

Another Blow to Diplomacy

E3 tells UNSC it's triggering 'snapback' to reinstate UN sanctions against Iran, Tehran says it will respond

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Pezeshkian calls China a strategic partner for Iran ahead of Beijing visit

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has described relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China as “strategic,” stressing that Tehran is a reliable partner for Beijing in political, economic, and international arenas—particularly in confronting unilateralism.

Chairing a coordination meeting on Wednesday to review bilateral cooperation and prepare for his upcoming state visit to China, Pezeshkian underlined Iran's geopolitical weight on the regional and global stage. He said the Islamic Republic is eager to pursue “serious and constructive cooperation” with China, especially in advancing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a multi-trillion-dollar project launched in 2013 which is seeking to improve transportation infrastructures linking China to Europe, Asia, and Africa. All other areas of cooperation, he added, could be framed within that initiative. ► Page 2

Tehran Times exclusive vindicated: IAEA Chief declares UN Secretary-General bid

TEHRAN – Argentine diplomat Rafael Mariano Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has officially confirmed his intention to run for the post of United Nations secretary-general when António Guterres' term ends in January 2027.

“I will be a candidate for UN secretary-general,” Grossi, 64, told reporters during a press conference in Washington on Wednesday, noting that he had already discussed the matter with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. ► Page 2

Israel's chilling assault on Gaza City

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – The Israeli military on Friday declared Gaza City a “dangerous combat zone,” ending the so-called “tactical pauses” that had allowed limited food deliveries into the besieged north. The move has heightened fears of another mass displacement as Israel prepares what appears to be a major ground assault.

Nearly one million Palestinians reportedly remain trapped in Gaza's largest urban center after almost two years of bombardment and siege. In the days leading up to the announcement, Israeli artillery and warplanes pounded Gaza City's outskirts, particularly Zeitoun and Sabra. Satellite images show vast sections of these neighborhoods flattened in mere weeks.

Feryal Ahmed, who survived an Israeli airstrike in Zeitoun, told Al Jazeera she had been asleep when the roof collapsed above her. “I threw on my prayer gown and called for my children, but the rubble and dust made it impossible to see them.” Civil Defense teams say hundreds remain trapped beneath collapsed buildings, with entire families buried alive.

Army strongly opposes plan to pit Lebanese against each other

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—Since the resistance liberated southern Lebanon in 2000, addressing the issue of Lebanese collaborators with the Israeli entity has remained one of the key tests of the Lebanese state's resolve in safeguarding national security.

However, the politicized judiciary has disappointed the families of martyrs and those harmed as the Military Court of Cassation, headed by Judge Mounir Suleiman, sentenced the convicted spy Mohieddine Hasna to only 22 months in prison. He had already been sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Mohieddine Hasna supplied the Israeli enemy with sensitive details on pager frequencies in Lebanon, along with a comprehensive survey of Lebanese areas—including the southern suburbs, the South, the Bekaa, and Mount Lebanon—intended to facilitate the hacking of Wi-Fi data from homes and institutions.

500+ UN staff demand Israel's Gaza war be called genocide

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Israel's brutal war on the Gaza Strip, combined with its deliberate starvation policy, continues unchecked in the besieged Palestinian territory.

On Friday alone, the Israeli army killed dozens of Palestinians in Gaza, including aid seekers. Since launching its offensive in October 2023, Israel has killed nearly 63,000 Palestinians.

The near-total siege imposed by Israel has worsened starvation across Gaza. More than 300 Palestinians—including around 120 children—have died from hunger and malnutrition caused by the blockade.

The United Nations agency for children, UNICEF, has raised the alarm about the rapidly worsening food crisis. “It's clear on the ground that famine is absolutely ravaging Gaza City,” UNICEF spokesperson Tess Ingram told Al Jazeera.

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The environmental toll of war: a crisis we often overlook



By Shina Ansari

Head of the Department of Environment

TEHRAN – When wars break out, the news usually focuses on the tragic loss of human lives, injuries, and damage to buildings and infrastructure. But behind these visible horrors lies a similarly harrowing, though less visible, consequence of wars—one that rarely gets the attention it deserves: the long-lasting harm war does to the environment.

When a region is attacked, it's not just people and property that pay the price. The natural world suffers too, often in ways that take decades to heal—if they ever do. The damage to wildlife habitats, forests, and ecosystems can be devastating and sometimes permanent. ► Page 7

On the president's visit to China

By Ali Fekri

TEHRAN – China is set to host two major international events in the near future: the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit and the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

These events come at a time when the global order—its structures, norms, and even the very instruments once relied upon in earlier systems—has entered a phase of profound transformation, driven by sharp competition among great powers. Various regions of the world, particularly West Asia, are experiencing the often bloody consequences of these complex shifts.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has resolved to participate at the highest level in these critical gatherings, underscoring its determination to contribute meaningfully to shaping the emerging international order. ► Page 3



On the occasion of Government Week, the largest visual arts workshop titled “My Iran” was held on Friday afternoon, August 29, at the Azadi Tower Cultural and Artistic Complex in Tehran.

Exclusive Interview

Iran must adopt dual-track strategy to secure Caucasus role, says Italian analyst

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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Fateful circumstances

In a note, Shargh discussed the European troika's activation of the snapback mechanism against Iran. It wrote: The European troika's decision to send a letter to the Security Council and initiate the snapback mechanism process has once again put Iran's nuclear issue at the center of global politics. This action has not only revived long-standing tensions over the implementation of the JCPOA, but also exposed a complex equation of global powers' interactions with Iran. France, Germany, and Britain are pursuing the process of returning UN sanctions under the claim that Iran has violate its nuclear commitments. At the same time, Iran's mission to the UN has described the current moment as fateful and considers it a test of Europe's alleged claim of sincerity in supporting diplomacy. The United States has openly supported the Europeans' action and sees it in line with its previous pressures. Washington seeks to frame this measure as an effort to weaken Iran's nuclear deterrence. However, recent developments—from the joint Israeli-U.S. strikes on Iran two months ago to Tehran's subsequent responses—demonstrate that the JCPOA crisis extends beyond a mere legal disagreement. It is increasingly manifesting within a broader security and geopolitical framework.

Farhikhtegan: Snapback gambling and Iran's options ahead

In a commentary, Farhikhtegan wrote: We observed that despite indirect negotiation between Iran and the United States, the American side entered the war in support of the Zionist regime and targeted Iran's nuclear infrastructure. Given this experience, any political action against Iran's nuclear program will be considered a prelude to escalating tensions. Withdrawing from the NPT is just one of the steps that Iran has threatened to take if the snapback mechanism is invoked. In addition to restraining the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from excessive monitoring activities, Iran could significantly increase its enrichment capacity by installing more advanced centrifuges. Focusing on the design and construction of new-generation centrifuges or launching uranium metal production chains are other strategic steps that could further strengthen Iran's technical position. Iran could also exploit its vast stockpile of enriched uranium for non-prohibited military applications, applications of which the Western parties and the Agency are well aware.

Hamshahri: The missile power of the Islamic Republic

In an analysis, Hamshahri discussed Iran's

missile power and technology. It wrote: The defense and deterrence power of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been formed based on a set of key components. One of the most important components of this power is missile capability. Iran is among the advanced and prominent countries in the world in missile technology. This strategic capability was well demonstrated, especially during the 12-day sacred defense in June. It proved its effectiveness. The Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated its significant power in missile technology as it possesses a variety of missiles with different ranges and capabilities. Achieving this level of missile power is the result of years of continuous effort despite complex security conditions and external pressure. It has now entered a new and more advanced stage. Over 90 percent of equipment needed by the armed forces is produced within the country, especially in the field of missile technology. Both solid-fuel and liquid-fuel missiles are 100% domestically manufactured, and we have no reliance on foreign countries.

Iran: Opportunity to cooperate with BRICS

Iran's membership in BRICS can be considered one of the most important foreign policy achievements of Iran in recent years. This action not only provides a new opportunity for Iran to play a role in the new multilateral structure in the world, but also provides a platform for expanding institutionalized cooperation with the "Global South." In the years since its formation, the bloc's most important role has centered on global economy. Iran's official membership in BRICS coupled with structural transformation in the economic bloc, an important opportunity has been provided to improve Iran's position in the new international order. By deepening cooperation in the form of development-oriented programs at the 2025 summit, especially in the areas of finance, technology, energy, and global governance, BRICS will play a more effective role in regulating the multipolar architecture. Therefore, the necessity of utilizing the capacities of this institution for Iran is felt more than ever before. In this framework and based on the decision of the BRICS summit, Iran's role in this group is very valuable. (The 17th BRICS summit was held Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on July 6-7. The summit was held under the theme "Strengthening Global South Cooperation and Promoting a More Inclusive and Sustainable Global Governance")

Tehran Times exclusive vindicated: IAEA Chief declares UN Secretary-General bid



From page 1 ► The leadership of the UN, the world's highest diplomatic position, carries a five-year mandate with the possibility of re-election. Though no formal procedure exists, contenders typically secure backing from member states, while permanent Security Council members retain veto power over any nominee.

Grossi's candidacy comes as no surprise. For years, he has been floated as a likely contender. But his bid is not without controversy. Grossi has drawn heavy criticism for politicizing the IAEA and actively enabling Western and Israeli narratives in their joint assault on Iran.

In the days leading up to Israel's military assault on Iran, an IAEA report citing enrichment levels "higher than those in countries without military nuclear programs" was repeatedly cited by the Israeli regime as a pretext for escalation. Although Grossi later admitted to CNN that the Agency had found no evidence of a "systematic effort" by Iran to build nuclear weapons, this retraction came too late. The report had already fueled a Western-drafted resolution against Iran at the IAEA Board of Governors—laying

diplomatic groundwork for the aggression that followed.

The joint Israeli-U.S. war of aggression against Iran began on June 13. The conflict ended less than two weeks later, on June 25, after Iran's retaliatory missile strikes overwhelmed Israeli defense systems and forced a halt to hostilities.

An April investigation by the Tehran Times shed further light on Grossi's motivations. According to the report, Grossi's political maneuvering and repeated anti-Iran remarks were not born of personal conviction alone, but tied directly to promises made by the European Troika—Germany, France, and the UK. According to the report, the E3 have pledged their backing for his UN bid in exchange for his cooperation in demonizing Iran's nuclear program and helping justify renewed sanctions through the "snapback" mechanism.

The exposé noted that Grossi has consistently overstated Iran's nuclear capabilities in interviews with Western outlets, at times claiming Tehran could build "six to seven bombs" without offering corroborating evidence. Iranian officials have repeatedly denounced his comments as political, with nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami reminding Grossi last year that his role is technical, not diplomatic.

By aligning himself with the E3, Grossi has allowed the IAEA to become a political tool in the broader Western pressure campaign on Iran. In Tehran's view, his actions amount to complicity in the war narrative against the Islamic Republic, undermining the neutrality expected of the world's nuclear watchdog.

Pezeshkian calls China a strategic partner for Iran ahead of Beijing visit

From page 1 ► Senior officials and ministers attending the meeting discussed key areas of Iran-China relations, reviewed the status of existing agreements and projects, and proposed measures to accelerate their implementation.

Political adviser to the president, Mehdi Sanai, announced that Pezeshkian will travel to China on August 31 to attend and deliver addresses at two major gatherings: the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit and the "Shanghai Plus" meeting, which will bring together representatives from over 30 countries.

His agenda also includes talks with President Xi Jinping and bilateral meetings with several other world leaders.

Separately, informed sources confirmed that Pezeshkian, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, will participate in China's Victory Day parade on September 3, marking the 79th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

According to Reuters, it will be the first joint public appearance of Putin and Kim alongside President Xi, seen as a show of



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) chairs a meeting with officials and senior managers from relevant executive agencies to review various aspects of relations and cooperation with China, August 28, 2025.

collective solidarity amid Western pressure.

