

'History Will Not Forgive Delay in Ending the Gaza Tragedy': Araghchi

Attending an OIC session, Iran's FM calls upon the Muslim world to finally do something about Israel's crimes



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during an emergency OIC session in Jeddah on August 25, 2025

Iran and Russia reiterate Tehran's right to uranium enrichment during presidential phone call

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has lauded Russia's firm backing of Iran's legitimate right to uranium enrichment while reaffirming the Islamic Republic's unwavering commitment to never pursuing nuclear weapons, a stance rooted in its core principles and defense strategy.

Pezeshkian made the remarks during a Monday phone call with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, who echoed Moscow's support for Iran's enrichment rights and expressed optimism for the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 negotiations.

Putin also briefed Pezeshkian on the recent high-stakes Russia-U.S. summit in Alaska, where both leaders reportedly discussed the resolution of the Ukraine crisis, with Pezeshkian hoping that these agreements will soon materialize. ▶ Page 2

Iranian media says Tehran, E3 set for Geneva nuclear talks on Tuesday

TEHRAN – Iran is scheduled to resume nuclear negotiations with Germany, France, and the United Kingdom in Geneva on Tuesday, with discussions centered on nuclear issues and the termination of sanctions, according to a report by Tasnim News Agency.

The report claimed Majid Takht-Ravanchi will lead the Iranian negotiating team, while the three European powers – commonly referred to as the E3 – will also be represented by their deputy foreign ministers. The agenda will primarily focus on nuclear matters as well as Iran's demand for the removal of sanctions, which Tehran insists remain the key obstacle to progress.

The talks follow a joint telephone conversation on Friday between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and the foreign ministers of the E3, joined by the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. ▶ Page 2

Major development projects to be inaugurated during government week

TEHRAN – Iran will launch hundreds of fisheries, mining, and port development projects across the country during Government Week (August 24-30), officials said on Monday, highlighting a push to expand production, create jobs and attract foreign investment.

Fisheries projects

Hamzeh Rostampour, head of Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO), said 155 fisheries projects with an investment of 21.25 trillion rials (about \$42.5 million) will come online simultaneously in 27 provinces.

The projects will boost annual output by 10,136 tons and produce 24 million juvenile fish.

According to Rostampour, the schemes will create 720 direct jobs, 1,652 indirect jobs, and benefit more than 700 households.

Most projects are concentrated in Sistan-Baluchestan, Bushehr and Golestan provinces, and include warm- and cold-water fish farming, cage aquaculture, shrimp farming, concrete pond construction, fish feed plants, ornamental fish breeding, and cultivation of medicinal leeches and algae.

Mining and mineral industries

In parallel, Mohammad Aghajanolou, head of state-owned IMIDRO, said 12 mining and mineral industry projects worth over \$2.3 billion are ready for inauguration during the Government Week. ▶ Page 4

Six things to know about Dutch cabinet walkout over Israeli crimes in Gaza

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – In a dramatic political development exposing deep divisions within Europe over Israel's military actions in Gaza, the Netherlands' caretaker government has been thrown into crisis following the resignation of multiple ministers in protest at its failure to impose meaningful sanctions on Israel.

The mass resignation, led by Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp, is the most significant political fallout within a European government directly linked to disagreement over policy toward Gaza. It comes amid the UN-backed famine designation, the deaths of more than 62,700 Palestinians, over 158,000 injuries, and mounting calls for international accountability.

Yemen's solidarity with Gaza is unwavering despite sacrifices

By staff writer

TEHRAN – On August 24, 2025, Israel carried out a series of extensive airstrikes over Yemen's capital, Sanaa, targeting multiple military and civilian sites, including the presidential palace, power plants, fuel storage, and buildings of oil companies.

The strike left at least six dead and 86 wounded, including women and children, according to the Yemeni health ministry. The airstrikes came as a ruthless act as a response to a Yemeni missile attack at Israel just days before. Israel acknowledged Yemen's hypersonic ballistic missile was an unprecedented military move.

Disproportionate aggression

This latest Israeli campaign demonstrates a trend of disproportionate military force by Israel while claiming self-defense.

Hezbollah protests government's decision to disarm the resistance

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—Hezbollah and the Amal Movement called for a protest on Wednesday afternoon in Beirut to denounce the government's decision to disarm the resistance, which contradicts "the supreme national interest, the National Accord Document (Ta'if Agreement), and the formula for coexistence."

The two Shia movements stated that they would protest "in affirmation of Lebanon's right to preserve its sovereignty, and the right of its people and resistance to defend and liberate their land from the Israeli occupation, out of belief in the sanctity of the resistance and its honorable weapons that defend the homeland, and out of a desire to protect official Lebanese decision-making from any external pressure."

Israel kills five more journalists in Gaza

TEHRAN — Five journalists were killed in the Gaza Strip on Monday when Israeli strikes hit Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, intensifying concerns over the targeting of media personnel amid the regime's ongoing military campaign. At least 20 people were killed in the attack.

The journalists who died include Hussam al-Masri of Reuters, Mariam Abu Dagga of the Associated Press, Mohammed Salam of Al Jazeera, photojournalist Moaz Abu Taha, and Ahmad Abu Aziz of Quds Feed.

A video shared by Alghad TV showed civil defense workers and journalists, wearing bright orange vests, being struck by a bomb while attempting to rescue al-Masri's body. The Guardian reported that, in the moments before their deaths, the journalists raised their hands in a defensive gesture but were still killed in the explosion.

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Exclusive: 'Snapback' sanctions are illegitimate and unenforceable; human rights advocate argues

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – Robert Fantina, author, human rights advocate, and an outspoken critic of Western foreign policies, believes that economic sanctions have become one of the most destructive tools of modern warfare, disproportionately harming ordinary civilians rather than governments.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Fantina shed light on how sanctions, often justified under the guise of human rights, are in fact a form of coercion and "human rights colonialism" used by the West to impose political agendas. ▶ Page 2



Iranian President, cabinet pay tribute to martyrs of Israel's war

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and members of his cabinet paid tribute to the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, the Iran-Iraq war era and the recent war with Israel at Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery in Tehran on Monday, marking the start of Government Week.

The officials began the day by renewing their allegiance to the ideals of the founder of the Islamic Revolution at the Imam Khomeini Mausoleum. They then visited the graves of the 72 martyrs, as well as prominent figures including Rajai, Bahonar, Beheshti, and Chamran, reciting Fatiha in their honor.

The delegation also visited Section 50 to honor the martyrs of the recent 12-Day War in which Israel attacked Iran, including Lieutenant General Martyr Bagheri and Major General Martyr Hajizadeh, reaffirming the country's respect for those who defended the nation.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Naval drill manifests Iran's strategic power

Javan wrote a commentary on the Navy's drill codenamed "durable might". It said: One of the most important strategic decisions of the Islamic Republic after the 12-day imposed war is to try to determine the rules of the game at the regional level; an action for which the restoration and enhancement of combat and defense capabilities are the starting point and main support. Another important pillar is overcoming all-around threats of enemies, both at home and abroad, using internal capacities. Accordingly, strengthening Iran's strategy in both defensive and offensive dimensions must be made clear to the enemies. In this context, Iran's "durable might" drill can be considered the first strategic maneuver in the post-war period, which, with its cross-border geographical scope in the waters of the northern Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman and the use of precision-guided cruise missiles, will be a starting point for strengthening Iran's strategy in confronting enemies. The reaction of prominent world media, especially Hebrew media, to this drill shows that Iran has succeeded in consolidating its strategic power and establishing its deterrence against threats.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Main players' decision could shape future of nuclear diplomacy

In an analysis, Siasat-e-Rooz discussed the West's struggle to activate the snapback mechanism on Iran and wrote: The new round of Iran's negotiations with the UK, Germany, France and the European Union will be held on Tuesday. However, evidence shows that the West, by magnifying the risk of activation of the snapback mechanism, is seeking to force Iran to extend it, which is a kind of legitimizing the sanctions and pressure that will pave the way for its implementation. Estimates show the possibility of an extension has increased slightly, but in any case, the Europeans will not abandon this leverage in order to keep themselves involved in the Iran nuclear file. The role of the United States could also be important in this; Washington could intensify the pressure by preventing the extension or joining Europe in managing the crisis. The Iranian nuclear file is at a sensitive stage, where the decisions of the main players could determine the future of diplomacy. Iran has repeatedly shown that it is ready for constructive and transparent cooperation, but Europe and the United States must prove that they are committed to their international commitments.

Iran and Russia reiterate Tehran's right to uranium enrichment during presidential phone call



From page 1 ► Pezeshkian emphasized his personal commitment to accelerating the crucial Rasht-Astara railway project (part of INSTC), a cornerstone of strengthening Iranian-Russian ties. Beyond bilateral relations, Iran sees regional organizations like the Eurasian Economic Union, the SCO, and BRICS as critical platforms to partner with nations like Russia and China to effectively challenge U.S. unilateralism and dominance.

The Iranian President also addressed the recent Armenia-Azerbaijan agreement brokered by the U.S., assuring that Armenian officials have guaranteed that Iranian and Russian concerns were fully

Jam-e-Jam: Unity is key to victory and survival of the revolution

In its commentary, Jam-e-Jam reviewed the Leader of the Revolution's Sunday address by interviewing political expert Mohammad Saeed Ahadian, who observed: Experience has shown that despite some weaknesses, victory can be achieved in the military arena through prudence, faith, and leadership. This issue was clearly observed during the recent 12-day imposed war. The country's military and political forces, with courage and tact, were able to compensate weaknesses and deal a blow to the enemy. It cannot be denied that unity and leadership are the two key factors in these achievements. If unity prevails, the path to economic reforms can also be paved. The enemy is very much waiting to create division and exploit internal differences. Those who speak in extreme terms on both sides of the political wings or those who actually provide a basis for misperception of the enemy by signaling weakness all play a role in weakening internal cohesion. Differences of opinion are natural and inevitable in the political environment, but what is decisive is the intention behind those differences; if the intention is to help the country, even harsh criticism is tolerable.

Ettelaat: Agreement with IAEA more important than Europeans

In an interview with Ali Bigdeli, a senior foreign policy expert, Ettelaat discussed the looming negotiations with the European trio (Britain, France and Germany) and Iran's foreign policy approach. He said: Negotiations between the three European countries and Iran on the extension of Resolution 2231 will begin at the level of deputy foreign ministers, as Tehran emphasizes Europe's incompetence to use the snapback mechanism. We still have time, yet the scope for negotiation has been significantly reduced. The scope for bargaining has been greatly reduced, and our final decision is still not clear. We must negotiate with the Europeans in particular on this issue, but the International Atomic Energy Agency is more important. The Agency's report goes to the Board of Governors, where European countries are present, and the board decides based on the comprehensive report of the IAEA. And the three countries that pushed for the resolution against Iran (at the IAEA board) must be convinced. If they are not convinced, and if Iran does not allow the Agency to enter and monitor the case through the path it wishes, the case will definitely go to the Security Council, and the sanctions will return.

addressed. The deal, despite being non-binding, spurred concerns in the region upon its signing, as it grants exclusive rights to the U.S. to develop a transport corridor in Armenia bordering Iran, potentially disrupting regional geopolitics and Iranian trade routes. Pezeshkian added that the "3+3" framework (Iran, Russia, and others) is a more effective mechanism for resolving Caucasus issues.

Putin confirmed positive trends in Moscow-Tehran relations, highlighted by an 11% increase in trade and strong cooperation on the Rasht-Astara railway and the Bushehr nuclear power plant development.

Iranian media says Tehran, E3 set for Geneva nuclear talks on Tuesday

From page 1 ► In that exchange, Araghchi laid out Iran's position on the controversial snapback mechanism, a clause within the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that allows for the swift reinstatement of United Nations sanctions if Iran is judged to be in violation of the deal. He stressed that the mechanism lacks legal and moral validity, particularly in the aftermath of heavy US-Israeli attacks on Iran's nuclear sites, and warned the European side of the serious consequences should they attempt to invoke it.

