

The Lion-Dragon Synergy

Pezeshkian: China can count on Iran as a friend and a powerful and determined ally
Xi: China sees Iran as a strategic partner and hopes to strengthen ties in the future

President denounces Western 'double standards' during China visit

In a CCTV interview, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian criticized the West's "double standards," citing unfair IAEA scrutiny. He affirmed Iran's commitment to cooperation only under fair, unbiased frameworks. While dedicated to peace, he stressed Iran's self-defense capability against Israeli aggression. He called for global governance reform to counter unilateralism and urged solidarity with China against unwarranted sanctions.



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Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian (L) shakes hands with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping ahead of a meeting in Beijing on September 1, 2025.

Negligent JCPOA parties cannot accuse Tehran of inaction: Iran foreign ministry

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry has rejected claims that Tehran failed to meet its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA), saying the parties that neglected their obligations have no right to accuse Iran of inaction.

Speaking at a press briefing on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said: "Iran is being accused of failing to fulfill its JCPOA obligations, but those who have been negligent in implementing the agreement cannot, under any circumstances, blame Iran." ► Page 2

Iran denounces Arab states' claim to Persian Gulf Islands, Arash gas field

TEHRAN – Iran has strongly reiterated its sovereignty over the three Persian Gulf islands—Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb—its rights to the Arash gas field, and the peaceful nature of its nuclear program, responding to recent claims by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

In a statement on Tuesday, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejected "hackneyed and legally baseless" assertions by the GCC regarding the islands. The statement came after GCC foreign ministers issued a declaration on Monday in Kuwait, claiming that the islands belong to the United Arab Emirates.

Iran called the islands "inseparable parts of its territorial territory," emphasizing that repeated claims would not alter the "geographical," ► Page 2



Viet Nam – 80 years of journey for national independence, peace, and development

By Nguyen Luong Ngoc
 Vietnamese ambassador to Iran

TEHRAN- In recent days, the entire nation of Viet Nam is joyfully celebrating the 80th anniversary of National Day (September 2nd, 1945 – September 2nd, 2025). On this occasion, the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the Islamic Republic of Iran respectfully presents to our Iranian friends an overview of the 80-year journey of struggle for independence, safeguarding of peace, and the process of nation-building and development of Viet Nam. ► Page 4

BRICS Summer School opens with calls for alternative narratives

By Lucia Hubinská

JOHANNESBURG – The first day of the BRICS Summer School unfolded with a sense of urgency in the city of Johannesburg in South Africa. Scholars and young leaders from across the Global South gathered to discuss alternative narratives in international relations, the deepening of intra-BRICS cooperation, and the role of youth in shaping the future of this rapidly evolving bloc.

The timing could hardly be more symbolic. As the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit took place in Tianjin — another forum for non-Western cooperation — the BRICS Summer School highlighted the growing momentum of multipolar institutions that seek to balance the inequities of the current world order.

Over 250 media outlets unite as Israel makes Gaza's journalists its frontline targets

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – On September 1, more than 250 news outlets in over 70 countries staged a coordinated blackout—blank front pages, darkened homepages, and interrupted broadcasts—in an unprecedented act of solidarity.

Organized by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) with Avaaz and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the protest carried a stark warning: Israel's war on Gaza is also a war on journalism.

RSF's director general Thibaut Bruttin put it bluntly: "At the rate journalists are being killed in Gaza by the Israeli army,

Israeli vehicles struck in Gaza City

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Palestinian resistance continues its operations against the Israeli occupation's infantry trying to invade Gaza City via the Zeitoun neighborhood.

Al-Qassam Brigades announced that its fighters struck an Israeli occupation Merkava tank and a D9 armored bulldozer using a Yassin-105 missile and a Shawaz explosive device.

The attacks took place on Street 8 in the southwestern part of the Zeitoun neighborhood in southern Gaza City.

In a statement, Hamas' armed wing confirmed the strike, stating that the attack took place during an attempted incursion by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) near Zeitoun.

Lebanon's future, one year after the US-led Israeli aggression

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – Writing in The Telegraph, former U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton has said "Hezbollah shows no signs of giving up. And, for well or ill, the UN's longstanding Lebanon peacekeeping mission, UNIFIL, has such a tarnished reputation for ineffectiveness that its mandate will be ended at the end of 2026."

Bolton claimed, "Lebanon's government thus faces an arduous task to end Hezbollah's military capabilities and prevent Iran's continuing financial and other support. That task is likely impossible without outside help."

US strategy in Venezuela stirs regional alarm, echoes Bolton's coup revelations

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The recent deployment of United States military forces in the waters off Venezuela has reignited concerns over Washington's long history of interventions and regime-change policies in Latin America and the Caribbean. The move comes amid US claims that the deployment is intended to combat threats from regional drug cartels.

According to the Associated Press, citing a defense official who requested anonymity, three American amphibious assault ships — carrying over 4,000 sailors and Marines — are scheduled to enter the region this week.

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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran's diplomatic power after the war

In a note, the Iran newspaper addressed President Masoud Pezeshkian's presence at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Tianjin and wrote: The presence of the Iranian president in the SCO summit is more important than others in many respects.

The importance of the event is that while the Chinese president hosts a significant number of heads of state in the two-day summit, Pezeshkian reaffirms Iran's position in the intensive program of heads of state and sideline meetings. This reminds us of the fact that Iran is an actor that cannot be ignored and its presence in the international arena carries a significant weight and prestige. Perhaps the most prominent aspect of this trip is the president's participation at a major international summit after the 12-day Iran-Israel war.

This event is taking place in a situation where some Western and regional media outlets are trying to present a weak image of Iran. However, Iran's active presence among prominent Eurasian leaders, by redefining the country's power, shows that Iran still has the capacity to influence regional and trans-regional equations. This move is both a stabilization of the diplomatic position and a reflection of the relative stability of Iran's foreign policy after the crisis.

Kayhan: An important presence alongside regional powers

Kayhan discussed Iran's presence at the Shanghai Summit by seeking the views of Hooman Peymani, an expert on regional security issues. He said: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was formed primarily to counter the expansion of Western influence in Central Asia and Eurasia. Within this framework, Iran's membership in the bloc has so far been more symbolic than operational.

However, Iran's presence has not been useless, and this membership could pave the way for a more prominent presence in the economic and security arenas, especially in the context of the recent activation of the snapback mechanism (against Iran by the European troika). Even if the snapback mechanism returns (UN) sanctions the situation will be different from the past. Today, there is no global consensus on sanctions against Iran. Many countries, even U.S. allies, are under pressure from Washington's policies. China and Russia, that themselves are facing Western sanctions, have a very strong incentive to counter the snapback mechanism and reassert their own positions. Powerful

Shanghai members such as Russia and China may be more inclined to support Iran outside the organization because they see a threat to Iran as a threat to themselves.

Khorasan: Importance of aligning with China's interests

In an article, Khorasan discussed the importance of aligning Iran's interests with China. It wrote: China's current policy towards the current conflict between Iran and Israel is "profit-oriented neutrality," verbal opposition to attacks, repeated emphasis on cease-fires and humanitarian support, protection of energy and financial arteries, and rapid regulation of oil flows.

This framework has a clear message: China remains a risk manager and does not become an actor on the battlefield. At least in the current timeframe, Beijing's support for Tehran cannot be expected, but rather the focus should be on aligning China's interests with regional stability in a more effective way. Also, using China's mediation capacity in the form of limited military-security talks could be a viable policy based on Iran's national interests. If China's interests outweigh its costs in supporting Iran, Beijing's profit-oriented neutrality will work in Tehran's favor without expecting it to stand by Iran as a wartime ally.

Ham Mihan: Activation of snapback and impact on oil sale

In an interview with Masoud Hashemian, an expert in strategic energy management, Ham Mihan examined the impact of snapback sanctions on Iran's oil sales. He said: Snapback has no effect on our oil sales at the moment and only has a psychological effect. The U.S. and Israel are seeking a consensus against Iran. Since the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA, the Europeans have also practically withdrawn from the JCPOA.

The Americans tightened sanctions on us and are tightening them every day, which has caused us not to have a normal trade system with the world in any field. However, the National Iranian Oil Company has always found solutions, and basically, the sanctions have not affected Iran's oil sales.

Of course, it would have been better if we had conducted these exchanges based on the smooth international trade exchanges. However, we have mastered this kind of sales and know the ways to evade the sanctions. This is also true for the export of petrochemicals. However, it is unlikely that there will be any changes in the commercial and transportation systems in the oil and energy sectors based on the snapback.

Iran denounces Arab states' claim to Persian Gulf Islands, Arash gas field



From page 1 ► historical, and legal realities" that underpin Iranian sovereignty. Tehran warned that it would take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the islands and protect its national interests in the region.

The trio of islands has historically been part of Iran, a fact supported by extensive historical, legal, and geographical records. While the islands were under British control from 1921, Iran restored its sovereignty over them on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces withdrew from the region and just two days before the UAE's official formation.

On the Arash gas field, jointly claimed by Iran and Kuwait, the Iranian ministry reaffirmed Tehran's historical and legal rights, rejecting "one-sided claims" from Kuwait. The GCC statement on Monday repeated previous assertions that Iran has no entitlement

to the field.

Iran stressed that resolving the dispute over the Arash field—known as al-Durra in Kuwait—requires "bilateral dialogue, joint efforts, and a positive, constructive atmosphere" to safeguard mutual rights.

The offshore field, discovered in the 1960s, contains an estimated 20 trillion cubic feet of gas, with nearly 40% lying within Iranian waters, capable of producing up to one billion cubic feet per day.

The ministry also highlighted Iran's legitimate right to develop nuclear energy under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), labeling any doubts about the peaceful nature of its program as "unjustified."

Tehran criticized the U.S. and European parties for obstructing negotiations, failing to honor commitments, and violating principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

Responding to the GCC's call for Iran to address all alleged Persian Gulf security concerns in nuclear talks, Tehran pointed to the "real and immediate danger" posed by Israel's weapons of mass destruction.

The statement urged regional countries to collectively pressure the international community to address Israel's WMDs as a step toward a nuclear weapons-free zone in the region.

Parliament ponders response options to E3's 'snapback' push

TEHRAN – Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on Tuesday denounced the European troika's decision to trigger the snapback mechanism of sanctions as "illegal" and vowed that the Islamic Republic will soon announce a unified and decisive response.

"The three European countries, having failed to fulfill their obligations under the JCPOA, have no right to activate Paragraph 37 of the agreement," Qalibaf said during a plenary session. "It is therefore an unlawful step to reinstate resolutions. Iran must take deterrent action to make this move costly and force the Europeans to reconsider their decision."

His remarks came as lawmakers held a closed session lasting more than ninety minutes to assess the potential repercussions of the European move on Iran's economy and other sectors.

Germany, France, and Britain — the three European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — announced last week they would invoke the snapback procedure.