China's Foreign Ministry has said 26 foreign leaders are expected to attend the parade. No Western leaders are participating, with the exception of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico.

Other confirmed attendees include Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić, and South Korean National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik. UN Under-Secretary-General Li Junhua will represent the world

body.

The Victory Day parade—set to be one of China's largest in recent years—will showcase advanced military hardware, including fighter aircraft, missile defense systems, and hypersonic weapons.

China is Iran's largest trade partner. Both states are subject to different levels of illegal sanctions imposed by the US.

The two countries signed the long-term strategic partnership deal in March 2021 in an attempt to reinforce their long-standing

economic and political alliance.

On Tuesday, Iran's transport minister said the country would soon finalize a contract with China for a high-speed railway project connecting the capital Tehran to the second-largest city of Mashhad.

Farzaneh Sadegh said that the Chinese investor of the project would sign a contract with the Iranian side for the Tehran-Mashhad high-speed rail project during Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Beijing next week.

Iran must adopt dual-track strategy to secure Caucasus role, says Italian analyst

Boltuc stresses Tehran should act as stabilizer to counter US, NATO, and Turkish encroachment

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Silvia Boltuc, an Italian geopolitical analyst and Managing Director of Special Eurasia, analyzes how a foreign-operated corridor could reshape Iran's strategic environment in the South Caucasus.

She stresses that Tehran's consistent defense of internationalized borders is directly challenged by proposals for an extraterritorial passage through Armenia. According to Boltuc, such a move would not only undermine Armenian sovereignty but also risk increasing U.S. and NATO influence along Iran's northern frontier.

At the same time, she notes that Armenia serves as Iran's sole gateway to the Eurasian Economic Union, making the preservation of this partnership vital. For Iran, she argues, the stakes extend beyond trade to its broader geopolitical role.

Below is the full text of the interview:

How do you assess the significance of the so-called Trump Route or Zangezur Corridor in the broader framework of the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace agreement?

First and foremost, referring to it as the "Zangezur Corridor" would amount to endorsing terminology coined by Turkey and Azerbaijan, as well as their vision of it as an extraterritorial passage. Armenia has made it clear that it will never accept such a designation.

With regard to the so-called Trump Route, I view it as secondary to the peace agreement itself. A peace process cannot be conditioned on a logistical issue. Moreover, the establishment of a corridor first requires mutual recognition of territorial integrity. Yet Azerbaijan accuses Armenia of including in its Constitution a clause referring to the reunification of the Republic of Armenia with the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh. In reality, no such clause exists. What exists is a chain of references: the preamble of the Armenian Constitution refers to the 1990 Declaration of Independence from the Soviet Union. That declaration, in turn,

cites earlier resolutions adopted by the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic and the authorities of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, which had called for unification of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

In September of last year, as clearly explained by the Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan during the Yerevan Dialogues 2025, Armenia's Constitutional Court carried out a legal review and concluded that only the explicit text of the Constitution carries legal force. According to the Court, the indirect references through the 1990 Declaration and earlier Soviet-era decisions cannot be interpreted as territorial claims against Azerbaijan.

It is worth noting that Azerbaijan's Constitution also contains a historical reference—describing the country as the successor of the short-lived Azerbaijan Democratic Republic of the late 1910s, rather than Soviet Azerbaijan. That earlier republic had laid claim to extensive territories that are now internationally recognized as part of Armenia and Georgia. Furthermore, Azerbaijan has become increasingly assertive in describing 60% of Armenia's sovereign territory as "Western Azerbaijan."

Under these circumstances, discussions about corridors are premature—just as premature as consider the peace deal as concluded. It should be remembered that the peace agreement has only been preliminarily signed, and Baku will not formally endorse the document until Armenia amends its Constitution. Given both logistical and domestic political constraints in Armenia, such a change is highly unlikely to occur in the near future, if it occurs at all. Not to mention the uncertainty regarding whether the upcoming 2026 Armenian parliamentary elections will result in a change of the ruling party. The opposition might be less inclined to grant concessions to Azerbaijan than Civil Contract has been.

In your view, does the corridor primarily serve economic connectivity, or is it more about geopolitical realignments in the South Caucasus?

Armenia's proposed initiative, the Crossroads of Peace, which

also envisioned integration with Iran along the Persian Gulf–Black Sea axis, was primarily an economic project. Precisely because it offered no geopolitical advantage, Azerbaijan chose not to accept it.

The economic value of the so-called Trump Route would have been significant only if it had managed to cut transportation times by half. Yet a glance at the regional maps makes it clear that bypassing Armenia does not impose such prohibitive costs on the overall network of connections. In fact, the greater economic impact was borne by Armenia itself, left isolated and squeezed between two closed borders. The issue, therefore, is far more geopolitical than economic.

Moreover, for Armenian goods to reach European markets (with Iran and Russia already covering the other direction), what was really needed was the normalization of relations with Turkey. By contrast, it is Azerbaijani goods that depend far more on access to the Nakhichevan exclave and to Turkey to reach Europe. The very fact that Ankara tied the normalization of Armenian–Turkish relations to the broader dynamics of Armenian–Azerbaijani negotiations illustrates a pan-Turkic strategy—one that, with the involvement of a second NATO actor, namely the United States under Trump, might be reinforced.

At the same time, this development would establish a U.S. presence in the Caucasus, consistent with NATO's current strategic concept, which among other objectives seeks to contain Russia. In this specific context, it would also serve Washington's own policy of containing Iran.

Iran has consistently emphasized the importance of respecting internationally recognized borders. How might the development of the corridor affect Tehran's strategic outlook in the region?

With regard specifically to borders, these do not change as a result of a transport corridor. What can change, however, is jurisdiction—particularly if Armenia were to concede an extraterritorial corridor. It is also worth noting that Russia has withdrawn

its border guards, leaving the Armenian personnel fully responsible for managing the frontier with Iran.

A fundamental change to borders, with significant consequences for Iran, would occur only if Azerbaijan launched a military offensive. Looking at Azerbaijan's modus operandi, military action is typically preceded by a state-driven narrative designed to prepare the public, presenting a supposed problem that requires resolution. In the months leading up to the ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh, for example, Baku actively propagated claims—through media and academic channels—of alleged systematic environmental destruction of the enclave by Armenians. The subsequent offensive was then justified as an "anti-terrorist operation." Following the removal of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh, the narrative shifted toward Armenia's Syunik region. Increasingly assertive rhetoric from Baku now describes this area as "Western Azerbaijan," and reports of border incidents between Armenia and Azerbaijan have risen. How can a corridor running through Armenian territory, which Baku itself labels as "Western Azerbaijan," be considered secure? Unless the United States were to guarantee the advantages gained through such a corridor, the risk of an Azerbaijani offensive—with the support of a NATO ally, Turkey—remains entirely plausible.

In such a scenario, Iran's ability to cooperate with other regional actors would be undermined by Ankara's pan-Turkic agenda, jeopardizing Tehran's efforts toward Eurasian integration and leaving only the Central Asian route as an alternative. Armenia, notably, is the only member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) that shares a border with Iran. Thanks in part to the free trade agreement signed between Tehran and the EAEU, Yerevan serves as Iran's gateway to a common market of over 180 million people and a combined GDP exceeding \$2.4 trillion. Underlining this strategic dimension, Iran recently opened an 18,000-square-meter trading house in Yerevan.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Another blow to diplomacy

E3 tells UNSC it's triggering 'snapback' to reinstate UN sanctions against Iran, Tehran says it will respond

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – When Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian was vying for the presidency last year, his willingness to give diplomacy with the West another chance was his main point of distinction from his conservative rival, Saeed Jalili, who has likened negotiating Iran's nuclear program with the West to the biblical story of the Israelites worshipping a “golden calf.” Perhaps Iranians voted for Pezeshkian because they believed a diplomatic solution with the West was still possible.

However, the West's actions over the past 12 months have made it increasingly difficult for Pezeshkian to defend this diplomatic approach and for the Iranian people to believe the West can be trusted.

President Pezeshkian came into office in August 2024, a time when Iran had already spent the past four years trying in vain to revive the 2015 nuclear deal it had signed with the P5+1 nations (the U.S., UK, France, China, Russia, and Germany).

The United States dismantled the agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), by withdrawing from it in 2018. The JCPOA limited Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Believing the deal was “weak,” President Trump initiated a “maximum pressure” campaign of intensified economic sanctions to force Iran into negotiating a new agreement. After Trump left office, Iran attempted to revive the deal under the Biden administration.

The U.S. abandoned the talks in 2022, allegedly after concluding that the riots which had convulsed Iran at the time would lead to the Islamic Republic's downfall.

Following this long saga, and despite significant skepticism



within Iran's political ranks, Pezeshkian began indirect talks with the second Trump administration in 2025. Conservatives in Iran's parliament called him “naive” for believing discussions with Washington could come to fruition. “Americans have proven they cannot be trusted. Why are we talking to them again?” one MP from Tehran argued when the Omani-mediated talks were first announced in late March.

The Pezeshkian administration attended five rounds of indirect talks with Washington in April and May. In meetings with journalists and in public, Iranian diplomats stated their position was straightforward: as a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Iran should be allowed to enrich uranium for civilian purposes. But it was willing to provide assurances to the West that it would not pursue nuclear weapons if sanctions were lifted.

But on June 13, just as Iran was preparing to attend a sixth round of talks after finalizing the time and location with the Americans, a 12-day US-Israeli bombing campaign was unleashed.

The attacks inflicted significant damage on three Iranian nuclear sites and killed over a thousand Iranians.

The war changed reality on the ground for many, especially ordinary people. Those who had once celebrated Javad Zarif's return to

Tehran after he negotiated the JCPOA in Vienna now grew bitter and hopeless whenever the topic of a new deal arose. “How can you attack a country in the middle of negotiations?” asked one Tehrani man who had fled the city with his family during the war. “Do negotiations even mean anything to the West? I guess not.”

Even after the war, however, Pezeshkian's government kept the door open for dialogue. Just last month, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stated that returning to talks “depends entirely on the national interest.”

Many interpreted this as a signal that Iran remained open to assuring the West it would not pursue nuclear weapons—so long as its right to uranium enrichment was respected, a position the country has maintained for over two decades.

Yet instead of seizing this chance to return to diplomacy after a war that yielded no victory, the West chose another path. This week, it decided to deal another blow to negotiations by activating the so-called “snapback” mechanism.

The JCPOA's “snapback” mechanism allows signatories to reinstate UN sanctions that had been lifted under the deal if they find Iran non-compliant.

Europe had threatened to trigger this mechanism since last year in response to Iran's abandonment of some commitments.

Iran, however, argued it only scaled back its obligations after the U.S. left the deal and Europe failed to mitigate the impact of U.S. sanctions. Following the American and Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, Europe's move to use the mechanism against now-inactive sites appeared even more ridiculous.

Nonetheless, France, Germany, and the U.K. sent a letter to the UN Security Council on Thursday announcing their decision to re-impose UN sanctions. Although the notification does not mean sanctions are immediately reinstated (there is a 30-day period to stop or extend the process) the move has already provoked anger in Tehran and deepened distrust of diplomatic engagement with the West within both the Pezeshkian administration and the Iranian public.

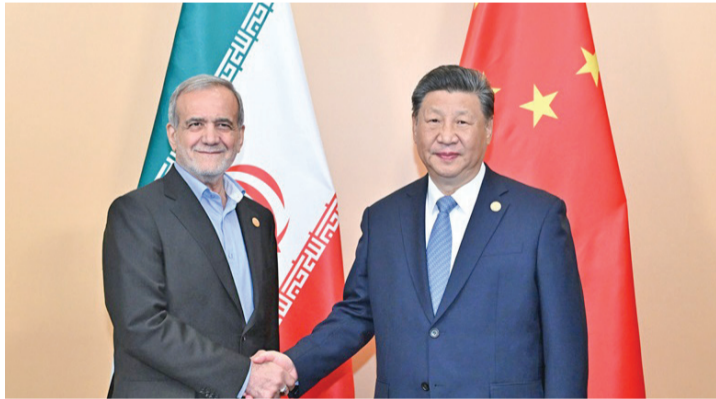
In a phone call with EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, Araghchi condemned the decision: “You have taken an illegal and unjustified step.