The E3 and the EU High Representative, however, reiterated Europe's commitment to diplomacy and emphasized their willingness to seek a negotiated solution. Both sides agreed that follow-up discussions would take place in Geneva on Tuesday at the deputy foreign minister level.

The snapback mechanism has long been a point of contention between Iran and its Western counterparts. Originally included in the JCPOA to reassure parties that sanctions could be swiftly restored if Tehran violated its commitments, the mechanism has since been



challenged by Iran as illegitimate.

Tehran argues that after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018, Washington forfeited any right to trigger the mechanism. Iran further contends that the European parties have no legal standing to employ snapback measures, especially in light of their actions during

the recent 12-Day War in June, when the UK, France, and Germany sided with Israel and the United States in operations targeting Iranian nuclear, military, and civilian infrastructure.

Iran maintains that any attempt to activate snapback sanctions would effectively nullify the JCPOA

and undermine what remains of the deal. Officials in Tehran have repeatedly said that the agreement cannot survive under the constant threat of sanctions, stressing instead that a sustainable path forward must involve lifting economic restrictions and honoring the commitments made in 2015.

Exclusive: 'Snapback' sanctions are illegitimate and unenforceable; human rights advocate argues

Robert Fantina says invocation of 'snapback' will have serious implications for regional peace and security

From page 1 ► Amid a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape—particularly after the Israeli attack on Iran in June 2025—Fantina argues that the humanitarian consequences of sanctions are systematically silenced, while their devastating impact continues to cripple societies.

He also questioned Europe's ability to pursue an independent foreign policy in the shadow of Washington's dominance, noting that Iran's resilience has fundamentally altered the security balance in West Asia.

On the legality of "snapback" sanctions, Fantina emphasized that such measures are not only politically motivated but also lack a sound basis in international law, raising broader concerns about their implications for regional peace and stability.

Fantina's insights provide a critical perspective on how the West politicizes human rights while simultaneously undermining them, and why addressing these realities is key to any just and sustainable solution in the region.

Do you consider Western sanctions on Iran to be a form of modern warfare targeting civilians?

Yes. This is undeniable. Many Western nations simply mimic what the United States does, despite the fact that the U.S. record of forcing its will on other nations through sanctions is dismal, at best. For decades, the U.S. has sanctioned Cuba, apparently expecting the people there to rise up and overthrow the government and install some repressive U.S. puppet. This has, of course, damaged the Cuban economy, but the Cuban people remain steadfast.

In 1996 United Nations ambassador and future Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was asked if the deaths of over half a million Iraqi children, due to U.S. sanctions, was worth it, and she said yes. The sanctions were to bring about 'regime change' which only happened, against the wishes of the Iraqi people, through the U.S. invasion. After the U.S. unilaterally and illegally withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran, and reinstated sanctions, President Donald Trump said that the Iranian government would beg for a new deal; that, of course, never happened, and Trump finally, and again, illegally, bombed Iran.

Sanctions imposed by the west are another form of illegal violence against the innocent people of the

targeted country.

Why do you think Western public opinion remains largely silent on the humanitarian impact of these sanctions?

There appear to be two reasons for this silence. First, Western news media seldom reports on the humanitarian toll these sanctions cause, preferring to parrot government talking points about the need for 'regime change' in the targeted nations. The corporate-owned media, which is a collection of profit-motivated businesses, will do whatever is necessary to increase those profits.

The second reason is two pronged: propaganda and racism. The people in the targeted countries are portrayed by Western governments as backward and uncivilized at best, and violent at worst. People in many Western nations do not often travel, only see people who look and sound like them – speaking the same language, having the same traditions, attending the same churches, etc. – and so they readily accept these false narratives.

There is some breaking down of these opinions due to social media, but it is a long and slow process for people to learn and accept that their preconceived notions about people, formulated by not questioning government narratives, are untrue.

Can the use of human rights rhetoric by the West against Iran be described as a form of "human rights colonialism"?

That is an excellent term. In the past Western nations colonized many nations, taking over their lands, destroying their customs and traditions, and killing their people; today they define human rights on their own terms, ignoring the belief and traditions of the Iranian people. They try to force their skewed definition of democracy on a nation that has voted in a government to their liking; yet for many Western nations, especially the United States, if the elected government is not what the U.S. wants, it will attempt to destabilize it so it can install a willing puppet government.

All nations commit some human rights abuses, but before any nation, especially the United States, attempts to identify such abuses in any other country, it needs to look within its own borders and rectify the appalling and increasing human rights abuses occurring there.

In your view, did the recent

Iran-Israel war reveal more weaknesses than strengths in Israel's military and political position?

The 12-day conflict has been spun by many Western nations and media outlets as a great victory for Israel. This is a most puzzling conclusion. The Zionist regime undoubtedly expected an easy victory over Iran, but as Iranian bombs reigned down on Tel Aviv and other parts of Israel, and as Israel's defense systems failed, it had to call in the United States to rescue it. The Israeli government, and the 'nation' itself, only exists because of constant U.S. support; it could not stand on its own, as was demonstrated during the recent conflict.

Politically, the Zionist government also relies on the United States for protection on the international stage from the consequences of its continued, ongoing and horrific war crimes and crimes against humanity.

What were the broader geopolitical repercussions of this 12-day war for Israel, Iran, and the wider West Asia region?

Iran demonstrated to not only its own people, and people throughout the Middle East, but also to the rest of the world that there is grave danger in underestimating its power and resolve. Its success during that war proved its strength and resilience, and the fact that it has the support of the overwhelming number of its population. This exposes the U.S. myth that the people of Iran feel oppressed and want a new form of government. Iran is a powerful nation, holding fast the support of its people and pride in its revolution. No country, including the most powerful one in the world, has been or will be able to overcome those facts.

Has Iran's resistance during this period altered the security balance in West Asia?

The racist Israeli government leaders are now well aware of the fact that Iran is a major force to be reckoned with. This may have been a rude awakening for Israel, but it is a fact, and one that that Zionist regime will ignore at its own peril. How this will play out in the coming weeks and months remains to be seen, but with Iran having proven to the world that Israel, standing alone, is no match for it, Western nations, with the exception of the United States, may take notice and decide that it is in their interest to remain on friendly terms with such a large, powerful country. This may cause some of them to break with U.S. policy, and

re-establish more cordial diplomatic relations with Iran.

Do you believe Europe can act independently in its policy toward Iran, or is it effectively constrained by pressure from the United States?

There is a difference between whether European nations can, and if they will, defy U.S. demands regarding their policies towards Iran. When Trump violated the JCPOA during his first chaotic term in office, he threatened the other signatories to the agreement with sanctions if they didn't do the same. They quickly acquiesced to his demands. Yet during Trump's current term, when he has alienated many of the U.S.'s closest allies, those allies may see little to be gained by doing his bidding. They may see the Iranian population as a large and excellent market for their products, recognize it as a beautiful travel destination, and even seek military alliances with it. The next several months will indicate the direction that European nations choose to take.

From your perspective, does the snapback mechanism for sanctions violate principles of international law?

The snapback mechanism was part of the JCPOA. Once the U.S. violated it, that agreement was null and void. When a contract is made between two or more parties, there are certain conditions that each agrees to. If one party violates the agreement, the other parties are no longer required to abide by it; the agreement simply no longer exists.

It is completely unreasonable to expect Iran to curtail its nuclear program when it only did so for the benefits it was to receive from Western countries. When those nations ceased to provide those benefits, effectively violating the agreement Iran was released from its obligations under the agreement.

It must also be remembered that the Iranian government maintained its part of the agreement for a full year after the U.S. and the other signatory countries violated it. At that time, it was hoped that a more reasonable effort would be made by at least the European partners, but when that hope proved futile, the Iranian government, rightly, saw no reason to continue its adherence. But it must also be stated that as soon as the U.S. violated the agreement, Iran was no longer under obligation to maintain it. The Iranian government did it as a sign of good faith, one that was not reciprocated.

‘History will not forgive delay in ending the Gaza tragedy’: Araghchi

Attending an OIC session, Iran’s FM calls upon the Muslim world to finally do something about Israel’s crimes

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi asked Muslim leaders on Monday to take decisive action to put an end to Israel’s massacre of Palestinians in Gaza, warning that the region may never be able to stand against Israeli violence if it does not act now.

Araghchi made the remarks in an address to an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in the Saudi city of Jeddah.

“What is unfolding before our eyes is the organized destruction of besieged people by a ruthless apartheid regime that acts with complete impunity,” he said. “Muslim states should stop making hollow and inactive condemnations about the Gaza onslaught and instead impose sanctions on Israel and bring the usurping entity to account for its war crimes in the blockaded territory.”

Since October of 2023, Israel has killed over 60,000 people in Gaza, at least 83% of whom it admits were civilians, and made the enclave uninhabitable for the remaining population by bombing homes, hospitals, places of worship, and education centers. It has also prevented the flow of food and water into the territory, making Gazans grapple with a man-made famine as well.

Apart from the Yemeni and Iranian governments and Resistance groups in Lebanon and Iraq, which have carried out numerous attacks against Israeli positions in



the occupied territories in the past two years, regional states have so far been loath to take meaningful action against the regime. But recent remarks by Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who told Hebrew media that he feels “attached” to the vision of the “Greater Israel” racked the Arab rulers and made them come out with statements that roundly criticized the Israeli leader for threatening their national security.

The “Greater Israel” refers to an expansionist Zionist vision that lays claim to the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan as well as parts of Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

It is not clear whether the controversy could further shelve a normalization process between Israel and Arab states, which began during Donald Trump’s first term in office and was expanding before the Gaza war broke out. Saudi Arabia was supposed to join the so-called Abraham Accords and follow in the footsteps of the UAE and Bahrain around the same time the war started.

“Let us remember that the tragedy of Gaza does not concern only Muslims. It is a test for the global conscience. Therefore, we call on all nations, regardless of religion or geography, to stand on the side of humanity, justice, and dignity, which is the right side of history,” Araghchi stated during his speech. “History will not forgive delay. Gaza cannot wait. The time for action is now.”

The Iranian diplomat repeated his remarks during separate meetings with his Muslim counterparts on the sidelines of the OIC session.

Israeli officials have said multiple times in the past months that they plan to remove Palestinians from Gaza. Some of the regime’s politicians have said an integration of the enclave into Israel would be the next step. Analysts have been warning that once Israel gets to occupy Gaza and also quell Palestinians in the West Bank, it will be well-placed to pursue its ambitions for the “Greater Israel.”

“Arab rulers operate under the assumption that by stepping back

and refraining from action against Israel’s unchecked violence, they can ensure Israel will not target them,” said Mohammad-Reza Moradi, a West Asia expert and director of Mehr News Agency’s international service. “However, the truth is that, at best, Arabs are only postponing the day they become Israel’s target. Israelis have always pursued the goal of a ‘Greater Israel,’ a concept even Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, believed in.”

Moradi explained that this inaction is driven not only by a misreading of the situation but also by a lack of courage, stemming from a deep dependence on the United States—Israel’s most important supporter—for their own security. “Over the past eight decades, Arabs have failed to build an independent security apparatus and military. This reliance on Washington makes it difficult for them to act against Israel, even if they were to collectively conclude that they have no other option left.”

The Israeli regime recently approved of a settlement project in the occupied West Bank that sees construction in an area known as E1, a region considered critical to any future Palestinian state. In the meantime, it is negotiating with the new rulers in Syria to construct a corridor that extends through the Arab country to reach the Euphrates. Both moves are being interpreted as steps towards the realization of the “Greater Israel,” Moradi added.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met with his Saudi counterpart in Jeddah on August 25, 2025

Israeli expansionism.

This effort rests on the historic rapprochement between Tehran and Riyadh brokered by China in March 2023. That breakthrough, achieved in Beijing, restored diplomatic ties after seven years of rupture. It not only reshaped West Asia’s geopolitical landscape but also underscored the waning influence of the United States in the region.