The mechanism, embedded in UN Security Council Resolution 2231, paves the way for reinstating pre-2015 sanctions against Iran within 30 days over claims of "significant non-compliance."

Abbas Goudarzi, spokesperson of the Iranian Parliament's presiding board, said lawmakers will examine various proposals in coordi-



nation with the Supreme National Security Council to determine Tehran's course of action.

"Enemies must understand that the Parliament, the government, the Supreme National Security Council, and all institutions of the Establishment are united. Iran's response to hostile actions will be reciprocal and deterrent," Goudarzi stressed.

He added that all political factions in the chamber agree the response should be decisive and impose heavy costs on those behind the move.

Goudarzi also said the issue of Iran's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) had been discussed in the session, but no decision has yet been made.

He added that if Iran were to leave the NPT, the Parliament would legislate accordingly in coordination with all branches of the Establishment, including the Supreme National Security Council.

Tehran has already taken the issue to the United Nations. In a letter dated August 28, 2025, the Iranian Foreign Ministry urged the UN Security Council and Secretary General António Guterres to reject what it called "unjustified political manipulation" and to uphold international law and the authority of the Council.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also told his European counterparts in a phone call that Iran will respond appropriately to their "illegal and unjustified action."

Russia and China, both permanent members of the Security Council and parties to the JCPOA, have criticized the E3's decision, warning that sanctions would harm Iran's peaceful nuclear activities and risk further destabilization.

The dispute comes amid lingering fallout from Washington's withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018, when the Trump administration reimposed sanctions and launched its so-called "maximum pressure" campaign.

In the years since, the European signatories have been accused of failing to honor their own commitments to preserve the deal.

Iran is ready for talks, but US missile demands are obstructing progress, says Larijani



Ali Larijani during a Tuesday meeting with heads of Iranian media outlets

TEHRAN – Iran's top security official said the path for dialogue with the United States remains open, but Washington's refusal to engage seriously is preventing the parties from entering new talks.

Ali Larijani, the Secretary of

Iran's Supreme National Security Council, made the comments in a post on his X account on Tuesday. Larijani, a former parliament speaker and seasoned political figure, holds a key advisory role on Iran's national security strategy.

"The path for negotiations with the U.S. is not closed," Larijani wrote, signaling a willingness from Tehran to re-engage diplomatically. "Yet, these are the Americans who only pay lip service to talks and do not come to the table; and they wrongfully blame Iran for it!" he stated.

The senior official pinpointed specific U.S. demands as a primary obstacle. He argued that by introducing "unrealizable issues such as missile restrictions," American officials are deliberately setting conditions that make any productive discussion impossible.

"This sets a path which negates any talk," Larijani wrote.

Tehran and the Trump administration engaged in five rounds of indirect talks this year before the U.S. and Israel began a bombing

campaign against Iran back in June. Since the war ended, Americans have made multiple public statements asking for Iran to return to negotiations on its nuclear program.

Iranians have always said they can take steps to ensure the West it is not building nuclear weapons, but it wants to maintain its legal right to nuclear enrichment. It has also warned that anything other than its nuclear program, including its missiles and foreign policy, cannot be discussed.

Iran managed to force Israel and the United States to ask for a ceasefire during the recent war after its missiles pounded the occupied territories and also hit a U.S. airbase in Qatar. Analysts say Iranian missiles are the cornerstone of its national security.

Negligent JCPOA parties cannot accuse Tehran of inaction: Iran foreign ministry

From page 1 ► Baghaei highlighted multiple diplomatic developments over the past week in the region, most notably Iranian President's participation in the ongoing Shanghai Summit.

'Israeli attacks on Yemen a blatant crime'

Baghaei offered condolences to the people of Yemen and Palestine, condemning the assassination of Yemen's Prime Minister and several ministers during Israeli military operations. "This act was a blatant crime and violated all principles of international law," he said, noting that the attacks coincided with an escalation of violence and mass killings in Gaza.

He described the humanitarian crisis, reporting that nearly 2,500 Palestinians have died in food lines due to hunger and thirst. "Unfortunately, the United Nations has failed to take effective action, largely due to continued U.S. support for Israel. However, international media and journalists have raised global awareness, with over 250 outlets refusing to print front pages yesterday in protest of the ongoing genocide."

'US is showing lack of seriousness and goodwill regarding negotiations'

Responding to recent remarks by U.S. Senator Marco Rubio on direct talks with Iran, Baghaei said such conditions reveal a lack of seriousness and goodwill. He recalled that

the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA unilaterally in 2018 and coordinated with Israel to carry out attacks on Iran during negotiations.

"The U.S. Secretary of State's endorsement of the snapback mechanism, describing it as following a presidential directive, illustrates that the administration's plan from the outset was to dismantle the JCPOA and impose unlawful pressure on Iran," Baghaei added.

Regarding the European trio (Germany, France, Britain) triggering the snapback mechanism, he said: "When they speak of the JCPOA, we must ask which JCPOA they mean. They accuse Iran of failing to meet commitments, but the parties who neglected the agreement cannot blame Iran. Our measures to reduce obligations were legal and fully aligned with the JCPOA."

He also criticized Europe's current diplomatic role, saying: "The EU and the three European countries, which once acted as mediators in JCPOA negotiations, have now reduced their role to facilitating U.S.-Iran talks. Their statements are discrediting."

'Tehran continues direct engagement with IAEA'

Baghaei confirmed that currently, no International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections are taking place in Iran, except for the Bushehr reactor fuel loading. He emphasized that Tehran continues direct en-

agement with the agency and is preparing a framework for future interactions following parliamentary and national security council guidance.

Regarding recent Persian Gulf Cooperation Council statements on Iranian islands and the Arash oil field, he said: "External claims are unacceptable and confer no rights to the claimants. Iran remains open to negotiations, but sovereignty will not be compromised."

'Shanghai Summit participation is critical for regional security, economic cooperation'

The spokesperson highlighted Tehran's participation in the Shanghai Summit, calling it "critical" for regional security and economic cooperation. "This is our third full membership participation, and we have held multiple bilateral meetings, including with Chinese counterparts. The summit's resolutions address emerging challenges, condemn Israeli and U.S. aggression, and reaffirm UN Resolution 2231," he said.

He also noted Iran's strong relations with China under the 25-year cooperation agreement covering trade and energy. "Our partnership continues independently of external controversies. We are optimistic about strengthening ties and expanding cooperation."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The lion-dragon synergy

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in China on Monday for a four-day official visit, the longest by an Iranian leader to the country. The visit is expected to strengthen economic and security ties between the two nations, and potentially deliver key benefits for Iran.

After attending the 25th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in northern China's port city of Tianjin along with 19 other world leaders, Pezeshkian traveled by train to Beijing for a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, and a Wednesday military parade that would mark the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII.

During their Tuesday meeting, Pezeshkian told Xi that Iran is prepared to deepen cooperation with China across various sectors. He said all aspects of the 25-year cooperation agreement signed in 2020 could be implemented with thorough planning and analysis. Despite the traditionally warm relationship between Iran and China, Iranians have shown a growing willingness in recent years to deepen bilateral cooperation.

With the Trump administration driving wedges between the United States and other countries at an unprecedented pace, China is increasingly seen as an alternative global leader. Iranians, too, should view China not just as another country, but as a world power capable of bringing immense benefits to Iran, said Hamed Vafayi, a China expert and Faculty Chief of Chinese Language and Literature at Tehran University.

"Iran and China, which have been long-time partners, declared their intention to forge a strategic relationship over a decade ago. However, that strategic partnership has yet to fully materialize. For that, more shared interests must be created between the two countries," Vafayi explained.

Iran's strategic geopolitical location and substantial energy reserves make it a crucial component of China's key economic initiatives, particularly the Belt



Iranian and Chinese delegations, led respectively by Pezeshkian and Xi, talked in Beijing on Tuesday

President calls for fair global order in interview with Chinese media

President Masoud Pezeshkian, during his visit to Beijing, highlighted Iran's ongoing struggle against biased international scrutiny. Speaking to China Central Television (CCTV), he underscored the unfair treatment Iran receives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a reflection of larger double standards created by the West.

He emphasized Iran's commitment to cooperation, provided it is within fair and unbiased international frameworks, criticizing the hypocrisy of "those who violate agreements while pointing fingers at Iran."

Addressing the persistent threat of Israeli aggression, Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's dedication to peace, while firmly highlighting its capability to defend itself. He further emphasized the necessity of reforming global governance. "We need a multilateral approach that counters the unilateralism and injustices perpetrated by regimes like Israel," Pezeshkian called for solidarity with China against the ambitions of totalitarian powers, warning that unwarranted sanctions should not undermine cooperation.

and Road Initiative. Beyond its participation in the project, Iran offers great potential as a vital security partner. "China could leverage Iran as both a transportation corridor and a source of energy. Moreover, given Iran's significant role in West Asian stability, China can rely on Iran to help protect its regional interests. The security of China's western territories could also benefit from cooperation with Iran."

Iranians' gravitation towards the Chinese has not been congruent over the years. Presi-

dent Hassan Rouhani, who led the country from 2013 to 2021 is famously known to have squandered valuable opportunities to deepen cooperation with China. Conservative political factions accuse him of having disfavored the East to appease Western states, which signed a nuclear deal with Rouhani and lifted anti-Iran sanctions in 2015, only to reinstate and intensify them a couple of years later.

Pezeshkian, in his Tuesday meeting with Xi, underscored Iran's commitment by stating

that China could count on Iran as a friend and a "powerful and determined ally". Although Pezeshkian began his term by advocating for stronger ties with both East and West, the war Washington waged on Iran back in June in the middle of negotiations, as well as Europe's continued exploitation of the 2015 deal have seemingly diminished his aspirations for improved relations with the West.

The 12-day war Iran fought against Israel and the U.S. has also spurred discussions about military exchanges between Tehran and Beijing.

"We've had military cooperation with China for a considerable time," stated Mahdi Bakhtiari, a military expert. "For example, during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s, China supplied Iran with missiles, when the country was still developing its own capabilities." Bakhtiari added that the C801 and C802 anti-ship cruise missiles purchased from China in 1990 played a critical role in the development of Iran's first generation of domestically produced anti-ship cruise missiles.

Currently, Iran's most strategic acquisitions from China would be advanced fighter jets and air defense systems. "While our military demonstrated impressive capabilities with missiles and drones during the recent war, the need for improved fighter jets and air defense systems became evident. China possesses cutting-edge technology in manufacturing both."

Bakhtiari emphasized that future military cooperation with China should extend beyond mere purchases, and include collaborative manufacturing as well as the exchange of technological expertise.

It is still unclear how much Pezeshkian's trip to China will bring the two countries closer together. But Xi told the Iranian president during their meeting that Beijing views Tehran as a "strategic partner". He said the two nations should work in concert to combat "unilateralism".



demnation of Israeli aggressions, particularly those targeting Iranian territory, which destabilize the region. This political solidarity, even if not unanimous on all issues, provides Tehran with valuable diplomatic backing against a hostile Western bloc.

