institutions and other stakeholders aiming to improve survey accuracy, optimize operational costs, and enhance safety in port and coastal management.

Research Collaboration and Publication

A group of experts, including Nader Pasandeh, Seyed Shahed Mosavat, Sepideh Abadpour, Ali Kourosh Niya, Bahman Tajfirooz, Seyed Mojtaba Zarei, and Amir Hossein Kazemi, conducted the study.

The study was carried out under a formal agreement between the Marine Affairs Department of the Ports and Maritime Organization and Darya Tarsim Consulting Engineers as part of a broader initiative.

The International Hydrographic Review is one of the most respected peer-reviewed journals in hydrography and marine cartography. It is published under the auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).

TEDPIX loses 8,900 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 8,975 points to 2.562 million on Sunday, which is the second day of the Iranian calendar week.

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

The head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said that the capital market's share in the national financing system is going to increase to 50 percent over the next five years, positioning it as a key engine of economic activity, employment, and industrial growth.

Hojatollah Seyed said the organization's 14th

development plan includes targeted measures to stimulate production, starting with fiscal incentives embedded in the national budget.

He outlined two additional pillars of the government's production strategy: implementation of the Law on Supporting Production and a five-part economic development plan currently being drafted by the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO).

Seyedi said new investment funds have been created within the capital market to support production, including Murabaha bonds aimed at financing small- and medium-sized enterprises.

He said the Securities and Exchange Organization is targeting a "50-50" financing model, balancing bank loans and capital market resources,

over a four- to five-year horizon. "Initial public offerings in project-based companies have already begun, and infrastructure for Murabaha bond issuance is in place," he said, noting a surge in applications from producers seeking bond issuance licenses.

In late March, the official outlined the five major plans for enhancing efficiency and transparency in the capital market in the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21.

Seyedi outlined five initiatives for the capital market this year, which include expanding the market through initial public offerings (IPOs), especially company-project listings, and increasing the capital of listed companies.

Germany’s suspension of military exports to Israel is a media and PR strategy

“Zionism, in fact, bears strong parallels to fascism”

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — The ongoing Israeli military campaign against the Gaza Strip, which has claimed the lives of more than 61,000 Palestinians, has sparked global anger and protests—including in German cities. Despite mounting international condemnation and allegations from UN experts and human rights groups—including some inside Israel—accusing the Israeli army of committing genocide in Gaza, the German government continues to emphasize what it calls Israel’s “right to self-defense.”

Germany is the world’s second-largest arms exporter to Israel, which adds complexity to its position.

To discuss Germany’s role in the Gaza conflict, the Tehran Times interviewed Christian Wagner, a German academic and expert in cognitive warfare. Wagner has compared Israel’s campaign against Gaza’s population to fascism.

Here is the excerpt of the interview:

Israel stands accused of committing genocide in Gaza, yet Germany continues to back Israel. On Friday, Chancellor Friedrich Merz reaffirmed what he calls Israel’s “right to defend itself.” How do you interpret this position in light of international law and the genocide allegations?

First, it must be made clear: What is our collective goal? The goal of humanity and the goal of international law? Is it to allow Israel to be hated by the world? Is it to allow the Palestinian population to suffer longer? Hate must never be our weapon. Hate only creates more hate, and we cannot and must not be like those who create suffering. We must be better, more peaceful, and more level-headed. To solve or even understand the problem on the ground, one must understand the other side, no matter how emotionally contradictory it may feel.

The situation in Gaza is absolutely disproportionate and clearly shows who the perpetrator and who the victim is. Anyone with a heart cannot support Israel’s campaign of annihilation against the entire population—it strongly resembles what once gave rise to fascism, especially now, 80 years after the end of the Second World War. The UN and human rights bodies were established after the Second World War precisely to prevent such things from happening. Therefore, it is a complete failure of the entire UN and especially Europe to intervene and exert pressure.

On the other hand, we have a duty to understand Israel for the sake of long-term peace and to take clear steps forward here. It may seem impossible, and sometimes misperception and fantasy are stronger than reality and reason for some in Israel itself. But we all see how the world hates Israel. This hatred will not diminish and will only push the country’s leadership into a corner, making them react more aggressively. Sometimes, therefore, level-headedness and diplomacy are key.

On Friday, Germany announced the suspension of military exports to Israel that could be used in Gaza after Israel’s security cabinet approved a plan to seize Gaza City. As the world’s second-largest arms exporter to Israel, does this signal a shift in Germany’s policy, or is it merely symbolic?

Germany’s decision to suspend certain military exports is a media and public relations strategy in wording. It will definitely not change anything—the support of the German population for Israel is too strong. In current politics, one cannot focus on short-term decisions or words but must look



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz

at long-term strategies and future projections. Geopolitically, such decisions resemble moves on a chessboard: They are not impulsive or even emotional reactions but calculated strategies that anticipate the opponent’s responses and long-term outcomes.

Moreover, this is not just about Germany-Israel or other states-Israel. The real driving forces behind this war often lie beyond national governments, in the realm of global financial capital. Actors like BlackRock, State Street, and Vanguard exert enormous influence on strategic developments and the decision-making power of European politicians, especially in EU leadership. They profit from the arms industry and shape policy through investments. Media narratives also play a role in this ecosystem, often distracting from underlying economic motives and deceiving public perception to maintain the status quo. Therefore, while the suspension may signal a concession to international pressure, it does little to disrupt the deep-rooted financial interests that sustain such conflicts.

Since the beginning of Israel’s war on Gaza, German cities have witnessed large protests against the war. Have these demonstrations had any tangible impact on Germany’s foreign policy or public debate about its support for Israel?

In media studies, there is a concept called agenda-setting. Political actors decide which topics take priority in public discussion and people’s perception. Pro-Palestinian demonstrations in German cities thus serve as an important catalyst for public discourse and bring the issue into discussion. They amplify underrepresented voices and draw attention to topics like civilian suffering, which might otherwise fade in mainstream media coverage.

This indirect pressure fosters broader awareness and debate, especially before elections, where public sentiment can create space for nuanced discussions about Germany’s Israel policy. However, the impact is only indirect. To think that demonstrations achieve something directly is far from reality and only happens in fairy tales. Often, economic or internal political power shifts are the reasons for changes.