Strengthening this unity, particularly through Araghchi’s meetings with senior Saudi officials, represents more than a defense of Palestinian rights. It signals a broader hedge against Israel’s regional ambitions.

The deepening partnership between Iran and Saudi Arabia across diplomatic, economic, and political spheres is gradually transforming the regional order.

Once rivals locked in regional competition, Tehran and Riyadh are now shaping a new chapter of cooperation grounded in mutual respect, collective security, and national sovereignty. Their growing partnership sends a powerful message: lasting stability in West Asia will not be achieved through foreign interference or military aggression, but through a united regional front built on dialogue, coordination, and shared purpose.

True Promise III, a major retaliatory operation involving waves of drones and missiles that inflicted heavy damage on Israeli settlements and military sites.

On June 22, the United States struck three Iranian nuclear facilities to ease pressure on Israel, prompting Iran to retaliate the next day with 11 missiles against the U.S. base in Qatar. By June 24, following significant losses, both Washington and Tel Aviv were compelled to request a halt in hostilities.

Since then, Iran has intensified its crackdown on Zionist-linked networks inside the country, adding that such measures are crucial for national security. Western media, however, have attempted to portray the campaign as a move against dissenting voices—a claim firmly rejected by Iranian officials.

Iran-Saudi ‘Greater Wall’ of unity against ‘Greater Israel’ vision

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi’s warning about Israel’s pursuit of the so-called “Greater Israel” vision has carried significant weight during his visit to Saudi Arabia.

The top Iranian diplomat, who arrived in Jeddah on Sunday, held high-profile talks with senior officials, including Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, and took part in an extraordinary two-day session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers.

Ahead of the OIC meeting, Araghchi authored an article in Asharq al-Awsat in which he exposed Israel’s regional expansionist agenda. He cautioned that, following what he described as ethnic cleansing and genocide in Gaza, as well as attacks on Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Iran, Israel’s “insatiable expansionist ambitions” could soon threaten other regional states.

Concerns were further heightened earlier this month when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly endorsed the ‘Greater Israel’ vision, triggering swift condemnation from Arab and Islamic states. Last year, Fi-

nance Minister Bezalel Smotrich was also filmed advocating for Israeli borders to expand as far as Damascus, with the ultimate aim of encompassing not only all Palestinian territories but also parts of Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

The concept of “Greater Israel” traces back to the aftermath of the Six Day War of June 1967, when Israel occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights. Some early Zionists had used the term more broadly to envision a state extending into present-day Jordan.

In his article, Araghchi described this project as “an existential threat and a danger to international peace and security.” His warning has gained urgency in light of Netanyahu’s public support.

The OIC meeting in Jeddah, which has focused on Israel’s war on Gaza and the worsening humanitarian catastrophe, could prove pivotal in countering the “Greater Israel” vision. But beyond OIC resolutions, Iran and Saudi Arabia—as the region’s two principal powers—are uniquely positioned to build a “Greater Wall” of unity to defend against

ther disappoint the enemy.

“Prosecutors and other judicial authorities must act decisively and with full diligence in pursuing cases against those who cooperate with the Zionist regime,” Mohseni-Ejei said, warning that delay or hesitation in this task could lead to public disillusionment. He also stressed the need for a comprehensive and determined fight against all forms of corruption, saying that any stagnation in this effort would erode public trust.

The remarks come against the backdrop of the war that erupted on June 13, when the Israeli regime assaulted Iran by striking several civilian, military, and nuclear facilities. In the early hours, the Zionist entity assassinated a number of Iranian military leaders and nuclear scientists. In response, Iran launched

Iran’s judiciary chief urges swift action against Zionist collaborators

TEHRAN – Iran’s Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei has called on prosecutors and senior judicial officials to accelerate the handling of cases involving individuals accused of collaborating with the Zionist regime, stressing that such elements undermine the security of the Iranian people.

Speaking at a session of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary on Monday, Mohseni-Ejei congratulated the Muslim community on the arrival of the month of Rabi al-Awwal and the approach of the blessed birth anniversaries of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Ja’far al-Sadiq (AS). He urged Muslims worldwide to make the most of these sacred days to strengthen unity, and emphasized that, inside Iran, reinforcing national cohesion as guided by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution would fur-

Iran ease past Canada at 2025 FIVB U21 World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran eased past Canada 3-0 (25-20, 25-14, 25-22) in the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men’s U21 World Championship on Monday.

Iran, who had defeated Kazakhstan, Puerto Rico and South Korea in their previous matches, will play Poland on Tuesday.

In 2023, Iran defeated Italy in a five-set final to capture the title, while Bulgaria secured the bronze over Argentina.

The teams competing in Jiangmen are Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechia, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Morocco, Poland, Puerto Rico, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine and the U.S.

They are divided into four pools of six for a round-robin first stage. The top four in each pool progress to the eighthfinals, with winners advancing to the quarterfinals and losers continuing in playoffs for ninth to 16th place.

The bottom two teams in each pool contest classification matches for positions 17th to 24th. All teams will play through to the final day, producing a complete ranking from first to 24th.

Greco-Roman wrestlers win medals in World U20 Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers Ahoura Bouveiri, Mohammad Aboutalebi and Abolfazl Fathi claimed three medals in the 2025 World U20 Championships on Sunday.

Bouveiri lost to Georgian Anri Putkaradze 10-1 in the final bout of 77kg.

Aboutalebi beat Kristiyan Mulevov of Bulgaria 9-0 in the 63kg bronze medal match.

Fathi also calmed a bronze medal after defeating Viachaslau Fedaryna (UWW) 5-1 in 130kg.

The 2025 U-20 World Championships took place in Samokov, Bulgaria from August 17-24.

PSV eye Mehdi Taremi: report

TEHRAN – PSV is reportedly in talks with the agents of out-of-favor Inter Milan striker Mehdi Taremi over a potential transfer.

Italian broadcaster Sky Sport reports that the two clubs have yet to start up talks, however.

It has seemed inevitable for months that striker Taremi would leave Inter this summer.

The Iranian is not a part of the plans under Cristian Chivu. However, so far there has not been a decisive move by any club to sign the Iranian.

The likes of Botafogo and Flamengo reportedly tried to bring Taremi to Brazil. However, he rejected them, preferring to stay in Europe.

Meanwhile, there has been interest in Taremi from the Premier League. Both Leeds United and Fulham have reportedly targeted the 33-year-old.

And in the meantime, yet another club has emerged with an interest in Taremi.

Ederdivise side PSV has approached the Iranian star’s representatives, reports Sky Sport Italia.

PSV is looking to replace striker Luuk De Jong after his move to Porto.

The Eindhoven-based team would offer Taremi the opportunity to stay in Europe. Furthermore, it will also be playing Champions League football next season.

PSV has begun talks with the agents of Taremi in the past day or so.

Former Iran wrestler Soukhtehsaraei dies

TEHRAN – Mohammadreza Soukhtehsaraei, Iranian retired superheavyweight wrestler, died at the age of 75 on Monday.

Soukhtehsaraei competed in freestyle and Greco Roman styles. He was a three-time flag bearer and gold medalist at the 1982, 1986, and 1990 Asian Games.

He also won silver medals at the 1978 and 1981 World Wrestling Championships.

Soukhtehsaraei was also a Pahlevan of Iran.

The Tehran Times extends its deepest sympathies to Soukhtehsaraei’s family, loved ones, and friends during this time of loss.

Nemanja Tomasevic joins Gol Gohar

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Gol Gohar completed the signing of Serbian left-back Nemanja Tomasevic on Monday.

The 26-year-old player has penned a two-year deal with Gol Gohar.

Tomasevic has joined Gol Gohar from Bosnia and Herzegovina’s side FK Sloga Doboj.

He started his playing career in Rapid Wien II in 2018.

Tomasevic is a former Serbian youth international

Iran overpower Kyrgyzstan at 2025 Asian Women’s Junior Handball

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Kyrgyzstan 77-12 in the 2025 Asian Women’s Junior Handball Championship on Monday.

Iran lost to Japan 30-18 in their opening match and defeated Kazakhstan 37-25 in their following match but were defeated 39-19 by South Korea.

The Iranian team will vie for the 5th–8th place in the competition.

The Championship takes place from Aug. 20 to 29 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. This year’s edition features 10 participating teams and marks the first time that Uzbekistan hosts a continental event in this age category.

As a qualification tournament for the 2026 IHF Women’s Junior World Championship, the competition will award places to the top four teams, who will secure their participation at the upcoming global event.

The Republic of Korea have been the dominant force in the history of the championship, winning 16 of the 17 previous editions. The only exception came in 2022, when India claimed the title in a tournament where Korea, the People’s Republic of China, and Japan — traditionally the most successful nations in the competition — were absent due to Covid-19–related restrictions.

Persepolis, Serdar Dursun part company

TEHRAN – The Iranian football club Persepolis and Turkish forward Serdar Dursun parted company.

The 33-year-old forward had signed an 18-month deal with Persepolis in January.

Persepolis are going to bring Shahriyar Moghanlou as Dursun’s replacement.

The Reds have previously parted ways with their midfielder Saeid Mehri.

Persepolis, headed by Vahid Hashemi-an, were held to a 1-1 draw by Fajr Sepasi in their 2025-26 Iran Professional League (IPL) opening match.

Iran exports non-oil commodities valued at \$591m to Oman in 4 months



TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$591 million to Oman during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Foroud Asgari said that Oman was Iran's seventh top non-oil export destination in the four-month period.

Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has proposed the creation of a joint investment fund between Iran and Oman to support industrial projects, as part of broader efforts to deepen bilateral trade and private-sector collaboration.

During a meeting in Muscat, in late May, with Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh welcomed the growth in bilateral trade, which has surpassed \$2.0 billion. He emphasized that the trade volume could potentially reach between \$20 billion and \$30 billion, given the countries' untapped economic potential.

Hassanzadeh stressed the need for a clear financial framework to facilitate transactions between private enterprises in both countries. He proposed the establishment of licensed exchange houses under central bank supervision and the implementation of a barter mechanism to ease payment challenges.

The Iran Chamber head also advocated for re-exporting Iranian goods to African and East Asian markets through Oman; cooperation in supplying key industrial inputs to Iran; joint ventures in petrochemicals, hospitality, power generation, fisheries, and agriculture.

He further called for the formation of an industrial and investment committee involving the industry ministries and chambers of commerce from both countries. The aim would be to evaluate and coordinate development projects, particularly those utilizing Iran's tech-savvy startups and industrial base.

Hassanzadeh also proposed joint investment in the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) to enhance rail and road connectivity with Central Asia and Europe, as well as the Makran coast, specifically Jask and Chabahar ports, as strategic logistics hubs providing access to the Caucasus and Eurasian markets.

The visit was part of an Iranian business delegation mission to Oman, seeking to capitalize on growing economic ties and the imminent activation of the first interbank transfer mechanism between the two countries.

Also, during an Iran-Oman Business Forum in Muscat on Wednesday (May 28), Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that the value of trade between Iran and Oman can reach \$20 billion-\$30 billion.

Emphasizing the position of Iran and Oman in connecting regional markets, the president said: "We can jointly establish strategic ties with important markets in the region and the world by using our geopolitical capacity."

Referring to his talks with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq the previous day and the agreements reached in these talks, the president stated: "What is most important today is to create infrastructure to strengthen the connection of land, sea and air routes between the two countries, because only in such a context can commercial, scientific, industrial and economic cooperation be deepened."

Iran and Oman discussed ways to boost banking ties during a meeting between the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion.

According to Oman's state news agency, Qais bin Mohammed al-Yousef held talks on May 27 with Mohammadreza Farzin in Muscat. The meeting took place as part of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's official visit to Oman aimed at strengthening bilateral economic and financial relations.

