

SCO 'Strongly' Condemns US-Israeli War Against Iran

Multipolarity takes center stage in bloc's largest-ever summit held in Tianjin, China



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Leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states gather for a group photo at the conclusion of the SCO Summit on September 1, 2025.

Israeli terrorism cannot break Yemeni support for Palestine: Iran foreign ministry

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry has condemned Israel's assassination of Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed Galeb Al-Rahawi and eight senior officials in airstrikes on Sana'a, declaring that such "terrorist crimes" will never weaken the Yemeni nation's steadfast backing for the Palestinian cause. ► Page 3

The snapback mechanism: Europe's last gamble and Iran's road to sovereignty

By Peiman Salehi

TEHRAN – On August 29, 2025, the European troika announced the activation of the so-called "snapback" mechanism, seeking to reimpose all UN sanctions on Iran. In Western media this move was framed as a defense of the nuclear order and international security. Yet for Iran, and for much of the Global South, it was nothing more than another demonstration of the hypocrisy and declining legitimacy of the Western system. The decision was not the triumph of diplomacy, but its death certificate. ► Page 3

Yemen sacrifices PM and ministers for Palestinians

By Sondoss AlAsaad

BEIRUT — Yemen's Prime Minister Ahmed Galeb al-Rahwi was martyred, along with several ministers who were either killed or wounded, in a raid by the Zionist regime on a government headquarters in Sana'a last Thursday.

These top Yemeni officials were martyred as part of the country's steadfast defense of Palestine and its oppressed people. This tragic event unfolded while certain Arab governments continue to compete for the Zionist regime's approval, eager to implement its dictates.

In a condolence message to Ansarallah leader Sayyed Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem stated: "The Israeli aggression against the Prime Minister and the ministers reveals the bankruptcy of the criminal enemy, and its pattern of brutality and the killing of human life without restraint or rules." ► Page 7

Exclusive: West using 'snapback' for political manipulation, says former UN expert



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Western response to Israeli genocide: Insufficient and hypocritical

By Mojca Pišek Mika

LJUBLJANA – There is strong public pressure on the centre-liberal government in Slovenia, as the majority of the population strongly supports the Palestinian cause—not only calling for a ceasefire and an end to the genocide but also backing the Palestinians' efforts toward their own state and autonomy within it. Therefore, the sharper rhetoric and some minimal measures by the Slovenian government (such as a partial ban on arms imports and the recognition of Palestine) should be understood primarily as the current government's domestic political efforts to meet the expectations of its electorate ahead of next year's parliamentary elections. ► Page 7

Iran crowned champions of 2025 FIVB U21 World



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Either seeking diplomacy or rushing to sanctions

Etemad examined Europe's haste to send a letter to the United Nations Security Council to invoke the snapback mechanism in an interview with Rahman Ghahremanpour, an expert on international affairs.

He said: Europe's haste to send a letter to the Security Council to activate the snapback mechanism on Thursday probably has two reasons. From an optimistic point of view, this action can be considered an attempt by Europe to provide more opportunities to look for diplomacy and guide Iran towards finding a diplomatic solution.

In this context, sending the letter on Thursday instead of Saturday (end of August) creates a two-day opportunity that can be used in the diplomatic process if Iran responds positively. However, from a pessimistic point of view, the Europeans' haste may be due to the dissatisfaction with the results of last Tuesday's meeting, as well as Europe's emphasis on its firm determination to invoke the snapback mechanism. In this context, sending a letter to the UN two days earlier sends message that shows Europe has no hesitation in implementing the snapback mechanism and that if their demands are not met, they will act without hesitation.

Javan: Iran will act in a multifaceted manner while preserving right to defend itself

In an analysis, Javan examined the West's approach toward the Iran nuclear issue. It said: Activating the snapback mechanism after the United States' direct attacks on nuclear infrastructure in the 12-day war is a repetition of excuses and a demonstration of new political games by the West.

However, Iran has the right to act against these excuses and defend its nuclear rights (under the NPT). One of these measures is to make activities against Iran costly for the West.

The plans being considered in the parliament will be Iran's withdrawal from the NPT, the cessation of any negotiations with the U.S. and the three European countries, and the end of supervisory cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The activation of snapback shows that Iran's transparent cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency on its nuclear activities has brought no effective benefit for Tehran. Also, the Agency, which today has clearly turned into a tool of intelligence for America in Iran's nuclear affairs, urgently seeks a return to the country. So, refusing cooperation with the Agency will harm the United States and, as a result, will put the Agency in a difficult position.

Iran says ready to send humanitarian assistance to quake-hit Afghanistan



TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has announced Tehran's readiness to provide humanitarian assistance following a devastating earthquake that struck the eastern province of Kunar late Sunday, killing hundreds and injuring thousands.

The 6.0-magnitude tremor leveled homes and caused widespread destruction across several towns near Jalalabad. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said at a press conference in Kabul that at least 800 people were killed and 2,500 injured in Kunar, while another 12 deaths and 255 injuries were recorded in neighboring Nangarhar province.

In a message on Monday, President Pezesh-

Shargh: There is no way but to engage in the coming month

Shargh examined the 30-day deadline to prevent the snapback mechanism from being activated in an interview with political expert Abolghasem Delfi. He said: Over the past two decades, the Europeans have always considered themselves to have the most rights and greatest influence in the nuclear talks. The Europeans are trying to increase their diplomatic influence through the snapback mechanism. In the remaining month, the status of Iran's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and engagement with the United States will be decisive.

A large part of the current problems can be solved if Iran and the Agency can reach an understanding to assess the nuclear situation and present acceptable reports. The conditions ahead include two time periods. The first period is one month, which is a diplomatic opportunity to determine the task of cooperation with the Agency and the uranium stockpile; and the second period, after the end of this period, is the return of sanctions and the activation of the snapback mechanism which will increase the possibility of further tensions and even military threats. The 30-day deadline to prevent the activation of the snapback mechanism means that we must use all our efforts to neutralize the anti-Iran movements by the European troika.

Arman-e-Melli: Illegal action and political excuse

In a commentary, the Arman-e-Melli newspaper have said the Europeans which have been passive toward the violation of the 2015 nuclear deal (by the United States since 2018) and therefore have no legal right to invoke the snapback mechanism.

It said: Westerners have always tried to follow a policy of pressure and intimidation. On the other hand, they have fundamentally rejected and ignored Iran's logical and verified actions based on the (2015) nuclear agreement. It must be noticed that the Europeans in their letter to the Security Council have thrown the ball into Iran's court to make Iran appear guilty.

However, it is quite clear that Europe has been in a state of complete inaction for the past seven years and basically has no legal right to trigger the snapback mechanism. Writing letter to the UN Security Council to activate the snapback is a political move. It remains to be seen whether the Europeans will continue this wrong move or will change course. Nevertheless, it remains to be seen how the Security Council will deal with the issue.

kian expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy in the “friendly and brotherly” nation of Afghanistan. He also wished a swift recovery for the injured.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi separately conveyed sympathy to the Afghan people and the families of the victims, emphasizing that Iran was fully prepared to dispatch relief and medical teams to the quake-hit areas.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei echoed the pledge, stressing that Iran stands ready to support the treatment of the injured and to work with Afghanistan through regional and joint cooperation to ease the suffering caused by the disaster.

Iran's intelligence unveils identities of Israeli drone operators, IRIB reports

TEHRAN- The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) has aired a documentary-style report highlighting the achievements of Iranian intelligence in penetrating Israel's drone network during the recent conflict.

According to the broadcast, Iranian intelligence services managed to identify the operators of advanced Israeli Hermes and Heron drones, gather their personal details, and obtain comprehensive information about the airbases from which these drones were launched.

The report said that soon after Israeli drones appeared in Iranian skies, text messages were sent directly to their operators in the occupied territories, warning them that their identities had been exposed. Israeli media at the time, including Yedioth Ahronoth, confirmed that such threatening messages had been circulated among pilots and drone operators.

IRIB's program presented images and intelligence files reportedly obtained by Iran's Ministry of Intelligence. The files included technical data on the 210th Squadron at Tel Nof Airbase, footage of drone assembly and maintenance, radar systems, and even control cabins where operators guided the air-



craft.

The report also named several identified Israeli officers, publishing their personal information and home addresses for the first time. Among those mentioned were Ofir Tesler, Eden Werther from Tel Aviv, and Ofir Eisler from Givatayim.

According to IRIB, Israel's belief in its invulnerability in intelligence warfare collapsed during the confrontation. Some of the very bases

it attempted to camouflage were later struck by Iranian missiles, while several of its drones were downed over Iran and used for reverse engineering—similar to Iran's previous success with the American RQ-170 Sentinel.

The program emphasized that the intelligence disclosed publicly covered only one squadron, suggesting that Iran's penetration into Israel's military infrastructure runs

far deeper. It also noted that part of the information may have been leaked by Israeli pilots disillusioned with Netanyahu's policies.

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.

Exclusive: West using ‘snapback’ for political manipulation, says former UN expert

Alfred de Zayas denounces U.S. and EU move as illegitimate under Resolution 2231



Alfred de Zayas

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – In an exclusive interview, the Tehran Times engaged with Alfred de Zayas, a distinguished professor of international law at the Geneva School of Diplomacy, former Secretary of the UN Human Rights Committee, and former UN Independent Expert on International Order (2012-18).

With escalating tensions in the region, particularly following the U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran during the 12-day war in June 2025, de Zayas offered a sharp legal perspective on the violations of international law, including aggression under the UN Charter and the humanitarian impact of unilateral coercive measures.

He critiqued the systemic failures of the UN Security Council, the misuse of the snapback mechanism under Resolution 2231, and the complicity of Western powers in shielding Israel from accountability. De Zayas also explored Iran's strategic options in a shifting multipolar world, emphasizing legal and diplomatic pathways to resist aggression while upholding sovereignty.

Below is the full text of the interview:

From the perspective of international law, how do you assess the recent U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran during the 12-day war? Do these actions amount to aggression under the UN Charter, and what legal accountability mechanisms exist?

Yes, they amount to aggression under article 2(4) of the UN Charter and under GA resolutions 2625 and 3314. They constitute a “crime against peace” within the meaning of Article 6a of the Statute of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg (London Agreement of 8 August 1945), and the Nuremberg Judgment, also a crime of aggression under Article 5 of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and under the Kampala definition of “aggression” of 2010. According to the principle *ubi ius, ibi remedium*, and the 2001 International Law Commission's Draft Declaration on State Responsibility, Israel must make reparation, but, of course, Israel will not pay reparations, because it is in open rebellion against international law with the support and complicity of the United States.