On the security front, Iran uses the forum to enhance counter-terrorism coordination and address transnational challenges such as extremism and drug trafficking, especially in Central Asia and West Asia. The SCO is not a military alliance nor a collective defense pact, a format that benefits Iran by enabling cooperation without compromising autonomy. Partnerships with Russia and China in these areas amplify Iran's ability to shape conflict dynamics while maintaining sovereign decision-making.

It is also worth noting the pragmatic rapprochement between China and India—traditional rivals—within the SCO framework, partly as a response to U.S. tariffs and protectionist policies under Donald Trump. This shift broadens trade and cooperation opportunities for all members, including Iran, which

sees in this evolving relationship a chance to deepen access to Asian markets and strengthen its geopolitical integration.

Flexible multipolarity without rhetoric

It is important to stress that the SCO's multilateralism is not a monolithic anti-Western bloc nor a closed coalition. In contrast to simplistic or propagandistic interpretations, the organization brings together states with varied political systems, diverse economic interests, and different strategic priorities.

For Iran, this format is advantageous, allowing it to secure concrete benefits without diluting its identity.

Tehran demonstrates a pragmatic diplomacy, balancing resistance to external pressures with the pursuit of functional alliances and agreements.

This delicate equilibrium enables Iran to advance its interests without being drawn into direct confrontations or dependency that could undermine national prerogatives.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



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Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Asian Youth Para Games a chance to unearth new talents: Kargari

TEHRAN – Ghafour Kargari, president of Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC), says the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 are a valuable opportunity to identify talented athletes for the 2026 Asian Para Games and the 2028 Paralympic Games.

Iran will compete under the slogan "The Hopes of Iran, Ambassadors of Victory." Maryam Kazempour has been designated as chef de mission for the delegation.

The competition will feature 11 sports: athletics, weightlifting, badminton, taekwondo, archery, swimming, table tennis, wheelchair basketball 3x3, boccia, arm wrestling, and goalball. The Asian Youth Para Games 2025 are set to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from December 7 to 14.

"The Asian Youth Para Games are very important for us for two reasons. First, the Games provide motivation for athletes to pursue sport. Therefore, we view the Games as a strategic event, and we have been preparing for a long time. Second, we aim to discover new talented athletes in Dubai for the Asian Games in Nagoya and the Los Angeles Paralympic Games," Kargari said.

"Unlike other events where the primary goal is the quality of the delegation, we prioritize maximum participation. We plan to compete with 205 athletes. Kazakhstan, our regional rival, will also participate with a similar number of athletes," the NPC head added.

In August, on the sidelines of the 38th APC Executive Board Meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, Iran's NPC and the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) signed an agreement to establish the APC Higher Education Center in Iran. This aims to create a regional sports training center capable of hosting the continental Sport Training and Events Centre (APC STEC) in Iran.

"Iran has been chosen as Asia's science hub, and in line with this achievement, a memorandum of understanding was signed between us and the Asian Paralympic Committee. IPC president Andrew Parsons lauded our efforts to establish the APC STEC," Kargari stated.

Kargari also lauded Paralympic gold medalists Zahra Nemati, Sareh Javanmardi, and Hadi Rezaei, noting that Iran's legendary para-athletes deserve even more recognition.

"Iran sitting volleyball head coach Rezaei has been inducted into the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. Javanmardi has won four Paralympic gold medals and was nicknamed the Queen of the Pistol by IPC. Nemati recently received the Exemplary Asian Official award in recognition of her leadership, vision, and commitment to advancing the Paralympic Movement. However, I believe the credit they deserved has not been accorded to them," Kargari said.

We prepared team with limited time, Iran U23 coach Ravankhah says

TEHRAN – Omid Ravankhah, head coach of Iran's U-23 football team, says they are ready for the AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026.

Iran are set to face Hong Kong in Group I on Wednesday.

The 44 teams were divided into eleven groups of four teams. In each group, teams played each other once at a centralized venue. The eleven group winners and the four best runners-up will qualify for the final tournament in Saudi Arabia.

"We are here to perform well in Asia. There isn't a big difference between us and our rivals, and we have immense respect for them. The high quality of our rivals has increased our players' motivation," Ravankhah said.

"I hope this tournament will be a successful one for us, even though we had limited time. We trained for two weeks, and there was not enough time for coordination, but with the quality of our players we will do our best in the competition," he added.

Iran will also meet Guam and the UAE on September 6 and 9, respectively.

FIFA to support CAFA Nations Cup

TEHRAN - FIFA announced that new commitment to supporting the CAFA Nations Cup.

Organized by the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA), Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are hosting the 2025 edition of the tournament, with a total of 14 matches culminating in the final which takes place in Tashkent on Monday, 8 September.

In line with its commitment to further facilitate meaningful matches at national-team and club level, FIFA has announced its support of the CAFA Nations Cup, the biennial international men's football championship of Central Asia.

"Tournaments like the CAFA Nations Cup offer teams valuable opportunities to compete and celebrate football," said FIFA Secretary General Matthias Grafström.

"FIFA is committed to supporting events like these, working together with our confederations, regional associations and FIFA Member Associations to look at ways of arranging more competitive matches between national teams and clubs within zones or regions. FIFA is proud to stand alongside CAFA in making this tournament a platform for growth, passion and unforgettable moments."

Following its inaugural edition in 2023, the tournament has expanded to feature eight national teams, including six CAFA members and two guest associations.

Iran lose to Japan at FIBA U16 Asia Cup 2025

TEHRAN - Japan trounced Iran 86-67 to book the first ticket to the FIBA U16 Asia Cup 2025 Quarter-Finals, Tuesday at the MBank Arena.

Jack Shiratani dropped 24 points and 16 rebounds with 3 blocks, while Zen Hawkins notched 20 points and 12 rebounds as the two took turns in leading a big second-half surge toward sweeping Group D with a 3-0 card.

Alireza Rashidi had 22 points to lead Iran, who finished second in the group with a 2-1 record. Safa Behnia had 15 points, 5 rebounds, and 4 assists while Yasin Morovat Halabi added 14 and 7 rebounds in the loss.

The Quarter-Finals are set on September 5 also at the MBank Arena - the venue of the entire Final Phase - where Japan will face the winner between the no. 2 team of Group B and Group A's third-ranked side.

Young Team Melli will have to go through the Qualification to Quarter-Finals on September 4 against the team finishing third in Group C, which consists of New Zealand (2-0), Chinese Taipei, Philippines, and Indonesia.

Clinching third Group D, meanwhile, are Kazakhstan after a tight 53-49 win over Saudi Arabia.

Sevilla lead in race to sign Javad Hosseinejad

TEHRAN - Sevilla are still active in the signing market and has set its eyes on Mohammadjavad Hosseinejad, a 22-year-old Iranian midfielder, who is a member of the Russian Premier League's Dinamo Makhachkala.

According to FootballTransfers, the Hispanic club lead the bid for the young player, competing with teams such as Fulham and Wolverhampton. While Sevilla seek to reinforce their attack, Hosseinejad presents himself as a versatile option with great growth potential under the direction of Matias Almeyda.

Hosseinejad stands out for his vision of play, partnership ability and ability to generate danger in creative areas.

In the 2024/25 season he recorded three assists in 17 games with Dinamo Makhachkala and made his debut in his first game against Akhmat Grozny. However, his scoring contribution has been limited and does not stand out in defensive tasks, which could pose a challenge in LaLiga.

Iran's non-oil exports nears \$21b in 5 months

TEHRAN – Iran exported non-oil goods worth \$20.92 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian year (March 21-August 22), accounting for more than 61 million tons of shipments, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

Forud Asgari, who also serves as deputy economy minister, said exports slipped six percent in value year-on-year, though volumes were nearly unchanged, edging up 0.07 percent.

By comparison, imports reached \$23.02 billion for 15.21 million tons of goods, down 16.3 percent in value and 5.4 percent in weight.

Asgari noted that petrochemical products remained the backbone of outbound trade.

Iran shipped 21.88 million tons of such products worth \$8.64 billion, marking a 12 percent drop in volume and 13 percent fall in value.

Natural gas, liquefied propane, bitumen, liquefied butane and methanol ranked among the top exported items.

On the import side, raw gold, corn feed, sunflower seed oil, rice and soybeans were the most significant commodities.

He added that while imports contract-



ed sharply, the trend reflects a shift toward curbing non-essential purchases in favor of essential goods and raw materials.

China, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates led the list of buyers of Iranian goods, joined by Turkey, Afghanistan, Oman and Pakistan.

The UAE, China and Turkey also stood out among the main suppliers to Iran, along with India, Germany, Russia and the Netherlands.

Altogether, Iran's non-oil trade totaled \$43.94 billion between March and August, covering 76.54 million tons of goods.

Officials have highlighted the figures as an indication of resilience in trade flows despite global price fluctuations in petrochemicals and tighter import policies.

Iran eyes trade boost from president's participation in SCO summit

TEHRAN – Iran's president is expected to leverage the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) leaders' summit in China to expand the country's trade opportunities, the head of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce said.

Majidreza Hariri told IRNA in an interview that with representatives from more than 35 countries attending, the summit offers a "golden chance" for Iran to advance its economic diplomacy.

He said President Masoud Pezeshkian's participation could strengthen bilateral ties with China and create broader opportunities for Iranian exporters.

"Iran already has active trade with China, but the value of this summit lies in the presence of dozens of other countries, opening doors for wider cooperation," Hariri said. He pointed to SCO communiqués stressing support for multilateral trade and green industry, saying Iran should capitalize on these frameworks to expand its reach.

Hariri noted that the president's delegation includes senior officials and business representatives, who are expected to use the sidelines of the summit for negotiations. "We should await the president's report on the outcome to see how far it contributes to expanding trade exchanges," he said.

ICC chief says cooperatives key to fair growth, sustainable development

TEHRAN – Cooperatives represent not only an economic model but also a practical philosophy for achieving equitable growth and sustainable development, the head of Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC) said on Tuesday.

Bahman Abdollahi told an international conference on cooperatives in Tehran that the sector's importance is rising in light of mounting global challenges ranging from political and economic rivalries to widening inequality and environmental crises.

"Cooperation is about wealth creation and growth without crushing others. It prevents destructive and unhealthy competition," Abdollahi said.

He argued that the cooperative model goes beyond profit maximization by distributing success among all members and fostering collective resilience.

Abdollahi urged Iranian policymakers to



give greater attention to the untapped capacity of cooperatives, saying they can act as engines of social justice, sustainability and environmental stewardship.

"Success in cooperatives is shared by all. These businesses can be drivers of justice, sustainable growth and protection of natural resources," he said.