This move deepens doubts about the true intentions of Europe and adds further obstacles to diplomatic efforts.” He added that Tehran would take proportionate action in response to the “provocative and inappropriate” measure.

It remains unclear how Iran will react to the potential reinstatement of UN sanctions; reported options include withdrawing from the NPT or suspending all cooperation with the IAEA.

One outcome is guaranteed, however: even if the new sanctions have little practical impact, they will forever end Europe's role in Iran's nuclear program

“The activation of the snapback mechanism will neither destroy Iran's economy nor its internal unity,” an Iranian source with knowledge of the matter told the Tehran Times. “But it will certainly destroy the negotiations.”



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan on Oct. 24, 2024.

lence.

It is therefore incumbent upon the major powers that advocate for a multipolar world order to recognize this reality and fulfill their responsibilities accordingly.

4. The most serious threat to Iran's national security and stability lies in its economic vulnerabilities—weaknesses that have emboldened the United States and Israel to attempt fresh military and security disruptions.

This fragility has its roots in Iran's decade-long exclusion from global development corridors and its gradual marginalization from global value chains. Today, however, Iran is working to recalibrate its development outlook, seeking to adapt itself to the requirements of the yet-unformed global order. Its strategy rests on harnessing domestic economic strengths while pursuing win-win partnerships with countries of the Global South.

Despite the insecurity and instability fueled in West Asia by

U.S. policies executed through Israel—and despite Iran's determined resistance to them—Tehran is committed to accelerating its development and modernization.

For this purpose, Iran is prioritizing rapid planning and implementation of multilateral cooperation through frameworks such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, while simultaneously expanding bilateral relations with friendly and like-minded states.

In this context, a critical question arises: as one of the leading powers of the Global South, what role does China envision for itself in this new path chosen by Iran? How, and under what terms, will Beijing engage in a serious, comprehensive partnership with Tehran—one that draws fully on their shared capacities and contributes to the realization of a multipolar world order and the empowerment of the Global South?

Iran defeat Afghanistan in 2025 CAFA Nations Cup

TEHRAN – Iran came back from a goal down to defeat Afghanistan 3-1 in the opening match of the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup on Friday.

In the match held at the Hisor Central Stadium in Hisor, Tajikistan, Omid Mousavi gave Afghanistan the lead in 21st minute but Majid Aliyari leveled the score five minutes later. Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh made it 2-1 in the 36th minute and Aliyari was on target once again in 64th minute.

Iran will play India and Tajikistan on Sept. 1 and 4, respectively in Group B.

Group A consists of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Oman.

Sepahan complete signing of ex-Persepolis defender Gvelesiani

TEHRAN – Sepahan football club has completed the signing of Georgian defender Giorgi Gvelesiani on Friday.

Gvelesiani left Persepolis at the end of last season after three years with the club. The Georgian international defender has signed a one-year deal with Sepahan.

The 34-year-old defender began his career with Dinamo Tbilisi in 2010, then joined Iran's Zob Ahan in 2017. He has also played for Iranian clubs Nassaji, and Sepahan before joining Persepolis in 2022.

Gvelesiani helped Persepolis win two league titles in Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League and one Hazfi Cup title. He has represented the Georgia national team 10 times.

Iran advance to 2025 FIVB U21 World Championship semis

TEHRAN – Iran swept past China in straight sets (25-21, 25-16, 25-15) in the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship on Friday.

Taha Behboudnia led Iran with 15 points, while China's Hai Li scored 14 points.

Iran had previously defeated Kazakhstan, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Canada, Poland and Argentina.

The Iranian team will meet the U.S. in the semifinals on Saturday.

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, Turkey, Ukraine and the U.S.

Iran finish sixth at the 2025 Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to India 22-21 at the 2025 Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship fifth-sixth place match on Friday.

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.

Later in the day, Japan and South Korea will lock horn in the final while China meet Chinese Taipei in the bronze medal match.

The top four teams in the competition secure

their tickets to the 2026 IHF Women's Junior World Championship.

Olympiacos take 'decisive steps' to sign Taremi

TEHRAN – Greek side Olympiacos have reportedly taken “decisive steps” to try and sign Inter Milan striker Mehdi Taremi.

With deadline day looming, Inter have still not managed to find a new club for striker Taremi, Sky Sport Italia reported.

The Iranian has looked set to leave Inter for much of the summer transfer window. And multiple potential destinations have emerged.

Reportedly, Leeds United and Fulham have shown an interest in bringing Taremi to the Premier League.

Meanwhile, Ligue 1 side Lille and Serie A Sassuolo have also shown interest in signing the player.

Botafogo and Flamengo had already tried to bring Taremi to Brazil. However, the 33-year-old has made clear that he prefers to stay in Europe.

According to Sky Sport Italia, meanwhile, Greek giants Olympiacos has also emerged as suitors for Taremi.

Iran U16 basketball leave Tehran for 2025 Asia Cup

TEHRAN – Iran's U-16 basketball team traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia early Thursday to participate in the 2025 FIBA U-16 Asia Cup.

The Iranian team are drawn in Pool D along with Japan, Kazakhstan, and Saudi Arabia.

The Persians will commence the campaign on Sunday with a match against Saudi Arabia.

Iran is scheduled to play Kazakhstan and Japan, respectively in the following days.

The 2025 FIBA U16 Asia Cup will be the eighth edition of the FIBA Under-16 Asia Cup, the continental basketball championship for U16 men's national teams from the FIBA Asia zone.

The tournament will be played at the M bank arena and the Buyant Ukhua Sport Complex in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 31 August to 7 September 2025.

It also serves as a qualifier for the 2026 FIBA Under-17 Basketball World Cup in Turkey, where the top four teams qualify.

Australia are the defending champions.

Michael Oenning pens deal with Persepolis

TEHRAN – German coach Michael Oenning, who was appointed as Persepolis assistant coach, has officially penned his deal with the Iranian team.

The 59-year-old has penned a one-year deal with Persepolis.

Oenning began his coaching career with FC Nürnberg in 2008 and has also worked as the head coach of Hamburger SV.

Persepolis, the most decorated Iranian club in the league, finished third last season and missed a place in the Asian competition.

The Reds opened the new Iran Pro League (IPL) season with a 1-1 draw against Fajr Sepasi and then defeated Sepahan 1-0.

Iranian rising star Seifi joins Shabab Al Ahli

TEHRAN – Iran international winger Mersad Seifi has joined Emirati club Shabab Al Ahli.

The 22-year-old left back becomes the club's fourth Iranian player, joining Sardar Azmoun, Saeid Ezatollahi, and Reza Ghandipour.

Seifi joined Shabab Al Ahli from Nassaji Mazandaran in Iran's top flight.

Shabab Al Ahli claimed the UAE Pro League title for the 2024–25 season.

Iran, Pakistan expand flight capacity to 24 weekly services



TEHRAN – Iran and Pakistan have increased their flight capacity from 15 to 24 weekly services for each side, the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran said.

The agreement followed President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Pakistan, accompanied by the transport minister and the head of the

Civil Aviation Organization. Under the deal, Iran Air has also launched a new service on the Mashhad–Karachi route.

The accord includes lifting restrictions on flight routes, cooperation in air navigation, and expanding specialized aviation training.

The signing came after months of talks between the civil aviation authorities of both countries.

Separately, Iran's Civil Aviation Organization said it has started talks with Armenia on a similar air transport cooperation agreement. The deal will be signed once both countries complete the necessary procedures and approvals.

Iran, Belarus sign airworthiness cooperation deal

TEHRAN – Iran and Belarus have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on aviation engineering and technical cooperation, which includes mutual recognition of airworthiness certification, the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran said.

The agreement was signed during President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Belarus as part of efforts to strengthen aviation ties.

It aims to create a framework for the export of engineering services, development of maintenance and repair centers, aircraft design and manufacturing, and the growth of knowledge-based companies.

Under the MoU, airworthiness certificates issued by either country will be recognized by the other, enabling Iranian companies to supply aircraft parts, equipment and services to international markets. Officials said the move is expected to spur economic growth and boost trade in the aviation sector.



The organization added that similar talks are underway with several other countries, with the Belarus deal serving as a model for broader aviation cooperation.

Politically, such agreements are seen as strengthening international relations and aligning regulatory frameworks with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards, while encouraging other countries to enter into similar accords.

TPO urges private sector to expand economic ties with Arab states



TEHRAN – Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has called on private companies to take greater advantage of growing opportunities in Arab markets, a senior official said.

Abdolamir Rabiavi, director general of TPO's West Asia office, said Arab countries rank among Iran's most important trade partners, with Iraq standing as Iran's second-largest partner and a key importer of machinery and food processing lines from Khorasan Razavi Province.

He also highlighted Qatar as another major Gulf trade partner. In coordination with the provincial industry and trade office and the Mashhad Chamber of Commerce, a business forum was held to showcase investment opportunities in Qatar.

The event, attended by Iran's commercial attaché in Doha, introduced projects and marketing strategies for private companies seeking entry into the Qatari market.

Rabiavi said the goal of such forums is to support producers and exporters by familiarizing them with target markets and available government-backed opportunities. He added that identifying trade potential and briefing

business associations on regional prospects is among the TPO's main tasks.

He noted that similar events are being held across Iran to guide private-sector businesses on how to access foreign markets. Rabiavi also pointed to rising trade with Oman, citing the strong presence of Omani delegations at the Tehran International Building Industry Exhibition as an example of expanding bilateral cooperation.

In the spring season (March 20–June 21, 2025), Iran's trade with its neighbors, including Arab countries, totaled \$13.42 billion over approximately 23 million tons of goods. Exports accounted for \$6.65 billion, with Iraq (\$1.904 billion), UAE (\$1.6 billion), Turkey (\$940 million), Afghanistan (over \$510 million), and Oman (\$437 million) ranking as the main destinations.

On the import side, the UAE remained the largest supplier to Iran at \$3.885 billion, followed by Turkey (\$1.986 billion) and Oman (\$223 million), with trade also rising with Qatar, Russia, and Turkmenistan by double digits.

Tehran, Moscow discuss Rasht–Astara railway, potential Caspian cruise line

TEHRAN – Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali, met Russian Transport Minister Andrey Nikitin to discuss key transport projects, including the long-delayed Rasht–Astara railway, the Iranian Embassy in Moscow said.

Senior Russian transport officials attended the talks, where both sides stressed the need to accelerate work on the Rasht–Astara section, seen as the missing link in the western branch of the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Meetings and coordination at ministerial and expert levels were also reviewed.

According to Russia's Transport Ministry, the Rasht–Astara line will connect the rail networks of Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran, en-



abling the transport of at least 15 million tons of cargo annually. Officials also explored ways to expand freight volumes along the

INSTC by addressing infrastructure bottlenecks, introducing competitive pricing and developing multimodal services on the

corridor's western route.

Nikitin said road freight between Iran and Russia grew 12.8 percent in 2024, Russian news agency TASS reported.

Talks also covered maritime cooperation, with both countries expressing interest in strengthening ties between logistics and port operators, expanding multimodal shipping using unified rail and sea tariffs, and exploring the launch of a Caspian Sea cruise line.

On aviation, the ministry noted a positive trend, pointing to Aeroflot's resumption of Moscow–Tehran flights earlier this month and Mahan Air's services on the Tehran–Moscow and Tehran–Grozny routes.