The Object and Purpose of the United Nations, the principles and purposes of the Unit-

ed Nations Organization are to ban war, ban warmongering, ban war propaganda. Hitherto the UN has been famously ineffective in securing world peace and has been far too tolerant of violations of the UN Charter and UN Human Rights Treaties by the US and the collective West. There was zero justification in international law for the US and Israeli aggression against Iran in June 2025, which actually constituted a grave breach of international peace and security within the meaning of Article 39 of the UN Charter.

The UN Charter gives the Security Council the responsibility to maintain peace and security. Why has the Security Council failed to stop repeated acts of aggression against Iran, and does this reflect a structural flaw in the UN system itself?

Article 27(3) of the UN Charter gives the 5 permanent members of the Security Council the power to “veto” or block resolutions and decisions of the Security Council. Three members of the Security Council, the US, UK and France, would no doubt veto any resolution to condemn Israeli aggression. Other UN members including Germany would oppose sanctioning Israel. Not only Israel, but also the US, UK, France, Germany are in open rebellion against the fundamental tenets of the UN Charter. There is no structural flaw, but a total lack of political will on the part of the “collective West”, and a failure by the “Global Majority” in Africa and Asia to recognize the gravity of the situation. The BRICS countries should bring the matter before the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

Western powers are now invoking the snapback mechanism under Resolution 2231. From your legal expertise, is this move legitimate, or is it another political manipulation of international law by the U.S. and its allies?

An illegitimate political manipulation of international law by the US and allies, with the complicity of the mainstream media in the US, UK, France, Germany, Israel.

You have described sanctions as a form of collective punishment. How do you assess the humanitarian impact of U.S. and European sanctions on ordinary Iranians, and can they be classified as crimes against humanity?

Under modern international law, the only legal and legitimate “sanctions” are those adopted by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Unilateral coercive measures should NOT be confused with “sanctions”, they constitute an illegal “use of force” contrary to UN Charter Art. 2(4).

The problem with using the term “sanctions” to refer to UCMs is that the term “sanctions” is loaded and implies that the country imposing “sanctions” has the legal or moral authority to do so. This is part of the Orwell-

lization of language, the manipulation of legal concepts through the use of terms that have positive or negative connotations.

Collective punishment is specifically prohibited in international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The imposition of UCMs entail gross violations of international law that should be investigated by the International Law Commission as “crimes against humanity” under article 7 of the Rome Statute.

Could Iran realistically challenge U.S. and European sanctions before the ICJ or other international tribunals? What obstacles exist in practice?

Yes, but the ICJ and International Criminal Court have a record of serving the interests of the “collective West”. Nevertheless, it is worth opening a “contentions case” before the ICJ or even getting the UN General Assembly to ask for an advisory opinion on the illegality of US and European UCMs. Article 96 UN Charter allows the GA to request such an advisory opinion from the ICJ, which may (or may not – it is discretionary) accept to give the AO pursuant to Art. 65 of the Statute of the ICJ.

Under Article 15 of the Statute of Rome the Prosecutor of the ICC could *motu proprio* commence an investigation and ask for arrest warrants for violations of article 7 of the Rome Statute. Alas, there is little to no chance that the Prosecutor or Acting Prosecutor would dare to challenge the US and Europe.

Israel repeatedly violates international law through military actions against Iran, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. Why does the West shield Israel from accountability, and what precedent does this create for international law?

The “collective West” is complicit in the ongoing genocide in Gaza and complicit in the 78 years of Nakba against the Palestinian People. The Western mainstream media white-washes the genocide and engages in “apologetics” about all the human rights violations of Israel. They are in rebellion against international law – and hitherto have gotten away with it. The only hope lies with the “Global Majority” that must finally stand up for the UN Charter and take measures against the US and Europe.

But no one seems to have the courage to do so, not even to ask the General Assembly to adopt a resolution asking for an advisory opinion. Another possibility would be to make use of the inter-State complaints procedure of the Human Rights Committee, Committee against Torture, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Rights of the Child etc. – and accuse Israel of gross violations of the ICCPR, CAT, ICERD, ICE-SCR, CRC.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israeli terrorism cannot break Yemeni support for Palestine: Iran foreign ministry

From Page 1 ▶ Iran's Foreign Ministry, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and the Iranian Army have issued strong condemnations of Israel's latest airstrikes on Yemen, which killed Prime Minister Ahmed Ghaleb Al-Rahawi of the National Government of Change and Construction along with eight other senior officials.

In a statement on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry described the assassinations as "terrorist atrocities" and "heinous acts of deadly aggression," stressing that they constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of revenge designed to weaken Yemen's support for Palestine.

The ministry called on the international community to take urgent, decisive action to stop Israel's "rogueishness" and "lawless behavior." It warned that Tel Aviv's actions would not deter the Yemeni nation but rather deepen public outrage across the Muslim world against the Zionist regime and its main backer, the United States.

"These crimes will not break the Yemeni people's resolve," the statement read. "Instead, they will fuel even greater hatred and resistance against Israel and its supporters."

The ministry urged global or-



Smoke billows following Israeli airstrikes in the Yemeni capital of Sana'a on August 28, 2025.

ganizations and governments to fulfill their responsibility to hold Israel's "criminal ringleaders" accountable and prevent further bloodshed.

IRGC vows response by Resistance Forces

On Sunday, the IRGC issued its own statement, branding the airstrikes as a "blatant war crime" and a clear example of state terrorism. The force said the "evil and racist" Zionist regime had once again revealed its "savage and anti-human nature" through the killings in Sana'a.

"The dark face of the Zionist criminals has been exposed once more," the IRGC declared, warning that Israel's actions, backed fully by Washington and enabled

by international silence, threaten both regional and global security.

The IRGC vowed that Resistance movements across the region—particularly Yemen's resilient people—would deliver a "crushing response" to the assassinations. It also called on Muslim governments and human rights bodies to abandon inaction and take firm, practical measures to stop Israel's crimes and support both the Yemeni and Palestinian peoples.

Iran's Army: Israel a threat to humanity

In a separate statement, Iran's Army echoed the condemnations, warning that Israel's escalation in Yemen showed the regime to be a "rogue and criminal

entity" that poses a grave danger to humanity.

Offering condolences to the Yemeni nation, the Army said the assassinations underscored Israel's "savage, criminal, and inhumane" character. It cautioned that, unless contained, Israel's aggression would lead to "mounting wars and acts of terror" throughout the region.

Yemen's president, Mahdi al-Mashat, delivered a fiery address in response to the assassinations, warning Tel Aviv of severe consequences.

"Our revenge does not sleep, and dark days await you," he declared. "You will not taste security after today."

The latest Israeli strikes in Sana'a left several senior Yemeni officials wounded in addition to killing Al-Rahawi and eight others. The attacks follow months of near-daily operations by Yemen's Armed Forces against sensitive Israeli sites, launched in retaliation for Israel's war on Gaza, which began in October 2023.

Iranian officials warned that the targeted killing of Yemen's prime minister marked a dangerous escalation in Israel's campaign, designed to deter regional actors from resisting its ongoing assault on the Palestinian people.

Indonesian ambassador meets Iranian Media, stresses cultural and people-to-people ties

TEHRAN – The Indonesian Ambassador to Iran, Roliansyah Sumirat, emphasized the importance of strengthening cultural relations and people-to-people connections between Iran and Indonesia, alongside traditional economic and political cooperation.

Speaking at a press meeting with Iranian journalists on Monday, Ambassador Sumirat noted that his engagement with the media offered a valuable opportunity to become better acquainted with Iran, saying, "It has been one month since I assumed my post as Indonesia's ambassador to Iran, and this meeting provides a meaningful chance to deepen mutual understanding."

The ambassador expressed gratitude for the participation of Iranian journalists in the "Introduction Trip to Indonesia" program, describing it as an effective platform for promoting

ing cooperation and enhancing bilateral ties. "We hope the participants will gain an accurate understanding of Indonesian culture, tourism, and opportunities, and help introduce these aspects to the Iranian public," he said.

Sumirat highlighted the embassy's efforts to design a well-prepared program despite logistical limitations, emphasizing that the initiative is intended to create a conducive environment for interaction. "We hope cooperation will extend beyond this program into further discussions and expanded collaboration in the future," he added.

Addressing questions on media collaboration, the ambassador pointed to the potential for expanding existing ties between Iranian and Indonesian media organizations. "We seek to create opportunities for greater understanding and awareness



between the media of both countries," he said, noting that memoranda of understanding could be signed to formalize such cooperation.

The ambassador stressed that media serve as a bridge between the peoples of the two nations, reinforcing both official and people-to-people ties. "We hope Iranian journalists will gain a deeper understanding of Indonesian culture and traditions, while

Indonesian journalists will also become more familiar with Iran's heritage," he said.

At the close of the meeting, he thanked Iranian media professionals for their engagement and expressed hope that the dialogue would mark the beginning of broader cooperation between Iran and Indonesia.

The snapback mechanism: Europe's last gamble and Iran's road to sovereignty

From Page 1 ▶ The West has repeatedly proven that it views international agreements not as binding commitments but as instruments of domination, valid only so long as they serve its interests. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was negotiated in good faith by Iran, implemented faithfully for years, and verified by the IAEA. It was Washington, not Tehran, that tore the agreement apart in 2018. It was Europe, not Iran, that promised economic relief but failed to deliver even the most basic trade mechanisms. And now it is the same troika that dares to lecture Iran while violating the spirit and the letter of the very deal they claim to defend.

Iran has no reason to remain a passive spectator in this game of double standards. Just as any sovereign state would, it reserves the right to respond proportionally and decisively. Debates in Tehran about withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or revising the nuclear doctrine are neither threats nor escalations; they are legitimate defensive measures. Iran has abided by international law for decades, despite relentless hostility. But no nation can be expected to tie its own hands while adversaries impose illegal sanctions and weaponize international institutions against it.

In the short term, the snapback may create psychological, economic, and political pressure. That is precisely its purpose. Yet the broader

horizon tells another story: such actions will not weaken Iran, but rather accelerate the collapse of Western credibility. The Global South is watching closely.

Countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America see clearly that the so-called "rules-based order" is nothing more than a mask for Western coercion.

Europe's pandering to the US and Israel by reinstating anti-Iran sanctions reveals to the Global South the worthlessness of international agreements

When Europe reinstates sanctions not on the basis of evidence, but to appease Washington and Tel Aviv, it demonstrates to the world that the rules are arbitrary, the justice selective, and the system irreparably biased.

In this wider context, Iran's strategic answer lies not only in reactive steps like reconsidering its NPT commitments, but in a deliberate reorientation toward the East. China today imports nearly 44 percent of its oil from Iran, a reality

that ties the two economies in a bond of interdependence far stronger than any Western sanction can sever.