Iran opens largest rooftop solar power plant in Khorasan Razavi

TEHRAN – Iran inaugurated its largest rooftop solar power plant on Tuesday in the Chenaran industrial town of Khorasan Razavi Province, with a capacity of 4.5 megawatts, provincial officials said.

Javad Khodaei, senior adviser to the provincial governor and deputy head of the renewable energy task force, said the facility underscores the province's leading role in Iran's

solar sector.

The rooftop plant, built by Alis Company, covers 90,000 square meters and was completed in six months with an investment of 16 trillion rials (\$32 million), Khodaei said at the inauguration ceremony attended by the provincial governor.

"This project marks a new record in the scale and capacity of rooftop solar power

plants in the country," he said, adding that Khorasan Razavi had already hosted earlier record-setting rooftop facilities with capacities exceeding 2 megawatts.

Iran has been expanding renewable energy projects to diversify its power mix and curb reliance on fossil fuels. Officials say solar, particularly in provinces with high exposure like Khorasan Razavi, is central to those plans.

Viet Nam 80-Years of Journey for National Independence, Peace, and Development

From Page 1 ► **The Birth of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Resistance against foreign invaders**

Looking back to 1945, when the revolutionary movement in Viet Nam had reached its peak, the Vietnamese people seized the opportunity to rise up in the August Revolution and take back power into their own hands.

On September 2nd, 1945, in the capital city of Hanoi, President Ho Chi Minh solemnly read the Declaration of Independence, giving birth to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first worker-peasant state in Southeast Asia, marking a historic turning point in the process of national liberation.

Immediately thereafter, French colonialists returned to reoccupy Indochina. For nine arduous years (1945–1954), the Vietnamese army and people waged a heroic resistance war, culminating in the historic victory at Dien Bien Phu (May 7th, 1954), "resounded throughout five continents and shaking the globe", which forced France to sign the Geneva Accords, recognizing Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity. This event ended thousands of years of feudal monarchy and nearly a century of colonial domination in Viet Nam.

However, the United States quickly replaced France, establishing a puppet regime in the South with the scheme of separating Viet Nam. In the face of countless difficulties and challenges, the Vietnamese people have shown their resilient will, passionate patriotism and burning love of peace, united with one heart, fighting heroically against foreign invaders, under the wise leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and President Ho Chi Minh, along with the support and assistance of friends and peace-loving people around the world. As a result, it forced the United States to sign the Paris Peace Accords on January 27th, 1973, ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam. Building on this momentum, the Vietnamese army and people launched the final offensive to overthrow the puppet regime, liberating the South and re-unifying the country on April 30th, 1975. This was a monumental victory that ushered a new era of independence, peace, and national unity.

Nevertheless, the war left extremely heavy consequences: millions of people dead or injured, a devastated economy, a backward and impoverished society, destroyed infrastructure along with tens of millions of liters of chemical agents sprayed over the South, leaving long-term consequences, compounded by harsh embargoes and blockades.

In this context, with self-reliance and resilience, Viet Nam has rebuilt the nation from the ashes of war, gradually overcoming crises, breaking the blockade, opening up and integrating with international community, steadily building a prosperous nation on the path of industrialization and modernization.

Doi Moi (Renovation): A Historic Turning Point

In 1986, the 6th National Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam adopted a historic decision, initiating the Doi Moi (Renovation) policy. This was a comprehensive reform program that transformed the centrally planned economy into a so-



cialist-oriented market economy, emphasized private sector development, granted autonomy to farmers, opened the economy, expanded foreign relations, and pursued a policy of being friendly to all nations regardless of political system.

Throughout four decades of development, overcoming numerous difficulties and challenges, Viet Nam has become a developing country with a near upper-middle income level, deeply integrated into global politics and economics.

Viet Nam has preserved a peaceful and stable environment for development, safeguarded sovereignty and territorial integrity, ensured national defense, public security, social order, and consistently implemented the "Four No's" national defense policy: no military alliances; no aligning with one country against another; no foreign military bases or use of Viet Nam's territory against other countries; and no using or threatening of force in international relations.

Internationally, Viet Nam has consistently demonstrated itself as a responsible member of the global community, committed to maintaining and fostering sustainable peace in Asia and the world. Viet Nam now maintains diplomatic relations with 194 countries, established strategic partnerships and comprehensive strategic partnerships with 23 countries, including all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, and is an active, responsible member of more than 70 international organizations.

From 1986 to 2024, Viet Nam's GDP grew at an average rate of 6–7% per year, increased from USD 8 billion to USD 476.3 billion, nearly 60 times. GDP per capita rose from less than USD 74 to USD 4,700, an increase of 63 times. Foreign direct investment reached nearly USD 520 billion from 151 countries and territories during the period of 1987–2025. The poverty rate fell from 60% to only 1.93% (based on UN standards). Literacy reached nearly 98%; more than 93% of the population have health insurance and access to over 14,000 medical facilities. For 40 years, Viet Nam has consistently balanced development goals with social equality, ensuring that no citizen is left behind.

In 2024, Viet Nam's economy ranked 32nd globally, with international trade turnover exceeded USD 786 billion, placing it among the world's top 20 in term of trading turnover. Vietnamese exports rank first globally in cashew nuts and pepper; second in coffee, footwear, and furniture; and third in rice and garments.

Viet Nam ranks 71st out of 193 countries in the UN's E-Government Development Index (EGDI), with the digital economy accounting for 18.3% of GDP. The national brand value has risen to USD 507 billion, ranking 32nd worldwide.

came to Viet Nam for commerce.

The two countries officially established diplomatic relations on August 4th, 1973. On February 13th, 1979, just two days after the success of the Islamic Revolution, Viet Nam sent a congratulatory message to recognize the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since then, bilateral relations have developed positively, with frequent high-level exchanges, most recently a series of activities celebrating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations (1973–2023).

Viet Nam and Iran share many similarities as both countries hold important geopolitical roles in Southeast Asia and the Middle East; both peoples are diligent, friendly, intelligent, and peace-loving. In recent years, bilateral trade turnover has reached around USD 130–150 million. The two economies are complementary and possess vast potential for further cooperation. Viet Nam wishes to deepen cooperation with Iran in all fields, particularly politics, economy, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.

Many Vietnamese people know Iran as a peaceful, hospitable country with an ancient civilization and diverse, breathtaking landscapes. In March 2025, for the first time, an Iranian airline launched two charter flights directly bringing Iranian tourists to famous destinations in Viet Nam, opening new opportunities for bilateral tourism cooperation.

Building upon the past achievements, Viet Nam and Iran will continue to cherish and cultivate their longstanding friendship for the benefit of our peoples.

The Road Ahead

Under the wise leadership of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, the 80-year journey of struggle for independence and nation-building has affirmed that the Vietnamese people always yearn for independence and freedom, nurture ardent patriotism and a burning love for peace, and uphold a resilient and self-reliance spirit to rise above adversity to build a more prosperous country.

Throughout this journey, the Vietnamese people have always remembered with deep gratitude to the tremendous, invaluable, and sincere support of international friends, progressive forces, and peace-loving peoples around the world.

As a nation that has endured immense suffering and loss of war, the Vietnamese people profoundly understand the value of peace and stability. Therefore,

Viet Nam sincerely wishes to contribute its utmost to safeguarding and fostering peace. Viet Nam is always ready to be a friend, a reliable partner, and a responsible member of the international community, and hopes to continue learning, enhancing cooperation, and sharing development experiences with the world, including Iran in service of contributing to a peaceful, united, and prosperous future for humanity, for every nation, and for every individual on this beautiful planet.

We firmly believe that the friendship among peoples, conscience, and the noble values of humanity will forever endure; and that Viet Nam–Iran relations will continue to develop more profoundly, effectively harnessing the potential and strengths of each country and fulfilling the legitimate aspirations of our peoples.

Lebanon's future, one year after the US-led Israeli aggression

From page 1 ► On the anniversary of Imam al-Sadr's disappearance, and like Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri emphasized that there is no bargaining over the Resistance's weapons.

Berri reiterated that this issue should be discussed within the framework of a consensual national dialogue under the auspices of the constitution and not under external or internal pressure.

Warning against Netanyahu's expansionist scheme to annex Lebanon, Berri said, "Weapons are our pride and our honor," rejecting attempts to force the army to confront the resistance.

The Speaker of Parliament also attacked those who bet on Israeli aggression to tip the balance, accusing them of bullying the Shiites as "a founding sect of the Lebanese society."

This call for dialogue was previously communicated by Berri to President Joseph Aoun, especially in light of Israel's rejection and intransigence.

Berri had sought, at the very least, to reach a unified position to protect Lebanese rights, but Prime Minister Nawaf Salam refused due to the persistent Saudi and American pressure.

However, the greater responsi-



bility falls on President Aoun, who is well aware of the dangers of attempting to disarm Hezbollah by force at the cost of peace in the country.

This was emphasized by MP Mohammad Raad, head of Hezbollah's Loyalty to the Resistance parliamentary bloc to President Aoun's envoy, Brigadier General Andre Rahal.

Raad communicated to Aoun that he is concerned with Salam's volatility, who is pushing Lebanon toward chaos, leaving it as a prey to Israeli aggression.

It is worth noting that the mission given by the Nawaf Salam government to the army to disarm the Resistance is being hindered by numerous obstacles, not because the army lacks the polit-

ical consensus, or capabilities and personnel, but because the army is aware that at least half of the Lebanese population opposes this plan.

Israel's repeated violation of Lebanon's sovereignty confirms that the "weapons exclusivity" slogan is purely an Israeli objective.

Meanwhile, the Israeli enemy appears it is caught between rushing to a decision in fear that Hezbollah will quickly recover its power, or trembling in fear that Hezbollah will rain down missiles on the stolen Palestinian territories.

Due to the complicity of the Lebanese government, Israel is behaving as if the opportunity to deal severe blows to Hezbollah may not recur in the future.

It realizes that harsh blows have not eradicated a highly ideological organization capable of steadfastness and adaptability, and that any delay could give the Resistance a golden opportunity to take the initiative at its own hand.

Recently, residents of a number of border villages in the border with occupied Palestine have revealed enemy forces infiltrating across the border persistently.

Due to the government's failure to fulfill its role in protecting the southern border villages, the Israeli occupying army has been passing through Lebanese army checkpoints and barracks without anyone interfering.

Israel undoubtedly emerged from the last confrontation with greater freedom of movement, but it would be sufficient for Hezbollah missiles to fall again on occupied Palestine to shatter its image of alleged victory.

As Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri has said, Lebanon's pro-Israel camp is trying to exploit the historic opportunity to eliminate the resistance.

The Israeli arrogance does not allow for any "concessions". It prefers to perpetuate the equation of superiority and hegemony. This again reinforces Hezbollah's legitimate right to continue to possess weapons.

Over 250 media outlets unite as Israel makes Gaza's journalists its frontline targets

From page 1 ► there will soon be no one left to keep you informed."