Real change requires actions, not rhetoric. Endless discussions and performative politics—like actors in a good drama series—can feign progress without delivering it; what matters are concrete actions. Supporting Palestine—or any humanitarian cause—would be more effective if individuals and groups moved from protests to proactive initiatives. That means gaining economic power, creating entrepreneurial structures, using their networks to pool financial strength, rising economically, and activating lobbying efforts. This power can bring about change.

And yet, I want to emphasize again: Instead of pitting nations against each other, the focus

should be on humanity as a whole and challenging the financial systems that profit from division and inaction. We must reclaim peace through empathy and the intellectual strength of people.

European leaders have condemned Israel’s use of starvation and excessive force in Gaza, yet they have not taken concrete steps to halt the violence. Why has Europe—including Germany—failed to move from words to action?

There are two key factors.

First, new media and the desensitization of people play an increasing role. Despite the immense suffering in Gaza, propaganda is running at full speed, and consumption, social media, even the legalization of cannabis act like opium, dulling the senses. This creates a strong distortion of perception, making people apathetic and unaccountable. Propaganda in today’s world is stronger than ever—algorithms, media bots, and even the latest AI have ideologically driven representations. This affects everyone, including government advisors. And the stronger the distortion, the harder it becomes to develop a rational, causal strategy. If one in Israel believes fairytales like that the other side has evil intentions such as that the population in Gaza is entirely evil, misguided decisions far removed from reality will be made—because they do not correspond to the truth. And it works both sides.

Second, opaque processes take place behind the scenes, beyond public perception. It is not clear which actors have influence and which do not. As a result, democracy is hollowed out from within, and change becomes difficult.

Germany often frames its support for Israel as a historical responsibility stemming from the Holocaust. How does this reasoning intersect with accusations that Israel is committing mass atrocities today?

Germany, of course, has a historical responsibility, especially now, 80 years after the war’s end. Yet, Germany’s support for Israel inevitably contradicts the current atrocities in Gaza—a profound moral dilemma. Zionism, in fact, bears strong parallels to fascism.

And yet, abandoning an ally in such times would simply be dishonorable and cowardly. Rather, an ally in times of crisis is obliged to exert internal pressure and pursue backchannel solutions instead of stabbing them in the back. We must stand by our words and self-imposed duties. But this internal pressure must also achieve something and absolutely stop this war. Yet, as things stand, they seem unable to do so and have no voice in Israel.

Therefore, this stance must evolve. Blind loyalty jeopardizes the principles of justice born from the lessons of the Holocaust. But the real tension stems not just from history but from today’s financial power structures, where global capital influences political decisions through risk invest-

ments and exacerbates conflicts. By focusing on these economic forces—rather than nation-states, religions, or specific groups—we can combat the root causes of atrocities without betraying moral obligations. This would align support with universal human rights.

In light of growing international calls for an arms embargo on Israel, what pressures—political, legal, or public—could realistically push Germany to completely halt its military cooperation?

Israel has the right to self-defense, and with the growing global hatred of Israel, halting military cooperation is one path—but it is questionable whether this is the realistic path. We all know that the powers in Israel are committing atrocities and seem to have a very distorted perception that leads to inhumanity. But we must not cloud our own perception and pursue unrealistic demands or wishes. Instead, we must be realistic and seek strategic solutions, particularly those that weaken Israel’s military offensives in the long term and bring about a turning point.

It’s about cooperation and win-win. Our hearts may have grown very dark in recent years—we all witness the catastrophe in Gaza and the unlawful attacks by Israel and the U.S. on Iran—but we must still be better, intending peace. Likewise, the Palestinian state unquestionably has the right to self-defense, even the right to demand the return of their stolen land. The two-state solution should have been implemented long ago.

With the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court both pursuing cases related to Israel’s actions, how might these legal proceedings influence Germany’s stance?

International legal proceedings like those of the ICJ and ICC have the potential to challenge Germany’s stance, but their direct impact often remains limited in times of war. And yet, they are crucial in the battle for information. Decisions made by neutral judges can increase internal pressure and thus serve as leverage in the struggle for perception and knowledge. Such proceedings could expose violations and put pressure on the European leadership through international attention and domestic debates. However, in the end only actions matter.

And the real influence depends on more powerful forces—particularly financial capital, which profits from instability. If the proceedings reveal how actors like investment firms profit from arms deals and reconstruction, they could indirectly force policy shifts by prioritizing economic interests over legal or moral arguments. For Germany, this would mean reconciling historical obligations with evolving international norms—but only if distorted narratives can be broken.

China’s UN envoy: Gaza belongs to the Palestinian people

Fu Cong, the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations told the UNSC session on Sunday that China firmly opposes any attempt by Israel to occupy Gaza.

“Gaza belongs to the Palestinian people. It is an integral part of the Palestinian territory; any action that seeks to alter its demographic and territorial structure must be met with utmost rejection and resistance,” he said, Al Jazeera reported.

“The illusion of military supremacy must be abandoned...an immediate ceasefire is the only right way to save lives and secure the release of hostages, continually escalated military offences in Gaza will only lead to more killings and deaths”, Fu stated.

“The Israeli government needs to listen to the cause of both [the] international community and its people, immediately stop escalating tensions, and put an end to its military operations in Gaza”, he said.

“The weaponization of humanitarian supplies is unacceptable. The collective punishment of the Gazan people is unacceptable. Attacking civilians and humanitarian workers as they search for surprise is equally unacceptable,” Fu said.

“It is crucial to reinvigorate the prospect of the two-state solution...the only viable path to resolving the Palestinian question and achieving peaceful coexistence”, he concluded.

Gaza sees surge in fatalities from failed aid airdrops

From page 1 ► In addition to falling in uninhabited or dangerous areas, many of the airdrops land between crowded residential zones, making them both ineffective and hazardous for civilians struggling under siege and starvation.

The statement also noted that in previous incidents, some aid parcels had fallen into the sea, resulting in the drowning of 13 Palestinians last year.

The media office reiterated its repeated warnings about the dangers of these inhumane methods and called for the urgent and secure delivery of aid, especially food, baby formula, medicine, and medical supplies, through land crossings.

It condemned the occupying regime’s continued policy of “engineering starvation and chaos,” holding the Zionist regime, the U.S., the in-

involved countries, and the broader international community fully responsible.