Russia, having itself become the most sanctioned country in history, has pivoted to Asia and deepened cooperation with Tehran in trade, energy, and defense. Membership in BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization further integrate Iran into an emerging order where the dollar no longer dictates, where sovereignty is not contingent on Western approval, and where multipolarity is not a slogan but a lived reality.

Western strategists may congratulate themselves for "isolating" Iran. But in truth, it is the West that is isolating itself. The world of the future will not be dominated by a single empire but managed by great and regional powers in overlapping spheres of influence. In such a world, Europe's punitive actions serve only to hasten the shift. By overplaying their hand, the troika has shown the Global South that trust in the Western system is misplaced, that sovereignty can only be guaranteed through South-South solidarity and Eastward integration.

For Iran, the path ahead is challenging, but also promising. The snapback may mark the end of illusions about the West, but it also marks the beginning of a new strategic clarity. Iran will not surrender its independence.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran beat Kazakhstan at FIBA U16 Asia Cup 2025



TEHRAN – Iran defeated Kazakhstan 90-41 in their second match in Group D of the FIBA U16 Asia Cup 2025 on Monday.

The upcoming match against Japan will be crucial as it would be a battle for the Group D top spot, which merits an outright Quarter-Final berth.

Amir Azari top-scored for the West Asian side with 18 points and 6 rebounds.

The duo of Bardiya Khosravi and Alireza Rashidi scored 14 points each and hauled down 10 rebounds combined, while Yasin Morovat Halabi and Mohammad Benia added 12 and 10 points, respectively, in the victory.

None from Kazakhstan was able to score in double digits.

Kazakhstan have gone 0-2 following another defeat, but will have a chance to change their fortunes when they take on Saudi Arabia in a meeting between winless sides set Tuesday.

The winners will boost their bid of reaching the Qualification to Quarter-Finals.

Noshad Alamiyan wins gold at 2025 WTT Feeder

TEHRAN – Iranian table tennis player Noshad Alamiyan claimed a gold medal at the 2025 WTT Feeder in Olomouc, Czechia on Sunday.

He defeated his Indian rival Harmeet Desai 3-2 (11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-8) in the men's singles final.

Alamiyan started the campaign with a 3-1 win over Japanese player Hiromu Kobayashi in Round of 64, then defeated Italian Daniele Pinto 3-0 in Round of 32. Alamiyan also defeated his countryman Benyamin Faraji 3-0 and French player Joe Seyfried 3-0 before defeating Moldovan Vladislav Ursu 3-2 in the semifinals.

Noshad and Nima Alamiyan had also won a silver medal in the men's double. The Iranian pair lost to Japanese duo Yuto Abe and Sota Noda 3-1.

Mehdi Taremi joins Olympiacos: official

TEHRAN – Inter Milan have sold Iranian international striker Mehdi Taremi to Greek side Olympiacos.

The Nerazzurri officially announce the 33-year-old Iranian international's departure on their homepage. He leaves just one season after arriving from Porto. Inter Milan signed striker Taremi last summer on a free transfer after his contract with Porto expired.

The Iranian joined the Nerazzurri on a two-year deal. Additionally, Inter had the option of extending Taremi's contract a further season.

However, Taremi never managed to make the expected impact in an Inter shirt.

The 33-year-old scored just three goals all season in his first campaign at the club.

Therefore, it did not necessarily come as a surprise that Inter decided to offload Taremi at the end of the season.

There were quite a few clubs that showed an interest in signing Taremi throughout the transfer window.

Initial interest came from Turkey, and in particular Besiktas.

From the Premier League, both Fulham and newly-promoted Leeds United both reportedly eyed up a deal for the Iranian.

Meanwhile, Botafogo and Flamengo both tried to bring Taremi to Brazil.

However, the player wanted to stay in Europe instead.

In the last couple weeks of the transfer window, the likes of PSV, Lille, Lyon, and Panathinaikos also showed an interest in Taremi's signature.

Meanwhile, Sassuolo reportedly offered the Iranian an opportunity to stay in Serie A. However, it is Olympiacos who have managed to complete a deal for Taremi before the transfer window closes.

Hosseini selected MVP of 2025 FIVB U21 World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran's Matin Hosseini was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship after powering his side to a second consecutive world title in Jiangmen, China.

The 19-year-old outside hitter impressed throughout the competition and also secured a place among the Best Outside Hitters in the Dream Team.

He finished the tournament with 112 points, including 81 in attack, 13 from blocks and 18 from service, averaging more than 12 points per match.

Matin's consistency and all-round impact on court confirmed his place as the tournament's top performer.

Iran's strength was further underlined with Taahaa Behboudnia named among the Best Middle Blockers, Emran Kook Jili recognized as Best Setter and Morteza Tabatabaei honored as Best Libero.

Their inclusion reflected the team's depth and cohesion in claiming the gold medal.

The Dream Team also featured Sean Kelly of the United States, who joined Matin as the other Best Outside Hitter after helping his side to a historic bronze medal win.

Italian opposite Tomasso Barotto earned recognition as Best Opposite, while Pardo Mati completed the middle blocker pairing.

Iran defeat India in 2025 CAFA Nations Cup

TEHRAN – Iran earned their successive win in the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup, beating India 3-0 in Group B on Monday.

Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh gave Team Meli the lead just before the hour mark and two goals from Ali Alipour in the 89th and 90th minutes sealed a 3-0 win for Iran at the Hisor Central Stadium in Hisor, Tajikistan.

Iran, who had defeated Afghanistan 3-1 in their opening match, are scheduled to play host Tajikistan on Thursday.

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

Foolad complete signing of Vahid Amiri

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team midfielder Vahid Amiri joined Foolad on Sunday.

Amiri, 37, parted ways with Persepolis last week and opted to join Ahvaz-based club Foolad.

He has penned a one-year deal with Foolad.

Amiri had been linked with a move to Kheybar and Malavan.

Amiri represented the Iran national football team in the 2015 and 2019 AFC Asian Cups and also the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Strategic alignment: Iran-China economic relations in shadow of SCO

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The economic relationship between Iran and China is a compelling narrative of ancient ties being reformed into a modern strategic partnership.

Rooted in millennia of cultural and commercial exchange along the historic Silk Road, this relationship has entered a dynamic new phase in recent decades.

Driven by geopolitical shifts and complementary economic needs, the burgeoning partnership is now being institutionalized and accelerated, with Iran's recent full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) acting as a powerful catalyst for deeper integration.

The foundation of this modern partnership is robust trade.

China has consistently been Iran's top trading partner overall and its leading non-oil partner, a testament to the diverse and growing commercial links beyond the energy sector.

This economic bond has been fortified through high-level diplomacy, most notably the landmark "25-Year Strategic Partnership Agreement" signed in 2021.

This comprehensive roadmap envisions deep cooperation across energy, infrastructure, and security, signaling a long-term commitment that transcends political cycles.

This agreement provides a stable framework for the multi-sector partnerships that are now flourishing.

A key driver of this growth is the vigorous engagement of Iran's private sector.

Numerous Iranian trade delegations have visited various Chinese provinces and international exhibitions, such as the China International Import Expo (CIIE).

These visits are not merely symbolic; they are strategic missions to identify specific investment opportunities, facilitate financial exchanges, and build direct business-to-business relationships.

This grassroots commercial diplomacy is essential for translating high-level agreements into tangible projects and diversified trade.

Iran's domestic economic goals, as outlined in its Seventh National Development Plan, join perfectly with this outward engagement.

The plan explicitly emphasizes industrial modernization and attracting foreign capital and technology.

Iran aims to upgrade its foundational industries—from automotive and textiles to pharmaceuticals and medical equipment—and recognizes that this transformation can be achieved more rapidly and effectively with a global indus-

trial superpower like China as a partner.

This alignment of goals has crystallized into four key strategic priorities for Iran in expanding its economic ties with China.

First is technology transfer and joint investment.

Iran offers a large market, a young and skilled labor force, and highly competitive costs, presenting an attractive opportunity for Chinese firms to establish production lines and access broader markets in the West Asia and Central Asia.

In return, Iran seeks the technological prowess to move up the value chain.

Second is increasing trade in high value-added goods.

While current trade is often weighted toward raw materials, Iran is keen to export more processed goods, finished products, and specialized commodities to the Chinese market.

The third strategy is joint production through co-investment.

To this end, Iran promises a secure legal environment with guarantees for the repatriation of capital and profits, alongside special incentives for foreign industrial investment.

The fourth pillar is mutual market access. Iran believes its goods are well-suited for Chinese consumers and that co-investment can create products for both domestic markets and for export to third countries, making the trade relationship deeper and more sustainable.

These strategies are particularly relevant in infrastructure development—where Chinese expertise in rail, highway, and port projects is desperately needed—and in mining, where Iran's vast and untapped reserves of iron, copper, aluminum, and rare earth elements represent a frontier for bilateral development and export growth.

Iran's accession to full membership in the SCO in 2023 profoundly amplifies these strategies.

As a member, Iran is no longer an observer but a central player in a bloc representing a significant portion of the world's GDP, population, and energy resources.

SCO membership provides Iran with a crucial political and economic platform to deepen its engagement with China, bypassing the isolation imposed by Western sanctions.

Within the SCO framework, Iran can more effectively advocate for its four key strategies, integrate into regional connectivity projects like China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and enhance security cooperation that, in turn, creates a more stable environment for investment.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran bridges East and West through SCO, enhances cooperation with China

TIANJIN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the 2025 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Tianjin, China, joining leaders from more than 20 countries and 10 international organizations.

A distinguished Chinese journalist covering the two-day summit on Sunday and Monday described the Iranian president's participation as carrying profound strategic significance amid ongoing regional and global transformations.

Xu Yawen, a CGTN Radio reporter and international affairs commentator, said Iran's attendance reflects a new phase in the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Tehran and Beijing.

"Iran's joining of the summit as a full SCO member injects fresh momentum into high-level bilateral exchanges. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, China is committed to deepening pragmatic cooperation with Iran in key areas such as energy, trade, and infrastructure development. This cooperation is expected to bring tangible benefits to both peoples," Xu said.

She emphasized that Iran's inclusion strengthens the SCO as a multilateral platform. "At a time when unilateralism and geopolitical tensions are on the rise, Iran's engagement enhances the SCO's collective ability to safeguard regional security, combat terrorism, and resist external interference.

Iran's firm support for multilateralism aligns closely with China's vision, contributing to joint efforts to build a fairer and more balanced global governance framework."

Xu highlighted the significance of Iran's geographic potential in advancing regional connectivity and trade. "Historically, Iran has been a hub along the ancient Silk Road and is a natural bridge between East and West. Its geographic and economic potential can advance summit initiatives such as cross-border infrastructure projects and the stabilization of supply chains, particularly in energy and logistics," she said.