Readers of The Independent in the UK saw nothing but a blank cover. In France, La Croix and L'Humanité ran blacked-out pages.

Germany's Tageszeitung and Frankfurter Rundschau joined in, while Al Jazeera—mourning ten of its own staff—cut into broadcasts to read a joint statement. "War crimes," the network called the killings, vowing to keep reporting despite Israel's domestic shutdown of their operations.

The blackout followed Israel's August 25 bombing of Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, which killed at least 22 people, including five journalists—Reuters' Hussam al-Masri, Associated Press' Mariam Abu Dagga, Al Jazeera's Mohammed Salam, freelance photographer Moaz Abu Taha, and Quds Feed's Ahmad Abu Aziz.

Footage showed rescuers and press raising their hands before a second missile struck, a "double-tap" tactic indicating deliberate targeting.

Two weeks earlier, Al Jazeera's Anas al-Sharif was killed with colleagues when an Israeli strike hit a media tent outside al-Shifa Hospital. In a message prepared before his death, he wrote: "If these words reach you,

know that Israel has succeeded in killing me and silencing my voice."

For Wael al-Dahdouh, Al Jazeera's Gaza bureau chief, the loss is both professional and personal—burying colleagues and family while condemning deliberate attempts to silence Gaza's press.

The statistics underscore the dire crisis. Gaza's Government Media Office reports around 244 Palestinian journalists killed since October 7, 2023, echoed in UN and Al Jazeera coverage. Adding deaths in Lebanon and Iran brings the total to about 259.

The Committee to Protect Journalists calls Gaza "the deadliest conflict for media in history." In 2024 alone, 124 journalists were killed worldwide—70 percent in Gaza.

This pattern is not new. From Imad Abu Zahra in 2002 to Yaser Murtaja in 2018, Israel has repeatedly used lethal force against Palestinian reporters.

Today, foreign correspondents are barred from Gaza, leaving locals to shoulder the risk—only to be smeared as militants and targeted. As former EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell wrote on X: "Israel has killed over 220 Palestinian journalists in Gaza and imposed a complete media blackout for 23 months.

Those who turn off the lights are afraid of

what we might see."

International law is unambiguous: journalists are civilians under Article 79 of the Geneva Conventions. Striking them, hospitals, or press tents constitutes war crimes under the Rome Statute.

RSF has filed complaints with the ICC, and UN experts denounce a "pattern" of violations. Israel's denials ring hollow in the shadow of cases like Shireen Abu Akleh, the Palestinian-American journalist killed in 2022 despite wearing a press vest, in what Al Jazeera and her family call a targeted assassination.

The blackout's demands are clear: emergency evacuation for Gaza's journalists, open access for international media, and sanctions against Israeli commanders.

Some critics say the action came late, that coverage has long fallen short. Yet the unprecedented scope signaled a shift: by going dark, global media illuminated Gaza's erased witnesses.

With more than 63,000 Palestinians killed and 160,000 wounded, Gaza's journalists remain the lifeline to truth in a genocidal siege. The September 1 protest proved that silence can roar—protect the press, unveil the atrocities, and hold Israel accountable before the last voice fades.

Israeli vehicles struck in Gaza City

From page 1 ► In a separate statement, al-Qassam said their resistance fighters shelled a gathering of IOF soldiers and vehicles with multiple mortar rounds south of the Zeitoun area.

Israeli media reported that a soldier was injured after Palestinian resistance fighters fired an anti-tank missile at an IOF tank in Jabalia, northern Gaza, hitting the vehicle. According to al-Qassam, it destroyed a "Zionist troop carrier with a highly explosive landmine near al-Nazla, west of Jabalia, and monitored helicopter evacuation attempts."

Meanwhile, al-Quds Brigades said it destroyed a Zionist military vehicle near al-Sabra clinic, al-Sabra neighborhood, south Gaza City.

The armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad also noted its resistance fighters had captured control of an IOF drone conducting intelligence in Khan Younis airspace.

Al-Nasser Salah al-Din Brigades stated it launched a 60mm mortar barrage on the IOF near Hassan al-Banna Mosque in Deir al-Balah

city in central Gaza.

Several days earlier, seven IOF soldiers were wounded when an explosive device detonated beneath a Namer armored personnel carrier in Zeitoun.

The regime's failure to occupy the Zeitoun neighborhood without sustaining casualties has triggered a wave of intense and deadly airstrikes across Gaza City.

These strikes have targeted civilian areas and residential neighborhoods, resulting in massacres against Palestinian civilians, with dozens killed and scores more injured over the past 24 hours. Most of the victims have been women and children.

Israeli regime officials said Netanyahu's security cabinet had convened to discuss the next stages of the planned offensive to seize Gaza City, which they described as Hamas' last bastion.

The same argument was used to justify the invasion of Rafah in February 2024, when Netanyahu told Western media that "the last Hamas battalion" was located in

the southernmost city of the Palestinian territory.

According to Yedioth Ahronoth, the IOF's Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir tried to persuade the regime's security cabinet to cancel the decision to re-occupy Gaza City.

However, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and key ministers insist on moving forward with the plan. Zamir reportedly believes the current conditions are ripe for a partial deal to secure the release of some Israeli captives.

Journalist Yoav Zitun, also writing for Yedioth Ahronoth, raised concerns about the delay in the Israeli response to a potential deal.

He questioned whether the prolonged deployment of soldiers in Gaza is genuinely aimed at recovering captives or if it's a political maneuver by Netanyahu and Minister Bezalel Smotrich to maintain access routes as a pretext for re-settlement in Gaza.

Zitun further noted that the Israeli [occupation] army is now planning new routes in Gaza City for its next military maneuver. Of-

ficially, the goal is tactical, isolating Hamas brigades across neighborhoods, but given the ongoing political stagnation, some suspect these routes may later be used as bargaining chips or even to lay the groundwork for settlement expansion.

Hebrew newspaper Maariv reported that 60,000 IOF reservists will begin deployment, joining 70,000 others already mobilized. The original call-up order has been extended by an additional 40 days.

The IOF is attempting to re-enter Gaza City for the tenth time since the genocidal war began. In the previous operation, the occupying regime's military suffered heavy losses with 100 dead soldiers and many others wounded.

According to military estimates, combat in Gaza City will be extremely complex. It is a densely populated urban area with an extensive underground network. Hamas has been preparing for months by planting explosives, fortifying buildings and tunnels, setting ambushes, and deploying snipers and anti-tank units.

US strategy in Venezuela stirs regional alarm, echoes Bolton's coup revelations



From page 1 ► The US Navy already operates two Aegis guided-missile destroyers, the USS Gravely and USS Jason Dunham, in the Caribbean, while the destroyer USS Sampson and the cruiser USS Lake Erie are positioned in waters off Latin America.

In response, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has mobilized troops along the nation's borders and urged citizens to join armed militias to defend the country. Maduro characterized the US military build-up as an effort to overthrow his government and declared that Venezuela is at "maximum preparedness" to respond to any attack. He further warned that he would constitutionally declare a "republic in arms" if US forces engaged Venezuelan territory, while also denouncing US Secretary of State Marco Rubio as a "warlord" pushing for regime change.

The Trump administration has long accused Maduro of ties to drug trafficking and criminal networks, though US intelligence reportedly found no evidence linking him to the Venezuelan criminal group Tren de Aragua, undermining public claims made by Trump and his allies. Earlier this year, the US doubled its reward to \$50 million for information leading to Maduro's arrest over alleged drug trafficking connections.

Rising US military activity in the Caribbean has prompted warnings from regional journalists.

"On the surface, the deployment of US troops in the Caribbean may appear to provide an additional layer of security. However, this presence could also draw unwanted attention to our shores. For decades, the Caribbean has largely been regarded as a zone of peace, and any sug-

gestion of looming conflict is deeply concerning," Quinn St. Juste, a Saint Lucian journalist from the St. Lucia Times, has shared his comments on the US presence in the Caribbean.

He said lasting stability in the Caribbean can only be achieved through diplomacy, not force.

"Ultimately, the only path to lasting stability for the region lies in a peaceful, diplomatic resolution—whether through international mediation, arbitration, or a binding agreement—ensuring that the region emerges unscathed both economically and otherwise. We do not want drugs in the region, however we do not want its elimination at the expense of a war," he said.

This military deployment echoes decades of US interventions in Latin America and the Caribbean, including coups, invasions, and sanctions against governments that resist its influence. Venezuela has been a recurring target: in May 2020, Venezuelan security forces arrested dozens, including two Americans, after a failed beach invasion allegedly aimed at toppling Maduro, reportedly involving US-backed opposition leader Juan Guaidó. Following the controversial 2018 presidential election, which saw Maduro re-elected, the US and other countries refused to recognize the results, labeling Guaidó as interim president and imposing severe sanctions on Venezuela.

John Bolton, former US National Security Advisor, provides further insight in his controversial memoir, *The Room Where It Happened*, revealing that discussions about regime change in Venezuela were ongoing at the highest levels of the Trump administration.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

BRICS Summer School opens with calls for alternative narratives



Participants of the BRICS Summer School gather for a photo in Johannesburg, South Africa. (Photo: Visual Studio)

From page 1 ►

Correcting the failures of today's leaders

South African academic Prof. Victoria Graham opened by stressing that BRICS must not only critique the failures of today's leaders but also build alternatives. "We need alternative viewpoints, alternative narratives" in global politics, and the involvement of young people to carry BRICS into the future, she argued.

Prof. Siphamandla Zondi posed a provocative question: why do BRICS countries continue to trade more with the West than with each other? For many participants, this pointed to the structural challenges that prevent BRICS from realizing its full economic potential.

For Margaret Sheron Arnolds, the speaker of the council of the city of Johannesburg, the Summer School is more than an academic gathering; it is a platform for young people to "challenge orthodoxy, disrupt the status quo, and work towards a fairer international

order," she said.

A political act of imagination

The most politically charged intervention came from activist Steve Letsike, who set the tone with a powerful statement:

"This Summer School is not only an academic gathering, nor is it only a cultural exchange. It is a political act of imagination, where the voices of the Global South rise to say we are here, we matter, and we will shape the new world that is emerging."

She emphasized that BRICS is not simply an economic or political bloc, but a strategic initiative for global transformation — grounded in multipolarity, justice, inclusion, and the self-determination of peoples.

Since its establishment, BRICS has sought to rebalance the global order, shifting away from unipolar dominance toward a more equitable system of governance.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Dubai museum project to spotlight 20 Iranian entrepreneurs in first phase

TEHRAN – Iran will take center stage in the first phase of a new museum dedicated to international entrepreneurs being built in Dubai, with busts of 20 Iranian business leaders to be installed, the United Network of Business Entrepreneurs and Development Organization (UNBEDO) said.

The project, launched by UNBEDO in partnership with Golchin Holding, is under construction inside Dubai’s Global Village, one of the emirate’s largest tourist and trade complexes.