The office called for immediate and serious action to open land crossings and allow the unrestricted flow of humanitarian aid.

Caroline Willemsen, a project coordinator at a Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) clinic in Gaza City, told British media, “These air drops are falling in extremely populated areas. They’re dangerous. They have fallen on tents, people have been injured.”

Aid groups have also pointed out that the drops can only provide a fraction of what is required for Gaza’s population of more than two million people as the hunger crisis continues to spiral and much of the enclave plunges into famine conditions.

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

Army mourns death of six soldiers in South Lebanon

President Aoun, Parliament speaker express deep regret over death of soldiers

From page 1 ► The statement indicated that the army is following up on the details of the incident to determine the cause.

President Joseph Aoun made a phone call to Army Commander General Rodolphe Heikal, who informed him of the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident.

Aoun expressed sorrow over the martyrdom of the soldiers and offered his condolences to their families and the army for their loss and wished a speedy recovery for the wounded.

For his part, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri extended his deepest condolences to the army and to the families of the martyrs.

He said, “I reiterate the destiny of this national institution, which unites the hopes and

aspirations of the Lebanese, to preserve unity, security, and stability, and to uphold national sovereignty through sacrifice and devotion, offering more martyrs and wounded.”

Berri affirmed that “at this painful and bloody moment, we stand with the army and by its side, to enable it to fulfill its national duties, for which it has sworn an oath of loyalty and allegiance to perform, no matter the cost.”

For his part, MP Ali Ammar, a member of the Hezbollah parliamentary bloc, offered his condolences to the Lebanese Army and the families of the martyrs who “watered the land of the South with their pure blood, mixed with the blood of the honorable resistance fighters.”

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

Netanyahu’s Gaza plan risks a quagmire with no exit

From page 1 ► aims to forcibly evacuate over one million Palestinians from Gaza City by October 7, 2025—coinciding with the two-year anniversary of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023—and then impose a siege as Israeli forces launch a full ground offensive to seize control of the city. Yet, this ostensibly militaristic objective is shrouded in contradictions that starkly reveal the fraught nature of Israel’s approach.

On the surface, Netanyahu insists that Israel does not aim to govern Gaza permanently, promising instead to “take control” of the Strip temporarily, establish a security perimeter, and then hand over civilian governance to unspecified Arab forces, explicitly excluding both Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.

This nebulous “handover” plan is politically convenient but utterly impractical, sidestepping the reality that shattering Hamas’s control leaves a governance vacuum over nearly two million people, for which Israel cannot plausibly disclaim responsibility. The military’s warnings—prominently voiced by Israeli Armed Forces Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir—highlight this paradox, cautioning that the

operation risks plunging Israel into an open-ended occupation and military administration fraught with profound security and ethical liabilities.

Military opposition and political intransigence

The military’s resistance to the plan is not trivial dissent; it underscores the growing gulf between political leadership’s militant maximalism and pragmatic security assessments. Zamir and other top officers warn that the operation endangers the hostages’ situation, imperils Israeli soldiers with complex urban warfare, and aggravates an already fatigued military stretched thin after years of conflict in Gaza.

Nevertheless, Netanyahu’s cabinet dominated by hawkish and ultranationalist ideas ignored this advice, some even vehemently opposing any humanitarian relief to the Palestinians or any ceasefire negotiations. Such ideological rigidity reveals a government willing to discard operational prudence and international norms for a scorched-earth strategy to wipe out Hamas at whatever cost.

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

Lost opportunities: The untapped potential of Iran's tourism industry



By Hani Rastegaran

Over the past two decades, despite Iran's significant natural and cultural potential, attracting foreign tourists—especially leisure travelers interested in historical and cultural tourism from Europe and North America—has faced serious obstacles.

This is despite the signing of multiple memorandums of understanding and cooperation agreements in the field of tourism with various countries.

Even in cases where these agreements have been signed with countries that have close political and economic ties with Iran, such as China and Russia, the expected results have not materialized.

These countries have also shown limited interest in sending large numbers of tourists to Iran, and in many cases, their commitments in tourism exchange agreements have not been fulfilled.

The causes of this issue are multi-layered and cannot be reduced merely to the lack of tourism infrastructure.

In fact, while the development of infrastructure—such as transportation networks, standard accommodations, and high-quality services—is essential, the problem is far deeper and lies in a combination of political, cultural, economic, and operational challenges.

The impact of international perceptions and political relations

One of the most influential factors in the decisions of leisure tourists is the perception of the destination's political climate and safety.

For many European and North American travelers, Iran is still perceived through the lens of negative news coverage, travel advisories, and political tensions.

These perceptions—even when not aligned with on-the-ground realities—play a major role in shaping tourist behavior.

For instance, travel warnings issued by Western governments lead to higher insurance costs for tour operators and individual travelers, making Iran a less competitive option compared to other destinations.

For Chinese and Russian tourists, the situation is somewhat different.

Despite stronger political relations, tourism decisions in these countries are influenced by logistical feasibility, pricing competitiveness, and marketing presence.

Iran has not yet established a robust promotional and distribution network within these markets, leading to a lack of visibility and awareness among potential travelers.

Challenges in attracting leisure tourists with a focus on historical and cultural experiences

Leisure tourists from Europe and North America, who are particularly drawn to historical and cultural attractions, are generally looking for more than just visiting archaeological sites and museums.

They seek a complete travel experience, which includes easy and comfortable transportation, high-quality accommodations, diverse cultural events, culinary experiences, and freedom to explore and interact with local communities.

Iran, with its wealth of UNESCO-listed heritage sites, ancient cities, and living traditions, should naturally be one of the top destinations for this market segment.

However, compared to competing destinations such as Turkey, Greece, or Morocco, Iran

still faces significant challenges in meeting these expectations.

The lack of integrated cultural itineraries, limited interpretation services in foreign languages, and insufficient modern amenities reduce the overall attractiveness for these travelers.

Underperformance in tourism agreements

Many of the memorandums and agreements signed between Iran and other countries in the field of tourism are limited to general statements of cooperation without detailed and enforceable implementation plans.

The lack of binding commitments, absence of dedicated funding, and weak follow-up mechanisms result in most of these agreements remaining on paper.