Energy Ministry brings 150 MW of solar power plants online across 8 provinces

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Ministry has inaugurated 150 megawatts of solar power plants across eight provinces, most of them in 3.0 MW units, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said at a ceremony marking Government Week.

He said 854 solar projects in capacities ranging from 10 to 20 MW, and even up to 2,000 MW, are under development. Among them is a planned 2,000 MW solar power plant valued at 2.68 quadrillion rials (about \$5.4 billion), which will rely on domestic technical and scientific capabilities. Construction has also

begun on a 200 MW solar project in Bushehr Province.

Before the latest launch, 176 MW of solar capacity had been connected to the grid. With the new projects, operational capacity has risen to more than 216 MW, officials said.

At the groundbreaking of the 100 MW Amir Kabir solar plant, Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni said the initiative marked a national movement toward clean energy, with entrepreneurs and investors at the forefront.

He stressed the national target of 5,000 MW of solar generation in Markazi Province and nationwide, calling it essential for reducing environmental pollution and improving living standards.

Momeni praised private-sector investors and urged authorities to clear bureaucratic hurdles that slow projects. He described the solar expansion as a product of national solidarity, comparing entrepreneurs and industrialists driving renewable energy to soldiers defending the country in past wars.

Over \$6.6b worth of transport projects inaugurated during Government Week

TEHRAN – Iran has inaugurated a series of road and transport projects worth 329.01 trillion rials (about \$6.63 billion) during Government Week, the head of the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization said.

Reza Akbari said the projects include road safety upgrades, rural road development, intelligent transport systems, and new infrastructure. Among them was the elimination of 281 accident-prone black spots on major highways at a cost of 25.5 trillion rials (\$510 million).

Other initiatives included new facilities at border terminals, three police and inspection centers, and 27 roadside service and rest complexes. The agency also completed 34 new bridges and refurbished 115 others with a combined budget of 95.3 trillion rials (\$1.9 billion).

To improve road safety, authorities installed 385 km of new concrete and steel guardrails and added 45 km of roadway lighting plus 600 lighting points, costing 17 trillion rials (\$340 million). Eight new road maintenance stations and eight salt storage

depots were also completed.

Akbari said 2,200 km of asphalt resurfacing on arterial roads was carried out with a budget of 75 trillion rials (\$1.5 billion), while 1,556 km of secondary and rural roads were resurfaced, widened or improved. In addition, 669 km of new rural roads were built at a cost of 68.3 trillion rials (\$1.37 billion).

The ministry also purchased 400 road maintenance machines for 80 trillion rials (\$1.6 billion) and repaired or upgraded 1,500 others with a budget of 35 trillion rials (\$700 million).

As part of the shift toward digitalization, 84 intelligent transport systems were upgraded with 10 trillion rials (\$200 million). Five additional infrastructure and technology projects worth 8.7 trillion rials (\$174 million) were launched in various provinces.

Separately, 27 privately funded roadside service complexes valued at 166.2 trillion rials (\$3.3 billion) were inaugurated. Akbari estimated the total current value of the Government Week projects at 433.8 trillion rials (\$8.67 billion).

Annual supply of liquid fuel to power plants rises 40%

TEHRAN – Iran supplied more than 22 billion liters of liquid fuel to power plants in the Iranian year 1403 (March 2024–March 2025), a 40 percent increase from the previous year, the Oil Ministry said.

The ministry said stable fuel supply became a top priority at the start of President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration, given low inventories and rising winter demand.

Average daily deliveries of natural gas, gasoil and fuel oil to power plants reached the equivalent of 272 million cubic meters of gas, up 21 million cubic meters from the previous year.

To boost supply, the ministry expanded transfer capacity from southern refineries to central and northern regions. The first phase of a 26-inch pipeline between Bandar Abbas and Rafsanjan was commissioned ahead of schedule in autumn 2024, adding 13 million



liters per day in throughput and eliminating the need for 500 fuel tanker trucks. Six power plants were newly connected to the pipeline system, with three more to follow by year-end.

In logistics, the ministry added 3,700 tankers and rail wagons to the fuel transport

fleet, supported by incentive payments to carriers, which helped accelerate deliveries during the winter peak.

Despite public concerns over empty storage tanks, the ministry said power plant reservoirs — with a useful capacity of 3.3 billion liters — were filled and emptied nearly four times during the year. It attributed temporary dips in stocks to surging consumption rather than shortfalls in supply.

On March 3, 2025, Iran set a one-day record by delivering 107 million liters of liquid fuel to power plants, including 72 million liters of gasoil and 35 million liters of fuel oil.

Average gasoil deliveries reached 37.4 million liters per day, up 10 million liters (37 percent) from the previous year, while fuel oil supplies averaged 28.6 million liters per day, up 8.6 million liters (43 percent).

Annual aluminum output reaches 560,000 tons amid energy shortages

TEHRAN – Iran produces around 560,000 tons of aluminum ingots annually, below its installed capacity of more than 650,000 tons, due to recurring shortages of electricity and natural gas, the head of the Iranian Aluminum Industries Syndicate said.

Houshang Goodarzi told state media that the country's aluminum industry begins with alumina production at the Jajarm complex and continues through four main smelting units, with output feeding a wide range of downstream industries.

According to Goodarzi, Iran requires about 1.3 million tons of alumina to meet its full ingot production capacity. Domestic supply provides only 250,000 tons, with the remainder imported, often under foreign exchange constraints. For every kilogram of aluminum ingot, roughly twice as much alumina powder is needed, he said.

Of the 560,000 tons of aluminum ingots produced annually, about 450,000 tons could serve domestic demand. But with alumina imports requiring hard currency, large volumes are exported to finance raw material

purchases. In practice, around 300,000 tons are supplied to the domestic market, while the rest is shipped abroad to secure feedstock.

Downstream industries—including foil, sheets, coated products, automotive parts, wires and cables—are facing recession, largely due to power outages and frequent production halts. "The upstream sector continues production according to plan and supplies materials, but consumption is down, and in recent weeks much of the inventory in the commodities exchange has gone unsold," Goodarzi noted.

He added that restrictions on customs clearance and central bank foreign exchange allocation have further strained the sector. While some producers resort to barter or alternative currency arrangements, rising exchange rates continue to drive up costs.

Aluminum production, highly dependent on stable electricity supply, is disrupted when power or gas is cut, forcing smelters to idle expensive furnaces. Goodarzi expressed hope that power shortages would ease by late summer, though gas supply constraints could emerge as a new challenge in winter.

Army strongly opposes plan to pit Lebanese against each other

Corrupt judiciary is rewarding traitors and embezzlers

From page 1 ► Mohieddine's collaboration provided Israel with the ability to penetrate them and locate cell phones not connected to the network, as well as any device connected to the internet.

Besides, after a year of anticipation, the judiciary issued a new decision to release former Central Bank Governor Riad Salameh — detained on charges of embezzling public funds, money laundering, and illicit enrichment — on bail set at \$20 million and 5 billion Lebanese pounds.

Amid the Lebanese authorities' complete subservience to the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, Hezbollah and Amal Movement are planning to hold protests, starting next September, in rejection of the plot to disarm the resistance.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri expressed his frustration with the visiting American delegation's disregard for a step-by-step strategy.

Regarding the cabinet session scheduled for September 2 to discuss the army's plan to disarm Hezbollah, Berri said, "Anything that leads to disagreement in the country is reprehensible."

Meanwhile, under American pressure, the UN Security Council agreed to end UNIFIL's mission within sixteen months—set to expire on December 31, 2026, with withdrawal to commence the following year.

Informed sources confirmed to the Tehran Times that Washington is seeking to end UNIFIL's mission in its current form and likely re-



General Rodolphe Heikal

place them with Arab forces allied with Israel.

It has become clear that the Lebanese army will not agree to a clash with the local population, especially after the expulsion of US envoy Thomas Barrack from the south.

Informed sources revealed to the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar that Army Commander

General Rodolphe Heikal was appalled by what he heard from the American delegation and the pressure they were exerting.

Heikal informed the American delegation that he "prefers to resign from the leadership of the military institution if anyone wants Lebanese blood shed by the army."

"The American delegation offered to provide him with information about Hezbollah positions in any region.

Some members of the delegation even suggested something even more dangerous: offering Israeli intelligence assistance to the army, and the possibility of Israeli drones accompanying it to identify targets to be raided."

Al-Akhbar adds that President Joseph Aoun is aware of the Army Command's position, but Prime Minister Nawaf Salam is more enthusiastic about implementing the American-Saudi dictates, which is exerting intense pressure to expedite the government's decision.

This comes amid rapid regional fluctuations that could make today's requirements harder to implement in the future, given Iran's victory and steadfastness, as well as the resilience of resistance forces in the region despite the security blows they have endured.

Reportedly, the American delegation further proposed a vision based on separating the Shiite areas from other regions before Hezbollah continues to recover.

Across China: American journalist's photos and writing rekindle China's wartime memories



This scanned copy of a file photo taken by American journalist Agnes Smedley in February of 1940 shows Sheng Guohua (front row, looking down) posing for a group photo with some members of a children's troupe that accompanied the New Fourth Army's Henan-Hubei Detachment (the predecessor of the Fifth Division) at its base in central China's Hubei Province. (New Fourth Army's Fifth Division Memorial/Handout via Xinhua)

By Xinhua writers Cao Peixian, Xu Haibo and Tian Zhongquan

As China prepares to mark the 80th anniversary of its victory in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression on Sept. 3, a remote town in central China's Hubei Province is quietly staging a powerful act of remembrance.

In Dawu County, once a key anti-Japanese base tucked away in the mountains, final preparations are underway for an exhibition honoring the New Fourth Army's Fifth Division – a Communist Party of China-led force that was based there during the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1931-1945). The artifacts to feature in the exhibition, more than a dozen in total, were donated by descendants of wartime soldiers.

Among them is a pair of rare black-and-white photographs taken in Dawu in early 1940 by American journalist Agnes Smedley.

Smedley arrived in China in late 1928 and spent over a decade living and reporting in the country, documenting both the brutality of Japanese aggression and the resilience of the Chinese resis-

tance.

In January 1940, she traveled deep into the Dawu Mountain region, then a stronghold of the New Fourth Army's Henan-Hubei Detachment – which was a guerrilla force operating just 100 km from Japanese-occupied Wuhan and the predecessor of the Fifth Division.

Eighty-five years later, the children of late veteran Wu Daoying traveled from Beijing to Dawu, bringing Smedley's photographs featuring their mother to the very place where she once fought. They donated the images to the county archive.

According to Wu's son, Song Shenguang, the film Smedley shot had not been developed at the time due to wartime conditions. It wasn't until the 1980s that his mother saw the photographs for the first time.

Song told Xinhua that his mother had cherished the story behind one particular group portrait until she died in 2023.

The photo captures the smiling faces of children and soldiers. The children were part of a troupe that accompanied the

army – too young to fight in battle but essential in boosting morale with songs and messages. One of them was Wu, not yet 12 at that time.

But what stands out most is a boy at the center of the image, his head bowed. His name was Sheng Guohua. Once a street beggar, Sheng had pleaded to join the army and was assigned as Smedley's orderly during her visit.

Based on Wu's recount, after watching a performance by the troupe, Smedley had asked the children to pose for a photo and invited Sheng to join.

Sheng was shy, Song recalled his mother saying. "He might feel nervous about being in the picture and lowered his head just as the shutter clicked."

Despite barely appearing in a photo, Sheng left a lasting impression on Smedley. Smedley's 1943 book "Battle Hymn of China," which documents her firsthand experiences during the early years of China's resistance war, includes an article titled "My Chinese Son," which highlights her brief yet touching bond with Sheng during the three-month visit to the base.