The international affairs commentator noted that Iran's active participation is seen as bringing new impetus to the SCO's future agenda, promoting multipolarity, equitable dialogue, and win-win cooperation. "This fully embodies the Shanghai Spirit — mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations, and pursuit of common development — in today's international context."

Xu pointed out that China views Iran's presence at the Tianjin summit both as an opportunity to enhance bilateral trust and cooperation and as a strategic step in elevating the SCO into a more representative and dynamic platform for multilateral cooperation across the Global South.

SCO 'strongly' condemns US-Israeli war against Iran

Multipolarity takes center stage in bloc's largest-ever summit held in Tianjin, China

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Gathering in China's Tianjin on Monday for the largest-ever summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), leaders from Asia's major powers displayed a growing determination to chart a new path, diverging from a West increasingly defined by heavy-handed U.S. policies and Europe's struggle for relevance.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian joined over 20 foreign leaders at the SCO summit, including India's Narendra Modi, Russia's Vladimir Putin, and Pakistan's Shehbaz Sharif. Iran became an SCO member in 2024, under the late President Ebrahim Raisi whose administration was particularly keen to forge closer ties with Asian nations.

The SCO was established in 2001, and currently consists of 10 countries. After its expansion last year, member states have made increasing calls to turn the organization into a hub for deeper cooperation and multi-lateral exchange. The return of Donald Trump to the White House and his aggressive trade policies have further compelled countries to pivot towards the Global South in recent months. During his speech at the summit, Pezeshkian addressed one of Iran's most important concerns: Western sanctions. "The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as one of the important pillars of the multipolarization of the international system, should take practical, clear, and specific steps in two parallel paths to create a more peaceful world and a world conducive to expanding economic cooperation," the president stated.

To fortify economic ties among SCO members and shield them from the weaponization of Western sanctions, Pezeshkian proposed the "Accounts and Settlements of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization."

The initiative would empower member states by promoting settlements in national currencies to diminish dependence on the U.S. dollar, establishing a secure shared digital infrastructure utilizing central bank digital currencies for efficient payments, and creating a multilateral currency swap fund to aid nations targeted by sanctions or liquidity



President Pezeshkian addresses the Shanghai Plus summit on September 1, 2025

crises.

"We believe that the implementation of this initiative can not only enhance the economic resilience of the members but can also turn the

explained.

The president also pointed to Iran's unique geographical and transit position as well as its access to different parts of the world. He said

Russia and China join Iran to reject E3 'snapback' trigger as legally baseless

TEHRAN – In a move that appeared to signal unity, Iran, Russia, and China jointly denounced the European powers' (E3) attempt to trigger the JCPOA's so-called snapback mechanism as "legally baseless" and "politically destructive."

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, along with his counterparts Wang Yi and Sergey Lavrov, solidified this unwavering stance in a signed letter at the SCO summit in Tianjin, China.

Araghchi emphasized that the E3's actions are void, as they deliberately ignore the sequence of events: the U.S.'s initial violation of the JCPOA and Resolution 2231, followed by Europe's "shameful" alignment with unlawful US sanctions instead of upholding its own obligations. These facts, Araghchi declared, must be central to any Security Council discussion.

The joint declaration also underscored the inseparability of rights and obligations under international law, emphasizing that parties failing to honor their commitments cannot claim benefits from agreements they actively undermine. It asserted that the European proposition "betrays the Security Council's mission", transforming it into an instrument of coercion rather than a guardian of global stability. "The urgent task before us is to restore international law and build upon it to give diplomacy the ground it needs to succeed," the declaration read.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization into a successful model for establishing a multipolar, fair, and resilient financial order against external pressures," the Iranian president

given these characteristics, Iran will be ready to facilitate trade between other member states and create regional connectivity.

Most of Pezeshkian's political



During a meeting with Turkey's Erdogan, Pezeshkian said no foreign forces should be allowed to operate in the South Caucasus. Erdogan seemed to agree with him. The Turkish president's most important remarks concerned Iran's nuclear program. He said Iran has the "legal right" to enrich uranium and that the West's use of the so-called "snapback" mechanism is unconstructive and ineffective.



During Pezeshkian's meeting with his Tajik counterpart, Emomali Rahmon, the shared roots, history, and culture of Iran and Tajikistan took center stage. The two leaders said this capacity must be used in order to strengthen bilateral cooperation and make ties between the two countries accurately represent those of kins. The Palestinian issue and Israeli crimes were some of the other points of discussion.



Pezeshkian's meeting with Putin reportedly lasted for two hours. Iran and Russia recently signed into law the implementation of a strategic cooperation treaty. During their discussions in China, the two sides emphasized that Moscow-Tehran relations must continue to deepen in various fields. The rise of multilateralism, and Iran's nuclear program were other topics brought up by the leaders.



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the SCO meeting that he is convinced Iran is not looking to build nuclear weapons. Pezeshkian affirmed his remarks, and brought the UN chief's attention to the unconstructive role the IAEA has been playing in regards to Iran's nuclear program. Pezeshkian also warned against the escalating and unchecked violence of Israel plaguing West Asia.

SCO Summit in Tianjin: Historic milestones and bold roadmap for the future

By Shahrokh Saei

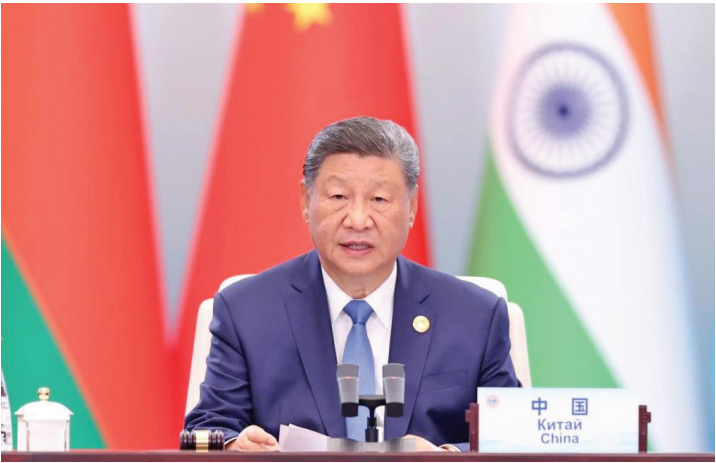
TEHRAN – The Chinese city of Tianjin has captured global attention as it hosted the latest annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), marking a pivotal moment for the Eurasian alliance and international diplomacy at large.

The two-day summit, held on Sunday and Monday, has been described as the “largest-ever SCO summit in history,” drawing participation from leaders representing over 20 countries and ten international organizations.

This historic gathering underscored the SCO’s expanding influence on global governance, economic cooperation, and regional security.

Xi Jinping champions the Shanghai Spirit

Addressing the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the



SCO, Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized the importance of the “Shanghai Spirit” as a guiding principle in an increasingly complex and unpredictable world.

Calling on member states to deepen cooperation, respect differences, maintain strategic communication, and strengthen solidarity, Xi highlighted the organization’s growing international stature.

He praised the “groundbreaking and historic achievements” of the SCO, noting that “its international influence and appeal are increasing day by day.”

In a pointed reference to rising geopolitical tensions, the Chinese president urged regional leaders to reject the “Cold War mentality” and reaffirmed his commitment to multilateralism in the face of unilateral pressures, particularly from the United States.

“We should advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and make the global governance system more just and equitable,” Xi asserted, emphasizing the SCO’s potential to foster a more balanced international order.

Global Governance Initiative introduced

On Monday, President Xi took the opportunity of the “Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus” meeting in Tianjin to propose the



Global Governance Initiative (GGI), a visionary framework aimed at advancing a fairer and more inclusive international system.

“I look forward to working with all countries for a more just and equitable global governance system and advancing toward a community with a shared future for humanity,”

he said.

The GGI marks the fourth major global initiative put forward by Xi in recent years, following the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative.

Key agreements and strategic plans

Monday’s proceedings also saw the signing and adoption of several crucial documents, including the Tianjin Declaration and a development strategy for 2026-2035, outlining the SCO’s blueprint for the next decade.

The summit brought together influential leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who collectively underscored the organization’s role in promoting multilateralism, regional security, and sustainable economic growth.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, center pose for a group photo with international guests including Russian President Vladimir Putin, seventh from left, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, fourth from left and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, second from left before a welcome banquet for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025 at the Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Center in Tianjin, northern China on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025. (Huang Jingwen/Xinhua via AP)

The forums focused on “Deepening People-to-People Friendship, Advancing Sustainable Development,” underscoring the SCO’s role in promoting cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and regional harmony.

High-ranking officials delivered speeches emphasizing inclusiveness, cooperation, and sustainable development, echoing President’s vision of building a “community with a shared future for mankind.”

These events demonstrated that the SCO’s influence extends beyond formal diplomatic channels, actively fostering social, cultural, and economic integration among its member states.

Technology and sustainability in action

My firsthand experience in China also revealed the practical manifestation of the Shanghai Spirit in the economic and technological spheres. A visit to a Lenovo factory in Tianjin offered a striking example of innovation aligned with sustainability.

Lenovo has implemented an ambitious zero-carbon strategy, integrating energy efficiency, renewable energy, and advanced technology to reduce environmental impact without compromising



productivity.

The factory’s design features photovoltaic glass panels that generate electricity while serving as structural elements, showcasing how sustainable practices can be seamlessly integrated into industrial operations.

Lenovo’s approach demonstrates that environmentally conscious production is not merely aspirational but can drive innovation, efficiency, and growth. Initiatives like these exemplify China’s broader commitment to green industrial transformation, aligning economic development with global sustainability goals.

Diplomacy rooted in the Shanghai Spirit

China’s commitment to the Shanghai Spirit is deeply rooted in its diplomatic philosophy, which emphasizes equitable participation, collective dialogue, and peaceful resolution of disputes.

Through multilateral organizations like the United Nations and the SCO, China advocates for a more balanced and inclusive international system where no single nation dominates decision-making processes. This approach underscores China’s vision of a world order built on cooperation, mutual respect,

and shared responsibility.

The 2025 SCO summit in Tianjin demonstrated the practical impact of this philosophy. The presence of global leaders and high-level officials signaled the organization’s growing relevance and influence in international affairs.

By promoting solidarity among member states and reinforcing the principles of multilateralism, the SCO is increasingly emerging as a platform that elevates the voices of the Global South while countering unilateral approaches in global governance.

Looking ahead: Kyrgyzstan and the SCO’s future

As the summit concluded, attention turned to the future of the SCO under the upcoming rotating presidency of Kyrgyzstan for the 2025-2026 period.

Member states are expected to continue building on the progress achieved in Tianjin, furthering co-operation in areas such as security, trade, technological innovation, and sustainable development.