The two sides reviewed measures to enhance cooperation in trade and investment, ease financial transactions, and streamline trade procedures between the two countries. Discussions also focused on initiatives to support joint economic projects, stimulate bilateral trade, and facilitate private sector exchanges.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to continued coordination and cooperation in areas of mutual interest, with a shared goal of strengthening bilateral relations and promoting sustainable economic growth.

The official visit to Oman marks a significant step in the Iranian government's ongoing efforts to strengthen regional ties and deepen bilateral relations with Muscat.

Meanwhile, the ICCIMA head, who had traveled to Muscat at the head of a trade delegation at that time, attended a conference to review trade opportunities between Iran and Oman and presented seven proposals to deepen Iran-Oman relations in the economic field. He believed that moving towards defining joint investment projects is a suitable solution in this direction.

Addressing the conference, Samad Hasanazadeh said that the presence of entrepreneurs from Iran and Oman in this valuable conference indicates the serious interest of the private sectors of the two countries in comprehensively deepening relations and promoting bilateral economic cooperation.

Hassanzadeh stated that expanding economic relations with neighboring countries is Iran's strategic priority, adding: "Iran's private sector is very keen to cooperate with Omani companies. Given the wide variety of cooperation capacities between the two countries, it is necessary to focus on the future of relations so that, by optimally utilizing new opportunities, a suitable roadmap for joint relations and cooperation that includes the interests of both parties can be defined and drawn."

He considered the cultural and historical commonalities, good neighborliness, and excellent political relations in the region as important capacities for deepening economic relations, adding: "In recent years, the value of trade between the two countries has exceeded \$2 billion, and there is a clear prospect of increasing this figure to a much higher level."

Iran and Oman signed 18 memoranda of understanding in various fields during the official two-day visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Muscat.

The agreements, signed on the sidelines of the Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee meeting on May 27, aim to deepen ties in multiple sectors, including legal, economic, political, cultural, educational, health, defense, media, technology, energy, and mining.

In a symbolic gesture highlighting cultural and historical bonds, officials from both nations also unveiled a commemorative joint postage stamp.

President Pezeshkian arrived in Muscat on May 27 at the official invitation of Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq.

Following a formal welcoming ceremony at Muscat International Airport, Pezeshkian held a meeting with Oman's Sultan. The visit continued with a joint session between high-ranking delegations from both countries.

During the meeting, Pezeshkian said that Iran is ready to boost cooperation with Oman in all fields, adding that the two countries possess capabilities that can be employed for the well-being and progress of the two nations as well as that of other regional nations.

"We are ready to do whatever is within our capability for the dignity and greatness of Muslims. Each of us has capacities that can be employed for the well-being and progress of one another and of other nations in the region," Pezeshkian said.

Sultan Haitham also welcomed closer ties, saying that he agrees that if the avenues for business activities are opened, the two countries "will witness a significant leap in the bilateral relations."

"The relations between Iranian and Omani ports must be developed, and the rail capacity from northern to southern Iran is of great commercial importance to us," he said, adding that more support is needed for cooperation in the energy sector.

Iran targets \$4.5b in technical-engineering services exports by Mar. 2026

TEHRAN – Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) is aiming to boost exports of technical and engineering services to \$4.5 billion by the end of the current Iranian year (late March 2026), an official said on Monday.

Sohrab Salimi, acting head of TPO's Office for Knowledge-Based Products and Engineering Services, said most of these exports occur in the second half of the year, making the target achievable.

He noted that Iranian contractors have built a presence in international markets over the past 32 years, competing alongside major firms from the United States, Canada, Germany, China and Turkey.



Despite fluctuations in export levels, Salimi said government incentives over the years have helped expand Iran's role in this field.

Salimi said several projects

have recently been launched in neighboring countries, pursued both independently by Iranian contractors and in joint ventures.

Most export destinations are nearby, he added, because heavy

machinery and equipment often require temporary export permits.

Priority markets include CIS countries, Iraq, the Gulf states, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

He said TPO is preparing a comprehensive plan for engineering services exports to present to the High Council of Exports.

While direct subsidies such as those offered between 2011 and 2021 are no longer available, Salimi said indirect support measures remain, including exemptions from foreign currency repatriation requirements and tax relief in 2023 and 2024, subject to approval by the council's Article 19 committee.

Major development projects to be inaugurated during government week



TEHRAN – Iran will launch hundreds of fisheries, mining, and port development projects across the country during Government Week (August 24-30), officials said on Monday, highlighting a push to expand production, create jobs and attract foreign investment.

Fisheries projects

Hamzeh Rostampour, head of Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO), said 155 fisheries projects with an investment of 21.25 trillion rials (about \$42.5 million) will come online simultaneously in 27 provinces.

The projects will boost annual output by 10,136 tons and produce 24 million juvenile fish.

According to Rostampour, the schemes will create 720 direct jobs, 1,652 indirect jobs, and

benefit more than 700 households.

Most projects are concentrated in Sistan-Baluchestan, Bushehr and Golestan provinces, and include warm- and cold-water fish farming, cage aquaculture, shrimp farming, concrete pond construction, fish feed plants, ornamental fish breeding, and cultivation of medicinal leeches and algae.

Mining and mineral industries

In parallel, Mohammad Aghajanjou, head of state-owned IMIDRO, said 12 mining and mineral industry projects worth over \$2.3 billion are ready for inauguration during the Government Week.

They include steel plants in Neyriz and Sefid Dasht, the Mehdiabad lead and zinc project, a graphite electrode plant, development of Kouh-Dom gold mine, Bahabad iron ore concentrator, a power plant for National Iranian Copper Industries, a copper wire casting facility in Rafsanjan, and a solar power project with Chadror Malou.

He said the projects would generate more than 5,600 direct jobs and close to 19,000 indirect jobs.

Ports and maritime development

Saeed Rasouli, managing director of the

Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), also announced the inauguration of more than 270 port and maritime projects valued at 1.7 quadrillion rials (about \$3.4 billion).

The schemes cover port equipment upgrades, new multipurpose rescue and pilot vessels, and expansion of piers in nearly all northern and southern ports.

Rasouli said many vessels were built by domestic specialists and that traffic bottlenecks inside ports and on access routes have been addressed. He noted that the majority of investments came from private and foreign sources, in line with Iran's marine economy policies.

He added that Iran has signed port investment agreements with several neighboring countries, including landlocked states seeking access to open waters, with more contracts under negotiation.

Rasouli stressed that giving the private sector a bigger role was vital to break monopolies and accelerate growth.

He also underlined the need to integrate ports, rail, road and warehousing as a logistics package under Iran's seventh development plan to fully leverage the country's transit potential.

South Pars gas complex says 90% of maintenance parts sourced locally

TEHRAN – More than 90 percent of equipment used in overhaul operations at Iran's South Pars Gas Complex now comes from domestic suppliers, a shift officials say supports stable output and a knowledge-based economy.

Saeed Heydari, commercial director of the complex, said sustainable production can only be achieved through reliance on local capacity.

He noted that collaboration with more than 130 domestic and

knowledge-based companies has improved quality, boosted efficiency and reduced dependence on imports.

Heydari added that partnerships with local firms have not only raised product standards but also created jobs and strengthened Iran's knowledge-driven economy.

Supporting domestic goods, he said, is key to value creation and long-term economic development, and remains a priority for the complex.

He said maximizing the use of Iranian-made equipment, in line with the country's "resistance economy" policy, has enhanced production processes and environmental protection while delivering major gains for the gas sector.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf water, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

The Shanghai Spirit: The Guiding Philosophy of the SCO

By CGTN's Wu Lei

BEIJING- Amid rising international pressures, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's upcoming participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in China marks a pivotal moment for Tehran. Against the backdrop of growing geopolitical tensions and sweeping economic sanctions, Iran's presence highlights its drive to strengthen ties with key Eurasian powers—anchored in the SCO's guiding philosophy, the Shanghai Spirit.

For Iran, the SCO is more than just a forum for dialogue. It serves as a critical platform to build resilience, expand connectivity under initiatives such as the Belt and Road, and push back against isolation. This visit is poised to become a cornerstone of Tehran's broader foreign policy recalibration.

Iran officially joined the SCO on July 4, 2023, a milestone in its regional diplomacy. Its accession reflects a strategic effort to forge stronger security and economic partnerships amid mounting external pressures. By stepping into this multilateral framework, Tehran seeks to safeguard national interests while aligning with countries that share a vision of multipolarity and deeper Eurasian cooperation.

In July, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi visited China and gave an exclusive interview to CGTN, emphasizing Iran's strong

appreciation for the SCO. He highlighted the organization's efforts to secure a rightful position for Global South countries in the international arena.

"We all have a real intention to go to these paths, address security issues, economic issues, even cultural issues of the member states in a different way than the Western countries usually address," said Araghchi.

He praised the role of the SCO and member states in condemning the attacks on Iran by Israel and the United States this June. "We expect full support, political support, by the SCO Summit for the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

The Shanghai Spirit, a foundational principle of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), was rooted in the values of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development.

At the historic meeting in Shanghai on June 15, 2001, the six founding members: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, established the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a permanent intergovernmental body.

Since then, the SCO has expanded to 10 official member states, with India, Iran, Pakistan, and Belarus joining its ranks. Afghanistan and

Mongolia remain observer states, while 14 dialogue partners extend the organization's influence from Southeast Asia to the Middle East.

From its inception, the Shanghai Spirit has served as both a guiding philosophy and a practical framework for cooperation among member states. Over more than two decades, the SCO has evolved from a regional security mechanism into a comprehensive platform addressing global challenges, with the Shanghai Spirit adapting in step with this broader mission.

In recent years, the 'Shanghai Spirit' has evolved to encompass a broader vision of multilateral cooperation, with a focus on cultural exchanges, youth engagement, and technological innovation. These developments reflect a broader understanding of development that includes human capital and knowledge-based growth.

From its origins as a regional security forum, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has grown into a multifaceted institution guided by the enduring values of the Shanghai Spirit. Its journey reflects a shift from reactive crisis management to proactive, holistic development, encompassing peace, economics, culture, and technology.

Source: China Global Television Network (CGTN)

Hezbollah rejects disarmament as “Israeli diktat”

Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem said the Lebanese government's decree to remove the resistance group's weapons is a grave mistake taken under Israeli diktats.

“If this government continues in this form, it cannot be a trustee of Lebanon's sovereignty unless it retracts its decision,” he said, Al Jazeera reported.

Qassem also reiterated that Hezbollah will not give up its weapons.

“The resistance will remain as a strong barrier preventing Israel from achieving its goals, and Israel will not be able to remain in Lebanon or achieve its expansionist project through Lebanon,” the Hezbollah chief said.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam tasked the Lebanese army to develop a plan to restrict weapons to the state



by the end of the year, a decision that aims to disarm Hezbollah.

This came after the Lebanese Council of Ministers approved a resolution last month tasking the army with formulating a plan to disarm the movement.

The decree was in accordance with a US initiative that includes

vague promises that Israel would end its occupation of parts of south Lebanon and daily attacks on the country if Hezbollah's weapons are removed.

Hezbollah said it will treat the decision “as if it doesn't exist”.

Hezbollah has for decades defended Lebanon from external

aggression, especially from the Israeli enemy.

Israel and Hezbollah agreed to a ceasefire that took effect on November 27, 2024. Under the deal, Israel was required to withdraw fully from Lebanese territory—but has kept forces stationed at five sites, in southern Lebanon, namely Labbounneh, Mount Blat, Owayda Hill, Aaziyyeh, and Hammamis Hill.

This occupation constitutes a clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 and the terms of the agreement reached last November.

Since the implementation of the ceasefire, Israel has violated the agreement more than 3,700 times through repeated assaults on Lebanese territory. Lebanese authorities have warned that the regime's violations of the ceasefire threaten national stability.