For example, agreements with China to increase tourist flows have not been supported by joint marketing campaigns, airline capacity increases, or simplification of visa procedures.

In addition, there is often a mismatch between the tourism products offered and the interests of the target markets.

While historical and cultural tourism is a strong selling point, packaging it without complementary leisure and lifestyle experiences limits its market appeal.

Beyond infrastructure: The need for comprehensive strategy

While the development of tourism infrastructure—roads, airports, hotels, and visitor facilities—is necessary, the lack of a comprehensive and market-oriented strategy is a more critical weakness.

Tourism development requires synchronized efforts in policy-making, marketing, capacity-building, and product diversification.

This includes:

- Establishing specialized tourism marketing offices in key source markets.
- Training tourism service providers in international hospitality standards.
- Developing thematic itineraries that integrate history, culture, and modern leisure elements.
- Enhancing digital presence and online booking capabilities for international travelers.
- Addressing bureaucratic and regulatory obstacles that discourage tour operators.

Conclusion: Bridging the gap between potential and performance

Iran's position as one of the world's richest destinations in terms of cultural and historical heritage is undisputed.

Yet, the gap between its potential and actual performance in attracting leisure tourists—both from Western countries and from politically friendly nations such as China and Russia—remains wide.

Closing this gap requires moving beyond symbolic agreements and focusing on tangible, targeted, and measurable actions.

Only through a strategic combination of improved infrastructure, refined marketing, eased regulations, and an enhanced international image can Iran hope to fully realize its potential and become a competitive player in the global tourism market for historically and culturally oriented travelers.

(Hani Rastegaran is an Iranian journalist and tourism development specialist)

Ancient stone artifacts in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province date back to Paleolithic era

TEHRAN – Archaeological studies in Iran's Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province have revealed that the region's earliest stone artifacts date back to the Upper Paleolithic and early Neolithic periods, according to local cultural heritage authorities.

The discoveries, which include stone tools and objects, were made in ancient caves across Shahr-e Kord, Ardal, and Lordegan counties. Experts estimate the artifacts are between 10,000 and 11,000 years old, CHTN reported on Saturday.

“These findings show that human activity in this area during prehistoric times was more extensive than previously known,” a spokesperson from the provincial Department of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism said.

In addition to prehistoric tools, archaeologists have documented stone relics from later historical periods, including the Elymaean) Elymais(and Sassanid eras. These include mass graveyards, terraced stone roads, stone inscriptions, lion-inspired statues, and architectural structures such as caravan-serais, which are now under official protection as cultural heritage sites.

As mentioned by local sources,



stone carving and masonry have remained traditional crafts in the province, with roots going back centuries. Historically, locals used these techniques to produce practical tools such as grain grinders, mortars, drainpipes, and carved lion statues.

Despite its deep historical presence, the craft has seen declining use in modern times. “Due to various reasons, stone products are now used only in limited ways,

primarily in nomadic and remote rural areas,” the provincial cultural heritage department noted.

The main centers for stone carving in the province are the cities of Shahr-e Kord, Hafshejan, Farsan, and their surrounding villages where artisans continue to create items such as mortars, grave-stones, and traditional lion statues on a made-to-order basis.

The lion statue, known locally as Shir-e Sangi, remains one of the

most iconic stone crafts of the region. Traditionally installed on the graves of tribal leaders and warriors, the statues serve as symbols of bravery. Carvings on these statues often include motifs of swords, rifles, and horses, along with the personal details of the deceased.

“These lion statues are reminders of the men who shaped the tumultuous history of their people and now rest in the earth beneath,” the department said.

6th excavation season launched at Qal-e Kord cave, one of oldest human settlements in Iran

TEHRAN – The sixth season of archaeological excavations at Qal-e Kord cave in the Avaj county of Iran's Qazvin province has begun under permits from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, the institute said on Saturday.

The project, financially supported by the provincial cultural heritage department, is co-led by Hamed Vahdatinasab and Milad Hashemi Sarvandi, faculty members of the archaeology department at Tarbiat Modares University.

Qal-e Kord cave is located in the village of the same name in Avaj county. Previous excavations have identified it as one of the oldest archaeological sites in Iran, with deposits sug-

gesting human presence more than 400,000 years ago, Vahdatinasab said.

Knowing that Qal-e Kord was inhabited by Neanderthals, we are seeking to obtain a chronology of these cave dwellers,” the archaeologist added. “We are also looking for animal remains and the foods they consumed. As we go down, we discover older layers.”

Stone tools recovered from the site indicate that it was also inhabited by earlier human species such as Homo heidelbergensis or possibly Homo erectus. Animal remains found so far include two types of extinct prehistoric horses, deer, brown bear and rhinoceros.

In November 2018, the first season of joint

Iran-France excavations at the site uncovered more than 6,000 cultural artefacts, along with bone remains of horses, deer, bears and numerous stone tools from the Middle Paleolithic period, between 200,000 and 40,000 years ago.

A 2019 study published in the Journal of Human Evolution suggested Neanderthals roamed the Zagros mountainous regions of Iran between 40,000 and 70,000 years ago.

Neanderthals lived before and during the last ice age in harsh environments across Eurasia. They developed complex stone tools, hunted large game, scavenged and collected local plants, surviving for tens of thousands of years during the last glaciation.

Iran monitors subsidence at UNESCO-listed Gonbad-e Qabus tower



Fereydoun Fa'ali told a provincial technical council meeting that the project is being carried out in cooperation with leading scholars and specialists. The results will guide future decisions on technical restoration, lighting, landscaping and beautification projects around the monument.

He described the project as pursuing two complementary goals: scientific preservation and responding to public demand for physical improvement of the site.

Fa'ali added that coordination between Gonbad-e Kavus Municipality and the provincial heritage department has increased in order to organize the tower's surroundings.

Gorgan–Aktau flights to resume after weeks of halt

TEHRAN – Flights between Gorgan in northern Iran and Aktau in Kazakhstan is scheduled to resume after a temporary suspension caused by regional conflict and security concerns.

Ali Metanat, director-general of

Golestan province airports, said on Sunday said services from Gorgan's airport to Aktau will operate regularly on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The opening flight on the route will be carried out by Pars Air on Aug. 26.

Metanat said the number of international flights from Gorgan could increase in line with the needs of residents and local business operators.