The organization’s expansion and evolving agenda signal that the SCO

is set to play an even more prominent role in shaping the trajectory of regional and global affairs.

From the Tianjin Declaration to the Global Governance Initiative, the 2025 SCO summit underscored the organization’s commitment to advancing multilateralism, fostering equitable development, and creating a shared vision for humanity’s future.

Through dialogue, innovation, and cooperation, the SCO continues to offer an alternative model of global engagement—one that prioritizes partnership over dominance, sustainability over short-term gains, and collective progress over unilateral agendas.

In the end, Tianjin was more than just a venue for diplomatic meetings; it was a testament to the SCO’s maturation as a global institution and China’s role in shaping a more just, inclusive, and interconnected world.

The summit reinforced the idea that cooperation, innovation, and shared purpose can indeed transform international relations, offering a blueprint for a more harmonious and prosperous future for all.



SCO SUMMIT

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

5

Iran and China: Two civilizations, one shared future

By Qinduo Xu

BEIJING – When Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei penned a post on X in both Persian and Chinese about bilateral relationship, the symbolism was unmistakable. His words resonated deeply: “Iran and China, as two ancient civilizations on the eastern and western wings of Asia, not only share a deep historical heritage but also possess transformative power to reshape regional and even global order. The full implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership will lay a solid foundation for this process.”

The post quickly went viral in China—not only because of its message, but also because of the respect it conveyed in reaching out directly in the Chinese language. It was more than diplomacy. It was a gesture of friendship, of recognition, and of shared civilizational pride.

The timing was notable. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) had just opened its largest-ever summit in Tianjin, gathering more than 20 national leaders and the heads of 10 international organizations. At the meeting, members adopted a 10-year development strategy and issued a joint statement marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Over a dozen agreements were signed, spanning security, the economy, and people-to-people exchanges—laying out the direction for the SCO’s long-term growth.

In his keynote address, Chinese President Xi Jinping highlighted that the SCO has become the world’s largest regional organization, now encompassing 26 participating countries with a combined economic output of nearly 30 trillion US dollars. Its global appeal and influence, he noted, are “increasing by the day.”

China and Iran, both members of the SCO, exemplify what this organization is designed to achieve.

Iran steps into the spotlight as China summit rallies Global South solidarity

By Chen Guifang, Political Editor of CGTN

BEIJING – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian’s attendance at the 2025 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in China, along with the Iranian supreme leader’s trilingual message on bilateral ties, reflects the growing strategic alignment between the two nations.

The summit, held in the northern port city of Tianjin, marks a significant moment for Iran, which officially became an SCO member in July 2023 and has since actively participated in various areas of cooperation, injecting new energy into the SCO’s development.

Founded 24 years ago in response to the complex international and regional landscape following the Cold War, the SCO has expanded from six founding members to a “big family” of 26 countries across Asia, Europe, and Africa, making it the world’s largest regional cooperation body by both area and population.

As a key step in solidifying Iran’s role within this family, the Iranian president arrived in Tianjin on August 31 to attend the largest gathering in the SCO’s history, which holds the unique distinction of being the first intergovernmental organization named after a Chinese city.

On the same day, Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei posted a message on the social media platform X, sharing his views on China-Iran relations in three languages—Chinese, Persian, and English—further highlighting the diplomatic significance of Pezeshkian’s visit.

“Iran and China are two countries with ancient civilizations on the two sides of Asia that have the power to create a transformation in the region and the world,” Khamenei wrote. “Implementing all the various dimensions of the strategic partnership agreement will help pave the way for this.”

China and Iran share a deep-rooted traditional friendship that was elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2016. Amid rapid global changes, the strategic importance of this relationship has become even more prominent.

Following the SCO summit, Pezeshkian will participate in events commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War—a clear signal of the strong ties between the two countries.

Despite being the group’s largest economy and a global leader in technology, China does not lecture others, interfere in domestic politics, or abandon commitments when government changes. Instead, it builds trust. The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership signed in 2021 charts a long-term roadmap: energy cooperation, infrastructure, green technologies, digital industries, artificial intelligence. These are not abstract slogans but tangible avenues for shared growth. For China, Iran’s role along the Belt and Road Initiative is indispensable; for Iran, China is a partner that values stability, respect, and reciprocity.

This stands in stark contrast to Iran’s experience with the West. For decades, Washington and its European allies have treated Iran not as a sovereign partner but as a problem to be managed. The record is clear: promises made, promises broken. The nuclear deal (JCPOA) is a case in point—negotiated in good faith, only to be unilaterally abandoned by the United States, while Europe proved unable or unwilling to honor its commitments. Today, Europe again threatens sanctions, despite its silence when Iran was illegally bombed during negotiations.

Through platforms such as the SCO and BRICS, Iran is empowered instead of being sidelined. Here, sovereignty is respected, multipolarity is advanced, and cooperation is built not on confrontation but on fairness and equality.

That is what China offers—and why Iran’s deepening partnership with China points toward a new international reality. Together, the two nations are not merely enduring Western pressure; they are shaping a more balanced world order. For both Iran and China, and for the wider Global South, the moment for strategic clarity has arrived.

Qinduo Xu is a senior fellow at Pangaoal Institution, a local think tank in Beijing.

A key platform for the Global South

The Tianjin summit comes at a time when the international system is in disarray and unilateralism is on the rise, making the SCO a pivotal platform for the Global South to find a collective voice on the world stage and forge a new path forward.

The SCO’s effectiveness in this regard stems from the “Shanghai Spirit,” a set of founding principles featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations, and pursuit of common development.

This guiding framework allows the SCO to manage a broad family of nations with differing political and economic systems and diverse interests. The group’s consensus-based approach to decision-making ensures a unified voice, which is particularly relevant in a world rife with geopolitical tensions.

Leveraging these strengths, the SCO expressed serious concern over escalating tensions in the Middle East, issuing a rare and strong condemnation of a U.S. military strike on three Iranian nuclear facilities in June, calling it a gross violation of international law and a destructive act against global peace.

The organization’s stance against unilateralism underscores its commitment to multilateralism—a principle growing more relevant as the world shifts from a unipolar international order, largely defined by Western dominance after the Cold War, toward a more multipolar system.

This shift is further highlighted by the diverse and unprecedented lineup of summit attendees. In addition to leaders from member states such as Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the gathering drew leaders from Central Asia and nearly all Southeast Asian nations.

The guest list was particularly notable for the presence of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. As a NATO member and one of the organization’s 14 dialogue partners, his attendance highlighted the SCO’s expanding global appeal.

This suggests that the current international order is undergoing a significant geopolitical shift, making the SCO’s role in upholding regional peace and stability more important than ever.

SATBA signs deal to expand small-scale renewable power in villages

TEHRAN – Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Organization of Municipalities and Rural Administrations to develop small-scale renewable power plants of up to three megawatts in rural areas.

The MOU was signed by Masoud Nosrati, deputy interior minister and head of the municipalities organization, and Mohsen Tarzatab, deputy energy minister and head of SATBA. It aims to provide rural administrations, cooperatives, and unions with a framework to establish renewable power plants and sell electricity under long-term contracts.

Under the deal, SATBA will support projects through guaranteed power purchase agreements of up to 20 years, as well as alternative investment models including electricity sales on the Iran

Energy Exchange and barter mechanisms.

SATBA will also introduce solar and wind potential maps to guide investors, coordinate with local power distribution companies to ensure grid connection, and provide a list of qualified contractors across provinces.

The municipalities organization will promote SATBA's priority projects among local stakeholders, identify suitable sites for development, and encourage rural cooperatives and communities to invest in renewable generation. It will also help facilitate access to low-interest financing from partner banks.

The memorandum also covers oversight of project implementation, technical training for operators, and long-term management of renewable power plants in villages.

ICCIMA warns against government plan for business associations council

TEHRAN – A senior official at Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has criticized a government plan to form a "Supreme Council of Associations," saying it lacks legal basis and risks weakening the independence of the private sector.

Hossein Pirmoazzen, ICCIMA deputy head, said the proposal by the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade contradicts the Law on Continuous Improvement of the Business Environment, which assigns the chamber responsibility for organizing business associations.

"Government interference in the internal affairs of the private sector is against the law. Establishing such a council through MIMT would be a clear example of state intervention in autonomous private-sector structures," he said. "It could frag-

ment economic actors, create parallel associations, and undermine genuine representation."

Pirmoazzen added that associations must be formed "from the bottom up, based on the needs and will of businesspeople, not imposed from above." He urged the government to prioritize dialogue with the private sector, acting as a facilitator and impartial regulator rather than a direct decision-maker.

He stressed that private-sector independence is a cornerstone of open economies, ensuring competitiveness and investor trust. "When the government intervenes in organizing associations, it goes against both the letter and the spirit of the law on improving the business environment," he said.

Tehran, Yerevan explore rail, trade cooperation under INSTC framework

TEHRAN – The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) and his Armenian counterpart discussed expanding technical and operational cooperation in rail transport among CIS member states during a recent visit to Russia.

According to IRNA, Jabarali Zakari, deputy transport minister and head of the RAI, met the chairman of Armenian Railways on the sidelines of a Railways exhibition in St. Petersburg.

Talks covered establishing sustainable rail transport, identifying cargo potential along the corridor, activating freight forwarders, and easing rail connectivity between Iran and Russia through Armenia, contingent on the resolution of political disputes between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

With Baku and Yerevan recently reaching a preliminary agreement, officials concluded that the memorandum could help reopen the western route of the International North-South Transit



Corridor (INSTC) via Nakhchivan. This would restore rail links between Iran and Russia through Yerevan after years of suspension.

The sides agreed to hold their next meeting in Tehran in the near future.

Iran, Armenia chambers launch joint committee to ease customs bottlenecks

The Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and

Agriculture (ICCIMA) announced that a recent trade mission to Armenia produced 10 cooperation agreements across energy, tourism, pharmaceuticals, transport, technical standards, and culture.

Mohammadreza Bahraman, ICCIMA vice president, said the delegation's visit — held in parallel with the Iranian president's official trip — marked a turning point for regional economic cooperation, opening doors to joint

investment and expanded market access.

"Armenia is not only a gateway to the 184 million-strong Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) but also a bridge to Europe through its trade agreements with the EU," Bahraman said.

He cited Armenia's economic stability, investor-friendly environment, skilled workforce, tax incentives and competitive costs as key attractions for Iranian investors.

Among the key outcomes were a target of \$3.0 billion in bilateral trade using the Iran-EAEU free trade agreement, and the creation of a four-party committee of chambers and customs officials to resolve certificate-of-origin and customs barriers.