Hezbollah protests government's decision to disarm the resistance

From page 1 ▶ “We are about to hold a major national stand to express our rejection of the approach of submission and surrender, and in defense of Lebanon's strength and sovereignty,” the statement noted, adding, “This stand is an affirmation of our right to preserve our weapons, which have proven their ability to break the back of our enemies, and our right to resist the Israeli enemy that violates our land, occupies part of it, and restricts our freedom.”

Hezbollah and the Amal Movement want the Wednesday to be a day “immortalized in history in the record of our struggle, with your presence and your outcry, which affirms your will to persevere and your rejection of any submission.”

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced willingness to “gradually reduce” the occupation regime's presence if the Lebanese government takes steps to dismantle

Hezbollah.

“If Lebanese security forces take steps to disarm Hezbollah, Israel will take similar steps, including a gradual reduction of the Israeli military presence in coordination with the United States.”

Praising its recent decision to work toward disarming Hezbollah by the end of 2025, Netanyahu said, “Now is the time for Israel and Lebanon to move forward in a spirit of cooperation, focusing on the shared goal of disarming Hezbollah and promoting stability and prosperity in both countries.”

Axios had revealed that US envoy Thomas Barrack will discuss in the occupied Palestinian territories “the Trump administration's request that Israel curb attacks on Lebanon and address the issue of the Israeli army's withdrawal from five positions inside Lebanese territory.”

The U.S. envoy is accompanied by Senator Lindsey Graham, who prefaced his visit to Lebanon with a statement in which he said, “The dismantling of Hezbollah means economic aid for Lebanon.”

Graham added that “the (Persian) Gulf states have made it clear to Lebanon that they will not assist in the reconstruction of the south without the dismantling of Hezbollah.”

Meanwhile, the farce orchestrated by Prime Minister Nawaf Salam in cooperation with Ramallah Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is set to continue in the al-Bass refugee camp in Tyre.

Due to the campaign of sarcastic criticism, the Palestinian Authority issued a decree banning its officials from making any media statements. The move is part of a perceived agreement between the Lebanese government and the Palestinian Authority to disarm Palestinian resistance factions in Lebanon.

Six things to know about Dutch cabinet walkout over Israeli crimes in Gaza

From page 1 ▶

I. How many Dutch ministers resign, and who is most important figure?

All ministers and state secretaries from the centrist New Social Contract (NSC) party — nine in total — resigned. This included Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp, Acting Deputy Prime Minister and Social Affairs Minister Eddy van Hijum, Interior Minister Judith Uitermark, Education Minister Eppo Bruins, Health Minister Daniëlle Jansen, and four state secretaries. Veldkamp, a former ambassador to Israel from 2011 to 2015 and a central figure in shaping Dutch foreign policy on the conflict, is widely seen as the most significant figure to step down.

II. What is the reason for their resignation?

The resignations followed failed efforts to implement stronger sanctions against Israel in response to its military operations in Gaza and its expanding settlement activity in the West Bank. Veldkamp said he faced “resistance” inside the cabinet to measures he proposed, which included an import ban on

goods from Israeli settlements, entry bans for far-right Israeli ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, suspension of certain military export licenses, and a push to freeze the EU–Israel trade agreement. The move came as UN experts confirmed Gaza City's famine as “entirely man-made.”

III. Why couldn't the Dutch government sanction Israel?

Coalition leaders claimed their hands were tied by the need for consensus within the caretaker government, but this explanation has been widely criticized as a political choice rather than an unavoidable legal barrier. The liberal People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) and the populist Farmer-Citizen Movement (BBB) blocked proposals for stronger measures, effectively shielding Israel from consequences despite mounting evidence of war crimes in Gaza. At the European Union level, foreign policy decisions do require unanimity, and Germany's opposition has been used in The Hague as further justification for inaction. Critics point out, however, that the Netherlands

has in the past taken unilateral stances that went beyond the EU line when it suited its interests, and that nothing in EU treaties compels it to remain passive in the face of mass civilian deaths. For many, the refusal to act reflects political will — or the lack of it — rather than an absence of options.

IV. Will resignations lead to collapse of government?

No. The administration has been in caretaker mode since the coalition's collapse in June over immigration disputes. Elections are already scheduled for October 29. However, the walkout leaves major ministries leaderless and reduces the government's diplomatic weight, particularly in foreign affairs.

V. How have Palestinians and the Dutch public reacted?

Hamas welcomed the resignations as “courageous and ethical” and called on other governments to follow suit. In the Netherlands, large-scale protests have been held in support of sanctions against Israel, including a June march in The Hague that drew between 100,000 and 150,000 participants. Polls across the

European Union show majority support for arms embargoes and sanctions, underscoring a gap between public sentiment and official policy.

VI. Could this shift Europe's approach to Israel?

The resignations may add to mounting European unease, but a wholesale policy shift remains uncertain. While some EU members — such as Spain, Ireland, Norway, and Slovenia — have recently recognized Palestine or imposed limited arms restrictions, the bloc as a whole has avoided sweeping sanctions. Foreign Minister Veldkamp, despite leading the walkout, told Israel's Channel-12 he “remains committed to Israel's security and future,” framing his criticism at Prime Minister Netanyahu and the far-right members of his coalition. His stance reflects a broader European pattern: voicing loud, selective disapproval of current Israeli policy in Gaza — particularly the offensive in Gaza City and the famine it has caused — while carefully avoiding any challenge to the deeper political, military, and economic ties that bind Europe to Israel.

Yemen's solidarity with Gaza is unwavering despite sacrifices

From page 1 ▶ By striking critical civilian infrastructure, such as electricity plants and fuel depots, the airstrikes are likely to drive an already fragile city further towards collective punishment.

By striking indiscriminately civilian areas next to military targets, Israel amplifies human suffering. In addition, the airstrikes took place despite significant global backlash over immense damage from the Israeli military in Gaza.

The attack on Yemen's civilian infrastructure raises questions about Israel's disregard for international humanitarian law (IHL).

Ansarallah's defiant response

Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, a senior official in the Ansarallah political bureau, declared resolutely, “The Israeli aggression against Yemen will not discourage us from continuing our support for Gaza, no matter the sacrifices.”

Underscoring the uncompromising stance of

the resistance group, he stated, “The issue is settled for us: either eternity in heaven or eternity in hell.”

Abed al-Thawr, an official at Yemen's Defence Ministry, also refuted Israeli claims that military targets were struck on August 24, asserting that Israel deliberately bombed civilian infrastructure to inflict suffering on the Yemeni population.

He described the attack on the presidential palace in Sanaa as particularly egregious, noting the palace had long been deserted and condemned Israel's actions as “barbarism.”

The Ansarallah-led Yemeni government labeled the Israeli strikes a “war crime” aimed at harming civilians and creating a deceptive narrative of victory by showing columns of smoke over the city.

They further stated that the aggression demonstrated Israel, backed by Washington, is waging an open war against the Arab and Muslim nation.

These statements collectively highlight the firm denunciation of the Israeli airstrikes and Yemen's continuing commitment to in backing Gaza despite the consequences.

Israeli War Minister Israel Katz claimed the airstrikes are part of an ongoing campaign to neutralize a persistent threat from Yemenis. Katz, like other war criminals in Israel, suffers from the illusion that Israel can defeat Ansarallah.

Ansarallah officials' statements emphasize their unyielding resistance and frame the strikes within a larger narrative of solidarity with Palestinians, highlighting Israel's widening regional entanglements.

Yemen's Ansarallah has been insisting that it will not stop attacks on occupied Palestinian lands so long as Israel doesn't stop its genocidal campaign against 2.3 million people in the Gaza Strip and lift the siege on the territory.

Israel kills five more journalists in Gaza



From page 1 ▶ In a statement, the Gaza Media Office condemned the attack, saying, “The journalist colleagues were martyred when the Israeli occupation committed a horrific crime by bombing a group of journalists who were on a press coverage mission at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis Governorate. Many martyrs fell victim to this crime.” The statement also held Israel, the United States, and other countries participating in the “genocide crime,” including the United Kingdom, Germany, and France, fully responsible.

The Associated Press expressed shock and sadness over Abu Dagga's death, emphasizing its efforts to keep journalists safe while reporting under extremely dangerous conditions. Reuters described the news of al-Masri's death as “devastating” and said it was urgently seeking medical assistance for other injured colleagues. Al Jazeera condemned the attack as “a clear intent to bury the truth,” reaffirming its commitment to reporting on the conflict despite repeated targeting of its staff.

This latest incident comes less than

two weeks after Al Jazeera journalist Anas al-Sharif and four colleagues were killed near al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

The Israeli military has ordered a preliminary investigation into the Monday killing of the journalists. However, independent reports show that the vast majority of Israeli investigations into alleged war crimes are closed or unresolved. The investigation into the 2022 killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh remains unfinished.

International media access to Gaza has been severely restricted for 22 months, leaving Palestinian journalists to operate under extreme conditions, facing threats of starvation, injury, and death. According to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, more than 240 Palestinian journalists have been killed in Gaza since Israel launched war on the territory on October 7, 2023.

Since the start of Israel's war on Gaza, over 62,700 people have also been killed and more than 158,000 wounded.

Gaza's fate was foreseen

By Muhammad Akmal Khan

ISLAMABAD - The stars no longer depict the night sky in Gaza but displays fire. Whole neighborhoods are consumed by bombs. Hospitals lie in ruins, transformed into mass graves where the wounded wait helplessly for treatment that will never come. The parents hold the cold flesh of their martyred children. The reporters mumble their last words and communications go dead. Food convoys are being halted and people are doing all they can to survive by eating crumbs as they grapple with hunger that gnaws in Gaza.

At the face of it, Israel says its bombs are directed to militants but the truth says otherwise. There is the razing of schools, mosques, apartment buildings and refugee camps on top of the death toll of civil people running out of control. Tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians have been killed: over 63,000, according to Gaza Health Ministry statistics. Independent estimates put the figure at about 80,000. This was demonstrated through classified Israeli military statistics that appeared recently in the news, which revealed that 83 percent of Israeli deaths were civilians- hardly worthy of a reply. This is not a war on open borders, it is the obliteration of whole families- in their houses.

This was a foreseen misfortune and has been predicted not by the Palestinians but by the personalities who ran Israel's security apparatus.

In 2012, Israeli filmmaker Dror Moreh released a film called The Gatekeepers, a rare documentary that profiles interviews with six former heads of the Israeli internal security service, the Shin Bet. These men could not be described as adversaries of the state; they would be functioning at the heart of its security policy and would deal with militancy. They had been involved in decades of labor developing the Israeli security policies. And when these did give their opinions at length, they were not justified by them, but were condemned.

Ami Ayalon, who was head of the Shin Bet from 1996-2000, made a prediction that sadly now rings true as the ruins of Gaza

are still burning. He simply said, “We win every battle, but we lose the war.” He said the immense military muscle used by Israel, its blockades, and its airstrips cannot bring any permanent security. Other voices, including Yaakov Peri, argue that decades of relentless military dominance have failed to break the cycle of violence. Each new operation drives us deeper into that cycle; every demolished home incites fresh opposition, and every life lost draws us closer to a world where the only vocabulary left is the shattering glass of the next bomb.

Shin Bet officials who served in the 1980s and 1990s, including Avraham Shalom, who led the agency, went further. Israel is savage, he then said. “We have grown inhuman; we have grown also inhumane to ourselves. We are now in more respects, the Germans.” Such a statement by one of the top-most brass of the security hierarchy in Israel was shocking. It was one of those rare occurrences of brutally candid honesty, one of the confessions that should have jolted the soul of Israeli policy makers as well as those foreigners who stand by them. But this remarkable note so explicit and unanswerable, was unheeded.

These six Gatekeepers came out with a truth that Israelis only comment about in back rooms. The war of Gaza had nothing to do with insecurity but a power struggle. Dozens of years of fierce military operations, targeted assassinations, checkpoints and blockades have not resulted in sustainable security. Rather, such policies have denied Palestinians the fundamental respect of humanity; they have caused families to be displaced, and they have increased the Palestinians agony; all the while the Israeli people remain in a cycle of violence, resistance, and retribution that have no apparent end.