In the book, Smedley described Sheng, then 10 or 11 years old, as possessing "that curious wisdom of China's children." She wrote: "When I grow up, I want to join the cavalry and fight the Japanese," Kuo-hwa said to me more than once." When she prepared to leave Dawu, she offered to adopt him and take him abroad to be educated. However, Sheng declined.

"All men must remain at the front," he said. "You can adopt me after the final victory."

That day never came for Sheng as he was later killed in battle – one of many young lives lost in the rugged terrain in central China, where over 13,000 soldiers

in blood, the price of preserving stability in the south" of the country.

The deadly incident came as Israel has been carrying out near-daily attacks on Lebanon despite a ceasefire reached with Hezbollah in November.

It also coincides with a United Nations Security Council vote to wind down a UN peacekeeping mission in southern Lebanon, which has for decades been tasked with maintaining a buffer

between Hezbollah fighters and Israeli forces.

The mandate for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was extended through the end of 2026, but after that, the UN will carry out an "orderly and safe drawdown and withdrawal" over the following year.

The resolution aims to make Lebanon's military "the sole provider of security" in southern Lebanon, a goal complicated by Israel's continued presence in the country.

Israel's chilling assault on Gaza City



From page 1 ► The devastation reflects what rights groups describe as a deliberate campaign to drive civilians southward.

Israeli tanks have already pushed deeper into Sabra, while reports suggest the security cabinet has approved a broader plan to seize Gaza City by surrounding it, forcing civilians to flee, and razing neighborhoods block by block.

During a visit to troops near Gaza on August 21, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to press ahead with the Gaza City offensive despite global condemnation.

The escalation comes despite Hamas recently accepting a ceasefire proposal that mediators said was "98 percent of Witkoff's plan." Israel rejected it, opting instead for renewed combat.

Analysts and human rights groups argue this shows Tel Aviv's disinterest in a negotiated solution. Amnesty International, B'Tselem, and UN experts have labeled the campaign genocidal, citing systematic attacks on civilians and obstruction of aid.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and former War Minister Yoav Gallant, while Israel also faces a genocide case at the ICC.

For Palestinians, the looming assault threatens another forced exodus on top of near-constant destruction.

More than 63,000 people — mostly women and children — have been killed since October 2023, with at least 50 more dying Friday.

Displaced residents say they have nowhere left to go. Southern zones are already overcrowded, and many refuse to leave their homes again, fearing looting or simply exhausted by repeated dis-

placements.

The offensive also risks the lives of Israeli captives. Army chief Eyal Zamir has warned that storming Gaza City could kill hostages and further strain exhausted forces.

Reports indicate nearly half of Israeli reservists no longer report for duty. Units are depleted, morale is collapsing, and mandatory service has been extended. The government has even begun conscripting ultra-Orthodox men despite fierce resistance and is considering recruitment from diaspora communities.

Washington's role has drawn fresh scrutiny. President Donald Trump hosted Israeli officials at the White House on Wednesday, instructing Jared Kushner and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair to draft a "day after" plan for Gaza.

Palestinians fear the project — paired with mass displacement — may signal an attempt at ethnic cleansing under the guise of reconstruction. Meanwhile, the reality inside Gaza is unbearable. Civilians report nonstop shelling, sniper fire into residential streets, and families buried in rubble.

Armed resistance groups continue to release footage of attacks on Israeli forces in Zeitoun, but for ordinary families, the choice is stark: remain under bombardment or flee into overcrowded camps offering no real safety.

Several European governments, including Ireland, Spain, and Norway, have condemned Israel's plans and urged an immediate halt. But with Netanyahu widely seen as intent on occupation, Washington sketching post-war governance, and Israeli forces advancing daily, Palestinians face yet another chapter of displacement, destruction, and bloodshed — as the world watches.

500+ UN staff demand Israel's Gaza war be called genocide

From page 1 ► Mohammed Abu Afash, director of the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, also told Al Jazeera that the Israeli army targets people waiting for aid and those inside their homes, even striking places it claims are safe. He said the situation in southern Gaza is extremely dangerous and cannot support the population of Gaza City.

In a significant move, more than 500 United Nations staff members have urged the UN's human rights chief, Volker Turk, to officially recognize Israel's war on Gaza as genocide against the Palestinian people.

The staff argued that Israel's actions meet the legal definition of genocide, which involves acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. The letter warned that failing to label Israel's assault as genocide "undermines" the credibility of the UN.

Israel already stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) over com-

mitting war crimes in Gaza.

Adding to the international pressure, two prominent Israeli human rights organizations recently released a report in early August concluding that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. This is the first time Jewish-led groups within Israel have made such allegations during nearly two years of conflict.

Despite mounting evidence and international condemnation, Israel's Western allies, including the United States, have failed to take meaningful action to stop the ongoing violence and genocide. Their continued political, military, and financial support of Israel has allowed the siege and bombardment to persist, deepening the humanitarian crisis.

Many critics argue that without decisive intervention or pressure from these powerful allies, the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza will continue unabated, with devastating consequences for the region's stability and for international human rights.

US blocks visas for Palestinian officials ahead of UN assembly

The Trump administration has announced it will deny and revoke visas for members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Palestinian Authority (PA) ahead of September's United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). A State Department statement on Friday said it was in US national security interests to hold the groups accountable for failing to meet commitments and "undermining prospects for peace," urging them to "consistently repudiate terrorism" after the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on southern Israel.

The US accused the PA of bypassing negotiations by appealing to the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice over al-

leged Israeli abuses in the West Bank and Gaza, described by UN experts as genocide. Both the PA, with limited authority in the West Bank, and the PLO, the internationally recognised Palestinian umbrella body, represent Palestinians globally and seek statehood recognition.

It remains unclear which officials are affected. Waivers will apply to the PA's UN mission, led by Ambassador Riyad Mansour, who said President Mahmoud Abbas still plans to attend, pending clarification. As UN host state, the US is generally obligated to grant entry to official delegates — a point observers say could make this decision highly contentious.

2 Lebanese soldiers killed in Israeli drone explosion in the south

The Lebanese military says two soldiers have been killed and two wounded as they investigated an Israeli drone crash in southern Lebanon.

The army said the downed Israeli drone exploded on Thursday during an inspection at the crash site in the Naqoura area, not far from Lebanon's border with Israel.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun offered condolences to the soldiers who were killed and injured, stressing that the military "is paying,

Intl. expo of semi-precious stones underway in Tehran

TEHRAN – The second edition of the International Specialized Exhibition of Gemstones, Machinery & Related Equipment is currently underway at the Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds, with participation from domestic and foreign activists in the gemstone industry, said Farzad Ojani, an official with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

He pointed out that the event started on August 28 and will run until August 31, IRNA reported.

Ojani said that the exhibition is not only a ground for showcasing the capabilities of Iranian artisans, but also an opportunity for promoting exports and increasing global cooperation in the gemstone industry.

The event also includes side programs such as specialized meetings, exchange of knowledge and experience among experts, and presentation of the latest scientific and technological achievements, he added.

The Ministry's Handicrafts and Traditional Arts Department hosts 20 artisans from provinces of Tehran, East Azarbaijan, and Khorasan Razavi, who have been provided with free space as part of special support, he pointed out.

He continued that it is a strategic opportunity to strengthen economic diplomacy, develop exports, and expand international cooperation

in the gemstone industry.

Among the prominent names and institutions present at this event are the Iran Mines and Mineral Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the Mineral Application Research Center of West of Iran, the Iranian Mineral Processing Research Center, Tehran Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, Tehran Gold and Jewelry Sellers and Manufacturers Union, Copper Smelting Complex (located in Shahr-e Babak), Iranian Gemstone and Precious Metals Export and Processing Terminal, and reputable galleries and companies in this field.

The fields of activity of participants cover a wide range: from all kinds of gemstones and jewelry to rough stones, synthetic gemstones, machinery, tools, processing equipment, specialized laboratories, knowledge-based companies, scientific and research institutions, manufacturers of security equipment and safety boxes, specialized service providers, and scientific and specialized publications.

This event is being held with the presence of the representatives from provinces of Khorasan Razavi, Kerman, Yazd, Alborz, East Azarbaijan, North Khorasan, Golestan, Qazvin, South Khorasan, Isfahan, and Markazi; a wide presence that reflects the diversity of national capacities in the gemstone field.

Tehran-Mazandaran motorcycle rally flagged off to promote road safety

TEHRAN— Concurrent with Iran's Government Week (Aug. 23-29), 50 bikers departed from Tehran for Sari, Mazandaran province, on 250 cc motorcycles in the form of a tourist tour rally dedicated to promoting road safety.

These cyclists traveled the Tehran-Sari route and were expected to come back vice versa in two days, observing the rules and regulations of the Traffic and Transportation Department of the Law Enforcement Forces, IRIB reported.

Traffic Police Chief Teimour Hosseini said that the focus of this tour was more on observing the rules, regulations, and discipline in driving, and these issues were the priority of the participants in this rally.

He pointed out the promotion of a culture of safe and correct driving, adding that the interest in motorcycling among people, especially young people, can attract them to these competitions, and when they observe the rules

and regulations of traffic and driving along the route, this important issue will be institutionalized for them.

The CEO of Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI) also said that the slogan of this rally is "Drive Safely, Learn More, Stay Healthy".

Mohammad-Hossein Soufi added that holding rally tours with different themes is one of the programs of TACI.

Each of the rallies has a cultural connection and promotes a culture and message that is held in different fields, especially safety, sustainable tourism, and responsible travels, he pointed out.

After staying one night in Sari, the participants were expected to return Tehran on Friday night, he added.

Iran to host debut tourism expo focused on children and teens

TEHRAN – Iran will host its first festival and exhibition on children and youth tourism in Tehran from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The announcement was made during a meeting at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, attended by public and private sector representatives, Deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey said. The event will be held at Milad Tower in Tehran.

Seyyed Hossein Fatemi, director general of domestic tourism development at the ministry, said the exhibition aligns with this year's UN Tourism's theme, "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation." He said programs should focus on the theme to maximize their impact at both national and provincial levels.

Zahra Nabizadeh, a member of



the national children's tourism committee and scientific secretary of the festival, said the initiative aims to highlight the role of children in preserving cultural heritage while creating new economic opportunities. "Children are trustees of the culture and heritage of this land," she said, adding that child-focused tours,

standardized facilities, and links between education and the economy could strengthen the sector.

She said the exhibition would feature specialized booths, artistic and cultural performances, travel services for children, as well as traditional games and

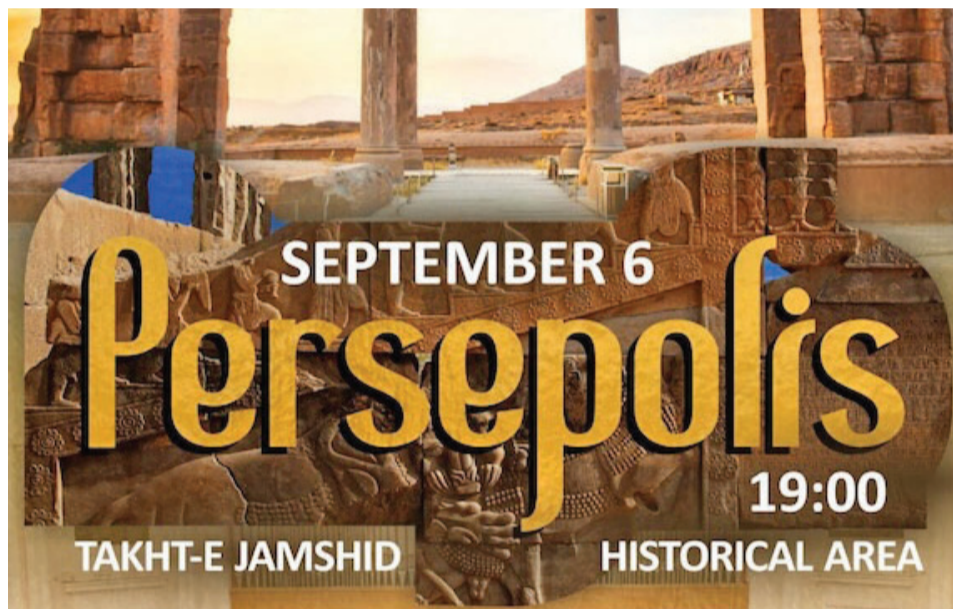
music.