Progress was also made on infrastructure, including a second border bridge over the Aras River and completion of the third power exchange line, which is expected to boost energy and transport capacity several fold.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

NIORDC to boost refining capacity by 180,000 bpd, launch 3 fuel quality projects

TEHRAN – Iran plans to raise its refining capacity by 180,000 barrels per day (bpd) by the end of the current Iranian year in March 2026 and bring three major fuel quality projects online, the head of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) said.

Mohammad Sadegh Azimifar told Shana that the projects include diesel desulfurization at Shiraz refinery to produce Euro-5 fuel, a kerosene treatment unit at Isfahan refinery, and a catalytic reforming unit at Tehran refinery to upgrade gasoline quality.

He said the Isfahan project would come online this week, while Tehran's CCR unit is ex-

pected to be completed by year-end, raising the refinery's gasoline output by 20 percent.

Azimifar said NIORDC, through its 10 refineries, processes 2.4 million bpd of crude oil and condensates into refined products, which are distributed via 15,000 km of pipelines, 16,000 road tankers, and 87 storage depots across the country.

He noted that Iran increased its power plant diesel reserves by 1.5 billion liters over the past year, compared with shortages that caused power cuts last winter. Gasoline stockpiles were also strengthened, preventing disruptions even during a 12-day surge in demand when daily consumption hit 200

million cubic meters.

The NIORDC chief blamed low efficiency in consumption for Iran's energy imbalance, citing that 53 percent of the country's transport fleet is obsolete, consuming two to three times the global average. Inefficient power plants and fuel smuggling driven by price differences with neighboring countries have added pressure on production, he said.

To manage demand, Azimifar said the government is working on fuel-saving certificates, electrifying 20,000 old motorcycles, and replacing aging vehicles in coordination with the transport ministry.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tianjin's cauliflower seeds help address local industrial bottlenecks in Pakistan

ATTOCK, Aug. 31 (Xinhua) -- In recent years, Tianjin's cauliflower seed exports to Pakistan have accounted for over 70 percent of Pakistan's annual planting, helping to address bottlenecks in the local cauliflower industry.

Chinese seed varieties are favored by local farmers. Even poor farmers with small farming lands can almost double their harvest on the same land

compared to local varieties, giving them both more produce to sell and a better price in the market.

These cauliflower seeds are cultivated by a research team from Tianjin, and the cauliflower varieties from Tianjin have been promoted on more than 1 million mu (about 67,000 hectares) across Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries.

What began in the greenhouses of Tianjin has taken root in the fields of Punjab, offering farmers new tools to fight climate change, secure livelihoods, and build a better future.

These seeds are a symbol of how China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation, under the framework of the SCO, is cultivating resilience and prosperity across communities.



Farmers check on Chinese cauliflower seeds in Attock district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Aug. 13, 2025. (Photo by Daniyal Khan Jadoon/Xinhua)



Chinese cauliflower seedlings are seen in Attock district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Aug. 13, 2025. (Photo by Daniyal Khan Jadoon/Xinhua)



A farmer checks on Chinese cauliflower seeds in Attock district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Aug. 13, 2025. (Photo by Daniyal Khan Jadoon/Xinhua)



Farmers check on Chinese cauliflower seeds in Attock district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Aug. 13, 2025. (Photo by Daniyal Khan Jadoon/Xinhua)



A farmer weeds a Chinese cauliflower field in Attock district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Aug. 13, 2025. (Photo by Daniyal Khan Jadoon/Xinhua)



Farmers check on the growth of Chinese cauliflowers in Attock district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Aug. 13, 2025. (Photo by Daniyal Khan Jadoon/Xinhua)



Farmers check on a Chinese cauliflower field in Attock district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Aug. 13, 2025. (Photo by Daniyal Khan Jadoon/Xinhua)



Farmers check on a Chinese cauliflower field in Attock district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Aug. 13, 2025. (Photo by Daniyal Khan Jadoon/Xinhua)



Chinese cauliflower seedlings are seen in Attock district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Aug. 13, 2025. (Photo by Daniyal Khan Jadoon/Xinhua)

Yemen sacrifices PM and ministers for Palestine

From page 1 ▶ Sheikh Qassem emphasized that, since the Zionist enemy is unable to confront the armed forces and mujahidin commanders on the battlefield, it has resorted to committing heinous crimes against those serving the people.

“Yemen—with its leadership, government, people, and armed forces—will remain the fluttering, shining flag in the world’s skies, a beacon of freedom, support for Palestine and Gaza, and resistance to the occupiers and invaders,” he pointed out.

He concluded, “The lesson is at the end of the road, where there will be shame and a humiliating fall for the Zionist entity, God willing, and a disastrous failure for global arrogance and the complicit rulers of our region. Victory will come for Palestine and al-Quds (Jerusalem) at the hands of the Palestinian people, their resistance, and the resis-



tance in the region, led by brave and proud Yemen.”

Meanwhile, according to Channel 12, the Israeli cabinet has decided to relocate its meetings to a fortified and secret location, fearing retaliation from the head of Yemen’s Supreme Political Council, Mahdi al-Mashat.

Al-Mashat vowed to avenge the blood of the martyrs, reas-

suring the Yemeni people that “the armed forces are in a position of power, and what the enemy achieved was nothing more than a stroke of luck.”

He warned the Zionists: “Our revenge will not abate, and dark days await you because of the treason your filthy, treacherous government has reaped.”

Al-Mashat called on citizens

worldwide to refrain from any dealings with assets belonging to the Zionist entity. He renewed his warning to all companies operating within the occupying entity, advising them to leave before it is too late.

He noted: “If the pure, innocent blood of Yemenis is shed, the thrones of empires that have ruled the world—or most of it—will fall, let alone a humiliated, contemptible, and vanishing entity.”

Yemen’s unwavering support for the tormented Palestinian people, especially those in the Gaza Strip, has surpassed all limits. Yet in Lebanon, some continue to bury their heads in the sand like ostriches, clinging to the proposal of Thomas Barrack—who himself declared that the Sykes-Picot borders have become meaningless, as the Israelis seek to go wherever and whenever they wish.

Leaked Israeli documents reveal total failure of ‘Gideon’s Chariots’ operation

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN- While Israeli officials publicly insist that Operation Gideon’s Chariots, a major May ground and air offensive aimed at defeating Hamas, freeing Israeli captives, and seizing control over most of the Gaza Strip, was a success, newly leaked internal documents from the Israeli military tell a very different story.

A critical assessment prepared by the Israeli Army’s Ground Forces Operational Training Center describes the operation as a strategic and operational failure, highlighting a pattern of mismanagement, indecision, and underestimation of Palestinian resistance.

The leaked booklet — distributed among units operating inside Gaza — admits that Israel “committed every possible mistake in war management.”

Among the errors listed: providing logistics that indirectly benefited Hamas, fighting an open-ended war without time management, relying on unsuitable combat methods, and launching attacks without decisive outcomes.

One particularly damning passage states: “The cost of the operation was considered more important than the mission itself.” In other words, while Israel’s leadership praised restraint and “measured” tactics, soldiers on the ground saw the approach as hesitant and self-defeating.

Hamas’ endurance versus Israel’s stagnation

The report concedes that Hamas possessed all the necessary conditions to survive and even claim victory: underground shelters, psychological leverage through prisoners, adaptable tactics, and the ability to withstand long-term confrontation.

In contrast, the Israeli army became bogged down in Gaza’s dense urban terrain, suffering from slow advances, bureaucracy, and a lack of coherent strategy.

Another section describes Israel’s flawed operational logic:

– No focus on the enemy’s true center of gravity.

– Trapped forces with no clear exit strategy.

– A war with no defined end date, granting Hamas time to regroup.

– Temporary occupations of areas that were quickly lost.

The leaked documents even acknowledge that Hamas’ leaders survived and morale among fighters remained intact — a stark contradiction to Israeli officials’ claims of “decisive achievements.”

Mounting casualties and societal cost

Since the war on Gaza began in October 2023, Israel has suffered enormous losses. More than 900 Israeli soldiers have been killed, alongside thousands of injured.

The impact on Israeli society has been severe: mass demonstrations across Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa have erupted against the government’s handling of the conflict, with families of soldiers and hostages leading protests.

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

Western response to Israeli genocide: Insufficient and hypocritical



Lake Bled, host of the Bled Strategic Forum, which started on Monday and continues through Tuesday, with European leaders—including EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas—in attendance. (Photo: Kremnsnita group)

From page 1 ▶ However, the responses of virtually all Western and pro-Western countries to the Israeli regime of occupation, apartheid, and genocide reveal severe contradictions in their

approach. Their measures are late, insufficient, and, compared to the immediate and unanimous response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, downright hypocritical. While condemning

the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, they simultaneously categorically reject armed resistance against the Israeli occupation—labeling it terrorism and demanding a completely demilitarized Palestine without Hamas.

In the meantime, the much more powerful and technologically advanced Israeli army is never considered terrorist by Western and pro-Western forces and is never urged to disarm, despite its use of the most modern weapons for mass extermination and causing far greater casualties. To further paraphrase the Slovenian political scientist and philosopher Sašo Furlan, who recently analyzed this matter in detail for Disenz digital media: in Western logic, terrorism is the war of the poor, and war is the terrorism of rich nations. The narrative of a persistent “terrorist threat” from Gaza and Israel’s right to “defend itself from the

threat of Hamas” is part of the genocidal ideology that gives Israel the green light to continue the slaughter.

The demand to demilitarize Palestine has nothing to do with the declared concern for civilians; rather, it is an instrument to prevent any further Palestinian resistance and to preserve the Israeli ethno-supremacist colony and the complete subjugation of the Palestinian population. Western elites resolutely reject the right of Palestinians to self-determination and to choose their own leadership. In this way, as Furlan writes, through diplomatic means, the West is striving to achieve the same goal as Israel does through military means: the breaking of resistance and total domination.

Mojca Pišek Mika is an independent journalist and writer from Slovenia

Yemen strikes Israeli oil tanker

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Yemeni Armed Forces announced on Monday that they had carried out a ballistic missile strike on the SCARLET RAY, an Israeli oil tanker in the northern Red Sea, in response to the regime’s deadly Thursday attack on a cabinet meeting in Sanaa.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces, announced the news in a recorded statement.

He confirmed that the attack resulted in a direct hit on the vessel.

Saree reiterated that Yemen remains committed to supporting the Palestinian people by targeting Israeli maritime routes and vessels headed to the occupied ports.

He affirmed that operations would continue until the genocide against Gaza ends and the blockade is lifted.

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reported that an Israeli vessel had encountered an “unidentified object” that fell near it, followed by a loud explosion, about 40 miles southwest of Yanbu, Saudi Arabia.

Below is the statement in full issued by the Yemeni Armed Forces:

“In support of the oppressed Palestinian people and their brave fighters, and in response to the crimes of genocide and starvation committed by the Zionist enemy against our brothers in the Gaza Strip, the Yemeni Armed Forces confirm the continued ban on the enemy’s maritime navigation in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.