Now their cautions are entrenched in the debris of Gaza. Being backed by the support of the West, the Israeli government has discarded even the semblance of pursuing peace. It has transformed starvation into policy, bombing into normal activity and Palestinian survival into a negotiable item.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

22 tourism, handicrafts projects to be inaugurated in Semnan



TEHRAN—Head of Semnan Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Bahman Akhlaqi said that 22 projects regarding tourism and handicrafts sectors will be inaugurated across the province during the Government Week (September 23-29).

He explained that 17 tourism projects and five handicraft projects will be inaugurated in provincial cities including Shahrud, Garmsar, Damghan, Semnan, Mahdishahr, and Sorkheh, Miras Arya (CHTN) reported.

Pointing to the volume of investment for these projects, he said the whole investment for these projects is over 1,200 billion rials (\$1.3 million), of which 915 billion rials pertains to the tourism sector and 300 billion rials pertains to handicrafts sector.

Saying that the projects will totally generate 225 direct and indirect jobs , he pointed out that 158 jobs will be in tourism sector and 67 jobs in handicrafts sector.

These projects include the creation of eco-tourism and traditional accommodations, a traveler's house, a roadside restaurant, a traditional canteen, agricultural tourism centers, handicraft shops, as well as specialized handicraft workshops, including pottery and ceram-

Batik printing of East Azarbaijan



TEHRAN--Batik can be considered a kind of applying patterns on fabrics especially silk. In this method parts of fabric are covered with a resistant material that pretends the dye to pass into the fabric and then create intended designs by specific methods.

Java is a Javanese word. Java is one of the islands of Indonesia. But this form of art is rooted in China. In Iran, this print is called “Kalaghehi”. The only region of Iran where Batik prints are practiced is East Azarbaijan province. Weaving silk fabrics have been popular in East Azarbaijan province from a long time ago, visitiran.ir wrote.

The exact history of Batik prints in Iran is still unknown. But some specialists believe that since Azarbaijan is located in the path of Silk Road, this print has entered Iran from China. In regard to the date of introducing Batik prints in Iran, it can be said that a kind of Batik called

ics, he added.

Akhlaqi continued that two projects including an eco-tourism residence will be opened in the village of Kando and a handicraft store in Semnan, six projects in Shahrud including a guest house, an agricultural tourism center, an eco-tourism residence, a handicraft store, and two pottery and ceramic workshops, five projects in Damghan including an eco-tourism residence, a traditional residence, a traditional dining hall, a roadside restaurant, and a handicraft store, four projects in Garmsar including four eco-tourism residences and a woodturning workshop, two eco-tourism residences in Mahdishahr, and two projects including the first eco-tourism residence in the tourist target villages of Jovin and the eco-tourism residence in the village of Soufiabad in Sorkheh.

These projects will not only develop tourism and handicraft infrastructure in the province, but will also make an important contribution to local economic prosperity, increase sustainable employment, and attract domestic and foreign tourists, he added.

In 2022, Iran selected Semnan to represent the country at a union of Silk Road cities based on an initiative launched by China to promote tourism along the ancient route that once linked Asia to the Western world.

The ancient Silk Road has existed for thousands of years, passing through empires, kingdoms, reigns, and societies throughout history.

At certain times in its long history, traders could travel freely along these routes, whereas at others, travel was difficult or dangerous.

According to UNESCO, the Silk Road enriched the countries it passed through, transporting cultures, religions, languages, and material goods into societies across Europe, Asia, and Africa, and uniting them all with a common thread of cultural heritage and plural identities.

“Ghadak” was common during the Safavid dynasty and women used it for clothing, carpets and tablecloths. The researchers believe that Batik prints trace back to about 500 years ago, no artifact older than this remains today.

In the region of Osku, East Azarbaijan, there is a kind of silk fabric known as “Kalaghehi” which are dyed using the special method of Batik. This Fabric is manufactured only in this region and no other. These scarves are known as “Yaylikh” or “Ghizil Yaylikh” and “Kal Ghi” between the nomadic people. Yaylikh means the summer clothing and Ghizil Yaylikh means golden summer clothing.

The scarves are also known as Kalghi because, according to local stories, at the beginning motifs that looked like cow feet were printed on the fabric. In Iran to make a Batik print, first a dye-resistant hot wax or mixture of gum and wax is applied on specific points of the fabric.

In Osku to make the Batik wax or Kalaghehi oil, tar and solid wax is used. Therefore, when the fabric is soaked in dye, it doesn't affect the waxed parts. In the end, the fabric is washed in hot water. Some of the colors are fixed by water stream and some by ironing. The iron is, in fact, a machine including two rollers that both irons the fabric and makes it shinier. Dying silk fabrics is hard and complex, but Iranian dyers create dyes with different shades of using only natural and no chemical material.

According to UN Tourism, the 2025 theme calls for governments, businesses and communities to ensure that sustainability is placed at the heart of tourism development.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres underlined the urgency of this year's theme, noting: “Tourism is a powerful engine of opportunity. It creates jobs and strengthens bonds between people and places, reminding us of our shared humanity. Yet, it can also damage the very places and communities it celebrates. As the world faces climate breakdown and rising inequality, we need bold, urgent, and sustainable transformation that puts people and planet first.”

‘World’s smallest’ ancient inscription discovered in southern Iran

TEHRAN – An Iranian historian has announced the discovery of what he says is the “world’s smallest known ancient inscription”, a 1,600-year-old text carved on a rock wall in Marvdasht, Fars province, dating to the late Sassanid period.

Abolhassan Atabaki, who holds a doctorate in history, said the inscription measures 4 by 7 centimeters, about the size of a matchbox, and was engraved with a tool just half a millimeter thick.

“This extraordinary find is one of the masterpieces of pure Iranian art from the Sassanid era,” Atabaki was quoted as saying by state media.

“Such valuable discoveries in cultural heritage can become symbols of national identity and sources of attraction for tourism in the future.”

Najmeh Ebrahimi, another historian, said the text is written in nine lines using Pahlavi and Mid-



dle Persian scripts.

The first two lines have been obscured by rock deposits. She said the inscription, believed to be composed by a resident of the ancient city of Istakhr, contains a religious text from the Sassanid period.

Ebrahimi added that Atabaki has studied and translated the inscription, which will soon be published in academic journals.

Earlier this year, Atabaki announced the discovery of another rare Sassanid-era inscription in the Marvdasht region of Fars province.

Persian Gulf islands

Cave are some of the attractions of this island.

Larak: Larak is one of the Iranian islands in the Strait of Hormoz at the eastern end of the Persian Gulf and is part of Hormozgan province.

This island is oval in shape and its only settlement is the urban village of Larak. There is no agricultural activity on this island, and the locals are involved in fishing, diving, and ecotourism.

Hengam: Hengam is another Iranian island in the Persian Gulf, with small settlements covering an area of ??about 50 square kilometers south of Qeshm Island in Hormozgan province, and has salt, clay, and lead mines.

Hengam is most famous for its natural and amazing attractions, and one of these attractions is the presence of dolphins in the waters near the coast of this island.

Hormuz: Hormuz is an Iranian island in the Persian Gulf, eight kilometers from Bandar Abbas. This oval-shaped island with an area of ??more than 42 square kilometers is located near the Strait of Hormuz and is a tourist destination in southern Iran.

The city of Hormuz, located in the north of the island, is the only populated point on the island. Hormuz is considered the key to the Persian Gulf due to its geographical location and proximity to the Strait of Hormuz.

Kish: Kish is a sports resort island in Bandar Lengeh county, Hormozgan province, southern



TEHRAN—Persian Gulf is the warmest body of water in the world. In spite of its salty water, there are 200 freshwater springs on the floor and 25 completely fresh springs on the shores of the Persian sea, which originate from Zagros mountains.

Arvand, Karoun, Diyala, Zab, Jarrahi, Dalaki, and Minab are the largest and most abundant rivers that flow into the Persian Gulf, IRNA reported.

In addition to having abundant oil and gas resources and the existence of an important maritime waterway, this vast expanse of water creates a very special situation in relation to the tourism in the region.

The Strait of Hormuz, as an important part of the Persian Gulf, is the most sensitive area of ??the Persian sea.

The islands of Qeshm, Hengam, Lark and Hormuz, due to their proximity to each other and their location in the center of the Strait of Hormuz, form a connected and continuous geographical unit that

has a high natural and cultural capacity, suitable for becoming a major tourism hub in the region.

There are 130 small and large islands in the Persian Gulf, scattered in different places. The largest island in the Persian Gulf is Qeshm, which is about 115 km long and between 10 and 15 km wide.

The Iranian islands of the Persian Gulf from the Strait of Hormuz to the northern side of the Persian Gulf include Hormuz, Lark, Qeshm, Hengam, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb, Abu Musa, Greater Farur, Lesser Farur, Siri, Lavan, Hendorabi, Kish, Umm al-Karam, Nakhiloo, Jabrin, Umm Sila, Kharg and Kharko, Buneh, Haj Salbukh, and Dara. Farsi Island is the southernmost and farthest island in the Persian Gulf.

Qeshm: Qeshm is the largest islands in the Persian Gulf. It is located in Hormozgan Province. Mangrove forests, Kharbes caves, Chahkhouh Strait, blue dolphins, the Persian Gulf, the Valley of Stars, Naz Islands, and Namakdan

18th-century Vakil Mosque undergoes restoration in Shiraz

TEHRAN – The historic Vakil Mosque, part of an 18th-century ensemble in downtown Shiraz, has undergone restoration, a provincial official said.

Sadegh Zare, the deputy cultural heritage director of the province, said the project included flooring, refurbishing the central courtyard and the northeastern private yard, and restoring the mosque's carpets.

He said the restoration also covered tile-work and the installation of infrastructure facilities at the site.

Vakil Mosque is situated adjacent to a bazaar and a bathhouse of the same name, built in the 18th century under Karim Khan Zand, founder of the Zand dynasty, who made Shiraz his capital.

The mosque is connected to the bazaar and separated from the bathhouse by a narrow lane. Its features include a recessed entrance with rose-pink tiles, a large courtyard with a central pool, two iwans, and a 75-by-36-metre vaulted prayer hall supported by 48 carved stone columns.

The Vakil ensemble has long been a popular

attraction for domestic and foreign visitors.

Shiraz, known as the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty, continues to draw large numbers of tourists to its historic monuments.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation.

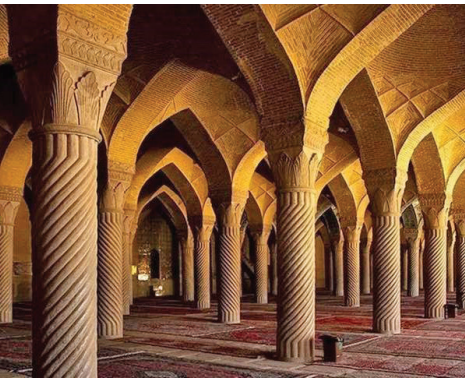
The city was occupied, at least intermittently, from the Parthian period (3rd century BC–3rd century CE) to the Muzaffarid period (13th-14th century CE).

The major occupation, including the extensive fortress, dates to the Late Sasanian period (6th-7th century CE).

It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Moreover, Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights.

Increasingly, it draws more and more for-



eign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital.

Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

The ancient city is also home to some magnificent historical gardens such as Bagh-e Narenjestan and Eram Garden, which are top tourist destinations both for domestic and international sightseers.

That text condemned the breaking of promises.

The ancient city of Istakhr, near Persepolis in southern Iran, was once a royal residence of Sassanid kings and features the remains of palaces, temples and fortifications.

Its political significance dates back to 224 CE, when Ardashir I overthrew Artabanus IV of the Parthian Empire to establish the Sassanid dynasty.

Today Istakhr is largely reduced to ruins, with scattered architectural fragments across a walled area measuring 1,400 by 650 meters.