Mohseni-Bandpey emphasized the importance of hands-on learning, saying that real-life experiences were more lasting than theory. "We must familiarize children and teenagers with Iran's natural, historical, and cultural capacities, from the Hyrcanian forests to the country's ancient civilizations," he said. He added that the government's role was to support and facilitate, while the private sector should lead with creative programs throughout the year.

Officials from state and private sectors attending the session also underlined the need for cooperation to develop the field of children's tourism, citing its potential to promote social well-being, cultural growth, and job creation.

The poster of the event was unveiled at the end of the meeting.

Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra to perform at Persepolis, minister confirms



TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has said that the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra will stage a concert on Sept. 6 at Persepolis, the UNESCO World Heritage site near Shiraz, to mark the orchestra's 100th anniversary.

Speaking to ISNA on Wednesday, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri confirmed that his ministry had issued the permit for the concert, adding that Armenia's culture minister and the orchestra will visit Iran at the invitation of Tehran.

"This will be a rare event symbolizing cultural convergence and conveying a message of peace and friendship between the peoples of Iran and Armenia," Salehi-Amiri said, according to ISNA news agency.

The announcement comes a year after a concert by Iranian vocalist Alireza Ghorbani at Persepolis drew widespread debate over the appropriateness of hosting musical performances at the ancient site.

Asked about the continuation of such events at heritage sites, Salehi-Amiri said the ministry had introduced regulations for

concerts and cultural programs. "We already hold concerts in Niavaran [a historical complex of royal palaces and gardens], and tribute ceremonies were recently organized at Sa'adabad palace complex....," he said.

Ghorbani's concert at Persepolis in 2024 was the first of its kind at the site and was organized under the supervision of heritage specialists to address concerns about potential damage. The event, however, triggered public debate but set a model for performances at historical venues.

Officials have argued that staging concerts at heritage locations can promote cultural tourism and boost the economy, citing international examples such as performances at Egypt's Giza pyramids, Paris' Eiffel Tower, Moscow's Red Square, the Acropolis in Athens, and Venice's St. Mark's Square.

However, some Iranian heritage enthusiasts have criticized the practice, warning that the lack of suitable infrastructure, sound vibrations, and large crowds could endanger historic sites.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, situated in the Fars province of modern-day Iran, stands as a testament to the grandeur of the ancient Persian Empire. Constructed primarily during the reign of Darius the Great in the 6th century BCE, Persepolis served as the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire, one of the most powerful empires of the ancient world.

Kermanshah invites 13 Iraqi travel agencies to boost tourism

TEHRAN—Kermanshah Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department has invited 13 Iraqi travel agencies to the western province in an effort to attract tourists from the neighboring country and exploit the investment potential in the tourism industry.

The measure is in line with familiarizing these agencies with Kermanshah's natural and historical attractions, as well as health tourism opportunities, Miras Arya (CHTN) reported.

In a coordination meeting of related agencies to host managers of Iraqi tourism agencies on Wednesday, Dariush Farmani, head of Kermanshah Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, pointed out that in order to benefit from the unique tourism capacity of Kermanshah province and with the aim of attracting tourists from Iraq and developing international tourism, Kermanshah Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department has officially invited 13 travel and tourism agencies from Iraq.

He stated that his invitation was made especially to agencies that operate in the Arab regions of Iraq, because these regions have not paid sufficient attention to the tourism capacities of Kermanshah.

The invited agencies will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with historical tourism attractions such as ancient monuments and registered monuments, extensive natural attractions, as well as the province's health tourism facilities.

Farmani continued that these visits are a good opportunity for representatives of these agencies to get acquainted with accommodation facilities, hotels, hospitals, and medical infrastructure in Kermanshah, and to prepare the ground for attracting Iraqi tourists for combined health and leisure tourism tours.

He said that during this program, several meetings will be held between travel agencies, hoteliers, and medical centers in the province to discuss and exchange experiences, organize diverse tourism tours, and expand joint cooperation.

Farmani added that memoranda of understanding will also be signed between two parties to develop cooperation and facilitate the process of attracting tourists.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)



EMBASSY OF INDIA
TEHRAN

JOB VACANCY

Embassy of India in Tehran invites applications for the posts of **one Marketing Assistant-cum-Interpreter and one Clerk**. The essential qualifications for the posts are as following:

Marketing Assistant-cum-Interpreter:

- University degree
- Translation skills from English to Farsi and vice versa
- Good public relation skills
- Age: 22-40
- Past experience of working with Foreign Missions, Financial Institutions shall be an added qualification

Clerk:

- University degree
- Proficiency in English and Farsi, both, in writing and speaking
- Good inter-personal skills
- Age: 25-40
- Past experience of working with Foreign Missions, Government/Private Organizations is an added qualification

Detailed Job Description is available on Embassy's website <https://www.indianembassytehran.gov.in/> in the **Announcements** section.

Applications along with **CV, contact details, recent photograph, and copy of passport/national ID/valid work permit** should be sent to Embassy by email to hoc.tehran@mea.gov.in, with subject "APPLICATION FOR MARKETING ASSISTANT" or "APPLICATION FOR CLERK", dependent on the post applied for, no later than 05.09.2025 (Friday).

Public Tender Announcement No. 4049-25

Faraz Bateri Novin Parsian Company

Faraz Bateri Novin Parsian Company intends to hold a public tender under No. 4049-25 for the procurement of machinery required to complete its battery production lines in Khansar, Isfahan Province. Therefore, all machinery manufacturing companies or reputable commercial companies that have experience in the field of manufacturing and selling machines for starter battery production lines are invited to participate in this tender. Funding of this tender is done by the shareholders of the company.

The list of required machines is as follows:

- Lead Oxid Preparation and Production Dept
- Paste Mixer ,Cone,Dosing System
- Continuous pasting Line
- Lead Strip Production Line
- Punching Machine
- Gride Expander Machine
- Curing Chamber

The participants in the tender are free to submit an offer for the whole machine and /or each production Dept. Those who are interested in participating in the tender can refer to the Address 3rd. floor, No.14, Mahnaz Alley, Vali-Asr St., Tehran, Iran, within one(1) week from the publication date. Telephone number 021-72483325 is the answering of tender participants.

The environmental toll of war: a crisis we often overlook

By Shina Ansari, head of the Department of Environment

TEHRAN - When wars break out, the news usually focuses on the tragic loss of human lives, injuries, and damage to buildings and infrastructure. But behind these visible horrors lies a similarly harrowing, though less visible, consequence of wars—one that rarely gets the attention it deserves: the long-lasting harm war does to the environment.

When a region is attacked, it's not just people and property that pay the price. The natural world suffers too, often in ways that take decades to heal—if they ever do. The damage to wildlife habitats, forests, and ecosystems can be devastating and sometimes permanent.

In the recent 12-day war of aggression against Iran, Iranians mourned the loss of precious lives they lost. The severe damage made to residential areas, public services, healthcare facilities, and vital infrastructure was deservedly noted. They are all denounced as war crimes under international humanitarian law and must be documented for the purpose of holding the criminals to account. But less visible were the blows to nature.

With every explosion, the environment was harmed. Bombs



and explosives not only killed and maimed fellow human beings but also hurt Mother Nature by sending toxic gases and particles into the air, threatening public health and safety.

The war caused significant pollution—contaminating air, water, and soil—and released large amounts of greenhouse gases. In Tehran alone, the destruction of buildings left behind more than 150,000 tons of debris. Bombing fuel storage tanks ignited nearly 19.5 million liters of fuel, sending dangerous pollutants and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Additional attacks on energy facilities in

the South Pars region poured out even more harmful emissions.

These emissions aren't just local problems—they worsen the global climate crisis. At a time when countries everywhere are working hard to cut greenhouse gases and uphold international climate promises, wars like this undermine those efforts and add even greater strain to our fragile planet.

The environmental fallout of this military aggression was extensive, as the Israeli regime did not care for any rule of international humanitarian law. Reports show that the attacks sparked wildfires across 13 protected

areas in Iran, scorching around 9,000 hectares of land and destroying ranger stations and vehicles meant to safeguard these precious environments.

The environmental cost of modern warfare is often ignored, yet its effects reach far beyond the conflict zone and affect the adjacent areas. It endangers ecosystems, human health, and the future of all who share this Earth. To truly address this crisis, environmental concerns must become a central part of global security conversations, and those responsible for such destruction must be held accountable as war criminals.

The damage that the Israeli regime's military aggression caused to Iran's environment and natural habitat, fauna, and flora must be seriously considered by relevant international mandate-holders and shall be documented as grave violations of international humanitarian law. This is a shared responsibility of each and every decent person of conscience who cares for the health and well-being of our planet.

Without action, the price of war will continue to extend well beyond the battlefield, threatening the planet and generations to come.

Balancing innovation and privacy in the digital age

By Soroush Saki

TEHRAN - In today's digital era, data has become the invisible fuel driving innovation. From the way doctors diagnose illnesses to how cities manage traffic and how apps recommend our next favorite song, data is at the core of progress. Yet with all of this potential comes a serious dilemma: how do we balance the power of innovation with the responsibility of protecting people's privacy?

The comparison is often made between data and oil. Just as oil transformed the industrial age, data is reshaping the digital one. But unlike oil, data is deeply personal. It represents who we are, our habits, preferences, even our identities. And while companies and governments use data to create smarter systems, there is always a lingering question about how much of ourselves we are giving away in the process.

Privacy regulations such as Europe's GDPR were born out of these concerns, offering important protections against misuse. But some argue that focusing too heavily on restriction can actually slow down valuable progress. Imagine if every use of facial recognition technology were banned outright. That could limit not only the misuse of surveil-

lance but also potential benefits, such as tools that help protect vulnerable individuals or assist people with disabilities. The ethical question, then, is not whether data should be used, but how it should be used responsibly.

Even when companies promise to keep information anonymous, risks remain. Researchers have shown that combining small pieces of data like someone's ZIP code, gender, and date of birth can often reveal exactly who they are. This so-called "mosaic effect" means that even fragments of information, when pieced together, can compromise privacy. In a world where we leave digital footprints everywhere, this makes the challenge even more complex.

Some solutions lie in designing privacy protections into systems from the very start. The idea of "privacy by design" has been promoted for years, urging developers to build safeguards into the very architecture of new technologies. Yet critics argue that without stronger legal frameworks and accountability, such promises risk being more symbolic than effective. Other approaches, such as creating data trusts, show how societies might govern information more transparently. In Britain, for example,



the National Health Service has experimented with broad consent systems and trusted institutions that allow medical data to be shared for research while still respecting patients' rights.

Technology itself also offers a way forward. Methods like differential privacy or federated learning allow researchers to learn from large datasets without ever exposing the raw personal information behind them. These innovations suggest that progress and privacy don't have to be mutually exclusive. The real challenge is not technical possibility but social responsibility ensuring that companies, governments, and institutions act in the best interests of individuals and

communities, not just profits or power.

Ultimately, the ethics of data is about trust. People are more willing to share information when they believe it will be used fairly, transparently, and for their benefit. If innovation is pursued without respect for that trust, the result is public skepticism, resistance, and even harm. But if handled carefully, data can continue to drive progress while protecting the dignity and rights of individuals.