UNBEDO chief executive Reza Yadegari said the site was designed to strengthen investment links and business partnerships between Iranian entrepreneurs and interna-

tional investors. He described the initiative as the group’s largest networking project to date.

“In the first phase, busts of 20 prominent Iranian entrepreneurs will be created and installed,” Yadegari said. “Also, busts of entrepreneurs from more than 90 countries will be added.”

The museum is also expected to include statues and reconstructed offices of leading global figures such as Bill Gates and Elon Musk.

“The goal is to introduce our [Iranian] entrepreneurs to millions of visitors and to create a setting for shared experience and joint investment,” he said.

Isfahan tourism festival begins with 90 events

TEHRAN— An enormous tourism festival in Isfahan has commenced to highlight the endless charms of the province, whose capital of the same name was the seat of power in the 17th century.

Alireza Habibi, a provincial tourism official, told IRNA on Monday that 90 diverse tourism, cultural, and artistic events will be held in various parts of the province during the one-month festival.

He said the festival aims to boost tourism and introduce various capacities of the province.

Habibi explained that 36 urban festivals, 30 rural festivals, and 34 private sector festivals will be held. He called holding pomegranate, almond, bread and ice cream, adobe structure, Kavir carpet, handicrafts, local garments and souvenirs as some of the programs of the festival.

The festival includes special support programs for tourists, he said, adding that during this period, some hotels and traditional ac-

commodations, ecotourism and tourism centers in the province have provided discounts of up to 30 percent for travelers, and in addition, shopping centers, restaurants and entertainment spaces are also participating in the discount plan.

He clarified that many accommodation centers have tried to attract more tourists by participating in this plan.

According to him, this festival is an appropriate opportunity for introducing natural, historical and cultural attractions of the province. All domestic and foreign tourists are invited to travel to Isfahan during this period and benefit from its diverse programs, he added.

Some 22,000 historical and architectural monuments in Isfahan, along with a range of intangible cultural heritage indicators including foods, rituals, celebrations, traditional skills, and handicraft production, reflect the history and culture of Iran in this region, and this richness has made Isfahan one of the most tourist-friendly provinces in Iran.

Damghan’s historic fortifications undergo restoration

TEHRAN – A new phase of restoration has been commenced on the historic walls and towers of Damghan, a city in Semnan province known for its ancient fortifications and cultural heritage, an official said on Sunday.

Mojtaba Akbarpour, head of Damghan’s Cultural Heritage Office, told reporters near the site that the work focuses on strengthening and preserving the centuries-old structure, which has suffered damage over time.

“The main aim of this phase is protection and reinforcement,” Akbarpour said. “Sections of the walls that have faced severe erosion over the years are being repaired.”

He said cracks caused by rainfall and wind

erosion had weakened parts of the fortifications. The new restoration is designed to enhance the stability of the outer walls and towers while maintaining their historical character.

Akbarpour added that the project also seeks to revive the city’s historic appearance and attract visitors interested in cultural tourism.

Damghan, located about 350 km east of Tehran, is one of Iran’s oldest cities and home to several historical monuments, caravanserais and religious sites. Remnants of its ancient battlements, once described in historical accounts as wide enough for chariots, still stand on the city’s outskirts.

Effort underway to safeguard Persepolis from ongoing erosion

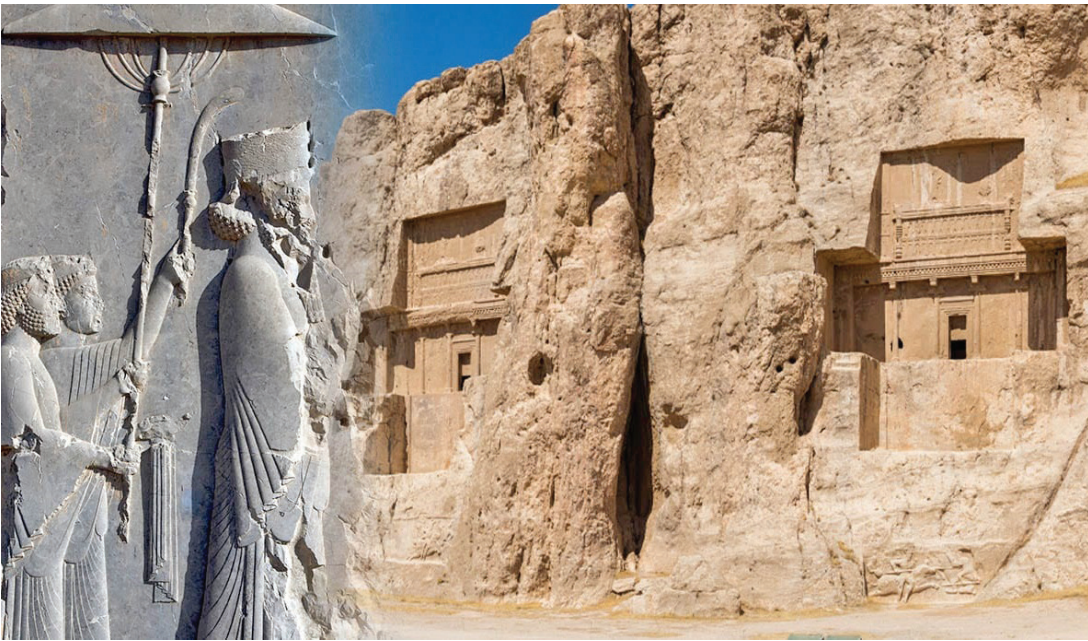
TEHRAN – Iran is finalizing a comprehensive management and conservation plan for Persepolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Fars province, amid growing concerns from experts about erosion of its ancient stone reliefs, the site’s director said.

On Tuesday, Mohammad-Javad Jafari, head of the Persepolis World Heritage base, said the master plan was under review and would be presented in the coming weeks to the site’s strategic council for approval, Mehr news agency reported.

“We recognize the concerns about erosion of the stone reliefs at Persepolis as a serious national issue,” Jafari said. “That is why the master plan, which had been drafted earlier, is now being revised and finalized to serve as a comprehensive framework for management and conservation.”

According to Jafari, about 57 hectares of land around Persepolis have been purchased partly for tourism infrastructure, access management, and service upgrades. He said the measures were intended to prevent unregulated development and ensure long-term protection of the site and its buffer zone.

Jafari said international cooperation in conservation had begun years earlier with Italian teams, but Iranian experts had since taken over, using localized materials and new technologies to continue restoration and preservation efforts.



A combination photo depicts rock art from the UNESCO-registered Persepolis (L) and the nearby ancient royal necropolis of Naghsh-e Rostam located in Fars province, southern Iran.

He added that the Ministry of Cultural Heritage had ordered the creation of a new independent national base at the nearby Istakhr (Estakhr) archaeological site, which will enable systematic excavations and research.

According to Jafari, recent preservation projects include the expansion of the Persepolis Museum, with a new 400-square-metre gallery due to open this autumn, and active workshops at the tomb of Xerxes, the eastern portico of the Apadana Palace, and the Tripylon or Council Hall. Work will soon start at the Hadish Palace, the Hundred-Column Hall and the southern terrace inscription.

“Moss removal is also underway on the northern portico of the Apadana.”

Jafari said the entrance axis to Persepolis is being redeveloped in coordination with Marvdasht county officials, with the first phase scheduled to open before the Persian New Year in March 2026. Plans for night lighting, a landscaped complex, and improved access to Naqsh-e Rostam are also under consideration.

“Protecting Persepolis is both a national and global responsibility,” Jafari said. “We aim to address concerns and move forward with a scientific, coordinated, and sustainable approach, while paving the way for the return of international experts and joint research projects.”

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, was founded by Darius the Great around 518 BC as the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. The vast terrace and palatial complex, located 60 km northeast of Shiraz, was destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 BC. Its ruins, including the Apadana Palace and the Hundred-Column Hall, are regarded as one of the world’s foremost archaeological sites.

Ilam’s Chogha Golan, the oldest agricultural origin in West Asia

TEHRAN—Chogha Golan region in Mehran county, Ilam province, is the oldest cradle of agriculture across Iran and West Asia, Habbollah Mahmoudian, a specialist in prehistoric archaeology, has said.

He told ISNA that numerous artifacts have been identified in human settlements in the Chogha Golan area, which pertain to the various eras of human life. Due to the constant flow of the Konjan Cham River, human settlement and life in this region have continued, he added.

He noted that archaeological research shows that the late Ali Mohammad Khalilian investigated Mehran county in the 1980s to 2000s and succeeded in identifying the sites of Chogha Golan I, and Chogha Golan II in the Golan region.

The archaeologist said that in addition to the Golan sites and its ancient aqueduct, the Ghaloveh caravanserai, the ancient hill, and the remains of Islamic-era settlements were discovered and identified in 2003, which have been documented for registration in the National Heritage List.

He added that in the same year, Mohsen Zeidi, an archaeologist, surveyed the eastern and buffer zone between the Mehran and Dehloran plains and identified sites from the early writing period to the historical period.

Mahmoudian further noted that excava-



tions began at Golan Hill for its mapping in 2010. The excavations continued in two seasons, and the dating of carbon-14 samples indicates a long-term habitation in this area from about the middle of the 10th Millennium to the late 8th Millennium BCE.

He explained that in the excavations of the Chogha Golan site, evidence of early plaster baking and remains of ancient architecture have been discovered. Chogha Golan, which dates back 12,000 to 9,500 years, is known as one of the oldest sites associated with the beginning of agriculture and rural settlement in Iran and the world, he added.

He continued that in the second season of excavations, architectural remains were found, including angular rooms with layered

and adobe walls and plastered floors.

The prehistoric archaeologist said that thousands of samples of wild barley, wild wheat, lentils, peas, beans and fodder were found in this excavation site, and carbon isotope studies have determined the age of these findings to be between 9,800 and 11,700 years.

He added that the important point is that such a long-term settlement in one place was unprecedented in the Neolithic Age. Neolithic man moved from the stage of hunting and collecting wild plant seeds to the stage of planting seeds and domesticating plants and animals, he pointed out.

Mahmoudian stated that Golan is located in the marginal plains of the Zagros Mountains, where the first human attempt to domesticate wild plants took place. In terms of botany, this research has yielded an unprecedented 30,000 plant remains from 75 groups over a 2,000-year period, he added.

He said that about 2,200 years of cultivation of wild plants and the emergence of the first domesticated plant species have been observed in Chogha Golan region. Wild specimens of various types of barley, wheat, lentils, chickpeas, beans and fodder, and other agricultural products that are the mother of today’s consumer products, were cultivated and consumed in Chogha Golan for a long period, he added.

Iran attends Chandi Summit 2025 in Indonesia

TEHRAN— Hojjatollah Ayyubi, who heads the Tourism Ministry’s Center for International Affairs, arrived Bali on Monday to attend Chandi Summit 2025, which will take place from September 3-5, 2025, at the Bali Beach Convention.