Talks are also under way to relaunch services between Gorgan

and Istanbul, he added.

Over the past couple of weeks, several international routes to and from Iranian airports, including those operated by Turkish Airlines, have been restored as air travel in the region resumes.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Galápagos Islands

The Galapagos Islands area, which is situated in the Pacific Ocean some 1,000 km from the Ecuadorian coast, is sometimes referred to as a unique 'living museum and showcase of evolution'.

The UNESCO-designated archipelago and its immense marine reserve is known as the unique 'living museum and showcase of evolution'.

Its geographical location at the confluence of three ocean currents makes it one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world.

Ongoing seismic and volcanic activity reflects the processes that formed the islands. These processes, together with the extreme isolation of the islands, led to the development of unusual plant and animal life – such as marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, giant tortoises, huge cacti, endemic trees and the many different subspecies of mockingbirds and finches – all of which inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection following his visit in 1835.

Regarding its protection and management requirements, according to the UN cultural body, the main threats to the Galapagos are the introduction of invasive species, increased tourism, demographic growth, illegal fishing, and governance issues (i.e. who takes responsibility for decisions given a

large number of stakeholders with conflicting interests involved in managing the islands). These issues are constantly analyzed and monitored to adequately manage them and reinforce strategies to minimize their impact.

(Source: UNESCO)

Khomeyn Ferrosilicon Company hereby announces its intention to procure 2,000 metric tons of Semi coke under the terms and conditions specified on the company's official website.

Qualified suppliers and interested parties are invited to carefully review the requirements and submit their comprehensive proposals, including pricing and delivery schedules, to the following email address: Legal@ferosil.com no later than **11 September 2025.**

All submissions will be thoroughly evaluated in accordance with the company's procurement policies, and only proposals meeting the stated criteria will be considered.

For further information or inquiries, please refer to the company website www.ferosil.com/en/Tenders

Notable Progress in Cell Therapy

TEHRAN – Iran has made significant progress in the field of stem cells and cell therapy, advancing to the eighth place in the world from the 12th in the previous year.

“Last year, we had only one cell therapy product on the market and ranked 12th in the world, but this year we have reached eighth place in the world with 5 products,” according to Mostafa Qanei, an official with the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology.

He made the remarks in a press conference in Tehran on Sunday with a focus on the achievements of the health sector.

“Our goal is to be among the top five countries in the world in this field and eliminate the need for patients to travel abroad for treatment,” he added.

Technological projects in health sector

For his part, Saeed Sarkar, an official with the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology, added that twenty technological projects related to the health sector are on the agenda in the current Iranian year, which ends in March 2026.

These projects include the production of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) drugs, the development of early detection kits for digestive cancers, and other health-oriented products, which are expected to save up to \$40 million in foreign currency, IRIB



quoted Sarkar as saying.

Referring to medicinal plants, the official said: “We are pursuing two main goals, the first one is to improve the effectiveness of medicinal plants through technologies such as nanotechnology, for example, nanocapsules loaded with curcumin to enhance absorption capacity.

The second goal is to conduct clinical trials to document the effects of traditional medicine and present the results to the health ministry for verification.

Talking about the use of artificial intelligence in the health system, Sarkar said, “We are deploying artificial intelligence tools in sectors like radiology and pathology.

These devices will play a complementary role in medical diag-

nostics, helping to improve accuracy, reduce costs, and improve public access to healthcare.”

The official went on to highlight the unprecedented potential of AI technology in the health sector, saying that the use of artificial intelligence in the health system can significantly enhance the accuracy and speed of clinical decision-making while simultaneously reducing costs and risks.

In February, IRNA quoted the Food and Drug Administration director, Mehdi Pirsalehi, as saying that Iran has succeeded in producing cell therapy products that have received the FDA's approval.

“Some gene therapy products are also in the clinical trial phase,” he added.

Referring to the country's scientific progress in the pharmaceutical sector and Iranian scientists' capabilities, the official highlighted the significance of developing modern techniques and utilizing artificial intelligence in the pharmaceutical industry.

About 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market is produced by Iranian knowledge-based companies.

They have also been successful at manufacturing biotechnology products using indigenized technology to meet the needs of the country,” Pirsalehi added.

Integrating AI in healthcare

In April, Qanei said one of the main priorities of the vice-presidency for science and knowledge-based economy in the health sector is to integrate AI in healthcare to reduce treatment costs by forty percent.

The country's current health care costs are very high; one of the main solutions to lower the healthcare costs (particularly of chronic diseases) and boost productivity is using appropriate AI-based technologies, IRNA quoted Qanei as saying.

Integrating AI into the healthcare system requires a proper roadmap and a comprehensive approach. The official went on to say that experts operating in the field will be supported in different ways to boost innovation.

Iranian students shine at YISF, WICO 2025

From page 1 ► Also, Zhina Amirnorroaya-Karladani managed to grab the special prize for her project, ‘UVGuard Grooming Brush’.

In the first category, Artin Salari and Amir-Abbas Kavosi Amin ranked second for ‘Smart Glasses for the Blind with Real-Time Object Detection.

Ilia Majidzadeh Heravi and Parsa Karimi Yazdi came in third for their project titled ‘CommuniMate SmartApp: An Innovative Solution for Deaf Communication’.

WICO is a global platform for inventors to showcase their talents, explore new ideas, and gain recognition.

The 14th WICO was held from July 17 to 19 at Seoul National University of Education in South Korea.

Hosted by the Korea University Invention Association (KUIA), the 2025 edition gathered 313 teams from 28 countries, creating a global platform to share advancements in science, technology, and invention.

Radin Abbasi and Sam Rashidi claimed the gold medal for building a humanoid robot called NannyBot to manage children's

activities using the Internet of Things.

Matin Hayati's project, ‘automatic analysis and display of EEG signals for seizure prediction using frequency band analysis’, and Raman Nafarieh's project titled ‘studying the effect of plant nanogels on skin cancer cells’ grabbed the silver medals.

Recent achievements

The Iranian team, consisting of four high-school students, grabbed two silver medals and two bronze medals at the International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI), held from August 2 to 9 in Beijing, China.

Arash Yousefnejad and Ali Shayan claimed the silver medals, while Parsa Golestani and Radin Rahmani-Nodehi won the bronze medals, IRIB reported.