Striking this balance will define our digital age. Innovation is essential, but so is privacy. To move forward, we must find a way to ensure that one never comes at the expense of the other.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran spends \$477m on refugee education annually

Iran spends about 20 trillion rials (nearly \$477 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) every year on the education of foreign national students residing in the country, head of the international affairs department of the Ministry of Education has said.

Over 558,000 foreign national children are receiving education in Iran completely free of charge, 474,000 of whom are Afghan children, ISNA quoted Gholamreza Karimi as saying on Wednesday.

Karimi said that there are currently about 137,000 undocumented Afghan students in the country, adding that their parents do not have valid residency documents, "but we have provided the conditions for enrolling them in schools."

ایران سالی ۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای دانش آموزان اتباع خارجی هزینه می کند

ایران هر سال حدود ۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای ۵۵۸ هزار دانش آموز اتباع خارجی در مدارس سراسر کشور هزینه می کند. به گزارش روز چهارشنبه ایسنا، غلامرضا کریمی رئیس مرکز امور بین الملل و مدارس خارج از کشور وزارت آموزش و پرورش گفت از این تعداد ۴۷۴ هزار نفر آنها اتباع افغانستانی هستند. کریمی با بیان اینکه در حال حاضر ۱۳۷ هزار دانش آموز غیرمجاز در کشور داریم گفت پدر و مادر این افراد مدارک اقامتی معتبر ندارند اما ما شرایط ثبت نام آنها را مدارس فراهم کردیم.

Iraqi higher education official in Tehran to boost ties

TEHRAN –Haider Abd Dahed, the Iraqi deputy minister of higher education and scientific research, is on a trip to Iran to foster scientific relations between the two countries.

The head of the Organization of Student Affairs, Saeed Habiba, welcomed the Iraqi official to the country, IRIB reported.

Dahed plans to hold meetings with the Iranian science minister and his deputies. He will also pay visits to some universities and higher education centers. Signing a memorandum of understanding with Habiba is on the agenda.

Tehran, Baghdad ink action plan for scientific cooperation

In January, Iran and Iraq signed an action plan to give a boost to their scientific collaborations.

The action plan was signed by Omid Rezaei-Far, an official with the Ministry of Science, and Haider Abd Dahed, Iraqi deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, on the

first day of the second Iran-Iraq Science Week, being held in the city of Karbala, Iraq, IRNA reported.

The second Iran-Iraq Science Week is being held in the city of Karbala, Iraq. The scientific event started on Saturday and will conclude on Monday.

The joint scientific programs have been developed to focus on different aspects, including boosting cooperation on granting scholarships to graduate and postgraduate education, particularly within a framework titled 'Study in Iraq'.

It also involves holding training courses for professors and students; promoting cooperation on joint scientific supervision; exchanging professors to conduct scientific research, and establishing science and technology parks in Iraq collaboratively under the management of the Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq.

MOU signed to accelerate plasma medicine industry's growth

TEHRAN – Concerning the significance of integrating new technologies into the healthcare system, a trilateral memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed to promote the country's status in the plasma medicine industry.

The MOU was signed by Saeed Sarkar, an official with the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology, Shahin Akhoundzadeh, an official with the Ministry of Health, and Mahdiyeh Bakhtiari, the CEO of the Plasma Therapy Knowledge-Based Company, IRNA reported.

The main objectives of the MOU are to develop and implement extensive multi-center research in plasma medicine, integrate the technology in the country's official treatment protocols, as well as conduct projects that play an effective role in treating hard-to-cure diseases, improve health services, and provide access to advanced medical technologies.

The MOU represents the collaboration of the scientific, research, and technological capabilities of the country, a national movement towards the expansion of emerging technologies in the field of medicine.

First indigenous plasma therapy clinic

In April, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), in cooperation with Jahrom University of Medical Sciences, southern Fars province, launched the first cold plasma therapy clinic for the treatment of wounds using indigenous technology.

During the opening ceremony, the AEOI head, Mohammad Eslami, associated the achievement with scientific progress and national self-confidence, highlighting that nuclear technology is used in medical services and agriculture.

The inauguration of this clinic can help expand plasma therapy technology in other medical centers in the country, the official noted.

The chancellor of Jahrom University of Medical Sciences, Hossein Hakimelahi, for his part, expressed hope that this initiative will open up opportunities to use nuclear technologies in cancer treatment and other areas of health.

On August 26, Eslami said heavy water derivatives and plasma medicine are opening new frontiers in drug development and medical treatment, marking a major step in the application of nuclear technology to public health.

Eslami added that under a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health, clinical trials that were previously concentrated at Tehran University will be expanded to selected universities across the country.

"This will accelerate the spread of plasma-based technologies to different provinces," he said, "ensuring that all Iranians can benefit equally and simultaneously from these advances."

The remarks came during ceremonies marking National Doctors Day, where Eslami also highlighted the AEOL's success in producing more than 70 types of radiopharmaceuticals, now supplied to over 220 nuclear medicine centers across Iran and exported abroad.

These products, Eslami said, cover three categories: diagnostic, therapeutic, and palliative.

In the diagnostic field, advances are pushing "the frontiers of knowledge," improving precision so doctors can better examine patients' bodies. On the therapeutic side, he added, the focus is on easing patients' suffering while providing more effective treatments.

Eslami revealed that around 20 additional radiopharmaceuticals are currently under research and in clinical trial phases, reflecting Iran's growing capacity to integrate nuclear science into healthcare.

Intl. conference on Iran's smart cities, AI slated for November

TEHRAN – Tehran will play host to the sixth international conference with the theme of Iran's smart cities and artificial intelligence, which is scheduled to be held from November 4 to 6.

The event will be centered around artificial intelligence (AI), AI in urban management, AI in transportation and AI-powered logistics, AI in crisis management and security, AI in healthcare and citizens' wellbeing, smart economy and smart governance through AI, AI in environment, sustainable energy, citizens' participation, and public services, IRNA reported.

Smart cities are known as the key to achieving a smart society and sustainable development.

The conference will bring together domestic and foreign scholars, practitioners, urban managers, industrialists, scholars, and experts, as well as knowledge-based companies, to share experiences and knowledge and accelerate the change to smart cities.

The conference will also provide an opportunity to display the latest achievements, scientific

findings, technologies, techniques, and tools for implementing smart cities projects.

World Cities Day

World Cities Day is observed annually on 31 October, marking the conclusion of Urban October. First celebrated in 2014, the day features a global observance hosted by a different city each year and focuses on a specific theme.

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) declared the Day to promote interest in global urbanization and encourage cooperation among countries in addressing the challenges of urbanization and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

On October 31, the Global Observance of World Cities Day will be linked to people-centred smart cities. It will showcase how data-driven decision-making, technology, and AI can be used to improve urban life and recover from current shocks and crises. It will also focus on promoting smart city initiatives centered on people.



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AUGUST 30, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When three people are together, two of them must not whisper to each other, without letting the third hear; because it would hurt him.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:05 Evening: 18:53 Dawn: 4:08 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:36 (tomorrow)

Homa Theater will stage Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night"

TEHRAN – Homa Theater in Tehran will stage the romantic comedy play "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare from September 1.

Mohsen Sadeghi has directed the 85-minute play that has Mohammadreza Abangah, Elham Jeddi, Hamid Rashid, Negar Salahshour, Elnaz Shahbazi, and Amin Simiar in the cast among others.

Believed to have been written around 1601-1602, the play is an allusion to the night of festivity preceding the Christian celebration of the Epiphany—combines love, confusion, and joyful discovery.

"Twelfth Night" is a fast-paced romantic comedy with several interwoven plots of romance, mistaken identities and practical jokes.

The story centers on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola (disguised as a page named Cesario) falls in love with the Duke Orsino, who in turn is in love with Countess Olivia. Upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her, thinking she is a man.

The play expanded on the musical interludes and riotous disorder expected of the occasion, with plot elements drawn from Barnabe Rich's short story "Of Apollonius and Silla", based on a story by Matteo Bandello.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was an

English playwright, poet and actor. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon" or simply "the Bard".

His extant works, including collaborations, consist of some 39 plays, 154 sonnets, three long narrative poems and a few other verses, some of uncertain authorship. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. Shakespeare remains arguably the most influential writer in the English language, and his works continue to be studied and reinterpreted.

Shakespeare produced most of his known works between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were primarily comedies and histories and are regarded as some of the best works produced in these genres. He then wrote mainly tragedies until 1608, among them "Hamlet," "Othello," "King Lear" and "Macbeth," all considered to be among the finest works in English. In the last phase of his life, he wrote tragicomedies (also known as romances) such as "The Winter's Tale" and "The Tempest," and collaborated with other playwrights.

Homa Theater is located at Ziba Dead-End, Nofel Loshato St., Hafez St.

NLAI chairman appreciates distribution of "Shahnameh" in Tajikistan

TEHRAN – At a meeting between the chairman of the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) Gholamreza Amirkhani and the Ambassador of Tajikistan Nizomiddin Zohidi in Tehran on Wednesday, both sides emphasized the exchange of resources, dispatch of researchers, and the organization of joint workshops.

Highlighting the importance of cultural and linguistic commonalities between the two countries, Amirkhani stressed the necessity of expanding scientific and library co-operation, ISNA reported.

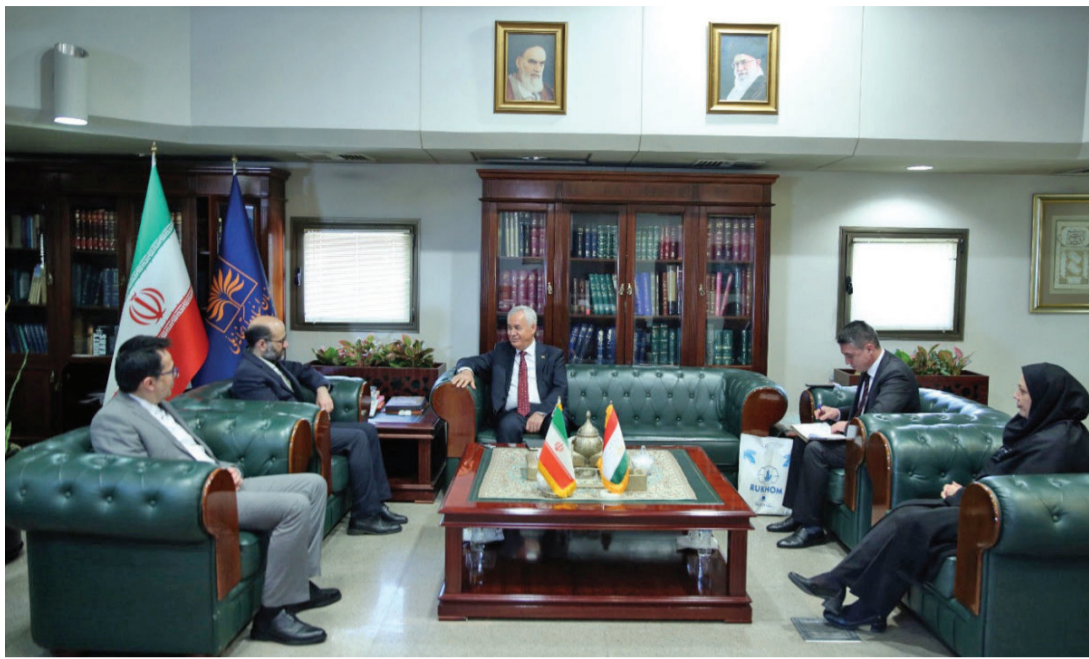
Amirkhani, referring to the national project of distributing the "Shahnameh" in Tajikistan, stated: "The valuable initiative of the Tajik government in distributing the "Shahnameh" among all the people of this country brings joy to Persian language enthusiasts in Iran."