The naval forces of the Yemeni Armed Forces carried out a military operation targeting the Israeli oil tanker SCARLET RAY in the northern Red Sea with a ballistic missile, and by the grace of God, the operation directly struck the vessel.

The Yemeni Armed Forces affirm they will continue supporting the Palestinian people by preventing Israeli navigation or any navigation heading to the ports of occupied Palestine in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea. They also confirm that further military operations will be executed against Israeli targets in occupied Palestine, and these operations will not cease except with the end of the aggression and the lifting of the siege on the Palestinian people in Gaza.”

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

Washington Post exposes Trump’s Gaza ‘GREAT Trust’ plan as displacement scheme

A 38-page plan circulating in the Trump administration outlines a U.S.-run trusteeship for postwar Gaza, proposing to transform the devastated enclave into a hub of luxury resorts and technology industries — while uprooting millions of Palestinians in the process.

The proposal, obtained by The Washington Post, is being condemned as a continuation of Israel’s decades-long project of dispossession.

The plan, known as the Gaza Reconstitution, Economic Acceleration and Transformation (GREAT) Trust, envisions relocating Gaza’s entire population of more than two million. It suggests “voluntary” departures abroad or confinement to “secure zones” inside Gaza during a ten-year rebuilding phase. Those who agree to leave would receive a \$5,000 cash payment, four years’ rent, and food for a year, along with digital land “tokens” redeemable for apartments in new “AI-powered smart cities.” The trust, developed with input from Israeli businessmen and U.S. consultants, predicts investors could quadruple a \$100 billion stake within a decade.

President Donald Trump has spoken openly about “taking over” Gaza, calling it a prime site for a “Riviera of the Middle East.” His vision, amplified by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, treats Gaza’s ruins as prime real estate, while ignoring the rights of Palestinians who have endured nearly two years of bombardment and siege.

Since October 2023, Israel’s war on Gaza has killed more than 63,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and displaced hundreds of thousands. Nearly half a million face catastrophic hunger, according to humanitarian monitors. The United Nations estimates that 90 percent of homes have been destroyed. International law experts have characterized Israel’s campaign as collective punishment amounting to genocide.

The Trump plan offers no path to Palestinian sovereignty. Instead, it places control in foreign trusteeship backed by private security contractors and Western investors. Rutgers law professor Adil Haque told The Post that denying Palestinians the right to return, regardless of financial incentives, would be unlawful. For Palestinians, the scheme recalls the Nakba of 1948, when over 700,000 were expelled during Israel’s creation, and the 1967 war, when Israel occupied Gaza and the West Bank in defiance of international law.

Palestinians have repeatedly rejected proposals or pressures to relocate to another country, insisting on remaining in their ancestral homeland. Resistance movements in Gaza and their allies have argued that only continued struggle can safeguard Palestinian existence against projects of erasure dressed up as reconstruction.

Far from offering peace, critics warn Trump’s plan exemplifies a colonial blueprint: strip a people of their land, commodify their suffering, and sell their homeland to the highest bidder.

Amid Gaza massacre, Israel claims it killed Hamas spokesman Abu Obaida

Israel has claimed responsibility for the killing of Abu Obaida, the long-serving spokesman for Hamas’s military wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, in an airstrike that devastated a residential block in Gaza City’s al-Rimal neighborhood on Saturday.

The strike killed and injured numerous civilians, including children, according to local health workers. Hamas has not confirmed his death, though Palestinian sources and activists have hinted at his possible martyrdom.

Witnesses described harrowing scenes after at least five missiles struck the apartment building. Journalists on the ground reported at least seven dead and 20 wounded, while some outlets put the toll higher.

Residents said the blasts hurled rubble and debris across the street as terrified families rushed to pull children from the wreckage. “I saw injured children with blood covering their faces,” Mohammed Emad, a barber who works nearby, told the BBC.

Israeli officials, including War Minister Israel Katz, hailed the raid as a “flawless operation,” crediting military intelligence and the Shin Bet. Palestinian sources, however, stressed that the real victims were the civilians whose

homes were destroyed.

Abu Obaida, born Hodayfa Samir Abdallah al-Kahlout in 1985, emerged in 2002 as the masked voice of the al-Qassam Brigades. He was known for his defiant televised statements and for announcing key operations such as the 2006 detention of Gilad Shalit and the 2014 recovery of Oron Shaul’s remains.

A graduate of the Islamic University of Gaza, he became the central figure in the group’s media campaign, often articulating the determination of Palestinians to resist occupation.

Since October 2023, Israel’s war on Gaza has killed more than 63,000 people and wounded over 159,000 according to Gaza health authorities, the majority of them women and children.

Even if Israel’s claim proves true, Abu Obaida’s legacy as the steadfast voice of the resistance appears likely to endure among Palestinians, many of whom view such sacrifices as part of a generational struggle for freedom.

Despite repeated assassinations of senior figures, Palestinian resistance movements have continued to operate, often stressing that martyrdom only strengthens their cause.

Devastation grips eastern Afghanistan after powerful quake



A magnitude-6.0 earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan just before midnight on Sunday, killing at least 800 people and injuring more than 2,800, according to officials.

The toll is expected to rise as rescuers reach cut-off mountain communities and isolated villages.

The shallow tremor, centered near Jalalabad in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces, flattened fragile mud-brick homes and triggered land-

slides that severed roads and communications across rugged terrain.

Helicopters and ground crews are racing to pull survivors from rubble amid widespread destruction and growing desperation.

Afghanistan’s already strained humanitarian capacity is under severe pressure, with dwindling international aid hampering urgent emergency response efforts.



SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Every religion has its distinct characteristic, and the distinct characteristic of Islam is modesty.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

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

IAF to show by Mike Flanagan's "The Life of Chuck"

TEHRAN – The 2024 American fantasy drama film "The Life of Chuck" written and directed by Mike Flanagan will be screened at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran on Friday.

Set for screening at 6 p.m. at the Nasser Hall of the IAF, the 111-minute movie will be shown with Persian subtitles, Mehr reported.

Based on the 2020 novel by Stephen King, from his compilation book "If It Bleeds," the film stars Tom Hiddleston, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Karen Gillan, Mia Sara, Carl Lumbly, Benjamin Pajak, Jacob Tremblay, and Mark Hamill, with narration by Nick Offerman.

The movie is a life-affirming, genre-bending story about three chapters in the life of an ordinary man named Charles "Chuck" Krantz. The plot follows the formative moments in the life of Chuck, chronicled in reverse chronological order, from his death coinciding with the end of the universe to his childhood.

"The Life of Chuck" had its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2024, where it won the People's Choice Award.

Flanagan has become the unofficial adapter-in-chief of King's work, having made three films while working on two TV shows based on his writing (the pair have both expressed deep admiration for the other on multiple occasions). It tracks given Flanagan's interest in both scares and sentiment (his non-King shows like "The Haunting of Hill House" have balanced them well) although there's yet to be a real slam-dunk among them.

Mike Flanagan, 47, is an American filmmaker, best known for his horror work. Flanagan wrote, directed, produced, and edited the films "Absentia" (2011), "Oculus" (2013), "Hush," "Be-



fore I Wake," "Ouija: Origin of Evil" (all 2016), "Gerald's Game" (2017), "Doctor Sleep" (2019), and "The Life of Chuck" (2024).

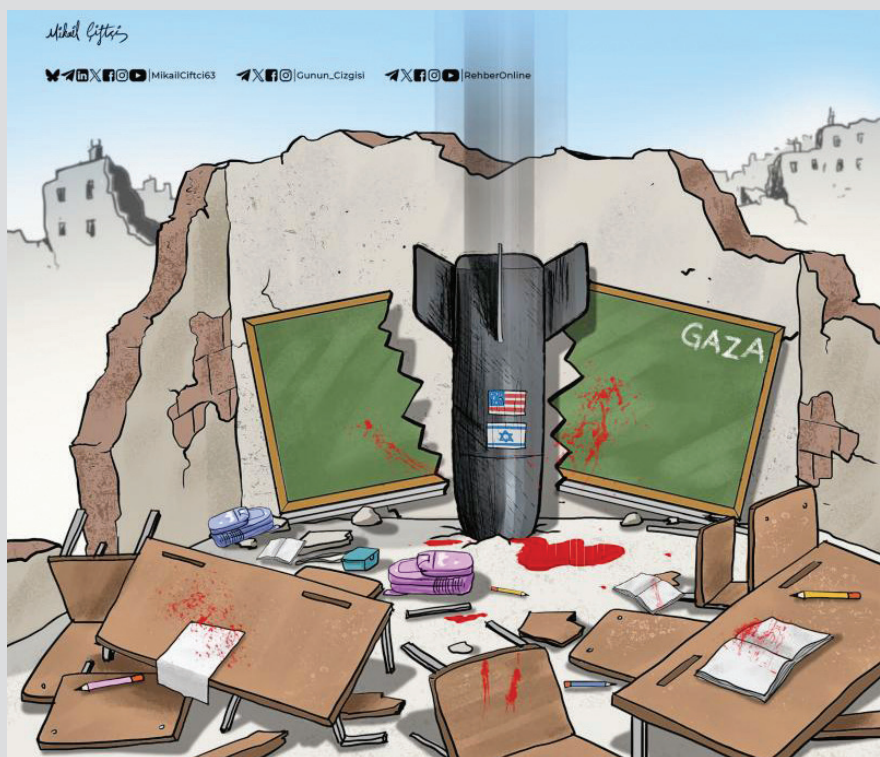
He created, wrote, produced, and served as showrunner on the Netflix horror series "The Haunting of Hill House" (2018), "The Haunting of Bly Manor" (2020), "Midnight Mass" (2021), "The Midnight Club" (2022), and "The Fall of the House of Usher" (2023), also directing and editing some if not all episodes of each.

Stephen King, 77, is an American author. Dubbed the "King of Horror," he is widely known for his horror novels and has also explored other genres, among them suspense, crime, science-fiction, fantasy, and mystery. Though known primarily for his novels, he has written approximately 200 short stories, most of which have been published in collections.

His debut, "Carrie" (1974), established him in horror. "Different Seasons" (1982), a collection of four novellas, was his first major departure from the genre. Among the films adapted from King's fiction are "Carrie" (1976), "The Shining" (1980), "The Dead Zone" and "Christine" (both 1983), "Stand by Me" (1986), "Miserery" (1990), "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994), "Dolores Claiborne" (1995), "The Green Mile" (1999), "The Mist" (2007), and "It" (2017).