Iran won two silver medals and two bronze medals at the Eighth International Economics Olympiad (IEO) 2025, which was held from July 20 to 29, in Baku, Azerbaijan. This year, 68 countries participated in the IEO.

Four Iranian students clinched three gold medals and a silver medal at the 36th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2025), which was held from July 19 to 27 in Quezon City, Philippines, rank-



ing second among 81 countries, up from third in 2024.

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

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

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

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

won a bronze.

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

Attending the second International Mathematics Olympiad for high school students in Turkmenistan, Iranian students managed to win seven bronze medals. The event was held from April 21 to 26.

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

Tehran to host Mustafa Prize week in September

TEHRAN – The sixth Mustafa Prize week is scheduled to be held from September 6 to 10 in Tehran.

The Prize will be awarded in the three categories of Information and Communication Science and Technology, Life and Medical Science and Technology, and Basic and Engineering Sciences.

The opening ceremony will include a new addition to the Mustafa Prize week, granting medals to young researchers under the age of forty for the first time to honor the achievements of young scientists in the Islamic world. The winners will receive 10,000 dollars, as well, IRNA reported.

The week will host several other programs, such as a student competition titled ‘Noor (light)’, which is planned to be held on September 6.

Mustafa Prize science cafes are another part of the programs that will run throughout the week and focus mainly on the achievements of laureates in 2025. The 10th Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) in Islamic Countries will be held in the form of one-day programs in different universities in Tehran. STEP provides a platform for scientists and technology experts from Islamic countries to share expertise.

The award is presented in two categories: Mustafa Prize laureates living in the country and Mustafa Prize laureates from Islamic countries, individuals or groups, who are citizens of the 57 Islamic countries, with no restrictions on age, gender, or religion. The 5th Mustafa Prize was held in the city of Isfahan in September 2023.

It was awarded in the four categories of Infor-

mation and Communication Science and Technology, Life and Medical Science and Technology, Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, and Basic and Engineering Sciences.

The secretariat of the Mustafa Prize received 2,613 articles from 150 scholars from around the world. The prize included the Mustafa Medal, the Prize Certificate, and a special cash gift that is funded by the endowment of science and technology. So far, more than 400 benefactors from different countries as members of the Khadem Al-Mustafa community have supported this scientific-cultural movement.

The Mustafa Prize was established in 2012 as a biennial award by approval of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, with the first edition held in 2015. Since then, ceremonies have taken place in Tehran (2015, 2017, 2019, 2021), and Isfahan (2023). Over the past decade, the Mustafa Prize has recognized and honored 19 distinguished scientists from countries such as Singapore, Jordan, Turkey, Iran, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Pakistan, Morocco, and Egypt.

The award is named after the Holy Prophet of Islam, who put great emphasis on learning, and whose title, Mustafa (one of many), means “the Chosen One.”

The Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation has provided the opportunity for the development of scientific and technological cooperation by establishing a network of nearly 6,500 science and technology experts from 50 countries and interacting with 910 prestigious international centers.

Iranian professor joins Lancet commission on health, migration, and climate change

TEHRAN –Amirhossein Takian, the founder of the Center of Excellence for Global Health and Professor of Health Policy at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, is serving as a member of the Steering Committee of the Lancet Regional Health Europe Commission on Health, Migration, and Climate Change, as well as one of the co-coordinators of the Commission's second working group.

The working group focuses on ‘the impacts of climate change on patterns of migration to and within Europe’. The commission, in collaboration with The Lancet Migration and the World Health Organization (WHO), is actively investigating the complex interplay between health, migration, and climate change in Europe. A key focus of their work is to develop effective policy solutions by exploring the scientific dimensions of this nexus. Currently, the Commission members are contributing to a special issue of The Lancet dedicated to “Climate Change and Migration”.

The Commission was launched in 2024 by The Lancet Regional Health – Europe.

It aims to provide evidence on the nexus between climate change, migration, and health, to raise awareness of the importance of understanding their interconnectedness in the development of policies and culturally appropriate care across the European region.

Background and focus areas

Climate change is the greatest health threat of the 21st century, with global impacts that drive

and intensify migration. It exacerbates health risks, disrupts healthcare access, and worsens social determinants of health. Acting as a multiplier, climate change amplifies drivers of displacement such as resource scarcity, food insecurity, extreme weather, and habitat destruction.

Migrants face distinct challenges, including legal uncertainties, cultural losses, and health vulnerabilities. While migration can foster resilience, framing it solely as an adaptation strategy risks restrictive policies. Addressing these interconnected issues requires a holistic approach, balancing immediate health needs with long-term integration and equity-focused strategies.

Europe is both a significant destination for migrants and a region grappling with its own climate challenges. This dual role creates a unique context for addressing the climate-migration-health nexus. European countries must manage the health needs of migrants while adapting to the accelerating impacts of climate change. The Commission will explore these issues across host and origin countries, identifying barriers, opportunities, and solutions within Europe's institutional frameworks.

Health, migration, and climate change (WHO-led), climate change impacts on migration patterns to and within Europe, health needs of migrants in Europe amidst climate change, and European responses using the social determinants of health approach are the thematic focus areas of the Commission.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

All-Iranian COVID-19 diagnostic kits to be released within month

Iran will commercialize domestically-made COVID-19 diagnostic kits by the Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (March 21-April 22), secretary of biotechnology development of Vice Presidency for Science and Technology announced.

Following a call by the headquarters for the production of COVID-19 diagnostic kits, a contract was signed with five knowledge-based companies and manufacturing process began, ISNA quoted Mostafa Qane'i as saying on Monday.

Diagnosis is the most important part of coronavirus treatment, he highlighted. Patients suspected to coronavirus are currently being identified by diagnostic kits that have entered Iran in the form of assistance and purchases by the World Health Organization, China and UNICEF, he said.

کیت‌های ایرانی تشخیص کووید ۱۹ ماه آینده روانه بازار می‌شوند

دبیر ستاد توسعه زیست‌فناوری معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری گفت: کیت‌های تشخیصی کووید ۱۹، فروردین ماه وارد بازار می‌شوند.