Reviewing previous collaborations, he noted: "In 2017, a room titled 'Iran' was equipped in the National Library of Dushanbe, and now it needs to become more active. We are ready to strengthen this space and cooperate with the National Library of Tajikistan and other scientific and cultural institutions of that country."

"There are extensive capacities for the exchange of resources, the dispatch of researchers and professors, as well as the organization of joint workshops. For us, Tajikistan, because of our shared language and culture, holds a special place. We see this country not just as a neighbor, but as part of a shared civilizational sphere," he emphasized.

Also speaking at the meeting, Nizomiddin Zohidi expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and spoke of the favorable state of bilateral relations: "We thank God that today Iran-Tajikistan relations are at a very high level. The recent trip of President Pezeshkian to Tajikistan opened a new chapter in relations, and during the late President Raisi's administration, three official visits were also exchanged between senior officials of the two countries."

Touching on the "Shahnameh" distribution project in Tajikistan, he added: "The printing and distribution of 3.4 million copies of Ferdowsi's 'Shahnameh' is on the agenda, a significant portion of which is being produced in Iranian printing houses. So far, about 40 wagons of books have been sent, and we hope that by the end of the year, every Tajik family will receive a two-volume edition of the Shahnameh."



Gholamreza Amirkhani (2nd L) and Nizomiddin Zohidi (C) meet in Tehran on August 27.

The free distribution of hundreds of thousands of copies of the "Shahnameh," the epic work of the Persian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi, has begun in Tajikistan.

According to the Tajik government, the initiative seeks to familiarize the people of the country more deeply with the epic stories of the "Shahnameh," honor history, literature, and culture, raise a new generation in the spirit of patriotism, promote courage and heroism, and prepare young people to defend the homeland—values that are reflected throughout the "Shahnameh".

The epic book has been published by Sharq-e Azad (Free East) Publication, affiliated with the Office of the President of Tajikistan.

The order to publish and distribute the "Shahnameh" to the people of Tajikistan free of charge was issued by Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan, at an international conference held in 2023 in honor of the 115th anniversary of the birth of Academician Bobodzhon Gafurov, author of the book "Tajiks".

The Shahnameh is a unique literary masterpiece filled with epic, romantic, and mythical stories. Its storytelling style aligns perfectly with narrative traditions worldwide and offers deep insights into Iranian culture, art, and even the governance, and political traditions of ancient Persia.

Hakim Abul-Qasem Ferdows (940-1020) was a Persian poet and the author of Shahnameh, which is one of the world's longest epic poems created by a single poet, and the greatest epic of Persian-speaking countries.

He is celebrated as one of the most influential figures of Persian literature and one of the greatest in the history of literature.

Ferdowsi's patriotism is prominently displayed in his epic poem, the Shahnameh, where he celebrates Iranian history, culture, and language, and champions the values of courage, wisdom, and national pride. His work is seen as a powerful assertion of Iranian identity.

The "Shahnameh" holds a special place in the cultural memory of the Tajiks. For centuries, this monumental work has been regarded as a source for nurturing patriotism, bravery, and the ethics of chivalry among successive generations.

Throughout different periods, from ancient times to the era of Tajikistan's independence, the "Shahnameh" has always attracted the attention of scholars and lovers of literature in the country. Even during the Soviet era, when the Persian script was replaced with Cyrillic, efforts were made to rewrite the "Shahnameh" in the new script so that this work would remain accessible to the people.

Zohidi further presented five co-operation proposals: exchange of expertise and specialists in librarianship and restoration, exchange of manuscripts and books, providing online access for researchers, organizing joint workshops, and strengthening the "Tajikistan Corner" in the National Library of Iran.

Referring to the importance of archives, he stated: "In Tajikistan, the Archive Organization and the National Library are independent institutions, and we need greater coop-

eration with Iran in this area. We also have a project underway to identify and catalog all works and articles published about Tajikistan in Iran, and we hope the National Library of Iran will cooperate in this initiative."

In conclusion, the ambassador highlighted shared cultural figures between the two countries and said: "Next year marks the 150th anniversary of Master Sadridin Ayni, and we hope to hold a commemoration at the National Library of Iran. Likewise, strengthening programs such as Tajikistan Cultural Days in Iran can contribute to expanding scientific and cultural relations between the two countries."

Sadridin Aini (1878-1954) was a Tajik intellectual who wrote poetry, fiction, journalism, history, and a dictionary. He is regarded by Tajiks as Tajikistan's national poet and one of the most important writers in the country's history.

In 1934, he attended the first Soviet Congress of Writers as the Tajik representative. By purporting national identity in his writings, he was able to escape the Soviet censors that quieted many intellectuals in Central Asia. He was a member of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan for 20 years, was awarded the Order of Lenin three times, and was the first president of the Academy of Sciences of Tajik SSR. After 1992, his writing helped to bind together a sense of Tajik nationalism that survived the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Aini's early poems were about love and nature, but after the national awakening in Tajikistan, his subject matter shifted to the dawn of the new age and the working class.

Activists unveil "free Palestine" banner in front of red carpet of Venice Film Festival

The global outrage over the war in Gaza and the resulting humanitarian catastrophe has reached the Venice Film Festival.

As the 82nd edition kicked off on Wednesday, a broad group of Italian and international cultural and activist groups announced their intention to use the platform of the festival to protest Israel for its military conduct in the Gaza Strip. And they did just that by assembling in front of the famed red carpet shortly after 10 a.m., just hours ahead of the opening night festivities, The Hollywood Reporter reported.

A couple of dozen activists waved Palestinian flags and unveiled a banner that read "Free Palestine. Stop the Genocide." The group repeatedly chanted both slogans, "Free Palestine" and "Stop the Genocide," before addressing members of the media.

The group is demanding that the Venice festival take a public stance on the war in Gaza by opposing what they term "the genocide in Palestine perpetrated by Israel" and to "denounce the complicity of Western governments."

Speaking in Italian, Martina Vergnano, one of the spokeswomen, said they have received "hundreds of signatures from political groups, associations and groups from the Veneto region, but also well beyond. That is, hundreds of signatures and endorsements, even from the world of cinema and from within the exhibition."

Vergnano said the group expected "hundreds of people" including "artists, directors, and actors" to take part in a protest on Saturday, Aug. 30 at 5 pm local time, where activists will gather at the Santa

Maria Elisabetta water bus stop on the Lido and march across the island to the festival red carpet. She noted that there will be a motorboat leaving from Marghera "to allow even those who aren't coming from Venice to reach the film festival together."

The groups call the march "a symbolic and political choice, aimed at breaking the silence and turning the spotlight of the festival on Palestine."

They closed the event with a chant of "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free," a slogan seen as controversial, even antisemitic by some.

Among the organizations supporting the protest are trade unions, anti-racist and feminist groups, student collectives, environmental activists, religious and peace associations, and local cultural, political, and community organizations from across Italy, alongside Palestinian community groups, NGOs such as Emergency and Mediterranean Saving Humans, and international networks including Extinction Rebellion and Refugees Welcome. They are joined by numerous film-industry associations and festivals — from editors, casting directors, and technicians' guilds to groups like ZaLab and the Perugia Social Film Festival — reflecting a broad coalition that spans civil society, grassroots movements, and the cultural sector.

Separately to this in-person protest, hundreds of Italian and international filmmakers, artists and cultural figures signed an open letter ahead of the festival, calling on Venice organizers to take a "clear and unambiguous stand" against what they described as genocide and ethnic cleansing

in Gaza.

The appeal, organized under the banner of Venice4Palestine (V4P), was sent last Friday to the Venice film festival umbrella organization the Biennale di Venezia, as well as the festival's independent sections Venice Days and International Critics' Week.

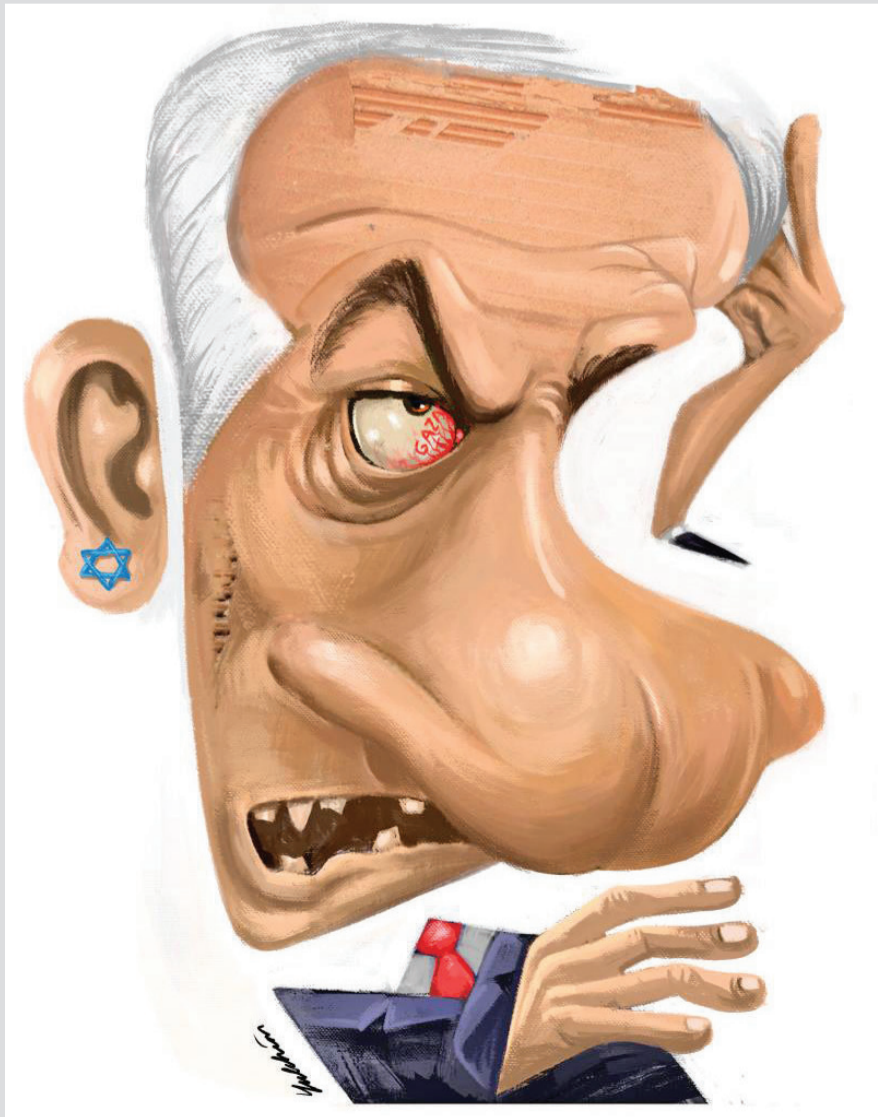
In the letter, the group accuses the Israeli government and military of carrying out genocide in Gaza and ethnic cleansing across Palestine, and urges the festival to avoid becoming "a sad and empty showcase" by instead providing "a place of dialogue, active participation, and resistance, as it has been in the past."

In response to the letter, the Biennale said they and the Venice festival "have always been, throughout their history, places of open discussion and sensitivity to all the most pressing issues facing society and the world. The evidence of this is, first and foremost, the works that are being presented [at the festival]."

The statement noted that The Voice of Hind Rajab, a real-life drama from Tunisian director Kaouthar Ben Hania, about the killing of a 5-year-old Palestinian girl by Israeli forces in Gaza in 2024, will be screening in competition at Venice this year. Several Hollywood heavyweights, including Brad Pitt, Joaquin Phoenix, Rooney Mara, and Oscar-winning directors Jonathan Glazer, and Alfonso Cuarón, have come on board Ben Hania's film as executive producers.

Film industry figures are increasingly putting themselves on the front lines of protests against Israeli's actions in Gaza.

Cartoon of Day



Modern Predator

Cartoonist: Muzaffar Yulchiboev from Uzbekistan