This prestigious gathering puts Bali at the center of the world stage once again. As one of the most anticipated Bali cultural events, the summit highlights Bali’s ability to host not only a meaningful international summit in Bali but also provide world-class event solutions, from AV technology to cultural entertainment, IRNA reported.

The summit theme, “Culture for the Future”, reflects its mission: to strengthen global civilization through cultural dialogue, heritage appreciation, and innovation. For Bali, this event is more than a showcase of culture. It is proof that the island continues to support international events with professional event infrastructure and a strong cultural identity.

Ayyoubi said that Iran’s Cultural Heritage Ministry’s approach is to expand international cultural cooperation and design joint artistic and cultural programs to strengthen the country’s cultural diplomacy.

He added, “With its rich tourist and cultural attractions, Iran can host prominent figures and artists from other countries and provide a platform for exchanging experi-

ences in the fields of cinema and music. A joint orchestral project has also been considered, which will be implemented in the upcoming sessions of the summit.”


He pointed out that Iran’s presence in this summit and direct interaction with cultural officials from other countries is a symbol of the country’s commitment to developing international cooperation in the field of culture and art, and provides a valuable opportunity to introduce Iran’s historical, cultural and tourism capacities.

Joint cultural and artistic programs, strengthening positive diplomacy and exchanging experiences, provide a clear message of Iran’s active role in advancing global culture and art, he said.

The Chandi Summit 2025 derives its name from Culture, Heritage, Art, Narrative, Diplomacy, and Innovation, which form its core values. The summit is designed to encourage dialogue among nations while showcasing the role of culture in shaping modern civilization.

With the theme “Culture for the Future,” the summit emphasizes that culture is not only about history but also about building pathways for cooperation and creativity. By integrating heritage and innovation, the event aims to strengthen relationships between nations and support cultural development on a global scale.

First Announcement



Iran Alumina

ONE STAGE TENDER INTERNATIONAL CALL

FOR PURCHASE OF 1000 MT CRYOLITE

TENDER No.: j/28

DATE: 31st/Aug/2025

1.Subject: Iran Alumina Company (IAC) intends to purchase high quality Cryolite, in amount of **1000 MT** for using in its Primary Aluminum Reduction Smelter Plant through one stage Tender according to following conditions as mentioned in the relevant Tender documents .:

2. Bid Bond Guarantee: 170,264 US Dollar/or 121,089,253,680 Rials

3.Tender proposal.: Since the tendering is to be done in one stage, thus the eligible Bidders should follow and regard the Tender instructions and present and submit all of required justified documents and the mentioned Tender envelopes in one package together.

4.Closing Date.: The eligible Bidders should submit their Bids/proposal to the central administration office as mentioned below and also in the Tender documents before 16:00 pm ,local time , on the day **01st September, 2025 .**

5. Opening Date.: **06th September , 2025.**

6. Contact information.: For more details and receiving the relevant Tender documents , the Bidders can refer to the following contact information.

Add.:1- Km 7 of Sankhast Road, city of Jajarm, Northern Khorasan Province, IRAN, P. O. Box:1135-94415 legal and contractual Affairs .

2-Tehran,Somayeh Street,After Mofateh Intersections,No 100, Postal Code : 1581875711

Tel .: 0098-58-32605312-32605353 **Fax:** 0098-58-32272487 **website:** www.iranalumina.ir **E-mail:** info@iranalumina.ir

IRAN ALUMINA CO en.iranalumina.ir

Mustafa Prize 2025 announces winners

TEHRAN – The winners of the 6th Mustafa (PBUH) Prize were announced on Tuesday in a press briefing held at the secretariat of the Mustafa Prize in Tehran.

Mehmet Toner, professor of biomedical engineering at Harvard University from Turkey; Vahab Mirrokni, adjunct associate professor at the Courant Institute at New York University from Iran; and Mohammad K. Nazeeruddin, professor of chemistry at the EPFL, Sion Campus, from India, won the prestigious prize.

Mustafa Prize (PBUH) Week 2025

The 6th Mustafa Prize Week will be held from September 6-10 in Tehran. The highlight of this week is the 6th Mustafa Prize Award Ceremony, taking place on September 8 at Vahdat Hall.

The week features academic programs under the title STEP and outreach events under Observatory, alongside the 13th Mustafa Prize Policy-Making Council, the 3rd Advisory Board of the Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation, a seminar on Waqf and the Development of Science and Technology, a gala dinner banquet at the Iran International Innovation Zone, as well as the presentation ceremony of the Young Scientist Medal, which will be held for the first time.

Mustafa Prize background

In order to appreciate prominent scientists and provide the ground for scientific cooperation and development worldwide, the Mustafa Prize was established in 2012 as a symbol of scientific excellence at the international level.

The Mustafa Prize, a top science and technology award, is granted biennially to the top researchers



Ali-Akbar Salehi (R), the head of the scientific working group of the Mustafa Prize, announces the three winners of the prize in a press briefing in Tehran on Tuesday.

and scientists of the Islamic world in three categories: “Life and Medical Science and Technology”, “Information and Communication Science and Technology”, and “Basic and Engineering Sciences”.

The Prize is granted to works deemed to have improved human life, have made tangible and cutting-edge innovations on the boundaries of science, or have presented new scientific methodology.

The laureates in each category will be awarded USD 500,000/- which is financed through the endowments made to the Prize. The laureates will also be adorned with a special Medal and a certificate.

Twenty percent of the Mustafa Prize is presented in the following categories:

- Awarding research grants to the laureates for presenting to researchers in Islamic countries
- Awarding sabbatical grants to the laureates for presenting to researchers in Islamic

countries

- Awarding travel grants to the laureates for attending the events organized by the Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation or other events organized in Islamic countries
- Awarding grants to the laureates for publishing an article with researchers in Islamic countries
- Awarding grants to the laureates for joint projects in Islamic countries
- Awarding grants to the laureates for establishing scientific centers in Islamic countries
- Awarding grants to the laureates for admission of post-graduate students from Islamic countries
- Awarding grants to the laureates for membership and playing a role in the scientific societies of Islamic countries
- Any other program suggested by the laureates approved by the Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation

Jury criteria

The assessment committee of the prize first evaluates the general features and qualifications of the “works” and then sends the selected ones to the scientific committee.

• Submitted works should not have been awarded any other international prizes.

• In the final step, a group of seven high-profile researchers and academics examines the works and selects one according to the following criteria:

Distinctive features of the work

The work should be notably innovative and outstanding; it should have specific applications and tangible results with reasons specified for its significance.

Influence of the work

The work should have already resulted in advancing the frontiers of knowledge; it should also have had a great regional or global impact. Its results should have been published either in the form of a scientific theory or should have had potential for production and wealth generation. Moreover, it should have a visible impact on the economy, culture, society, health, environment, and/or public welfare. The work should also have a share in addressing scientific and technological needs and solving social problems.

Owner of the work

The owner of the work (nominee) should have a high scientific profile and a good reputation. This manifests itself in the number and quality of his/her publications, innovations, patents, etc. The nominee should also have an innovative and holistic scientific spirit.

Over 100 earthquakes hit Iran in a week

TEHRAN –A total of 101 earthquakes were recorded across the country in a week from August 23 to 29, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

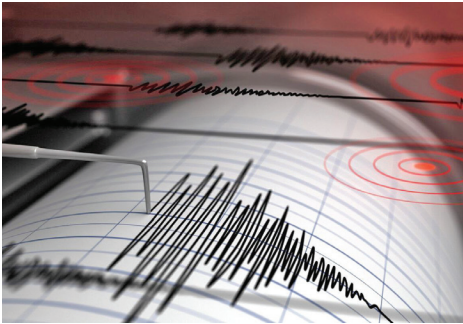
Statistically, 86 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3; 13 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4; and two earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, IRNA reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 4.1 on the Richter scale, which occurred on August 29 in Bushehr province.

Among the provinces of the country, Kerman, with 19, experienced the highest number of earthquakes, followed by North Khorasan province, with 12 earthquakes.

During the same period, an earthquake hit Tehran province. No earthquakes were recorded in East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Ardabil, Alborz, Ilam, Zanjan, Qazvin, and Gilan provinces.

A total of 6,272 earthquakes were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2024 –March 2025), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.



Out of registered earthquakes, 150 were more than 4 on the Richter scale; at least five earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 4.5 occurred monthly in the country.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran, but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world's earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes.

IRCS ready to aid quake-hit Afghanistan



TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Pirhossein Kolivand, has announced readiness to send relief supplies and rescue forces to assist people impacted by the earthquake in Afghanistan.

“It is with profound sorrow that we learned about the devastating earthquake that hit Nangarhar, Kunar, Nuristan, and Laghman in eastern Afghanistan, causing many losses of life and injuries. The Iranian Red Crescent Society offers sincere condolences to you and the family of the victims. We stand by the people of Afghanistan, and we are ready to dispatch humanitarian aid as well as relief teams in case needed,” Kolivand wrote in a message to the president of the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), Shahabuddin Delawa, on Monday.

On August 31, at 23.47 local time, a 6+ magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province near the Pakistan border. The epicenter was located in Kama district, some 30 km northeast of the city of

Jalalabad. Several aftershocks have occurred since, with the initial quake felt in neighbouring provinces including Kunar, Laghman, and Nuristan, as well as Kabul. The quake's hypocenter was estimated at only 8 to 10 km beneath the surface, exacerbating the quake's impact.

Sharafat Zaman, spokesman for the Health Ministry, told local Shamsad TV that so far 1,000 people have been killed, mostly in Kunar province.

He said the number of casualties could rise further as rescue operations continue in remote and mountainous areas where access remains difficult. Nearly 3,000 people have been injured. Nangarhar, Laghman, and Panjshir are the other three provinces affected by the earthquake, Anadolu reported.

On Monday, President Masoud Pezeshkian 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 Esmaeil Baqaei 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.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

COVID-19 lockdown moves most cities out of “red” zone

Strict COVID-19 restrictions which took effect on October 26 have caused 87 out of 89 infected cities to get out of the high-risk “red” zone.

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control started strict restrictions in 43 cities that had the highest rate of infection in the country. Ten days later, decisions were made to set new limitations on highly-affected areas for another 10 days, through which 46 cities undergone restrictions. The plan divided cities into three levels of alert, namely red, orange, and yellow.

All of the cities, except for two, are now out of the red condition and have turned orange or yellow so that the hospitalization rate has decreased, said Alireza Raeisi, the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control spokesman, expressing hope that the death toll will also drop within two to three weeks.

In some 160 cities and towns that were on the highest alert, the disease prevalence has begun to decrease in about 145 cities. And the remaining 15 cities will also experience a downward trend this week, he explained.