مصطفی قانع، اظهار داشت: به دنبال فراخوان این ستاد برای ساخت کیت‌های آزمایشگاهی تشخیص کووید ۱۹، با پنج شرکت دانش‌بنیان برای ساخت این کیت‌ها قرارداد منعقد شده است. به گفته او، تشخیص، مهم‌ترین راه ورود به درمان بیماری کرونا است. در حال حاضر بیماران مبتلا به کرونا به وسیله کیت‌های تشخیصی که در قالب مساعدت و خرید از طریق سازمان بهداشت جهانی، کشور چین و یونیسف وارد ایران شده‌اند شناسایی می‌شوند.



Mobile clinic offering services to Arbāeen pilgrims

A mobile clinic, equipped with 92 beds, is offering services to people during the Arbāeen pilgrimage. The clinic operates in the fields of orthopedics, neurology, cardiology, gynecology, pediatrics, emergency medicine, neurology, and radiology.



AUGUST 11, 2025

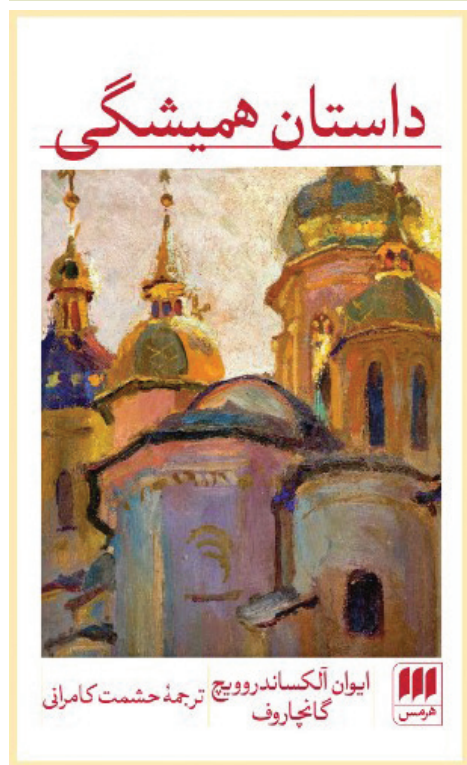
GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Richness is not having many belongings, but richness is contentment of the soul.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:18 Dawn: 3:48 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:21 (tomorrow)

“The Same Old Story” at Iranian bookstores



TEHRAN- “The Same Old Story” written by Russian novelist Ivan Aleksandrovich Goncharov has recently been published in Persian.

Translated by Heshmat Kamrani, the book has been published by Hermes Publications in Tehran.

“The Same Old Story” is Goncharov’s debut novel, written between 1844 and 1846 and published in 1847. Known in English as “A Common Story” or “An Ordinary Story”, this novel holds an important place in Russian literature, not only because of its themes but also due to the fascinating story surrounding its initial reception and Goncharov’s emergence as a prominent writer.

The story revolves around Aleksander Aduiev, a young Russian nobleman who arrives in Saint Petersburg from the provinces. As he immerses himself in the city’s bustling life, his romantic ideals gradually fade, replaced by the pragmatic, materialistic atti-

tudes dominating urban society. Goncharov’s narrative explores the tension between youthful romanticism and the harsh realities of modern life, illustrating how dreams often give way to disillusionment amid the city’s commercial and bureaucratic grind.

The novel was published in the “Sovremennik” magazine during its March-April 1847 issues. Its immediate reception was overwhelmingly positive, creating a buzz in literary circles. Belinsky’s praise was instrumental, and many appreciated the novel’s critique of romanticism and provincialism. Critics admired Goncharov’s sharp depiction of the superficiality of urban life and the decline of traditional ideals. Goncharov himself later reflected on the core theme—the conflict between youthful idealism and the pragmatic realities of city life. In his essay “Better Late Than Never”, he explained that the story symbolized the decline of sentimentalism, emotional excess, and domestic lies, which he believed were intertwined with the decay of old social morals.

However, the novel also faced criticism, mainly from conservative critics. Some preferred traditional romanticism and viewed Goncharov’s pragmatic characters as lacking emotional depth. Others dismissed the novel’s social significance as superficial.

Throughout its history, “The Same Old Story” was reissued multiple times, with Goncharov making stylistic revisions. Although Goncharov’s later masterpiece, “Oblomov”, overshadowed his debut, “The Same Old Story” remains an important part of his literary legacy, providing insight into his early themes.

Today, the novel is less known internationally, especially in English. However, a renewed translation published in 2015 reignited interest, with critics praising its wit, character depth, and relevance. While it may not enjoy the same fame as “Oblomov”, “The Same Old Story” continues to be rediscovered as a compelling exploration of youthful ideals confronting the realities of a society in transition.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza’s Children

Cartoonist: Ahmad Qaddura from Sweden

Cannes Cinema Season 2025-2026 to show two films from Iran

TEHRAN – Two feature films from Iran will be screened as part of the Cannes Cinema Season 2025-2026 in Cannes, France, next month.

“Melody” directed by Behrouz Sebt Rasoul and “Daughter” by Reza Mirkarimi will be shown on September 18 in a program titled “Cannes Cinema Thursdays – Focus on Iranian Cinema” at Espace Miramar movie theater in Cannes.

A joint production of Iran and Tajikistan, “Melody” tells the story of a young musician girl, Melody, who teaches music at a specialized center for sick children. At the request of her 30 students, she must compose a work for a late autumn celebration inspired by the songs of thirty different birds.

To this end, she travels to her home village and enlists the help of Mango, the mute caretaker who looks after the family home. In their quest, they only manage to record the sounds of about 20 birds. Mango then makes Melody understand that only the old village singer, who was expelled by hunters, knows where to find the others. The young woman decides to go in search of the old man and the missing birds.

Produced in 2023, the 85-minute film is set in a stunning natural backdrop, and the story unfolds amidst the enchanting beauty of the surroundings.

The film stars Iranian actor Diman Zandi, Alireza Ostadi, and Meghdad Eslami from Iran as well



Scenes from “Daughter” (L) and “Melody”

as Safar Haqdozov and Zulfiya Sadikova from Tajikistan.

“Melody” has garnered significant recognition on the international stage, participating in several prestigious film festivals. It was showcased in the 21st Chennai International Film Festival in India in 2023, the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival in Iran in 2024, and the 24th Keswick Film Festival in London in 2024.