The site was once surrounded by a moat linked to a seasonal river.

Under the Sassanids, Iranian art and architecture flourished, with monumental palaces and cliff carvings at sites such as Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam and Naqsh-e Rajab.

Iran, located in the Persian Gulf. Kish is one of the major tourist destinations in Iran due to the presence of a free trade zone, entertainment and commercial centers, tourist attractions, and numerous hotels.

Abu Musa: Abu Musa is another Iranian island in the Persian Gulf . The area of ??this island is about 12 square kilometers.

The distance between Abu Musa and the Tunb Islands is the only navigable route for large oil tankers due to the appropriate depth of the water.

Abu Musa is the southernmost Iranian island in the Persian Gulf and the closest to the equator.

Lavan: Lavan is also one of the islands of Hormozgan province in the Persian Gulf and a region of Lavan Rural District in the Kish District of Bandar Lengeh county.

It is located opposite the Gavbandi and Shibkouh areas, but is closer to the Shibkouh area.

This island leads to Bandar Maqam from the northeast and to Shidvar island from the east, and is located 28 kilometers west of Nakhiloo beach in the waters of the Persian Gulf.

Greater and Lesser Tunbs: According to the country's divisions, Geater Tunb is part of Abu Musa county in Hormozgan province. Greater Tunb was promoted to a city in March 2024.

The Lesser Tunb Island is an Iranian island in the Persian Gulf and a tourist attraction in Hormozgan province. Tunb is a Tangestani word meaning 'hill'.

Unity, devotion, faith shine at Imam Reza shrine



TEHRAN - Pilgrims from all walks of life, all around Iran and overseas, gathered at the shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in the city of Mashhad to mourn the passing of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the martyrdom of Imam Hassan (AS) and Imam Reza (AS), turning the sacred site into a powerful symbol of unity, devotion, and faith among Muslims.

As the final days of Safar —the second month on the lunar Islamic calendar—unfolded, Imam Reza Shrine in the northeastern city of Mashhad became a vibrant epicenter of mourning, unity, and spiritual longing.

Marking the anniversary of

Prophet Muhammad's death and Imam Hassan's martyrdom, thousands of pilgrims poured into the shrine, transforming its courtyards and halls into a sea of devotion.

Black and green banners, elegies echoing from every corner, and processions from various cities created a solemn yet soulful atmosphere. Each chant of "Ya Rasul Allah" and "Hassan Hassan" binds the hearts of mourners to the golden dome, as tears of grief and reverence flow freely.

Among the crowd were stories of sacrifice and love. A mother shields her child with a floral chador, guiding them through the throng. Youths with backpacks whispered



prayers with tearful eyes. An elderly man leans on his cane toward the Zarih or tomb, while a woman from Bandar Abbas shares her sorrows in a southern dialect. "We traveled four days just to greet our Imam," says Mohammad Rasouli, his eyes gleaming with joy.

Women also played a central role in the commemorations. On the night of the 28th of Safar, a program titled "In Mourning for the Prophet of Mercy" was held in Najmeh Khatun hall.

Batool Azizi, a religious scholar, reminded attendees of the Prophet's final words: "I leave behind two precious trusts—the Book of God and my progeny." She emphasized

that salvation lies in following both the Quran and the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt.

The event featured heartfelt recitations and elegies, including performances by young reciters and seasoned eulogists. The shrine's servants, under the auspices of the initiative dubbed "Serving Pilgrims", offered guidance, refreshments, and spiritual support, embodying the spirit of hospitality and devotion.

In these sacred moments, Imam Reza Shrine transcends its physical form. It becomes a sanctuary where hearts find peace, souls soar, and the memory of divine love is etched into every glance, every prayer, and every tear.



Strategic plans approved to improve quality of life for elderly

TEHRAN –According to the head of the secretariat of the National Council of the Elderly, Mojgan Rezazadeh, the council has so far approved 18 strategic plans on aging to help improve the status of older adults.

These strategic plans include the development of age-friendly communities, formal and informal caregivers, neighborhood welfare programs, the bill to defend the rights of the elderly, amendment of executive regulations for organizing elderly affairs, training experts in aging, time bank, elderly data management dashboard, modern aging centers, elderly tourism, employment of the elderly, aging economy document, expansion of science and technology in aging, aging literacy, empowerment of single elderly women, long-term care insurance, and national survey, IRNA quoted Rezazadeh as saying.

Noting that there are a total of 9.8 million elderly people in the country, the official said the plans aim at boosting physical and mental health, social empowerment, improving the quality of care services, preventing harm, educating and developing culture and infrastructure, as well as enhancing the participation of older people.

The approved plans will soon be implemented nationwide, the official added.

Iran forecast to enter aging phase

Due to the rapid growth in the number of old-

er adults in the country, Iran is expected to enter a phase of population aging between 2041 and 2046, with nearly a third of the population being aged 60 and older by 2050, an official with the National Population Headquarters has said.

According to a recent report, the number of Iranians aged 65 and older is currently at 7.5 million, accounting for less than 10 percent of the country's total population, Press TV quoted Mehdi Malmir as saying.

However, the rate of population aging is growing rapidly in Iran, mainly because of lower birth rates, increased life expectancy, and other demographic trends, he added.

The official said that the Iranian baby boomer generation of the 1970s and early 80s, which currently accounts for a considerable part of the country's population, will be considered elderly in the next 15 to 25 years.

"This change of structure requires serious planning," Malmir said.

He said that the single elderly account for 31 percent of Iran's total elderly population, saying the category will expand in the near future to significantly increase pressure on the Iranian health and pension systems.

The official said a bulk of Iran's population of seniors lives in rural areas of the country, adding that the northern province of Gilan has the oldest population, while the southern provinces of

Khuzestan, Hormozgan, and Sistan- Baluchestan are demographically better placed than the rest of the country.

He said that around 62 percent of female seniors and some 39 percent of male seniors in Iran live below the absolute poverty line.

According to Saber Jabbari, an official with the health ministry, the number of aged citizens in the country is growing by 3.62 percent, which is five times faster than the total population growth rate, which is 1.24 percent. For the time being, elderly women account for 52.3 percent of the total population, outnumbering men (47.7 percent).

Despite offering incentives to encourage childbearing in line with the youth population law, the desired growth in the youth population has not been accomplished yet. It is one of the most important challenges facing the country.

"At best, Iran's population with a total fertility rate of 2.5 will reach 102,890,000 by the next seven years," IRIB quoted Mohammad-Javad Mahmoudi, an official with the Civil Registration Organization, as saying.

In the last two years, the fertility rate has stabilized around 1.6, which has intensified concerns over the decreasing trend in population growth in the coming years, and the probability of turning Iran into one of the oldest countries in the world, the official highlighted.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

World's first 'subway library' to open in Tehran

For the first time in the underground transportation system worldwide, a public library will be opened in Tehran subway, Farnoush Nobakht, director of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operations Company, said.

According to the memorandum signed between the Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operations Company and the Tehran public libraries foundation, libraries will be launched in seven selected stations, first of which will be inaugurated on August 12, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

The library, called "Metro Book", is in line with the cultural programs to promote the culture of reading and increase per capita reading among subway passengers during intra-city trips, the library with a capacity of more than 5,000 books provides services continuously from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., she explained.

افتتاح کتابخانه عمومی در متروی تهران برای اولین بار در جهان

مدیرعامل شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه گفت: برای اولین بار در سامانه حمل و نقل متروهای جهان، کتابخانه عمومی در متروی تهران افتتاح می شود.

به گزارش ایسنا، فروش نویخت اظهار داشت: قرار است طبق تفاهم نامه منعقد شده بین شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه و نهاد کتابخانه های عمومی استان تهران در هفت ایستگاه منتخب «مترو کتاب» راه اندازی شود.

مدیرعامل شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه گفت: این کتابخانه در راستای برنامه های فرهنگی معاونت امور فرهنگی اجتماعی شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران مبنی بر ترویج فرهنگ کتابخوانی و افزایش سرانه مطالعه در میان مسافران مترو هنگام سفرهای درون شهری این کتابخانه با ظرفیت بیش از ۵۰۰۰ عنوان کتاب به صورت فیزیکی از ساعت ۸ صبح تا ۲۰ به طور مستمر به ارایه خدمات می دهد.

Nanotechnology takes a leap forward in a year

TEHRAN –Iran has made significant progress in nanotechnology over a year (August 2024 –August 2025), with more than a 100 percent increase in nanotech products exports, indexing 10,860 articles in the Web of Science (WoS), and being ranked sixth in publishing nanotech articles.

Iran's activities in nanotechnology began in 2001. Two years later, the headquarters for nanotechnology was established to promote knowledge in the field. The first national strategic plan, titled 'future strategic document', was developed in 2005, aimed to place Iran among the top 15 countries in the field, focusing on ongoing improvement of the country's position to generate wealth and improve people's quality of life.

Later, the name of the organization changed to 'nano and micro technology headquarters' to follow up on its missions and tasks in both fields.

Over the past year, from August 22, 2024, to August 23, 2025, significant measures were taken to improve existing industries, expand and manage sustainable exports and nano-product markets at national, regional, and global levels, promote Iranian made products in regional markets, foster innovation from novel technologies with significant economic and social impacts, maintain the country's scientific status and improve its authority in nanoscience.

Iran's nanotechnology products in various industries are classified into 13 main categories including Civil engineering and construction; Optics, electronics, and photonics; Petroleum and petrochemicals; Pharmaceuticals, health, and well-being; home appliances; Power and energy; Raw materials; Chemicals; Textiles and clothing; Equipment; Automotive industry and transportation; Industrial machinery; Agriculture, animal husbandry, and Water, according to data published by the vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Some 89.6 percent of Iranian nanotechnology products are exported to Asian countries, according to data released by the national headquarters for the development of nanotechnology.

Europe, Africa, America, and Australia are the next destinations with 6.8 percent, 2.5 percent, and 1 percent of imports, respectively.

Welfare Organization to inaugurate projects during Government Week

TEHRAN – The Welfare Organization will inaugurate different projects, namely neighborhood-based social health, physical health, and cancer screening for women heads of household, community-based rehabilitation (CBR) centers, validation of elderly day-care centers, and a talent search system for welfare recipients, during Government week (August 24-30).

Neighborhood-based social health project focuses on revitalizing neighborhood institutions and benefiting from the capacity of qualified individuals, as well as centers under the supervision of Welfare Organization and communities to better serve the community, IRNA quoted Seyed Jafar Hosseini, the head of Welfare Organization, as saying.

The second project, physical health and cancer screening for women heads of household, will be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior. The project will also be followed up on as a national program.

Concerning the fact that the country is entering a phase of population aging and a lack of professional forces, the Welfare Organization is planning to train consultants on aging or aging life care professionals. The first phase of the project will kick off during Government week, with 3,000 consultants to be trained in the private centers attributed to the organization.

The organization will also launch 200 CBR in less privileged and remote areas where access to welfare services is limited. Social workers will receive a 20-hour training to start their jobs as facilitators in these centers. They will be responsible for some 150 cases. Overseeing local communities, identifying individuals with disabilities, as well as resources and measures, are among their responsibilities.

The Welfare Organization will start to validate some 330 elderly day-care centers in cooperation with the national standard organization.

The talent search system for welfare re-

The data, which are related to the Iranian calendar year 1402 (March 2023-March 2024), also show that neighboring countries are the main export destinations of Iran's nanotechnology products.

Iraq, Turkey, and Afghanistan are the top three importers, holding 23.1 percent, 6.9 percent, and 6.5 percent shares of the imports.

Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, China, and India rank next.

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

Journal of Nanostructure in Chemistry (JNSC) affiliated to Islamic Azad University with an impact factor of 7.9 is placed among the top 25 percent of journals in JCR published by Clarivate Analytics in three categories including Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, ranking 34 among 147 top journals; Chemistry, Multidisciplinary, ranking 41 among 239 journals; and Material Science, Multidisciplinary, ranking 88 among 460 top journals.