Among other awards, King has won the O. Henry Award for "The Man in the Black Suit" (1994) and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Mystery/Thriller for "11/22/63" (2011). He has also won honors for his overall contributions to literature, including the 2003 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, the 2007 Grand Master Award from the Mystery Writers of America, and the 2014 National Medal of Arts.

Cartoon of Day



Education in Gaza

Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

Two Iranian films participating in 4th Ethnological Film Festival in Montenegro

TEHRAN – The Iranian feature documentary "Isatis" directed by Alireza Dehghan opened the 4th Ethnological Film Festival in Risan, Montenegro, on August 30, and short film "Shadow of the King" by Hadi Shariati is taking part in the event.

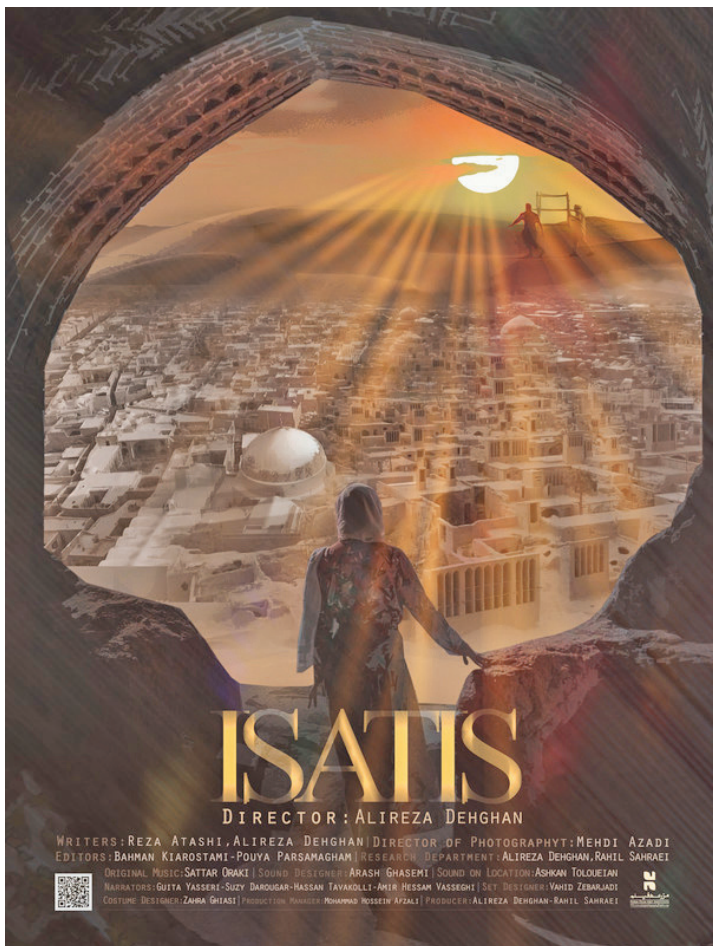
A production of 2021, the 75-minute film was screened in selected cinemas of Art and Experience Cinema Group in Iran last year and became the best-selling documentary film in the country, Honaronline reported.

Isatis is the first adobe city and the second historical city in the world. This documentary is also a narration about ancient and historical rituals in the heart of that city, demonstrating the material and intangible heritage in the heart of ancient culture. The peaceful coexistence of religions and the thousand-year-old city is narrated in the language of water, wind, earth, and fire.

The water story is narrated by the people who built aqueducts in Isatis, a town at the heart of the desert. The story of the wind is narrated by the people who conquered the wind to survive in a hot and dry city through windcatchers. The story of the soil is narrated by people who constructed the world's oldest adobe city. And the story of fire is told by Zoroastrian masters.

Meanwhile, industrial development and environmental pollution can endanger this city, like many historical cities in the world.

The film is a story of the kind dialogue between religions and the scent of faith. The secret to perfection and peaceful permanence can be found only in harmony with



nature.

A director, producer, and screenwriter, Alireza Dehghan, 37, holds a bachelor's degree in drama and a master's degree in cinema and art research. He started his career in cinema in 2002 and has so far managed to make 17 films and series, including short fiction, documentaries, and television series. Some of his works focus on the environment, anthropology, and natural beauties. "Isatis" is the combination of all.

Dehghan is a university lecturer and has a history of membership in selection and judging boards of film festivals such as Roshd, Cinéma Vêrité, Youth Cinema, Industrial and Technology, and Silent Films. He is also a member of the Iranian Youth Cinema Society (IYCS).

The filmmaker has participated in 180 national and international festivals and has won 70 awards. His films have been selected for many festivals, including Fajr Film Festival, Cinema Verite, Calcutta Film Festival, Trenton Film Festival,

Australian Science Film Festival, etc.

"Shadow of the King" is a 10-minute experimental, silent film, made in 2024. It shows Qajar prince Zel al-Sultan who built a castle in the Qomeshlo hunting ground in Isfahan due to his interest in hunting animals. He inflicted a fatal blow on environment and caused the extinction of the tiger and endangered leopard, Caspian red deer, mountain goat, and other animals.

The film has received the Best Documentary Diploma of Honor at the Tehran International Short Film Festival.

Hadi Shariati, 45, is a director and screenwriter. He received the Best Screenplay Award from the International Film Festival for Children and Youth for "Inside the Waves".

Shariati received the Jury's Special Award from the 16th Iran International Documentary Film Festival (Cinéma Vêrité) and the award for best feature documentary from the 14th Iran International FICTS Festival for the documentary film "Sattar El Classico".

He was also awarded the Secretary's Special Award by the 16th Cinéma Vêrité Festival for the documentary film "At Oughlan". He has won awards from the Queen Palm International Film Festival and LAKECITY International Film Festival for his documentary film "Sarah," which is about his daughter who is not able to see.

While preparing last year's festival, the organizers agreed that the program of the 4th edition of festival would be marked by the theme of "space." The festival will conclude on September 3.

Iranshahr Theater hosting "The Murder of Mr. Haversham"



TEHRAN – Iranshahr Theater in Tehran is hosting the play "The Murder of Mr. Haversham" every night on the stage of its Master Samandarian Hall.

Directed by Faraz Gholami, the 90-minute play has Ahmad Samimi, Azin Nazari, Erfan Ranjbar, Amin Zare, Ali Chaichi, Iman Nazifi, Fatemeh Zare, and Yasin Shahramian, among others, Mehr reported.

The original name of the play is "The Play That Goes Wrong" written by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields of Mischief Theatre Company.

Written in 2012, it is a farcical murder mystery, a play within a play, about the Cornley Drama Society that are putting on a 1920s murder mystery "The Murder at Haversham Manor," but as the title suggests, everything that can go wrong... does! The accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences.

Before the play starts the audience sees the backstage staff doing last-minute adjustments to the set, including trying to mend a broken mantelpiece and find a dog that has run off.

During the performance, a plethora of disasters befall the cast, including doors sticking, props falling from the walls, and floors collapsing. Cast members are seen misplacing props, forgetting lines, missing cues, breaking character, mispronouncing words, stepping on fingers, being hidden in a grandfather clock, being knocked unconscious, and being manhandled off stage.

"The Play That Goes Wrong" won the Best New Play at Broadway World UK Award and the

Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy in 2015.

It has been translated and produced in over 30 countries, including China, Spain, Greece, France, Italy, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Argentina, Turkey, and Russia, among others.

Mischief Theater is a British theater company that was founded in 2008 by a group of students from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art in West London, and directed by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields. The group originally began by doing improvised comedy shows, but by 2012 they expanded into comedic theatrical performances that included choreographed routines, jokes, and stunts.

The company is primarily known for their comedic performances as the fictional theater company, the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society, enacting amateur performances that go wrong. In addition to "The Play That Goes Wrong," other works by the company include the TV series "The Goes Wrong Show". Several of the stage performances by the company have been shown in the West End of London, and also in theatres across the United Kingdom, North America, and Europe.

The play will remain on stage until September 25 at Iranshahr Theater located at the Artists Park, North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

Over 60 cartoonists band together for Palestine

A new anthology brings more than 60 artists together to dream of a free Palestine. "Cartoonists for Palestine" (Crucial Comix) is a 250-page collection by more than 60 artists, united to fundraise for relief work in Palestine. The anthology, available free online, has so far raised nearly \$3,000.

The important thing to remember in the face of ongoing genocide is to try, argues writer and comic zealot Yazan al-Saadi. He has co-edited the collection with Tracy Chahwan, Shay Mirk, and Andy Warner, In These Times reported.

From visual adaptations of Refaat Alareer's poem "If I Must Die," to reflections on the Nakba and reimagining the future, this rich anthology includes a range of diverse artistic contributions and narrative styles from around the world.

Explaining about the collection, al-Saadi said: "Creatives throughout the world were reacting to

the genocide in two ways: They were paralyzed, a feeling of being insignificant with something calamitous happening. Or, they were trying to do something, but in their silos. So, we thought, here is an opportunity to bring multiple people together, which I think is very political in this environment, to be collective rather than self-interested".

On the role of art and artists in the ongoing war in Gaza, he noted: "The point is to try. The point is to do. All I care about is that people are reacting. By remaining silent or not engaging, that's a failure of creativity, of humanity, of imagination. I'll give a completely wild, but relevant example: "Andor," the Star Wars show, makes important points about antifascism, genocide, and resistance. People link it with Gaza, because you can't ignore it. The show is supposedly so disconnected and fantastical, but the truth is there. That's powerful; that's what art brings to the table.

It's a tool; it's a weapon".

Regarding how art can help people envision a more caring future for humanity, al-Saadi stated: "Fascism, dictatorship, or totalitarianism tries to remove the imagination, so you can't see the horizon. Those in power want us to narrow our thoughts. Art allows us to re-imagine our futures, rather than just accept evil. When comic artists in the past saw the Holocaust, they fought back by calling it a holocaust and writing about it. Artists who saw apartheid South Africa called it an apartheid and engaged with it. This anthology is in the wider spirit of comic-making that is inherently political. It's important to record it. Especially now, because the genocide is still ongoing. I was just reading today, over 135 people killed in the past 24 hours. The amount of killing is astronomical".

"It's traumatizing. I can tell you, as a Syrian Canadian, that Syria is

going through an interesting stage now, after the fall of a totalitarian system. It is important for people to realize the extent that totalitarianism, power, and control have on the psychology of a person in terms of their anxieties and futures. It's that elimination of possibilities, that control of creativity," al-Saadi said.

"I'm in Beirut, Lebanon. I've seen atrocities from over here. We went through an expansion of the war, so there's a lot to take in. I come from a generation that has seen what sanctions have done to Iraq, where over 500,000 children starved to death. I've seen Palestine over and over again. I've seen Libya. I've seen so much, and there's still Haiti, Congo, and Sudan. This is the norm. The difference now is that we can't say we don't know, information is instantaneous. We can't look away anymore. We have to act," he concluded.