اعمال محدودیت ها اکثر شهرها را از وضعیت قرمز خارج کرد

علیرضا رئیس، سخنگوی ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا گفت: از ۸۹ شهری که از پنجم آبان محدودیت‌های کرونایی در آنها اعمال شده است، ۸۷ شهر از وضعیت قرمز خارج شده اند.

او با اشاره به محدودیت های کرونایی در ۸۹ شهری که (از ۵ آبان در ۴۳ شهر و از ۱۴ آبان در ۴۶ شهر) اعمال شده است، گفت: از این تعداد به جز دو شهر همه شهرها از حالت قرمز خارج و به نارنجی یا زرد تبدیل شده اند. با توجه به ورودی بیمارستان ها و اینکه میزان بستری هم کاهش یافته است امیدواریم روند فوتی ها هم تا حدود دو تا سه هفته دیگر آثار خود را نشان دهد و روند کاهشی پیدا کند.

وی اعلام کرد: اکنون در ۱۶۰ شهر و شهرستان که قرمز رنگ بودند در حدود ۱۴۵ شهر روند کاهش بیماری آغاز شده است. در ۱۵ شهر باقیمانده هم در همین هفته این روند کاهشی شروع خواهد شد.



Pistachio harvest in northeastern Iran

The time is ripe for harvesting pistachios from the end of summer to the start of autumn in the northeastern province of North Khorasan.

With a production of 200,000 tons of pistachios, it is one of the largest producers of this product in the world, and has always ranked first or third in different years.



SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

What actions are most excellent? To gladden the heart of human beings, to feed the hungry, to help the afflicted, to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful, and to remove the sufferings of the injured.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

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

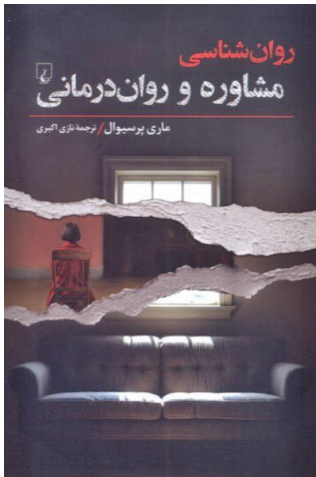
“The Psychology of Counselling” published in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book “The Psychology of Counselling” written by Marie Percival has been released in the book-stores across Iran.

Nazi Akbari has translated the book and Qoqnoos Publishing House has brought it out in 184 pages, ILNA reported.

What is counselling and how can it help? Does counselling work? How is counselling different from talking to my family and friends about my problems?

“The Psychology of Counselling” explains the different approaches to therapy and how they are used in practice, giving information on what counselling can help with and what it cannot do. It looks at cognitive and behavioral therapies, psychoanalysis, and humanistic psychology, as well as exploring positive psychotherapy and the move away from a disease-based approach to counselling. It



also reflects upon the broader landscape of therapeutic spaces and gives consideration to professional issues in counselling, such as ethics, supervision, and duty of care to clients.

At a time when mental health and psychological well-being are central subjects of conversation in modern society, “The Psychology of Counselling” sheds light on the therapeutic process, what it involves, and how it works, to help all those seeking assistance for relieving emotional or psychological issues and improving their psychological wellness.

Marie Percival is an academic, practitioner, and researcher. With over 15 years of experience teaching psychology and psychological therapies to undergraduate and postgraduate students at higher educational institutions and dealing with countless clients during this period, she has acquired extensive knowledge in this field.

Cartoon of Day



Israel passed through here

Cartoonist: Fadi Abou Hassan from Palestine

Homayoun Shajarian to hold free outdoor concert at Azadi Square

TEHRAN – Renowned Iranian vocalist Homayoun Shajarian will hold a free outdoor concert on Friday at Azadi Square in Tehran.

He announced the news at a press conference on Monday, “Today’s press conference is held following the issuance of the permit for the street concert. I’m glad that this request, which we had previously raised, has now been approved to be carried out,” he said.

“The concert will be held on Friday, at 10 p.m. and the pieces I will perform are mostly from my recent concert. My choice is to perform pieces that people love and have memories with,” he explained.

Siavash Orchestra, with 30 musicians playing both Iranian and classical instruments, will accompany Shajarian in the concert, Mehr reported.

Regarding whether the concert would continue beyond one night, the singer said: “This concert will be for one night only, but I know that it is planned to continue with other artists”.

“We do not have an exact estimate of how many people will attend, but we hope there will be good arrangements so that it becomes a memorable experience,” he added.

Explaining why the concert was not held at Azadi Stadium, the singer said: “The preparations were not made possible, but I think my concert in Azadi Square is the first step. I hope this concert will mark the beginning of a movement that contin-



Homayoun Shajarian speaks at a press conference in Tehran on September 1, 2025.

ues with other artists as well as myself.”

Shajarian stressed that a way must be opened for Tehran to hear the sound of music. “The sound of music must replace the noise of horns and traffic; the city must have a cultural and lively atmosphere. This concert is completely independent and dedicated to the people,” he stressed.

Homayoun Shajarian, 50, learned singing from his father, the legendary vocalist of Persian traditional music Mohammad Reza Shajarian, who passed away in 2020 at the age of 80.

Speaking about his father, Homayoun said that at times he feels the presence of Mohammad Reza Shajarian within himself. “Every step I take in my work, I think of him, and I am very glad that people appreciate him so much. If he were alive, he would be prouder of these people than ever,” the singer stated.

Azadi Square, a symbol of Iran’s history and identity, has long served as a stage for political rallies and cultural gatherings. Its vast expanse makes it an ideal venue for a large-scale celebration of Persian music.

At a young age, Homayoun

began studying the tombak, a Persian hand drum, kamancheh (spike fiddle), and the Persian traditional vocal Avaz. He started his musical career in the 1990s. Since 2003, he has released more than 20 albums.

During the past two decades, he has held several concerts in Iran and other countries such as Canada, Turkey, the UAE, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, and Switzerland.

Iran’s Ministry of Culture has awarded him the First Order of Art Certificate in “Vocal Performance,” a distinction equivalent to a doctoral degree in the field.

Cindependent Film Festival will screen Iranian short film “Ramy”

TEHRAN – The Iranian short film “Ramy” written and directed by Pouyan Rostami and produced by Kasra Tirsahar will have its world premiere at the 2025 Cindependent Film Festival in Cincinnati, Ohio, the U.S., which will be held from September 18 to 20.

The 10-minute film happens in the heart of a forest, where a group of women carry a coffin on their shoulders, while a grieving woman follows them, wailing and crying out. Unmoved by her cries, the women proceed toward a cemetery, IRNA reported.

Salar Saki, Houra Pakizehel, and Ramin Yahyazadeh perform in the film that represents Iranian independent cinema.

The Cindependent Film Festival is a celebration of fearless storytelling, where indie films break boundaries and ignite creativity.

Set in the heart of Cincinnati, this bold festival brings together the world’s most innovative filmmakers, industry pros, and



passionate audiences for a high-energy, cinematic experience.

From thought-provoking films to unforgettable events, Cindependent is a movement that amplifies fresh voices and pushes the limits of cinema. It’s not just a festival—it’s a platform for the future of film and a gathering place for trailblazers

in the art of storytelling.

According to the festival website, diversity, equity, inclusion, and access create stronger community, stronger learnings, and stronger stories that impact the overall health and abilities as a society. The festival seeks to serve communities of storytellers and audiences across regions, genres, ethnicities, gender, orientation, and ability.

The festival goals include deepening and expanding connections to diverse communities, cultures, languages, and regions across Ohio, the United States and the world. In doing this, the organizers hope to increase the diversity of projects submitted for consideration to all Institute programs, and inspire new artists to tell their stories. They strive to put resources into the hands of people that have something important to say, and empower these voices by uplifting and removing barriers to access in the story sharing space.

Palestine protest is now the cultural zeitgeist

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra’s performance at the BBC Proms on Friday night was disrupted by Palestine protesters after the orchestra sacked a pianist for speaking out against the genocide in Gaza.

Protesters from Jewish Artists for Palestine disrupted the concert early on, displaying banners saying ‘complicit in genocide’ and chanting ‘The MSO has blood on its hands’ and ‘you silenced Jayson Gilham’, Counterfire reported.

There was a fairly lengthy delay, with the conductor leaving the stage, as security removed the protesters. The concert, which was being broadcast live on Radio 3, was eventually restarted with a modified running order. There was a brief interruption from another Palestine protester, but the concert continued.

The MSO was making its first visit to the Proms, playing at the Royal Albert Hall in the BBC’s summer series of classical music concerts. However, the orchestra has been mired in controversy after pianist Jayson Gillham was removed from a scheduled concert at Melbourne Town Hall for speaking out about Gaza.

Before playing his final piece at a concert three weeks ago, Gilham said: “The killing of journalists is a war crime in international law, and it is done in an effort to prevent the documentation and broadcasting of war crimes to the world.”

The MSO was forced to admit it made an “error” in cancelling Gilham’s performance and has taken the pianist on again. However, at a time when at least 242 Palestinian journalists have been killed in Gaza including several Al Jazeera journalists in recent weeks, the decision is outrageous and inexplicable.

The protest on Friday night is reflective of a mood of revolt throughout British society, and particularly within music and the arts, in opposition to the government’s complicity in the genocide in Gaza.

Glastonbury was dominated by the issue of Palestine, with the BBC refusing to broadcast Kneecap’s performance, who have been extremely outspoken on Gaza. Instead, the band Bob Vylan was broadcast, and was subsequently hounded by the media and establishment for speaking out against the genocide live on the BBC.

Indie-band Black Country, New Road led crowds in chants of “Free, free Palestine” at the All Points East festival last Sunday, with headliners the Maccabees also speaking out against the genocide in their set.

Outside of music, the Edinburgh Fringe saw a range of Palestinian acts and several solidarity events organised throughout the festival by comedians and performers, including Fringe Artists for Palestine.

This level of activity in culture doesn’t happen spontaneously; it is the effect of a Palestine movement in Britain which is unprecedented in size and endurance. It is not a stretch to argue that most people in this country know at least a handful of people who have been on Palestine demos at some point in the last 23 months, and this has a ripple effect on society where support for the Palestinians is now the majority opinion. The displays of solidarity at music festivals and cultural events across the country this summer is a reflection of that fact.

The death toll from the ongoing Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, since Oct. 7, 2023, has soared to 63,557, with 160,660 re-

ported wounded.

Israel’s full blockade of the Gaza Strip, in place since early March, has created catastrophic conditions for the enclave’s 2.4 million residents, leading to famine, widespread disease, and the collapse of essential services.

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice over its war on the enclave.

On the international stage, condemnation of Israel’s actions is mounting. At a meeting in Kuwait, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, denouncing Israel’s actions as genocide and demanding unrestricted humanitarian access to Gaza. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in China, condemned the global inaction over Israel’s “atrocities” and called for reform of the United Nations.