At the 23rd ImagineIndia Film Festival in Madrid, Spain, the film achieved remarkable success, winning several awards including Best Director of Photography, Best Music Design, and Best Original Music.

The film was selected as the Tajikistan entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 97th Academy Awards.

In the 103-minute “Daughter,”

made in 2016, strict and conservative Mr. Azizi leads a peaceful life with his small family in an oil town in southern Iran. Exasperated by her father’s authoritarianism, Setareh announces her intention to go to Tehran to attend the farewell of one of her best friends who is leaving Iran for good.

However, the engagement of Setareh’s little sister will also take place on the same day. Despite her father’s opposition, Setareh takes a plane to Tehran. This rebelliousness will be the trigger for a wave of disruptions that will upset the family’s balance.

The film stars Farhad Aslani, Merila Zarei, Mahoor Alvand, Shahrokh Foroutanian, Newsha Modabber, and Ghorban Nadjafi.

It won Golden Peacock (Best Film) at the 47th International Film Festival of India and the Golden George Award for Best Film at

the 38th Moscow International Film Festival. It was also named the best film in the 15th Dhaka International Film Festival.

Cannes Cinéma develops a film season (film club, Thursdays at Cannes Cinéma, see and rewatch films, film conferences, etc.) and organizes numerous festivals and events (the Cannes Film Festival, Cannes Cinéphiles, Italian Film Week, etc.) throughout the city of Cannes, all year round and for all audiences.

It is also one of the branches of the regional center for image education in the South region. Image education has always been part of the DNA of the association, which develops workshops, conferences, training courses and other masterclasses.

The new season will start on September 8 and will run until June 4, 2026.

IAF cinematheque to show Lars von Trier’s “Melancholia”



TEHRAN – The 2011 science fiction drama film “Melancholia” written and directed by Lars von Trier will be shown at the cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran on Monday.

The 130-minute film will be screened as the 624th program of the IAF cinematheque at 6 p.m. at the Nasser Hall and will be followed by a review session attended by the movie critic Amirhossein Behrouz, Honaronline reported.

The film stars Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg, and Kiefer Sutherland, with Alexander Skarsgård, Brady Corbet, Cameron Spurr, Charlotte Rampling, Jesper Christensen, John Hurt,

Stellan Skarsgård, and Udo Kier in supporting roles.

The story revolves around two sisters who find their already strained relationship challenged. As a blue planet, called Melancholia, is on the verge of clashing with the Earth, the relationship between the two sisters, Claire and Justine, goes through ups and downs as fear grips them.

“Melancholia” premiered at the 64th Cannes Film Festival in 2011, where it received critical acclaim and Dunst won the festival’s Best Actress Award for her performance, which was a common area of praise among critics. Many

critics and film scholars have considered the film to be a masterpiece.

Along with von Trier’s previous film “Dogville” (2003), it was included in the 2016 poll of the greatest films since 2000 conducted by BBC and has since been featured in various listings of the best films of the 21st century.

Lars von Trier, 69, is a Danish film director and screenwriter. Beginning in the late 1960s as a child actor working on Danish television series Secret Summer, von Trier’s career has spanned more than five decades.

Considered a major figure of the European film industry, he and his works have been variously described as ambitious and provocative, as well as technically innovative. His films offer confrontational examinations of existential, social, and political issues, and deal with subjects including mercy, sacrifice, and mental health.

Von Trier co-created the avant-garde filmmaking movement Dogme 95 alongside fellow director Thomas Vinterberg and co-founded the Danish film production company Zentropa, the films from which have sold more than 350 million tickets and garnered eight Academy Award nominations.

The Iranian Artists Forum is located in Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

“Macbeth of Zar” to return to Tehran stage after global success

TEHRAN-After touring nine cities worldwide and garnering numerous awards, the Titovak Theater Troupe from Iran is set to perform its acclaimed production “Macbeth of Zar” at Tehran’s Homa Theater Hall.

Following successful performances in nine cities across the world and recognition at prestigious festivals, the play, written and directed by Ebrahim Poshtkuhi, will return to the stage in September.

The production has previously been showcased at renowned international festivals in Munich, Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Shaki, Baku, Yerevan, Budapest, Baghdad, and Noyabrsk. After a successful run at the main hall of Tehran’s City Theater Complex, it was also featured at the Shakespeare International Festival in Germany.

The piece has also been invited to festivals in Avignon and Verona.

In this play, Poshtkuhi blends Macbeth with Zar, a rite commonplace in southern Iran, in the musical comedy.

“Macbeth of Zar” offers a novel

fusion of the ancient Zar ritual and William Shakespeare’s timeless tragedy “Macbeth,” utilizing diverse theatrical forms such as Kabuki, Kathakali, Commedia dell’arte, and grounded in Meyerhold Biomechanics Theory. The production reimagines Macbeth’s story set on Hormuz Island, where he becomes embroiled in a fateful struggle to transform into the “Great Zar Father.”

Macbeth is one of Shakespeare’s finest plays, and presents a man’s conscience and the effect of guilt on his mind. A dark and bloody play, Macbeth explores reality and illusion; witchcraft and the supernatural; ambition and kingship; the natural order; light and life, darkness and death; blood and dead babies.

Zar is a legacy from slavery as it was performed by African slaves who were brought to southern Iran. They performed it on weekends in order to gain energy to enable them to bear the burden of bondage for the rest of the week. Over time, ordinary people also joined in their musical rite comprising ecstatic dance with dam-



mam (tom-tom) playing.

Today, Zar is mostly performed by workers in a group named ahl-e hava, which is conducted by a leader called a babazari.

In this play, Scottish general Macbeth commits a crime to join an ahl-e hava to become a babazari.

It was previously staged in Iran under the title of “Hey Macbeth, Only the First Dog Knows Why It Is Barking.”

The troupe performed the play at the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival in Tehran in 2023. The play

brought Poshtkuhi an honorable mention in the best play category. In addition, musician Behrang Abasi won the award for best composer for his collaboration in this play.

“Macbeth of Zar” was invited to the International Theatre Festival Rainbow in St. Petersburg, Russia after that festival’s director saw it at the Fajr festival.

“Although the [St. Petersburg] festival is a non-competitive event, our play was awarded a trophy from the festival on the closing day,” the director announced.