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

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

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

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

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

ipients will be launched during the week, as well. It will help them to find jobs or start their own businesses. So far, 570,000 individuals have been collected, and it is estimated that during Government Week, the figure will rise to 800,000 people. For the first time, a comprehensive employment database for people with disabilities will be unveiled.

During the week, the Organization will also be equipped with 13 and 200 vehicles and ambulances, respectively.

National Welfare Week was held across the country from July 16 to 22. This year, the week was observed with the theme 'together for well-being; participating today, empowering tomorrow'.

Hosseini said that "10,566 housing, employment, social, and rehabilitation projects with a total investment of 520 billion rials (some 580,000 dollars) will be inaugurated on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of National Welfare Week," IRNA reported.

About 77 percent of the projects focus on employment, 21 percent on housing, and the remaining two percent on the social and rehabilitation sector, the official noted.

Moreover, 359 projects will be started, most of which will be implemented in Kerman, Lorestan, and Isfahan provinces.

Over the past year, 14,000 housing units were provided to beneficiaries and people with disabilities. 45,966 houses are under construction. And 1,942 housing units will be handed over to people with disabilities during the week, Hosseini highlighted.

The official went on to announce the launch of a job support fund. "Thanks to welfare services, nearly 200,000 beneficiaries and individuals with disabilities were employed, and the service sector accounts for 62 percent of the employment.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



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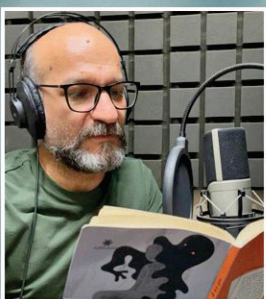
AUGUST 26, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

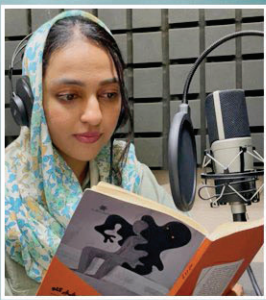
The mind of a wise man is the safest custody of secrets; cheerfulness is the key to friendship; patience and forbearance will conceal many defects.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:07 Evening: 19:01 Dawn: 4:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:31 (tomorrow)

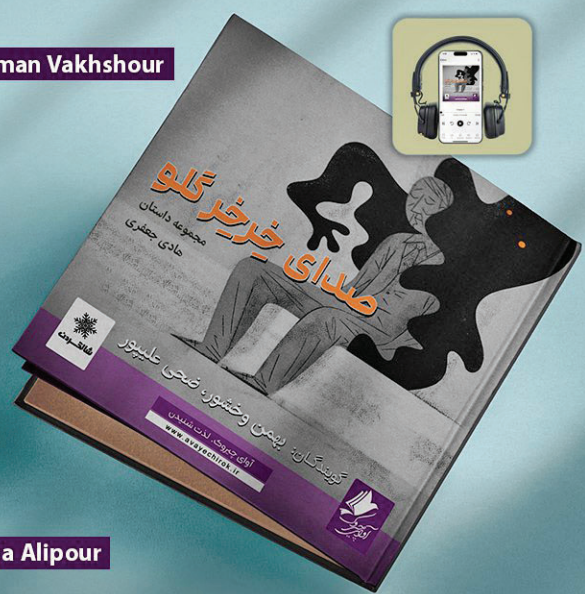
Audiobook of “The Sound of Throat Rattling” released



Bahman Vakhshour



Zoha Alipour



TEHRAN- The audio version of the Iranian writer Hadi Jafari's short stories collection, “The Sound of Throat Rattling,” has recently been released.

Narrated by Bahman Vakhshour and Zoha Alipour, the audiobook has been produced at Avaye Chirok, a major Iranian institute that produces audiobooks.

Born in 1963, Hadi Jafari is a researcher, philosopher, poet, and doctoral graduate in philosophy of religion from the Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies.

Jafari's scholarly work primarily explores po-

etry, mystic verse, and philosophical poetry with humanistic themes, along with studies on Plato's philosophy.

The print edition of “The Sound of Throat Rattling” has been published by Shalgardan Publications in Tehran.

It comprises 22 short stories addressing themes such as love, heroism, family, and social issues.

With a duration of approximately two hours and 55 minutes, the production of “The Sound of Throat Rattling” was overseen by Bahman Vakhshoor, with editing by Hasti Sadeqi.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza

Cartoonist: Ramón Díaz Yanes from Cuba

Iran's Association of Writers for Children and Youth announces nominees for 2026 ALMA

TEHRAN- Nominees of Iran's Association of Writers for Children and Youth for the 2026 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) were announced on Monday.

Author Seyyed Navid Seyyed Ali-Akbar has been nominated in the category of writers, and the “Joyful Alley” (Kooche-ye Shadi) project from the city of Evaz in Fars province has been nominated in the competition for reading promoters.

Both will be competing for the prestigious Swedish prize for children's literature worldwide, ISNA reported.

In a press release, the association announced that Seyyed Ali-Akbar is recognized as a young yet prolific writer with diverse experience in children's literature.

His works blend reality with imagination, humor with seriousness, and portray children and adolescents as complete individuals with independent thoughts, experiences, and their own worlds.

His stories address everyday themes relevant to children while also delving into more complex subjects such as individual differences, the need for respect and acceptance, social concerns, and the importance of human relationships.

The selection committee initially considered nominating the city of Evaz in Fars province itself due to its cultural characteristics and ongoing efforts to promote reading.

However, after consulting with key figures in the city's reading promotion initiatives, they decid-



ed to present the “Joyful Alley” project instead.

“Joyful Alley” is a child-centered initiative that exemplifies urban and cultural innovation born from local trust and collaboration, introducing children as active and responsible citizens within their community.

This project not only enhances children's literacy and creativity but also creates a space for dialogue, learning, and play, fostering both individual and collective growth.

Seyyed Navid Seyyed-Ali-Akbar, 42, is a writer, translator, and teacher of storytelling for children.

He was a member of the Board of directors of the Association of Writers for Children and Adolescents (2012-2014 and 2018 to 2020). He served as the literary reviewer for several children's



magazines and is now the cultural director of Hoopa Publication.

Evaz, a small city in southern Fars province with a long history of promoting reading, has established itself as a city that cherishes books through community volunteer efforts in knowledge sharing, strengthening libraries, building local libraries, and innovative projects like “Joyful Alley.”

It has been awarded the title of “Creative City of Books and Reading” multiple times. The city was previously designated as Iran's ninth Capital of Books.

Back in July, the Children's Book Council of Iran unveiled its nominees for the 2026 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award).

The council announces Arman Arian in the Writers' category and Hoda Hadadi in the Illustrators' category as nominees for

the prestigious Swedish prize for children's literature.

It is important to note that the Institute for Research on History of Children's Literature and the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCY-Kanoon), as well as the Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth and the Children's Book Council of Iran also hold nomination rights for the ALMA on behalf of Iran.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) amounts to SEK 5 million (about €570,000), making it the world's largest award for children's and young adults' literature.

The award was established in 2002 by the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs to commemorate Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren and to promote children's and youths' literature from around the world.

The nomination process kicked off in March 2025, and every year, around 250 individuals and organizations from all over the world are nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

The candidates are authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and reading promoters.

The winner will be chosen by a jury and announced sometime later this year.

The award ceremony typically takes place in the spring of the following year.

Earning the ALMA brings not only significant prize money but also international recognition for the laureate's work in promoting children's rights and fostering a love of literature in young readers around the world.

Iranian drama “At the End of the Day” honored at 4th World Film Festival Kolkata

TEHRAN – Iranian film “At the End of the Day” directed by Babak Bahrambeygi was recognized with a Special Jury Mention for Best Feature Film at the 4th World Film Festival Kolkata, which was held from August 16 to 21 in India.

Produced in 2024, the 96-minute drama received the honor “for its powerful portrayal of women's resilience against patriarchy and authority,” the jury announced.

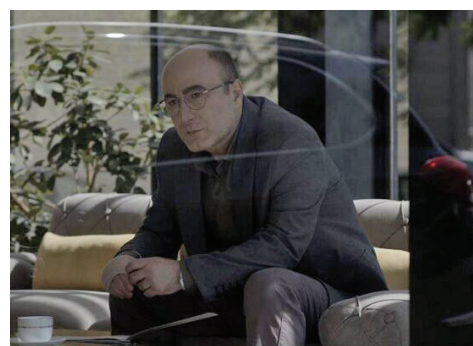
The movie shows one day in the life of three young women in different generations in a small town, who are at a certain stage in their emotional relationship and must make diffi-

cult decisions between the pressures of society and the demands of men for their independence and destiny.

Hanieh Tavasoli, Mahtab Servati, Shayesteh Sajadi, Shabnam Moghadami, and Reza Behbodi are in the cast among others.

Earlier this year, the film was selected for screening in the Global Cinema section of the 23rd Pune International Film Festival in India.

The 4th World Film Festival Kolkata was organized by the Federation of Film Societies of Eastern Region in collaboration with the IFFS International Federation of Film Societies (Asia-Pacific).



Reza Behboudi in a scene from “At the End of the Day”

Bands boycott Victorious Festival after Irish group censored for Palestine support

Several bands boycotted the weekend's Victorious Festival after an Irish folk band was “cut off” for displaying the Palestine flag.

The Mary Wallopers' set was halted on Friday after a crew member removed a Palestine flag from the stage and microphones were cut as the band led chants of “Free, Free Palestine.”

In response, The Last Dinner Party, Cliffords and The Academic announced on Saturday they would withdraw from the Portsmouth festival just hours before they were due to take to the stage.

Festival organizers initially claimed the band's set was ended over a “discriminatory” chant, Morning Star reported.

A spokesperson said the group had been told beforehand that flags of any kind were not allowed at the event, adding that “the show was not ended at this point and it was the artist's decision to stop the song.”

But the Mary Wallopers said that statement was misleading, adding: “Our video clearly shows a Victorious crew member coming on stage, interfering with our

show, removing the flag from the stage and then the sound being cut following a chant of ‘Free Palestine.’”

Announcing their withdrawal from the event, The Last Dinner Party said they were outraged, adding that they “cannot co-sign political censorship.”

“As Gazans are deliberately plunged into catastrophic famine after two years of escalating violence, it is urgent and obvious that artists use their platform to draw attention to the cause,” the indie rockers said in a statement.

“To see an attempt to direct attention away from the genocide in order to maintain an apologetic image is immensely disappointing.”

The Academic said: “We can't in good conscience stand up and play at a festival that silences free speech and the right to express your views.

“We stand in solidarity with the other Irish acts here this weekend. Up the Mary Wallopers. Free Palestine.”

And fellow Irish musicians Cliffords said they refused to play

“if we are to be censored for showing our support to the people of Palestine.”

“We were not made aware of a ‘no flag’ policy ... we have no intention of playing if this is how artists are treated for speaking out against genocide.”

In a further statement, organizers admitted sound had been cut as shown in the band's video and apologized for mishandling the incident.

At least 62,686 Palestinians have been killed and 157,951 injured in Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip since October 2023, the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

“Many victims are still trapped under the rubble and on the roads as rescuers are unable to reach them,” it added.

Figures from a classified Israeli military intelligence database indicate five out of six Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in Gaza have been civilians, an extreme rate of slaughter rarely matched in recent decades of warfare.

That apparent ratio of civilians to combatants among the dead is extremely high for modern

warfare, even compared with conflicts notorious for indiscriminate killing, including the Syrian and Sudanese civil wars.

Since March 2, Israeli authorities have completely closed all Gaza border crossings, pushing the territory's 2.4 million population into famine.

A UN-backed food security assessment has already confirmed famine in northern Gaza and expects it to spread further south by the end of September.

Many genocide scholars, lawyers and human rights activists, including Israeli academics and campaign groups, say Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, citing the mass killing of civilians and imposed starvation.

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.